
November 2020: Outlaw's Bridge Universalist Church

Welcoming Congregation

The Bridge

**No Sunday School Programs and no Childcare during Phase 3.
The playroom is clean and open for parents who wish to use it.**

November 1: "A Time of Remembrance, All Souls" – Jimmy Merritt

November 8: "The Mess of Life" – Reverend Claudia Frost – Every one of us is dealing with losses, challenges and triumphs which often go unvoiced or unnoticed. During turbulent times, people search for answers to what can bring a sense of peace and calm to their lives. There are no guarantees when we step out of our comfort zone, begin something new or take a risk what the outcome will be. Uncertainty is a part of the mess of life. As people of faith, how do we navigate the mess of life?

November 15: "Grateful" – Reverend Claudia Frost – Saying grace, giving thanks or practicing gratitude is more than a personal feeling or annual family ritual on Thanksgiving Day. Research has shown on numerous occasions that being grateful is good for your health, mood and general well-being. Please join us for an exploration of how being grateful can enrich your life and perhaps improve your health.

November 22: "UUSC/Thanksgiving Service" with Linda Jones.

November 29: "Advent Service" – 5th Sunday Offering will go to Cherry Hospital Gift Fund.



Dates to Remember

Because of the COVID-19 Virus, formal activities at Outlaw's Bridge are curtailed. We begin Phase 3 for reopening activities for ourselves and the state. We are still encouraged to practice "Safer at Home" orders when possible and gather in groups of no more than 25 inside and 50 outside. We are asked to practice social distancing, wash our hands and wear face coverings.

Stay Healthy and Safe!

November 8: Board Meeting following church; lunch will be provided.

November 12: Meet at church at 11:00 a.m. to order lunch for pickup and AUW meeting.



Claudia's Comments

"Thank you, thank you" to everyone who has made a Harvest Sale donation even though we were unable to have the annual fundraising event due to COVID-19 restrictions and precautions. We appreciate every gift and will put it to good use for the church's mission. If you intended to make a donation but forgot, it's not too late. Your check will still be greatly appreciated.

This month brings a number of special occasions besides Election Day. Sunday November 1st is *All Saints Day*, a time to remember family members who have died. That Sunday is also the end of Daylight Saving Time and we "Fall Back". Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before you go to sleep Saturday night. You'll get an extra hour to sleep!

November 11th is Veterans Day, which was originally called Armistice Day commemorating the end of WWI. Veterans Day honors all those who have served our country during war or peace. During our worship service on November 8th, we will honor the Veterans who have served our country.

Additionally, November always brings Thanksgiving celebrations to mind (November 26). This year might look a bit different due to the pandemic. Many families find it difficult to travel to gather with extended family for the Thanksgiving holiday. If the number of family members at your table are fewer this year due to the need for social distancing, perhaps a Facetime call with family members might help you connect with loved ones far away. Maybe a Thanksgiving email chain where the extended family members take turns adding to the family news, sharing expressions of gratitude and making new memories together even at a distance.

By the time you read this newsletter, Election Day 2020 may be done but the final results might still be undetermined. My hopes and prayers are that each of us has the patience to wait respectfully for the results. Recalling what Rudyard Kipling wrote, "if you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs", you will be okay. During such a time it's important to be literally STILL for a while. As I mentioned in a recent sermon, like Navy SEALs are trained to do in tense and volatile situations, don't overreact. Don't let your emotions drive your action. Think before you act. Observe all around you. Whatever the outcome of our elections, I hope we will all make time for stillness...for reflection. Value serenity instead of outrage. Our nation needs people who can keep their heads when others are losing theirs.

As a religious community, I believe we can lead by example in improving our nation's civil discourse and honoring our national tradition of peaceful transition of power. Let us remember that living our faith requires mindful listening, curiosity, kindness and making the Golden Rule a reality.

Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving,

With Love, Hope and Joy,



Reverend Claudia