
October 2020: Outlaw's Bridge Universalist Church

Welcoming Congregation

The Bridge

No Sunday School Programs and no Childcare during Phase 2.
The playroom is clean and open for parents who wish to use it.

October 4, 2020: "Imagination as the Fountain of All Things Inspired" - Jimmy Merritt

October 11, 2020: "Is Suffering Optional?" – Reverend Claudia Frost – Since 2018, we have been periodically exploring negative or difficult emotions from a faith perspective. This will be the ninth topic in a ten-part sermon series on difficult or negative emotions. Suffering is part of the human condition but is it necessary? Are there different kinds of suffering? Join us for a better understanding of the challenging role of suffering in our lives.

October 18, 2020: "On Being a Drop in the Bucket" – Ann Malpass – based on a sermon by Reverend Dr. Gordon B. McKeeman. We always think that the drop in the bucket is the first one; think of it as perhaps the one that filled the pail.

October 25, 2020: "Who Will You Be?" – Reverend Claudia Frost – Who will you be in the tense days before and after the upcoming national elections? No matter whether your choice of candidates is the winner or not, we are all going to be challenged to be our best selves in this age of increased polarization. As Unitarian Universalists, each of us needs to be part of the solution leading the way with respect and grace for our fellow Americans.



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!

Harvest Sale and Supper scheduled for October 3 has been cancelled. If there are items you want or need, let Ann or Linda know. We will try to make them available to you.

October 8: Meet at church at 11:00 a.m. to order lunch for pickup and AUW meeting.

October 11: Board Meeting following church; lunch will be provided.

Claudia's Comments

When you first heard of COVID-19, did you think at the time that some eight to nine months later we would still be highly concerned about it? So much of our lives has been upended or changed. Sometimes it seems unreal to look back and see how much we have restricted our travel, changed the way we shop or go about our business maintaining a 6-foot distance from people, doing business through plexiglass, wearing masks everywhere we go outside our homes, constantly washing our hands and cleaning everything. Eating a meal inside a restaurant has become a rare occurrence or a distant memory for many people.

We know that life is often hard and scary. I read somewhere recently that we are all experiencing a collective trauma and how we deal with that trauma is filtered through our past experiences of trauma and the connections of care we have. I'm pleased that people from Outlaw's Bridge have been checking on one another during this time of social isolation. I have begun a second round of calling to our members and friends during this time of COVID-19. If I don't reach you by phone, I'm leaving a message in the hope you will call me back and we can visit. Please don't hesitate to call me (919-225-6885) if you don't hear from me and want to visit before I reach you. Please leave me a message and I'll call you back as soon as I can.

In contrast to thinking about the changes the pandemic has brought to our lives, can you feel the coming of Fall in the air? Recent mornings are gifting us with cool temperatures and pumpkins are popping up in stores. A few of the trees are already showing a colorful display of red, gold and yellow leaves. Usually we know it's fall because plans for Harvest Sale are underway. Well, not this year! It's disappointing that we had to cancel *Harvest Sale 2020* but it's more important for everyone to be safe. It feels strange that the first Saturday this month will not be taken up by the fun and fellowship of the live auction followed by a delicious barbecue meal. Hopefully we can plan for something fun at the church in the spring.

By now you have probably received the letter asking our members and friends to make a donation to the church in place of the *Harvest Sale*, our one fundraiser of the year. For those of you who have already made a monetary donation to the *Harvest Sale 2020*, we are sincerely grateful. Each of your donations will help the church meet expenses in the coming months.

Now that the state pandemic guidelines allow for gatherings of 25 people, I am looking forward to seeing a few more of you on Sunday mornings. We will continue to wear masks and socially distance ourselves in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. If you don't feel safe coming to worship services but wish to have a copy of my sermon emailed to you, please let me know.

Thinking of you with love, hope & joy,

Reverend Claudia