

The Bridge

You are encouraged to join us for 11:00 a.m. church services.

No Sunday School programs and no childcare.

The playroom is clean and open for parents who wish to use it.

September 1: "False Religion" – Jimmy Merritt – Let us examine the poem by Rabindranath Tagore and discuss what it means from a liberal religious point of view.

September 8: "Celebrating Grandparents' Day" – Linda Jones – Please bring stories and pictures of your Grandparents to share.

September 15: "Forgotten Truth" – Reverend Brian Clougherty – Huston Smith wrote in his book, "Forgotten Truth," that "People have a profound need to believe that the truth they perceive is rooted in the unchanging depths of the universe; for were it not, could the truth be really important? Yet how can we so believe when others see truth differently?" After he wrote "The World's Religions", he wrote that "It took me two decades to see how they converge." Let's take a look at Huston Smith's "Forgotten Truth".

September 22: "Laughing Matters" – Ann Malpass – Making people laugh connects us to one another. It can end tense situations, stop arguments and is good for your health. And most important is just being able to laugh at yourself.

September 29: "Unusual Friendships Through Time" – Lisa Stolar – Our 5th Sunday donation will go to East Duplin Band Boosters for instrument rental, etc. in memory of Bob Jeffcott.



Dates to Remember

September 8: Lunch and Annual Meeting Following Services: Hope all members and friends can attend!

September 12: AUW Meeting



**HARVEST SALE, SATURDAY
OCTOBER 5, 2024, 3:00 pm**



“Labor Day Statement by the President”: Excerpts

President John F. Kennedy: 1963

On this Labor Day of 1963 – the third within the period of my administration – this Nation once again salutes the role of labor in our national life.

The history of the United States is in vital respects the history of labor. Free men and women, working for a better life for themselves and their children, settled a continent, built a society and created and diffused an abundance hitherto unknown to history. Free men and women, affirming their dignity as individuals and asserting their rights as human beings, developed a philosophy of democratic liberty which holds out hope for oppressed peoples across the world. In commemorating the role of labor, we honor the most essential traditions in American life.

We honor too the contributions of labor to the strength and safety of our Nation. America’s capacity for leadership in the world depends on the character of our society at home; and, in a turbulent and uncertain world, our leadership would falter unless our domestic society is robust and progressive. The labor movement in the United States has made an indispensable contribution both to the vigor of our democracy and to the advancement of the ideals of freedom around the earth.

We can take satisfaction on this Labor Day in the health and energy of our national society. The events of this year have shown a quickening of democratic spirit and vitality among our people. We can take satisfaction too in the continued steady gain in living standards. The Nation’s income, output and employment have reached new heights. More than 70 million men and women are working in our factories, on our farms, and in our shops and services. The average factory wage is at an all-time high of more than \$100 a week. Prices have remained relatively stable, so the larger paycheck means a real increase in purchasing power for the average American family.

Yet our achievements, notable as they are, must not distract us from the things we have yet to achieve. If satisfaction with the status quo had been the American way, we would still be 13 small colonies straggling along the Atlantic coast. I urge all Americans, on this Labor Day, to consider what we can do as individuals and as a nation to move speedily ahead on four major fronts.

First, we must accelerate our effort against unemployment and for the expansion of jobs and opportunity. While automation increases productivity and output, it also renders jobs and skills obsolete. While most of the country shows a high degree of economic activity, some areas have failed to share in the general recovery.

Second, we must accelerate our effort to strengthen our educational system. Inadequate schooling, inadequate training, inadequate skills – these are major obstacles to employment and a fruitful life.

Third, we must accelerate our effort to offer constructive opportunities to our young people. Our youth are our national future.

Fourth, we must accelerate our effort to achieve equal rights for all our citizens – in employment, in education, in voting and in all sectors of our national activity. We can take satisfaction on this Labor Day that 1963 marks a long step forward toward assuring all Americans the opportunities for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

As we make progress in these four areas, we make progress toward improving both the strength of our national society and the quality of our national life. We demonstrate to the world that a free society provides men and women the best chance for decent and fulfilled lives. Most of all, we demonstrate to ourselves that our society is vital, that our purpose is steadfast and that our determination to fulfill the promise of American life for all Americans is unconquerable. Let this be our solemn resolve on Labor Day 1963.

(Seems that this speech is fitting for our country in 2024, doesn't it?)