
September 2026: Outlaw's Bridge Universalist Church

Welcoming Congregation

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 6: "When Labor is a Spiritual Practice" – Jimmy Merritt

– This service will celebrate and deconstruct the concept of Labor on a most appropriate weekend.

September 13: "Annual Water Service" – With Ann Malpass – This is a sharing service. We ask that you share important events in your life during the past summer/year.

September 20: "Incarnations of The Divine, Part 3: You!" –

Reverend Brian Clougherty – Alan Watts was a popular philosopher and speaker in the 1960's. He made Eastern philosophies like Buddhism, Taoism and Hinduism accessible in the West. He said we are all "the universe experiencing itself," and "You are God in disguise," but you have forgotten your true identity. Let's look into this.

September 27: "Autumn Hymn Sing" – with Lisa Stolar – We will sing autumn songs and Lisa will give the history of each song.



Dates to Remember

September 10: AUW Meeting

September 13: Annual Meeting following services and covered-dish lunch. All are encouraged to attend.

OCTOBER 3: HARVEST SALE



"The Teachings of Autumn": From This I Believe

Stephanie of Ashkum, Illinois

Each season of life brings new challenges, opportunities and changes. For me, every Autumn has brought the best of these with it. I remember a moment when I looked out of a second-story window in my home. My eyes alighted upon a tree, almost barren at the edges of Fall. I began to write about what this tree inspired in me. I wrote as the last leaves left its branches, as they blew along the crisp ground into the yards of neighbors. This beautiful scene sparked the most important aspect of my education. Fall teaches us how to live.

A tree at Autumn's end is absent of its lively leaves. Rather than associate this with loss, I associate it with openness. The shedding of leaves in a tree is the ability to let go in humans. In the Fall, we have an opportunity to leave behind the burdens, past beliefs, and habits of the year and open ourselves for change. A barren tree is blissful.

The fall leaves abandon the tree, both to ease regrets and enlighten others. As the leaves tumble through the wind, they cross many paths. A leaf from my yard could end up beneath the foot of a runner across the street or on the roof of a house in another town. These ideas are not forgotten or lost. They reappear in the Spring, intact but changed. The transcendent quality of a leaf is the ability to open up or touch someone in humans. We can talk to others about our burdens or share our optimism and ideals. Both practices bring about openness, change and personal growth.

Each Fall I observe the trees. They drive me to capture their beauty in a photograph, their teachings in poetry. These inspirations breed self-reflection. I began this reflection in adolescence. I felt directionless in high school, with so many self-assured people around me. Fall motivated me to understand how my peers found personal direction. With the teachings of this season behind me, I opened myself to change. During a cool September, at sixteen, I started dating my first boyfriend and working at my first job. I attended sophomore English and received an education from a teacher who inspired me. Three years later, I have the same boyfriend and job, and I have decided to become an English teacher to inspire others.

Every season of life brings change, but none compares to Autumn. By letting go of past disappointments I found direction. I came to understand the self-made success of others. I opened myself to love and honest work and discovered a dream to touch others through teaching. Now in my second year of college, I still live by these teachings. Each Autumn I let go of the past. I remain the same at the core but open myself to understanding and self-reflection. Like those beautifully barren branches, I stretch to the sun and strive for excellence. Trust in the teachings of Fall trees and leaves, this I believe.