
December 2023: 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.

December 3: "This December" – Jimmy Merritt – The power of 12, 10, 7, 5, 2 and 1. "Coincidence, Purposefulness, Realms and Reality".

December 10: "Christmas Stories" – Facilitator Linda Jones – Linda would like to make this a sharing service. Please share your memories, stories, poems etc. that are important to you at Christmastime.

December 17: "Wrestling with Evil" – Reverend Brian Clougherty – Last month, folks talked about a movie, "God on Trial". Wikipedia reports four actual lawsuits against God, two in the U. S., one in Romania and one in India (against the Hindu God Rama). All were dismissed. God has been tried in literature numerous times. Wikipedia notes six trials in novels and films; it fails to mention Job's challenge to God. The problem of evil ("theodicy" in theology) is the toughest issue in religion and maybe philosophy. Let's dive in and see what we can find!

December 24: "Why I Love the Christmas Stories" – Reverend Justin Lapoint – This will be our annual candle-lighting service.

December 31: Guest speaker Doug Walter will speak on Mental Health and the New Year.



Dates to Remember

December 9: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.: Kiln Opening & Holiday Sale: Max & Kathy Whitley, Pink Hill, NC

December 14: 2:00 p.m. at church: AUW Christmas party and Book Exchange. Bring wrapped book for the tree and baked goods you have made.

December 24: Candle-lighting service.



“KEEPING CHRISTMAS”

BY: Henry Van Dyke

There is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day, and that is, keeping Christmas.

Are you willing...

- * to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you;**
- * to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world;**
- * to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground;**
- * to see that men and women are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy;**
- * to own up to the fact that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life;**
- * to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness.**

Are you willing...

- * to stoop down and consider the needs and desires of little children;**
- * to remember the weakness and loneliness of people growing old;**
- * to stop asking how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough;**
- * to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear in their hearts;**
- * to try to understand what those who live in the same home with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you;**
- * to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you;**
- * to make a grave for your ugly thoughts, and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open—**

Are you willing...

- * to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world—**
- * stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death—**
- * and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love?**

Then you can keep Christmas!

And if you can keep it for a day, why not always?

But you can never keep it alone.