
July 2023: Outlaw's Bridge Universalist Church

Welcoming Congregation

The Bridge

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

We continue to socially/physically distance, wear face coverings, and wash our hands as necessary.

Please stay health and safe!

July 2: "Month of July and Special Music" – Jimmy Merritt and friend, Michael Stephenson, Head of Music Department: Pitt Community College.

July 9: "Independence Day" – Facilitator Ann Malpass – Please bring your favorite reading or let Ann know if you have a favorite hymn.

July 16: Three Real Heroes in Our Time – You May be a Fourth" – Reverend Brian Clougherty – The Enlightenment placed reason above authority, whether Divine, presidential, legal or legislative. When reason challenges authority, morality shifts from Divine decree (or a decree of other authority) to where it belongs, inside us, to our innate sense of fairness, which anyone not a sociopath can access. Let us look at three contemporary heroes who dared to use reason to challenge authority and make a better world.

July 23: "Flower Communion Service": Sharing service. Please bring your flower and stories to share.

July 30: "From Moral Injury to Reparations: What's Love Got to Do with It?" – Dr. Dan McKanan – Keynote address from Universalist Convocation in May will be shown. Robert & Lisa Stolar will lead the service.



Dates to Remember

July 9: Covered-dish lunch and Board Meeting following services.

July 13: AUW Meeting at 1:00 following lunch at Johnny's Seafood.

The Quilt is Finished! Thank you to Ann, Peggy, Linda and Rachel!



“THE FOURTH OF JULY”

JOHN BECKETT

JULY 5, 2009

Reverend Diana told us that Easter is the most difficult day for a UU minister. If that's true – and I have no doubt it is – then I think perhaps the Fourth of July is the most difficult day for a UU lay person. We grow up bathed in patriotism: we're taught to salute the flag and say the Pledge of Allegiance, to sing the *Star-Spangled Banner* and *God Bless America*, to wave flags and shoot fireworks on the Fourth of July.

But then we get a little older and we learn that our country hasn't always lived up to its promise. We learn about slavery and the Trail of Tears; we see leaders quick to use military force and to deny full equality to all for political gain. We see those who wrap their theology in the flag and who baptize nationalism and call it God's will and we wonder if we really want to be a part of it all.

But as Unitarian Universalists, we are a people of reason. And reason tells us that while no human institution is perfect, as countries go, this one is pretty good. We appreciate the freedom to practice our religion according to the dictates of our own consciences. We appreciate the security purchased with the blood of our military men and women. We appreciate the great opportunities this country offers, and while they are not as wide as they should be, they are wider than any other nation on Earth.

Where our country is wrong, let us speak out in the prophetic tradition which is part of our religious heritage. But where it is right, let us speak out in the patriotic tradition which is part of our national heritage. Today, let's celebrate what's right about America. Today, let's wave some flags and shoot some fireworks.

John Beckett is an engineer living in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. He is the Coordinating Officer of the Denton Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans.