

THE BRIDGE

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Outlaws Bridge Universalist Church

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FEBRUARY 2010



SUNDAY SERVICES

FEB. 7, 2010 - TBA

FEB. 14, 2010 – “Living Love” – Rev. Claudia Frost – What wisdom do we each hold concerning the experience of love in all its many forms?... Love given, received, or observed. What does the UUA Standing on the side of Love Campaign mean for us? Boardmeeting and pot luck lunch afterwards.

FEB. 21, 2010 - TBA

FEB. 28, 2010 – “The Work of Love and Compassion” – Rev. Claudia Frost - What is the work of love and compassion in our lives.....is it a necessity or just a luxury? What do love and compassion have to do with meaning making..... that all too elusive religious concept?

EVERY SUNDAY

9:45am - INTERGENERATIONAL DEVOTION

10:00am - ADULT AND YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

11:00am - CHURCH SERVICE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Adult Classes - Bart Erhamn's "Misquoting Jesus" with Joseph Reilly and Monica LaMastus.

Children's Class - UU and ME, UU's Around the World with Ann Malpass

AUW

The Association of Universalist Women will meet Feb 20 at 2:30 pm at the church. We will have our annual Take Home Party, a white elephant sale fund raiser for the AUW. Everyone is invited.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Pathways to Membership class on Jan. 31st after worship and Potato Barlunch. There is a sign up sheet on the office door. Please sign up so we will know the number of "handout" materials needed. This class is for anyone who is interested.

January 31st, 6:30pm Mt. Olive Presbyterian Church the second Community Forum will be held. Speakers will be Rev. Steven Wicks and Rev. Tim Beach-Verhey - Presbyterian, Rev. Lula Newkirk - Free Church/Independent, and Rev. Claudia Frost - Unitarian Universalist. Light refreshments served after the question and answer time.

March 20th, 8:30am - 3:30pm the Eastern Carolina Cluster Gathering will take place at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville, NC. Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed will speak on "The Perversity of Diversity. The gathering will include the keynote address, worship and workshops. All Ages are welcome. Go to www.uugreenvillenc.org/cluster for registration and the schedule or pick up a registration form at OBUC on Sunday. Let's make plans to attend.

Food Lion has changed its Lion Shop and Share program to Food Lion Community Rewards. If you previously linked your MVP card to OBUC for Lion Shop and Share, you will need to sign up again for Community Rewards. Visit www.foodlion.com and click on MVP Rewards to link your Food Lion MVP Cards to Outlaw's Bridge Universalist Church, organization code #250798. Peggy Jones has already signed up those folks who previously sent her their information. If you would like her to sign you up, please email her at pjays2009@gmail.com your name as it appears on your MVP card, your 12 (yes twelve) digit MVP card number and your telephone number. Thank you for your support.

OBUC is affiliated with: The Universalist Convention of North Carolina, Inc. (UCONCI), The Universalist Convocation, UUA Thomas Jefferson District (TJD), and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)

Claudia's Notes



February 2010

As you might guess from the sermon titles I have chosen for this month, the ministry and learning theme for this month is “Love”. Of course it only seems natural for Valentine’s Day to be the time to speak of love, but all month I will be sharing ideas about the importance of love.

On the first weekend this month, a few of us will be attending the Thomas Jefferson District Anti-Racism Conference hosted by the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Richmond, Virginia. Those of us attending will be sharing what we have learned during a worship service later this spring. Having attended a number of Anti-Racism Conferences in the past, I know that love will be an implicit core value for the workshop presentations. This year’s theme is Building the World We Want: Race, Place and Community. Often this is difficult work that challenges us and our core assumptions.....stay tuned.....I’m sure those of us attending will have much to share.

Love is not only at the core of Anti-Racism work, it is the foundation of what we believe as Universalists. When we dare to love or act out of love, we instantly become vulnerable.....or “susceptible to being wounded”. It’s not just “romantic love” that can disappoint us. The causes and institutions we give our hearts to can let us down and fall short of our ideals.

Let us not forget that Love requires courage.....the courage to direct our attention not only to our own spiritual growth, but it requires the courage to accept each other as we are. At times, we have to make the effort to set aside our own agendas to shift our attention or consciousness. One of the most important ways we can exercise our attention is by listening. For many of us good listening is something we have to learn. Love in religious community requires ... staying at the table and working through differences instead of walking off in anger or drifting away in indifference. Finding something to appreciate about even the most difficult person can open relationships in unanticipated ways. Directing our actions and awareness with the intentions of love even to those we disagree with or who have caused us concern requires effort. Can we love our neighbor as ourselves?

Love lives on in the people we love, the lives we influence, and the institutions we choose to give our hearts and gifts to build and support.

Standing on the Side of Love....With Hope and Joy,
Claudia

