



Peace and Goodwill

# The Bridge

**Outlaw's Bridge Universalist Church**  
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Affiliated with the Universalist Convention of North Carolina, Inc. (UCONCI) The Universalist Convocations, the Southeast District of the UUA, and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)

**DECEMBER, 2011**



**Religious Education:**

**\*9:45 Intergenerational Devotional**

**\*10:00 Adult Religious Education: Articulating your UU Faith** by Barbara Wells and Jaco B. ten Hove with Ann Malpass

**\*Youth RE: 2nd and 4th Sunday "Gather the Spirit" : Water** With Reverend Claudia Frost and Lisa Stolar

**\*Children's RE: Story time** with Linda Jones

## DECEMBER SERVICES

December 4: **"Universalism of a Different Sort"**-Jimmy Merritt  
December 11: **"Unwrapping God"**-Reverend Claudia M. Frost-God is the theological theme for this December. Advent is a good time to explore God, Love and Great Mystery. In this season of poetry, pageantry, music, merry-making and gifts, let us pause for reflection on matters of ultimate concern.  
Love Feast/Candle Lighting: **"Believe"**-Reverend Claudia M. Frost-For those who have difficulty seeing beyond the historical inaccuracies of virgin birth and angels on high, how do you access this season of love and hope? Truly there is sacred power in the Christmas story when we listen to our hearts.

December 18: Christmas Music with Michael Mozingo  
December 24: **"The Works of Christmas"**-Christmas Vespers with Reverend Claudia M. Frost 7:00 p.m.  
December 25: 10:30 a.m.-Lay-Lead Service of Christmas Readings/Christmas Music (No Sunday School or RE Programs)

**Outlaw's Bridge Universalist Church & The Universalist Convention of NC, Inc**  
**LOVE FEAST & CANDLE LIGHTING SERVICE**

**December 11, 2011**  
**Covered-dish supper 5:30 p.m.**

**Candle-Lighting Service 6:30 p.m.**

**Pastor: Reverend Claudia Frost**

**"BELIEVE"**  
**Special Music: Jimmy Merritt**

## UPCOMING EVENTS & OTHER NEWS

We are sending a Care Package to Austin DeRoin and his Unit in Afghanistan. Please bring your care package items to the church by December 4.  
December 17: AUW Christmas Party - Everyone is invited!  
December 24: Traditional Congregational Christmas party and a visit from Santa following Christmas Vespers at 7:00 p.m.  
December 31: New Year's Eve Party



## Claudia's Comments

The holiday season is upon us. Every year, Christmas holds a magical place in our hearts filled with nostalgic childhood images of beautiful shiny decorations, brightly wrapped gifts and fun times with family and friends. But for some people, the approaching holidays are a painful reminder of who or what is missing in their lives.

Remember the song “**Blue Christmas**”, made popular by Elvis and others before him? [I'll have a Blue Christmas without you....I'll be so blue just thinking about you....](#)

The sights and sounds of the season may not make you feel so happy. Instead they may heighten your lack of joy or sense of dread. Some among us may have experienced the loss of a cherished family member this year, a family member may be separated far from home or there has been loss of a job or a sharp decrease in income. Personal grief, loneliness, illness, economic concerns, infertility, emotional trauma, depression, alcoholism or relationship issues may have touched our lives and left us less joyful in this time of **Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays**. Some people feel overwhelmed by a lengthy “to do” list and unrealistic self expectations.

People might say “Stop being so glum...it’s Christmas.” I know, pretending a positive attitude can’t chase away personal darkness. It is however, a good idea to maintain your routines; making sure to create space for self-care. Let go of unrealistic expectations at this darkest time of the year. Let us make sacred space for grieving and go easy on the “to do” list.

The gift of solitude can be a blessing of replenishment and reconnection with yourself. You might choose to seek out old friends if too much solitude is your reality. If you know someone for whom the holidays may not be so happy this year, please reach out and invite the person to spend time with you. Share a meal; go for a walk together; visit and listen...send a note or card or invite them to your church.

Although we are not holding a specific **Blue Christmas** worship service at OBUC this year, each of our December worship services will create sacred space for silent reflection, music to nurture your soul, the fellowship of loving community, and a message of hope for your life. Please plan to join us for one or all of our holiday worship services listed in this newsletter. Remember too, I am always available by phone or appointment to meet with you for conversation and a listening ear.

May your holidays be filled with love, hope, and joy.

Claudia

