

## The Bridge

### Available On YouTube

#### **April 12 (Easter): "We Rise – An Easter Message of Hope"**

– Reverend Claudia M Frost – Easter is a time for Hope. It is a hope that arises out of the dust, out of groping in the dark and moving beyond fear. Death has come but love and life are stronger. Although we can't gather in person during this time of Pandemic, let's be open to worship and learning in new ways as we hear a message of love and hope via the "miracles of technology."

**April 26: "The Darkness Knows Healing"** – Reverend Claudia M Frost – Continuing our sermon series on difficult or negative emotions, depression is a timely topic. So many people's lives are impacted by depression...either themselves or someone they love. The COVID-19 Virus Pandemic makes a "perfect storm" for exacerbating depression in those who already suffer from depression and many may now be facing situational depression due to the weeks of social distancing, "stay at home" rules and personal losses. Our faith has much to teach us about difficult emotions.

### **MAKE EVERYDAY EARTH DAY!!**

Have you ever celebrated Earth Day, perhaps by planting a tree or doing something good for the environment? We ask because **Earth Day's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary** is upon us, set for **April 22**, and this year's "celebration" will be a bit different. Considering the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19 pandemic, the Earth Day Network has announced a shift to "global digital mobilizations."

**It will be Digital Earth Day!** The first ever. Plans are underway to develop a major global event to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Online events will include: Virtual Protests; Social media

campaigns; online teach-ins and more. A full scope of digital actions will be available at [earthday.org](http://earthday.org).



### Dates to Remember

**Because of the rapid spread of COVID-19, and in light of the "Stay at Home" orders issued by Governor Roy Cooper for all of North Carolina, all activities for the month of April at Outlaw's Bridge Universalist Church have been cancelled. Also, Universalist Convocation 2020 that we were to host in May has been cancelled. We will be missing so many of our Spring Celebrations! However, your health and safety are much more important. Please keep in touch with each other during this difficult time. As soon as it is safe to do so, we will resume normal activities.**



## Claudia's Comments

Spring is always one of my favorite times of year at Outlaw's Bridge. From our Easter morning breakfast, Sunday worship and the children's egg hunt to our Homecoming Sunday on Mother's Day complete with a big pot-luck lunch, it's a time for larger gatherings of folks in the spring. Unfortunately, over the past few weeks life at Outlaw's Bridge has looked a little different due to the social distancing and stay at home rules necessitated by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

What hasn't changed is our strong sense of church community. These are different times for all of us and I greatly appreciate the support you've shown for our church and for one another. I've missed you over the past month and have been thinking of ways we can still connect with one another.

I've started calling Members and "Friends" and hope to speak with each of you over the next week to check on you and your family and catch up on what's going on during this time. For Easter, I am planning to make a video recording of my sermon and post it on YouTube. The link will be sent out to you by email. I also plan to host "Conversations with Reverend Claudia" once a week on a Zoom Chat you can participate in on-line. Instructions will be sent by email on how to download the free Zoom app and participate in the conversation. This weekly conversation doesn't require any advance sign up. There will also be a phone option offered. Watch your email for upcoming information. In closing, I'm including a poem I received from a colleague by Laura Kelly Fanucci.

### "When This is Over"

When this is over, may we never again take for granted,  
A handshake with a stranger, full shelves at the store,  
Conversation with neighbors, a crowded theater,  
Friday night out, the taste of Communion,  
A routine check-up, the school rush each Monday,  
Coffee with a friend, the stadium roaring,  
Each deep breath, a boring Tuesday,  
Life Itself.

When this is over, may we find that we become more like  
The people we wanted to be, we are called to be,  
We hoped to be.  
May we stay that way...better for each other  
Because of the worst.

Wishing you a Hopeful Easter,  
With Love, Hope and Joy,  
Reverend Claudia