
April 2021: Outlaw's Bridge Universalist Church

Welcoming Congregation

The Bridge

**No Sunday School Programs and no Childcare during Phase 3.
The playroom is clean and open for parents who wish to use it.**

April 4, 2021: "Easter: The Rest of the Story" – Reverend Claudia M. Frost – From Jesus's crucifixion on Friday and the empty tomb Sunday morning, it's important to understand what happened in the days that followed. It marks the beginning of a new page in human history. Join us for the rest of the Easter story that became convoluted with atonement theology, ancient pagan deities, traditions celebrating rebirth and the Crusades.

April 11, 2021: "Death by a Thousand Cuts: The Demise of Unitarian Universalist Theism" – Ann Malpass – the words of Reverend Vernon Chandler

April 18, 2021: "Sacred Earth – Sacred Work" – Reverend Claudia M. Frost – According to religious thinker and priest, Matthew Fox "Being part of the ecosystem of creation is to know deeply our beloved nature and learn to live out of a belief in our original blessing not original sin". With Earth Day being celebrated April 22nd, let us explore the connection of healing the world while honoring the inherent sacredness of everyone and everything. This year's Earth Day theme is "Restore Our Earth". Bring your ideas to share how we can participate.

April 25, 2021: Services with Jimmy Merritt



Dates to Remember

With the ease of restrictions in N.C., we begin the process of returning to normal. As activities resume, you will see announcements in the church newsletter, website and weekly announcements. We will continue to social distance, wash our hands and wear face coverings. Stay Safe!

April 8: AUW Meeting at 1:00 p.m. following lunch ordered from Johnny's Seafood. Be at church by 11:30 a.m. to place order.

April 18: Board Meeting following church service. Lunch will be provided.



Claudia's Comments

It's Spring and the daffodils, forsythia and redbuds blooming are a beautiful sight to behold! It lifts my spirits to see so many colorful things in bloom. Of course, the yellow pollen, itchy eyes and allergic sneezes are here, too...the good and bad of Springtime in our beautiful state.

A full year ago, April 2020, we had to close the church due to COVID-19 restrictions. Things are much improved this year. Many of us have our COVID immunizations and we've been meeting as a congregation regularly since June...wearing masks, social distancing and observing other COVID "best practices". I'm looking forward to enjoying the Easter worship service with you in person this year. For the first time ever, we are also offering a special "Zoom" worship opportunity. Watch for a separate announcement for the Zoom sign on information via email if you are unable to attend our Easter worship service in person.

Some say, "time flies when you're having fun". I certainly believe this applies to my ministry with you. This August we will mark the completion of 12 years of ministry together. On August 31, 2021, I plan to retire from my position as your minister. It's time for me to relinquish my position as your "Called" Minister and the Board will begin the process of defining the type of ministry position that will follow. They will work with the UUA Transitions Office to define the best process for our congregation. From what I understand, they will probably be a time of continued lay led worship leadership for Sunday morning while the search process proceeds.

During our long church history, we've been blessed with excellent professional ministry and dedicated lay leadership. I have been the beneficiary of this legacy of respect and collaborative care. I am very grateful. I appreciate the respect you've shown me and the many opportunities to share my thoughts through sermons, classes and meetings. I've learned so much from you and cherish the times we've laughed, cried and learned together.

Over the next five months, we have time to enjoy one another and this wonderful church community. We still have work to do planning our best post-pandemic days ahead when our whole church community will be reunited.

Guidelines for UU Ministers require me to step back and have no involvement in the church for a period of time after I leave my position. However, we still have five months to share our gratitude, say our good-byes, listen to each other and enjoy working together on the many projects we share. Feel free to call me at (919) 225-6885 if you want to talk about my retirement.

With Love, Hope & Joy,

Reverend Claudia

