

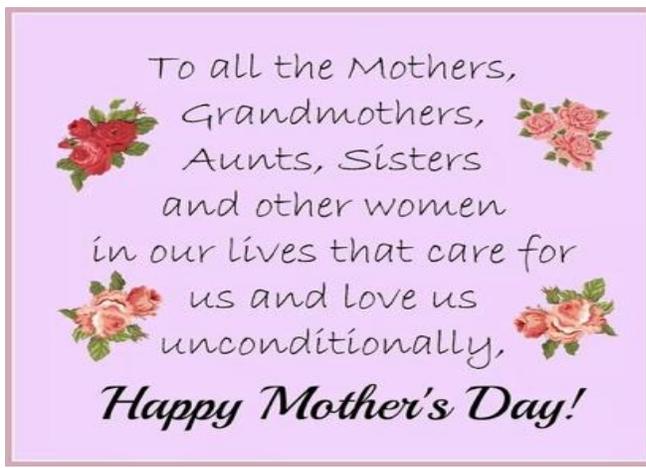
## The Bridge

### Available On YouTube

**May 10, 2020: "I Love You Mom"** – Reverend Claudia M Frost – Due to the Pandemic, our traditional Mother's Day/Homecoming celebration has been postponed but we're still celebrating Mother's Day. Most likely this will be a worship service posted on YouTube or an emailed document with music links embedded. COVID-19 is **not** going to keep us from appreciating and celebrating the many ways mothers show their love.

**May 24, 2020: "Pandemic"** – Reverend Claudia M Frost – Reverend Lynn Unger's poem, "Pandemic" leads us on a journey to discover who we are in this time of change and disruption. Our Universalist heritage has a message for us as we gather and commit ourselves to renew our mission in this challenging time. Please join us for this worship service of renewal and reconnection.

**Remember:** You can zoom or phone with **"Conversations with Reverend Claudia"** each Thursday at noon through May 14 (Download Zoom, go to <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/881624971>, meeting ID 881 624 971; or enter by phone 1-646-876-9923 US (New York) or 1-253-215-8782, meeting ID 881 624 971.)



### Dates to Remember

**The spread of COVID-19 and the "Stay at Home" orders issued by Governor Cooper for all of North Carolina have been extended until May 8. Hopefully, at that time we will begin Phase 1 to reopen activities for our state and our church. We will make announcements for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays as guidelines become available. Jimmy wants to come and play the piano as soon as we are ready! Please stay in touch with each other during this difficult time. Please take the time to thank the essential workers you encounter!**



## Claudia's Comments

As I write this message, my desire to know Governor Cooper's plan for reopening public life in NC keeps distracting me. I'd like to know what to expect so we can plan. In light of that unknowing, we've had to make some changes in our May calendar. Homecoming will be postponed to a later date so we can gather in a way that feels safe. For now, our May 10<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day Celebration will have to be a virtual service on YouTube or email format with music links embedded. Check your *Weekly Announcements* for any changes.

We also had to cancel the Universalist Convocation planned for May 15-17, 2020. This will not be rescheduled. However, on a later date this fall, I will give the Sunday Convocation sermon in honor of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of John Murray's first Universalist sermon in America. Hopefully "gathering restrictions" will be lifted by then so we can invite as many guests as we want for a 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

Although we still don't know what the next few months will look like for our congregation in terms of meeting at the church for worship, service and fellowship, I feel sure we'll be able to meet whatever challenges and changes we need to make. Our members and friends have always known themselves to be a "Can Do" kind of people. I don't know if that part of our church DNA comes from our rural farm heritage or our Universalist roots, but regardless, I know it's true. When we are allowed to gather again, I know your Board of Trustees will be able to think creatively about ideas for spacing ourselves, sharing food and fellowship that do not put anyone at risk. We will uphold our longstanding value of open communication and maintaining trust as we navigate change in this time of Pandemic.

Even though I don't know how the startup details will unfold or what changes we'll have to make, I'm committed to a personal daily time of prayer for the future of this church, for our members and friends and for the leaders of our country. I'm dedicated to continuing my financial stewardship to our congregation. Although we haven't been able to literally "pass the plate" for a Sunday collection the past two months, I hope you will all remember to send your donations directly to the church in care of our treasurer, Peggy Jones. Even though the church is closed at present, we still have regular (HVAC, water, security system, outdoor lights, internet, phone, etc.) All gifts no matter how large or small are appreciated.

I also plan to continue to host our Thursday Noon "Chat with Reverend Claudia" on Zoom. Please check your weekly announcements for the Zoom ID number. This is a good time not only to visit but a place to share ideas for what's ahead: *What are you making for Harvest Sale? How are we going to get the quilt done? Who might have a quilt to donate for the auction? What's helping you to stay focused and fascinated with life while you stay at home day after day?*

Looking forward to when we can gather at church again.

With Love, Hope and Joy,

Reverend Claudia