

The Bridge

No Sunday School Programs and no Childcare during Phase 2.
The playroom is clean and open for parents who wish to use it.

September 6: "Getting Back to the Historic Jesus" – Reverend Justin Lapoint.

September 13: "Civility in the Public Square: A Spiritual Practice" – Reverend Claudia Frost – As people of faith, restoring civility in public discourse is a responsibility that belongs to each of us. Our credibility and integrity both as individuals and as a democratic nation depend on improved civil discourse. Join us to find out how we can walk a path making civility in public discourse a personal spiritual practice.

September 20: Water Service – Come share your life events for the year.

September 27: "Say 'YES' to Life" – Reverend Claudia Frost – According to the late Dr. Viktor Frankl, author of the post- World War II Book, *Man's Search for Meaning*, "life's goal shouldn't be happiness but is a sense of purpose", a key factor for well-being. This sermon is based on three public lectures Frankl made after he was released from a Nazi prison camp. Join us for this message of hope and moral courage during challenging times.



Dates to Remember

Because of the COVID-19 Virus, formal activities at Outlaw's Bridge are curtailed. We are in Phase 2 for reopening activities for the state. We are still encouraged to practice "Safer at Home" orders when possible and gather in groups of no more than ten.

When out, practice social/physical distancing, wash hands and wear face coverings. Please stay in touch with each other during this difficult time. Please take the time to thank the essential workers you encounter!

Stay Healthy and Safe!

September 10: Meet at church at 11:00 a.m. to order lunch for pickup and AUW meeting.

September 13: Board Meeting following church; lunch will be provided. Due to COVID-19, Annual Meeting has been cancelled. Anyone who wishes may attend the Board Meeting.

Claudia's Comments

I've missed you and look forward to catching up with as many of you as I can by phone, email or text in the upcoming weeks now that my sabbatical is over. I'm also very grateful for the time away from ministry responsibilities. As it turned out, my plans for sabbatical changed dramatically. My original plans for July and August were upended by two separate foot surgeries as well as continuing Physical Therapy for my shoulder. It felt like a loss when trips were canceled by Pandemic closures and mandates. Not a fun way to spend the summer but I'm so glad I had the time off and "in-person" doctor visits and the ability to schedule surgery cases reopened just when I needed immediate care. I'm on the mend now and looking forward to worship with you on September 13th.

Usually the September newspaper column mentions images of the start of school. It's been a marker in time the past eleven years as we not only see our children or grandchildren begin a new school year, but it's also the start of our new church year. Things are quite different in 2020. No yellow school buses, no school sports, band performances or choir concerts for the students for now. No monthly music concerts at church. More loss. Social and emotion learning doesn't occur easily online. Another loss. Home school increases stress levels for many parents who already struggle to balance childcare and work. It feels like real life is on hold. Loss. We've had additional losses of members and friends of the congregation who have passed away in the last few months. I will pause to remember those losses during our worship on September 13th. Loss continues to be a big part of 2020.

Now is not the time to check out or give up. This is a time for self-reflection and gratitude practice even if it's only a short pause at the beginning or end of your day. Even though our church community has not been together in large numbers since the Pandemic began, we are here for you. Since "re-opening" began in NC, we are continuing to hold worship services "live" on Sundays. We are meeting with masks and appropriate social distancing while we maintain a clean environment. We are lucky to have a spacious sanctuary with the adjoining Fellowship Hall which can accommodate additional people in social distanced spacing. Although we don't have childcare at this time, infants and children are always welcomed in worship.

I pray you are finding the care and support you need to name and grieve the losses in your own life...whatever they may be. Let us continue to give thanks for all who are helping in your families to promote safety, best health practices and a calm environment during these stressful times. Please feel free to call me (919-225-6885) if you want to talk. Also, if you have any ideas for how our congregation can be of service during this time, please let me or any member of the Board of Trustees hear from you.

Be Safe...Be Well.

With Love, Hope & Joy,

Reverend Claudia