

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs

Creating a community of love for justice and peace

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs is a Welcoming Community that embraces people of any age, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, class, ability, language, or cultural background

We Say Goodbye

Sunday, August 31, 2025

CHIMES AND WELCOME

PRELUDE

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”
trad; arr. by Joel Raney

LIGHTING OF THE CHALICE

Words of Rev. Tricia Brennan

OPENING HYMN

No. 347, Gather the Spirit

OUR COVENANT

*Love is the doctrine of this faith,
The quest for truth is its sacrament,
And service is its prayer.
To dwell together in peace,
To seek knowledge in freedom,
To serve human need,
To the end that all souls shall grow into
harmony with the Divine—
Thus do we covenant with one another and
love beyond belief*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 1058

*Be ours a religion which like sunshine goes
everywhere,
its temple all space, its shrine the good
heart,
its creed all truth, its ritual works of love*

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

CHILDREN’S RECESSIONAL

Words & Music by Thomas Benjamin
*For we shall go out in joy (2x)
And come back in peace (2x)
Blessed be.*

MEMORIES and REFLECTIONS

STONES AND WATER RITUAL

Hymn No. 123, Spirit of Life

SHARING OF JOYS AND SORROWS

Response: *There is a love holding you.*

Closing Response:

*There is a love holding me.
There is a love holding you.
There is a love holding all.
We rest in this love.*

A MEDITATION

OFFERTORY

Words of Alice Anacheka-Nasemann
Music: “Be Thou My Vision” arr. by
Joel Raney

When you text to (518) 333-9140 or go
online (uusaratoga.org/donate) to donate,
please be sure to select the appropriate fund
for your donation. Any donation made to
Give Away the Plate fund during August
goes to our minister’s discretionary fund.

CLOSING HYMN

No. 295, Sing Out Praises For The
Journey

HONORING OF OUR QUILT

EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE

words of Elizabeth Selle Jones
*We extinguish this flame, but not the light of
truth,
The warmth of community, or the fire of
commitment.
These we carry in our hearts until we are
together again.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Service Participants:

Our Worship Team
Lin Hare, Care Team
Judith Thomas, Music Director
Carol Ann Elze, Choir Director

Thanks to our Hospitality Team and our
Tech Support Team

We extend a warm welcome to all who worship here today, especially those who are visiting for the first time. Please join in refreshments and conversation following the service at the back of the sanctuary. We hope this community can be a place of meaning, inspiration, celebration and joy for you and your family

OPENING HYMN No. 347 Gather The Spirit

*Gather the spirit, harvest the power.
Our separate fires will kindle one flame.
Witness the mystery of this hour.
Our trials in this light appear all the same.
Gather in peace, gather in thanks.
Gather in sympathy now and then.
Gather in hope, compassion and strength.
Gather to celebrate once again.
Gather the spirit of heart and mind.
Seeds for the sowing are laid in store.
Nurtured in love, and conscience refined,
with body and spirit united once more.
Gather in peace, gather in thanks.
Gather in sympathy now and then.
Gather in hope, compassion and strength.
Gather to celebrate once again.
Gather the spirit growing in all,
drawn by the moon and fed by the sun.
Winter to spring, and summer to fall,
the chorus of life resounding as one.
Gather in peace, gather in thanks.
Gather in sympathy now and then.
Gather in hope, compassion and strength.
Gather to celebrate once again.*

**STONES & WATER RITUAL HYMN
No. 123 Spirit of Life**

*Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart
All the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
Move in the hand, giving life the shape of
justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.*

**CLOSING HYMN No. 295 Sing Out
Praises For The Journey**

*Sing out praises for the journey, pilgrims,
we, who carry on,
searchers in the soul's deep yearnings, like
our forebears in their time.
We seek out the spirit's wholeness in the
endless human quest.*

*Look inside, your soul's the kindling of the
hearth fire pilgrims knew.
Find the spirit, always restless, find it in
each mind and heart.
Touch and hold that ancient yearning,
kindling for a newfound truth.*

*Stand we now upon the threshold, facing
futures yet unknown.
Hearth behind us, wayside hostel built by
those who knew wild roads.
Guard we e'er their sacred embers carried
in our minds and hearts.*

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Saratoga Springs**

518-584-1555 • uusaratoga.org



**Let endings have
their dignity.**

—Melissa O'Brien

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