

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs



What We Mean When We Say Community

Sunday, February 1, 2026

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Allegretto from Sonata Op.27, #2, by Beethoven

LIGHTING THE CHALICE

*We light our chalice in the spirit of Transformation.
Nothing stays the same.
Everything moving. Shifting. Changing.
Guide us all to a wild and holy vision of our shared humanity.*

*OPENING HYMN

No. 188, Come, Come, Whoever You Are

*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

*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.*

STORY FOR ALL AGES

CHILDREN'S RECESSIONAL

Words & Music by Thomas Benjamin

For we shall go out in joy (2x)

And come back in peace (2x)

Blessed be.

REFLECTION

What We Mean When We Say Community: to explore what we mean when we say community, moving beyond personal preference or attachment to consider the shared responsibilities that hold a moral and spiritual community together.

MEDITATION

COMMUNAL CARE

Offertory Music: Moonlight Sonata Op.27 #2, by Beethoven (ex.)

The Give Away The Plate Recipient for February is Wellspring.

Offertory Words: *For the gifts we have received, and the gifts we ourselves are, we express gratitude. We dedicate these gifts to strengthening love, deepening justice, and sustaining this community in its shared moral life. For the ministry of this congregation to one another and to the wider world, we enter this time of offering.*

SHARING OF JOYS AND SORROWS

Stones and Water Ritual

All: *There is a love holding you.*

Leader: May we all know that we are not alone as we hold one another in our hearts.

All:

There is a love holding me.

There is a love holding you.

There is a love holding all.

We rest in this love

CLOSING HYMN

No. 354, We Laugh, We Cry

BENEDICTION Words of Rebekah Savage

*As we end our time together today in spiritual community,
may we depart this sacred space:*

Knowing that blessings shall follow us all the days of our lives.

May we live in and return to right relationships,

May we extend grace and forgiveness to ourselves and others,

May we behold mercy as a spiritual superpower.

May we emanate the Greater Love that holds us close.

Let our lives radiate the blessings that we have been given,

Let kindness and compassion fall gently from us.

May there be peace in the world, and may it begin again with us.

EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE

Our faith, like a light, illuminates the path before us so that we can face hurt with love, cultivate compassion, live humbly in community, and confront despair with the awe of life. Though our flame is extinguished, our faith shines bright before us.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Service Participants:

Melissa O'Brien, minister

Linda Giancola, Worship Associate

Linda Miner, Care Team

Judith Thomas, pianist

A special thank you to our Tech Team and Hospitality Team

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 extend a warm welcome to all who worship here today, especially those who are visiting for the first time. Following the service, please join us for refreshment and conversation. We hope this community can be a place of meaning, inspiration, celebration and joy for you and your family.