

Journey Well

UUSARATOGA

30 January 2026



News from The Board, Code Blue Shelter and More!

There will be a Coffee Chat after Sunday Feb. 1 worship service to vote on the sale of 624 N. Broadway.

The Ladies' Luncheon is Tuesday, February 3rd, at noon at the Regent restaurant in the Brookmere Hotel.

Beginning today and continuing for the next 2 weeks there will be collection boxes in the back of the sanctuary for donations to the Code Blue Shelter. Please see the collection boxes for a list of needed items.

The Minister Search Committee seeks your input in order to help guide them in the search for our next contract minister.

The Fundraising team is gearing up for many great events that keep the finances stable for UUSaratoga.

There's also many social justice events coming up and continuing in and around our community to find out about.

So much happening as we move toward the future!

In this newsletter you can expect:

Upcoming Sunday Services

What's Happening in RE

Upcoming Events and meetings

Social Justice Team News

Committees and Teams News Updates

THE THEME FOR JANUARY IS:
PRACTICING RESISTANCE





This Sunday's Service

What We Mean When We Say Community

Sunday February 1, 2026 10am

This service will 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.

Keeping and Staying Healthy

There are many viruses making the rounds, including COVID. For the most vulnerable in our congregation, please consider masking up in public, washing hands often, making healthy choices. With the cold dry air, the virus is looking for a warm moist home and that's YOU!

Event News-

[Click here for the Events Calendar](#)

Sunday February 1, 2026 10am
Worship Service with RE

Tuesday February 3, 2026 12 noon
Ladies Luncheon at Regent Restaurant in the Brookmere Hotel

Thursday February 5, 2026
9am The Breakfast Group at Kaffe House

Sunday February 8, 2026 10am Worship Service with RE (In-Person & Online)

What's happening in RE

RE for Sunday, February 1st

We are so happy to welcome Lucy Altman-Coe back as our Skidmore RE guide!

This month we move on from January's theme of Resistance to February's Resilience.

This week we explore how to find resilience through Nature. We will explore the earth-centered holiday of Imbolc. We honor one of our core UU sources of inspiration: Direct experiences of transcending mystery and wonder, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit.

We hope our children and families will join us!



LET'S HELP OUR NEIGHBORS THIS WINTER!

For the next 3 Sundays (2/1, 2/8, & 2/15) there will be collection boxes in the back of the sanctuary for donations to the Saratoga Springs Code Blue Shelter. Items needed at this time include:
Coffee
Sugar
Canned Hearty Soups
Aluminum Foil
Gallon Size Zip Locks
Hand warmers
Cash donations are also welcome

Pastor's Note From Melissa O'Brien

Once again, many thanks for your patience, kindness and flexibility as I learn the ropes. These first three weeks have been challenging in ways I didn't even imagine. I like to be organized, but death and weather are good reminders to stay in the flow of life.

As you've probably noticed, I speak each week, not just in response to a theme, but I seek to channel what we need to know or hear in terms of what's happening in the world right now. I spend my days paying attention, then try to put together a service that might inspire, cause us to think, and uplift, as often as possible. We are still playing with the parts of the service, tweaking things to find a balance between spiritual sustenance and admin stuff! Thanks for keeping an open mind.

This congregation has been through a lot in recent times, and has a lot to look forward to in the coming days. I think it would be great if we could visualize a doorway, a threshold, which we walk through, collectively choosing to put down the strife of the past while walking into a hopeful future.

I am heading to Montana next week, for a long-planned adventure with my kids, my sister (coming down from Alaska) and my nephews. We are determined to have fun, snow or not. You have a speaker scheduled for the 15th, so I won't be back in the meeting house until Sunday, the 22nd, but will be working and making visits when I get back from Montana. I am really enjoying meeting with folks, getting to know you all on a one-on-one basis. Please reach out: 802-325-2345 or melissa519@me.com to make a time to chat.

Warmest blessings,
Melissa

The sledding on Monday was perfect! On the hill with my partner, Sverre Caldwell





See next page for the financials sent as a second email

Dear Congregants,

On Sunday, 2/1/26, there will be a Special Meeting(Coffee Chat) after Service to vote on the Purchase Offer from Micheal Crisfulli of \$1,218,750.00 . The Congregation will vote on whether to accept this offer for our property at 624 N. Broadway.

Since our Coffee Chat on Sunday, 1/25/26, Mr. Crisfulli has modified his offer in accordance with our request. He will put down \$25,000.00 at signing of the offer. If he needs more than 60 days to complete his due diligence, he will pay us a non refundable \$25,000.00 and the original \$25k paid will become non refundable as well. The buyer hopes to close in six months. If he needs an additional three months for permits and City approval, he will pay us an additional \$25,000.00 non refundable fee for that extension.

The New Home Task Force will have financial analysis completed for your review and questions on Sunday, in regard to our new home. There is also info with a Bast Hatfield construction schedule which starts the project at 400 Loudon Road in April and completes the Building in December, 2026

It's extremely important that our members are present to participate and vote.

Thanks.
Art Holmberg, President

MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE SEEKS YOUR INPUT

The Minister Search Committee wants to hear from you in order to help guide them in the search for our next contract minister. Please use the following link or QR code to complete a brief survey (anonymously if you wish) or complete a paper copy located in the sanctuary.

[Click here for the form](#)



LADIES' LUNCHEON

hope you are all well and warm in this winter season!

We will get together on Tuesday, February 3rd at 12:00 noon for our Ladies Luncheon, and I hope the weather cooperates with us so that we can meet.

We have had lovely lunches at the Regent Restaurant in the Brookmere Hotel, with a clean parking lot and an easy atmosphere to chat, so we will meet there once again.

Please RSVP to tarilee@gmail.com if you would like a spot at our table, we would love to have you

New Home Current Financial information

I. EXPENSES

Bast-Hatfield bid: \$2,549,053

Drilling 2 wells (est). 20,000*

On-going architect fees. 30,000*

Total. \$2,599,053

II. FINANCING: assets

A. Funds in accounts (Fidelity, Broadview, ATC). \$577,834 B.

Pledges outstanding. 721,040 C.

Net from sale of 624 N. Broadway. 1,157,812

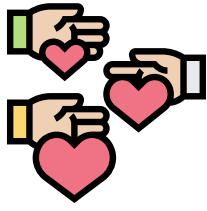
Total assets. \$2,456,686

Difference \$142,367*

* Estimates We are still in the process of negotiating a reduction in the HVAC cost, and the site work cost

III. List of deferred work (NOT included in the BH bid):

1. Side retaining wall handrails on the sides of the building replace with vegetation for safety) \$7,561
2. Ground floor finishing (including classrooms and 2 bathrooms) \$146,408
3. Ground floor bathrooms (included in #2 above)
4. Landscape plantings. \$44,400
5. Seeding and topsoil. 5,900
6. Deck and railing. \$42,800
7. Kitchen (cabinets, appliances, countertops, install). approx. \$20,000
8. Movable partition between classrooms. \$22,200
9. 120 chairs (\$65 each; delivered in pallets of 40 chairs). \$7,800
10. Security camera system. \$10,500
11. Sign at the entrance on Louden Road. ?



February 8th and 22nd Silent Baked Goods Auctions

Some of our congregation's amazing bakers are making baked goods for the 8th and 22nd. There will be 5 items on each of the above dates that you can bid on. The baked goods will be at the church; and there will be a bidding sheet with each one. When time is up (we will tell you what time on the day of the sale) the highest bidders on each bidding form get the baked goods they bid on.

EBay Sales

The Fundraising Team has a number of donated vintage items that we would like to sell on EBay. But we need someone who is familiar with how to manage ebay sales.

If you have some skills in this area, please talk with Bev Lawson

March Dan Berggren Concert

Our church member and very well known local folk singer, Dan Berggren, will give a concert on Friday evening, March 20th at the meeting house. There will be two forty five minute sets of music with an intermission between the two and desserts and wine/non- alcoholic drinks for sale. Signing up will begin in late February.

April Trivia Night

A Trivia night is being planned for April when the days are longer and people may feel more comfortable driving in the evening.

The event will be played with tables of 4 contestants each. Consider inviting a friend or neighbor or two to join you at your table.

The number of rounds of trivia is yet to be determined, We would like to give prizes to the winning table after each round. If you have some inexpensive items you might like to regift, we would be happy to have them for prizes. We will need a number of gifts. For example, if one team wins each round and there are 4 people on the team, that is 4 gifts. If two teams tie for first place, then that is 8 gifts. If three teams tie, 12 gifts, etc. We plan to have piano music played quietly while team members are discussing the answer they want to put on the score sheet. The music will serve to prevent teams from overhearing conversations about answers at near tables. Julie Holmberg, who proposed the idea of a Trivia night after experiencing one herself and loving it, will serve as our emcee.

If you have any ideas for a fundraising event, please let someone on the fundraising committee know. Our members are Bev Lawson, Kerry Nelson, MaryAnn Miller, Carolyn Lansberry, and Loretta Minet.

UUSARATOGA	518-584-1555
uusaratoga.org	Send mail: P O Box 26, Schuylerville NY 12871 624 N. Broadway, Saratoga Springs NY 12866

Committees and Teams News

A FILM WATCH OPPORTUNITY

The Braver Angels is an organization that promotes civilized conversation between persons who appear to have substantial differences of opinion on issues that often spark emotional responses.

A film followed with a discussion led by Braver Angels experts will be presented at the UU of Glens Falls Congregation Meeting House, 21 Weeks Rd. Queensbury NY, on February 9, 2026 between 6:30 and 8:30 PM. Techniques on diffusing negative reactions will be featured.

All are invited.



Please check our UUSaratoga website for more info.

Greetings fellow troublemakers! If you have yellow shirts and/or scarves, please wear them at events to identify UUC-SS joining the resistance.

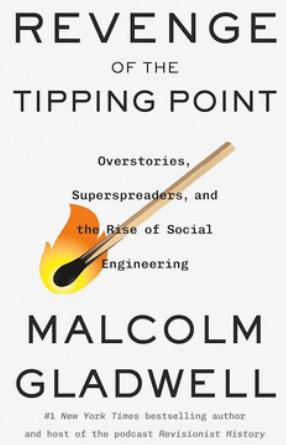
Upcoming events:
Peace Prayer Walk Friday, 1/30/26, Noon - 1:00 p.m.
Black & Banned Readings Sunday, 2/8/26, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Ongoing:
Saturday Vigils (Indivisible ADK/Saratoga) SSNY: Noon - 1:00 p.m.
Post Office, corner of Broadway & Lake/Church Streets

[Click here for late breaking events](#)

Recent Sermons

Our website is up and running! If you're navigating to it, be sure it's the NEW website:
<https://uusaratoga.org/>
The past sermons are being uploaded. [Click here for them.](#)



Book Group

February's selection is *Revenge of The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell. The next meeting is on Monday, February 16 at 6:00pm.

All book lovers are welcome. For information, please contact Barbara Egerman at begerman3@gmail.com, or Carolyn Lansberry at carlan55@gmail.com.

If you are already an active member of the book group, you do not need to email Carolyn or Barbara, as you will automatically receive details the Friday before the meeting. If you are unsure whether or not you are still on the book group participant list, if you have changed your email address recently, or just would like to double-check, email either Carolyn or Barbara at the above addresses.

We look forward to seeing you!



Give Away The Plate- for February

Wellspring is the domestic violence and sexual assault services resource for Saratoga County, NY and the sexual assault services resource for Washington County, NY. Our mission is supporting survivors and engaging our community to end relationship and sexual abuse.



More Info About UUSaratoga

Joys & Sorrows

If you have a personal joy or sorrow in your personal life that you would like to make known to your fellow congregants, we encourage you to click on the link below to email the Care Team in a sentence or two what you would like us to read aloud during our Sunday worship. (Late entries may have to be included in the following week.) To share a Joy or Sorrow, please email the Care Team at careteam@uusaratoga.org.

Message from the Membership & Hospitality Team

In an effort to make visitors to UUSaratoga feel more welcome, the Membership & Hospitality Team asks everyone to be aware of newcomers and people you may not know who are sitting near you on Sunday morning or standing alone at coffee hour. Greet them warmly. Ask if they have any questions, thank them for coming, and tell them you hope to see them again.

Welcoming is a spiritual practice and a way of sharing the message of our UU faith.

To become a member of the Congregation

If you would like to sign the book and become a member, please let Audrey Belt (beltaudrey@gmail.com) know and she will bring the Membership Book to a UU service for you to sign. Qualifications for membership per the UUCSS Bylaws: Anyone 18 years and older can sign the book. Signing the book indicates that you subscribe to the purposes of the Congregation and agree to participate in and support the Congregation's programs and activities, and to support the Congregation with an annual recorded financial contribution.

TO ATTEND SUNDAY SERVICES ONLINE [CLICK HERE](#)

Wayside Pulpit

The Wayside Pulpit provides messages of inspiration for those who pass by our door. These quotations are chosen biweekly from the collective wisdom of the ages to reflect the diverse and life-affirming beliefs of our congregation.

[Click here for the archive](#)



UU Saratoga is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Sunday Worship Service

Time: Jan 18, 2026 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Sun, 97 occurrence(s)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: <https://zoom.us/meeting/tJUqd-2oqT8pGtHjyaUOgbxn-OWjUhjLJDe6/ics?>

icsToken=DBdev8vVBsVA0W_jqQAALAAAAIytzmYoqaBqVPaawQWQoh155Q1I7vTjKuyWZ2ivW4-zxPheUIS2jR2E-SOtWFSiq4EZVDHkd9irFYBSyjAwMDAwMQ&meetingMasterEventId=d1ZJjVFCTnehBvgXNKKi8w

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/91704074305?](https://zoom.us/j/91704074305?pwd=7z4cyYlVOU3JfPLRS2gCoP1o0Tzqc8.1)

pwd=7z4cyYlVOU3JfPLRS2gCoP1o0Tzqc8.1

Meeting ID: 917 0407 4305

Passcode: 466653

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,91704074305# US

+16465588656,,91704074305# US (New York)

Join instructions

[https://zoom.us/meetings/91704074305/invitations?](https://zoom.us/meetings/91704074305/invitations?signature=h3xW8E9j3MqYWaCbgOYu-Pncax8SM3Up54Bkp1pvlVU)

signature=h3xW8E9j3MqYWaCbgOYu-Pncax8SM3Up54Bkp1pvlVU