

Journey Well

UUSARATOGA

6 February 2026



Our new home-coming Dec 2026- 400 Loudon Road

SING WITH YOUR HEART

Mutual Aid To Minneapolis!

We can't get there, but we can send support by song! Join us to sing along with "The Boss," as we record our group singing his new anthem, "Streets of Minneapolis" -- a kind of "Love Letter."

Monday, February 9th at 6:30 PM at the Presbyterian United Church of Christ, 24 Circular Street, Saratoga Springs, New York. Wear shades of dark and light blue, if you have them (*Minnesota's state colors and the colors of the City of Minneapolis*). Hearts and love signs are welcome! Please keep messaging focused on supporting MN! We are working on getting a Minnesota State flag and a Minneapolis City flag. We plan to record and send to Minneapolis's Mayor Jacob Frey and Governor Tim Walz, as well as to our personal friends in Minneapolis and Minnesota.

Questions? Contact Linda LeTendre at letendre.linda@gmail.com or email us: SaratogaBRAVE@gmail.com

[Click here to learn the song](#)

In this newsletter
you can expect:

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THE THEME FOR FEBRUARY IS:
EMBODYING RESILIENCE



IN MEMORIUM: Hal Bigelow



Hal (Harold T.) Bigelow of Saratoga Springs, born Oct 10, 1952 and raised in Gainesville, Florida, passed away January 29, 2026 after a brief illness.

A highly skilled and accomplished cabinetmaker, Hal brought beauty, originality, and craftsmanship to his projects.

His work can be found in many local homes and businesses.

A devoted father and grandfather, Hal is survived by his wife Marian of 46 years, their two sons, and five grandchildren.

Beyond his work, he was an avid bridge player and teacher, sharing his knowledge and love of the game with many. Hal found joy in fishing, listening to and creating music and many forms of art, including crafting his whimsical whirligigs.

He found meaning and community in his UU congregation. Hal will be remembered for his generosity, creativity, dedication to family and community, and will be missed by all who knew him.

A Celebration of Life will be scheduled in May.



This Sunday's Service

Out of The Rabbit Hole

February 8, 2026 10 am Rev. John Fisher

"Resilience is really a secular word for what religion was trying to say with the word faith. Without a certain ability to let go, to trust, to allow, we won't get to any new place." -Richard Rohr

What a time we live in. Perils abound. Global warming. Political upheaval. Fascism re-emerging. Uncertainty teeters over our country, our community and, for some, our individual lives as well. Perhaps no greater spiritual threat faces us than a well-orchestrated assault on the Truth, wherein words themselves have lost their meaning and efficacy.

Against all this and more, we seek to be stand firm, resist and reach out with hope and conviction, but where can we find the resilience to fortify us? Perhaps we need to ask the right questions, and the place to start is right here within a community we hold to be sacred ... or do we?

Please visit our website for information on attending Sunday Service via Zoom, for a copy of the Order of Service and the music sheet.

What's happening in RE

RE for Sunday February 8, 2026

Grit... this is the season for it! It's all over the road and being tracked into our homes. But in RE this week we will be addressing GRIT as a positive personality trait. Resilience in the form of grit is how many successful people accomplish goals. Even when things are hard, grit keeps us on task and is worth exploring!

Through a story and some brainstorming, we will share what coping skills we have or want to try. We'll finish with a game of 20 questions that will challenge us all. There's no question that we all can benefit from considering our own grit when making it through this long, cold winter!



Event News

[Click here for the Events Calendar](#)



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

February 11, 2026 Wednesday
10am New Home Task Force meeting
6:30pm Board of Trustees meeting

February 12, 2026 Thursday
4pm Finance Committee meeting

February 15, 2026 Sunday
10am Worship Service (In-Person & Online)

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

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](#)



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. If interested in carpooling, please contact Lucy Manning.

Flyer on next page

UNITARIANUNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF GLENS FALLS PRESENTS

“Let’s Talk”

UU Monday Movie Forums

The UU Congregation of Glens Falls is hosting a film series to bring community together in thoughtful, non-judgmental forums where all points of view are welcomed. Discussion will be moderated by guest facilitators.

Join us for this 4th film showing.

Film: “Braver Angels: Reuniting America” illustrates one path-way to reducing political polarization in our country. In this fascinating 50-minute film we meet eight Democratic-leaning voters and eight Republican-leaning voters attending a Braver Angels Red/Blue workshop. Their participation may surprise you, and will surely give you food for thought.

Date & time: Monday, February 9, 2026, 6:30PM

Location: 21 Weeks Road, Queensbury

Facilitators: Bruce France and Michael Asbury are co-chairs of the Braver Angels Alliance, Capital Region NY State. They are trained Moderators in Braver Angels and bring the same commitment to “hold on to democracy”. Bruce and Mike have spent several years helping people who sometimes vehemently disagree with one another to see other perspectives.

This community event is free and open to the public.

Inquiries: 518-745-1772

President's Corner

Pastor Melissa has been giving challenging and thought provoking sermons in January. Just last week, she asked us to think about the wider Community of Saratoga Springs. "What does the Community in Saratoga Springs need? What is the purpose of our UU faith Community. Pastor Melissa noted that we take excellent care of the members and friends within, however, our Community identity needs to better determined.

Since her message, I have been evaluating our purpose for our existence and trying to determine how we can better serve people in our area. Next week at our February Board meeting I will ask the Trustees to weigh in on their ideas and thoughts regarding her challenge. Our UU witness to Saratoga Springs can be a beacon in these challenging times.

If you have any ideas, please let a Trustee know and we will incorporate your thoughts into our discussion and plan.

Yours in service to others, Art Holmberg

Last Sunday, February 1, members approved the sale of 624 Broadway for \$1,218,750.00. The buyer will complete his due diligence and permitting process with the City of Saratoga Springs. The projected sale closing date will be July 27, 2026. The proceeds from the sale will provide a major portion of the financial resources to continue the New Home building and development of the land at 400 Louden Road. On behalf of the Board and NHTF we thank everyone for their vote of confidence. Onward!

[CLICK HERE FOR THE MEETING MINUTES OF THE VOTE ON FEB. 1, 2026](#)

2025 UUCSS Giving Statements

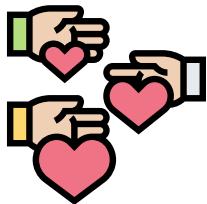
The 2025 UUSaratoga giving statements have been sent out via email by Treasurer Mike Egerman. If you have not received it check your spam folder or contact Mike at megerman3@gmail.com. Just a reminder to scroll all the way down to see the attachment.

You can also go to Breeze to check your donations and status of your pledges:

- Click "people" (top)
- Enter your name and click on it to the right
- Click "giving" (left side)
- Change the dates to **1/1/25 and 12/31/25**
- Click "giving" (above the dates) The info is there.

You can also check the status of your pledges by clicking on "Pledges" rather the "Giving"

Note If you donate online or via ACH be sure to use the drop down menu and chose **2026 pledge payments** or whichever fund you are donating to. This change is sometimes forgotten if doing **recurring gifts**



F U N D R A I S I N G T E A M N E W S !

The first of our two baked goods auctions is this Sunday. There will be 15 minutes before service and 15 minutes after service to bid on the items. Then the high bidders take the delicious baked goods home.

Ebay Sales

Elle Mitchell, a relatively new member of our congregation and a life long Unitarian, volunteered to help us with ebay.

She joined our meeting this week, along with her husband James, and shared a lot of information about ebay. Now we need to get approval from the Board and Finance Committee to proceed with this as a way of making money for the church.

March 20th Dan Berggren Concert

Our congregation member and very well know 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 for desserts and wine or non-alcoholic beverages.

Admission is \$20 purchase your ticket ahead of time and \$25 at the door the night of the performance. The purchase of tickets will begin in late February.

April 18th Trivia Night

A trivia night is being planned for April 18th from 6:30 to 9:00PM when the days are longer and people may feel more comfortable driving in the evening. More information will be available soon. Stay tuned.

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.

Committees and Teams News



Social Justice Team

Please check our UUSaratoga website for more info.

Ongoing: Vigils at the Post Office (corners of Broadway & Lake/Church) Organized by: Indivisible ADK/Saratoga, Linda LeTendre (AKA - Notorious RBG) and other troublemakers. Saturdays - Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Join our hardy band of allies - great vibes from supportive honking, with an occasional pair of loud pickups. Bring your signs, some also provided. Fine fellowship and friendly furballs.

Reminder of the need for emergency funding: SARATOGA IMMIGRATION

COALITIONEMERGENCY FUND

ICE arrests are stealing workers from our community and tearing families apart. In response, donations to the SIC Emergency Fund meet immediate needs of our immigrant neighbors, in small amounts, enough to pay for a month's rent, weekly groceries, or other daily needs while longer-term solutions are sought. Referrals come from service providers and faith leaders at work in the community, who in many cases are already familiar with the circumstances of those in need. And the fund is designed to serve the community well known to SIC, primarily Saratoga, Washington and Warren Counties.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/aid-saratoga-area-immigrants>

or search for "Saratoga immigrants" on GoFundMe homepage

<https://www.gofundme.com/>



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.

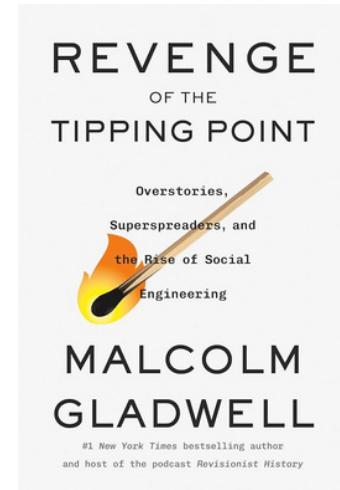
Recent Sermons

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.](#)

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](#)



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 Egeman 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!



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.

Have an announcement?

Email, text or call Juliana at the office (uusaratoga@gmail.com 518-584-1555) for information to be shared at the beginning of Sunday service. The deadline for receiving your info is NOON THURSDAYS.

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



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_jqQAALAAAlytzmYoqaBqVPaawQWQoh155Q1I7vTjKuyWZ2ivW4-zxPheUIS2jR2E-

SOtWFSiq4EZVDHkd9irFYBSyjAwMDAwMQ&meetingMasterEventId=diZJjVFCTnehBvgXNKKi8w

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91704074305?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?signature=h3xW8E9j3MqYWaCbgOYu-Pncax8SM3Up54Bkp1pvIVU>

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