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# Journey Well

UUSARATOGA

13 February 2026



Our new home-coming Dec 2026- 400 Loudon Road

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In this newsletter  
you can expect:

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Upcoming  
Sunday Services

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What's  
Happening in RE

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Upcoming  
Events and  
meetings

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Social Justice  
Team News

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Committees and  
Teams News  
Updates

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## Happy Valentine's Day, Loves!



*We go  
together like  
a flame and  
a chalice.*

THE THEME FOR FEBRUARY IS:  
EMBODYING RESILIENCE





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## This Sunday's Service

## What's happening in RE



### **Holy Doubt**

Sunday, February 15, 2026  
with Matt Meyer

We welcome the return of our guest speaker Matt Meyer as we celebrate faith and doubt through story and song. Matt is a troubadour and worship leader who has led hundreds of services for UU congregations across the country and we are fortunate to have him back with us again. He has a degree in hand drumming and serves as the Director of Operations and Community Life for Sanctuary Boston. If Matt's work and musicianship is new to you, you're in for a real treat.

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

A special Sunday means Family Sunday!

Community in rhythm and song. Enjoy Matt Meyer, musician, drummer and modern circuit-rider! Matt offers a dynamic experience of music's enduring power to teach us about ourselves and each other. We aim to build the kind of Beloved Community that we know is possible... and is needed now, more than ever.

Kids will stay for the entire service upstairs this week. In fact, we are hoping to give opportunities for them to take roles in the service!

We'd love to see young greeters, Chalice lighters, offering helpers this Sunday. Wouldn't that be a great chance to see our RE members in action?



# Pastor's Note

Hello Friends.

I'm writing this on our final night in Montana while we engage in our favorite evening pastime — watching the Olympics. It's been an incredible week with family, and many of Coco's friends here in Bozeman. The temps have been incredibly warm, in the 50's, and the skiing was surprisingly good. My sister came from Alaska, and her sons from Utah and New York City, all of us fulfilling our intentions to spend more time together as family doing the things we love: skiing, eating, talking and laughing.

I hope this Sunday is another inspiring gathering. I know the Worship Team had a long-standing commitment with Matt Myers, so I will not be in-house, but I will be back in town and back to making visits and attending meetings.

I have gotten feedback from several members of the congregation that tell me it's time to talk more about death and dying. All things end of life and beyond are among my favorite topics of conversation, so I'm proposing an open Q + A, soon, perhaps after a Sunday gathering. More info to come once I take a closer look at the calendar.

Please reach out if you'd like to have a visit: 802-325-2345.

Here's to warmer, brighter days.  
Blessings and love, Melissa

Pictured below: Sisterly love on the slopes: with my doppelgänger and best friend, Kristin O'Brien, Professor of Biology and Wildlife at the University of Alaska.





## MEDICAL AID IN DYING SIGNED

**Governor Hochul today signed legislation S.138/A.136 that will allow medical aid in dying to be available to terminally ill New Yorkers with less than six months to live. This historic bill signing comes after careful reflection and deliberation with the sponsors of the bill, advocacy organizations, and everyday New Yorkers brave enough to share their personal experiences in order to get this legislation across the finish line.**

**Many members of Congregation (pictured above) participated in the lobbying for this important bill. When you see them, please thank them for their efforts on our behalf.**



## Event News

[Click here for the Events Calendar](#)

**February 15, 2026 Sunday**  
**10am Worship Service with Matt Meyer and RE (In-Person & Online)**

**February 16, 2026 Monday**  
**6pm UUCSS Book Group Sanctuary**

**February 18, 2026 Wednesday**  
**4pm Care Team Meeting**

**February 19, 2026 Thursday**  
**9am The Breakfast Group Off site**

**February 22, 2026 Sunday**  
**10am Worship Service with RE (In-Person & Online)**  
**Baked Goods Silent Auction**



LET'S HELP OUR NEIGHBORS THIS WINTER!

### LAST WEEEEK TO GET YOUR DONATIONS IN

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](#)



## Did you know there's UU for Black Lives?

**To sign up for their newsletter, visit <https://blacklivesuu.org/>**

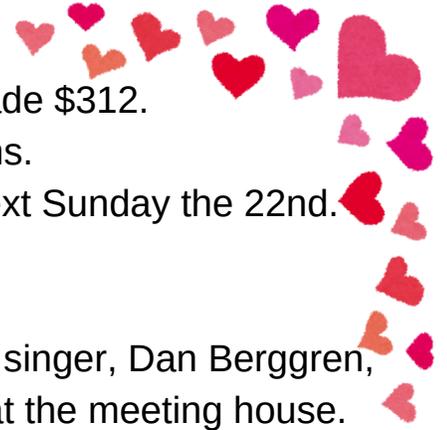
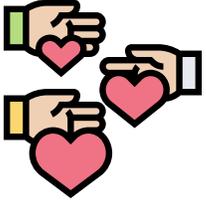
Black Sacred Space:

BLUU's online worship services are Black Sacred Space in their entirety — by and for Black people, with the words and voices of Black folks across the diaspora — and we hope that Black UUs and Black UU-adjacent folks (who share our values)

from far and wide will join us!

For our non-Black siblings in faith, please DO share this invitation with Black folks in your life and community. Getting the word out about BLUU's gatherings and other programming is one powerful way of lending your support, and we deeply appreciate it!

For all of our services, feel free to come into our BLUU Zoom Room as early as 15 minutes before the start of the service to get settled, say hello to the folks who are already gathering, and listen to the music softly playing as we all prepare for our time together.



From our dessert silent auction last Sunday we made \$312. Thank you to all who bid so generously on the items. And a reminder that the second silent auction is next Sunday the 22nd.

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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 if you 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.

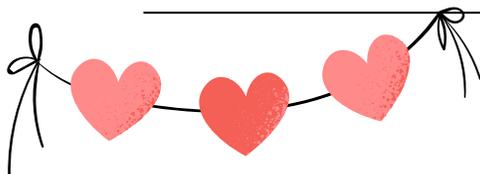
If you have any ideas for a fundraising event, please let someone on the fundraising committee know. Our members are Bev Lawson, Kerry Nelson, MaryAnn Miller, Carolyn Lansberry, and Loretta Minet.

 **Buy A Chair** 

As a way to honor the recent death of our beloved Arliss Nygard, an idea arose from a recent gathering of Melissa and Board Members. Would you like to “purchase” a new chair for our congregation?

Arliss worked for months on the new chair project. We all remember the clipboards dangling from the sample chairs Arliss arranged to have shipped to us. We wrote down our comments and opinions. Arliss put all this together and selected our perfect chair. We have ordered the chairs and will be able to enjoy them within the next month.

We are asking you to write a check for \$100, payable to UUSaratoga, with “chair” in the memo line. This will be a loving memorial for Arliss. Please bring your checks this Sunday, and give them to Mike Eggerman or any Board member. The Board, and Arliss’s loving husband, Murray, thank you.



## 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 RBC) 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.

Check out the latest notes including events on our website. There's LOTS happening in our community!

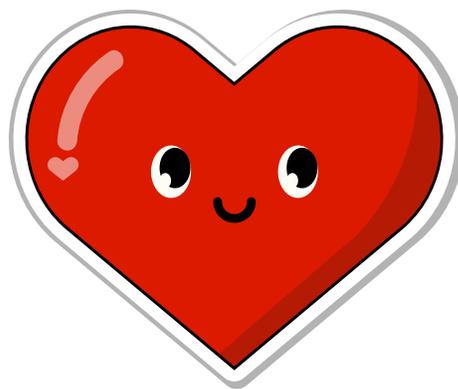
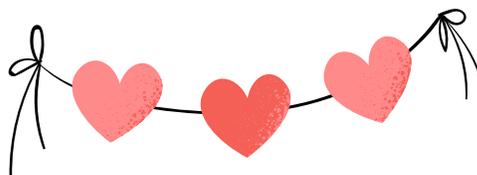
## Wayside Pulpit

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](#)



## 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.](#)

## REVENGE OF THE TIPPING POINT



**MALCOLM  
GLADWELL**

#1 New York Times bestselling author  
and host of the podcast Revisionist History

## 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](mailto:begerman3@gmail.com), or Carolyn Lansberry at [carlan55@gmail.com](mailto: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!

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs Minutes of Special Meeting, February 1, 2026 624 North Broadway, Saratoga Springs

I. Call to Order (Art Holmberg). Called to order at 11:45 am.

II. Art Holmberg, President of Board of Trustees Overview: The purpose of this Special Meeting was to determine by vote, whether to accept the most recent offer of \$1,218,750 to purchase 624 North Broadway. Art had already sent an email announcement to all members of the congregation, informing them of this vote, and fulfilling the voting guidelines in our Bylaws.

1. Art provided updated information on the offer made during last week's meetings. Mr. Crisfulli modified his offer in accordance with our request that he put down \$25K at the signing of the offer. If he needs more than sixty days to complete his due diligence, Mr. Crisfulli will pay a non-refundable \$25K, and the original \$25K paid will become nonrefundable as well, for a total of \$50K. It is the buyer's hope to close in six months. If Mr. Crisfulli needs an additional three months for permits and City approval, he will pay an additional \$25K non-refundable fee for that extension.

2. Mr. Crisfulli is seeking City approval to build three townhouses. Images of two architectural designs were shared with NHTF, and with congregational members at last week's Coffee Chat meeting. Everyone has had a positive response to the designs. At this time, permits have already been approved by the City for demolition, and asbestos.

3. Bast Hatfield Construction indicated they could start the building project at 400 Loudon Road in April and complete the project in December 2026. Art said they are highly motivated and have been very helpful during this process.

III. Sue Fisher, Building Updates from NHTF Note: Copies of the New Home Task Financial Information were sent to congregation members, and hard copies made available during today's meeting. Sue provided an overview of the expenses: Bast Hatfield's bid is \$2,549,053; drilling two wells, \$20,000; and on-going architect fees of \$30,000 (Total: \$2,599,053). Sue referred to the hand-out regarding available resources for financing the building project. At this time, there are total assets of \$2,456,688, and based on the above noted expenses, a deficit of \$142,367. Sue said that we are still in the process of negotiating a reduction in the HVAC cost, and site-work costs. Deferred work not included in the Bast Hatfield bid of \$2,599,053, included eliminating side retaining wall handrails, the deck and railing, landscape plantings, seeding and topsoil, ground floor classrooms and two bathrooms, kitchen, movable partition between classrooms, chairs, and security camera system.

IV. Questions from the Congregation (in-person and on zoom) Art and Sue provided responses to questions from the congregation and on-line questions. A sampling follows:

1. In response to whether we can make additional cost reductions, Sue said that crushed stone could substitute on the road instead of paving, and modifications to the HVAC were being reviewed.

2. Some members expressed great concern with how to pay for the deficit. It was suggested that getting a mortgage would be our last resort. At this time, we are exploring all avenues and no decisions have been made. Some options include having a construction loan evolve into a mortgage; bridge loan; explore negotiating a lower interest rate with Adirondack Trust; and, "interest free loans" from members of the congregation as was done when first moved into 624 North Broadway. One of our members, Diane Allegro, has experience in banking.

3. Although we will not have finished classrooms as planned, temporary furniture and items could be used and still offer the RE program.

4. Some members were concerned with accepting the current offer of \$1,218,750, and should ask for more. However, information was provided that a comparable real estate transaction on North Broadway, advertised for sale at 1.7 million, was sold for \$995K. Some members expressed opinions that since we have a solid offer now, we should accept a sure thing, and Bast Hatfield's schedule works in our best interest. Our "Land Use Permit" will expire soon and we must reapply for this.

5. Some members expressed the need to prevent inertia from setting in, and that we need to move forward now. A finished building by December is a welcomed and positive incentive for the congregation. It was suggested that with appropriate community publicity, new members would join. Mary Monigan, a new member who worked at Skidmore College, volunteered to develop a community awareness plan.

6. One member wanted to know how long we can stay at 624 North Broadway. It was explained that once the contract is signed, and closes, we must immediately leave the building. Options being explored include a return to Caffe Lena (\$200 a month), and the Arts Center (\$1200 a month before renovations).

7. For work in April, an invoice is sent out May 1, payable June 1. In addition, the non-refundable amounts would be subtracted from the sale price.

V. Vote The congregation requested a paper ballot for the vote, and paper was distributed to use for ballots. Ballots were collected and given to Doretta Miller, Board Secretary, and Judy Halstead, past Board Secretary, to count. Susan Hahn also provided the number of on-line votes. Motion: Art Holmberg, seconded, Doretta Miller. "We approve the sale of 624 North Broadway to Michael Crisafulli, for \$1,218,750." Vote: Passes (40 "yes", 10 "no", 1 abstaining). Eligible voting attendance was 51, and the voting quorum met. Note: A voting member must be at least 18 years old, has signed the UUCSS Book within the past 30 days, and has made a recorded financial contribution within the past 18 months. VI. Adjournment (1:10 pm). Respectfully submitted, Doretta Miller, Secretary



# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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?](https://zoom.us/meeting/tJUqd-2oqT8pGtHjyaUOgbxn-OWjUhjLJDe6/ics?icsToken=DBdev8vVBsVA0W_jqQAALAAAAltzmYoqaBqVPaawQWQoh155Q1I7vTjKuyWZ2ivW4-zxPheUIS2jR2E-SOtWFSiq4EZVDHkd9irFYBSyjAwMDAwMQ&meetingMasterEventId=diZJjVFCTnehBvgXNKKi8w)

[icsToken=DBdev8vVBsVA0W\\_jqQAALAAAAltzmYoqaBqVPaawQWQoh155Q1I7vTjKuyWZ2ivW4-zxPheUIS2jR2E-](https://zoom.us/meeting/tJUqd-2oqT8pGtHjyaUOgbxn-OWjUhjLJDe6/ics?icsToken=DBdev8vVBsVA0W_jqQAALAAAAltzmYoqaBqVPaawQWQoh155Q1I7vTjKuyWZ2ivW4-zxPheUIS2jR2E-SOtWFSiq4EZVDHkd9irFYBSyjAwMDAwMQ&meetingMasterEventId=diZJjVFCTnehBvgXNKKi8w)

[SOTWFSiq4EZVDHkd9irFYBSyjAwMDAwMQ&meetingMasterEventId=diZJjVFCTnehBvgXNKKi8w](https://zoom.us/meeting/tJUqd-2oqT8pGtHjyaUOgbxn-OWjUhjLJDe6/ics?icsToken=DBdev8vVBsVA0W_jqQAALAAAAltzmYoqaBqVPaawQWQoh155Q1I7vTjKuyWZ2ivW4-zxPheUIS2jR2E-SOtWFSiq4EZVDHkd9irFYBSyjAwMDAwMQ&meetingMasterEventId=diZJjVFCTnehBvgXNKKi8w)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91704074305?pwd=7z4cyYIVOU3JfPLRS2gCoP1o0Tzqc8.1>

Meeting ID: 917 0407 4305

Passcode: 466653

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One tap mobile

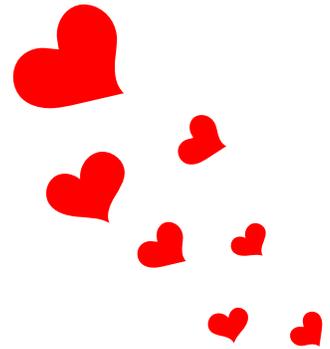
+16469313860,,91704074305# US

+16465588656,,91704074305# US (New York)

Join instructions

[https://zoom.us/meetings/91704074305/invitations?](https://zoom.us/meetings/91704074305/invitations?signature=h3xW8E9j3MqYWaCbgOYu-Pncax8SM3Up54Bkp1pvIVU)

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