

Journey Well



UUSARATOGA

June 19, 2026

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Upcoming
Sunday Services

What's
Happening in RE

Upcoming
Events and
meetings

Nw Home
updates

Committees and
Teams News
Updates



WEEKLY NEW HOME TASK FORCE UPDATE

1. WE MET WITH PARKER DIGGORY FROM SKIDMORE TO TALK ABOUT DETAILS REGARDING THE WILSON CHAPEL. SINCE MANY HAVE NOT SEEN THE CHAPEL. WE ARRANGED A SHORT VISIT ON SUNDAY, JUNE 21 AFTER SERVICES AND SOCIAL HOUR TO SEE THE CHAPEL. WE HOPE TO MEET AT SKIDMORE AT NOON. HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US.
2. DON DAVIS, OUR ARCHITECT SUBMITTED A RESPONSE TO THE CITY ON MONDAY REGARDING THE BUILDING PERMIT. WE HOPE TO HAVE AN ANSWER EARLY NEXT WEEK.
3. THE BUYER WILL RESUBMIT BUILDING PLANS TO DESIGN/ REVIEW ON JULY 8. WE ARE NOW HOPING FOR A 624 BROADWAY CLOSING IN SEPTEMBER.
4. OUR NEXT TASK FORCE COFFEE CHAT WILL BE AFTER SERVICES ON SUNDAY JUNE 28. WE WILL GO OVER THE STATUS OF FINANCES, SCHEDULE FOR LEAVING 624 BROADWAY .

HAPPY
Father's
DAY

THE THEME FOR JUNE IS:
FLOURISHING TOGETHER



The Larger House

Sunday June 21, 2026 10am

As we prepare to leave this beloved building, move into temporary quarters, and begin the work of creating a new sanctuary, we are invited to reflect on what truly makes a spiritual home. The Larger House explores the possibility that our congregation is more than any one structure and we consider how change can open us to a larger vision of who we are and who we are becoming.



This week marks the end of Religious Exploration for the year. It's been a fun ride to get to know our UU teens and kids. We hope the lessons that we've shared each week will stay with them.

This week we will offer a chat about Juneteenth and an opportunity to make a gratitude card for Dads or a Juneteenth flag.



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](#)



PASTOR'S LETTER



HI EVERYONE,

HOPEFULLY YOU'RE IN FULL SUMMER MODE, MAYBE ENJOYING SOME DELICIOUS GARDEN TREATS. WE'VE HAD ARUGULA, SPINACH, AND STRAWBERRIES GALORE! IT'S SO FUN TO VISIT THE GARDEN EACH DAY TO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING THERE. UNFORTUNATELY ONE OF THE THINGS HAPPENING THERE WAS TICKS, AND SVERRE GOT A DREADFUL CASE OF ANAPLASMOSIS. IF YOU'VE HAD IT YOU KNOW HOW TERRIBLE IT IS. HE'S ON THE MEND, THANK GOODNESS.

THIS WEEKEND WE CONSIDER THE IDEA OF THE LARGER HOUSE, AS WE MOVE THROUGH OUR FINAL WEEKS TOGETHER. AS I'VE MENTIONED MANY TIMES, I'M FOCUSING ON THE TRANSITIONS SSCUU IS GOING TO MOVE THROUGH IN THE COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS. THE PLAN IS TO BUILD A FIRM FOUNDATION OF UNDERSTANDING AND INTENTION TO SUSTAIN THE MOMENTUM AS YOU MOVE INTO YOUR NEW LIVES IN A NEW PLACE WITH A NEW MINISTER.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ATTENDED THE END OF LIFE GATHERING ON THE 7, HOPEFULLY YOU'RE DOING YOUR HOMEWORK. MARIAN WILL RUN THE NEXT ONE, ON JULY 26, AFTER SERVICE.

MOST OF YOU KNOW BY NOW THAT I WILL NOT BE RETURNING ON A REGULAR BASIS, AS WAS INITIALLY INDICATED. I AM STEPPING BACK AS A DEPARTING PASTOR IS OBLIGATED TO DO SO THAT THE INCOMING MINISTER HAS TIME AND SPACE TO ESTABLISH THEIR MINISTRY. PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THE WORSHIP ASSOCIATES TO MAKE YOUR SUNDAY MORNING EXPERIENCES AS ROBUST AND MEANINGFUL AS POSSIBLE.

FROM NOW UNTIL THE END OF JULY I WILL CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE FOR PASTORAL CARE VISITS, COFFEE CHATS, A QUIET SIT ON A BENCH IN THE STATE PARK. I'M SO GRATEFUL FOR THE TIME I'VE HAD TO GET TO KNOW SO MANY OF YOU IN SO MANY DIFFERENT WAYS!

CHEERS,
MELISSA

SARATOGA'S 5th ANNUAL JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Messages of Freedom

a free event* featuring live music, special performances, art, and knowledge - hosted by Our Lodge Foundation



Friday, June 19, 2026 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Saratoga Regional YMCA

290 West Ave., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Community Tabling & Vendors

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Family Workshops:
Freedom Quilt Project
Drumming Circle
Face Painting

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Cultural Celebration Program

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Jubilee Reception
w/ cake & ice cream



Scan QR Code or visit www.ourlodgefoundation.org/juneteenth for more info.

*All adults (18 years and older) must sign in at YMCA's front desk with Photo ID.
All children must be accompanied by an adult.

A Message from Rev. John Fisher

If I offended anyone in asking for quiet during Judith's beautiful Brahms prelude this past Sunday, I apologize. My intention wasn't to offend but to invite a little more reverent attention to an important part of our worship together.

One of the things I've come to love about our UU community is how happy we seem to be to see and greet each other. The sheer joy of it is infectious. While I'd hate to see that enthusiasm muted, I've often been shocked at the cacophony that takes several moments to quell before we can get down to the business of worshipping together. I'm inclined more towards socializing in a better time and place, or, barring that, at the very least remembering to keep our voices down out of respect for others.

I'm grateful to have our coffee hour as a time to greet and catch up with each other.

I used to work with a bishop who called me along with all his fellow Episcopalians "God's frozen people", so perhaps it's my checkered background outside UUism that raises my hackles. But I'm pretty sure I'm not the only person who prefers to take a few quiet moments before worship begins to gather myself in contemplative honor of the sacredness of the worship. And like many of you, I try to let the pre-service music, so beautifully prepared and rendered by Judith, Carol Ann and other talented musicians, add to the spiritually enriching experience of a shared spiritual gathering.

As Sue and I used to hear frequently when we lived in the south, I'm just sayin'



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JUNE 14 – 21, 2026

MEET THE MOMENT: TOGETHER EVERYWHERE

Our Delegate, Lucy Manning's report on GA, Part 1

General Assembly business is complete. Five sessions, hundreds of delegates, and some meaningful work together.

This Year's Outcomes

Thanks to your votes, GA 2026 delegates:

- Adopted the Rules of Procedure, setting the framework for how this year's business was conducted.
- Adopted the Business Resolution directing the UUA Board of Trustees to establish a task force to review MFC policies and rules as they relate to interim and developmental ministers, and to recommend updates that reflect the unique circumstances of transitional ministry.
- Did not adopt the Bylaw Amendment on authority to suspend or place a minister's search on hold. This was overwhelmingly turned down, likely because the UUA Board was not in favor. The main issue was who decides if and when a hold will be lifted allowing a minister to apply for another position. As some of you know, this routine procedure affected our own Rev Joe after his departure. A hold can last up to 3 years as a minister's departure is reviewed. The consensus is that this needs revisited to support our ministers, but the process was questioned.
- Affirmed the Action of Immediate Witness opposing rollbacks to environmental protections, public lands rules, and the endangerment finding. This affirmation directs the UUA's public witness on this issue in the coming year.
- Did not affirm the Action of Immediate Witness in solidarity with people held in immigration detention, including those on hunger strike at Delaney Hall and other facilities.
- Passed the Responsive Resolution "Where are the youth?", calling on the Association to provide resources to recruit, train, and cultivate youth leadership and attendance.
- Passed the Responsive Resolution "Gratitude for UUA Support of Youth and Emerging Adults", thanking the UUA for its commitment to youth and emerging adults and calling for their full inclusion at all levels of leadership.
- Passed the Responsive Resolution "Reaffirming Our Commitment to Immigrant Justice and Relationally Grounded Organizing", reaffirming the Association's commitment to relationally grounded organizing and solidarity work.
- Passed the Responsive Resolution on SWANA region concerns, asking the Commission on Appraisal to include engagement with how the UUA can better include and respond to UUs affected by crises in the Southwest Asia and North Africa region.

Awards

President's Award for Volunteer Service

Presented to Minnesota Unitarian Universalists — honoring the 26 congregations, the Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA), Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU), and the many individuals and organizations who answered the call to public witness and community defense during the ICE crisis in Minneapolis this spring.

Angus H. MacLean Award for Excellence in Religious Education

Presented to two recipients this year:

- Cathy Seggel — religious educator at First Unitarian Church of Providence for 30 years, past President of LREDA and the Unitarian Sunday School Society, co-founder of the LREDA Life Member Chapter, and a member of the most recent UUA Presidential Search Committee.
- Leia Durland-Jones — a second-generation lifelong UU and religious educator of 34 years at the UU Congregation of Charlottesville, ordained into UU ministry in 2020, and a dedicated advocate for shared ministry and anti-oppression work.

Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism

Presented to Rev. Dr. Clyde Grubbs — a lifelong Unitarian Universalist whose decades of service span congregational ministry, denominational leadership, and movement-building. A co-founder and past president of DRUUMM (Diverse and Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries), a mentor to generations of ministers and seminarians, and a prophetic voice for Indigenous rights and the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery.

Elections & Installation of Newly-Elected Leaders

This General Assembly duly elected 18 new leaders to serve on the Board of Review, Board of Trustees, Commission on Appraisal, Nominating Committee, and Presidential Search Committee. During General Session V, delegates joined in covenant to install these leaders, welcoming their gifts, skills, time, and dedication in the years to come.

Our new minister, Rev Viola Abbitt, was elected to serve a second 3 years term on the Nominating Committee!

[View election results](#)

What Comes Next

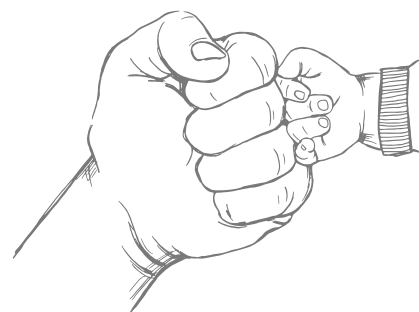
GA programming continues through Sunday, June 21. Check the full GA schedule on UUA.org for worship services, workshops, and community events happening the rest of the week.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JUNE 14 – 21, 2026

MEET THE MOMENT: TOGETHER EVERYWHERE



Event News
[Click here for the Events Calendar](#)

Sunday June 21, 2026

Last Day of RE

10am Worship Service (In-Person & Online)

Sunday June 28, 2026

10am Worship Service (In-Person & Online)

11am Coffee Chat with the NHTF

Sanctuary

2pm 11th annual PRIDE Festival

Off site



**FUNDRAISING TEAM
NEWS**

Dear UUsers,

Our auction was a success!! We made \$5000 give or take a few dollars. Thank you to all of you who donated items for the event. And thanks to all of you who bid in such an unrestrained way!! The event was loads of fun, especially the competing bidding.

The year is half over and our Fundraising Committee has made around \$8000 for UUCSS. Just a reminder---we have had the Dan Berggren concert, a bake sale, a trivia night, a perennial plant sale and the auction. Wow

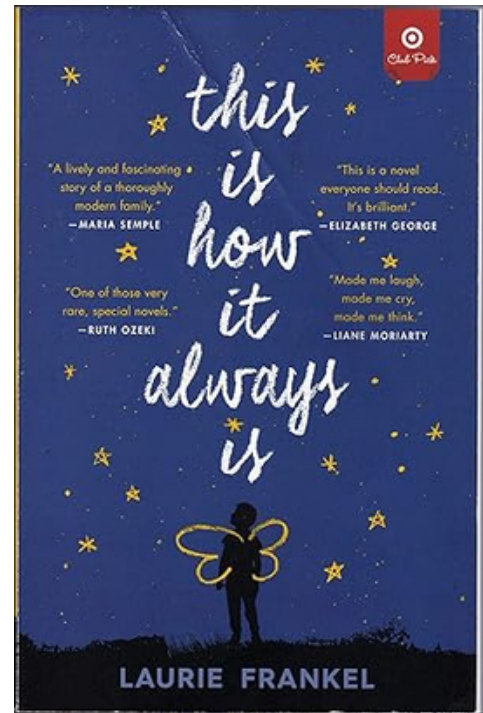
Now we are planning on a two month hiatus except for selling some items online. In the fall we hope to have another trivia night, a music night and a holiday fair.

Enjoy the summer!!

Warmly,

Bev Lawson, Fundraising Chair

Kerry Nelson, Carolyn Lansberry, MaryAnn Miller and Loretta Minet, committee members



BOOK GROUP

The next selection is "This Is How It Always Is" by Laurie Frankel The next meeting is on Monday July 20, at 6pm.

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





Social Justice Team

Please check our UUSaratoga website for more info.

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

Click here for NYCLU Huddled Masses



Have You Thought About How To Donate Securities to UU Saratoga?? It's easy!

Transferring appreciated securities with long-term capital gains directly to UUCSS is a tax-efficient way to give. When you donate securities directly, you may avoid paying capital gains tax and may also qualify for a federal income tax deduction based on the full fair market value of the donated assets. For more information and instructions on donating securities, including stocks and mutual funds, please email Diane Allegro at diane.allegro@outlook.com.



Give Away The Plate-for June is BEST: Backstretch Employees Service Team

Devoted to meeting the health and social welfare needs of several thousand backstretch workers of the Aqueduct, Belmont, and Saratoga racetracks by providing on-site counseling and primary healthcare services, access to health insurance and case management assistance.

Recent Sermons

Did you miss a service? Or was there a sermon you particularly liked? [Click here for them.](#)

SHARE ME!!!

<https://gofund.me/15b1f07ad>

All it takes is a couple of clicks to send our Go Fund Me Link to everyone you know! The more it's shared the more donations we'll have toward our new home. Copy and paste the link in an email or text and share, share, share. Encourage those you send it to to also share it with everyone they know.



“Let’s Talk”

UU MondayNightFilmForums

The UU Congregation of Glens Falls has been bringing community together by way of film in thoughtful non-judgmental forums. Guest moderators lead post film discussions.

This month we bring you “Plastic Detox”, the compelling 2026 documentary that examines the hidden impact of plastics on our health and environment.

Date &

Time: Monday, June 22, 2026 6:30 PM

Film:

This film is emotionally charged as it follows six couples struggling with infertility as they embark on a 12-week challenge to eliminate plastic and petrochemicals from their homes under the guidance of reproductive epidemiologist, Dr. Shanna Swan. This film will stir questions:

- Does reducing exposure to plastics improve fertility?
- How feasible is it to remove plastic from daily routines?
- What was the most surprising plastic-heavy item?
- How dangerous are microplastics? How do they seep into our daily routines?
- Why just a consumer’s burden? What about corporate responsibility?
- How to advocate for systemic changes?

Guest

Moderator:

David Sayer, our moderator, works closely with Beyond Plastics, a nationwide project founded in 2019 and led by former EPA official Judith Enck with the mission to end single-use plastic pollution. David is one of their effective educational speakers. In addition, Tracy Frisch, founder of Zero Waste Warren County, will share actions taken locally to address the plastic pollution problem.

Location: UU Congregation of Glens Falls – 21 Weeks Road
(next to Walmart on Route 9 in Queensbury NY)

Contact: (518) 792-2811

Films are free to the public

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 SIGN UP FOR *JOURNEY WELL*, OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER, PLEASE USE THE FORM ON THE HOME PAGE OF OUR WEBSITE (lower right)

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

Sunday

HAPPY Father's Day

UU Saratoga is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Sunday Worship Service
Time: 10:00am
Every week on Sun

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91704074305?pwd=7z4cyYIVOU3JfPLRS2gCoR1o0Tzqc8.1>

Meeting ID: 917 0407 4305

Passcode: 466653

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,91704074305# US

+16465588656,,91704074305# US (New York)

Join instructions

<https://zoom.us/join/91704074305/invitations?signature=h3xW8E9j3MqYWaCbgOYu-Pncax8SM3Up54Bkp1pvIVU> (copy and paste into your browser)



OFFICE HOURS Tues-Fri 9am-3pm We close early Fridays (around noon)	518-584-1555 uusaratoga.org
Meetinghouse 624 N. Broadway, Saratoga Springs NY 12866	Mailing Address PO Box 26, Schuylerville NY 12871