

Journey Well Newsletter

UUSARATOGA

July 10, 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

NEW HOME TASK FORCE WEEKLY UPDATE

1. THE SARATOGA SPRINGS DESIGN AND REVIEW BOARD APPROVED THE BUYER OF 624 BROADWAY DESIGN PLANS FOR HIS NEW BUILDING. THIS IS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD AS WE MOVE CLOSER TO A CLOSING SALE.

2. DON DAVIS, OUR ARCHITECT WILL MEET LATER THIS WEEK WITH CITY STAFF TO COME TO AGREEMENT ON CITATIONS GIVEN. THIS SHOULD LEAD TO THE BUILDING PERMIT APPROVAL.

3. THE BOARD APPROVED THE USE OF WILSON CHAPEL ON THE CAMPUS OF SKIDMORE COLLEGE AS OUR TEMPORARY LOCATION FROM SEPTEMBER 2026 TO JUNE 2027.

4 . WE HAVE LEARNED THAT DUE TO THE DELAYS CREATED BY THE SLOWNESS OF RECEIVING APPROVAL AND INFLATION THE COST OF OUR NEW HOME ACCORDING TO OUR CONTRACTOR WILL GO UP 55K. THIS IS VERY DISAPPOINTING!

MOVING FORWARD!

ART

REV. VIOLA'S 6/14/26 SERVICE
SERMON STARTS AT 37:17

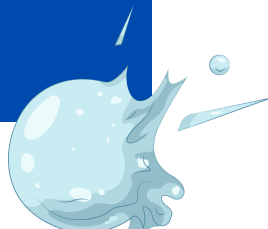
THE MONTHLY THEMES WILL
RESUME IN SEPTEMBER!



Blessed Are Those Who Mourn

Sunday July 12, 2026 10:00am
with Melissa O'Brien

This Sunday I will ruminate on "Blessed are those who mourn," and the surprising wisdom that tears can hold. I have come to believe that our tears often reveal truths about life that we could not discover in any other way.



Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Saratoga Springs

518-584-1555 • uusaratoga.org



**Boredom is soil
for the seeds of
creativity.**

—Amaris Hare

Wayside Pulpit

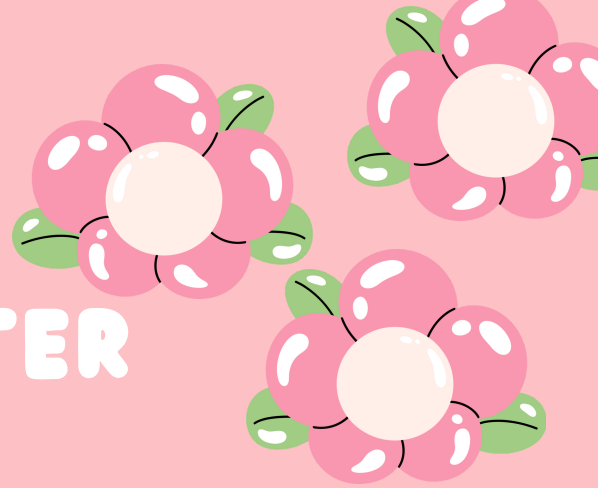
The Wayside Pulpit provides messages of inspiration for those who pass by our door. These quotations are chosen biweekly from the collective wisdom of the ages to reflect the diverse and life-affirming beliefs of our congregation. [Click here for the archive](#)

FUNDRAISING TEAM

NEWS

Taking a break for the summer!

PASTOR'S LETTER



HI FRIENDS,

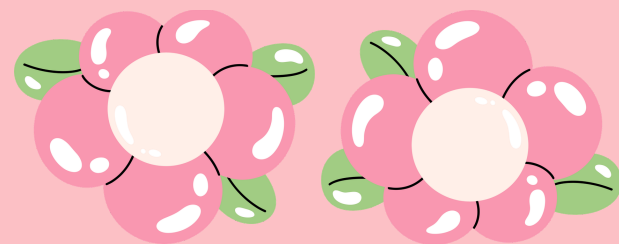
ONE MORE SUNDAY AFTER THIS ONE, THE LONG GOOD-BYE CONTINUES APACE. I KNOW MANY OF YOU ARE ENJOYING YOUR SUMMER HAPPENINGS, IT'S SO LOVELY TO WITNESS AND HEAR WHAT YOU'RE UP TO. FOR ME, LIKE MANY OF YOU, IT'S BEEN THE GIFT OF FAMILY TIME THAT MAKES SUMMER SO GREAT. AND NIGHTLY DINNERS DIRECTLY FROM THE GARDEN.

I HAVE A SPECIAL REQUEST FOR MY LAST TWO SUNDAYS, THE 12 AND THE 26: IF YOU HAVE FLOWERS TO SPARE IN YOUR GARDEN/YARD, PLEASE BRING SOME TO MAKE THE SANCTUARY BRIGHT. LINDA MINER SNUCK SOME IN LAST WEEK, THANK YOU LINDA! LET'S BRING SOME SUMMER INDOORS.

I HAD THE GREAT PLEASURE OF RUNNING INTO SHEILA PARKERT THE OTHER DAY, WHOM MANY OF YOU MIGHT RECALL, OWNED THE ADELPHI HOTEL WITH HER HUSBAND, GREG IN THE LATE '70'S UNTIL THEY SOLD IT IN 2012. IT WAS A MAGICAL PLACE, AND I FEEL LUCKY TO HAVE WORKED THERE IN THE LATE '80'S. WE HAD A BALL REMINISCING ABOUT HOW SPECIAL SARATOGA WAS IN THOSE DAYS, AND ABOUT THE INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE OF BEING IN THAT SPECIAL HOTEL BACK THEN. I WAS HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO THANK HER FOR HAVING PLAYED A ROLE IN MY FORMATIVE YEARS. I FIND THIS TO BE A POWERFUL THING: TO TURN BACK AND THANK SOMEONE FOR HAVING BEEN AN IMPORTANT PART OF ONE'S LIFE. HOPEFULLY YOU'LL HAVE THAT OPPORTUNITY AT SOME POINT, OR WILL CHOOSE TO CREATE ONE!

THIS SUNDAY I WILL RUMINATE ON "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN," AND THE SURPRISING WISDOM THAT TEARS CAN HOLD. I HAVE COME TO BELIEVE THAT OUR TEARS OFTEN REVEAL TRUTHS ABOUT LIFE THAT WE COULD NOT DISCOVER IN ANY OTHER WAY.

STAY COOL!
BEST BLESSINGS,
MELISSA



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

Sunday July 12, 2026

10am Worship Service (in person and online)

Monday July 13, 2026

4pm Finance Committee Meeting

Wednesday July 15, 2026

4pm Care Team Meeting

Thursday July 16, 2026

9am The Men's Breakfast Group

Off site

Sunday July 19, 2026

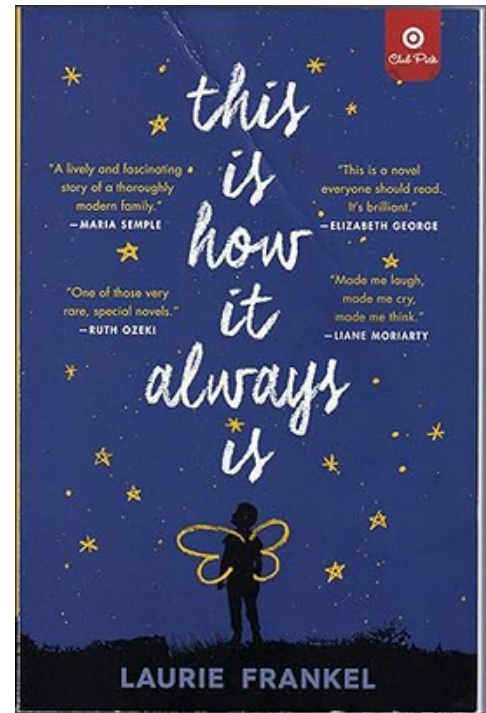
10am Worship Service (In-Person & Online)

11:15am End of Life Discussion

Monday July 20, 2026

6pm UUCSS Book Group

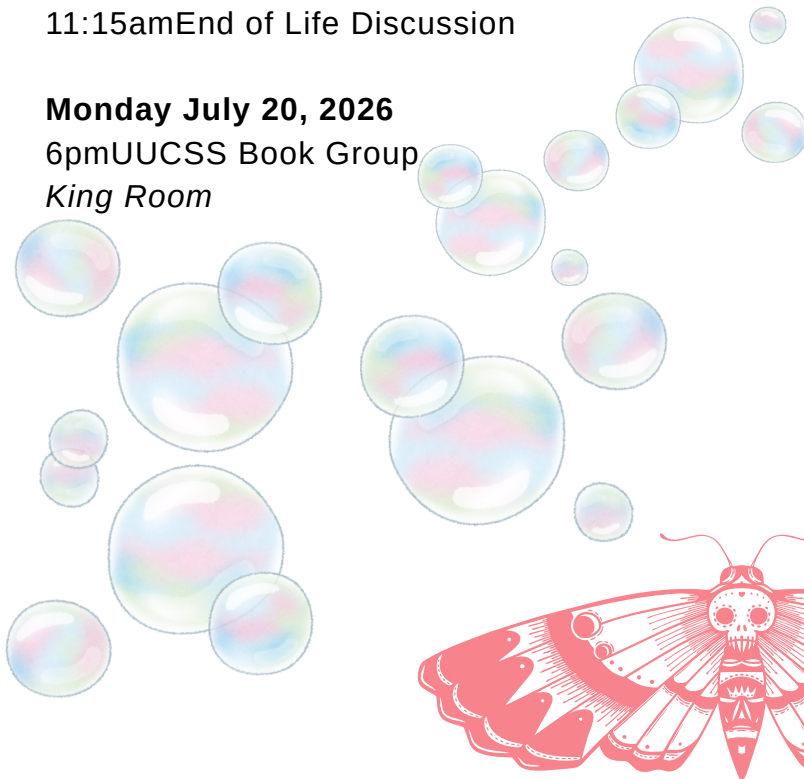
King Room



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.



An End of Life group meeting was held Sunday June 7th after service. 29 people attended! Many items were discussed including MOLST forms and writing your own obituary. Attendees wanted another meeting and many will be doing the "homework" of getting one thing done.

Next meeting is scheduled for July 19 after service.



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!

Recent Sermons

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



Give Away The Plate-for
July is Franklin Community
Center

This human services agency in Saratoga Springs works with individuals and other agencies to provide services that will improve quality of life and foster a sense of neighborhood, community and family for all people. They provide advocacy and referral information, the Free Store of clothing and household goods, a food pantry, furniture distribution, after school prevention program and safe and affordable housing.

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.

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 uusaratoga@gmail.com





10 Smart Ways to Give—Without Writing a Check



Creative giving strategies that can strengthen
UUCSS's mission, ministries, and legacy beyond a cash donation.

1



Appreciated Investments

Donate long-term stocks, ETFs, or mutual funds to UUCSS instead of cash.

2



IRA QCDs (Age 70½+)

Send money directly from your IRA to UUCSS. This can help satisfy required distributions while supporting our work.

3



Donor-Advised Fund

Contribute appreciated assets to your DAF and recommend grants to UUCSS over time.

4



Beneficiary Designations

Name UUCSS as a beneficiary of your IRA, brokerage account, life insurance, or bank account.

5



Bequests in a Will or Trust

Leave a percentage, fixed amount, or the remainder of your estate to UUCSS. Your legacy can inspire generations to come.

6



Life Insurance Gifts

Name UUCSS as beneficiary of a policy, or in some cases, donate the policy itself to support our future.

7



Real Estate Gifts

Donate property—such as a home, vacation property, or land—to UUCSS to make a lasting impact.

8



Charitable Gift Annuity

Make a gift that provides you with fixed lifetime payments, with the remainder supporting UUCSS.

9



Charitable Trusts (CRT/CLT)

Use planned-giving trusts to balance income, taxes, and your charitable goals while supporting UUCSS.

10



In-Kind Gifts

Donate vehicles, equipment, art, or other assets UUCSS can use or sell to advance our mission.



Your generosity today helps build a more loving, just, and inclusive world—through the mission and ministries of UUCSS.

Source: Adapted for UUCSS from Kathleen Rehl's article "10 Ways to Give—Without Writing a Check" on HumbleDollar.com.



Questions? Contact
KathleenRehl@gmail.com



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.

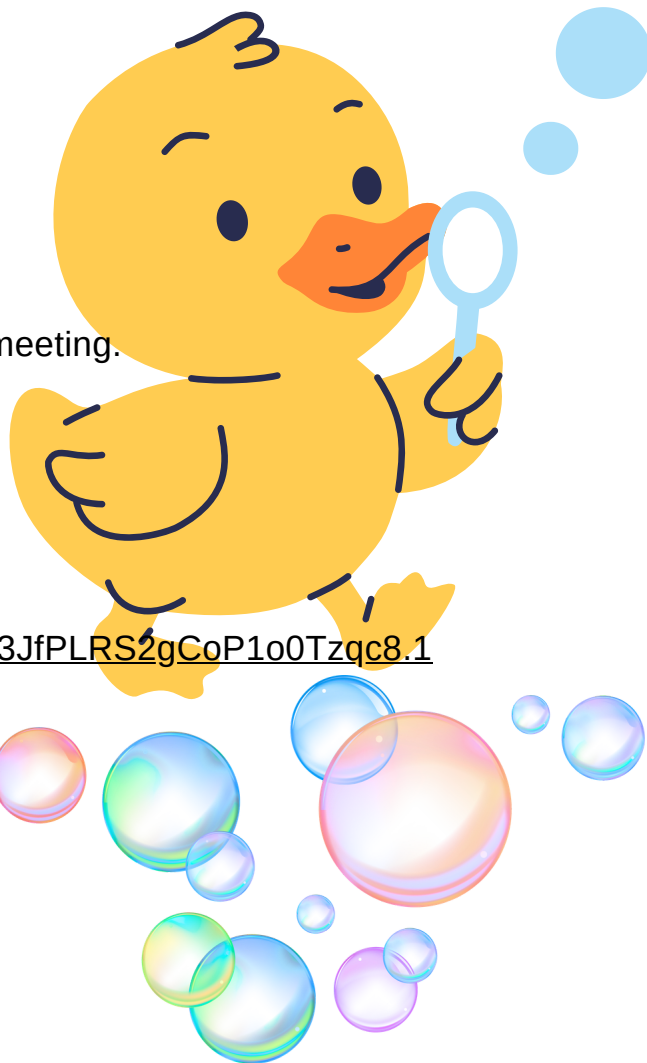
To become a member of the Congregation

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 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



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=7z4cyYIVOU3JfPLRS2gCoP1o0Tzqc8.1>

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> (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