

Journey Well Newsletter

UUSARATOGA

July 24, 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

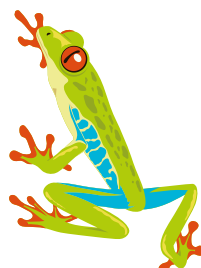
FAREWELL AND THANK YOU TO MELISSA O'BRIEN

SEVEN MONTHS AGO MELISSA O'BRIEN, OUR PRESENT PASTOR, STARTED WITH US AT THE UU MEETING HOUSE. SHE HAS BEEN OUTSTANDING IN HER EFFORTS TO HELP US HEAL FROM THE LOSS OF OUR PREVIOUS MINISTER. HER SERMONS HAVE HELPED US UNDERSTAND OUR SPIRITUALITY AND PREPARE US FOR THE NEXT STEPS AS WE TRANSITION FROM 624 BROADWAY TO OUR NEW HOME ON LOUDEN ROAD. FOR MANY, HER PASTORAL CARE HAS HELPED OUR CONGREGANTS WORK THROUGH LOSS AND PREPARE THEM FOR MOVING ON.

WE HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE THAT MELISSA FOUND US IN JANUARY. PLEASE JOIN US ON SUNDAY, JULY 26 FOR HER LAST SERVICE WITH US. THERE WILL BE A SMALL CELEBRATION AFTER THE SERVICE WITH CAKE. WATCH HER RECEIVE HER BOUQUET OF GRATITUDE AND PASS ON HER FINAL WORDS OF WISDOM. HOPE YOU CAN BE THERE AND CELEBRATE WITH HER.

PEACE,
ART

THE MONTHLY THEMES WILL
RESUME IN SEPTEMBER!



PLEASE REMEMBER OUR MAILING ADDRESS IS PO BOX 26, SCHUYLerville NY 12871.
IF YOU HAVEN'T NOTIFIED YOUR BANKS FOR YOUR AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS
PLEASE DO SO ASAP! OUR MAIL FORWARDING IS ENDING SOON!

This Sunday's Service

What's Happening in RE

Where Heaven and Earth Meet

Sunday, July 26, 2026 10am

Join us on Sunday for Melissa's final service as our interim minister.

THANK YOU
FOR EVERYTHING

Recent Sermons

Did you miss a service? Or was there a sermon you particularly liked? [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](#)

Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Saratoga Springs

518-584-1555 • uusaratoga.org



Why have you
come to earth?
Do you remember?

—Paramahansa Yogananda

BUSTER'S MOMMY'S FINAL "LETTER FROM THE PASTOR"



DEAR FRIENDS,

SEVEN MONTHS AGO WHEN I ARRIVED HERE NONE OF US KNEW QUITE WHAT TO EXPECT. WHAT I FOUND WAS A CONGREGATION FULL OF WONDERFUL THINGS: PEOPLE WILLING TO HAVE REAL ENGAGEMENT, ASK HARD QUESTIONS, WITH GENUINE WILLINGNESS TO GROW. THE COUNTLESS HOURS I SPENT IN YOUR COMPANY HAVE BEEN PURE GOLD. I'M GRATEFUL FOR EVERY BIT OF IT.

LEADING THIS CONGREGATION HAS BEEN ONE OF THE GENUINELY GREAT EXPERIENCES OF MY MINISTRY, AND I WILL CARRY WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER WITH ME. THANK YOU, EACH OF YOU, FOR THE MANY GIFTS YOU BROUGHT TO MY LIFE IN THIS BRIEF MOMENT IN TIME. AND THANK YOU COLLECTIVELY, TOO — AS A CONGREGATION YOU POSSESS A MAGIC THE WORLD DESPERATELY NEEDS.

HERE'S WHERE TO FIND ME, IF YOU'D LIKE TO STAY IN TOUCH.

MY WRITING IS ON SUBSTACK ([HTTPS://MELISSAANNOBRIEN.SUBSTACK.COM/](https://melissaannobrien.substack.com/)). YOU SIGN UP WITH EMAIL. IT'S FREE. I DON'T USE SOCIAL MEDIA, SO THIS IS WHERE I SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT THINGS LIKE WHERE I'M SUBSTITUTE PREACHING AND WHERE I AM HOSTING END OF LIFE CONVERSATIONS.

I'M HOSTING A SOUL CIRCLE AT 110 SPRING STREET ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 13 AT 5:30PM. THIS IS SOMETHING I DID MONTHLY IN PREVIOUS YEARS AND FEEL IT'S TIME FOR A REVIVAL. WE GATHER IN A CIRCLE IN THE BEAUTIFUL ART GALLERY AND SHARE OPEN DISCUSSION ON SPIRITUAL QUESTIONS AND CURIOSITIES. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN KNOWING MORE, SIGN UP AT THE SUBSTACK SITE FOR UPDATES. ALL ARE WELCOME.

YOU CAN REACH ME DIRECTLY AT MELISSA519@ME.COM.

IN THE COMING MONTHS I WILL BE WORKING WITH THE COMPLETED LIFE INITIATIVE ON THE SANCTUARY PROJECT IN VERMONT. THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL FARMHOUSE ON 24 ACRES IN SOUTHERN VERMONT WHERE PEOPLE USING MEDICAL AID IN DYING CAN STAY WITH LOVED ONES (FREE OF CHARGE) TO HAVE A BEAUTIFUL END OF LIFE. [HTTPS://COMPLETEDLIFE.ORG/SANCTUARY/](https://completedlife.org/sanctuary/)

I AM WISHING THIS CONGREGATION EVERY GOOD THING AND MORE AS IT MOVES INTO ITS NEXT CHAPTER, WHICH I'M CERTAIN WILL BE LOTS OF FUN AND FULL OF WONDER.

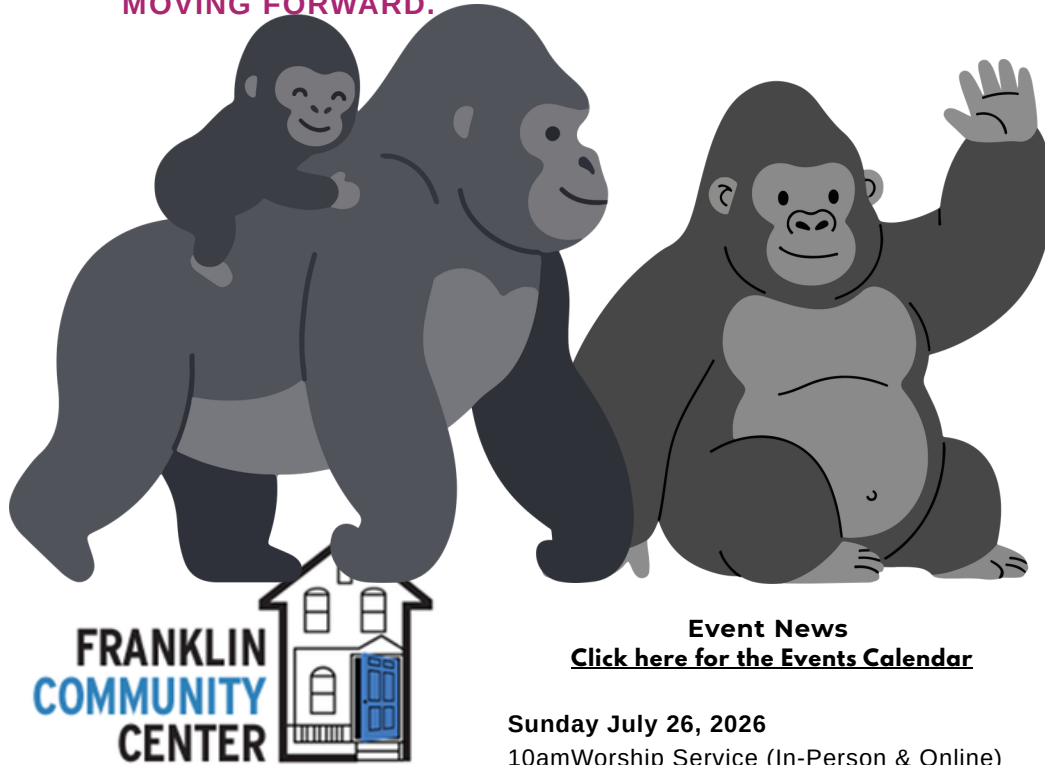
MY TIWA FRIEND IN TAOS, NEW MEXICO TAUGHT ME THIS: WE DON'T SAY GOOD-BYE, WE JUST SAY I'LL SEE YOU LATER.

WITH GRATITUDE AND LOVE,
MELISSA

NEW HOME TASK FORCE WEEKLY UPDATE

1. THE BUYER ESTABLISHED THE SALE CLOSING DATE FOR 624 N. BROADWAY AS OCTOBER 31, 2026.
2. WE WON'T NEED TO MOVE OUT OF 624 BROADWAY UNTIL SEPTEMBER OR EARLY OCTOBER.
3. WE CONTINUE TO FINALIZE OUR CONTRACT WITH BAST HATFIELD, OUR CONTRACTOR. THE BOARD IS CONSIDERING A CONTINGENCY CONTRACT WHICH WILL ALLOW US TO START THE BUILD IN AUGUST. JIM COX, OUR ATTORNEY IS ADVISING US . MORE TO COME ON THIS POSSIBILITY.
- 4.ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, THE TASK FORCE WILL PRESENT UPDATES REGARDING OUR CONSTRUCTION AND FUNDING. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.

MOVING FORWARD.



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.

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

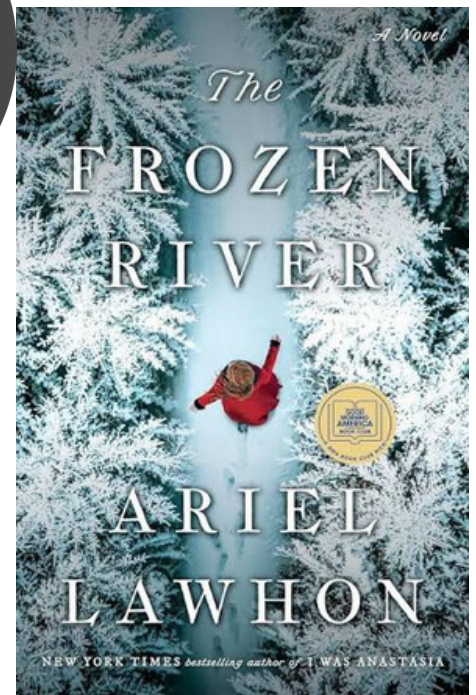
Sunday July 26, 2026
10amWorship Service (In-Person & Online)

Sunday August 2, 2026
10amWorship Service (In-Person & Online)
COFFEE CHAT AFTER SERVICE about our NEW HOME

Tuesday August 4, 2026
12pmUUCSS Ladies Luncheon
Off site



BOOK GROUP



The next selection is The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon.

The next meeting is on Monday August 17th, at 6pm. All book lovers are welcome. For information, please contact Barbara Egerman at begerman3@gmail.com, or Carolyn Lansberry at carlan55@gmail.com.

**BUDDHIST PEACE WALK
WITH JUN-SAN,
NIPPONZAN MYOHOKI
BUDDHIST NUN.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 2ND.
11:30 - 12:30. MEET @
34 GREENFIELD AVE.
SARATOGA SPRINGS
NY**



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](#)

FUNDRAISING TEAM NEWS: Taking a break for the summer!

[Social Justice Team news and events- Please check our UUSaratoga website for more info.](#)



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)

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