



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION OF
SARATOGA SPRINGS

SUNDAY SERVICES AT
WILSON CHAPEL BEGINS ON
SUNDAY OCTOBER 4, 2026

Journey Well Newsletter

August 21, 2026



GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND CONGREGATION OF THE
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SARATOGA
SPRINGS CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO ATTEND THE
GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR OUR NEW MEETINGHOUSE.

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE DEDICATE THIS SACRED GROUND TO THE
ENDURING PRINCIPLES OF LOVE, REASON, AND COMMUNITY, AND
CELEBRATE THE OFFICIAL BEGINNING OF OUR NEW SPIRITUAL
HOME.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2026
AT 10 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING
400-404 LOUDON ROAD
SARATOGA SPRINGS NY 12866

PLEASE SHARE OUR JOY AT THIS CEREMONIAL BLESSING OF THE
EARTH AND THE TURNING OF THE SOIL.

KINDLY RSVP BY TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2026 TO
ADMINISTRATOR@UUSARATOGA.ORG OR 518-584-1555.

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Upcoming
Sunday Services

What's
Happening in RE

Upcoming
Events and
meetings

New Home
updates

Committees and
Teams News
Updates

THE MONTHLY THEMES
WILL RESUME IN
SEPTEMBER!

Give Away The Plate-
for August is to our
Minister's
Discretionary Fund.

Provides funds which
our minister can use to
help congregants in
need of emergency
help with rent, food,
utilities or other
financial crises.

This Sunday's Service

Beyond the Storm: A Journey of Resilience

with Tena Bunnell

"Beyond the Storm: A Journey of Resilience" chronicles one woman's experience navigating an extraordinary, life-altering event by choosing to live again through perseverance. The message highlights the transition from enduring a severe personal crisis to finding transformative peace on the other side.

Tena Bunnell, past Board President, choir member, and Worship Team member, spent her journey spanning an evangelical upbringing, independent church membership, and a 2011 arrival at UU Saratoga. With a background in broadcasting and non-profit leadership, she currently serves the Saratoga Springs community through volunteerism at Discover Saratoga as a city tour guide and at Mary's Haven hospice house.



SHELTERS OF SARATOGA (SOS) IS A SARATOGA COUNTY-BASED HUMAN SERVICE AGENCY THAT PROVIDES FOOD, SHELTER, SUPPORTIVE SERVICES AND A PATH TO INDEPENDENCE FOR PEOPLE FACING HOMELESSNESS. TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF OUR NEIGHBORS FACING HOMELESSNESS WITH SAFE
SOS IS IN NEED OF COFFEE, SUGAR AND BOTTLED WATER
IT CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT 14 WALLWORTH ST DURING BUSINESS HOURS



What's Happening in RE

OFF FOR THE SUMMER!
CONTACT REV. VIOLA AT
MINISTER@UUSARATOGA.ORG

Recent Sermons

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

[Many of our services have been uploaded to our YouTube Channel.](#)

WILL YOU JOIN THE AUGUST 26TH TRAINING?

RITUALS OF RESISTANCE:
A TRAINING ON FAITHFUL WITNESS FROM DELANEY HALL?

LEARN WITH SOME OF THE UU LEADERS WHO HAVE BEEN LEADING THE FAITHFUL RESISTANCE AT THE NEWARK DETENTION CAMP, DELANEY HALL. TAKE HOME CONCRETE TOOLS AND RITUALS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY DEVELOPED AND USED BY CHARLENE WALKER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FAITH IN NEW JERSEY, REV. DR. ROBIN TANNER, MINISTER AT BEACON IN SUMMIT NJ AND REV. ANYA SAMMLER-MICHAEL, MINISTER AT UU CONGREGATION AT MONTCLAIR. HOSTED BY UU SOLIDARITY INITIATIVE

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

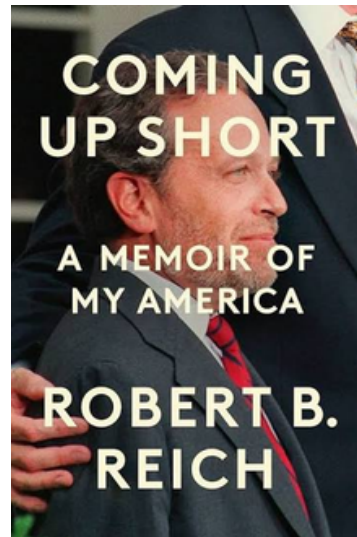
Sunday August 23, 2026
10amWorship Service (In-Person & Online)

Wednesday August 26, 2026
10amGroundbreaking ceremony
Off site

Sunday **August 30, 2026**
10amWorship Service (In-Person & Online)

Tuesday **September 1, 2026**
12pmUUCSS Ladies Luncheon
Off site

BOOK GROUP



The next selection is
Coming Up Short by
Robert Reich
The next meeting is
on Monday September
21th, at 6pm.
All book lovers are
welcome. For
information, please
contact Barbara
Egerman at
begerman3@gmail.co
m, or Carolyn
Lansberry at
carlan55@gmail.com.



ATTEND WORSHIP VIA ZOOM

UU Saratoga is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom
meeting.

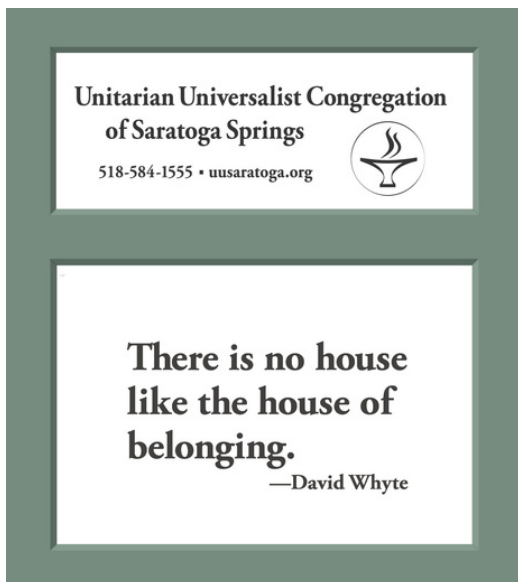
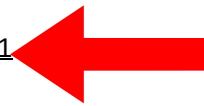
Topic: Sunday Worship Service
Time: 10:00am
Every week on Sun

Join Zoom Meeting
[https://zoom.us/j/91704074305?
pwd=7z4cyYIVOU3JfPLRS2gCoP1o0Tzqc8.1](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)

**CLICK WHERE
THE RED
ARROW POINTS!**

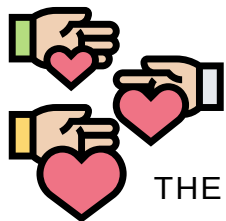


Wayside Pulpit

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](#)



CHECK OUT
REV. V'S
REVERIES ON
OUR WEBSITE!



FUNDRAISING TEAM NEWS

THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE IS BACK IN THE SWING OF THINGS. AND WE HAVE ANOTHER GREAT TRIVIA NIGHT COMING ON SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19TH AT THE CHURCH. WE WANTED TO HAVE ONE MORE FUN EVENT AT THE CHURCH BEFORE WE MOVE OUT FOR GOOD. THIS EVENT WILL NOT BE ADVERTISED FOR THE PUBLIC DUE TO LIMITED SPACE. BUT YOU ARE WELCOME TO BRING FRIENDS OR RELATIVES TO MAKE A TABLE OF FOUR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO. WE CAN ACCOMMODATE 10 TO 12 TABLES OF FOUR PLAYERS. HERE ARE THE DETAILS.

TICKETS ARE \$10 WHICH INCLUDES CHIPS, WATER AND CIDER. YOU CAN BUY TICKETS AT THE CHURCH ON THE 6TH AND 13TH OF SEPTEMBER OR ON LINE AFTER THE 6TH. YOU CAN COME SOLO AND FORM A GROUP OF 4 WITH OTHER SOLO ATTENDEES OR YOU CAN PUT TOGETHER A TABLE OF FOUR FROM YOUR RELATIVES OR FRIENDS AND COME AS A GROUP. DOORS WILL OPEN AT 6:30 FOR WINE AND DESSERTS. THE FIRST OF 6 ROUNDS OF QUESTIONS WILL BEGIN AT 7. THERE WILL BE AN INTERMISSION WITH WINE AND DESSERTS. PRIZES WILL BE GIVEN TO THE WINNERS.

AFTER OUR FIRST TRIVIA NIGHT MANY PLAYERS REMARKED ON HOW MUCH FUN THEY HAD AND ASKED US TO DO ANOTHER TRIVIA NIGHT. WE AIM TO PLEASE, SO HERE IT IS---THE SECOND TRIVIA NIGHT. COME AND HAVE FUN!!!



Social Justice Team news and events- Please check our
UUSaratoga website for more info.



NEW HOME TASK FORCE UPDATE



FROM
8/1
TO
8/21



TASK FORCE REPORT

1. THE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR 404 LOUDEN IS WEDNESDAY AUGUST 26 AT 10:00AM. PARKING WILL BE AVAILABLE AT BJS AND THE PARKING LOT AT THE FORMER METHODIST CONFERENCE CENTER AT 396 LOUDEN ROAD.
2. THE GROUND AT 404 LOUDEN IS BEING PREPARED FOR OUR ROADWAY AND PARKING LOTS. THE FOUNDATION AREA FOR THE NEW HOME IS BEING DUG AND THE FOUNDATION WILL BE STARTED ON 8/31.
3. THE MOVING OUT GROUP IS PREPARING FOR THE FINAL MOVE FROM 624 BROADWAY. OUR LAST SERVICE WILL BE THERE ON 9/27/26.
4. WILSON CHAPEL WILL BE OUR TRANSITIONAL PLACE FOR SERVICES STARTING OCTOBER 4, 2026 AND CONTINUING THERE UNTIL THE NEW HOME IS COMPLETE IN THE LATE SPRING IN 2027.
5. CHECK OUT THE NEW PICS OF THE SITE .

TASK FORCE AT WORK FOR YOU.

IT IS IN OUR CONTRACT WITH BAST HATFIELD THAT THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS ARE NOT TO BE INTERACTED WITH IN ANY WAY WHILE THEY ARE ON SITE. PLEASE KEEP THIS IN MIND IF YOU WANT TO DRIVE BY AND CHECK ON THE PROGRESS!

I May Have Gotten it all Wrong Once

My deepening commitment to Unitarianism has characterized much of my adult life but it has been very, very gradual until the last few years. I inherited a deep skepticism of anything described as religious from my father who was so badly scarred by being raised in the home of a Methodist minister - whose unrelenting fire and brimstone sermons left no space for forgiveness, toleration and love - that the only way he found salvation was through ferocious atheism.

For a fortunate few, sometimes it takes a lifetime, or much of one, to gain a perspective that permits real insight. So, for me at least, the path toward an appreciation of a spiritual aspect of existence has been crooked beyond description, mostly because I harbored the belief that the only way to make that journey was through intellectual dissection. After all, that was how I was raised.

The death of my brother Carter more than 55 years ago slowly led me to a realization that some profound human events may not be subject to intellectual analysis and may be beyond conventional explanation at all. It is upon this realization that my religious life became a spiritual search for meaning. Even though he was only 25 years old when he died, I believe that Carter understood this dilemma and was a reason his commitment against violence in the world came to consume him, in the end, literally.

And so, more than a decade ago the UUCSS leadership accepted the gift Beverly and I made toward building a new church with the understanding that the sanctuary would be named after Carter. They understood then, as I hope remains the understanding today, that UUs offer the opportunity to explore the deepest aspects of human existence and Carter represented that opportunity.

And amazingly here we are in sight of the final construction of our new church building. A chance to elevate our presence in the Saratoga Springs community as a place of renewal, a sanctuary for everyone and a place where the search for spiritual meaning is hallowed.

Thank you all for bringing this incredible journey almost to an end.

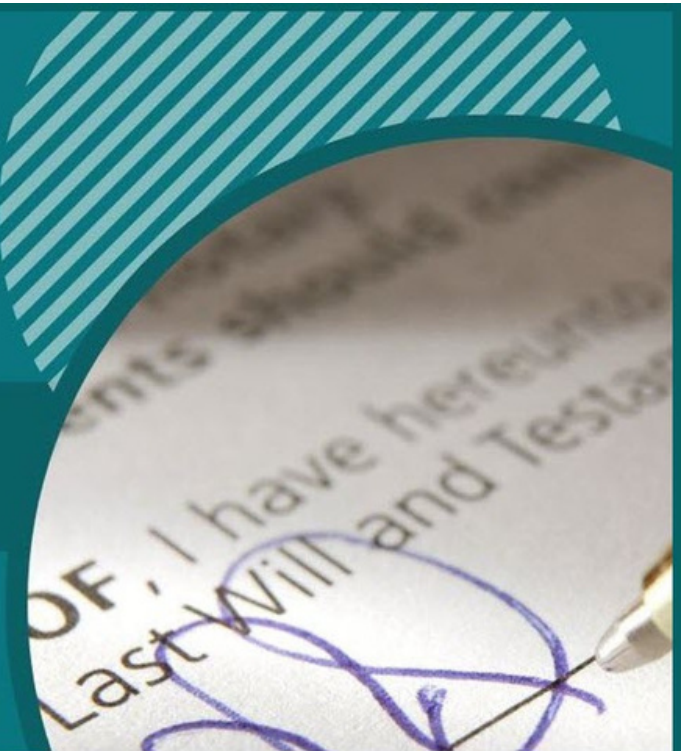
Eric Lawson

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AUGUST IS NATIONAL

"Make a Will"

MONTH



Remember people and causes you care about . . .
including the UUCSS Endowment.

Make an impact that extends beyond your lifetime!



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

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.

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](#)

TO VIEW PAST SERVICES ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL [CLICK HERE](#)



REV. VIOLA ABBITT

**MAILING ADDRESS: P O BOX 2304, MALTA NY 12020
PHONE: 518-290-7007**

**EMAILS: REV.VIOLA.UUMIN@GMAIL.COM/
MINISTER@UUSARATOGA.ORG**

CALENDLY LINK: [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/SS-MTG-W-REVVEE](https://tinyurl.com/ss-mtg-w-revvee)

WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS REV VIOLA WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR APPOINTMENTS, AND FRIDAYS FOR PHONE AND VIRTUAL MEETINGS ONLY.

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

