



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION OF
SARATOGA SPRINGS

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

Journey Well Newsletter

August 28, 2026



MORE PICTURES ON THE NEXT PAGE!

ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26TH, A BRAND NEW CHAPTER IN UUCSS'S FUTURE BEGAN! THE GROUND BREAKING CELEBRATION BROUGHT A CROWD OF CONGREGANTS, FRIENDS, AND STAKEHOLDERS TOGETHER TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE CULMINATION OF MANY YEARS OF PLANNING AND WORK. ART HOLMBERG, THE TASK FORCE CHAIRMAN, WELCOMED OUR BUILDER STEVE KESSLER AND SAM LARTER, PROJECT MANAGER FROM BASK-HATFIELD, OUR ARCHITECTS, DON AND SUE DAVIS, AS WELL AS MEDIA AND DR. TONI STRUM, TOWN SUPERVISOR OF WILTON. HIS REMARKS CELEBRATED THE HARD WORK OF PLANNING, APPROVALS, FUND-RAISING AND THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND VISION OF SO MANY UU MEMBERS. ART ALSO EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS BUILDING BEING A BEACON FOR THE GATHERING OF THE GREATER SARATOGA COMMUNITY AS WELL. REV V INVITED THE ASSEMBLY TO HOLD ONE HAND OVER THEIR HEART AND THE OTHER EXTENDED OVER THE LAND, AS WE ALL BLESSED THE FUTURE OF THIS LAND AS OUR NEW HOME. HARD HATS AND GOLD PLATED SHOVELS WERE DISTRIBUTED TO THE BOARD AND TASK FORCE MEMBERS, SYMBOLICALLY BROKE GROUND TO OFFICIALLY MARK THE EVENT. IT WAS A JOYFUL MOMENT!

EVERYONE WAS INVITED TO WALK DOWN THE TEMPORARY "ROAD" TO SEE THE ACTUAL AREA WHERE OUR NEW BUILDING WILL STAND. SURROUNDING THE ENTIRE PROPERTY, LARGE TREES OFFER THE NATURAL BEAUTY THAT WILL SURROUND THE FINISHED PROJECT. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO STOP BY AFTER WORK HOURS TO SEE THE FUTURE BEING CREATED. IT IS A DREAM COMING TRUE FOR MANY OF US!

JULIE HOLMBERG
TASK FORCE MEMBER

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

Who Are (Y)Our People?

Sunday, August 30, 2026 10am
with Rev. Viola Abbitt

Who belongs to us, who do we belong to, and
why is whether we belong or not so important?

Next Sunday's Service

Work To Do

Sunday, September 6, 2026 10am
with Rev. Viola Abbitt

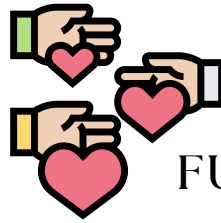
Tomorrow we celebrate Labor Day, the
unofficial end of summer. But it is also the day
on which we honor the worker here in the
United States. Work comes in all forms. What is
the work that is necessary to build the Beloved
Community that our Unitarian Universalist
value of Justice calls for? And who are the
people engaged in that work?

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.](#)

What's Happening in RE
**CONTACT REV. VIOLA AT
MINISTER@UUSARATOGA.ORG**



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!!!

**CLICK HERE
FOR THE
REGISTRATION
FORM**



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

Sunday August 30, 2026

10amWorship Service (In-Person & Online)

Tuesday September 1, 2026

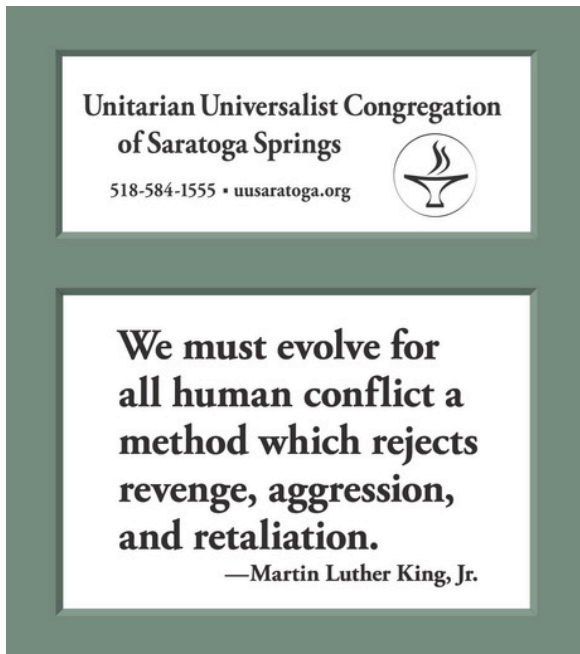
12pmUUCSS Ladies Luncheon
Off site

Thursday September 3, 2026

9amThe Men's Breakfast Group
Off site

Sunday, September 6, 2026

10amWorship Service (In-Person & Online)

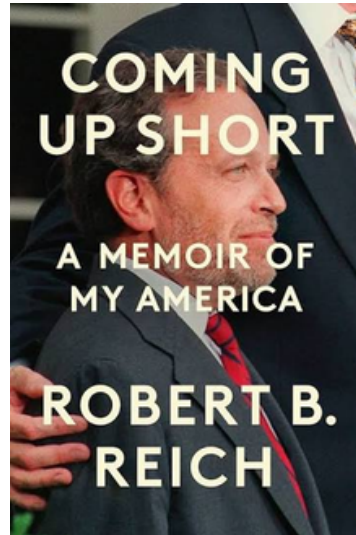


Wayside Pulpit

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](#)

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

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

Meeting ID: 917 0407 4305

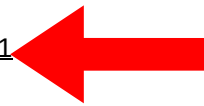
Passcode: 466653

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,91704074305# US

+16465588656,,91704074305# US (New York)

CLICK WHERE
THE RED
ARROW POINTS!



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

LADIES' LUNCHEON



SEPTEMBER IS ALMOST HERE, AND THE FIRST TUESDAY IS ACTUALLY SEPTEMBER 1ST! SO WELCOME TO THE LADIES LUNCHEON, WHERE YOU CAN LUXURIATE IN THE LAST DAYS OF THE SUMMER MONTHS AND CHAT WITH PEOPLE AT A LEISURELY PACE. WE ARE VERY EXCITED TO BE ABLE TO MEET ONCE AGAIN AT THE EMBASSY SUITES ON CONGRESS STREET IN SARATOGA SPRINGS IN THEIR DIAMOND CLUB RESTAURANT! SO MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 1ST AT 12:00 NOON, AND JOIN US FOR A NICE MEAL TOGETHER.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HOLD A SPOT AT THE TABLE, PLEASE RSVP TARILEE@GMAIL.COM, AND I WILL MAKE THE RESERVATION FOR US ALL. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



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

NEW HOME TASK FORCE UPDATE



1. WE HELD A GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY ON WEDNESDAY 8/26 AND OVER 40 UU MEMBERS ATTENDED. SEE THE ARTICLE LATER IN JW.
2. WE RECEIVED A \$1900.00 CHECK FROM THE CENTRAL REGION UU OF NY AND THE HUDSON MOHAWK FUND. THIS WILL HELP WITH THE NEW HOME COST.
3. ON WEDNESDAY, MANY MEMBERS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE SOIL EXCAVATION WHERE OUR NEW HOME WILL BE LOCATED. THIS IS GETTING EXCITING! BAST HATFIELD HOPES TO START THE FOUNDATION WORK BY THE END OF THE MONTH.
4. WE ARE TRYING TO WRITE GRANTS TO HELP US FUND THE NEW HOME. IF YOU HAVE ANY CONTACTS OR KNOW ANYONE ASSOCIATED WITH THE SOLOMON FUND, GLOBAL FOUNDATION, BUSINESS FOR GOOD, OR THE WOOD FOUNDATION, PLEASE LET JULIANA KNOW.



FROM MARY MONIGAN: DISCOVERED WHILE ON MY TRAVELS

I AM SPENDING AUGUST IN A QUAIN T LITTLE HISTORIC HAMLET IN VERMONT. WHILE EXPLORING THE AREA, I HAPPENED UPON THE TINY TOWN OF CHESTER AND ITS "STONE VILLAGE," A CLUSTER OF HOMES BUILT WITH NATIVE STONE IN THE 1840S. AT ITS CORE IS THE UNITARIAN CHURCH, BUILT IN 1845. I WAS A BIT SURPRISED TO FIND A STRONG UU PRESENCE DATING BACK TO THAT ERA. IT WAS THE SECOND HISTORIC UU CHURCH I DISCOVERED.

WHAT A HERCULEAN EFFORT IT MUST HAVE TAKEN TO HEW GRANITE AND QUARTZ BOULDERS INTO BUILDING MATERIAL BY HAND. IT SPEAKS TO THE POWER OF COMMITMENT, PERSISTENCE AND FAITH---SOMETHING TO CONSIDER WHEN A BIG PROJECT SEEMS OVERWHELMING.

KAI SIMON, AN ORGANIZER WITH A CAMPAIGN TO END LETHAL EXPERIMENTS ON DOGS, REACHED OUT TO UU SARATOGA IN PARTICULAR BECAUSE OF OUR LONG TRADITION OF SOCIAL WITNESS AND BECAUSE ONE OF HIS LEADERS, WAYNE HSIUNG, IS A UU AND ASPIRANT FOR MINISTERIAL FELLOWSHIP.

FROM SEPTEMBER 12-26, THEY'RE MARCHING 207 MILES FROM ALBANY TO NORTH ROSE TO WIN THE FREEDOM OF 16,000 BEAGLES TRAPPED IN DIRE CONDITIONS AT MARSHALL BIORESOURCES, A BREEDER-FOR-EXPERIMENTATION IMPLICATED IN GRAVE ABUSES. OVER 700 PEOPLE HAVE SIGNED UP, AND WE'RE PUSHING TOWARDS 1,000+.

GIVEN OUR PROXIMITY TO THE ROUTE WE ARE SHARING.

MARCHFORANIMALS.ORG FOR INFO AND [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE WALK](#) AND [CLICK HERE TO SEE THE ROUTE](#)

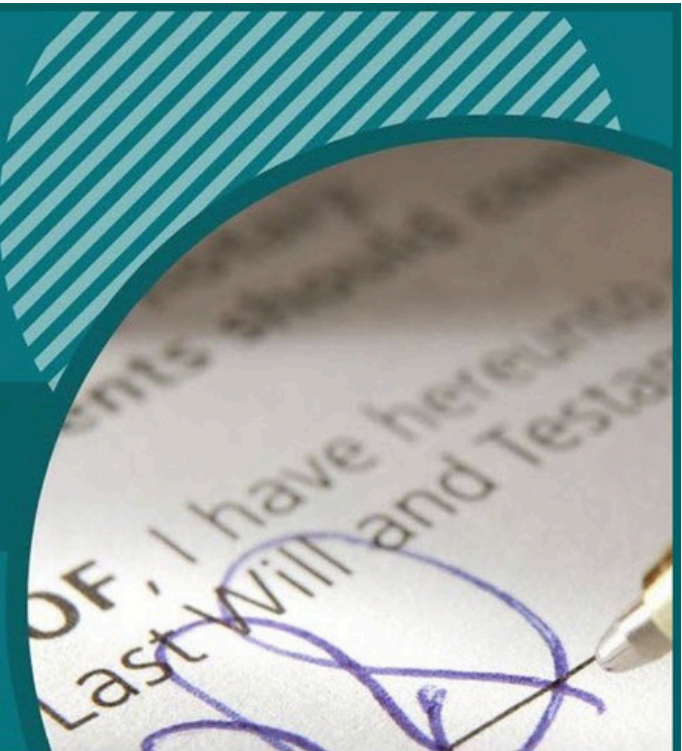


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AUGUST IS NATIONAL

"Make a Will"

MONTH



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

Make an impact that extends beyond your lifetime!



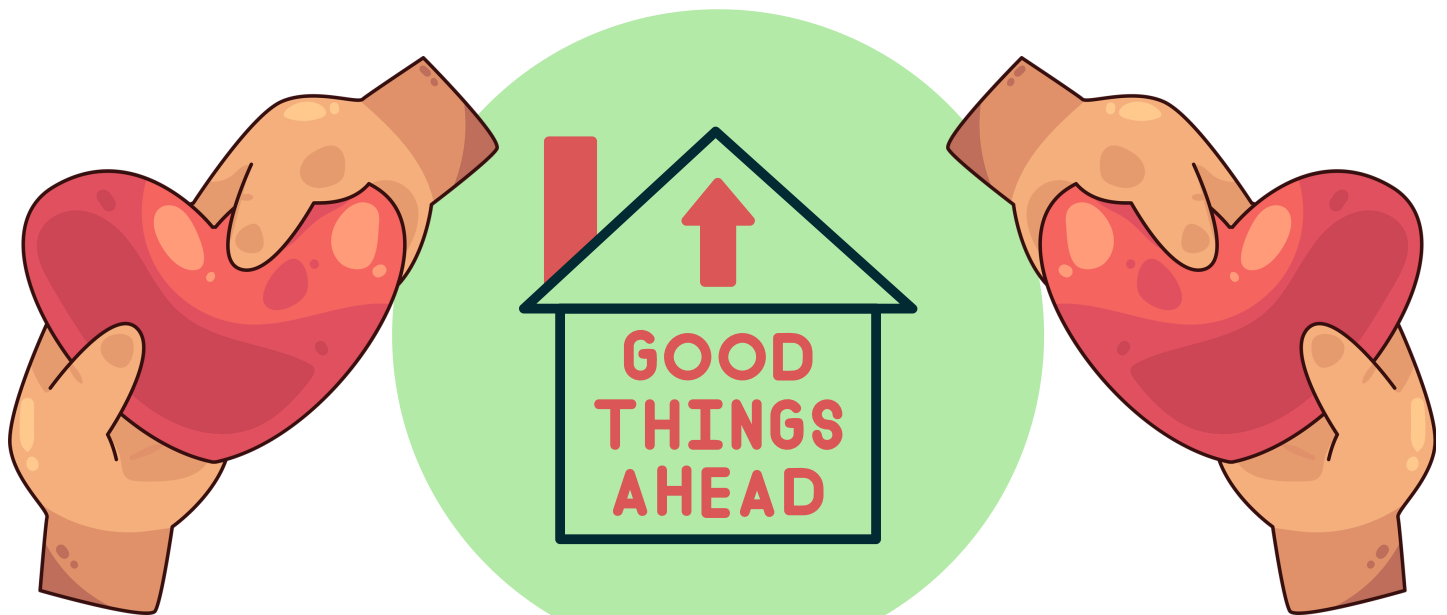
Have You Thought About
How To Donate Securities
to UU Saratoga?? It's easy!

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

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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

