



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION OF
SARATOGA SPRINGS

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

Journey Well Newsletter

September 25, 2026



A number of congregants got a email that seemed to be from Rev Viola. It was asking for help and when people responded, the help was to buy gift cards. If you didn't already know, THAT scam made the rounds a while ago. The scammers are getting trickier every day! If you get an email that doesn't seem quite legitimate check the following:

- check the email address its coming from by hovering your cursor over it before you open it. If the name and email address don't match, it's a scam

- consider the wording of the email....does this sound like what the sender would say. Fortunately scammers don't always have the right way to word something.

- check the sign off- Rev Vee has a particular one and a particular signature when sending emails. Notice the signature in emails from the office, and you'll see what I mean. If it's not right....SCAM.

- if they ask you to reply ONLY by email be wary

- and lastly when in doubt contact the person it's coming from (go to the horse's mouth!) and possibly by another means that's not email (text or photo)

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Upcoming
Sunday Services

What's
Happening in RE

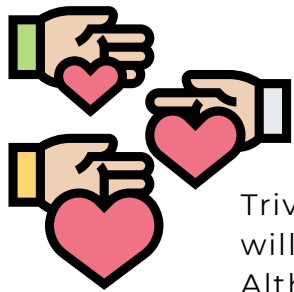
Upcoming
Events and
meetings

New Home
updates

Committees and
Teams News
Updates

The Monthly theme for
September is
INTERDEPENDENCE





FUNDRAISING TEAM NEWS

Trivia Night raised \$550 for UUCSS. And a fun time was had by all!! We will continue to have Trivia events periodically throughout the year. Although not a big money maker, they are a great way to connect with other members of UUCSS and have fun together!! That, too, is important for sustaining our religious community.

Between now and December, the fundraising committee is planning a few crafting events that will result in items we can sell at our Holiday Fair. The crafting events will take place in Lawson's basement. PLEASE sign up or call Bev if you have a craft you can teach to others and/or if you would like to participate in making craft items to be sold. We will try to have both daytime and evening events so those who work during the day might be able to join us for an evening event or two. We hope to get started with making items very soon.

Again this year Sandy Blakelock has offered greens from her woods near Sacandaga Lake for wreath making. Wreath making will occur in mid November. If a couple able bodied individuals would like to help with the adventure of cutting a few trees and/or branches for the wreaths, please let me know.

VISITS TO THE WORK SITE ON 404 LOUDEN

The contractor and architects have asked again that we do not visit the site. There are obvious insurance implications if someone were hurt. Please adhere to this rule as we want everyone safe.

Thanks for your anticipated cooperation.

Art for the Board



Michael Harrison in Concert

Former UUCSS music director (and current friend of UUCSS) Michael Harrison is directing a professional octet of singers in a concert of his compositions for church choirs on Sunday, October 4, at 3PM, at Bethesda Episcopal Church, 26 Washington Street, Saratoga Springs (across from UPH). The program of 22 short anthems, carols, and hymn arrangements includes eight pieces that were written for and sung by the UUCSS choir between 2010 and 2012. Admission is free. Please come and support Michael if you are able.

~Michael Harrison

This Sunday's Service

With Rev. Sam Trumbore

As part of the final service in our building on September 27th, we will have a special ritual of putting paper hearts on the walls using double-sided tape. On your heart, you can put a few words or a sentence about a significant event, memory, or activity that happened in the building or the property. Examples might be a child dedication, a musical performance, a wedding, a memorial service, a seasonal celebration, a rally, a friendship started, or something else. Be thinking now about what you might want to write on your heart when get one with your order of service on that final Sunday service.

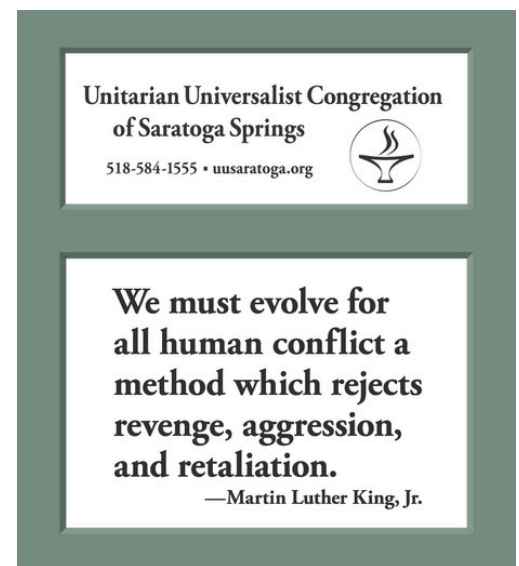
-Sam Trumbore

What's Happening in Religious Exploration

**CONTACT REV. VIOLA AT
MINISTER@UUSARATOGA.ORG**



NEXT SUNDAY: AT WILSON CHAPEL



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.](#)



Give Away The Plate- for September is SNACpack Provides backpacks full of child-friendly, non-perishable, easily consumed foods directly to the children of Saratoga Springs.

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](#)

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

Sunday, **September 27**

10am Endmost service at 624 N Broadway

10am Worship Service (In-Person & Online)

7pm ICE Watch Training sponsored by Sa
Immigration Coalition (SIC)

Sanctuary

Thursday, October 1

9am Men's Breakfast (offsite)

Sunday October 4

10am Worship Service at Wilson Chapel

Tuesday October 6

12 noon Ladies Luncheon (off site)

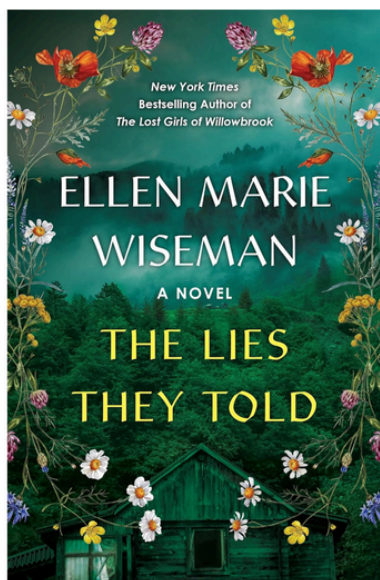


Social Justice Team news and
events- Please check our
UUSaratoga website for more
info.

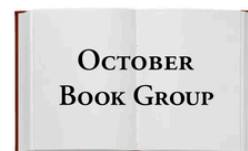
Our faith is not interested in
saving your soul- we're here to
help you unfold the awesome soul
you already have.

~Andrea Lerner

BOOK GROUP



October 19 at 6pm is the
next meeting! For
information, please contact
Barbara Egerman at
begerman3@gmail.com, or
Carolyn Lansberry at
carlan55@gmail.com.



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



ATTEND WORSHIP
VIA ZOOM

UU Saratoga is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom
meeting.

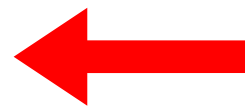
Topic: Sunday Worship Service
Time: 10:00am
Every week on Sun

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/917040743052>
[pwd=7z4cyYIVOU3JfPLRS2gCoP1o0Tzqc8.1](https://zoom.us/j/917040743052?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!



A CONCERT WITH DAN BERGGREN, THANKS TO MARNY SKINNER

I bid on a private concert by Dan Berggren at the UU auction and won 😊

I would like to invite the UU community to the concert:

When: Saturday September 26

Time: Dan will begin at 6:00pm

Where: Saratoga Rowing Association (SRA) Boathouse
543 Union Avenue @ Saratoga Lake across the street
from Lago by Druthers.

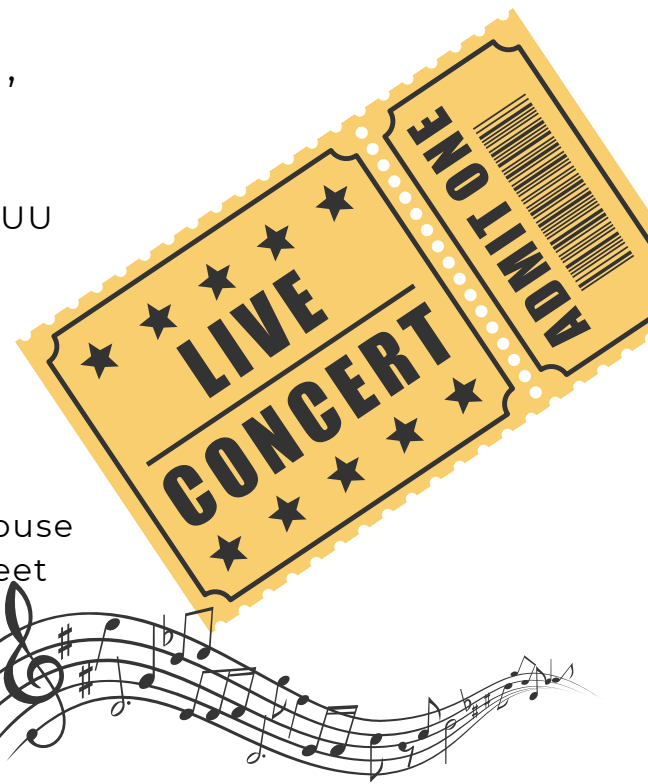
What to bring: a chair.

Bathrooms available in the boathouse.

Earlier in the day, SRA will be hosting the Tail of the Fish Regatta. The boathouse should be cleared out by 5:00pm.

Hoping the weather will cooperate.

Marny Skinner



INSPIRED GIVING IDEA

What footprints will you leave behind when you're gone?

Make a will or living trust that reflects your values and gives gifts to people and causes you care about, including UUCSS. Those beautiful gifts you leave behind to guide your loved ones in the future are your legacy footprints.

To learn more, contact
KathleenRehl@gmail.com or an
Endowment Committee member.



Effort Needed

From my perspective, the journey regarding the creation of a New Meeting House has been epic - more than a decade long- but the end may be in sight. Well, “may be in sight.” Although the structure will be completed next spring (2027) with the cost of construction hopefully fully paid off, the reward of the effort to build the church will be just beginning. To fully realize that reward additional effort will be required.

By next spring we will have a brand, spanking new building, a truly striking creation with a soaring sanctuary from which large windows will draw in the spectacular natural views of majestic trees and a sweeping landscape. We will have a space that inspires peaceful reflection, deep insight, creativity, intellectual growth and spiritual maturity. Just imagine the possibilities and think of the opportunity the new space will give us to reach out and share our unique perspective with our neighbors, our community, really, everyone!

To complete the first chapter, however, more effort is needed to pay for the new building. The careful analysis our leaders have brought to our fundraising reveals a fiscal gap of several hundred thousand dollars. Even with the very recent gift of \$100,000 there remains a significant gap in funds needed to fully pay off the construction costs. While this gap can be covered with a mortgage, that constitutes short-sighted financing since it will significantly raise the cost of financing the building and burden future congregations with debt. Effort is required and it is required right now.

For folks who have waited so far to step up fully and make the effort, real effort to help us financially push the building fund over the top, now is the time excuses notwithstanding.

Eric Lawson





CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Get out, get involved, and give back!

We're looking for students* and families to greet guests at this year's Showcase of Homes.

October 3-4
October 10-11

Morning and Afternoon Shifts Available.

PERK ALERT!

Free ticket when you volunteer for a shift!

Scan or visit the link to sign up!



<https://tinyurl.com/sje8hcus>

*Students must have an adult present

Questions?

Call Clarice at 518-934-5819

Proceeds from Showcase of Homes benefits Rebuilding Together Saratoga County and Habitat for Humanity of Northern Saratoga, Warren and Washington Counties.

Volunteer with SCLL this Fall

September 29th
& 30th
BACC UPK
Classroom Visits

October 4th
Spook Out for Cancer
Spa State Park
Walk/Run/Gift Books

October 4th
Saratoga Book
Festival

September 30th
Community
Baby Shower
Mechanicville

October 17th
Hutchins St
Book Drive

October 6th
Bookmending
in our
Workshop.

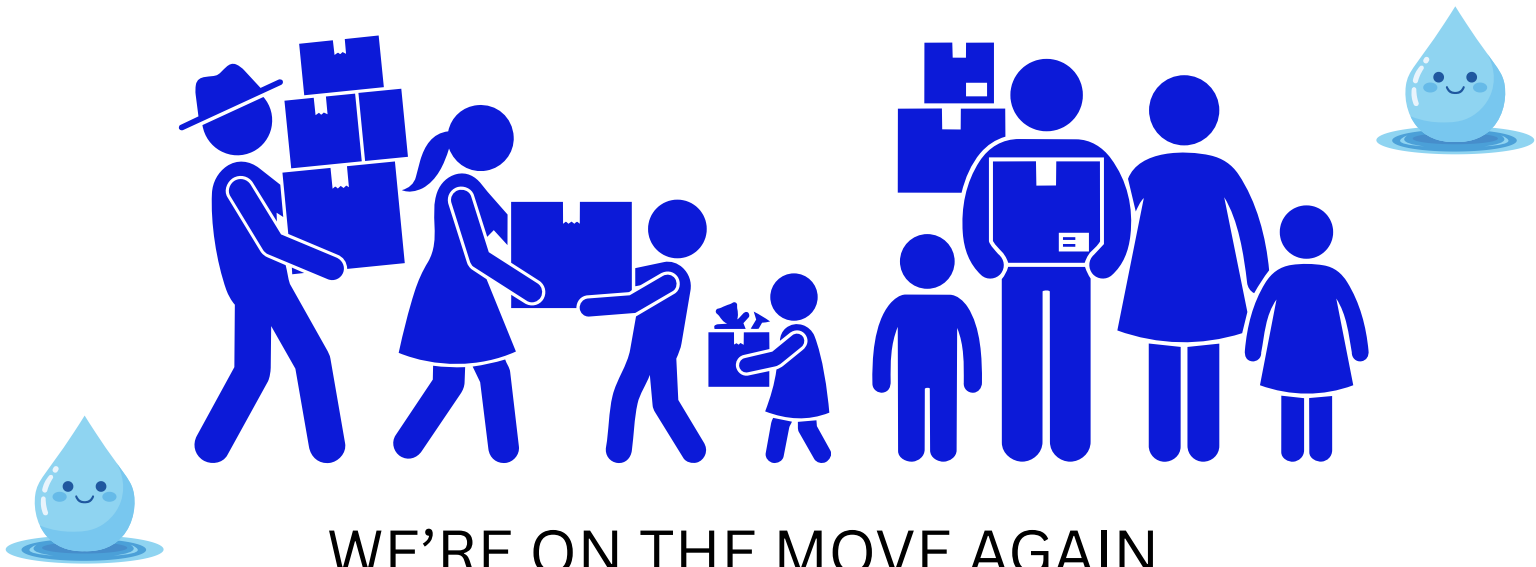
Join us as we
spread
the joy of
reading!

October 31
Saratoga Recycles
Day



www.saratogachildrensliteracyleague.org

To sign up as a volunteer, [click here](#)



WE'RE ON THE MOVE AGAIN

The Move Out Planning Group is requiring all committees to take charge of their items that have been brought back into the church over the last year. Each committee determines what will be needed in Wilson Chapel (where there is limited and minimal storage), WHEN their remaining items and WHO will be transporting those items back to the original storage locations. Please use your own boxes and bins.

Items should be moved any day between Monday, September 28 and Saturday, October 3, 2026. Other tasks have prescheduled dates which are noted on the clipboard in the back and included in this week's JW.

The date to move all the cushy chairs at once is Saturday morning October 10 starting at 9:30am. Approximately 7-8 volunteers are needed to help create a pass-along line of chairs from the sanctuary into a UHAUL truck and then into Lucy Manning's basement. Lucy's home is near the Saratoga State Park and the move out of the chairs should not take more than 1 ½ hours. Volunteers should be able to lift and pass chairs and walk comfortably. Refreshments will be provided. Volunteers are also needed with trucks and tools to assist in moving other items that committees may need to be transported back to storage.

An updated schedule of tasks and sign-up sheet for volunteers, tools and trucks is in the back of sanctuary. Any questions, please contact UU Admin uusaratoga@gmail.com. Questions will be forwarded to the Move Out Planning team.

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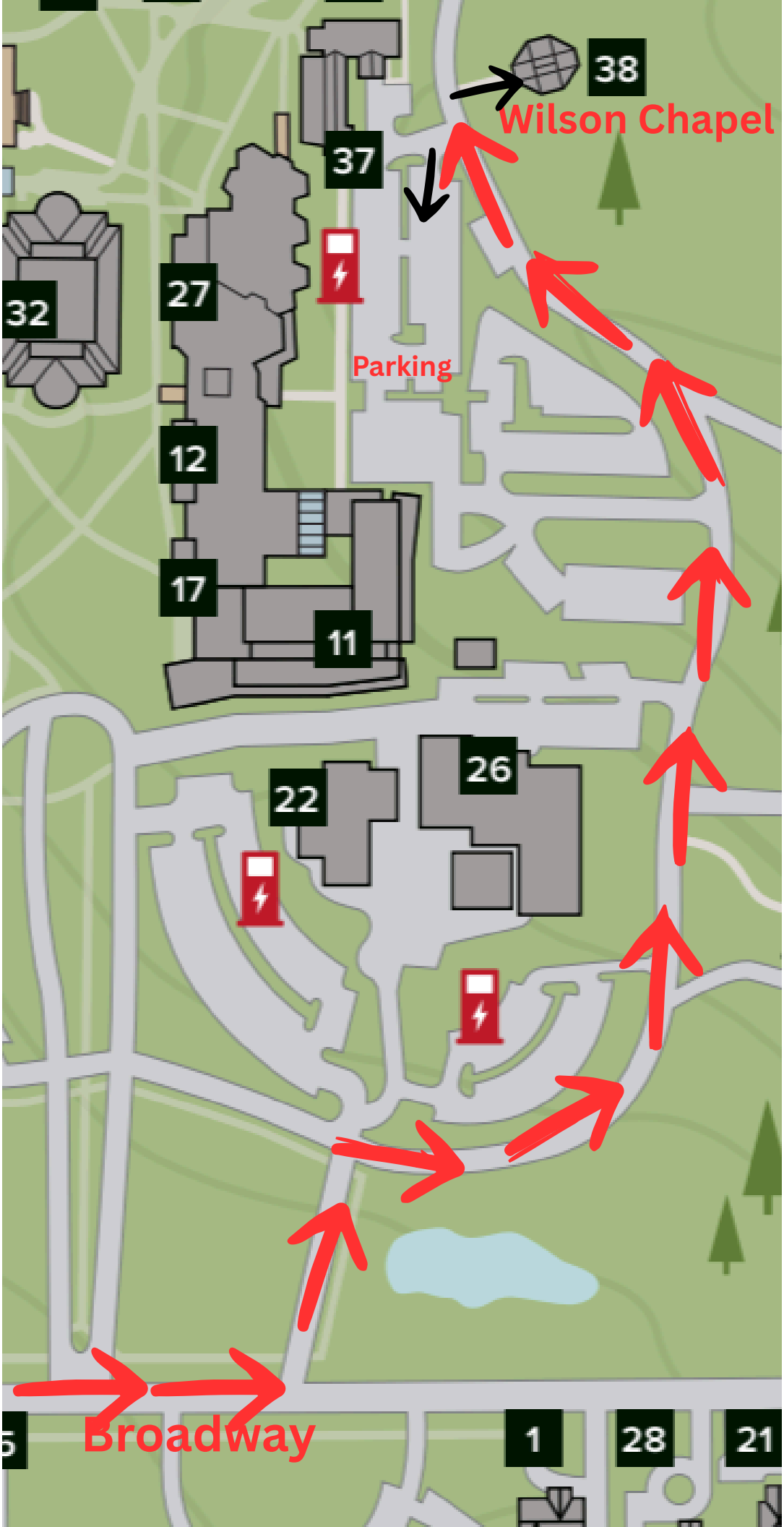
VOLUNTEERS ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED to move things back into storage. **BONUS** if you have a pick up truck! See the dates on the chart on the next page to see what's being done when and please sign up! Ask friends and family: many hands make light work!!

- Tuesday, Sept 29 — Quilt and brackets taken down and transported to Diana Obrien's house for storage. [Where will the Quilt be displayed on 404 Loudon Rd.?](#)
- Sept 28-Oct 3 — Committees return their items to storage in their own boxes: Hospitality, membership, fundraising, worship, Audio/Visual, music, RE/Nursery, etc.
- Sept 28-Oct 3 — Keyboard, music stands, music furniture, and remaining folding chairs are transported to Lucy Manning's basement. [Need 4 volunteers.](#)
- Sept 28— Final Attached to Wall list is presented to buyer for review and approval to keep if UUCSS wants to keep.
- Sept 28 — All items that are Attached to the Wall and allowed by buyer to keep are removed and moved to storage. [Need volunteers, tools, and WHEN and WHAT STORAGE location?](#)
- Oct 2 or 3 — Fragile Pulpit and two altar boxes are returned to Susan Hahn's house. [Need truck, dolly, and 2 volunteers to transport.](#)
- By Oct 3 — Limited items moved into Wilson Chapel for 10/4 service by specific committees: 20 folding chairs to be moved to Wilson where there is minimal storage space.
- Oct 5 — Spectrum Internet turned off at 624 No Broadway.
- Oct 5-6 — Building and Grounds walk-through of 624 No Broadway to assess what remains and label what stays or to be stored somewhere.
- Sat Oct 10 — 120 cushy chairs are moved to storage. [Need 8 volunteers and truck or UHAUL rental to transport chairs to Lucy Manning's basement.](#)

NO ONE SHOULD ENTER THE MEETING HOUSE AFTER October 10

- Oct 15 — 300+ Cement pavers and two Time Capsule rocks are transported to 404 Loudon near entry gate out of the way via dolly and truck with ramp.
- Oct 7-15 — Dig up hostas out front and store in buckets for winter and spring replanting at 404 Loudon. [Need 1-2 volunteers.](#)
- October 20 — Board, New Home Task Force, and Move Out Planning group final walkthrough and cleaning.
- October 20-30 — Final items are removed from 624 No Broadway and transferred to storage. [WHERE and by WHO?](#)
- October 30 — Electricity/National Grid ownership removed for UUCSS.
- October 30 — CLOSING SALE with BUYER.

THIS MAP
SHOWS YOU
HOW TO
GET FROM
BROADWAY
TO WILSON
CHAPEL ON
SKIDMORE
COLLEGE'S
CAMPUS.
JUST
FOLLOW
THE RED
ARROWS.
THE BLACK
ARROWS
POINT TO
THE CHAPEL
ITSELF AND
PARKING



UUCSS TIMELINE FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2026

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026 10am

Last Sunday at our meetinghouse at 624 N. Broadway, Saratoga Springs

OCTOBER 4, 2026 10AM

First Sunday at Wilson Chapel on Skidmore campus

SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 30, 2026

Moving Out Team **coordinates with volunteers** and moves furniture etc. from 624 N. Broadway to congregant homes

OCTOBER 30, 2026

Final sale date of meetinghouse at 624 N. Broadway

OCTOBER 2026 THROUGH MAY 2027

Services continue at Wilson Chapel on Skidmore campus

JUNE 1, 2027

Open new home at 404 Loudon Road and begin services there



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 and
minister@uusaratoga.org**

**calendly link to make an appointment with Rev Vee:
<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

