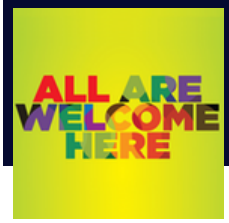
UU SARATOGA

SUNDAY SERVICE

Truth

Sunday, November 15, 10:00am
at Wilson Chapel

Give Away The Plate



Saratoga Immigration Coalition

NOVEMBER'S THEME

Covenant





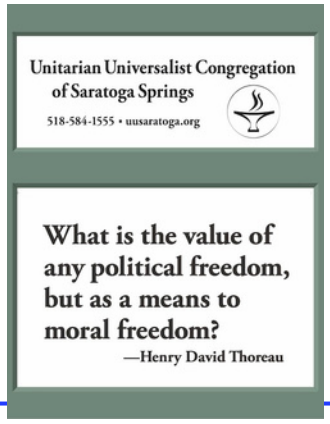
This rainbow is shining brightly above the site of our new home! A photo by Bast Hatfield and shared with Sue Fisher. Rainbows are covenants!



CLICK HERE FOR REV. V'S REVERIES ON OUR WEBSITE!

Our Wayside Pulpit

The Wayside Pulpit provides messages of inspiration to reflect the diverse and life-affirming beliefs of our congregation. Click here for the archive.
Click here for the archive







Truth

Sunday Nov 15, 2026 10am with Eric Lawson

Truthfulness is a sign of personal integrity; evidence that a person is honorable and trustworthy. “The Search for Truth” is an expression used by individuals trying to describe their spiritual lives, politicians facing scandal, or self-righteous persons caught in a contradiction. For some, truthfulness depends on the purpose for which it is sought and for others it is an objective, purely fact-based concept. We will take a closer look at “Truth” on Sunday, shedding light on a term with significant impact on the lives of most of us. We will have a mystery guest to help us in this discussion.

CLICK TO ATTEND VIA ZOOM

Joining us this Sunday will be Marlowe Jacques, violinist. Marlowe is a 2026 graduate of Skidmore College. Marlowe was a Filene Scholar, performing as soloist with the Skidmore Orchestra, and in many chamber ensembles, and local orchestras. He is currently applying to many graduate school programs. We are grateful he’s joins us at the chapel!



If you weren't at church on Sunday, Nov. 1, 2026 and missed the Social Justice Discernment exercise, don't worry. You still have an opportunity to provide the names of up to three social justice action areas that you believe adversely affect people in Saratoga Springs (or County), and that you would be interested in supporting with your time. What that support will look like will be determined at a later date. For example, you might think that hunger, homelessness, lack of health care, illiteracy, lack of parental support, etc., are areas where you might feel a need exists. List your top three in the form at this link : https://tinyurl.com/SJInterest
You can also get to the form by scanning the QR code on the right.



What’s Happening In Religious Education?
Contact Rev. Viola
minister@uusaratoga.org

What is? *Unitarian Universalism*

In our faith, God is not a given, God is a question. God is not defined for us, God is defined by us. Our views are shaped and changed by our experiences. As we grow, our faith grows. We struggle with what it means to be alive and yet have to die. We probe the depths of our own being for little hints of meaning. We create a faith by which we can live and struggle to live up to it. Throughout, each of us is fated to travel his or her own path. In the larger sense, we have chosen to journey together because we find that it is helpful. We find that it is good.
~Rev. Forrest Church

Event News
Click here for the Events Calendar

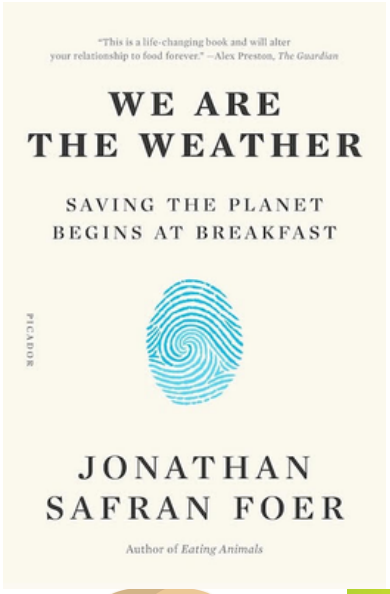
November 15, Sunday
10amWorship Service at Wilson Chapel
(In-Person & on Zoom)

November 16, Monday
6pmUUCSS Book Group

November 18, Wednesday
11:30am Transition Team meeting

November 19, Thursday
9am Men's Breakfast Group
10am Membership/Hospitality Team meeting

November 22, Sunday
10am Worship Service at Wilson Chapel
(in person and on Zoom)
After Service SITE TOUR OF NEW HOME



BOOK GROUP

The next meeting is Nov. 16, 6pm,. For information, please contact Barbara Egerman at begerman3@gmail.com, or Carolyn Lansberry at carlan55@gmail.com.







On November 22nd, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we will be having a special service and we would like you to be a part of it! During the service we will have a ritual in which we will be sharing bread, and we would love it if some of you baked the bread that will be shared, especially if it has meaning for you and your family. If you have a bread that you would like to bake and share, please register by CLICKING HERE.

The Give Away The Plate Recipient for November
Saratoga Immigration Coalition
Saratoga Immigration Coalition, an organization which offers support, education and advocacy to foster communities that are welcoming to all immigrants. It is a volunteer network partnering with service providers, faith communities, civic organizations and concerned individuals to support immigrants residing in Saratoga, Warren and Washington counties.



Transgender Day of Remembrance
Sunday November 22,
3-5pm at Skidmore College
Saratoga PRIDE holds our annual Transgender Day Of Remembrance this year on November 22 from 3-5 at Skidmore campus. It is held in the Wykoff center which is in Case Center (the Student Union) on the 2nd floor.



Anyone interested in speaking to the congregation about their spiritual journey should call Wayne Cochran at (845) 575-6741 to discuss a presentation.



We honor and recognize a special volunteer of UU Saratoga, Alan Bartenhagen, for his dedication, expertise, and general good nature!

Alan Bartenhagen-Mr. Sound Man

The Board would like to recognize Alan for his many years of sound management for our Worship Services at the 624 Broadway Meetinghouse. From microphones for the Minister and people reading stories to the children to ensuring all people on Zoom can hear the sermons, Alan has been on the job for all of us. Utilizing his many years experience in sound, he provides excellent services to the Congregation.

Recently, he has been helping to develop our capacity at the New Home, working with other Congregants to ensure speaker placement, acoustics and wiring for our AV and security system there.

We are truly fortunate to have Alan volunteering with us, to have a sound expert among our ranks. Thanks for all that you have done for us over the years.

With respect,
The Board of Trustees of UUSaratoga





Betty Gallagher



The woman who helped break Albany's Democratic machine in 1973

Elizabeth "Betty" Gallagher challenged election fraud in 1973, helping expose corruption in Albany's O'Connell-era...

timesunion.com

Betty Gallagher was not an official member of UUCSS though she was a Friend and certainly aligned with our values. To my knowledge she did not seek any religious affiliation for herself but she was a very strong supporter of UUCSS from the get-go, approaching Linda Hoddy in our first services at the Methodist Church to volunteer to be our pianist--Linda had been filling that role herself! Betty offered her home to the congregation for many of its early meetings. As she told us, "I love startups!" When we were trying to buy 624 North Broadway, she was a huge supporter of that undertaking and was a big source of encouragement for Jimmy and others in pursuing this new home. ~Faye Mihuta





Pictured above is the progress from last week. On the right is from Nov. 11th! What a difference a week makes! Progress on our new home is moving quickly!
Be sure and join us on the site tour, Nov. 22!

New Home Report from Art Holmberg

1. Bast Hatfield continues to make great progress on the building and site. The pictures above depict the status of the framing to date. They predict that the framing for the sanctuary will be built in the next few work days. Materials are on site. We learned that the timber frame for the ceiling of the sanctuary was handmade by the craftsman from New Hampshire.

2. Please plan to join us after services on 11/22 for a tour of 404 Loudon. There is limited space for parking, so carpooling is recommended.

3.Thanks to the due diligence of Bast Hatfield and our architects, our cost for siding was reduced by $5,800.00 We continue to try to carefully cut costs whereever we can.

4. The windows have arrived from Romania and will be moved to the Clifton Park warehouse soon. They are triple pane doors and windows and will be excellent for reducing the cost of utilities.



Social Justice Team Notes - November 13 by Lucy Manning

The next time you see Mark Long, please give him a much-deserved and big THANK YOU for filling in as the chair of the Social Justice Team since June 2024!!! Moving forward, I agreed to serve in that role.

Some recent initiatives from your Social Justice Team are that:



1. We will meet regularly on the second Tuesday of each month (next meeting is December 8) and we welcome anyone to join us. Contact Lucy at lucymnnng@gmail.com for information.

2. If you haven't done so yet, please submit up to three social justice action areas that adversely affect people in Saratoga Springs (or County), and that they would be interested in supporting with their time. For example, you might think that hunger, homelessness, lack of health care, illiteracy, lack of parental support, etc., are areas where you might feel a need exists. Scan the QR code or follow the link found on page 2 of this newsletter. All of this information will be used by the Social Justice Team to plan the next steps for a congregation-wide initiative.

3. We will explore sharing justice activities with our neighboring UU in Glens Falls - possibly at one or more of our upcoming shared worship services.



4. Mike Andolina, Lucy, and Rev Viola recently attended the NYUUJ Convocation at UU Albany and you will see a report about that soon in our Social Justice Blog on our website. Upcoming justice events will continue to be posted here and on our website Social Justice News page. Check for updates and please send any additions to consider to Lucy Manning.

UPCOMING:
Kindred Spirits Songfest – Monday, November 30,
6:30 – 8:00, theme: Gratitude
Join faithful UU supporters and music lovers Singing Ourselves Together! Nick Payton will perform and lead our sing-along. Song lyrics will be posted online: https://www.ourlodgefoundation.org/kindred-spirits-music-series





With Skidmore College's campus shutting down for the winter break between semesters, we will be having combined services with our closest UU neighbors, UU Glens Falls. The following dates we will be worshiping together in Glens Falls :

December 20
December 24
December 27
January 3, 2027



THE UNITARIANUNIVERSALISTCONGREGATION OFGLENS FALLS
"Let'sTalk"FilmForumSeries

Film: "12 YEARS A SLAVE"

Date: Monday, November 23, 2026
Time: 2PM
Place: Crandall Public Library, Community Room



Based on the memoir by Solomon Northup, a free Black family man, musician, and worker living in Saratoga Springs, NY in 1841. This award- winning film tells the harrowing true story of his kidnapping, sale into slavery, and twelve-year struggle to regain his freedom.

- What's it like to be innocent and put into chains?
- The heart of the film is Northup's release after NY lawyers learned of his location and acted.
- The heartless truth today is that ICE is arresting and deporting non-criminal settled working immigrants. Destination often unknown.

Join us for a post film discussion by a panel of immigration activists and legal support workers addressing deportation. The current ICE goal for the USA is the capture of 3000 immigrants a day!

What can we do? "Let's Talk"

Films are free and open to the public. All points of view are welcome.
Questions: 518-792-2811

The next 'Round and About with Rev. Vee event consists of a tour of 404 Loudon, Rd., our new home construction site. It will take place after the service on Nov. 22nd. It is your opportunity to see the progress on the construction of the new meeting house. Bast Hatfield will be leading the tour. So that we know how many people are coming, you can register for that HERE.



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

REMINDER! Two weeks left to submit your 2027 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES!

Our congregation is very close to meeting the $173,191 pledge goal to keep our UUCSS operating in 2027. Reminder calls are being made now to members who haven't yet completed their pledge commitments.

Submit your 2027 financial pledge by November 30, 2026:

- Complete the blue pledge card enclosed with your packet and return it by mail or in the collection plate at the Sunday service. There are also blank blue pledge cards at the Sunday service to fill out and drop in the Stewardship box at the entrance to Wilson Chapel on Sundays.

- Scan the QR code (right) or complete the online 2027 Stewardship Pledge form
- https://uusaratoga.breezechms.com/form/AnnualPledge2027

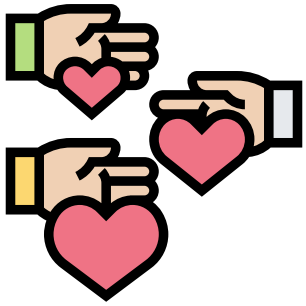
Once I've made a 2027 pledge, how can I make 2027 payments?

- Drop your payment by check in Sunday's collection basket.
- Mail a check to Treasurer, UU Saratoga, PO Box 26, Schuylerville, NY, 12871
- Online at https://uusaratoga.breezechms.com/form/AnnualPledge2027 Be sure to choose the "2027 Contribution" at the bottom of the form.
- Text to 518-333-9140 the amount you would like to contribute toward your 2027 pledge followed by "pledge2027", for example: "$200 pledge2027".

Also as 2026 winds down, don't forget to complete the payments to your 2026 pledge commitments so we can pay out our final operating expenses for the 2026 calendar year.

If you have any questions, concerns or needs to be able to complete your pledge, contact the office at uusaratoga@gmail.com.

FUNDRAISING TEAM NEWS BY BEV LAWSON



On Wednesday the 18th the greens gathering crew will head to Sandy Blakelock's property on Sacandaga Lake to gather greens for making our holiday wreaths. The crew consists of Sandy, Jim Mihuta, Jason Pink, Jenn Pratt, Eric Lawson and me.

After our sermon on trees, I want to assure everyone that we trim branches from trees while not destroying the trees or harvest trees that are being crowded out and deprived of sunshine. The branches will be kept in our garage so they will remain in the cold. My experience is that the wreaths then last for 8 or more weeks. I usually take mine down around February 1st.

Our first wreath making events in Lawson's basement will take place on Friday the 20th of November from 2 to 4 PM and Monday the 23rd from 2 to 4. There will likely be a couple more sessions after Thanksgiving. Please sign up to help. Men are certainly welcome to join in! If you have not helped before, you will be cutting the greens into small bundles and wiring the bundles onto wire frames to make a round wreath. We have a couple experts who do most of the decorating of the wreaths--- Jenn Pratt and Tari Lee Muth. And you are welcome to decorate the wreaths you make if you would like to.

Please sign up or call Bev and have her put your name on the list.

Our hope is to have the wreaths finished by the first week in December so you can take them home and hang them for Christmas.

Reminder: The holiday fair is at the Senior Center on 12/12.

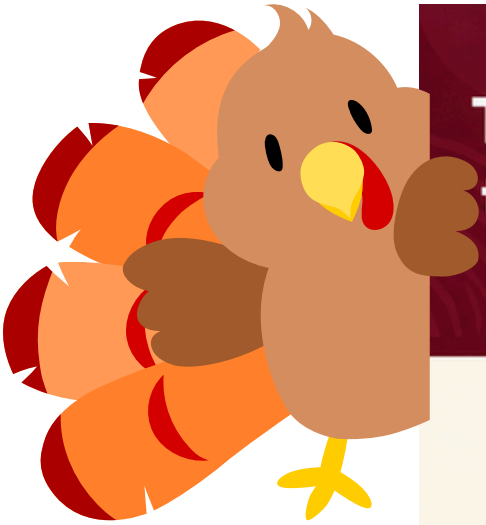
If you have anything to contribute to it---a craft, a regift, preserves, baked goods--- and have not told me, please let me know. Thanks. A sign up sheet for helping that day will be coming out soon.





PIANO FOR SALE!

Mahogany Steinway Model M, 67 years old but lovingly maintained by professional musicians. Includes padded cover, dolly truck, and climate system. Asking $19,000 or best offer. Contact John Collins or email uusaratoga@gmail.com





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@gmailcom.

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.



Wilson Chapel, our temporary meetinghouse, on Skidmore College campus. Come join us at 10am Sundays

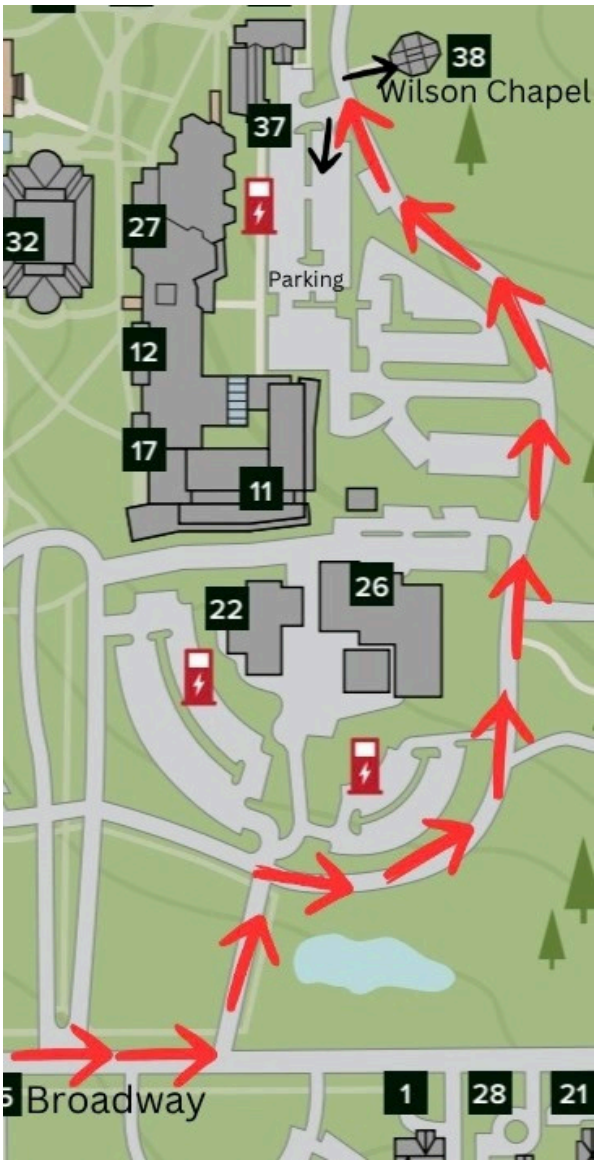
The Archive



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.

Map to Wilson Chapel





Congregational Site Tour of Our New Home is after Sunday service on November 22! Join us to take a stroll down to the New Home build and check out the progress!





REV. VIOLA ABBITT

Contach her by making an appointment for a call or virtual meeting. Click here to schedule a meeting .



Talk To Us

518-584-1555
usaratoga@gmail.com

PO Box 26
Schuylerville NY 12871

uusaratoga.org



Tuesday through Friday

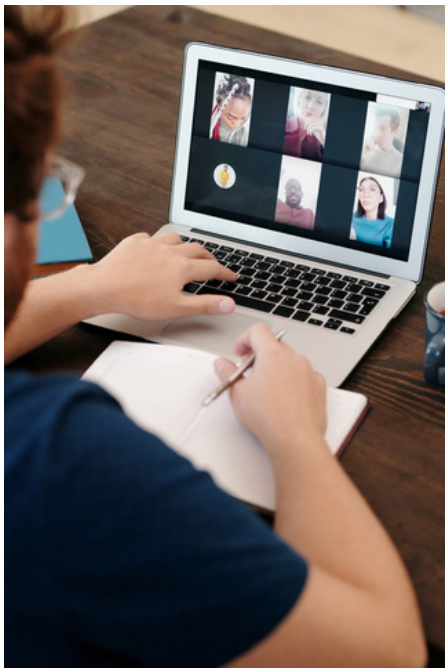
9:00am to 3:00pm

The office typically closes early on Fridays around noon depending on the work!



Contact Rev. Vee at

518-290-7007
rev.viola.uumin@gmail.com
PO Box 2304
Malta NY 12020
Wednesdays, Thursdays and virtually Fridays



UU Saratoga is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

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

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 917 0407 4305
Passcode: 466653

One tap mobile
+16469313860,,91704074305# US
+16465588656,,91704074305# US (New York)





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