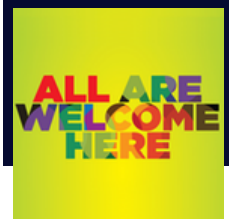
UU SARATOGA

SUNDAY SERVICE

Promises, Promises

Sunday, November 22, 10:00am
at Wilson Chapel

Give Away The Plate



Saratoga Immigration Coalition

NOVEMBER'S THEME

Covenant





May your Thanksgiving Day be filled with laughter, leftovers and the people you love the most!

The office is closed on Thursday, Nov. 26 and Friday, November 27.

Because of the short week there won't be a newsletter next week.





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







Promises, Promises

Sunday Nov 22, 2026 10am with Rev. Viola Abbitt

What is the promise of Unitarian Universalism and have we made good on that promise? We are also celebrating our Bread Communion this Sunday.

CLICK TO ATTEND VIA ZOOM



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

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.

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



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 22, Sunday
10am Worship Service at Wilson Chapel
(in person and on Zoom)
After Service SITE TOUR OF NEW HOME-see page 8 of this newsletter for a map!

November 26, Thursday



November 29, Sunday
10am Worship Service at Wilson Chapel
)in person and on Zoom)



BOOK GROUP

The next meeting is December 21, at 6pm: Holiday Party and Discussion!For information, please contact Barbara Egerman at begerman3@gmail.com, or Carolyn Lansberry at carlan55@gmail.com.



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.

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



Ladies' Luncheon



It is time for our Holiday Luncheon! The first Tuesday is early - actually the first of December! So dust off your holiday sweaters and put away all of your Thanksgiving dishes and join us for a nice afternoon out together!

We will meet for lunch and conversation at 12:oonoon now that the Encore Series is finished at Skidmore. Join us at the Diamond Club Restaurant in the Embassy Suites Hotel to meet a new friend and join some old ones as we get ready for the Holidays together.

Please RSVP tarilee@gmail.com to let me know you will be attending, and I will make a reservation for our group. See you soon!

Tari Lee

All Congregation Email sent out on November 17, 2026

Bev has

Dear Congregation Members,

I had just one person sign up on Sunday to help make wreaths. Thank you Mary Monigan! We have 22 to make. So I am asking if some of you could help if I changed the wreath making sessions to Saturday November 21st from 9:30 to 11:30 (I have an afternoon commitment) and Saturday November 28th from 1 to 3?

Please email me ASAP if you can help on either or both of those days. (erblawson@gmail.com)

Thanks for your attention to this matter. Our fundraising is very important because the money our committee raises becomes part of the annual budget. This is a big commitment and needs many hands/hearts/helpers to make it work.

Warmly,

Bev Lawson

Chair, Fundraising

Social Justice Team Notes - November 20 by Lucy Manning

Social Justice Team - November 20

Some recent initiatives from your Social Justice Team -

1. Did you submit your social justice action areas that adversely affect people in Saratoga Springs (or County) yet? CLICK HERE and fill out the form at the link if not. All submissions will be reviewed by the Social Justice Team at their December 8th meeting to plan the next steps for a congregation-wide initiative. Stayed tuned!

2. We are exploring sharing justice activities with our neighboring UU in Glens Falls - possibly at one of our upcoming shared worship services.

3. 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.

4. Upcoming justice events will continue to be posted here and on our website Social Justice News page. Please send any additions to consider to Lucy Manning.

UPCOMING:

Friday, Nov. 20, 4:30 PM- 5:30 PM: **Vigil to honor the victims of ICE violence**
Corner of Central and Watervliet Avenues, Albany
Sponsored by Unity Church of Albany. Please wear black. Signs honoring those killed by ICE will be provided. Flyers in English and Spanish.

Friday, Nov 20, 10:00am: **Skidmore Chorus Performs The Little Prince**
Zankel Music Center, doors open 9:30 AM
Free and open to the public, no ticket required. RSVP is encouraged.
https://www.skidmore.edu/zankel-music-center/events.php

Saturday, Nov. 21, 12 noon - 1PM: A **peaceful vigil** at the downtown Saratoga Post Office. Wear your yellow UU scarf!

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

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF GLENS 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 Give Away The Plate Recipient for November: Saratoga Immigration Coalition

Saratoga Immigration Coalition is 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.

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.

Building Together is Where Our Strength Lies by Eric Lawson

The photo shows one of the laminated decorative roof beams being carefully lowered into place. Once bolted to the square framework, temporarily held in place with scaffolding, and when counterbalanced by opposing beams from other corners of the
sanctuary, the scaffolding can be removed. The resulting arch-like structure will not only support itself but will also carry the weight of the entire roof!

The arch is one of nature's fundamental geometric structures and is found in majestic gothic cathedrals throughout
the world where they carry the enormous weight of soaring roofs to outer walls which may in turn be supported by flying buttresses, themselves arch-like structures.

The imagery offered by this stage of the construction of our new Meeting House and the efforts required to bring us to this wonderful place should not be missed. Initially, more than a decade ago, only a handful of folks saw the vision of a new building, but they were its scaffolding. Gradually, as more converts joined the initiative and provided resources, the framework took shape until it could not only stand on its own, without scaffolding, but when finished achieve the permanence that will become our new home.

What a grand place to be and it's because of all of you!



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

REMINDER! One week 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.

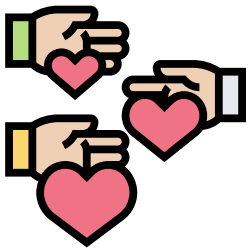
If you have any questions, concerns or needs to be able to complete your pledge, contact the office at uusaratoga@gmail.com.







Check out these photos of some of the awesome items that will be part of the Holiday Sale at the senior center!



FUNDRAISING TEAM NEWS BY BEV LAWSON

We had a successful journey to Sacandaga Lake to cut greens from Sandy Blakelock's property. It was a lovely day with bright sunshine; and we found all the kinds of greens we needed.

A number of you signed up to help with wreath making after I switched the time to Saturdays. Thank you so much. We could use a couple more people if anyone is interested in making a wreath. Just let me know.

All of you who ordered wreaths should have them by the first week in December at the latest.

Our two dates for making the wreaths are Saturday November 21st from 9:30 to 11:30 and Saturday November 28th from 1 to 3 in Bev Lawson's basement, 11 Whitney Place, Saratoga Springs, NY.

We are about finished with making crafts for the Senior Center holiday craft fair. Some of you have indicated that you would provide items for the sale---kitchen items, cookies, jams and jellies, etc. You can bring the items to me at the Chapel at Skidmore on the Sunday before the sale or to the Senior Center an hour before the sale (around 10 am).

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.





MAP FROM WILSON CHAPEL TO 404 LOUDON ROAD, OUR NEW HOME SITE

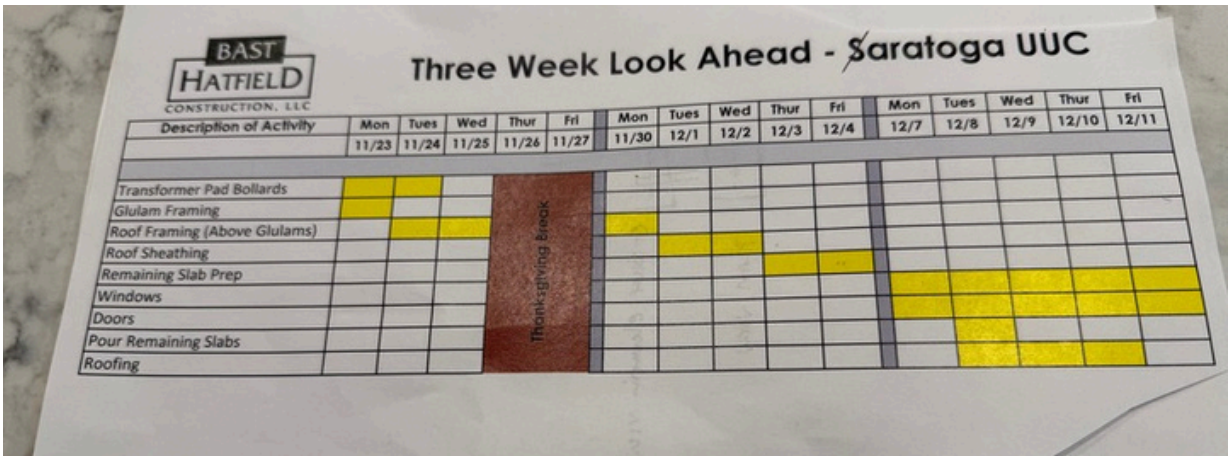
MORE ABOUT THE SITE TOUR:

On Sunday, 2026, there will be an on site tour of our New Home construction status. You will have an opportunity to visit the site to and see the progress that has been made to date. In today’s Journey Well, you can see the most recent pictures and a timeline for the next three weeks. Bast Hatfield has made excellent progress this Fall.

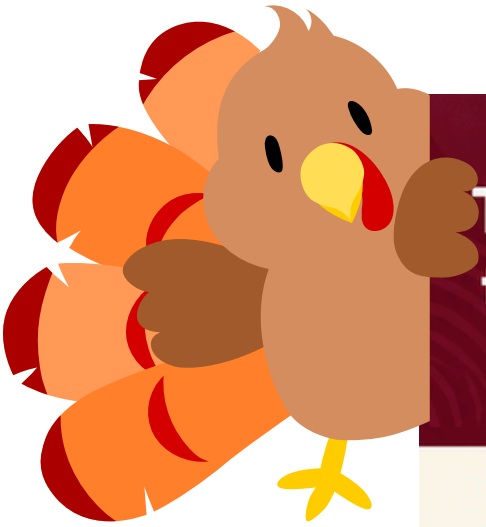
The tour will start at 11:45am after Services and social hour at Wilson Chapel. PLEASE try to carpool as parking at the site will be limited. You may park on Bog Meadow Road on one side and walk the front of our property towards the entrance of the site. The lower level of the building will be available to walk through. Also, enter the meetinghouse entrance and check out the reception area, look, but do not walk in the Sanctuary as construction workers will be busy there.

We hope you will enjoy the views of the forest surrounding the building. See you there!

The New Home Task Force for the Board



Pictured, left, is the schedule from Bast Hatfield on what will happen on the New Home for the next month or so. Looks like it’ll be weather tight before Christmas!



This Thanksgiving, think of the legacy we can leave.

Consider including the UUCSS Endowment in your estate plan.

A lasting way to support the community and values we share.

Questions about legacy giving?

Contact the UUCSS Endowment Committee

endowment@uusaratoga.org



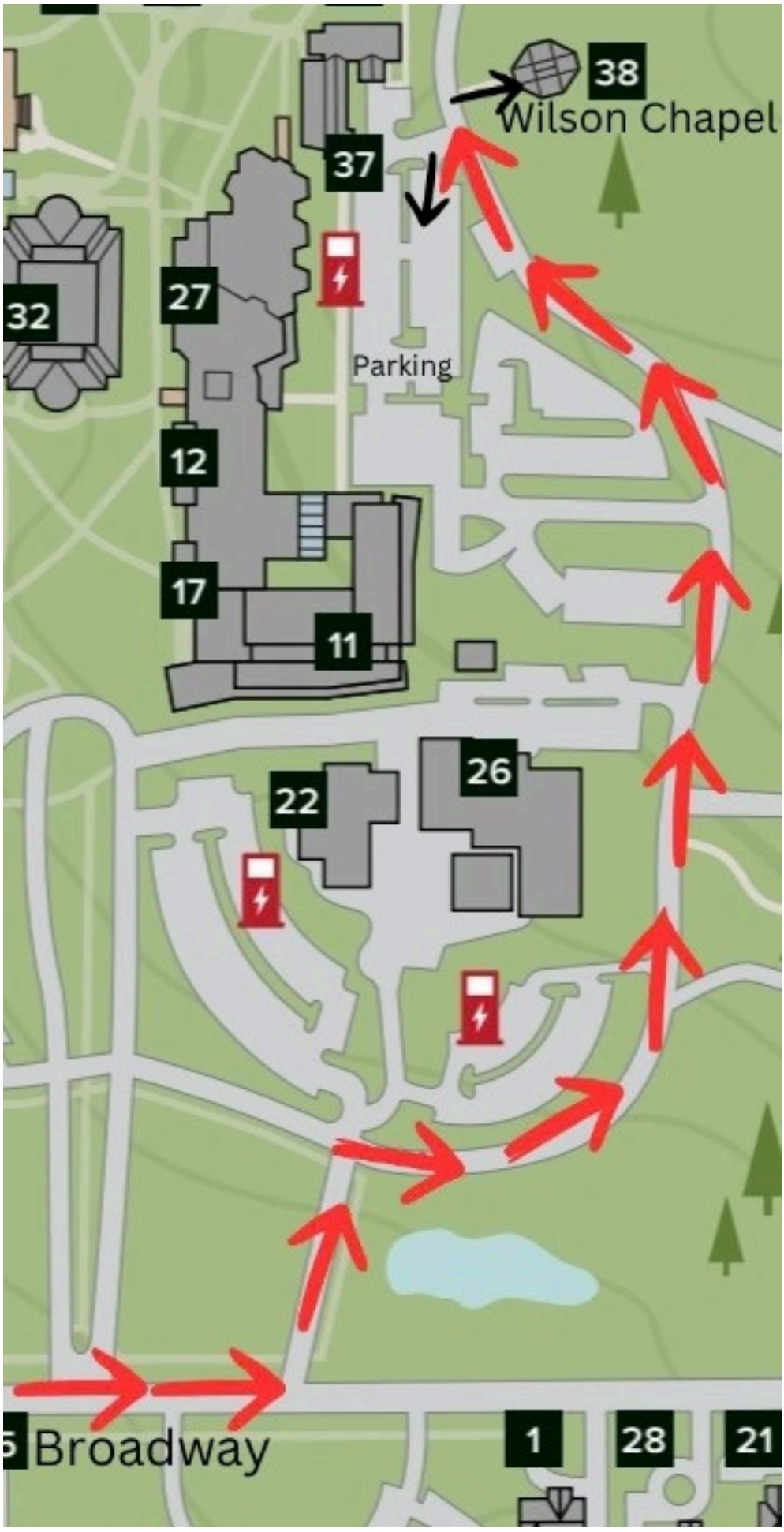
Have You Thought About How To Donate Securities to UU Saratoga?? It's easy!

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 uusa



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

Map to Wilson Chapel





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

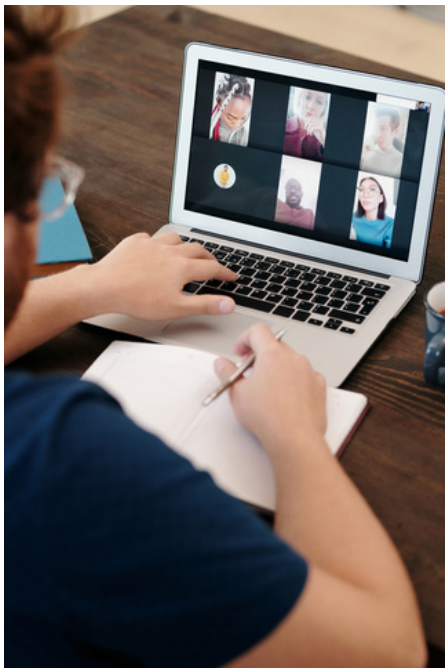
9:00am to 3:00pm

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