

First Universalist Church of Southold
PO Box 221 Main Road
Southold, NY 11971



The Free Spirit

Church Office: (631) 765-3494
Office Hours: Wed., 10:00-4:00

Church Web Page – <http://FirstUniversalistSouthold.org/>, e-mail address: SoutholdUU@optonline.net

March 1, 2018

Services

March 4, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

“The Unitarian Universalist Principles and Effective Communication”

The application of Communication Principles to the inherent dignity and worth of every person.
Mary Eisenstein, lay speaker

March 11, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

“Drug Crisis”

Bill Price, former Southold Town Justice

March 18, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

“Fake Sermon”

If you’re buying into all the hyperbole in the media and in social networking – from all sides – you’re probably thinking everything is being faked. Maybe even this sermon! Come find out for sure! And don’t be frightened!

Rev. Dr. Jim Macomber, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Queens

March 25, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

“Walking up the Stairway at Night: Facing the Unknown”

Oftentimes in life we have to make decisions before we have all the information we want. We rely on faith, probability or just our stubbornness to keep going. How do we take what we are given and figure out some way to give?

Rev. Charlie Davis

Coming Attractions !!!

March 6th – Covenant Group. Southold Library, 4:00 p.m. Topic: “Departures”

March 12th – Theology on Tap. North Fork Taps & Corks, 7:00 p.m. Topic: “Departures”

March 13th – Board Meeting. Parsonage, 5:00 p.m. All are welcome.

March 15th – Town Informational Meeting. Location: TBA, 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

March 23rd – Fellowship Appreciation Dinner. American Legion Hall, Main Road, Southold, 6:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to share a special, catered dinner (courtesy of Membership & Outreach), and to talk about what is ahead for us in the coming year.

Do you have a news item, announcement, or picture for the *Free Spirit*? You may send it to Susan Pond at suepond@optonline.net, or mail it to the church post office box.

The deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month. Thank you.

Covenant Group

We will meet March 6th, 4-5 p.m., upstairs at the Southold Free Library. All are welcome. Bring a friend.

Our topic will be "Departures." Do you feel like something is missing between the hustle and bustle of the rat race? Do you have future plans? There is a blog called, "Life at Departures," if you would like to read other people's stories before our discussion.

Bring a high and a low to share for the month.

In Peace,
Ginny Cornell

Theology on Tap

Please join us at Taps and Corks, Southold, 7 p.m., March 12th. The topic will be "Departures."

Plenty of parking behind Michelangelo's Restaurant. Bring a friend. Good conversation and support!

Any questions, call Ginny Cornell (631-765-8082) or Susi Young (631-765-1590)..
Membership and Outreach Co-Chairs

Giving and Receiving

The happiness you feel is in direct
proportion to the love you give.

Notes from the Building Team

Pre-viewing our new church...

At the informational meeting on Wed., Feb. 28, 2018 we had the opportunity to:

View and discuss the design of our new church, and see drawings and the 3-D model of our church and parish hall building with our architect, Peter Marren.

See a bird's-eye view of our building and gardens and plantings on our church site (as you drive into the village of Southold) with landscape architect/site designer, Stacy Paetzel.

Explore the best ideas for energy savings and sustainability for our buildings' environmental system with Neil Rosen, LEED consultant (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design).

View two watercolor renderings of the exterior of our church by local artist, Alan Bull.

Meet our builder, Eugene Burger – who has been a member of the North Fork community for many years and has built many great buildings – including the Peconic Bay Yacht Club.

Update from the Fund-Raising Committee – Read: "We're Moving Forward, We Just Need Your Help" (page 3)

Irene Stewart
Building Team Chair

We're Moving Forward, We Just Need Your Help

March 15 will be the 3rd anniversary of the fire at the First Universalist Church of Southold. We have formed a Building Team and a Fund-Raising Committee. The Building Team is shepherding our project through the design and permitting phase. The Fund-Raising Committee is now starting the processes to find monies to close any gaps between our insurance claim and the realities of the cost of building the type of church we all would like.

We are also well positioned to reach beyond the First Universalist congregation for financial help. We can offer donors the following:

- A sense of belonging, especially for marginalized members of our community
- A unique opportunity to be part of history: We are building a new building in the historic district of Southold – a first.
- By using “green” building methods, we can lead the way for future buildings in Southold and demonstrate our commitment to the environment.
- Our church has always been a center for the arts in Southold Town, “Concerts on the Bend,” “Harvest of the Arts,” etc., and our plans include facilities to continue that tradition.
- We have been at the forefront of caring for the less fortunate in our community, e.g., Maureen’s Haven for the homeless, ESL classes, our annual community Thanksgiving dinner. We have addressed those needs in our plans.
- Our church has been called “the entrance to Southold Town,” and our new design will enhance the feeling that folks have arrived on the North Fork.

On March 15, the church will be holding what we are calling a “town informational meeting” (location to be determined), where we will be introducing our proposed building to the town in general. And on April 22, there will be a “Phoenix Rising” gathering on the site of our church featuring music and fellowship (coincidentally, this is also “Earth Day 2018”). Additionally, we are planning several events to keep our community aware of our progress, as well as help raise needed funds for our building.

It has been a long time coming, but our church, the First Universalist Church of Southold, is well on its way to being rebuilt. And you can help. Please see one of the members of the Fund-Raising Committee for more information.

Social Action News

Long Island Jobs with Justice and the New Sanctuary Coalition of NYC have developed the following community-based programs to support undocumented immigrants who are living in fear or in danger of deportation. Volunteers are needed and trainings are offered.

- Know Your Rights trainings
- Solidarity Fund: Financial assistance for families in need, especially if a breadwinner is being detained.
- Accompaniment Project: Volunteers are trained to be witnesses and support for people going to immigration, traffic, family or criminal court hearings, all of which could trigger detention or deportation, and silent witnesses can help the outcomes in these situations.
- ICE Hotline to receive and verify ICE presence and actions in certain neighborhoods (**516-387-2043**)
- Community-based Rapid Response Networks, which can respond to hotline calls and do the above support actions.

Please share the Hotline number widely. **516-387-2043 Bilingual central operators will take the calls and ask questions, TO COORDINATE A RESPONSE PLAN**

They also developed a mini-manual called: **“How to be a Sanctuary Congregation on Long Island.”**

For more info contact: Anita Halasz, executive director at 631-348-1170 x 304 or ahalsz.lijwj@gmail.com, or Victoria Daza vdaza.lijwj@gmail.com

President's Post-Its

Happy to announce we have two candidates who are willing to visit us and preach a sermon. The Rev. Charlie Davis will be with us on March 25 and Valerie Freseman on April 8. Hope everyone will be able to attend. Rev. Charlie will come for the weekend, flying from Indiana, and Valerie will be coming from New York City. Looking forward to meeting both of them.

Susi Young, President

Please join the clergy and congregations of Greenport Ecumenical Ministries at the Wednesday Lenten Services and Soup Luncheons

March 7 th	Holy Trinity Church, Greenport, Minister Geoff Proud, speaker
March 14 th	St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Greenport, Rev. Dr. Peter Kelley, speaker
March 21 st	First Presbyterian Church, Southold, Rev. Richard Hoerning, speaker
March 28 th	Congregation Tifereth Israel, Greenport, Rabbi Gadi Capela, officiating

Thoughts on Spirit

Self-Respect

In January's column on "Respect," I concluded that having respect for others cannot be legislated or mandated, but rather requires cultivation from within.

... not an easy task! And, to the extent we were not shown how by our parents and teachers in our formative years, the task is that much more difficult.

The challenge is further compounded, I believe, by the fact that **self-respect is not recognized as the source from which we derive respect for others**. We may be told to respect others, but are given no help at all in understanding self-respect. So we live our lives blaming ourselves and feeling guilty for behavior that is "only human," and feeling disdain for others and their similarly human behaviors. The dictum that we must love and respect our neighbor is rendered almost meaningless.

Many of us go through life behaving as though self-respect means looking neat and clean and standing up straight, and that respect for others means being courteous and tolerant.

So why are we not taught self-respect first, if it is a prerequisite to learning respect for others? Perhaps **because, in our culture, we are largely ignorant of what the self is**. We equate it with ego, and we are taught (not very well these days) that ego/self-absorption is not a good thing. But we are far off the mark in our sense of the meaning of "self."

Jesus's insistence that he was both the "son of God" and the "son of Man" coupled with his teaching that we "can do all that he did and more," tells me that we are, in essence, participants in both Divine selfhood and, in "the human condition." We are taught that we are "made in the image and likeness of God," but we do not study that teaching in depth... we do not take time to meditate on it; we do not allow this knowing, this realization, to guide our lives.

If we did, we would be in awe of our sacred self, and we would spend a lifetime realizing its manifestations. It is not an ego trip, but a divine manifestation. All the great spiritual leaders in history have understood and taught this essential lesson.

We are each one of the many "faces of God" ... one of the essential pieces in the gigantic jig-saw puzzle called Life... one of the "Leaves of Grass" necessary to create a lawn... Without each of our "selves," God is not complete, the jig-saw puzzle has a unique form missing, and the lawn is patchy.

When we come to appreciate this, and to respect our unique selfhood, warts and all, we are prepared to respect the unique selfhood of the others with whom we occupy this time and space.

Joe Mc Kay
March 2018