

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



The Free Spirit

Church Office: (631) 765-3494

Office Hours: Mon. & Wed., 10:00-2:00

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

November 1, 2017

Services

November 5, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

“The Mercy of God”

Mary James, lay speaker

November 12, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

“Is it (a) right?”

A presentation about the evolution of one person’s opinion concerning what some would call a right.

Mark Sisson, lay speaker

November 19, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

“Twenty-first Universalism: Universal World Has Radical Solidarity”

Rev. Dr. Anthony Johnson

November 26, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

“Thank You”

“Thank you very much” are the four most important words you will ever say, *or will ever hear*. Who are you thankful for? If you’d like to tell us about that special person, contact Irene at:

iritastewart@gmail.com or 631-765-2024.

Irene Stewart, lay speaker

Coming Attractions !!!

Nov. 7th – Covenant Group. Southold Library, 4:00 p.m. Topic: “Generosity”

Nov. 11th – Brunch Book Club. Country Corner Café, 2nd floor, 9:30 a.m. *Blessing the World: What Can Save Us Now.*

Nov. 13th – Theology on Tap. North Fork Taps & Corks, 7:00 p.m. Topic: “Generosity”

Nov. 14th – Board Meeting. Parsonage, 4:00 p.m. All are welcome.

November 23rd – Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner. American Legion Hall, 1:00 p.m. Everyone welcome.



Remember!

Set your clocks back
one hour for Sunday,
November 5th.



Community Thanksgiving Dinner

We will be hosting our annual Thanksgiving Dinner at the American Legion Hall in Southold, on November 23rd at 1 p.m. All are welcome.

We will need help for set-up and clean-up, and donations of food. Please call, or email, to let us know how you would like to help. Please bring food items ready to serve. We need sliced turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, stuffing, vegetables, pies, apple cider. Bring to the legion between noon and 12:45. There will be a cash bar.

A sign-up sheet will be available at Holy Trinity each Sunday.

If you cannot make a dish, donations are gratefully accepted.

Thank you.

Bill Funke
631-276-0258
bllfnk@yahoo.com



Covenant Group

We will meet at the Southold Library, upstairs, 4-5 p.m., Tuesday, November 7. Bring a friend. Bring a high and a low to share for the month. "Generosity" is our topic.

When we give, we feel the depths of our powers – to create, to heal, to love. These are spiritual powers which, when exercised, enlarge our souls. When we give, and when our gift is recived...both giver and receiver are blessed.

Marilyn Sewell

All are welcome.

In Peace,
Ginny Cornell

Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap will start November 13th, 7 p.m., at Taps and Corks in Feather Hill Shopping Plaza, Southold, behind Michelangelo's Restaurant. Plenty of parking. You may bring food. They sell wine, beer and cider, and they have water.

We will follow the titles from the Covenant Group, so for November, the discussion will be about "Generosity." We will meet the second Monday of the each month.

All are welcome. Bring a friend.

Ginny Cornell and Susi Young
Membership and Outreach Chairs

Notes from the Building Team

We are pleased to report...

There has been positive progress on the design of the church.

We (with explanation by Mark Sisson) displayed the site plan after the Concert on Oct. 7th, and after our church service on the 8th. A very positive article about our rebuilding / showing the site plan, was reported in *The Suffolk Times*.

Architect Peter Marren met with the Historic Preservation Commission. The preliminary design for the building and site plan were well received by the commission. More meetings to follow.

Soon renderings will be prepared, which will be of importance to our fund raising strategy,

Winter will bring the final design of the project and we will work our way through the Southold Town agencies including the Planning and Zoning Boards.

No final date has been set but we are hoping for a summer 2018 construction start. (The Board and congregation will see the final design long before any construction begins.)

Irene Stewart
Chair

Gardening by the Sea

Hope you have enjoyed the warm days so far into the fall. I think the plants are confused, too! We just received a much needed rainfall. The rain will help trees and bushes survive better going into winter.

For December blooms, start paper white bulbs now. Place bulbs pointy end up in a shallow container of gravel. Add water to reach bulb bottoms. You can keep planting outside spring flowering bulbs as long as soil is soft.

Wait until spring to cut back flowering plants that have formed seed pods. The birds will eat the seeds. After a raccoon destroyed my bird feeder, I am hesitant to put out another one. I hope the birds find enough to eat in my gardens. I don't have leaves raked. I leave them as ground cover and as coverage for beneficial insects like bees and butterfly eggs and larvae.

Squirrels are still trying my patience - burying my neighbor's acorns and black walnuts in my yard. Black walnut trees have toxins in their roots that prevent some other plants from thriving. Black locust trees also have roots that are detrimental to some other plants. Cornell Extension confirmed this for me.

Stay well and safe. Grow an indoor plant today and enjoy it all winter.

Shalom,
Ceil

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.

Brunch Book Club

This month we will meet on Saturday, November 11th, 9:30-11 a.m., at the Country Corner Café in Southold. We are reading ***Blessing the World: What Can Save Us Now*** by Rebecca Ann Parker. Laurie Ullmann will lead our discussion of the essay, "Not Somewhere Else But Here."

All are welcome. Please call me if you would like to join us.

Ginny Cornell
631-765-8082

Giving and Receiving

The Cost of Giving: (is) feeling good.

Thoughts on Spirit

A Positive Perspective Helps

Maintaining a positive perspective on current national and world events is difficult at best. There is much to concern us. But it seems important to me to strive to develop a healthy, positive perspective in the face of our concerns. A gloomy, doomsday-helpless view sours our whole life and mires us down in combative and quixotic reaction. It achieves nothing for us personally or collectively.

Here are some thoughts I share to keep our spirits up:

First, it's necessary to look beyond headlines, cable news and radically partisan commentary to free ourselves from gloom and doom, fear and anger. Try not to spend too much time listening to or reading or talking about the same negative stuff over and over. Take the facts, as you understand them, recognizing that they might not be 100% accurate, and **think open-mindedly** based on your own knowledge and experience; i.e., don't be ready to render judgement too hastily on everything that happens or that someone does.

Listen to, and read, the opinions of others, who seem to be knowledgeable, thoughtful, and well intentioned, to help you form your own. But do not jump on anyone's bandwagon. Be willing to change or adjust your thinking as situations evolve.

Remember that history and the evolution of the planet has been full of ups and downs... it is the way of everything! It is the way of all Life! Possibly we're in a down right now, but there may well be good things come out of it, as has been so in the past. We need to imagine what they might be and not be afraid to share our silver-lining thoughts with pessimists. In a recent interview with David Brooks, Tom Hanks opined that along the rocky road to a more perfect union, "It's going to be ugly periodically, but it's also going to be beautiful periodically." And Stephen Carter, in his book, Civility, says, "the only way to confront fanaticism is with love." In this case, "love" is listening to others and realizing that most of us act out of some genuine belief, rightly or mistakenly hatched. We must do our best to understand where people we disagree with "are coming from." "Civility," Carter emphasizes, "is the sum of the many sacrifices we are called to make for the sake of living together."

Finally, we need to continually rekindle our sense of humor. As Mark Twain said, "Against the assault of laughter, nothing can stand."

Joe McKay
November 2017