

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

December 1, 2017

Services

December 3, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

“Social Justice: Serving with Compassion, Promoting Equity, and Fostering Hope”

Cathy Demeroto, Executive Director of C.A.S.T.

December 10, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

“Holiday Giving”

Making a list and checking it twice can be a good inventory of our capacity to give and an assessment of our relationship to family, friends and associates.

Joe McKay, lay speaker

December 17, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

“Gates of Hope”

As we observe the season of advent, we reflect on the season of Hope for our world.

Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Fork

December 24, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.

“We All Come From Afar”

Like the shepherds, the Magi, and Mary and Joseph themselves, we are all on a journey to find and give birth to love and peace.

*We invite everyone to join our friends from the North Fork UU Fellowship, at the Jamesport Meeting House in Jamesport, for a morning service on Christmas Eve day. Rev. Linda Anderson will lead the service and Charlotte Day will provide beautiful holiday music. Reception will follow. (Note: The service will begin at 10:30 a.m.)

Rev. Dr. Linda Anderson, Community Minister in affiliation with Stony Brook UU Fellowship

December 31, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

“Fireside Service”

Come share a reading, song or poem to honor the new year. We will be remembering the past year and writing down our hopes and dreams for the new year. These gems will be saved in our Unlimited Potential jar until next year, and last year’s wishes will be our Responsive Reading this year. This is always a thoughtful and cleansing service. Susi Young will be our leader.

Coming Attractions !!!

Dec. 5th – Covenant Group. Southold Library, 4:00 p.m. Topic: “Change”

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

Dec. 11th – Theology on Tap. North Fork Taps & Corks, 7:00 p.m. Topic: “Change”

Dec. 12th – Board Meeting. Youngs’ home, 1270 Cedar Dr., 4:00 p.m. All are welcome.

Coming Attractions !!! (cont'd.)

Dec. 15th – Jolly-Up. Home of Sherry and Thornton Smith, 37 Sandpiper Lane, Greenport (631-477-4933), 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Come enjoy some warm fellowship and holiday cheer. Bring a drink and hors d'oeuvre or sweet to share.

Hospitality for December 24th

Our congregation is invited to join the North Fork UU Fellowship at the Jamesport Meeting House in Jamesport for a morning service on December 24th, 10:30 a.m. We would like to ask our members and friends to help by bringing something to share at the reception following the service. There will be a sign-up sheet available following our services at Holy Trinity for the next couple of Sundays.

Thank you.

Covenant Group

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

Is your mind open to any kind of change? Why or why not?

Growth is change, and change starts with you.

In Peace,
Ginny Cornell

Theology on Tap

Please join us for a lively discussion on "Change," Monday, December 11th, 7 p.m., at Taps and Corks in Feather Hill Shopping Plaza, Southold. There is plenty of parking behind Michelangelo's Restaurant. You may bring food to share. Relaxing atmosphere. They sell wine, beer and cider, and they have water.

All are welcome. Bring a friend.

Ginny Cornell and Susi Young
Membership and Outreach Co-Chairs

Brunch Book Club

SAVE – Saturday, December 9, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. and have brunch at the Country Corner Cafe, Southold, where we are always welcome in the loft to have delicious food and to discuss another chapter from our current selection: Rebecca Ann Parker's book, *Blessing the World*.^{*} This month's essay is, "You Shall Be Like a Watered Garden."

Our Saturday Brunch Book Club, held monthly, is open to all in our congregation. Since its conception by our former pastor, Rev. Kimberley Debus, it has added a new dimension to our lives as Universalists in a small community searching for understanding as our concerns broaden each day in an ever-changing worldview.

For more information, please call or e-mail Ginny Cornell: 631-765-8082;
Ginc289@optonline.net

^{*}Rev. Dr. Parker is a theologian, President of Unitarian Universalist Starr King School for the Ministry, Berkeley, California. Book selections are changed as we move ahead.

Notes from the Building Team

Architect Peter Marren had two fruitful meetings with the Historic Preservation Commission.

We are entering the "design/development" stage and will be consulting an engineer soon. The engineer will determine what we can or cannot build structurally.

Our site plan has been updated and refiled with the Zoning and Planning Board.

Peter Marren has spoken to a LEED consultant (on LI) to see how difficult it might be and if we can afford it. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) buildings are designed to enhance environmental awareness; to be energy efficient, conserve water, and use sustainable or green resources and materials. We will continue to investigate it.

It was reported that there are very few LEED churches (1 UU church that we know of) and LEED certification might attract donors (and new members). It would also be in agreement with our UU philosophy, which values the environment.

Our church is the only new construction within the Historic District of Southold (all other projects have been refurbishments), which also may attract donors to our building fund.

We are researching electronic/virtual pipe organs and costs.

We will not get final approval from the Town of Southold until June 2018 (approx.). Construction will start in early summer 2018 (hopefully).

Irene Stewart
Building Team Chair

Giving and Receiving

“Count your blessings (instead of sheep).”

Irving Berlin

Gardening by the Sea

I hope this finds you in good spirits and good health. I have a short column this month.

If you plan to have a live Christmas tree, it is very important to have the stem with a fresh cut – no more than 6 hours old. The solution that works best is seltzer and bottled water. Why bottled water? It has no chlorine, or very little. If the stem cut is more than six hours old, it could be sealed over by sap and the tree will not absorb liquid.

A healthy Christmas tree drinks a lot. Check the reservoir in the stand daily, and add seltzer and bottled water as necessary.

Have a blessed Christmas and a healthy New Year.

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.

Membership & Outreach News

Special Thank you to BILL FUNKE for heading up our Thanksgiving Dinner. We hosted over 50 people from the community. What a success!!

Special thank you to all the helpers, Laurie Ullmann, Beth Peterson, Beatrice Stefan, Peter Young, Carol and John Forestieri, and Margaret De Cruz.

Thank you to the Congregation for making the delicious food.

The First Universalist Church of Southold has been hosting this community dinner for 30 years. Some of the past leaders were: Mary Hart, Dot Morse, Joe Gold, Laurie Rodger, Irene Stewart, Ceil Loucka, Ginny Cornell and Susi Young.

Let us know if we have left anyone out. Thank you.

Ginny Cornell and Susi Young
Membership and Outreach Co-Chairs

Thoughts on Spirit

Grouchy About Gratitude

It's the Saturday after Thanksgiving. I woke up this morning realizing that I've been feeling kinda grouchy... at least since Thursday. I wanna blame it on the turkey, which was even a little drier than usual, despite having been cooked by Whole Foods for close to the cost of my first house. (I won't be pardoning *that* turkey!) Or I wanna blame it on the political tumult we're witnessing at home and abroad, which some days leaves me feeling worn out. And I'm inclined to blame my laptop for failing to cooperate with me this week on several important projects, to the point I threatened to fling it against the wall and shop for a used typewriter!

But, NO... upon examining my down-in-the-dumps feelings today, I saw the real cause: I failed to acknowledge my **GRATITUDE** for **ALL** of it. Along with my friend, Ralph Waldo Emerson, I might have said,

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything thy goodness sends.

But I didn't even say a perfunctory before the meal prayer like,

Rub a Dub Dub
Thanks for the Grub

What could be a better time to be thankful out loud than Thanksgiving week? But, ironically, because I *do* understand the spiritual and emotional importance of expressing gratitude, and practice it pretty vigorously, I was so busy shopping, preparing, anticipating, etc., that I almost forgot what this holiday is all about. And I let the dry turkey, frustrating politics, and that fiendish laptop rule my emotions temporarily.

But, in the spirit of, "it's-never-too-late"... I sat quietly for a while and let myself feel, then express, my thanks for all that I've been given. Shortly, I was no longer grouchy, cranky, or down. And I said, out loud, with a smile,

Thanks for the meal...
Thanks for the whole deal!

Joe McKay
December 2017