

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



The Free Spirit

Rev. Valerie Freseman, Minister

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

March 1, 2019

Services

March 3, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

“Extreme Composting” (Stewardship Sunday)

Rev. Valerie Freseman

March 10, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

“The Constant”

Unitarian Universalism has always prioritized the “free and responsible search” for truth and meaning. Yet, with so many beliefs present amongst us, what can we say is our bedrock, our “constant”?

Rev. Valerie Freseman

March 17, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

“Subversive Sainthood”

This service is a celebration of heroes and saints – and all the lessons we learn from them.

Rev. Valerie Freseman

March 24, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

“Spring Cleaning”

...time to open the windows and let the sunshine and fresh air in!

Joe McKay, lay speaker

March 31, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

“Laetare Sunday”

On this Sunday before April Fool’s Day, an opportunity to celebrate our capacity for Joy.

Rev. Valerie Freseman

Coming Attractions !!!

March 5th – Covenant Group. Parsonage, 4:00 p.m. Topic: “TRUST”

March 12th – Theology on Tap. North Fork Taps and Corks, 7:00 p.m. Topic: “Environmental Justice and Interdependence”

March 17th – Sunday Congregational Conversation. Parsonage, 12:15 – 1:30 p.m. “New to UU: Part 1.” History and Theology.

March 19th – Board Meeting. Parsonage, 6:30 p.m. All are welcome.

March 22nd – Fellowship Appreciation Dinner. The Hellenic Snack Bar, 5145 Main Rd., East Marion, 6:00 p.m. Join us for good food and fellowship!

March 31st – Sunday Congregational Conversation. Holy Trinity, 12:15 – 1:30 p.m. “New to UU: Part 2.”

Covenant Group

Our discussion will be on "TRUST." March 5th, 4-5 p.m. in the PARSONAGE. Please use the front door. We meet the first Tuesday of every month.

Bring a high and a low to share.

We are collecting quarters to pass out at the Greenport laundromat. This is part of our helping our community. Anyone can join in. There will be a jar at church each Sunday to put quarters in.

Some books to read on trust:

- Trust Issues by Jessica Riley
- The Speed of Trust by Stephen Covey
- Conversational Intelligence by Judith Glaser

Please join us for a lively discussion.

In Peace,
Ginny Cornell

Fellowship Appreciation Dinner

Mark your calendars for March 22nd, 6:00 p.m. Our annual Fellowship Appreciation Dinner (courtesy of the Membership & Outreach Committee) will be held at The Hellenic Snack Bar, 5145 Main Road, East Marion, at 6:00 p.m.

Join us – members and friends – for some good food and fellowship, as we celebrate what we accomplished this past year and look at what is ahead of us in the next.

Please let us know if you plan to attend, and how many will be in your party.

We hope to see you there!

Bill Funke (blfnk@yahoo.com, 631-276-0258)
Beth Peterson (beakeeper67@yahoo.com, 631-727-2059)
Membership & Outreach Co-chairs

LIAC News – Upcoming Events

LIAC Annual Spring Dinner

Saturday, April 13, 6-8 p.m.
UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, 48 Shelter Rock Rd., Manhasset, NY

Keynote: "How do we care for one another in times of crisis?"

Free Workshop – "What to do When Crisis Hits: Congregational Preparedness," 2-5 p.m.

Presenter for workshop and keynote: Reverend Julie Taylor.
Visit: LIACUU.org to register and pay for dinner and/or workshop

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Sophia Fahs RE Summer Camp

Sunday, August 13 through Saturday, August 24
Camp Echo, Burlington, NY
Registration opens Monday, March 4

For lots of information, registration and pictures, visit LIAC's new website at:
<https://www.liacuu.org/fahs.html#/>

Greetings, members of the Beloved Community.

The prospect of beginnings is always on my mind in the month of March. Something about the longer days and the prospect of a dull landscape transitioning to a verdant one reminds me that, as part of creation, I, too, have a duty to be a creator.

And yet – all new creations start from what has gone before. Nothing we create exists in a void. Artists draw inspiration from studying art history, perfecting their skills, and of course, from life experience, in order to create new works. Writers work from observation and from reading the work of other writers. Farmers and those who work with the land must take into account last year's conditions or the changing climate to make decisions.

The same holds true for anything we do in community. If we are to know who we are and where we are going, we need to know where we have been. If we are to consider in an energetic and authentic way what we want to become, we must appreciate who we are.

For that reason, I hope you will join me for a course in Unitarian Universalist History and Theology this month. This course is especially geared towards those who are relatively new to this community or to Unitarian Universalism, and wish to know what forms the basis for our theology and our witness in the world.

Theology on Tap, rescheduled from February, will continue again on March 12th. We will discuss the 7th Principle of interdependence and how it informs both environmental justice and human relations.

Happy Spring!

Yours in faith,
Rev. Valerie Freseman

Enjoy Life

(this is not a rehearsal)

President's Notes

Dear Fellow UUs,

Are you ready for windy March? I dare not put my snow shovel away. I remember back in the 60s we had 24 inches of snow on Easter.

I have heard of daffodils poking their heads up on the south side of houses where it is sheltered and sunny. You can cut branches of forsythia to bring inside and put in water – the flowers will open after 10 days or so.

We are making excellent progress on the design of our new church building. The design had to be altered because the estimate came in too high. Our architect is getting ready to do the final construction drawings. Then we wait for the town to issue us a building permit and we can break ground.

This has been a long, tedious journey. I can hardly wait to see it built.

The Social Action Committee is planning a film series on the environment. Last evening I watched an excellent first segment of a National Geographic documentary called, "One Strange Rock." I watched it on Netflix but it should be available on the National Geographic website. It left me in awe.

Stay well and stay warm.

Shalom,
Ceil

To the Congregation

Please accept my sincere thank you for your generous Christmas gift.

Ginny Cornell

Notes from the Building Team

We see light at the end of the tunnel... !

The Board and Building Team have agreed that the new design changes will adequately fulfill the needs of our congregation, within our building budget.

In the new design, the parish hall, kitchen, classrooms, restrooms, and storage space are located on a lower level beneath the sanctuary. We will reach the lower level from a well-lit staircase and/or by elevator. Tall windows and a door (from the parish hall) will lead to a below-ground meeting and eating courtyard. The sanctuary and cloister remain as originally designed.

On the ground / street level, a green-house type back entrance will welcome people to the church and administrative space – church office, meeting room and restrooms. There will be sufficient space in the entry area to serve coffee after church and for other small gatherings.

The next step: After some technical discussions/decisions between architect Peter Marren and builder Eugene Burger, and a revised cost info/estimate from Burger, the detailed drawings & specs (Construction Documents) will be used by Burger to BID the proposed new plans to all the sub-contractors and then they will be able to put together a firm construction price.

I will keep you posted.

Irene Stewart
Building Team Chair

Thoughts on Spirit

“Green Alert!”

My spirit got a big lift the other day! I noticed the green blade of a crocus piercing the soil. It took me by surprise, but when I looked around, there were others... many more!

At first, the fact that it was still late February seemed cause for concern. Then I let myself relax as I remembered that every season likes to show off once in a while what's coming in the next one.

And, oh! ...what a tonic that is! Just when I'm beginning to feel the weather is same-old, same-old, day after day, along comes a snow flurry in October, or a lone red leaf on a maple tree in August, or an ice cream bell on an 83-degree day in May, to remind me that change is in the air. The worries of the world seem far less important at such times. And that is as it should be.

Having been teased by the hocus-pocus of the crocus, I am now paying more attention to the garden, and to the ground in the woods where I walk Ruby most days, and to the dune grasses at the beach. I'm looking for green, for signs that the earth is coming back to life, that Spring renewal is imminent.

This kind of focused attention feels to me (when I remember to do it!) like “real life.” It is interesting and beautiful, and, yes, it distracts me from the news of the day.

But it also makes me realize that keeping my finger on the pulse of the seasons brings me into proper rhythm with life overall. Despite appearances, life does move forward!

Bring on the shamrocks!

Joe Mc Kay
March 2019