

## 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 Office: (631) 765-3494

Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 9:00am – 2:00pm

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

July 1, 2021

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### **Services – Holy Trinity Church**

July 4, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

#### **“Evolution of the Declaration of Independence”**

Evolution of the Declaration of Independence as reflected in present day legal and cultural terms.

Susan Johnson and Margaret Brown, lay speakers

July 11, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

#### **“Mission Creep”**

This service will celebrate the power of having a clear, defined mission, and what has been accomplished in justice movements that Unitarian Universalists have been a part of because of a unified mission.

Rev. Valerie Freseman

July 18, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

#### **“Survey Results”**

What might we have learned from the Pandemic, still ongoing in many parts, and in this liminal time? What do we have to hope for? And what do our UU values and theology teach us about how to meet such challenges in the future?

Rev. Valerie Freseman

July 25, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

**TBA**

Mary James, lay speaker

#### **Coming Attractions!!!**

**July 6<sup>th</sup> – Covenant Group.** Southold Library, 4:00 p.m. Topic: *The Power of Now*, by Eckhart Tolle

**July 11<sup>th</sup> – Social Action Committee.** Holy Trinity, 12:00 p.m. immediately following the service.

**Coming Attractions (cont'd.)**

**July 15<sup>th</sup> – 7 Principles Class 5: "The Right of Conscience and the Use of the Democratic Process."**

Online – Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

**July 22<sup>nd</sup> – Spiritual Practice Class.** Online – Zoom, 10:00 a.m.

**Rev. Valerie's column will resume in July.**

**Thought for July**

Be present.

Allow everything to surprise you,  
inspire you, excite you, entertain you,  
and teach you.

Be fully open to life today.

**Covenant Group**

All are welcome to join us at the Southold Free Library, July 6th, 4-5 PM. There is plenty of room upstairs.

We are still reading, *The Power of Now*. Read Chapter 2.

"Remember always say yes to the present moment." Eckhart Tolle. This does not mean stop thinking about the past or future!

In peace,  
Ginny Cornell

**Thoughts on Spirit**

Atop "My" Bluff

I feel full planted  
here on this high ground  
above Long Island Sound

Where no battles were ever  
fought although its noble height  
and commanding view  
might hint such history

Where no fort, no  
lighthouse ever stood

Where I bide awhile  
early each day to  
rejoice in my good fortune  
and stretch out my arms to  
fully embrace time and place

Joe Mc Kay  
July 2021



### Looking Back



#### Church School

**Back Row, Left to Right: Zachary, Jessica, Ashley, and Zachary**  
**Second Row: Willow, Anna, Jamie, Kiera, Andrew, Austin, Chris, and Kim**  
**Front Row: Max, Jane, Yarrow, Julie, Michelle, Jason, Peter, Max, Kiersten**

If you have any pictures from past events at the church, please send them to me, with the name(s) and the event, [ginc289@optonline.net](mailto:ginc289@optonline.net) .

#### Minister's Discretionary Fund

This is a reminder that the Minister's Discretionary Fund exists for the purpose of giving small grants to folks in need of food, gas, or other living expenses, anonymously and at the minister's discretion.

If you can think of anyone who would benefit from help, especially during these tough economic times, please do not hesitate to recommend them to **Rev. Valerie**.

We are looking for folks to commit to being ushers for our eventual re-opening of in-person services. Duties include setting up the altar/worship room, greeting folks at the door, and stowing away materials after the end of the service. If you are interested in finding out more information, contact Rev. Valerie at [firstminister@optimum.net](mailto:firstminister@optimum.net)

Do you have a news item, announcement, or picture for *The Free Spirit*? You may send it to the church office at [SoutholdUU@optonline.net](mailto:SoutholdUU@optonline.net), or mail it to the church post office box.

### News from the Social Action Committee

The Social Action Committee held its first meeting on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 7pm, via Zoom. The Committee identified the following short list of ideas to develop in our 2021-2022 church year:

- a) connect and partner with local individuals / groups to discuss ideas and share resources (ex. support and forward the work of Margaret de Cruz on climate and environmental justice);
- b) organize workshops / presentations / other activities to educate ourselves and our surrounding community on topics of import (ex. the systemic nature of racism and other oppressions); and,
- c) maintain regular contact with and seek additional ways to support the Long Island Area Council, its Social Justice Roundtable, and other regional organizations that promote justice, equity, and fairness for all (ex. have a regular presence at meetings of the Southold Justice Review & Reform Task Force and the Southold Town Ant-Bias Task Force).

We received an email, dated May 25th, from Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson, First UU Congregation of the South Fork, and recalled her memorable April sermon on "The Zen of Washing Dishes." She introduced us to newly formed NY UU Justice Network for "advancing justice and UU values across our state." She encouraged us to visit their website <https://www.nyuu.org> for further info, resources and a recording of their February 28 Winter Gathering to: support climate justice; end solitary confinement; and, authorize medical aid in dying.

The consensus of the Committee was that joining NYUUJ would be an excellent way for our small congregation to "leverage our power for maximum impact" at the state level. At the Board meeting on June 23, the Board unanimously decided to make a financial contribution to NYUUJ by donating the next four months of the congregation's First Sunday collection to NYUUJ.

After reviewing FAQ&A about the history and background of the 8th Principle, which are covered in depth online <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org>, the group agreed that an 8th Principle Task Force (as opposed to a subcommittee of Social Action) be established to explore how to call a congregational vote on the adoption of the 8th Principle: *We covenant to affirm and promote: Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by building a diverse, multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.*

Recognizing that this is just the beginning of the process, the Committee discussed:

- a) developing ways to have the congregation discuss the 8th Principle;
- b) considering other oppressions, such as the criminalization of people living in poverty and living with mental illness and addiction; and,
- c) updating the church bylaws. Though the bylaws include steps to make amendments, there is nothing regarding any of the Principles.

If you would like to learn more about our plans for the coming year, please join us at our next meeting on Sunday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the service at Holy Trinity, or contact Patte McManus ([pattemcgoo@yahoo.com](mailto:pattemcgoo@yahoo.com)).

### Southold Library announces:

*John and Abigail Adams: A Love Story.* A Staged Reading.

At the Pocket Park of Southold Library (under the tent)

Saturday, July 10, 11:00 a.m. (Rain Date: Saturday, July 17)

Attendance is free.

A staged reading written, directed, and narrated by Alan Stewart. Featuring the local acting talent of Phil Reichert as Founding Father and 2nd US President, John Adams, with radio-renowned, Lisa Dabrowski as our nation's 2nd First Lady, Abigail Adams.

Come and witness one of America's greatest true romances through letters exchanged during our country's struggle for independence, starting from a rocky start to full nationhood.

"We attended this wonderful reading of *John & Abigail Adams: A Love Story*. It was very interesting and entertaining. And my dad and I were introduced to the audience as Alexander Hamilton's descendants. It was a very good performance by Lisa A. Dabrowski and Philip Reichert." Ann Hamilton Duprey, living descendant of Alexander Hamilton, Riverhead, NY.