

First Universalist Church of Southold
PO Box 221 Main Road
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The Free Spirit

Rev. Valerie Freseman, Minister
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July 1, 2022

Services – at Holy Trinity Church

Sunday, July 3, 11:00 a.m.

Picnic Brunch Service

We will be enjoying a picnic brunch as our service this Sunday. It will be at Holy Trinity with shared readings and a celebrative gathering. There will be opportunities for shared reflections and poems about the holiday and summer. Bring food you enjoy for brunch to share. I will be bringing a quiche and fruit. If the weather doesn't permit our being outside, we will meet in the auditorium.

Susan Johnson, lay leader

Sunday, July 10, 11:00 a.m.

“Personal Reflections”

Bill Price will share reflections on his personal spiritual journey.

Bill Price, lay speaker

Sunday, July 17, 11:00 a.m.

“The Importance of Preserving the Shinnecock Nation’s Sacred Lands”

John Halsey, Peconic Land Trust Director, and Shane Weeks, member of the Shinnecock Nation

Sunday, July 24, 11:00 a.m.

“Zen and the Art of Everything”

Mary James, lay speaker

Sunday, July 31, 11:00 a.m.

“Swords and Ploughs”

Rev. Valerie Freseman

Coming Attractions!!! ** Questions? Please email us at SoutholdUU@optonline.net **

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

July 13th – Social Action Committee & 8th Principle Task Force. Online – Zoom, 4:00 p.m.

July 26th – Board Meeting. Location TBA, 4:00 p.m. All are welcome via Zoom.

Covenant Group

Please join us upstairs in the Southold Free Library for our Covenant Group. We will meet Tuesday, July 5, 2022. Our topic is, “Polarization.” We will be reading, *Why We’re Polarized*, by Ezra Klein. Please bring your ideas or any book/article you have read. We are open-minded!

Bring quarters for the Greenport Landromat and non-perishable food for the food pantry at Holy Trinity on Sundays.

In peace,
Ginny Cornell (Ginc289@optonline.net)

Thought for July...

Enjoy Mother Earth’s bounty –
Go barefoot!

News from the Building Team – June 12th Update

Members of the congregation and Rev. Valerie met after services to discuss the latest news from the Building Team and our project. The meeting was led by Mark Sisson in the absence of Ray Calamari and Brian Davis, who were unable to attend.

Mark noted that for the duration of the meeting, "Building Team" would refer to Mr. Davis, Mr. Calamari and the entire team – Suzette Reiss, Sherry Smith, Mark Sisson and Beth Peterson, with Susan Pond in attendance as Board President.

The estimate given by Burger Construction, while not presented, was noted to be 1/3 again over the budget we have. The BT expressed their frustration with this number as Mr. Burger should have been aware of our budget, both from his work with Davis and Calamari, and also with Peter Marren. The BT, and the congregation, feel strongly the need to contact other builders for their estimates. Some builders were suggested by Suzette Reiss, others were from Ray Calamari. The congregation was asked to forward information about any builders they might know to the BT.

Mark noted the plan drawings are completed enough that we will be able to determine the best choice moving forward. Mark then detailed some of the cost reduction efforts the BT had undertaken.

He also reported we still may be able to find a builder who can build the "original" plan. The project is moving through the Southold Town building department; any reduction in scope should not delay this any further.

Mark thanked the congregation for their patience throughout this arduous process. With any luck, we should still be able to build a church we can all be proud of.

News from the Social Action Committee (SAC) & 8th Principle Task Force

At the 6/8/2022 meeting of SAC it was decided that we WILL be meeting through the summer so please put 7/13/2022 (the 2nd Wednesday of the month) on your calendar. We will continue to meet at 4:00 pm via Zoom and look forward to seeing you.

Thank you for your support of **C.A.S.T. in June through the First Sunday Share The Plate (STP) collection and your donations of cereal, soups, and other assorted canned goods.** The Board has approved the July and August First Sunday STP collections as follows:

Sunday, July 3rd recipient - the Youth Empowerment Program (YEP) of Rural & Migrant Ministry (RMM), whose staff and volunteers provide transportation and meals to over 30 children per two-week program during the summer. These summer day camps provide a vital service to rural and migrant working families. A July collection will help defray some of the camp costs for YEP and our congregation's donation check will be delivered when we bring an end-of-day meal to the children during camp in August.

Sunday, August 7th recipient - Peconic Land Trust (Shinnecock Land Acquisition and Stewardship Fund), which was established to protect Shinnecock sacred land from residential development and restore it to its natural state. Speakers from both Peconic Land Trust & The Shinnecock Nation are addressing our congregation at worship on Sunday, July 17th. SAC is also planning a get-together (end-of-summer picnic?) between the Shinnecock elders and the elders of our congregation, as was suggested when donations from diaper & dry goods drive were delivered.

The 8th Principle Task Force is pleased to announce a couple of items of interest from the 2022 UUA General Assembly (GA) which was held Wed., 6/22nd through Sun., 6/26th.

1) If you remember, Paula Cole Jones (one of the authors of the 8th Principle) was hoping to attend this year's General Assembly with at least 200 congregations having adopted the 8th Principle - at the beginning of GA, she was aware of 217!

2) Results of the 2022 UUA General Assembly election to the Board of Trustees include the following: the two UUA nominated candidates that were challenged for positions #7 and #11 prevailed over their opponents 89% to 11% and 91% to 9%, respectively. The people who lost those two races were members of a group created in direct opposition to the 8th Principle Project. When the election results were posted, one member of the 8th Principle UU Learning Community said, "I think...we can interpret [the election results] as an overwhelming endorsement of our anti-racism work AND the 8th Principle." Paula Cole Jones added (in part), "Year after year, the Assembly reaffirms where we are and who we want to be through their votes...There will always be pushback to change...We are watching our UU community undergoing its own evolution. We are in the midst of being transformed. This General Assembly has been rich in content and intention."

The Ware Lecture at GA 2022 was actually an interview given by UUA President Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray of Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, an anti-racist activist and historian of race and discriminatory policy in America. In July 2020, he assumed the position of director of the Center for Antiracist Research at Boston University and was included in *Time's 100 Most Influential People of 2020*. Professor Kendi is a National Book Award-winning and #1 *New York Times* best-selling author. His next book, *How to Raise an Antiracist*, and his next picture book, *Goodnight Racism*, will both be released in the summer of 2022. Rev. Susan related some of our UU history of institutional racism and her questions opened a dialogue with Dr. Kendi about the structure of racism and white supremacy, which was recoded for release later this year.

Thank you for allowing me to be your 2022 Alternate Delegate. That gave me the opportunity to see and hear things I might've missed if I were only focusing on the business aspects of General Assembly. I've learned so much this week and look forward to sharing it with you all.

Patte McManus, SAC Chair

Thoughts on Spirit

I wish I had written this, but I didn't. But I'm so glad Danusha Laméris did...it's another great thought to live by!

Joe McKay

"Small Kindnesses"

I've been thinking about the way, when you walk down a crowded aisle, people pull in their legs to let you by. Or how strangers still say "bless you" when someone sneezes, a leftover from the Bubonic plague. "Don't die," we are saying. And sometimes, when you spill lemons from your grocery bag, someone else will help you pick them up. Mostly, we don't want to harm each other. We want to be handed our cup of coffee hot, and to say thank you to the person handing it. To smile at them and for them to smile back. For the waitress to call us honey when she sets down the bowl of clam chowder, and for the driver in the red pick-up truck to let us pass. We have so little of each other, now. So far from tribe and fire. Only these brief moments of exchange. What if they are the true dwelling of the holy, these fleeting temples we make together when we say, "Here, have my seat," "Go ahead—you first," "I like your hat."

Danusha Laméris

Celebration Sunday

In a special ceremony on Sunday, June 12th, 2022, Rev. Valerie and the congregation welcomed our three newest members, Susan Johnson, Virginia Cava and Charlie Lehner. Each signed the church membership book, and Susan Pond extended to each of them the right hand of fellowship on behalf of the congregation.

