

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



The Free Spirit

Rev. Valerie Freseman, Minister
email: FirstUMinister@optimum.net Church Office: (631) 765-3494 (call or email for appointment)
Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 9:30am – 3:30pm
Church Web Page – <http://FirstUniversalistSouthold.org/>, email address: SoutholdUU@optonline.net

August 1, 2023

Services – at Holy Trinity Church

Sunday, August 6, 11:00 a.m.

“Women Crossing the DMZ”

Aiyoung Choi, lay speaker

Sunday, August 13, 11:00 a.m.

“Becoming Community”

Rev. Valerie Freseman

Sunday, August 20, 11:00 a.m.

“Colonialism and the Philippines”

Seminarian Erol Delos Santos

Sunday, August 27, 11:00 a.m.

“Question Box Sunday”

Please bring your questions for our annual, improvised service of open-ended questions and reflections.

Rev. Valerie Freseman

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

August 1st – Covenant Group. Southold Free Library, 4:00 p.m. Topic: “Community”

August 2nd – Pizza & Conversation with Rural & Migrant Ministry Youth Empowerment Program. Riverhead, 5:00 p.m.

August 8th – Board Meeting. Parsonage and Zoom, 4:00 p.m. All are welcome via Zoom.

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Coming Attractions!!! (cont'd.)

August 9th – Social Action Committee & 8th Principle Task Force. Southold Library and Zoom, 4:00 p.m.

August 12th – Soulful Sundown with The Second Hands. Holy Trinity, 5:00 p.m. FREE

August 18th – Labyrinth Walk. First Presbyterian Church, Southold, 5:00 p.m.

August 20th – Movie Series: Prophetic Voices, Part 4. Holy Trinity, 2:00 p.m. FREE

Covenant Group

All are welcome to join us, August 1, 2023, 4:00 pm, upstairs at the Southold Free Library. Our topic this month is "Community." I will be reading *Reclaiming Your Community* by Majora Carter and *Building a Resilient Life* by Rebekah Lyons.

Bring a high and a low to share for the month. Please bring quarters to Holy Trinity on Sunday for the Greenport Laundromat, and nonperishable items for the Holy Trinity food pantry.

For a community to be whole and healthy, it must be based on people's love and concern for each other.

In peace,

Ginny Cornell (Ginc289@optonline.net)

Documentary Film Series – Prophetic Voices Part 4: The Dorothy Day Story

Join us for the fourth film in this 5-part series. *Prophetic Voices* is a special collection of five award-winning documentary films profiling remarkable religious figures from one of the most turbulent times in history. Through their writings and prophetic witness, they shaped our culture's moral and ethical response to the chaos of the 20th century.

The Dorothy Day Story will be shown on Sunday, August 20th, 2-4 p.m., at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Greenport. For information, contact Patte McManus at pattemcgoo@yahoo.com

News from the Building Team – Groundbreaking !!!

Well, we've done it; we had our Groundbreaking! Many, many thanks to everyone who made it a success.

Scott Edgett and his crew from North Fork Woodworks have begun work on our long-awaited project. With a tentative timeline of 15-18 months, Scott, the Building Team, Brian Davis and Ray Calamari will be dealing with any issues arising during construction.



Looking for Something New and Different ?

Come join us for our first, post-fire

Soulful Sundown

Saturday, August 12th, at 5 p.m. in the parish hall at Holy Trinity in Greenport. Soulful Sundown, a concept originally developed by the Rev. Dr. Marlin Lavanhar in Boston, uses an alternative format to offer an opportunity for a meaningful, community experience with a theme. The program centers on music, readings, and sharing. We are very fortunate to have the well known local band, **The Second Hands**, as the guest artists for our first post-fire program.



Please join us at 5 p.m. for drinks and snacks. The program will begin at 6, and should run about an hour. Afterward, please stay for social hour, and more great music from **The Second Hands**. Free. Donations welcomed.

Fundraising Committee News – Save the Date!

September 30th, 2023, Harvest Potluck Festival held at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 768 Main Street, Greenport. Cocktails at 6:00 pm. Potluck dinner at 7:00 pm. Tickets will be \$50 for people contributing food and \$75 for general admission. There will be music, a silent auction, raffles, and posters for sale. This is a fundraiser for the Building Fund.

Contact Ginny Cornell: ginc289@optonline.net, if you would like to donate food.

Thank you from the Fundraising Committee,
Virginia Cava, Ginny Cornell, Susan Johnson, Suzette Delia Reiss

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Dear Beloved Community,

I am considering this week things learned from being with my co-conspirators (or co-religionists, if you prefer) along with your delegates, Brian and Patte, at General Assembly. As we collectively decided on the Article II changes to our statement of principles, I was inspired to become reacquainted by the work of activists whose business is creating change. There is an influential area of thought, voiced by adrienne maree brown and others, about something called emergent strategy. If we want to make change, how do we do it in new and more deeply effective – and deeply joyful – ways? How can we work in ways that foster trust? How can we adapt better? What would happen if we were comfortable with experimentation? In short, what if, knowing that change is ever-present, we shaped our relationship with change itself?

This philosophy has inspired me to think about the ways your community will be changing in anticipation of a new era of welcoming people to a new building and therefore a new sense of community. Your spiritual work will be thinking about what change will mean – what you need to retain, and what you are willing to jettison as you begin to imagine what new things will happen in your ministry on the North Fork.

I will be continuing with our monthly practice of labyrinth walks at the Presbyterian Church. Look for an announcement about a three-part workshop called Wi\$dom Path, in which we will reflect on the role of money in our spiritual development and spiritual auto-biography.

And, let us welcome Jeri, our new Office Administrator, as she steps into her pivotal role here. Please feel free to call the office during our new hours, Tues/Wed/Thurs, 10am-2pm, and say hi and welcome her, if you have not met her already!

As always, please reach out to me if you have a pastoral concern.

Blessings,
Rev. Valerie

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

A special thank you to the Worship Committee and everyone who contributed to the Potluck Picnic Brunch on 4th of July weekend. Despite there having been no sign-up sheets or flurry of emails about “who was bringing what,” we managed to have plenty of yummy, healthy food with no duplications! In lieu of a formal worship service, we shared readings, poetry, music, lively conversation, and fellowship.

Our July First Sunday Share the Plate (STP) collection had been “postponed” until July 9th, but donations started coming in on July 2nd and the congregation’s generosity amounted to a collection of \$ 205 which will be sent to the **Gold Boots Foundation**. More info on the Opioid Overdose Prevention program to come.

Much of our July SAC meeting was spent in discussion with Aiyoun Choi, the current Board President of **Women Cross DMZ (WCDMZ)**, our **August STP recipient**. WCDMZ is a global movement of women formed in 2014 to promote peace and bring an end to the Korean War, which was halted but not technically ended on July 27, 1953. WCDMZ gained international

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News from the Social Action Committee & 8th Principle Task Force (cont'd.)

recognition by organizing a historic 2015 crossing of the heavily armed De-Militarized Zone (DMZ) from North to South Korea. Thirty women from fifteen nations (including

Aiyoung), walked arm-in-arm with 10,000 Korean women on both sides of the DMZ. According to their website, <http://www.womencrossdmz.org>, the work of WCDMZ isn't just about ending the Korean War, but threefold: a complete rethinking of the approach to peace and security; the reunification of separated families; and, the involvement of women at all levels of the peace building process.

July 27th of this year marks the 70th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice, but tensions continue to escalate on the Korean Peninsula. Advocates from across the USA convened in Washington, D.C., from July 26-28, 2023, to call on President Biden and Congress to support a formal peace agreement.

Aiyoung will be speaking to our congregation on Sunday, August 6th, about her experiences with WCDMZ, and their goals of a demilitarized Korea and a denuclearized world. SAC is planning an early fall viewing of the film, *Crossings*, which documents the journey of WCDMZ.

For the last two years, our **September and October STP** collections have been used to fulfill our yearly membership commitment to **NYUJJ**. However, Rev. Valerie informed me, as I was writing this article, that a UU congregation in Montpelier was surrounded by water during recent floods in Vermont – the extent of damage is yet unknown. And, you may have heard by now, that there was a firebomb attack late on Saturday night, July 23rd, at the UU Community Church of Plano, TX. Randy Wade had sent an article from *Daily Kos* but by now you can probably Google much more recent information. What we do know, as of this writing, is that a passerby called in the fire and that the fire alarms in the church alerted the Fire Department early enough that the fire was stopped before it could damage more than the front floors and the foyer. I have gotten support from SAC to change our requests of the Board this month to the following:

-September STP recipient to be the UU Community Church of Plano, TX

-October STP collection for NYUJJ. Given the generosity of our congregation, we have been able to more than honor our annual pledge to NYUJJ in the last two years and I am confident that we will be able to at least match it in the October collection.

I will also do some further investigation into the types of support that the two congregations may need. As Rev. Valerie put it, "We do know about disaster and trauma." In the interim, I will be bringing (or anyone can bring) cards/notecards to Sunday service for the next couple of weeks so that we may show immediate solidarity with these two congregations.

On a happier note - We have been invited to share an end of day meal with the teenage participants of the **Youth Empowerment Program (YEP) at Rural & Migrant Ministry's 2023 Summer Day Program (SDP) in Riverhead**. We usually carpool, leaving the parsonage parking lot at about 4:15 with a quick stop to pick up the requested pizza for dinner. Call pattencgo@yahoo.com OR (631) 997-9405, if you wish to join us.

Date & time: Wednesday, August 2, 2023, 5:00-6:00 pm

News from the Social Action Committee & 8th Principle Task Force (cont'd.)

We will be showing Part 4 of Prophetic Voices: “Revolution of the Heart - the Dorothy Day Story,” on Sunday, August 20, which profiles the Catholic radical and founder of the Catholic Worker Movement. Dorothy Day was a grandmother, anarchist, journalist, and once considered by the FBI to be a threat to national security. Despite often being critical of leadership in her own Catholic Church, Rome is now considering her for sainthood.

Date & time: Sunday, August 20, 2023, 2:00-4:00 pm at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

The next meeting of SAC / 8th Principle Task Force will be held:

Date & time - 2nd Wednesday of the month, August 9, 2023, from 4:00-5:00 pm

Place: in person at the Southold Free Library in the 2nd floor meeting room (accessible by elevator) OR via Zoom link, which will be emailed the day prior to the meeting.

Closing words from Rev. Erika Hewitt, Minister of Worship Arts for UUA:

“For things we may never understand, Compassionate One, may your grace transform our despairing questions into curiosity about how connection, agency, and grace conspire to heal us and free us.”

Patte McManus, Chair

(631) 997-9405

pattemcgoo@yahoo.com