

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
Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 9:00am – 3:00pm
Church Web Page – <http://FirstUniversalistSouthold.org/>, email address: SoutholdUU@optonline.net

December 1, 2022

Services – at Holy Trinity Church

Sunday, December 4, 11:00 a.m.

“Like the Deer Longs for Water”

Rev. Valerie Freseman

Sunday, December 11, 11:00 a.m.

“Eleanor Roosevelt and the Struggle for Human Rights”

One of Eleanor Roosevelt’s most remarkable accomplishments was shepherding into existence the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Seventy-four years later, what is the human rights situation in the world? And what can we, concerned members of the human community, do to preserve and protect human rights in the world today?

Rev. Ben Bortin

Sunday, December 18, 11:00 a.m.

“Prized Recipe”

Rev. Valerie Freseman

Saturday, December 24, 6:00 p.m., Jamesport Meeting House

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – “Hope of Freedom”

We invite everyone to join us at the Jamesport Meeting House in Jamesport on Christmas Eve. Rev. Valerie Freseman and Rev. Ben Bortin will lead the service and Charlotte Day will provide beautiful holiday music. Reception will follow.

Sunday, December 25, 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Morning Service

Join us, family and friends, for a time of fellowship with a light brunch and sharing of readings, poetry and carols.

Susan Johnson, lay leader

Services (cont'd.)January 1, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.**“Fireside Service – Honoring the New Year”**

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

Dec. 3rd – Holiday Gift Sale & Toy Drive. Holy Trinity, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Shop multiple vendors for gifts and treasures. Bring a new, unwrapped toy – receive 3 free raffle tickets!

Dec. 6th – Covenant Group. Southold Library, 4:00 p.m. Topic: “The Path of Wonder”

Dec. 14th – Social Action Committee & 8th Principle Task Force. Online – Zoom, 4:00 p.m.

Dec. 18th – Cookie Swap. Holy Trinity, 12:00 p.m. Fill a tin with yummy goodies for the holidays!

Dec. 27th – Board Meeting. Parsonage, 3:00 p.m. All are welcome via Zoom.

Covenant Group

Please join us Tuesday, December 6, 2022, 4:00 pm, upstairs at the Southold Free Library. The elevator takes you next to the Luck Hallock Folk Room, where we meet. All are welcome. Our topic will be, “The Path of Wonder.” We will be reading, *Walking in Wonder: Eternal Wisdom for a Modern World*, by John O’Donohue.

Bring a high and a low for the month to share. Also, please bring quarters to Holy Trinity on Sunday for the Greenport Laundromat and nonperishables for the food pantry.

Quote from Alice Walker: “The more I wonder, the more I love.”

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

Cookie Swap ! December 18th, 12:00

This event has become one of our favorite holiday traditions in recent years – a fun opportunity to share your baking gifts and favorite recipes with your friends! This year’s Cookie Swap is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 18th, following the service. As a reminder, here is how it works:



1. Bring five dozen cookies (or more!) of any one recipe, or a combination of recipes.
2. Accompany your cookies with recipe cards.
3. Bring a serving platter and storage tins if you can; also, if you want to, bring festive wrapping.
4. Bring a few extra cookies for sampling.
5. EVERYONE brings home a variety sampler. If you don’t bake, feel free to bring another baked good from the store. Non-bakers will also go home with cookies!

We hope you will be able to join us for this deliciously fun event!

Dear Beloved Community,

Our theme for this month's exploration is "wonder." Wonder is that precious thing that is a vital ingredient for a spiritual life, but at the same time, often feels in short supply. The wonder we crave is that wonder that causes us to pause our own arrogance, to tap into things beyond our understanding, and experience joy. But just as often as we encounter moments of wonder, we also live with a host of daily despairs of varying degrees – from the universal challenges of life that all people face, such as aging, sickness, illness, economic insecurity, and disappointment, to injustices and unfinished business which, when it affects one part of the human family, really affects us all.

I think wonder is as necessary to our cells as any other biological component. We may think that humanistic and liberal religious communities don't subscribe to wonder, because wonder is too much the domain of the unexplained and, therefore, the miraculous. A creedless faith is what makes differing approaches to the origin of things, and therefore the unexplained, possible within the same community. No matter what we believe, however, about the origin of creation, wonder is what injects life with meaning. Our longing for wonder is what makes us human. Wonder exists not only where we expect it, like during a beautiful sunset, but also, it is present during moments of human courage, resilience, and perseverance.

I hope you will take full advantage of the season this month, and seek avenues of connection. In addition to the holiday fair, we are hoping to have a cookie swap on December 18th. Please join us for a Christmas Eve service on December 24th at the Jamesport Meeting House! Our service will be a joint project between Rev. Ben Bortin and myself, and will celebrate the messages that come to us from both Hanukkah and Christmas.

Blessings,
Rev. Valerie

News from the Building Team

A dumpster was rented and the shed and garage on the church property have been emptied in preparation for the site work, a.k.a. landscaping, of our project. These buildings are in terrible condition, but it will be determined whether we can use the concrete pad of the shed for its replacement.

After meeting with four building contractors, who each had our latest plans to develop more complete cost estimates, the Building Team has asked Brian Davis and Ray Calamari to begin to negotiate a contract with Scott Edgett and North Fork Wood Working. Our plans are still moving through the approval process with the Southold Planning Department.

The BT is very excited about this latest development!

Mark Sisson, Chair

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

Our congregation's November Share the Plate (STP) recipient - **the UUA Disaster Relief Fund** - will be receiving a check for \$355.00 with a memo line reading: "For - Response to Hurricane Ian."

On Saturday, November 19th, our Food Drive to benefit CAST was held in our church parking lot. It was a bit chilly but we were warmed by Rev. Valerie's hot cider AND some surprise guests who pulled up about 1/2 hr after we'd started. The smiling young mother, who spoke in broken English, soon realized that we were collecting, not distributing, food and ushered her two sons back to their car. As she did so, the boys cheerily waved and wished us a "Happy Thanksgiving." Though we hadn't collected much food at that time, we asked her to come back and pick out some things the boys might like. Together we assembled a meal of canned ham, assorted canned veggies and fruits, some cookies, jar of peanut butter, and...a bottle of ketchup?;

The following week, we delivered to CAST a check for \$300, about a dozen bags and boxes of non-perishable food and household goods, and several coats. Inside, I met CAST Food Relief Program Mgr, Karina Hayes, who spoke to our congregation about "Food Insecurity on the North Fork" on November 13th. We hugged as she asked me to let you know that CAST is "immensely grateful" for your support of their work in our community.

At this time last year, we collected toys for the children of farm workers receiving support from R&MM. We also collected funds to further the work of R&MM and would like to do the same this year. Therefore, **SAC is requesting that our December STP recipient be Rural & Migrant Ministry (R&MM)**. You may remember Noemi Sanchez, who addressed our congregation on September 18, 2022 and outlined a number of programs of which we had been unaware (ex. support for victims of domestic violence and teaching Spanish in addition to English) for indigenous people who speak Mestizo.

We are holding our **Toy Drive** (inside this year - what a concept!) **at Holy Trinity, for the children of farm workers** receiving support from Rural & Migrant Ministry (R&MM), **on Saturday, December 3rd, from 9am to 3pm at our congregation's Holiday Fair**. Bring a new, unwrapped toy and receive 3 (yes – three!) free raffle tickets as a thank you. And while you're there, enjoy the vendor tables filled with holiday gifts and treasures.

Trying to get a bit ahead of the calendar, **SAC requested Board approval that our January STP benefit the Sound Justice Initiative**. Dr. Kerry Spooner, founder of the Sound Justice Initiative, addressed our congregation on October 2, 2022, informing us of the societal benefits of providing liberal arts education and resources to justice-involved people right here on Long Island.

Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 4:00pm is the scheduled date and time of the next SAC & 8th Principle meeting, via Zoom. One of the agenda items will be providing feedback to the UUA Article II Study Commission on their initial draft of recommended changes to the Principles and Purposes, last revised in 1987. For Article II Study Commission background info, historical context, and current status (including resources, reports, and a copy of the Initial Draft), visit <https://www.uua.org> and type in Article II Study Commission.

We will also discuss the Winter Film Series being sponsored by SAC & the 8th Principle Task Force. All are welcome - please join us with your ideas, questions, passions and concerns.

For a more complete report of SAC's activities and links to the programs and issues mentioned above, please visit the Social Action Committee page on the church website at www.firstuniversalistsouthold.org.

During this season of giving thanks, on behalf of SAC & the 8th Principle Task Force members, I would like to express how very grateful we are for your continued support of one another and our larger community. Our best wishes to you and your loved ones as we close out 2022.

Patte McManus, Chair