



## Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Catskills

Whoever you are, Whomever you love, Wherever you are  
in your life's journey, YOU are Welcome Here.

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

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## From the Minister

"Love" is our theme for February.

We talk about love a lot in our Unitarian Universalist congregations. We may or may not believe in God, angels, the afterlife, reincarnation, or moral certainty. But as far as I know, we all believe in love.

But just what is love, exactly? For my February 12 sermon, I want to share a few of your "love stories". I want to know about the times you fell in love. This can be with your sweetie, but I'm also interested in non-romantic love, too. Maybe the time you fell in love with justice, or a particular pastime, or a book or TV show. Or your love for family, a friend, a pet, etc.

Send me your love stories to [minister@uucatskills.org](mailto:minister@uucatskills.org) by February 7th. Whatever the object of your love, what I'd like to know is how this love changed you. What

was the impact of falling in love? What were the challenges, and growth, that came from falling in love?

With your permission, I'd love to feature a couple love stories in the service – but of course I will ask first. Thanks!

Love and light,  
Rev. Bob

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## SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:30AM

### **February 12 - Love Stories - Rev. Bob Janis**

(In-person & Zoom) (RE and Childcare available)

Unitarian Universalists across the country have identified love as a central value of their faith. But what is love, really? And what it's got to do with it?  
Worship Associate – Vickie O'Dougherty

### **February 19 - Make It Better with Make-Believe - Rev. Craig Schwalenberg**

(Zoom) (No RE and No Childcare)

Rev. Craig Schwalenberg, "your Game Minister" and lifelong believer in the importance of inter generational game playing, will bring us a Service focusing on the importance of make-believe.  
Worship Associate - Jenny O'Grady Giddy

### **February 26 - Center for Creative Education**

(In-person & Zoom) (RE and Childcare available)

A representative of the CCE will speak on the Center's work with minority and at-risk youth through the arts and technology.  
Worship Associate – Vickie O'Dougherty

[ZOOM LINK](#)

## FINDING PAST SERMONS AND SERVICES

Many recordings of past sermons and services are available on our [YouTube page](#). We have playlists setup. One playlist is "Sermons and Services @ UUCatskills". Here you will find sermons and services as far back as October 2019.

You can also find the link to our YouTube page on our [website](#). On the menu bar, click on "Worship Services," then "YouTube."



[GIVE NOW](#)

## From the UU Catskills President

January has shown a lot of movement in our congregation. Attendance at Services is way up, and members appear ready to re-engage in the life and operations of our congregation. Volunteer Sunday was a big success with many new members showing interest in a variety of endeavors—some even volunteering to take on leadership roles in vacant committees. There will be a follow-up to this event on March 12 when the Board conducts a service on the Advantages and Vulnerability of Volunteering with individual members speaking about the ways they got involved with UU Catskills.

Last Sunday I thought that I was in the wrong place: there were so many people attending the Service ... and so many young children (eleven to be exact). I had not seen so many children at a service since we first joined UUC twenty years ago. What a joy! It is so good to see so many new faces and to feel all the energy that they bring, especially after our long Covid Winter. So now the big challenge is to

cultivate this emergent interest by turning it into engagement in ways that will weave evermore strongly the threads of community throughout our congregation. This is a task that the Board and the Council have joyfully embraced, so look forward to more ways to get involved in the months to come.

Mark S. Howenstein

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## **JANUARY EVENTS**

February 2 at 11am - First Thursday Hangout (In-person & Zoom)

February 4 at 11am - Buddhacats (In-person)

February 10 at 10:20am - Soul Matters (In-person)

February 12 at 12:30pm - (Re)Learning the ABCs of LGBTQ+ (In-person)

February 30 at 7pm - Soul Matters (Zoom)

February 21 at 5pm - Buddhacats (Zoom)

February 24 at 5:30pm - ThirtyPlus Meetup (In-person)

March 7 at 7pm - Mistakes and Miracles Book Group (Zoom)

### **RECURRING EVENTS**

Every Sunday at 7pm - Grief Support Group (Zoom)

Every Thursday at 7:30pm - Bedtime Story and More! (Zoom)

First Saturday at 11am - Buddhacats Affinity Group (In-person)

First Saturday at 7pm - Folk Guild (In-person)

First Wednesday at 5pm - SGM Writing Group (Zoom)

First Thursday at 11am - Hangout with Rev. Bob (In-person & Zoom)

Second Friday at 10:30am - Soul Matters (In-person)

Third Monday at 5pm - Buddhacats Affinity Group (Zoom)

Third Monday at 7pm - Soul Matters (Zoom)

Third Tuesday at 5pm - Climate Action Team (Zoom)

Third Thursday at 10am - Board Meeting

Last Tuesday at 7:30pm - Women's Group (Zoom)

[CHECK OUT ALL EVENTS](#)

## FIRST THURSDAY HANGOUT

First Thursday Hangout is simply a chance to hang out with Rev. Bob and others in an informal setting, on the first Thursday of each month, 11 am – noon. Thursday, **February 2nd**, and Thursday **March 2nd**, on Zoom and in person.

([Zoom Link](#) or dial in 646-558-8656)

## BUDDHACATS AFFINITY GROUP

This is an informal group of people who share an interest in Buddhism and meditation. Through a communal practice (Sangha), we seek to develop and enrich our individual meditation practices as we explore the teachings of Buddha (Dharma).

Our meetings consist of a short group mediation (15-20 minutes), after which those who wish to are invited to share their experience, as well as any Buddhist-related thoughts, practices, and/or readings.

All those interested are invited to attend.

We meet the first Saturday of each month (Feb 4th) at 11:00 am at the home of Judee Irwin. Contact Judee, [judeeirwin@gmail.com](mailto:judeeirwin@gmail.com), for details.

And we meet online via Zoom the third Monday of the month (Feb 21st) at 5pm. Contact Karen Lindsay, [kwykslindsay@gmail.com](mailto:kwykslindsay@gmail.com), for the Zoom link and details.

## SOUL MATTERS

This group has changed it's meeting from the second Monday to the Third Monday of the month. The next gathering is on Monday, Feb. 30, 7 to 8:30 pm via Zoom only. Soul Matters - topic is Love.

For info and Zoom link, email Barbara Kidney at [bask999@yahoo.com](mailto:bask999@yahoo.com) by Feb. 12.

## (Re)LEARNING THE ABCs OF LGBTQ+ :

### A Small Group Ministry for Every Body

This group had our first meeting January 15th. If you are interested in joining this small group about sexuality and gender, our second session is February 12th, at 12:30 pm. After February, this group will be closed to only those who attended a previous session. This group meets once a month through June, and is facilitated by Rev. Bob and Joyce White. Attendance at most classes – happening Sunday afternoons – is expected.

To register email Joyce White at [rollsadventure@msn.com](mailto:rollsadventure@msn.com).

## GREAT BOOKS SERIES

There will be NO great books meeting in February. See you March for a discussion of "Song of Songs."

## "MISTAKES AND MIRACLES"

### Book Group

**TUESDAY, MARCH 7th at 7-8:30 pm.**

Rev. Bob is hosting a one-session zoom book group on the book Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism for those unable to attend the in-person sessions earlier. What does multiculturalism feel like in congregations? How can we be on the journey towards diversity and anti-racism?

All welcome. You don't have to have read the book, but the book is available to purchase here:

<https://www.uuabookstore.org/Mistakes-and-Miracles-P18521.aspx>

**[BOOK GROUP - ZOOM LINK](#)**



## UU Catskills ThirtyPlus Meetup

You are invited for wine and conversation  
Friday, Feb 24th: 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

at Yarn Farm - Kingston  
A new yarn shop and wine bar  
21 West Strand Street in Kingston.

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## **UU Catskills Children's Art**





*Artwork by Amel, who made this for her neighbor who passed away.*

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# RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Jane Podell, Director of Religious Exploration

This month, we will explore the challenges and paths of “love.” Love can be many things. It isn’t always the sentimental love of Valentine’s Day. We will explore love for ourselves, family, friends, community and the world.

**Here is our RE schedule for the month of February.**

## **February 5**

No RE

Childcare WILL be provided by Ann Peters (from Play Haven)

## **February 12: Love of self, love of others, love for the world**

Jane Podell, R.E. leader

Jillian Hanlon, childcare provider

We will hear from a little girl Parker Curry whose life was forever altered when she visited the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC and viewed the portrait of First Lady Michelle Obama. There are all kinds of love in this story.

## **February 19**

Zoom service only

No RE and no childcare

## **February 26: Loisfoeribari**

Jane Podell, R.E. leader

Jillian Hanlon, childcare provider

Through a video poem by Aracelis Girmay, we will try to figure out what “loisfoeribari” means. Loisfoeribari is the word printed on a card from the author’s third grade student Estafani. Although she finally figures out what it means, we can’t tell you because it will spoil the beauty of the poem.

As we explore the many paths of love this month, we are reminded of the privilege of regularly witnessing the love that exists for ourselves and for others. May this love grow and blossom in our hearts and may we feel the revelations that love has to offer.

*The theme of love will be brought to Thursday Bedtime Stories during the month of February, so please tune in!*



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## CARING COMMUNITY

Please keep member Christine Bates in your thoughts as she grieves the loss of her wife, Denise Kristine Hourihan, Kris died due to complications from Covid on Saturday, January 28, 2023. Cards and calls would be appreciated.

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

### 8TH PRINCIPLE

The Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism book group has completed its 3 sessions of discussion. There will be another opportunity on Zoom with Rev. Bob for those who have read the book and who were unable to make the in-person meetings.

Our work to build a Beloved anti-racist Community is ahead of us. We will be proposing ways to come together in this work, to recognize our strengths, to take risks and be vulnerable, and to support one another through the difficult task of change. Remember, the proposed 8th Principle calls us all to live into our faith - into our 7 Principles. For more on the 8th Principle go to [UUCatskills.org](http://UUCatskills.org)

## CLIMATE ACTION TEAM

Come to Albany on Tuesday, 3.21.23. We'll join with Rivers and Mountains GreenFaith Circle and other climate groups and march to banks to let them know that we will no longer do business with them if they continue to fund the climate crisis by financing the fossil fuel industry. Visit this [LINK](#) or more information on this national day of action organized by Third Act. Contact Karen 845-399-2805

## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Starting this month, after Sunday Worship, the Social Action Committee will be hosting a table in the Sanctuary for the purpose of providing information and opportunities, listening to your questions, and hearing about your own social action passions. One of the ways we build Beloved Community is to share what is important to us and who we are. Bring what is on your mind.

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## COMMUNITY UPDATES

## HUDSON VALLEY FOLK GUILD

The Kingston Chapter of the [Hudson Valley Folk Guild](#) welcomes you to our Coffeehouse Series on **Saturday, February 4** at 7:30pm at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Catskills.

Open mic performances will be available for all. Signup begins at 7 and open mic begins at 7:30. The featured performance is expected to begin at approximately 8:30. Our featured performer is Pat Lamanna.

Cost of admission for this event is \$7 (\$6 for Folk Guild members and seniors)

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Until Black History is part history lessons throughout the year, it is incumbent upon us all to seek out the opportunities as they come. Check out the [Black History Month Kingston](#) online calendar for a full listing of events.

### **6th Anniversary Black History Month Kingston**

#### Kick-Off Event

February 4 at 1-4pm  
at the YMCA, Broadway, Kingston

Enjoy a fantastic FREE day of celebration for the entire family! Children's Activities, Community Gathering, Entertainment, Live Music and Performances & Theater, MyKingstonKids dance party, African dance, poetry, singing, activities, vendors, special appearances, & more.

### **Black History Month Kingston's Art & Photo**

#### Group Show

February 4 at 5-8pm  
at the Lace Mill in Kingston

Showcasing African-American artists and inspired art and photos from talented individuals throughout the Kingston and Hudson Valley area.

### **Dr. Margaret Wade Lewis Black History Cultural Center**

All month in **New Paltz** at 5 Broadhead Avenue and 173 Huguenot St.

This is an African American cultural center housing artifacts, books and research about the Black community of the Hudson Valley and hosting cultural, educational, mental, physical, and emotional wellness empowerment programming. **Check the KBHM calendar for specific times.**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

UUCS Minister - Rev. Bob Janis-Dillon - minister@uucatskills.org  
UUCS Office Administrator - Sarah Bissonnette-Adler - uuccoffice@gmail.com  
Director of Religious Exploration - Jane Podell - RE@uucatskills.org  
Music Director - Catherine Cattabiani - geoliot7@gmail.com  
Membership - Mary Evans - membership@uucatsills.org

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Catskills  
320 Sawkill Road Kingston, NY 12401  
(845) 331-2884 • www.uucatskills.org

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