



## 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

"April is the coolest month", the poet T.S. Eliot almost wrote\*, and we have a lot on at the congregation this spring! We have our last Congregational Meet & Eat on the evening of Monday April 3rd; our Passover Seder on Saturday, April 8th, and Easter Sunday April 9th. Later in the month, it's a very special New Member Sunday April 30th, featuring some wonderful music – and then the following week, May 7th, is our Animal Blessing Sunday.

Spring is often a time of vibrancy and activity and life. It's been good to see so many people at services, as well as many attendees to our anti-racism gatherings; UU 101 newcomer sessions; LGBTQIA+ workshops; many terrific groups around topics as diverse as Buddhism, grief, writing, and women's groups; climate rallies; and social events ("Menopause: The Musical" was quite

fun; I learned a lot). If you're looking to get more involved; a reminder that our events can be found at <https://www.uucatskills.org/new-events>.

In a world where all of us can feel ever more isolated by individualist capitalism; where many people so often feel invisible; where it's so tempting to think that social change and collective action are impossible; what we do here is both counter-cultural and deeply important. Let's keep this wonderful community going strong.

Gratefully yours,  
Rev. Bob

\* No, he wrote "April is the cruelest month". This is a terrible pun. -ed.

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## SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

### JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:30AM

#### **April 2 - Singing Sunday - Jeff Reiter**

(In-person & Zoom) (Childcare available. No RE\*)

Join Jeff Reiter as we enjoy the joy and power of singing together: songs of freedom, civil rights and protest.

Worship Associate – Catherine Cattabiani

#### **April 9 - How to Lose Everything - Rev. Bob Janis**

(In-person & Zoom) (Childcare available followed by Easter Can Hunt. No RE\*)

Easter, taken at face value, is a mysterious holiday with a mysterious message. The leader dies, the rebellion fails, and all that is left is an empty tomb. And yet, everything has changed. A reflection on the message of Easter.

Worship Associate – Kathy Atwell

*With the return of Spring comes the promise of spiritual renewal and the opportunity to pull out lighter clothes and jaunty hats. On April 9, Easter in the Christian tradition, everyone is invited to wear an "Easter bonnet" to*

*the service. You may decorate a hat perhaps with flowers and ribbons. You may wear something elaborate or simple: a top hat, tam, Kentucky Derby special, straw boater, fedora, Stetson or classic Easter bonnet. Gloves are optional.*

### **April 16 - Democracy as a Sacred Practice - Julio Torres**

(Streamed Live in the Sanctuary) (Childcare available. No RE\*)

At General Assemblies we embrace the divine via democracy. How does the divine embrace us? This worship service we will contemplate the journey of democracy as a sacred practice. We can reflect on an empathetic divine which help us to build a beloved community of peace, abundance and equity.

Worship Associate – Jenny O’Grady Giddy

### **April 23 - Annual Hudson Mohawk Cluster Service**

(Streamed Live in the Sanctuary) (RE\* and Childcare available)

The Annual Cluster service at the Doane Stuart School in Rensselaer. Leah Penniman, Black Kreyol farmer, mother, soil nerd, author, and food justice activist will be speaking on Black Earth Wisdom. You may go to Rensselaer for the service, join others in the sanctuary to watch it on the screen or Zoom.

### **April 30 - The Journey Towards Membership - Rev. Bob Janis**

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

Our 2023 New Member Sunday will be a celebration featuring music, singing, acting, poetry, and (why not) Ancient Greek myth. Come see if the brave adventurer makes it as far as the membership book...

Worship Associate – Liz Thomas

\*Religious Exploration

[ZOOM LINK](#)

## SERVICES IN-PERSON AND ON ZOOM

We expect to have every service live and on Zoom from now until June. This will require increased volunteers - especially for the social hour after

the service. Please email Catherine Cattabiani at [geoliot7@gmail.com](mailto:geoliot7@gmail.com) if you can volunteer to make the coffee, or help with the tech (training is available).

## **MASKING REQUIREMENT CHANGE**



Starting in April, with the April 2nd service, we are shifting our policy to make masks optional. We recognize this is a challenging issue for all of us. Let's be respectful of each other as best we can. Please do not come to services if you think there's a chance you may have Covid, flu, or anything else that is as contagious as love but a lot less fun to catch. Thanks!

### **WATCH PAST SERVICES**

Many past sermons and services are available on our [YouTube page](#).

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APRIL HALF PLATE RECIPIENT IS  
SEED SONG FARM LOW INCOME & IMMIGRANT  
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR KIDS



USE QR CODE TO COMPLETE YOUR DONATION.

[GIVE NOW](#)

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## From the UU Catskills President

Spring has come, at least according to the solar calendar, and with it the hope for less volatile weather and joyful rebirth. Here at UU Catskills, our April calendar is filled with a host of events and changes. Starting April 1st, **masks will be optional** for all UUC functions including services. Feel free to wear a mask or not as you deem best. On April 3rd we will have our **final Cottage Meeting** to examine our future and launch our Pledge Campaign. Nineteen members attended a very informative, engaging and delectable Meet and Eat on March 18th. If you wish to attend this final meeting, you can sign up at <https://www.uucatskills.org/new-events/2023/3/14/congregational-meet-amp-eat-xesj4-rtdzr-skgnx>. The **Pledge Campaign** continues until April 16th. Please make your pledge as soon as possible so that we can create a timely budget for the coming year, and give as generously as you can so that we can continue to fund all we do. You can pledge at <https://www.uucatskills.org/pledge-form-20232024>.

On a sadder note, Sarah, our **Office Administrator** will be leaving us on April 1st. We will miss her, but wish her well in her new position at Kaatsbaan International. We are actively searching for her replacement, which will be hard to fill. Meanwhile the Search goes on for a new minister to replace Reverend Bob who will leave us at the end of June. The **Ministerial Search Committee** is in the process of interviewing interested candidates. Finally, the **Eighth Principle** will be put to vote at our Annual Meeting on June 11th. There will be several workshop sessions throughout April and May to raise awareness about this important vote. Similarly, information will be disseminated regarding the proposed changes to **Article 2** of the UUA Bylaws—another important vote at the General Assembly in June. Lots happening: get out and be a part of it.

Mark S. Howenstein

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## APRIL EVENTS

- April 2 at 11am - Buddhacats (In-person)
- April 3 at 7pm - Congregational Meet & Eat (In-person)
- April 8 at 5pm - Passover Seder (In-person)
- April 16 at 12:30pm - Blue Jean Sunday
- April 17 at 5pm - Buddhacats (Zoom)
- April 23 at 11:30am - Climate Action Team Formum
- April 24 at 7:30pm - Great Books - *Mary Oliver, Devotions* (Zoom)
- April 27 at 5:30pm - Let's Do The Work (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 7pm - 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 Monday at 7:30pm - Great Books (Zoom)
- Last Tuesday at 7:30pm - Women's Group (Zoom)

[CHECK OUT ALL EVENTS](#)



## PASSOVER SEDER

Our Passover Seder is April 8th at 5 pm, in person in the sanctuary. This multi-generational event is open to all. The Seder retells the Jewish story of liberation from captivity, through a meal, songs, stories and community.

The event is potluck. Seder foods traditionally involve no leavened food (dough risen with yeast), so no bread, pasta, or cookies. You can find recipes [HERE](#). There are also Kosher foods at most local supermarkets.

Please RSVP to Rev. Bob at [minister@uucatskills.org](mailto:minister@uucatskills.org) and let him know whether you are bringing an appetizer, main dish, or dessert – and if you can't decide, let me know and I'll happily assign you something. Thanks!

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 (April 2) 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 (April 17) at 5pm. Contact Karen Lindsay, [kwykslindsay@gmail.com](mailto:kwykslindsay@gmail.com), for the Zoom link and details.



# Blue Jean Sunday

April 16th  
at 12:30pm



Sunday April 16 at 12:30 will be our first Blue Jean Sunday of 2023. We will be doing general cleanup and outlining this seasons projects. All are welcome.

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM FORUM

April 23rd

Calling on everyone who cares about the health of the Hudson River. On April 23rd at 11:30AM, in the UUC Sanctuary, attend a presentation, by Phil Erner, an Ulster County Legislator, about a law to protect this precious waterway. Bring your questions. Contact Karen Miller 845-399-2805

## GREAT BOOKS SERIES

Great Books Series is a discussion of the world's sacred and philosophical texts. We meet on the last Monday of the month 7:30 – 9:00 pm, on Zoom.

April 24, 7:30 pm Mary Oliver, Devotions

May 29, 7:30 pm Upanishads (last Great Books of the year)

[Zoom LINK](#)

## ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE

### Doing the Work

Following up on previous months exploration of the significance of the work involved in passing and living into the proposed 8th UU Principle, on April 27th the ARTF will hold its second Zoom discussion of *Do The Work!*. This unusual activity book, with both humor and thoughtful reflection, invites us into challenging conversations about racism and

white supremacy, and provides ideas and tools for disrupting and dismantling both.

This may seem the stuff of intellectual exploration but it is a soul-searching, faith challenging, and inspiring. Join us as we gain knowledge, skills, and mutual support in our journeying toward the 8th UU Principle's calling.

Thursday, April 27th, 5:30-7:00 with Rev. Bob.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/5987565378>

Meeting ID: 598 756 5378

Dial 646 558 8656 US

## UNDERSTANDING ARTICLE II WEBINAR

Are you familiar with Article II revision process? Would you like to know how the current revision was arrived at? If you want to know how you can be involved with Article II going forward, and what will be happening at General Assembly 2023; you are invited to join Rev. Sunshine Wolfe and leaders from the Greater Pittsburgh areas as they answer questions related to the Article II revision process.

Article II includes several sections including our current UU Principles and Sources. After time for information and Q&A, participants will have space to communicate with one another about Article II and what it might mean for their congregations and communities.

Please join us online on April 29th 10a-12pm ET. More information and the registration can be found on the [event page](#).

## 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, May 4th, on Zoom and in person. **No Hangout in April.**

## EXPLORATION OF UUA ARTICLE II REVISIONS

Save the date! Please hold Sunday, May 7th, at 1 pm (after the budget hearing) in your calendar for an exploration of the proposed UUA Article II revisions. It is important that our congregation learn about these proposed revisions as they will be the subject of a preliminary vote at the GA this June.

There are more details to come closer to the time, but in the meantime, please see information about the proposed revisions via the link below:

<https://www.uua.org/files/2023-02/article-II-study-report-2021-23.pdf>

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# UU Catskills Children's Art



*Artwork by Maddie*

## RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Jane Podell, Director of Religious Exploration

April is Prevention of Animal Cruelty Month and in our annual tradition, we will be collecting cans of dog and cat food for our Easter Can Hunt on April 9th, later to be delivered to the Ulster County SPCA. If you wish to donate more than cans of dog and cat food, see the SPCA wishlist [HERE](#).

**April 2nd** – Childcare with Ann Peters

**April 9th** – Easter Sunday

Childcare with Ann Peters followed by Easter Can Hunt

**April 16th** – Childcare with Jillian Hanlon

**April 23rd** – Religious Exploration with Jane Podell + Childcare with Ann Peters

*During the month of April, the theme is Resistance. In this session, we will explore how we resist being complacent by changing our habits. The holiday of Earth Day is a perfect time to explore this, as we learn and relearn the habit of living gently and simply on the earth.*

**April 30** – Religious Exploration with Jane Podell + Childcare with Jillian Hanlon

*We will continue with the theme of Resistance. In this session, we will explore the idea that breathing is a form of resistance by using it to focus and center, instead of becoming scattered and captive of the "monkey mind." Buddhism is a powerful example of this with its emphasis on meditation.*

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## COMMITTEE UPDATES

### APRIL UIDN UPDATE

Thanks to the many UU Catskill members and friends who donated to our March Collection for Ulster Immigrant Defense Network. We collected \$225 for shopping plus many people dropped off dozens of items.

Remember, you can donate toiletries, toilet paper and laundry detergent anytime in the Sanctuary Hallway wooden box.

## PROPOSED UU 8TH PRINCIPLE

Our weekly emailed Updates have offered "8th Principle moments" to remind us all of the importance and role of this proposed addition to our 7th UU Principles. At the Annual Meeting later this Spring, our congregation will be asked to embrace and adopt this Principle. All 7 Principles begin with the same 14 words of covenantal statement, followed by its unique words.

The 8th says:

*"We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."*

We Unitarian Universalists are notorious for word-smithing, munching, parsing, and mincing. Many of us would be glad to offer suggestions of re-writes for many of our Principles. Let us focus here on the calling into our faith that this proposed 8th Principle provides. We will have opportunities for sharing and discussion prior to the annual meeting. Stay tuned in!

## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The next quarterly meeting of the Social Action Committee is Tuesday, April 25th from 5:00-6:00 on Zoom. SAC membership comes from leaders of our seven justice seeking groups: Anti-Racism Task Force, Climate

Action Team, Food Justice Working Group, LGBTQAI+ Working Group, Ulster Immigrant Defense Network, Voting Rights Task Force, and the Women's Reproductive Task Force.

Anyone is welcome to attend!

<https://zoom.us/j/96426134218>

Meeting ID: 964 2613 4218

Dial Up: 646 558 8656

## FOOD JUSTICE WORKING GROUP

There continues to be a desperate need for food at the Community Fridge Pantry. We have an ongoing collection of nonperishable food items, to be put in the box in the Sanctuary Hallway. Fresh food can be taken directly to the fridge at 122 Clinton Avenue, Kingston. Contact Karen Miller 845.399.2805

**CARING COMMUNITY**



# Happy Birthday!

## April Birthdays

**April 3 - Tom Hackett**

70 Wall St, Kingston, NY 12401  
hackett0403@gmail.com

**April 17 - Judith Chase**

weaverjudith@verizon.net  
(845) 679-2551

**April 6 - Debbie Pineiro-Zucker**

woodstockdayschool55@gmail.com

**April 18 - Jerelynn Mason**

1070 Blue Mt. Rd.  
Saugerties, 12477

**April 10 - Sasha Sun**

3 Garraghan Dr., Apt. 1333  
Kingston, NY 12401

**April 25 - Liesel Vanals-Hilgart**

20 Lund Court  
Woodstock, NY 12498

**April 16 - Bill Tuel**

100 Woodland Pond Circle #342  
New Paltz, NY 12566-6413

**NEWS and UPDATES**



UCC Members Vickie O'Dougherty, Constance Rudd, and Karen Miller came to Albany on March 21st as part of a protest to ask that the big banks stop funding new fossil fuel initiatives.

## OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Our UCC Office Administrator, Sarah Bissonnette-Adler, is ending her tenure here at the end of March, to pursue a full-time job. Sarah, who served as Office Administrator previously, was only with us a few months this time around, but she rescued us when we were without an admin, serving with her customary dedication and ingenuity. Sarah, your wisdom and skill, as well as your care for this congregation, were much in evidence during your time here. We wish you all the best on your new endeavors.

From Sarah:

*It was so nice to be back with you all for this short period of time. Sorry it*

*was such a short time. I'm happy that I could help as much as I could. This congregation is a special place, I will miss it.*

UUCC is hiring! Please see the link below for details. If you'd like to refer someone to apply for the role, please email Erin Hilgart at [erin.hilgart@gmail.com](mailto:erin.hilgart@gmail.com)  
<https://www.indeed.com/m/viewjob?jk=232fce75fd4688fd>

## CONTACT INFORMATION

UCC Minister - Rev. Bob Janis-Dillon - [minister@uucatskills.org](mailto:minister@uucatskills.org)  
UCC Office Administrator - Sarah Bissonnette-Adler - [uuccoffice@gmail.com](mailto:uuccoffice@gmail.com)  
Director of Religious Exploration - Jane Podell - [RE@uucatskills.org](mailto:RE@uucatskills.org)  
Music Director - Catherine Cattabiani - [geoliot7@gmail.com](mailto:geoliot7@gmail.com)  
Membership - Mary Evans - [membership@uucatskills.org](mailto:membership@uucatskills.org)  
Social Action Committee - Donna Schlachman - [Social.Action@uucatskills.org](mailto:Social.Action@uucatskills.org)

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