



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](#)

From the Minister

Our January theme is "finding our center." It's a good topic for the New Year, or indeed anytime. Life can get so frittered away by distractions, we lose track of what is our center – what we're really about at our core, individually or collectively.

The Greek philosophers loved to talk about telos, a Greek word that translates roughly as "purpose." When you know the telos of something, it helps to make decisions. The telos of a cup, usually, is to hold liquids. So if it fails to do that well – you might want to recycle or repurpose it. The telos of a TV is to entertain and inform us. That's the idea, anyway; I know some who don't have a TV because it has failed to do just that. But what's the telos of a social justice meeting, or a meditation practice? What's the telos of a congregation, or a denomination? Or for that matter, what's the telos of a human being?

These questions may not have simple, agreed-upon answers. Nevertheless, it's worth thinking about what it is really "all about." If we know that, everything else – is just details.

Wishing you purpose, meaning, wisdom and happiness in 2023,

Rev. Bob

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:30AM

January 8 - A Ritual of Letting Go, Cleansing, Intention and Hope - Rev. Diane Diachishin (In-person & Zoom) (No RE and Childcare available)

On or near the first Sunday in January, many Unitarian Universalist congregations hold a ritual to bid farewell to the old year, and to release it. This celebration separates the end of the year from the beginning, helping us to put in perspective the joys and sorrows, the changes and transitions, the ups and downs of the year. It's a half-way point in our church year, but a celebration of the outside calendar's year's end and year's beginning. In a ceremony, people will be invited to write down words, or a phrase, to sum up what they wish to release before entering the new year. They then come forward to put behind what they wish to leave from the old year, placing their wishes in a communal bowl. Afterwards, flowers will be used to celebrate renewal for the new year.

January 15 - The Beloved Community - Rev. Bob Janis
(In-person & Zoom) (RE and No Childcare)

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and others, spoke of the "beloved community" as a place we could create to counter the evils of poverty, racism, and militarism. Here at UU Catskills, "Community" is one of our values, along with "Growth", "Action", and "Diversity." This service will explore whether the beloved community is feasible here in our community – and in the world at large. It will also keep people up to speed on new developments in this interim time.

January 22 - Principles and Purpose, Faith and Freedom - Rev. Bob Janis

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

A "revision to Article 2" doesn't sound very exciting – but it's quite important when it

contains the seven principles and six sources that have served as a central expression of Unitarian Universalism. A look at what the core of Unitarian Universalism is all about – and where we may be headed.

January 29 - Wicca, Gnosticism, and Anthroposophy - Barbara Kidney and Andrew Dalton (Zoom) (No RE and No Childcare)

Barbara and Andrew will be speaking about their connections with Wicca, Gnosticism, and Anthroposophy, and how they perceive these non-mainstream spiritual traditions resonate with Unitarian Universalism. With their lively wit and keen interest in these traditions, this promises to be an informative and entertaining service.

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 "Workshop Services," then "YouTube."



**JANUARY HALF PLATE RECIPIENT IS
ULSTER IMMIGRANT DEFENSE NETWORK**



USE QR CODE TO COMPLETE YOUR DONATION.

GIVE NOW

From the UU Catskills President

As we start a new year, it is time to look back at what we have accomplished and look forward to what yet remains to be done. This past year we rode the covid waves as we opened, then closed, then reopened again for live services and meetings in the Sanctuary. Recently the Board voted to retain masking for services and RE (to keep them safe and open to all), and to make our post-service social hour mask-optional and to allow groups to determine their own masking policy for meetings in the Sanctuary.

We started this year with a Chalice Lighters Grant that has helped us to conduct quality hybrid services and to streamline our communications. The Tech and Worship Committees have worked hard to make our hybrid services as accessible and appealing as possible. Both committees need volunteers to help to take us to the next step—live services every Sunday in the Sanctuary, which we hope to initiate sometime this spring. We have updated our communications platform with a few hiccups along the way. These should dissipate as this new way of communicating becomes more settled and everyday.

We started this year with a solid Board made up of several ex-Presidents and long-time Board members. However, several of us have reached the limits of our terms, and we must make way for the next group of UUCC leaders. The Pledge, Fundraising and Nomination Committees remain vacant in need of engaged members as well. To raise awareness of these opportunities, we will have a Volunteer Sunday on January 15 following the Service. A list of positions with descriptions of the workings of each will be provided to attendees, and members of the various committees will be available to answer questions. Finally, we are in the midst of a Ministerial Search that will culminate in the spring. While the Ministerial Search Committee is doing most of the preliminary work, a ministerial search is ultimately an all-congregation affair. Please get engaged in the process, as we move forward. Whoever is chosen will be your minister for quite some time.

This is a great time to get involved at UUCC. We welcome you and your talents. Make this a year of re-engagement following all the disconnections of Covid.

We want to extend our collective appreciate to Amanda Williams, who has been our marketing consultant since June. Amanda has helped us “find our center” as a congregation, helping us come to our sense of who we really are, how we communicate who we are, and how we grow. Also, she stepped up in the interim between our office administrators, kindly staying on to produce our newsletter and weekly updates. Thank you, Amanda, for your vision, wisdom, flexibility and hard work.

And, as we said in the December newsletter, we are delighted to welcome Sarah Bissonette-Adler as our very talented, devoted Office Administrator. Please forward any items for the newsletter or week ahead to uuccoffice@gmail.com. Thank you!

JANUARY EVENTS

January 9 at 7pm - Soul Matters (Zoom)

January 14 at 10am - Thirty Plus Meetup (In-person)

January 15 at 11:30am - Volunteer Fair (In-person)

January 15 at 12:15pm - UU 101 (In-person and Zoom)

January 15 at 2pm - (Re)Learning the ABCs of LGBTQ+ (In-person)

January 21 at 7:00pm - Movies with Spirit (In-person)

January 23 at 5:00pm - Social Action Committee Meeting (Zoom)

January 26 at 6:00pm - Common Read: The 8th Principle (In-person)

January 30 at 7:30pm - Great Books Series - Dhammapada (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)
First Thursday at 7pm - Spoken Word (In-person)
Third Monday at 5pm - Buddhacats Affinity Group (Zoom)
Third Tuesday at 5pm - Climate Action Team (Zoom)
Last Monday at 7:30pm - Great Books Series (Zoom)
Last Tuesday at 7:30pm - Women's Group (Zoom)

[CHECK OUT ALL EVENTS](#)

SOUL MATTERS

Monday Jan. 9 -- 7 to 8:30 pm -- Soul Matters via Zoom only -- Facilitated by Andrew Dalton & Barbara Kidney. To join, please email Barbara at bask999@yahoo.com.

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, **January 5th**, and Thursday, **February 2nd**, on Zoom and in person.

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

VOLUNTEER FAIR

After the Sunday Service (11:30 am)

Learn about ways to get involved at UU Catskills at our Volunteer Fair. There will be information about various positions and activities happening

at our congregation. We'll also have an update on our ministerial search process.

UU 101

UU 101 will be offered, in person and on Zoom, on **Sunday, Jan. 15, at 12:15**. At this informal session, presented by Rev. Bob and the Membership Committee, you will learn about UU history, our seven Principles, and UUCatskills governance and activities. This event is geared toward interested visitors and potential members, but all are welcome to attend. An RSVP to membership@uucatskills.org is appreciated but not required.

([Zoom Link](#)).

(Re)LEARNING THE ABCs OF LGBTQ+: A Small Group Ministry for Every Body

This Small Group Ministry is an opportunity to learn about, and explore, questions of sexuality and gender, which affect all of us. In an environment of mutual trust and respect, our discussion will include topics like the rainbow of sexual identities and expressions; transgender awareness; patriarchy and power dynamics; shifting understanding over time and generations; how to be an affirming parent; how to be a good ally; and so much more.

There are six monthly sessions, happening in the Sanctuary on Sunday afternoons from January to June. Sessions will be co-facilitated by Rev. Bob Janis and Joyce White. You are most welcome to take part, whatever your sexuality and gender. The first meeting is **Sunday, January 15th at 2pm**. This group is free.

To register, please contact Joyce White at rollsadventure@msn.com. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Joyce or Rev. Bob (minister@uucatskills.org, 845-853-0063)

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



MOVIES WITH SPIRIT: HAPPENING

UU Catskills is honored to host “Happening”, as part of the Movies with Spirit community film series. Receiving massive critical acclaim, “Happening” is a French film about a woman in the 1960s seeking an abortion. From the New York Times review: “urgently of the moment...shows you a part of life that the movies rarely do.”

The movie will be on January 21st at 7 p.m. We will have popcorn and light snacks available. A freewill donation of \$10 is suggested for moviegoers, but all are welcome. The film is rated “R” and shown in French with English subtitles.

COMMON READ: THE 8TH PRINCIPLE

"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."

This fall, Rev. Bob facilitated two discussions on the UUA Common Read book *Mistakes and Miracles*. Through detailing the experiences of 5 UU congregations who are on an 8th Principle journey, the book explores what it means to become a "multicultural congregation" and describes how different communities approach this work. Due to expected weather, the third scheduled book discussion was postponed until January 26th. You do not have to have read the book to attend. Our congregational engagement with the proposed 8th Principle does not end here. Rev. Bob and others will consider what this work might look like at UUCatskills, and offer some proposals to the leadership.

Meeting: **January 26th**, 6:00 to 7:30. In person in the Sanctuary.

GREAT BOOKS SERIES

This series is a discussion of the world's sacred and philosophical texts. Because of scheduling conflicts we are now moving back to Monday nights. We will meet on the last Monday of the month 7:30 – 9:00 pm, on Zoom. The next one is on **January 30**. We will discuss *Dhammapada*.

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

JANUARY THIRTY PLUS MEETUP

Join us Saturday, Jan 14 from 10-12pm for roller skating at Wood n Wheel. Kids 6 & under welcome! Tyke Time is \$10 at door.

After join us for lunch at Port Ewen Diner at 12:30pm.



Contact Erin.Hilgart@gmail.com for details.

Coloring Page

For Kids and Adults Alike



RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Jane Podell, Director of R.E.

Finding Our Center

This month, we will explore the challenges and paths of "finding our center." What does it mean to find our center? It can mean different things: finding our footing on unstable ground (figuratively speaking); grounding ourselves in our own truth and knowing our essence; feeling well, stable, inspired, hopeful. Finding our center can be a joyful act. When we are rooted in integrity and who we most want to be, we discover

a deep joy like no other.

Here is our RE schedule for the month of January as we find our centers.

January 8

No RE, however, childcare WILL be provided by Ann Peters (from Play Haven)

January 15

RE session: The Me I Choose to Be

Jane Podell, RE leader with childcare provider Jillian Hanlon

We will explore decentering whiteness and putting racial justice at the center of our lives and our world. By exploring the meaning of equality and equity and learning that justice work is hard and important, we will begin our journey toward wholeness.

January 22

RE session: Potatoes, Eggs and Coffee Beans

Jane Podell, RE leader with childcare provider Jillian Hanlon

In life, things happen around us, and things happen to us. Life swirls around us. Finding our center during these experiences means understanding your choice about how you react to it and what you make of it.

January 29

No RE and no childcare.

CARING COMMUNITY

We are sad to announce the recent loss of three longtime members of our community. This has been a poignant month for UU Catskills. The family and friends of these three wonderful people are in our hearts at this time.

Stan Goldstein (February 3, 1923 - December 18, 2022)

[Link to obituary for Stan](#)

Bobbi Katz (May 2, 1933-December 3, 2022)

[Link to obituary for Bobbi](#)

And Shirley Bernard (September 6, 1939 - December 16, 2022)

[Link to obituary for Shirley](#)

There will be a memorial service for Stan Goldstein (February 3, 1923 - December 18, 2022) at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Catskills on February 4th, 2023, at 11:00 AM.

The memorial services for Bobbi Katz and Shirley Bernard are planned for spring. Details will be forthcoming.

We know that grief often touches upon grief, and reminds us of the difficult parts of life. Please reach out if you are having a hard time. Rev. Bob can be reached on minister@uucatskills.org, or by phone or text at 845-853-0063. There is a grief group that meets regularly, as well.

We mourn their loss, but also celebrate three extraordinary human beings.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The next quarterly meeting of the SAC is Tuesday, January 24th, 5 -6 pm.

We meet on Zoom.

<https://zoom.us/j/94099121964>

Meeting ID: 940 9912 1964

Dial Up: 646 558 8656

The membership is made up of the leadership of [UUCatskills'](#) current areas of our social justice focus: Climate issues, Food insecurity, LGBTQIA+ protections, Immigrants' needs, Anti-racism/white supremacist culture, Women's bodily autonomy, and Voting Access. Meetings are open and new voices are welcome.

Please take advantage of the opportunity to learn more about our

congregation's Social Action efforts and opportunities at the January 15th Board sponsored [find-out-and-get-involved](#) information tables after the Worship Service.

ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE

The ARTF continues to be on hiatus from monthly meetings while members participate, along with others, in our congregational book group for the UU Common Read Mistakes and Miracles. This reading is integral to discovering how we see ourselves in the work of growing into an anti-racist multicultural beloved community.

In the interim, the work to hold ourselves accountable for the ways white supremacist habits of thought and action disrupt our ability to live into our principles must continue. This is done by:

1. Seeking out antiracism materials via movies, books, podcasts, news articles.
2. Being a part of the 8th Principle work at UUCatskills as we explore what transformation means to us
3. Joining local organizations confronting systemic racism. Suggestion: attend the Hudson Valley chapter of ENJAN (End the New Jim Crow Action Network). It next meets January 23rd @6:30. Call 845-475-8781 or email ENJANHV@gmail.com for Zoom link.

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM

Good news: At the UN Biodiversity convention, 200 countries pledged to protect 30% of the planet by 2030 and to cut food waste by 50%. May it be so. Make a climate resolution for 2023.

Save the date 3.21.23 for divestment action in Albany. More info [HERE](#).

Environmental Stewards: contact Karen Miller for information about our

Food Scraps and Terracycle containers behind the Sanctuary. 845-399-2805.

[Visit our page to learn more about this group.](#)

FOOD JUSTICE WORKING GROUP

Thanks to all who have volunteered to be sponsors for our shopper, to those who continue to bring food to the Community Fridges, and those who donate nonperishable food to our collection box, in the Sanctuary Hallway. There is a need for one more sponsor for our shopper, at \$20 per month. We have an ongoing collection of nonperishable food items that are taken to the Community Fridges. Contact Karen 845-399-2805

[Visit our page to learn more about this group.](#)

ULSTER IMMIGRANT DEFENSE NETWORK

Our holiday adult toiletries collection was a huge success: 32 gift bags for women and 16 for men. Plus a big box of extra soap, shampoo and other necessities. Thanks to all who donated over \$350 in cash or toiletries.

Additionally, UU Catskills members provided transportation to attorney meetings and helped with food and gift distribution. You can donate toiletries, detergent, cleaning supplies and feminine hygiene products in the drop off box in the Sanctuary hallway.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

**STOP THE MONEY
PIPELINE**



**TO CLIMATE
DESTRUCTION**



NEW PALTZ MID-HUDSON

OLD DUTCH CHURCH

272 Wall Street - Kingston

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2023

5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

DIVEST / INVEST

align your money with your values

contact: xrmidhudson@gmail.com

Michael Richardson from Rivers & Mountains GreenFaith will lead an interactive conversation on how to move your personal finances away from funding fossil fuel extraction, production and distribution... and instead see your deposits, premiums and investments used to fund local businesses and farms, affordable housing, and development of regenerative clean energy.

HUDSON VALLEY FOLK GUILD

The Kingston Chapter of the [Hudson Valley Folk Guild](#) welcomes you to our Coffeehouse Series on Saturday, January 7 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 Glen Roethel.

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

KINSTON REPAIR CAFE

The Kingston Repair Cafe will be January 14, 11am-3pm, at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 104 Wurts Street.

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

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Catskills

320 Sawkill Road Kingston, NY 12401

(845) 331-2884 • www.uucatskills.org



Copyright © 2023 UU Catskills, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

