

## Beliefs within our faith

Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religion that encompasses many faith traditions. Unitarian Universalists include people who identify as Christians, Jews, Buddhists, Hindus, Pagans, Atheists, Agnostics, Humanists, and others.

As there is no official Unitarian Universalist creed, Unitarian Universalists are free to search for truth on many paths.

But Unitarian Universalists share a living tradition that comes from:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves
- Humanistic teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit

We are grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, and we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision.

## More Information about Unitarian Universalism

To learn more about us and Unitarian Universalism, please visit these web sites:

[www.saratoga-uu.org](http://www.saratoga-uu.org) Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of Saratoga Springs

[www.sld.uua.org](http://www.sld.uua.org) St. Lawrence District

[www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org) Unitarian Universalist Association

Welcome



*The Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of Saratoga Springs  
is firmly committed  
to the free expression of truth  
and to its ideals of  
compassion and service.  
It is a welcoming haven for  
all people who share this vision.*

Minister: Rev. Linda Hoddy

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## Welcome!

If you're searching for a religious home that is guided by a quest for truth and meaning, not by a set creed or dogma, we invite you to discover Unitarian Universalism. We are a caring, open-minded religious community that encourages you to seek your own spiritual path. Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations are places where people gather to nurture their spirits and put their faith into action by helping to make our communities—and the world—a better place.

The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations has created seven principles as a guide.

Unitarian Universalists affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

## Sunday Services

Services are held Sunday mornings at 9 and 11 AM throughout the school year, and at 10 AM during the summer.

Our church services are led by our minister, and once a month lay-led services are held, often with a guest speaker.

Children are asked to stay for the beginning of each service, and may leave for religious education following a children's story. A coffee social hour is held after each service.



## Religious Education and Child Care

Nursery care for children from newborn to age 4 is available at both services.

Religious education for children explores Unitarian Universalist leaders, history, and principles, the major world religions, as well as Native American beliefs. Classes run from September to June for grades k-8, and a Coming of Age program, and a Youth Group are available for older students.

A variety of adult religious education classes is offered each year for both members and friends of the congregation.

## Interested in learning more?

We welcome all people no matter their age, race, sexual orientation, ethnic, or religious background. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate in our services and activities as a friend of the congregation. This is a great way to get to know us and for us to get to know you. Please help yourself to any of the pamphlets at the back of the sanctuary, speak with a greeter, and visit our web site for more information.

If you are interested in becoming a member, we encourage you to attend our orientation for newcomers. A series of 3 classes is held in the fall and spring every year.

## Our History

Both Unitarianism and Universalism started in Europe hundreds of years ago. The Universalist Church of America was founded by 1793, and the American Unitarian Association by 1825. In 1961, these denominations consolidated to form the new religion of Unitarian Universalism.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs began when 6 people met with the Rev. Linda Hoddy in May, 1996 to explore their interest in starting a congregation in this area. By January, 1997, we were offering regular Sunday services, and in March 1998, we proudly held our charter service as a member of the UUA.

As our membership grew, we were able to buy our own building. In November, 2001, we celebrated the dedication of our new home. We continue to grow, and now are a community of 200 members and friends. We invite you to be a part of this developing congregation.

