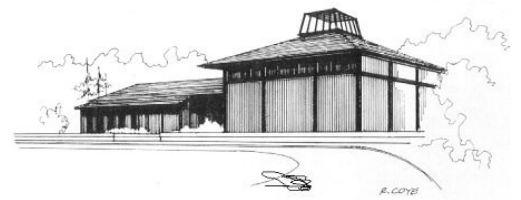


# May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society Newsletter



We embrace all spiritual journeys and encourage service as we build a more loving and just world



February 2025  
Volume 88  
Issue 2

Remember what Baha Hilo teaches us "*Oppression has failed to turn us into someone or something we are not*"

In these complicated times, let us put our arms around one another, let us look for those who need to be held or lifted or loved into existence, loved into being, loved into a world full of hate.

Let us carry the stories that give us strength,  
the dreams that light our way,  
and the fierce hope that burns within.

May we remember that each step forward, no matter how small, adds to the great march toward justice.

May we find courage in our connections,  
wisdom in our waiting,  
and love in our listening.

Remember: revolution is not a moment;  
It is a way of living.

Beloveds, we are the ones we have been waiting for.

Let us hold each other up as together we march into the revolution.

And always remember, you are loved beyond belief.

Rev. Jo



## Exciting news from your Stewardship Team!

This Sunday, February 2, our 2025/2026 Stewardship Campaign "**Growing Together**" kicks off with a few words from our Stewardship Chair Karen Sgarlata. After service stop by the stewardship table and pick up your **individualized pledge packets**. You can get your packet to peruse while waiting in line for the First Sunday Lunch Taco Bar, or, get it afterwards, its sweet message of love and inspiration the perfect accompaniment to the cornucopia of desserts which will surely be offered at the lunch. If you are not in attendance on Sunday, your packet will be mailed to you on Monday, February 3. The **campaign ends on March 9** but, as always, the sooner we receive your pledges, the more successful we can be putting together the budget for the July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 fiscal year (**see page 3 for details**)

*February*

2/2	Who Are YoUU? Stewardship Sunday	Rev. Jo VonRue and Worship Associate David Mendelsohn
2/9	Multigen Valentines	Rev. Jo VonRue and Acting Director of Religious Education Lia Parks
2/16	Thank You, It's True	Rev. Jo VonRue and Worship Associate Karen Sgarlata
2/23	TBA	Rev. Jo VonRue

<https://zoom.us/j/91328201757?pwd=gKDU2sIVTRxcLUP44zwpOXPZq9rb8L.1>

Meeting ID: 913 2820 1757

Passcode: 098900

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,91328201757# US (New York)

+16469313860,,91328201757# US

Dial by your location

• +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

• +1 646 931 3860 US



**Resisting Fascism**

A three-session class for adults  
by Rev. Jo VonRue - May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

**Sunday: 2.23 12:15-2pm**

**Sunday 3.23 12:15-2pm**

**Sunday 4.27 12:15-2pm**

Inspired by Rev. Cecilia Kingman's 2023 Berry Street Essay "My Little Pony Was Right: Fascisms Without and Within", and the popular work of Dr. Jason Stanley and Dr. Timothy Snyder, both of Yale University, this class seeks to help adult students make connections between the rise of fascism and the institution of the church, and develop practical strategies for living a life that resists the habits of mind that allow fascism to take root in society.

It is not necessary to attend all 3 sessions.

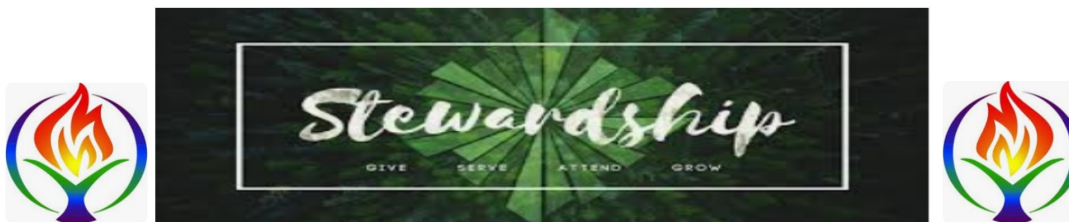
Please feel free to bring your own lunch.

Registration Required: [office@mmuus.org](mailto:office@mmuus.org)

(Teri, I will get you the reading list)



*Community,  
Conversations,  
Connections  
with Rev. Jo*



**Dear MMUUS Community,**

In these transformative times, our congregation stands as a beacon of hope, love, and progressive values in Syracuse. Our theme this year, "Growing Together," reflects both our achievements and our aspirations. While we've set our baseline goal at \$234,000, we must acknowledge that meeting our full mission and vision requires additional support of approximately \$30,000.

**Why is this growth essential?**

Because we're not just maintaining a building – we're nurturing a living, breathing community that:

- Provides a spiritual home where every person is valued and celebrated
- Champions social justice when fundamental rights are under threat
- Offers multigenerational programming that connects our elders' wisdom with our children's dreams
- Ensures fair, living wages for our dedicated staff who make our ministry possible
- Creates spaces for joy, wonder, and collective care in an often-challenging world

Your generosity has consistently demonstrated that what one of us cares about, we all care about. Your pledges translate our shared values into action.

**We're living in a critical moment.** As we witness attempts to roll back hard-won rights and to alienate and oppress marginalized vulnerable communities, our UU voice and values are needed more than ever. Your pledge helps ensure that MMUUS remains a strong voice for justice and compassion in Central New York.

**This year, we're asking each member to consider:**

- Increasing your pledge to help us meet not just our baseline goal, but our full operational needs
- Joining our community of supporters, if you're new to pledging

Remember... **every pledge**, regardless of size, is an affirmation of our shared commitment to building the beloved community. Together, we're not just sustaining a congregation – we're nurturing a legacy of love, justice, and hope for generations to come.

**See where your pledge stands in the Gift Table below. Can you move to the next level?**

Consider an increase of 10% or more to help us widen the circle of people engaged in our principles and actions.

**Take advantage of our \$11,225 Matching Fund!**

All pledge increases and NEW pledges will be MATCHED!  
(up to a maximum of \$1000 per pledge)

2024-2025 Gift Table		
Pledge Amount	Number of Donors	Total \$ to MMUUS
≥\$5000	11	\$71,752
\$3000 - \$4999	16	\$62,916
\$2000 - \$2999	13	\$32,170
\$1000 - \$1999	25	\$33,103
\$500 - \$999	22	\$14,349
\$1 - \$499	19	\$4,610
Match Fund		\$20,000
<b>Total</b>	106	<b>\$238,900</b>





In gratitude and hope,

Karen Sgarlata, Stewardship Chair

## UPCOMING Events

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Saturday	2/1	Imbolc Celebration	1pm	Social Hall
Sunday	2/2	First Sunday Lunch	After service	Social Hall
Tuesday	2/4	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
Thursday	2/6	May Men's Lunch	Noon	Munjed's restaurant
		Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
		Depression Support Group	4:30pm	Memorial Room
		Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm	Sanctuary
Sunday	2/9	Soul Matters Sharing Circle	12:15pm	Teenz
Monday	2/10	Date With Death Club	1pm	Social Hall
		Twisted Sisters	7pm	Teenz
Tuesday	2/11	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
Thursday	2/12	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
		Depression Support Group	4:30pm	Memorial Room
		Choir	7:30pm	Sanctuary
Tuesday	12/18	Writers Group	10am	Teenz
		Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
Thursday	2/20	BookEnders	1:30pm	Memorial Room
		Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
		Depression Support Group	4:30pm	Memorial Room
		Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm	Sanctuary
Sunday	2/23	Resisting Fascism	12:15pm	Memorial Room
Monday	2/24	Date With Death Club	1pm	Social Hall
Tuesday	2/25	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
Thursday	2/27	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
		Depression Support Group	4:30pm	Memorial Room
		Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm	Sanctuary

## HIGHLIGHTS

-  Sunday Feb. 2 is **First Sunday Lunch** hosted by the MMUUS Choir and Twisted Sisters. It is also **Stewardship Kickoff**, please be sure to pick up your Stewardship packet on Sunday
-  All men at May are invited to the monthly Mens Lunch. Thursday Feb 6 at 12 noon at Munjed's restaurant on Westcott Street. Contact Anton Ninno to RSVP [antoninno@yahoo.com](mailto:antoninno@yahoo.com)
-  First meeting of the Resisting Fascism group will meet on Sunday Feb 23 at 12:15pm, see page 2 for details
-  February is **May Loves The Arts** show in our Social Hall art gallery! Be sure to stop in and view the wonderful art supplied by our own members and friends. Hours: Sunday until 1, Monday 9 - 2, Tuesday & Wed 12:30 - 2, Thurs 9am - 2

## *Congregational Meeting!*

Congregational Meeting to Revise Bylaws March 2, 12:00

The Board of Trustees invites all members to attend a meeting to review and vote upon Bylaws changes that we are proposing. It will be important to have a quorum of voting members; we will do our best to limit the meeting to one hour. Copies of the proposed Bylaws and an explanation of changes are available on the Members Only section of our web site and also in print in Teri's office. We plan to vote on each article individually to ensure that we are making steady progress through the meeting. Affected articles are V, VI, IX and X.

We have solicited input during this process and hope that we will have resolved any major concerns before this meeting. We encourage all interested parties to review the "explanation" document and ask questions or air concerns to Board members in advance of the meeting.

- Peter McClure, Rob Neimeier, David Mendelsohn



**The Folkus**  
Project of Central New York

**Seth Glier** on Friday, February 7 @ 8pm.

**Quote The Raven** on Friday, February 21 @ 8pm.

Please visit the [FOLKUS PROJECT](http://FOLKUS PROJECT) website for details and tickets (folkus.org)

# From the Church Office



**Admin office hours:**

Mon-Thurs drop in hours: 9am—2pm

Sunday: 7am—1pm

Additional hours available by appointment, contact the office to get on the schedule.

The office is closed on Friday and Saturday and on government holidays, please refer to the eblast and the Monday Office Update for closings.



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Director of Music	Glenn Kime	<a href="mailto:gkimeorganist@gmail.com">gkimeorganist@gmail.com</a>
Board President	Peter McClure	<a href="mailto:peterrogermcclure@gmail.com">peterrogermcclure@gmail.com</a>
Book Keeper	Leslie Dendy	<a href="mailto:lesliedendy@yahoo.com">lesliedendy@yahoo.com</a>
Finance	Jennifer Newman	<a href="mailto:mamaslash@twcny.rr.com">mamaslash@twcny.rr.com</a>
Church Office	Teri Coon	<a href="mailto:office@mmuus.org">office@mmuus.org</a>

May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

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office@mmuus.org



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**Office Hours:**

Mon - Thurs: 9am-2pm (other times by appointment only)

Days off are Friday and Saturday

**Contact us:**

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315-446-8920