

May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society Newsletter



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

June 2023
Volume 86
Issue 6

Summer Plans



We have had a wonderful and joy filled year together!

As most of you know, I take the summer away from the congregation in order to spend time with my family and to recharge for the upcoming church year. I will not be available to you this summer as I take this time away, but Teri can contact me in the case of an emergency. If you think you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Teri and she will be in touch with me. My last day here in Syracuse will be June 17th before I travel to Pittsburgh to attend our UU Ministry Association's Ministry Days and our UU General Assembly.

That all being said, I want to let you know what we are trying out for summer services.

Since both Syracuse UU congregation's summer attendance is generally low, we will alternate hosting summer worship to give both our staff and numerous volunteers a summer break.

June 18th, Fred Fiske will lead our first summer worship with a "Hymn Sing" here at MMUUS. Then, starting June 25th, we will alternate Sundays, with FUUS. There will be emails, signs posted in the building, and on the front door to direct people to stay at MMUUS or go over to FUUS, a quick drive over the hill at 109 Waring Rd, Syracuse.

I don't know what FUUS has in mind for services; at MMUUS, our Worship Associates are leading thoughtful discussions about a topic of their choice. We will meet in the social hall where one of our Worship Associates will share a Ted Talk or NY Times article, for instance, followed by a discussion on the topic. Coffee hour will follow. I'm excited to see how this goes and hoping it will inspire great conversations.

I return to MMUUS August 13th and will begin meeting the following week after catching up on emails and business, then will preach on August 27th. We will worship at FUUS on September 3rd, then the official start to our worship year will be on September 10th with our annual Water Communion Worship service.

I hope that this church year has brought you as much joy as it has brought me. I could not be more thankful to be serving as your minister and look forward to our upcoming year! This summer, may you engage with life in ways that heal and hold you, may you find beauty in all that surrounds you, and love wherever you look.

Remember, you are loved beyond belief.

~Rev. Jo

(Editor note: Summer details on page 8)

ALL CHURCH PICNIC IN JUNE



Our final First Sunday Lunch for the church year will be held on **June 4** on the church grounds. As we celebrate the end of a successful Stewardship Campaign, the end of COVID restrictions and the beginning of summer, we will come together to enjoy a picnic with no ticket price!

Bring something to cook on the grills set up on the balcony and something to share with the rest of the congregation. Think, 'Classic picnic food'. Fill your plate and find a spot inside or outside to enjoy our shared picnic. Spend some time with your May Memorial friends remembering our past year together and sharing plans for the summer and the coming MMUUS year.



1. The Annual Meeting of our Society is Sunday, June 11 at 6:30pm via Zoom. The Zoom link is posted in this newsletter.
Although this will be a brief meeting, it is very important that each of us makes every effort to attend. We must have a quorum to conduct the necessary business: vote on next year's budgets and elect leaders to your Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee.
The discussion of the proposed 2023-24 budget was held May 21 in preparation for this meeting. The final budget proposal and the agenda for the Annual Meeting will be sent beforehand. The nominees for leadership positions will continue to be announced by the Nominating Committee.
2. The Committee on Ministry & the Board of Trustees have completed an extensive review of the ministries of this congregation and offered recommendations. These are available to all members from Teri Coon.
3. May Memorial will have a state-of-the-art security system & camera for the front door this summer.

See everyone June 11 at 6:30!

Don Milmore,
Board President



Sunday June 11 at 6:30 pm
This is on Zoom only, please plan on signing on at 6:15
so we can take attendance to make sure we have a quorum

<https://zoom.us/j/97121698543pwd=TWVwRGYvNHZ2U3ZTWE1yMXh1MThVZz09>

Meeting ID: 971 2169 8543
 Passcode: 670290
 One tap mobile
 +19292056099,,97121698543# US (New York)
 +16469313860,,97121698543# US
 Dial by your location
 +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
 +1 646 931 3860 US

**Congregational
Meeting**





Worship Service Information

June 4	Pride	Rev. Jo VonRue and Worship Associate JoJo Higgins	In person and on Zoom
June 11	Flower Communion	Rev. Jo VonRue and Director of Religious Education Stacy Sceiford	In person and on Zoom
June 18	Hymn Sing (Use new link page 8)	Join us in the Social Hall for our annual hymn sing! (Use new link page 8)	In person and on Zoom (Use new link page 8)
June 25	General Assembly	There will be a watch party at First UU. Time of the service is 11am	We will not meet at May and we will NOT be showing this on our zoom link

**Join us Sunday at 10:30am
For our Worship Service**

<https://zoom.us/j/95127684023?pwd=aERpeGNVUWZIZjIMQutZcDVJMENYQT09>

Meeting ID: 951 2768 4023
Passcode: 607275

One tap mobile
+19292056099,,95127684023# US (New York)
Dial by your location
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)



NOTE:

This link will no longer be in effect after June 11. See page 8 for Summer service information and look for a new Zoom link starting in the August newsletter for the 2023-2024 church year.



General Assembly Worship Service

Choose your own adventure!

You can choose to join the folks at First UU 109 Waring Road at 11 am for a watch party

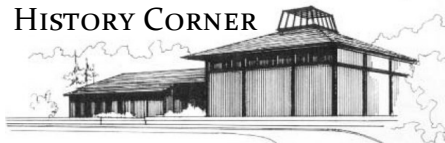
OR

You can watch in the comfort of your own home. The details for how to watch at home can be found here:

[General Assembly Sunday Service \(https://www.uua.org/ga\)](https://www.uua.org/ga)

We will **NOT** be streaming this on our Zoom link

HISTORY CORNER



Remembering Ernie Sibert



Ernie and Glenn Kime

Ernest "Ernie" Sibert died on April 24, 2023, after a lengthy battle against Alzheimer's Disease. Born in Arkansas, Ernie received his Ph.D. in mathematics from Rice University (1967). In 1970, Ernie and his family moved to CNY, where he joined the faculty of the Department of Computer and Information Science at Syracuse University. He was promoted to full professor in 1977 and served as interim dean from 1984-1987. He retired after more than 40 years on the faculty.

In May of 2022, a concert organized by Ernie's wife Anne Shelly was held at Crouse College (SU) to honor and celebrate Ernie. Several members of the MMUUS choir participated, as did current music director Glenn Kime and former music director Rob Kerner. It was a wonderful concert, and Ernie was able to attend and enjoy some of his favorite music, along with his daughter Julie.

Because no public memorial service is currently planned for Ernie, we wanted to share some of what our long-time friend contributed to May Memorial.

Ernie and Robin, then his wife, began attending May Memorial not long after their arrival in Syracuse. They signed the membership book in 1972, and their children, Eddie and Julie, were brought up in the church.

Music was a big part of Ernie's life, and he soon joined the bass section of the choir, remaining a faithful member until his illness made it impossible to continue. Ernie was a serious musician who played the organ, piano, and harpsicord. For many years, he was May Memorial's substitute organist/pianist, as well as assisting the regular organist in the choir loft, as in the picture accompanying this article.

Ernie played the piano for the very popular summer hymn sing, as well as other special events. When members of MM put on two performances of the musical, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" in 1983, Ernie was in charge of music direction and accompanied both performances.

Not surprisingly, Ernie was chair of May Memorial's music committee from 1973 until at least 1990. We also learned that he chaired the budget committee throughout the 1980s, and from 1974-1982, he was on the Board of Trustees, serving as vice president for a year.

We remember Ernie Sibert fondly and with gratitude for his many contributions to May Memorial over his 50 years of membership.

Mary Louise Edwards & Kent Lindstrom

MMUUS History Committee
history@mmuus.org



Want to be part of the May Memorial Caring Community?

Do you want to get involved in a critical committee at MMUUS? Then the CareRing is for you. We are seeking new members as well as one or two people to chair or co-chair this committee. The CareRing is a lay extension of the professional ministry of May Memorial. Responsibilities include recruiting church and committee members to provide meals, transportation, phone calls, visitation, or written communication on a short-term basis whenever possible, and informing the minister of those who may need help. It is a unique committee that gives one the opportunity to meet and develop special relationships with members and friends in our community. Please contact Janet Hiemstra (janethiemstra@gmail.com) or Vicky Schipper (schipper44@gmail.com) if you are interested in chairing or being a member of this important committee.



Going Green and Seeking Social Justice

by Bess Kamerance

Pride and Juneteenth—A Month To Celebrate

This month of June offers the opportunities to celebrate and ponder the past, present, and future events that have shaped or are shaping the American values of acceptance and care.



First, there is PRIDE month. PRIDE events take place in many parts and locales in the U.S. and world-wide. Yet, PRIDE and acceptance of the LGBTQIA+ community is being daily threatened in many states of the country. However, here in Central New York, this is not the case. As Nurse Practitioner, Davia Moss, of the Upstate Pediatric & Adolescent Center noted during her workshop at the recent Beyond the Binary Conference, “New York is an island of care” for providing resources of community, health care, counselling, and inclusion. Syracuse will celebrate PRIDE with a parade and festival at the Inner Harbor on Saturday, June 10th.



Second, is the first national celebration and commemoration of Juneteenth, the 19th day of June, 1865 when slaves in Texas were emancipated, the last of those enslaved after the end of the American Civil War. The [Syracuse Juneteenth Festival](#) commemorates the work that was done throughout Central New York to achieve and maintain equality, freedom, and opportunity for African Americans. The 2023 festival is a two-day event located at City Hall in downtown Syracuse and will be followed by an Ancestral Celebration on Monday June 19th, with the location to be determined. For more information about this groundbreaking event head over to [Syracusejuneteenth.org](#). This two-day festival is free to attend.

Come celebrate the diversity and unity of our community.



*The 8th
Principle
Work*

The historic anti-nuclear sailboat Golden Rule Peace Boat will be sailing to the Syracuse area this summer and is currently scheduled for July 16, 17 & 18. The Golden Rule is a Weapon of Mass Education! The boat has bright red sails and its amazing story goes back to 1958, when 4 Quaker peace activists, led by a retired World War II Navy Commander, sailed this 34-foot wooden ketch from Los Angeles to Honolulu on their way to intervene with U.S. nuclear bomb testing in the Marshall Islands.

We are asking you to help to publicize Golden Rule events inside and outside your faith or community organization and to help us plan local events.

The Golden Rule Peace Boat is a project of the Veterans for Peace (VFP) national campaign opposing nuclear weapons and war. The Syracuse Peace Council Golden Rule Project supports the campaign's push for climate justice and the conversion from fossil fuels and nuclear power to renewable energy. We are also eager to make connections with the vital struggles of the day – for climate justice, racial justice, and economic justice. We maintain that the obscenely bloated Pentagon budget should be substantially reduced, with the funds redirected to urgent human needs like healthcare and housing.

Please join us as a local partner to help us make the most of this unique opportunity. As a partner and sponsor alongside the Peace Council and Veterans for Peace, you will be invited to speak at local events; your organization will be featured on all published materials and on social media; and we hope you will participate in fundraising for the Golden Rule's 2023 tour.

Please mark your calendars for July 16, 17, and 18, and help us to get the word out as well as share your ideas for the planning of events on those days!

A Peace Council/Veterans for Peace committee member will be calling you to follow up and answer any questions you might have. We invite you to the [VFP Golden Rule Web Site](#) and encourage you [to watch a short video](#) about this amazing initiative for peace.



NEW INFORMATION ABOUT

2023 May Memorial Unirondack weekend.

Friday Sept 22 (late afternoon) through Sunday Sept 24 (mid-afternoon)

We have some changes to the Unirondack experience this year.. possibly starting a new tradition. As we did MANY years ago (before I took over as coordinator), we will be sharing the space with the UU congregation from Kingston, Ontario! Since both of our groups are relatively small, the combined groups makes for a wonderful opportunity for international UU relations and even more fun!

Unirondack is a UU Camp and Conference Center, 2 - 2.5 hour drive from Syracuse in the western Adirondacks, near Lowville, NY. To see the Unirondack facilities/environment, the website is: www.unirondack.org. Since 2008, this intergenerational Unirondack weekend has been a source of early fall community building for our UU congregations. This weekend is often an introduction to the camp for youth and families who later go on to be campers and staff at the week-long youth or family camps.

What the changes means for us....The price will remain the same (see below), we will have more people sharing responsibilities for meals & other responsibilities as well as leadership/variety of activities and more friendships to develop!! It also limits our numbers to "around 40" (which is where we usually fall anyway).

There are cabins and heated sleeping spaces with indoor bathroom facilities. People need to bring their own bedding, towels and pillows as well as their personal items. We ask that there be no electronic games since this is a weekend to spend in community with other UUs from the area. People hike, bike, read, play games, go boating, swim, talk, nap, arts, crafts, sport games or just sit by the lake soaking in the beauty. Group activities are encouraged and are led by the weekend participants. Please leave your pets at home.

Housing will be assigned as people register with every attempt to meet your needs. If you know you are planning to come up for the weekend, get your deposit or full payment in sooner versus later! When you register, please include the total number of people, # and ages of children under 12, and any special needs you have regarding housing (ie: "no/limited stairs") and food sensitivities/allergies/needs.

The 2023 cost will be: \$110/PP for those over 12 years old; Children 4-12 years \$100; Children 3 and under are free. This is inclusive of 2 nights (F, S) lodging, Friday night "welcome" light meal, 3 meals Saturday and Sunday breakfast & lunch and snacks. Meals are prepared by participants and are shared in a dining hall. Special dietary needs are carefully managed in food planning and prep; refrigeration is available for individual needs. Snacks and transportation are not included in this rate. Carpooling has been arranged by individuals in the past.

A 50% deposit is required to hold your space; the balance needs to be paid 2 weeks in advance of the weekend. Reservations can be made by sending your names/ ages of children to:

Stephanie Cross at mscross1234@gmail.com.

Deposit/Full payment checks should be made to "Stephanie Cross"

Hand delivered at: MMUUS or somewhere else!

Mailed to: 3844 Pompey Center Road, Manlius, NY 13104.

Venmo payments can be sent to: Stephanie-Cross-75

PayPal payments to: @StephanieCrissCross

Please remember to include your contact information (name, email, phone), names of people attending and ages of the children attending with your payment.

This is a great weekend; we hope you will join us!

Stephanie Cross, Coordinator,
May Memorial UU Society
Syracuse NY

UPCOMING Events

The Syracuse **PRIDE** Fest and Parade for 2023 is on Saturday, June 10th. Let us continue a May Memorial tradition and march in the parade in support of the LGBTQIA+ community. The parade starts at the Solar Street lot across from Destiny. Parking is available right across the street from the parade lot. Participants are asked to be there by 10:15 am, with the parade starting at 11am. Please contact Bess Kamerance if you will be joining our group and proudly carrying out MMUUS banner. bkamerance@gmail.com or 315-402-2591; text 315-720-3494

CNY Gay 5K to benefit Sage Upstate

CNY GAY 5K is being held on June 17, 2023 at Long Branch Park in Liverpool. All proceeds benefit Sage Upstate, serving older LGBTQ people. Sage has been offering programs to reduce isolation and improve health for 25 years in Central New York. You can run or walk to show your support and there is even a virtual option available. Go to CNYGAY5k.org for further information.

After Annual Meeting on June 11 things kinda slow down here at MMUUS.

Following you'll find Rev. Jo's schedule & the Office Admin schedule.

Rev. Jo:

- 6/11: Rev. Jo last Sunday in Pulpit
- 6/19-6/25 Rev. Jo attends Ministry Days and UUA General Assembly
- 6/26 Rev Jo begins summer vacation and study leave
- 8/13 – Rev. Jo returns to checking email and is available by phone
- 8/27 – Rev. Jo Preaching (but will be out for Labor Day Weekend)
- 9/10 – Water Communion

Office Admin:

Office Admin (Teri) will be taking some time off this summer:

- **Vacation:** 6/12-6/19 returning to the office on Tuesday 6/20
- 6/20-8/13 the admin will be working in the office Sun-Thurs 8am-12



Art Gallery Artist for June Sharon Frost



Sharon Frost will be our featured artist for the month of June. Sharon has a bachelor of fine arts from SUNY Oswego. She has owned and operated Frost Decorative Painting since 1991. Her work includes murals and specialty finishes in many commercial and residential spaces throughout Central New York. Her clients include Crouse Irving Hospital, the Landmark Theater and Manlius Public Library.

Frost's personal artwork, primarily mixed media landscapes, has been exhibited both locally and nationally. While a student at Oswego, Frost participated in the annual juried exhibitions and received a Presidential Purchase Prize Award.

{ Summer Worship Service 2023 }

MMUUS Join us in the Social Hall	FUUS
6/18 - Hymn Sing—Social Hall	6/25 - General Assembly Watch Party
7/2 - Worship Associate David Mendelsohn	7/9
7/16 - Worship Associate Tosca Bruno-van Vijfeijken	7/23
7/30 - Worship Associate Tosca Bruno-van Vijfeijken	8/6
8/13 - Worship Associate Kent Lindstrom	8/20
8/27 - Rev. Jo VonRue Worship Associate JoJo Higgins	9/3

First UU Syracuse
109 Waring Road
Syracuse, NY

<https://firstuusyr.org/>

Directions from MMUUS to First UU

*Head northwest on E Genesee St toward Manor Dr

*Take Hillsboro Pkwy to Kimber Rd

*Continue on Kimber Rd. Drive from Tecumseh Rd to DeWitt

*Turn right

Summer Zoom Link

**Join us Sunday at 10:30am
For our Worship Service**

<https://zoom.us/j/95843286801?pwd=Zy9mcXRBaTlBS3ZudlN5d1VRaXcrdz09>

Meeting ID: 958 4328 6801
Passcode: 896210

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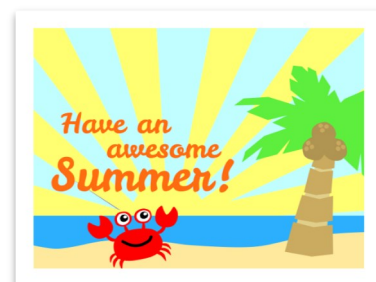
Covid-19 Protocols

Please note:

At the time of printing May Memorial has relaxed it's masking policy.

First UU still has masking as a requirement of attending services.

If this changes please watch our social media and e-blast for updated details.





Please let the office know if you have any changes that need to be reflected in the directory.

Updates to the directory are vitally important so we may effectively communicate with you.



Vespers

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 8pm for a short 30 minute time of connection and reflection. We will listen to a short reading, a piece of music that expands on the topic, and we connect with one another through check-ins and conversation. You can find a zoom link each week on our website!

<https://zoom.us/j/97595560626?pwd=Sk5EL1IKd2xPNTJoUHUVYWQ0NjRGQT09>

Meeting ID: 975 9556 0626

Passcode: 210723

One tap mobile

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Dial by your location

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Summer Worship Series

This summer (as in the past several years) we will be sharing worship with First UU Society of Syracuse! Keep an eye on the MM calendar as we will have some form of gathering, alternating between FUUS and MMUUS on an every other week schedule. To change things up for summer, we will be having something a bit different. We will gather in the social hall at MMUUS, open our services with a chalice lighting and then likely watch a Ted Talk or some other video and then have a discussion about the ideas that came up. If you have any suggestions on topics, please contact Reverend Jo. We will also have a few hymn sings this summer with Fred Fiske!



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DRE

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Board President

Don Milmore

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Leslie Dendy

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Finance

Jane Fagerland

finance@mmuus.org

May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

3800 East Genesee Street
Syracuse, NY 13214
315.446.8920
office@mmuus.org



Office Hours:

Sunday: 7am-12pm

Mon - Thurs: 8am-4pm

Days off are Friday and Saturday

- **Calendar Items:**

All zoom meetings must be scheduled through the Office Administrator.

- **Deadlines to remember:**

E-Blast and Order of Service need to be to me by *5pm on Wednesday*.

- **Newsletter:**

Deadline 20th of preceding month, please adhere to this deadline to allow for the newsletter to be sent out in a timely fashion.

Please keep word count to 300-400 to allow room for everyone to have a voice in the newsletter