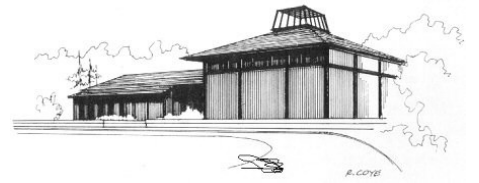


May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society Newsletter

April 2026
Volume 89
Issue 4



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

Sunday worship service 10:30am



Our Worship and Soul Matters theme for the month of April is Embracing Possibility. I know there is a lot going on that makes us worried for the future and uncertain about what might come next. We have to come back to ourselves and what we know and what we can control. We CAN control how we look at our lives, how we pay attention to others, and how we look forward to a new day. Mary Oliver suggests in this poem, “Still life has some possibility left. Perhaps this is its way of fighting back...” I fight back against all that is happening by continuing to build relationships, by continuing to love, by continuing to find joy each day. So, my loves, I hope that when joy surprises you this month, you will give into it with your entire being... and hopefully find someone to share it with.

Don't Hesitate By Mary Oliver

If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy, don't hesitate. Give in to it. There are plenty of lives and whole towns destroyed or about to be. We are not wise, and not very often kind. And much can never be redeemed. Still, life has some possibility left. Perhaps this is its way of fighting back, that sometimes something happens better than all the riches or power in the world. It could be anything, but very likely you notice it in the instant when love begins. Anyway, that's often the case. Anyway, whatever it is, don't be afraid of its plenty. Joy is not made to be a crumb.



Rev. Jo and Elenore

I love you!
Rev. Jo



Soul Matters will be doing lunch on **Sunday, April 12th**. We're taking advantage of the last chill in the air before spring fully sets in with an offering of warming soups, stews and casseroles. We will also be featuring a taste of sunshine with flavors lemon, cranberries and corn!

Sunday Lunch is a fundraiser for our church, however, lunch is available for everyone!
Give what you are able! If this is your first time here enjoy lunch on us!

Adult- \$0-\$10/Child-\$0-\$6/\$20 max per family

<i>April</i>		Worship Calendar
4/2	Maundy Thursday Zoom link on page: 3	Rev. Jo VonRue
4/5	Uprising: An All Ages No-Rehearsal Easter Pageant	Rev. Jo VonRue Director of Religious Education Stacy Sceiford
4/12	What the Seed Already Knows	Rev. Jo VonRue
4/19	Earth Day Celebration	Worship Associates Noah Lapidus and Karen Sgarlata
4/26	They Died at The Windows: Honoring International Workers Day	Rev. Jo VonRue

<https://zoom.us/j/95274927371?pwd=H5pJFsXMxCMCfJlOWupV326HUrh1Fo.1>



Meeting ID: 952 7492 7371

Passcode: 210281

One tap mobile

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Locking Doors

My loves, starting in June, we will lock the front door of the church at 10:45 on Sunday mornings. This is part of our commitment to resist ICE entering our building without a warrant and to protect those who are vulnerable. The lock is a motion-sensor magnet, so if we ever needed to exit the sanctuary quickly, we could. If you arrive after 10:45 and need to get in, simply ring the bell on the wall of the church and Teri will let you in, she will ask that you identify yourself. Over the next two months, we will develop an ICE response plan and hold a drill, so we are ready if that day ever comes.



Maundy Thursday April 2nd at 6pm at May Memorial in the Sanctuary or on Zoom

Zoom link:



An Ecumenical Service for Good Friday

Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church
5299 Jamesville Rd
April 3 - 6:30pm

Join our ecumenical community for a contemplative Tenebrae service on Good Friday. Tenebrae is Latin for darkness, and this service engages the senses while the Passion story is retold. The sanctuary will get darker throughout this extended meditation on the suffering and crucifixion, while participants are invited to consider what is to come.

All Saints Roman Catholic Church
Eastwood Baptist Church
Hopps Memorial CME Church
May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society
Park Central Presbyterian Church

Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church
Plymouth Congregational Church
United Church of Fayetteville
University United Methodist Church



Spotlight: Art Gallery

The **Annual Syracuse Camera Club Exhibition** will be hanging in our Social Hall throughout the month of April, 2026. Established in 1886, the Syracuse Camera Club is one of the oldest photography organizations in the United States. We, at May Memorial, are privileged to host this annual show. Be sure to stop in to see the captivating portraits, beautiful landscapes and wonderful wildlife studies.

The camera club will be hosting a reception on April 22nd from 6:00 – 8:00, all are welcome!

HISTORY CORNER

**Harriet May Mills - Champion for Women's Rights**

On the history section of the May Memorial bulletin board is a wonderful article published in the *Post-Standard* on March 8. Written by Robert Searing of the Onondaga Historical Association, it is titled, "Suffragist Harriet May Mills: Syracuse's Trailblazer." The article mentions that Mills' parents, who were dedicated social activists, moved to Syracuse soon after the famous "Jerry Rescue" of 1851 to be close to the center of abolitionist activity and Samuel Joseph May, in particular. As the article points out, Harriet's parents became good friends with May, and when Harriet was born in 1857, she was named for him.

In fact, Harriet was "born into" Rev. May's Unitarian congregation, and as an adult, she signed the membership book - the one we still use today. Harriet May Mills attended Cornell University, graduating in 1879, just a few years after women were first admitted. (Rev. May had long urged his friend Andrew White, Cornell's first president, to accept female students, and right before May died in 1871, White told him of the decision to admit women.)

Soon after graduating from college, Mills began working for women's suffrage, influenced by leaders like Susan B. Anthony and Lucy Stone. Our church records show that she spoke on that topic to May Memorial's "Women's Alliance" in the early 1900s. In addition to helping build a large women's suffrage organization in New York State, Mills traveled widely and helped organize similar movements in several other states, including California and Ohio. She was an accomplished speaker who testified before Congress and often addressed suffrage meetings. After the 19th amendment was ratified in 1920, finally allowing women to vote, Mills continued her activism on behalf of women.

For much of her life, Mills was active in politics. She started the Onondaga County Women's Democratic Club in 1919 and served as its president for many years. In 1923 Mills was appointed the first female State Hospital Commissioner in NYS. In 1934, a year before her death, the women's building at the NYS Fairgrounds was dedicated in her honor. Since then, it has been known as the Harriet May Mills Art and Home Center.

Through her political work, Harriet May Mills got to know the Roosevelts, and she campaigned with Franklin Roosevelt when he ran for governor of NY in 1928, addressing women voters. She was a member the Electoral College when Roosevelt was elected president in 1932 and was a guest at his inauguration. Mills holds the distinction of being the first female candidate for statewide office in New York, running for secretary of state in 1920 when Governor Al Smith ran unsuccessfully for re-election.

We can be proud of Harriet May Mills and grateful for her lifetime of work in support of women's rights. *

Mary Louise Edwards

History Committee history@mmuus.org

*Much of this article appeared in the Nov. 2020 newsletter when the nation was celebrating the centennial of women's suffrage.

UUIP- Crafting Circle

This month: Sunday April 26th

Welcome all crafters, regardless of skill level and type. Crafting is better done together, so bring your favorite or forgotten WIP and join us for two hours of conversation. If you don't have a craft but are interested in learning something new, feel free to join us anyway because you never know what you might pick up.

In-person on the 4th Sunday in the Teenz Room at 12:15 pm.



Community,
Conversations,
Connections
with Rev. Jo



The next Soul Matters Sharing Circle will be **April 19th** at 12:30pm
in the Teenz Room.

If you are interested in joining the group please contact the office to get on the distribution list.
You'll receive a monthly reminder with the reading materials for the month.



Fresh Faces,
Coffee and
Connection
with Rev. Jo

Join us for Fresh Faces, Coffee and Connection every fourth Sunday directly after
worship at 11:45am. Our next meeting is **Sunday April 26th** in the Memorial Room!
This monthly gathering welcomes newcomers to MMUUS with coffee, snacks, and
friendly conversation. It's a perfect opportunity to learn more about our community,
meet our minister and fellow congregants, and ask questions in a relaxed setting.

You are welcome exactly as you are, we're excited to get to know you better!

MMUUS FUNDRAISER

Talents, Treasures & Adventures AUCTION

Saturday, April 18, 2026

Don't miss the Silent Auction & Party

Music and Refreshments

Fun for the entire family

5:30 – 7:30pm

Childcare will be provided

Online catalog will be available at

<https://auctria.events/mmuus2026auction>

from April 8-April 16

with many Buy-it-Now options



"Music for Palestine" to Raise Support for Displaced Refugees in Gaza

Musicians, activists and community members are raising awareness of and support for the Palestinian plight in Gaza with a special fundraiser titled "Music for Palestine." The event is **Saturday, May 16, 2pm** at May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society (3800 East Genesee St., Syracuse). Open to the public, attendees are encouraged to make a tax-deductible donation in-person, online or by mail.

May Memorial has always believed that our commitment to justice lives in the choices we make and the people we rise with. Hosting this concert in solidarity with Palestinians living in the occupied territories of Gaza and the West Bank is one way we live that commitment out loud.

The program includes the world premiere of *If I Must Die*, a poignant setting of the poem by Refaat Alareer, who was assassinated in an Israeli airstrike in 2023.

The piece — made famous by Jordanian singer Farah Siraj — has been adapted for trombone octet and will feature local performing artist Laura Enslin as soprano soloist.

Rounding out the afternoon are other instrumental and vocal selections, along with readings and remarks by Pulitzer Prize winning author, Mosab Abu Toha.

Central New York is home to hundreds of Palestinians, including Mr. Abu Toha. They and their allies have organized numerous vigils and protests centering around solidarity for the more than 72,000 Palestinians killed in Gaza since October 2023.

Further information: <https://cnyarts.org/events/events/view/music-for-palestine-to-raise-support-for-displaced-refugees-in-gaza/>



Unirondack Community Building weekend 2026 Save the date!

Friday Sept 18 - Sunday Sept 20th, 2026

This group needs an organizing team since Stephanie Cross is transitioning out of the role she has held for over 15 years.

Interested in being a part of keeping the annual weekend going?

Contact Stephanie mscross1234@gmail.com and we will set up a virtual meeting of all involved.



Jay Unger & Molly Mason on Friday, April 10 @ 8pm.

Jerron Paxton & Dennis Lichtman on Friday, April 24 @ 8pm.

Please visit the FOLKUS PROJECT website for details and tickets (folkus.org)

2026 Intergenerational Land Stewardship Sunday - May 3rd

As Daniel, a MM youth, said last year, "This is my favorite Sunday here at May Memorial!"

Come dressed to be outside taking care of our land for this annual Land Stewardship Sunday! We will be doing simple things, such as picking up sticks/debris and raking, as well as more substantial tasks, as in taking a dead tree down with a chain saw! What makes this fun is that we are doing this as a caring group of folks and enjoying the sunshine (or rain!).



Details – it will start a few minutes into the worship time and we will finish around noon. A light lunch will be provided for when we are done.

How you can prepare:

Wear your outside work clothes (appropriate for the weather)and boots which you can get wet/muddy

Bring: Work gloves, tarps/rakes (having access to several make the jobs easier!)

Thank you! I am looking forward to the day... questions?

Contact Stephanie Cross mxcross1234@gmail.com

Ushers/Greeters:

This role is very important part of Sunday morning. Ushers/greeters are responsible for assisting new visitors in navigating our church building, handing out the announcements and large print Orders of Service as necessary.

You will be responsible for the collection of the offering, taking attendance and counting the offering after service.

Arrival time should be 10am (unless otherwise noted)

We do need 2 folks in this role.

Coffee Hour hosts:

Coffee Hour host commitment is: arrive about 9:30am to get coffee started, plan on staying until 12:30pm.

Your role is hospitality: making coffee, heating water, plating cookies/baked goods, setting up coffee condiment station. After coffee hour clean up of the kitchen.

Eblast/Sunday announcement deadline: Wednesday of each week by 5pm (unless otherwise noted)

Newsletter deadline: 20th of each month



Minister	Rev. Jo VonRue	ministerjrev@gmail.com
Director of Religious Education	Stacy Sceiford	stacymaydre@gmail.com
Director of Music	Glenn Kime	gkimeorganist@gmail.com
Board President	Peter McClure	peterrogermccclure@gmail.com
Book Keeper	Leslie Dendy	lesliedendy@yahoo.com
Finance	Jennifer Newman	mamaslash@twcny.rr.com
Church Office	Teri Coon	office@mmuus.org

UPCOMING
Events

These are events happening in the church that are open to anyone to attend

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Thursday	4/2	Men's Lunch	Noon	Munjed's on Westcott
		Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
		Depression Support Group	4:30pm	Memorial Room
		Maundy Thursday	6pm	Sanctuary
Friday	4/3	Good Friday		
Tuesday	4/7	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
Wednesday	4/8	Vespers	8pm	Zoom Only
Thursday	4/9	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
		Depression Support Group	4:30pm	Memorial Room
		Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm	Sanctuary
Sunday	4/12	Sunday Lunch	After service	
Monday	4/13	Twisted Sisters	7pm	Teenz Room
Tuesday	4/14	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
Wednesday	4/15	Vespers	8pm	Zoom Only
Thursday	4/16	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
		Depression Support Group	4:30pm	Memorial Room
		Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm	Sanctuary
Saturday	4/18	Talents, Treasures and Adventures Auction	5:30pm	Social Hall
Sunday	4/19	Soul Matters	12:30pm	Teenz Room
Tuesday	4/21	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
Wednesday	4/22	Artist Reception	6:00pm	Social Hall
		Vespers	8pm	Zoom Only
Thursday	4/23	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
		Depression Support Group	4:30pm	Memorial Room
		Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm	Sanctuary
Sunday	4/26	Fresh Faces, Coffee and Conversation	11:45am	Memorial Room
		UUIP Craft Circle	12:15pm	Teenz Room
Tuesday	4/28	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
Wednesday	4/29	Vespers	8pm	Zoom Only
Thursday	4/30	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
		Depression Support Group	4:30pm	Memorial Room
		Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm	Sanctuary

May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

3800 East Genesee Street
Syracuse, NY 13214
315.446.8920
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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