



Registration open!



New York State Convention of Universalists
ANNUAL MEETING
October 25 and 26, 2024
Unitarian Universalist Church
of Amherst, NY

The Art of Helping- and Being Helped

*Reinvigorating ourselves and our congregations as we work toward
justice, compassion, and equity.*

Keynote speaker

Rev. Julian Jamaica Soto

"The Precious Light We Carry"



Photo: Leila Wice

Connect and Collaborate!

*Workshops on Spirituality, Advocacy,
Resources, and Membership*



**Visit nyscu.org for
information and to register.**

Mosey Hotel, Williamsville

<https://group.tapestrycollection.com/b1vax0>

By September 20 for special NYSCU rate

New York State Convention of Universalists
198thth Annual Meeting
The Art of Helping- and Being Helped
October 25 & 26, 2024

- **Registration information can be found on our website, nyscu.org**
- **Advance registration is encouraged; however, registration will be available on site.**
- **Please note that this will be a hybrid meeting- we encourage you to participate in person or online!**

HOST CONGREGATION:

Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst, NY
6320 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221

HOUSING:

The Mosey Hotel
5195 Main Street, Williamsville, NY 14221
(716) 276-9600
Special Rate is \$165 for NYSCU; honored both Friday and Saturday nights
Booking link: <https://group.tapestrycollection.com/b1vax0>

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Friday evening, October 25

7:30-9:30 PM Informal welcome and refreshments, meet & greet

Mosey Hotel, Meeting room

Saturday, October 26

Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst

8:30 AM- Registration, coffee

9:00 AM Opening Worship

Rev. Michelle Buhite

9:15 AM Keynote Address

Rev. Julian Jamaica Soto: The Precious Light We Carry

We bring a precious light to a world in need of justice and love, even as we need to be sustained by the light of others in this sacred work. How do we give and receive this light when our spirits need it most?

10:00- 10:30

Keynote Dialogue

10:30-10:45 Break

10:45 Business meeting

11:30 Lunch (provided by the host congregation)

During the lunch break, you are welcomed to stroll the grounds and labyrinth of UU Amherst!

12:30 Workshop Session 1

1. You May Not Know..... Rev. Renee Ruhotzke (CERG) and Ann Rhody (NYSCU), Presenters

Many available resources for our congregations may be "hidden in plain sight." Hear how NYSCU and CERG can help your congregation achieve its goals in ways you might not be aware of!

2. Allyship Across State Lines.....Rev. Soto and Rev. Sally Hamlin, Presenters/Moderators

Communities in other states are facing a barrage of attacks on essential rights: gender identity, sexual orientation, education, voting, and more. How can we provide meaningful help to those fighting these battles? Remote participants include Reverend Chris Long, Minister of Congregational Life, Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and Reverend Erin J. Walter, Executive Director, Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry

1:30-1:45 Break

1:45 PM Workshop Session 2

1. Membership Development: A Roundtable

Ann Rhody (NYSCU), Renee Ruhotzke (CERG), Moderators

Many of our congregations share the goal of increasing membership. What are some ways to market our UU churches to increase visibility and to ensure that visitors come back? Participants will be encouraged to share challenges as well as strategies that have worked.

2. Nature and Spirituality Practices- Church of the Wild

Lauraine Marcus and Elaine Harrigan (UU Amherst), Presenters

This will be an experiential workshop. Weather permitting, Elaine Harrigan will guide the group through TERRA DIVINA: MINDFULNESS THROUGH NATURE, outdoors. Terra Divina is a practice that helps us to become "notice-ers" of the natural world to receive its wisdom for wholeness and well-being. If the weather is not cooperative, Elaine will present a MANDALA MAKING ACTIVITY AS GROUP RITUAL & PRACTICE OF GRATITUDE. Lauraine Marcus will provide an overview of UU Amherst's Church of the Wild.

2:45 Closing Worship- Rev. Sally Hamlin, NYSCU Vice-President

3:00 Meeting adjourns