



ITHACA

UUU Connections

2019 / 2020 Issue No.3

November 2019

**Sunday Celebrations
at 10:30 am**

Sunday, November 3: *How Does Memory Sustain You?*

Rod Howe and Amelia Habicht

Together we will explore the ways that our memories sustain us, lift us up, and hold us back. Lay leaders Rod and Amelia will offer reflections.

Special music by Savage Club Folk Group

Sunday, November 10: *How to Re-Member*

Rev. Margaret Weis

What do we need to know about a person before we see them as our kin, a fellow being, or a person worthy of our care? How do we practice radical hospitality and welcome those we do not yet know?

Special music by Burns and Kristy

Sunday, November 17: *Heritage and Memory*

Rev. Margaret Weis and Rev. Roger Bertschausen

Together we will reflect on the impact of international engagement and connection with Unitarians, Universalists, and UUs across the globe. What does it mean to be a partner congregation with our UU siblings across the globe?

Special music by FUSIT Choir

Sunday, November 24: *Shifting the Narrative - a Multigenerational Thanksgiving*

Rev. Margaret Weis

For generations we have been told a story about the first Thanksgiving that is skewed and inaccurate. Together we will imagine a different story and give thanks for the native land we call home.

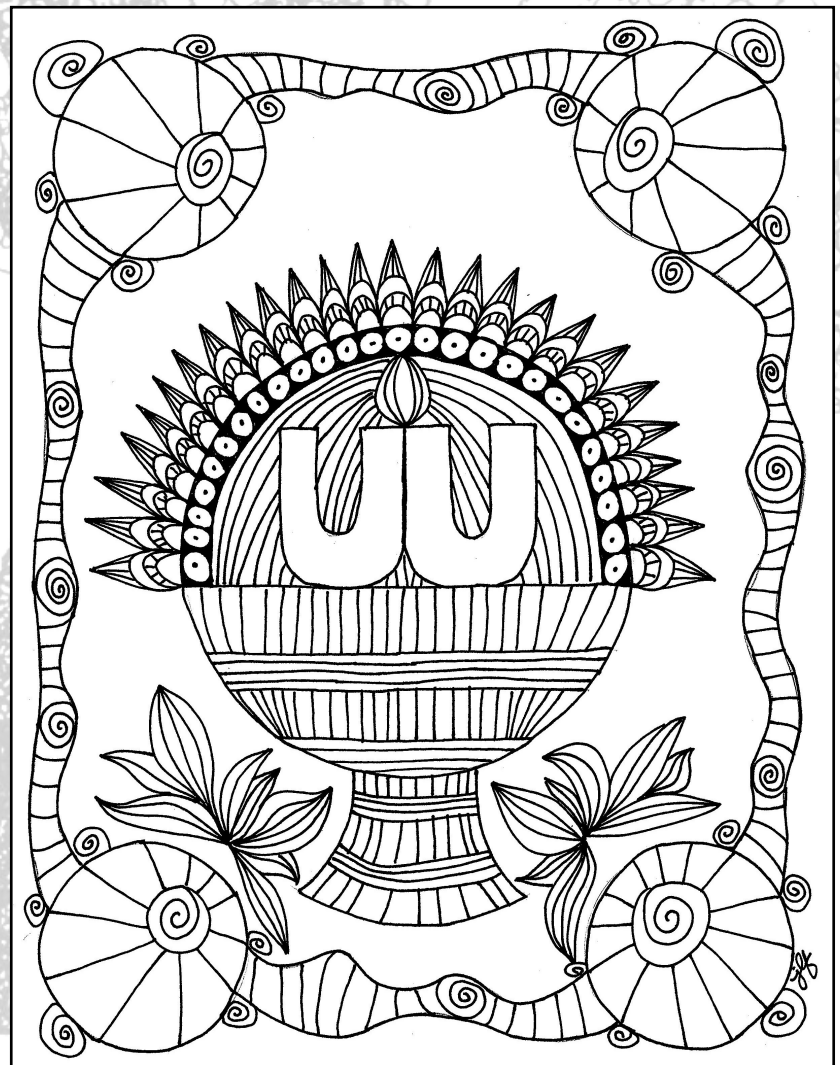
Special music by FUSIT Children's Choir

Ministerial Musings

Our theme this month is memory. Often when I think about memories and remembering, I am brought back to my childhood. I would spend hours coloring and doodling and imagining the vast and amazing world. So, this month, I invite you back to your child-like spirit to do the same.

Take some time to color this UU-themed harvest piece and maybe even bring it to FUSIT to share with us all!

Big thanks to Jennie Freiberger, the Administrator for Miami Valley UU Fellowship in Dayton, Ohio, for her awesome design!



**Reminder:
Sunday, November 3
Daylight Saving Time Ends**

Religious Exploration News

For information about Religious Exploration, please contact Susanne Quagliata at drefusit@gmail.com or 607-273-7521, ext. 23.

Side with Love Collection for November

For the month of November we will be collecting personal care items and cleaning supplies for the First Congregational Church of Ithaca Sanctuary Dwelling.

Children's Choir

We are thrilled to offer a new opportunity for music making, a FUSIT Children's Choir for ages 5 and up with Emily Richards. Children's Choir will take place in the Annex following service on the following dates this fall: **November 3 and 17**. Any children wanting to participate are welcome to sing during service on **November 24**. Contact Emily at emily.richards@twcny.rr.com for more information.

Service Auction, Kids Night!

This year's annual service auction will be held on Saturday, **November 9**, 5:30 pm-9:00 pm. As part of childcare that night there will be a movie and pizza party for kids of all ages! The movies being shown are *Sing* and *Totoro*. Pizza will be \$5 per child. Pajamas, slippers, and other comfy items are welcome!

First Unitarian is a UUA-recognized (LGBTQ) Welcoming Congregation

From Susanne Quagliata, Acting Director, Religious Exploration

We've planned for one Multigenerational Service each month this year. These services help our children develop a stronger sense of their identity as Unitarian Universalists by participating in the ritual practices of our church. Knowing how to participate is something that takes time to learn. That learning process can be challenging for our children, pushing them and us outside of our comfort zones. All of our children are at different stages of development, and capable of different levels of engaging with services. Families in our church, particularly those with the youngest children, have told me multigenerational services are working out great, and for some it has been difficult, and many are somewhere in between.

Many of us, particularly those with young children, find it challenging keeping children quiet and still for the whole service. Some of us come from childhood experiences where those were the expectations for children in church, and are mortified if our children are not behaving this way. I want to reassure you that that is not the expectation or the goal at FUSIT.

There have been a few occasions when my kids have not been still or quiet. Positive comments from others about how much joy they get from seeing my kids in service have helped me let go of the expectation that my children be perfect – now every time my kids are acting up in service I try to tell myself that they are helping reassure all of you that it is okay if your kids aren't perfect! And I want to tell you how often in the last couple months people have told me how much having the children's energy and joy in the services has renewed their spirit. The church culture we are trying to create is one that is warm, energetic, and family friendly. Thank you all for contributing to that!

Included below is our RE schedule for November:

- November 3:** Classroom Sunday
- November 10:** Creative Sunday
- November 17:** Classroom Sunday
- November 24:** Multigenerational Service

What is a UU Dedication Service?

A Child Dedication Service is the way that Unitarian Universalist congregations welcome new children into their lives. Often these ceremonies occur when a child is still a baby, but they can also be done for older children. The service usually occurs during a regular Sunday service, and includes the congregation, as well as the child's family and godparents/guides (if you wish to have them).

Child dedication ceremonies are usually crafted by Rev. Margaret and the parents or guardians, along with the Director of Religious Exploration. Many will include the following elements:

- *A blessing for the new life of the child
- *An expression of the parent or parents' hopes for the child
- *A promise by the congregation to support and nurture the child

We will hold a Dedication Service on **December 15th**. Please contact Susanne Quagliata at drefusit@gmail.com.

Thanks to...

...Hospitality Team 3, under coordinators Sharon Beltaine and Jesse Koennecke, who helped with greeting, ushering, snack providing, coffee preparation and clean up after the services on October 6 and 13.

Snack providers, please remember to provide a list of potentially sensitive ingredients.

Hospitality teams provide the organized volunteer power to make each week's Sunday service and coffee hour a welcoming time for all who attend. HTs provide opportunities to make real and important contributions to the FUSIT community with a very modest amount of time and effort.

If you are not currently part of a Hospitality Team, please see John Gaines on Sunday or get in touch with him at (607) 898-3943 or at jag222@cornell.edu. Thank you, all, for your efforts to increase our Hospitality!

Soul Matters Drop-In Group Sunday, November 10

Jennifer Streid-Mullen and Susanne Quagliata are running a drop-in Soul Matters group monthly this fall, for anyone interested. Come and delve into a deep sharing and listening to each other on the topic of the month's Soul Matters package, and explore the theme of our Sunday services and RE program at a deeper level. The group format will echo a typical Small Group Ministry session, which will be explained. We will meet Sunday, **November 10**, 12:15-1:30, in the Mark Pedersen Arch Room. The topic for November is Memory. You are welcome to bring lunch or food to munch on.

Fragrance Free Consideration

Some members of our congregation experience serious allergic reactions to strong fragrances and scents. Please refrain from using them when attending events at First Unitarian Society of Ithaca.

Our Mission

*Our mission is to create connection, find inspiration, and engage the world.
Connect, Inspire, Engage.*



All Church Night November 19th!

On the third Tuesday of each month, we will gather for a **Potluck Dinner at 5:30 pm in the Parlor & many teams will have their meetings.**

We will be offering free childcare!

A great opportunity for multi-team collaboration, welcoming of newcomers and families, and engaging together in community. We hope you'll join us!

Please bring a dish to share.

The following teams will participate in our All Church Night on **November 19th!**

If you'd like YOUR ministry team to participate in the All Church Night, have your team leader speak with Rev. Margaret.

Team/Committee	Time Slot
Aesthetics Team	6-7:00 pm
Buildings and Grounds	6-7:00 pm
Music Team	6-7:00 pm
Religious Exploration Team	6-7:00 pm
Environmental Interest Circle	6-7:00 pm
Membership Team	7-8:30 pm
Care Team	7-8:30 pm
Celebrations Team	7-8:30 pm

Board of Trustees October Meeting

The Board of Trustees will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, **November 12**, at 6 pm in the Parlor. All interested persons are invited to attend.



Green Tip from the Environmental Interests Circle

If you have a yard full of fallen leaves and don't use them in a home composting system or as mulch on garden beds, leaving them on the lawn will provide fertilizer to the grass and shelter to overwintering insects, including the caterpillars or pupae of many butterfly species. If they pile up too much, mow them with a mulching blade to reduce their volume.

*Minister
Rev. Margaret Weis
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minister@uuitbaca.org*

*Religious Exploration
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*Sexton
Sandy Soule, 272-4475*

*Bookkeeper
Lauren Ponzoni
bookkeeper@uuitbaca.org*

*Music Director
Stephanie Ortolano
607-708-8088
fusitmusic@gmail.com*

*Adult Choir Director
Jennifer Lawrence Birnbaum,
fusitchoir@gmail.com*

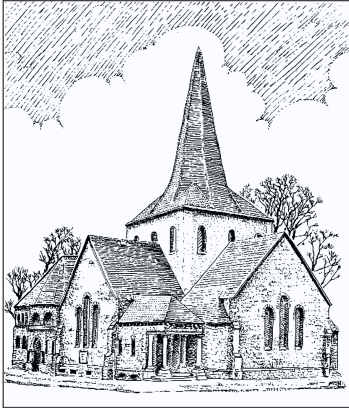
*Community Engagement and
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*Congregational Administrator
Jessica English
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The First Unitarian Society of Ithaca
306 North Aurora Street
P.O. Box 6
Ithaca, NY 14851-0006



Visit our Website and get
your newsletter:
www.uuithaca.org

Men's Group

The Men's Group meeting for October will be held on Monday, **November 25**. All those who identify as male are invited to join us 5:30-7:30 pm in the Mark Pedersen Arch Room to share stories and eat some pizza.

Contact Jens Wennberg jens207@gmail.com or Carston Hess carston@hess.att for information.

Book Discussion Group

The Book Discussion group will meet on Friday, **November 1**, to discuss the book "*Braiding Sweetgrass*" by Robin Wall Kimmerer. The meeting will take place at 12:30 pm in the Beatrix Potter Library Room. Contact Jennifer Streid-Mullen at 351-3087 or streidmull@gmail.com.

Women's Circle

Women's Circle will meet on Sunday, **November 24**, from 12-1:30 in the Beatrix Potter Library Room. Anyone who identifies as female is welcome. Contact Tricia Borg at pcbrogorg@yahoo.com.

Social Justice Council Meeting

The Social Justice Council will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, **November 11th**, from 5:30-7:30pm in Room 122 (Francis Ellen Watkins Harper Room). Come to learn what our action teams are doing, and to participate in choosing the recipient of each month's "Sharing Sunday," and to enjoy good sociability and conversation. All are welcome.

Soul Matters Material for November on "Memory"

Our November worship theme at First Unitarian Society of Ithaca is Memory. This month's packet includes a few short readings, spiritual exercises, and discussion questions for you to consider. Here is the link: <https://tinyurl.com/Ithaca-Memory>

Pastoral Emergencies

In case of pastoral need, the Rev. Margaret Weis can be reached at 607-218-4281 (cell) if you need to speak with her.

Additionally, if you need a ride to any event at church, please contact Molly Robbins at robbinsmolly18@gmail.com as early as possible, so that she can contact a member who is willing to help.

If you are willing to provide occasional rides for others, contact Molly to give her your name and contact information.

Upcoming Events



Newcomer Drop-In Circle: (November 3)
1st Sunday of every month @ 12-12:30

November 9th (Saturday) - Hors d'oeuvres (5:30) & Service Auction (7:00)!

November 9th (Saturday) from 5:30-9:00 pm
Pizza and Movie party for children and youth!

November 13 - Lunch Bunch
2nd Wednesdays @ 12-1:30, November 13th

Looking to connect with others during the week? Bring your lunch and join us in the Parlor for conversation, connection, and fun! Rev. Weis is hosting!

November 14th (Thursday) - Blood Drive
Donate in honor of Mark Pedersen from 1-6 in the Parlor

**There's a UU Congregation Where?!?!
UU Church Partnership Around the World**
Saturday November 16th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Join Rev. Margaret and Rev. Roger Bertschausen in the Parlor as they discuss the various ways partnership with UU churches in Transylvania, the Phillipines, Northeast India and beyond enhance UU identity, widen our worldview, and help us live into the legacy of our shared UU heritage. Roger will offer lots of information about what partnership means, looks like, and brings to our congregations. Come be the part of the beginning of what might be an historical development in the life of FUSIT and its engagement with UUs across the globe! A light lunch will be provided!

November 17th - After service question and answer with Rev. Bertschausen



Rev. Roger Bertschausen is the Executive Director of the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council, a position he has held since July 2016. Previously he served as the minister of the Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Appleton, WI from 1990 until June 2015. During this time, the membership of the congregation grew from 100 to 700 members, making it one of the twenty largest Unitarian Universalist congregations in the United States. In 1998, the Fellowship moved into a new building in a rapidly growing part of Appleton. In December 2013, the Fellowship opened a new 330-seat sanctuary. In May 2018, Roger was named Minister Emeritus of the Fox Valley UU Fellowship.

Roger has served Unitarian Universalism in many ways including as a Ministerial Settlement Representative, president of his UU Ministers Association (UUMA) chapter, co-chair of the UUMA's continuing education committee, and member of the UU Partner Church Council Board. Roger is a consultant on church governance with Unity Consultants of Unity Church-Unitarian in St. Paul, MN, and he's the Director of the UU House of Study at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis.

November 20th (Wednesday) - Pub Theology at Liquid State Brewery @ 6:30 pm

Join us for an evening of good fellowship and conversation at our favorite local brewery (owned by FUSIT members!). We will gather at 6:30 and reflect together on the monthly theme of MEMORY. Feel free to bring some food for yourself or to share! Non-beer and non-alcoholic drinks options available! Bring the kids (as long as you keep an eye on them)! Bring your friends! Hope to see you there!

Possible Ponderings



The theme for November is Memory. Possible Ponderings is an offering of ways you might consider engaging more deeply with the theme or reflecting on the ways the idea of Memory shows up in your life. These will also be printed in the order of service each week.

November 3-9: How has your memory changed as you've gotten older?

November 10-16: What memory will die with you if you don't pass it on?

November 17-23: What memories could you create by living a certain way?

November 24-30: What if the question isn't, "Did it really happen that way?" But instead, "Why do you want to remember that it happened that way?"

November 7th - 7:00 pm showing of the film "Power To Heal"

Power to Heal is an hour-long public television documentary that tells a poignant chapter in the historic struggle to secure equal and adequate access to healthcare for all Americans. Central to the story is the tale of how a new national program, Medicare, was used to mount a dramatic, coordinated effort that desegregated thousands of hospitals across the country in a matter of months. This is a film you won't want to miss. Please join us in the Parlor for the viewing and discussion afterward.

This showing is co-sponsored by the FUSIT group studying racism, the FUSIT Social Justice Council, the Calvary Baptist Church, and the Finger Lakes for New York Health Group.

For more information on the film go to blbfilmproductions.com.

"Newcomers Inspired Connected and Engaged (NICE)"

We are hosting a 3-class series dedicated to helping you discover Unitarian Universalism. Classes are conveniently scheduled on Sundays after service from 12-1:30 pm in the Francis David Room (204). Bring your lunch, explore UUism and share great conversation!

The cohort dates are: Cohort 2:

November 10, November 17 and November 24; Cohort 3: **February 9, February 16 and February 23.** To sign up email Sarah Buckser at memcoord@uuihaca.org.

The FUSIT Shakespeare Program

1. **November 10** - Kenneth Branagh's *Much Ado About Nothing* (Subtitled)
2. **November 17** - Oliver Parker's *Othello* (Subtitled)
3. **December 1** - *Love's Labour's Lost* (Subtitled)
4. **January 5** - Kenneth Branagh's *Henry V*
5. **January 19** - Roman Polanski's *Macbeth* (Subtitled)
6. **March 1** - Trevor Nunn's *Twelfth Night*
7. **March 22** - Kenneth Branagh's *As You Like It* (Subtitled)
8. **March 29** - Michael Radford's *The Merchant of Venice*
9. **April 12** - Julie Taymor's *The Tempest* (Subtitled)
10. **April 26** - Kenneth Branagh's *Hamlet (Part I)* (Subtitled)
11. **May 3** - Kenneth Branagh's *Hamlet (Part II)* (Subtitled)
12. **May 24** (Bonus) - Kenneth Branagh's *All Is True* (Shakespeare's last 3 years)

Free to all church attendees (members and guests). Not open to the public.

All programs start at 3:00 pm in the Mark Pedersen ArchRoom (elevator available).

Time commitment: two to three hours. A ten-minute intermission at every performance.

Snacks and drinks allowed.

Arranged and moderated by Preston Wilson.

Facilitated by Jessica English and Rev. Margaret Weis

Upcoming Race and Racism Meeting November 26

Have you noticed ... ?

- *race and racism are front and center in American society these days?*
- *racial issues have been very much in our local news recently?*
- *our own congregation is not exactly racially diverse?*

In America, most white people don't ever have to think about race. But most people of color face racial prejudice and racially-based injustice every single day. If you are concerned, outraged, or just want to better understand the role of race in our town, our country, our world, come to the monthly meetings for the series on **Race and Racism** that are held on the **4th Tuesday of every month** at 6:30 pm in the Parlor. All are welcome.

If you would be interested in helping to lead or facilitate one session, or if you would like to be added to an email list to receive future FUSIT race-related information, contact Beth Howard at beth4howard@gmail.com.

Making Lunches for the Day Center

*We need one more volunteer to make and deliver 15 bag lunches to the St. John's Community Services Day Center on **November 5th**.*

Volunteers may be individuals, families, or groups of any kind. You would buy supplies, make the lunches no more than 24 hours before delivery, and deliver them between 9:30 and 11:30 am to 618 W. State Street in Ithaca.

Each lunch includes a sandwich, a piece of soft fruit, and a cookie or other small dessert, and should be substantial since the recipients may not get another full meal that day. All foods should be easy to chew.

The Day Center is a drop-in assistance center for Ithacans who are homeless or otherwise in need. FUSIT provides 60 lunches (four volunteers making 15 lunches each) on the first Tuesday of every month.

Please contact Jackie Jablonski at jackiejab@me.com for specific sandwich preparation instructions, if you have questions and /or would like the Social Justice Council to reimburse your expenses.

Choir News

Please contact Jennifer Lawrence Birnbaum at fusitchoir@gmail.com if you are interested in joining the holiday choir for either **December 22nd** or **Christmas Eve**. Rehearsals will begin very soon. Please also contact her if you're interested in playing in the All Ages Klezmer Band.

Holiday Choir Thursday Rehearsals

November 21 - rehearsal in Annex

November 28 - NO REHEARSAL (THANKSGIVING)

December 5 - rehearsal in Annex

December 12 - rehearsal in Annex

December 19 - regular rehearsal in Annex/Sanctuary

Additional Holiday Choir Sunday Rehearsals

Sunday, **December 8th** - 12:15 - Annex

Sunday, **December 15th** - 12:15 - Annex

Sunday, **December 22nd** - 12:15 - Sanctuary

Klezmer Band/Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, **December 21st** - 10-11:30 Sanctuary

Upcoming Choir Services

November 17

December 22 (choir & klezmer band)

December 24 (Sage Chapel service)

Interested in Having Thanksgiving Dinner at the Church?

We'd like to schedule a Thanksgiving dinner at the church on **November 28th**, but we need someone to help coordinate the event. If you'd like to help plan this event or if you'd like to attend, please contact the FUSIT office at office@uithaca.org or 273-7521, ext. 21.





Service Auction and Hors d'oeuvres Saturday, November 9

LIVE MUSIC
featuring Valerie
Graves and friends!

Please join us for our Gala Service Auction which will be a grand evening out (suggested donation \$5 for pizza and movie for children) so that you can **socialize**, **eat** delicious hors d'oeuvres, **enjoy** a beverage of your choice and then **bid** on fantastic items.

Delicious hors d'oeuvres and live music from 5:30 to 7:00 pm in the Parlor while you look over the catalog and then the **live auction begins at 7:00 in the Sanctuary.**

We will be suggesting that any item or service offered should be no less than \$20, so now is the time to part with those very special treasures you've been safeguarding or feel free to offer your services, vacation home, and delicious dinners. With this venue and live music we are planning on only two small tables for Silent Auction items, which will also have starting bids of no less than \$20.

Please turn in your donation form at the Auction Table in the Parlor after Sunday service, online at <http://www.togetherauction.com/uuithaca> (where you can see what else has been donated so far!) or at the church office. Tickets for hors d'oeuvres are \$10 each and can be purchased at the Auction Table on Sundays in the Parlor, in the church office during the week, or you can reserve your spot by calling the church office at 273-7521, ext. 21, and then pay for the tickets at the door.

Questions: Contact the church office at office@uuithaca.org. For childcare, please email childcare@uuithaca.org



Order Form for Poinsettias

This year we are again offering an opportunity to honor someone's memory with a poinsettia for our holiday decorations. To contribute a poinsettia please fill out this form and return to the church office or place in the offering plate on Sunday. A list of individuals honored in this way will be listed in the order of service on **December 1, 2019.**

Your Name _____

In Honor Of _____

In Memory Of _____

***Please check only one:

I would like someone to distribute this poinsettia to a person who could appreciate it _____

I will pick up this poinsettia after the service on **December 22nd** _____

The cost is \$10.00 each. Please enclose your payment with this form and return by Wednesday, **November 27th.**

Contributions Requested for Memory Collage

For the month of November the FUSIT Aesthetics Team is putting together a collage for the front of the Sanctuary representing some of the significant memories that we carry with us. Ideas for contributions include:

- PHOTOS – we can print anything you send by email. For example, if you don't want to lend a special photo, take a picture of it with your phone and email the image.
- WORDS - maybe you have a favorite saying in your family, a quote, place name, or recipe that represents a memory. Send it on and we'll print it!
- OTHER – anything you have that represents a significant memory is useable so long as it can be pinned to the large hanging support at the front of the Sanctuary. Maybe a piece of fabric? A drawing? Your inspiration is welcome.

Feel free to ask if you have any questions. I will be at church the next few Sundays so if there are items you want to give me in person, I'd be happy to accept them! If emailing, please send to me at ML16@cornell.edu. Note that Susanne Quagliata is coordinating a parallel activity in RE so that our collage include kids' memories too.

*Looking forward to your contributions!
Magdalen Lindeberg*

Sunday Service CDs

Sunday Service CDs are available about 10 minutes after the Sunday Celebration from Sandy Soule, the church Sexton, and any extras are left in the boxes on top of the staff mailboxes in the Parish House. Please return CDs to the box on top of the mailboxes outside the church office. Recordings of the reading and sermon are also available online.

Blood Drive - November 14

Thursday, **November 14**, from 1-6 in the Parlor. This month we'll be donating in memory of Mark Pedersen. Sponsored by the American Red Cross. Walk-ins welcome.

Did you know...

You can find out about events happening in our congregation, see pictures of past events and connect with other UUs. Like and follow us on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/FUSofI/> Instagram www.instagram.com/ithacauus and Twitter, @IthacaUUs.

EMERGENCY GUIDELINES - The Basics

The First Unitarian Society of Ithaca (FUSIT) is an active, vibrant, and busy place. When we are engaged, especially in a place we love, and with people so familiar to us, we can become complacent to safety issues. All risk cannot be eliminated, but we can all help reduce risk to a minimum.

Following are some general guidelines for us to follow which will help protect our building, congregants, guests, and kids. In-depth policy and procedures for potential emergencies can be found in the church office, and website.

To borrow a phrase, if you see something - say something! Each of us has an important role to play in keeping an eye out for potential problems. What we can do:

- For a severe emergency, CALL 9-1-1
- Medical emergency
 - Fire/smoke
 - Hostile or aggressive persons

If it is safe to do so, alert a Safety Team member, the minister, usher, or other church officials.

For general safety concerns, contact a Safety Team member, the minister, usher, or other church officials. Possible issues:

- Unsafe kitchen activities (sharp knives, ovens, burn risks, slippery floors)
- Broken railings or steps - other trip/fall hazards
- Clutter or clogged passages/hallways
- Lost person/child
- Non-functional lighting

Other basics you should know:

If a building evacuation is required due to fire or other emergency:

- Proceed to Aurora Street sidewalk, and turn left (away from town)
- Walk to the 2nd parking lot on the left
- This is the gathering spot for kids and adults
- Be prepared to assist those who need help, or ask for help if needed.
- Notice where the fire extinguishers are!
- Notice where your nearest exit is!

In the extremely unlikely event of a violent intruder, the order of response is: RUN - HIDE - FIGHT

FUSIT is situated very close to the Ithaca Police and Fire Departments, and medical assistance. Be prepared to follow the instructions of these emergency professionals.