



ITHACA

UUU Connections

2019 / 2020 Issue No.6

February 2020

Sunday Celebrations at 10:30 am

Sunday, February 2: *The Practice of Generosity - Presence*

-Rev. Margaret Weis

This five-part series will focus on the ways we bring our love out into the world in a spirit of generosity, and how it is received. How do we come in contact with the world in a way that expresses and receives love? How does physical presence and touch impact our lives?

Special music by FUSIT Children's Choir

Sunday, February 9: *The Practice of Generosity - Time*

-Rev. Margaret Weis

This five-part series will focus on the ways we bring our love out into the world in a spirit of generosity, and how it is received. Together we will reflect on the role of quality time in our daily lives and how it nourishes our relationships and connections.

Special music FUSIT Adult Choir

Sunday, February 16: *The Practice of Generosity - Affirmation*

-Rev. Margaret Weis

This five-part series will focus on the ways we bring our love out into the world in a spirit of generosity, and how it is received. We find affirmation of ourselves and our dreams in many places. This helps us to build trust and imagine a bright future. Join us as we explore the impact of affirmation on our journey toward wholeness.

Special music TBA

Sunday, February 23: *The Practice of Generosity - Service*

-Rev. Margaret Weis

This five-part series will focus on the ways we bring our love out into the world in a spirit of generosity, and how it is received. Our life's journey is impacted by how to manifest good and love in the world. Together we will reflect on how we can serve others and our planet in order to build the world we dream about.

Special music TBA

Ministerial Musings

Introducing our DRE Search Team

The past two years we have been blessed with the energetic and dynamic RE ministry of our Acting DRE, Susanne Quagliata. Susanne has been a vital part of our staff team and has helped to bring our Religious Exploration to a new level. We are grateful for her commitment to the children and families of FUSIT, her implementation of Our Whole Lives and Coming of Age, and her ability to build a foundation for a growing and thriving program.

As Susanne's time in this role comes to an end, in June of this year, we are preparing ourselves for who will come next. We will have a chance to thank Susanne and have a transition to our new leader when the time comes. In the meantime, she is still hard at work with our children, youth, and families.

Our DRE search team is up and running and very excited to post the position and start our search for a permanent, full-time DRE to join FUSIT this summer. I am grateful for the commitment and service of this team and have asked them to introduce themselves in their own words.

Kim Wilkinson: *I've been a member at FUSIT since 2012 and have been involved with RE as a teacher and committee member both here and at my previous church. I'm currently in my second year of my first term as a board member here. I'm mom to Merit, a Kindergartener, who has been participating in RE for the past few years and describes our church as being "all about love." I'm excited to be part of this search committee because I love the directions the RE program has taken in the past few years and am looking forward helping us find a great new DRE who can continue the amazing work that Susanne has been doing.*

Leah O'Connor: *My name is Leah O'Connor I've been involved at FUSIT for about 13 years and during that time I've done a lot of different work with RE. I have two 9-year-old boys involved in RE as well. In my work life I am a director of a local after school program. I love what Susanne has done with our RE program and I'm excited to be a part of this team to find the next person to lead our RE.*

Matt Hare: *Matt Hare has lived in Ithaca with his wife, Kerry and children Carly and Mitchell since 2007 and joined FUSIT in 2014. He currently serves on the FUSIT Board of Trustees and previously served as a co-teacher for RE and on the RE team. Matt teaches conservation biology and genetics at Cornell and studies how to keep aquatic species (bivalve, fish) from going extinct during rapid environmental change.*

Lynn Garman: *A member of FUSIT since 2005, has been a Unitarian Universalist for nearly 30 years. She has raised three children in our faith, and volunteered on the RE Committee and Board at two of our UU congregations. Lynn served as the DRE at our congregations in Norfolk, Virginia and Binghamton, NY, and supported her colleagues as a Good Officer and as a member of district committees. Most recently, Lynn volunteered with our Upstate Youth Adult Committee to support programming for UU teens. Now retired, she enjoys travel, gardening, and the outdoors.*

As this team and I discern the next chapter of leadership for our RE programming, I know you will join me in thanking them for their service in this way to our congregation. We have so much energy and solid community in our programming and we are looking forward to finding someone who will continue the momentum we have found.

See you on Sunday! Rev. Margaret

Religious Exploration News

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

From Susanne Quagliata, Acting Director, Religious Exploration



Get To Know Our Religious Exploration Assistant: Powers

For parents with young children, Powers is a familiar face because they began working in our nursery in 2018. Powers started as the Religious Exploration Assistant in February 2019 and has become an important part of our team. What follows is an excerpt from our interview with Powers.

What do you do in your Religious Exploration Assistant role?

I do whatever is a priority for Susanne and the incredible volunteer teachers in the RE program. Mostly this consists of helping prepare materials for Classroom Sundays, Creative Sundays, and the exciting new Maker Space. I also help clean things up and put them away afterward. I sometimes brainstorm activities with Susanne, and I do several little 'odd jobs' like refilling the Fidget Kits at the back of the Sanctuary, cleaning the dishes and kitchen after snacks and events, organizing the RE closet, and adding children's books to the RE book database.

Why is FUSIT a place you like to work?

I like working at FUSIT because the staff is very kind, and the congregation is super supportive of many different community events happening in the space. It seems like each week I become aware of more events, groups, and happenings that take place at FUSIT, both UU-specific and otherwise. I'm grateful for the welcoming nature of FUSIT, and that it hosts or shares space with folks ranging from 12-step recovery groups, to Queer & Trans People of Color workshops, to folks learning the English language, to environmental groups fighting climate change, to musicians and activists amplifying the plight and trauma of our beautiful and diverse human family members... ranging from immigrants at the border just trying to survive, to people imprisoned in savage, inhumane solitary confinement conditions. I appreciate the commitment to working for social justice that exists within FUSIT.

What have you learned about UUs as a result of working at FUSIT?

I've learned that Ithaca UU's LOVE their coffee hour after service. The parlor is always packed with folks mingling, snacking, and chatting it up!

I've also learned that UUs (in collaboration with folks from UCC) maintain one of the most far-reaching, progressive-minded, life-spanning, sexuality education programs in existence (nation or worldwide). The UUA and the UUC update the Our Whole Lives curriculum as times change and our language and understanding around things like gender and redefining abstinence evolves.

What do you do for fun outside of FUSIT?

I love hanging out with children, music, dance, gardening or pretty much anything related to plants, and playing with my sweet bunny rabbit bestie named D.

Religious Exploration Schedule for Children/Youth

February 2: Creative Sunday

February 9: Classroom Sunday

February 16: Multigenerational Sunday

February 23: Creative Sunday

Soul Matters Material for February on "Trust"

Our February worship theme at First Unitarian Society of Ithaca is Trust. 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-Trust>

Side with Love Collection for February

During the month of February we will be collecting non-perishable items for the Friendship Donations Network.

Friendship Donations Network collects non-perishable food items and also rescues fresh, nutritious food that would otherwise be thrown away from stores and farms and redistributes it to neighbors in need. They provide food donations to hunger relief programs that serve more than 2,000 people a week, and divert over 1,000 pounds of good food from local landfill every day. A model of efficiency, they are almost entirely volunteer-run!

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 any CDs you have finished listening to, to the box on top of the mailboxes outside the church office.

Our Mission

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

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

Joys and Sorrows

Our thoughts are with ...

...Jane MacArthur after her knee replacement surgery.

...friends and family of Connie Currier who died at Hospicare on December 27th. More info to come about services.

...Flo Smith and family after the recent passing of her sister, Helen Campbell, on December 22nd.

...Dick Kurtz and family after the recent passing of his mother.

Thanks to...

....Hospitality Team 1, under coordinators Helen Ann Yunis and Pam Crosby, who organized volunteer power to make Sunday services and coffee hour a welcoming time on December 22 and to Team 2, under Coordinators Donna Faivre-Roberts and Tom Roberts, for organizing volunteers for the services on December 29 and January 5 and 12.

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

HTs provide opportunities to make real and important contributions to and connections with 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.

Soul Matters Drop-In Group Sunday, February 9

Jennifer Streid-Mullen and Susanne Quagliata are running a drop-in Soul Matters group monthly 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, **February 9**, 12:15-1:30, in the Mark Pedersen Arch Room. The topic for February is Trust. You are welcome to bring lunch or food to munch on.

Board of Trustees February Meeting

The Board of Trustees will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, **February 11**, at 6 pm in the Parlor. All interested persons are invited to attend.



All Church Night February 18th!

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 usually participate in our All Church Night.

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

Team/Committee

Aesthetics Team

Buildings and Grounds

Music Team

Religious Exploration Team

Membership Team



Green Tip from the Environmental Interests Circle

When buying toilet paper, facial tissues, or paper towels, look for those made from recycled material, with the highest available percentage of post-consumer waste. For products containing virgin pulp from boreal forest or monoculture plantations, Forest Stewardship Council certification indicates the highest current standards for environmental impact management and social responsibility. The Natural Resources Defense Council offers a downloadable report with a buyer's guide ranking many brands of these products by the sustainability of their sources and manufacturing process.

Minister

Rev. Margaret Weis

273-7521, ext. 22

minister@uuithaca.org

Religious Exploration

Susanne Quagliata, Acting

Director, 273-7521, ext. 23

drefusit@gmail.com

Sexton

Sandy Soule, 272-4475

Bookkeeper

Lauren Ponzoni

bookkeeper@uuithaca.org

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Stephanie Ortolano

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Adult Choir Director

Jennifer Lawrence Birnbaum,

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Interim Community

Engagement and Outreach

Beth Pallace

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Congregational Administrator

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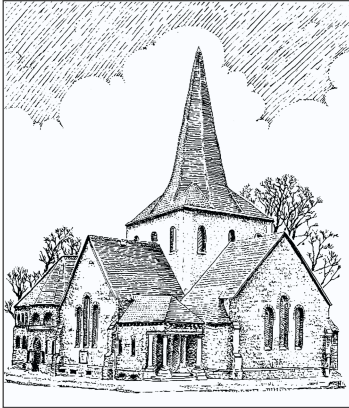
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Visit our Website and get
your newsletter:
www.uuithaca.org

Social Justice Council Meeting

The Social Justice Council will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, **February 10**, from 5:30-7:30 pm in Room 122 (Frances 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. We start with an appetizer potluck at 5:30 and then cover our agenda from 6-7:30. All are welcome.

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 Walt Peck at wgp8@aol.com as early as possible, so that he can contact a member who is willing to help.

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

Book Discussion Group

The Book Discussion group will meet on Friday, **February 7**, to discuss "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer, a book about indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge and the teachings of plants. For information contact Jennifer Streid-Mullen at 351-3087 or streidmull@gmail.com.

Women's Circle

Women's Circle will meet in the Beatrix Potter Library Room on Sunday, **February 23**, from noon to 1:30 pm. All who identify as women are welcome. This is a drop-in group, so no need to sign up; come when you can. For information or questions contact Tricia Borg at pcbrogorg@yahoo.com or 224-436-0539.

Men's Group

The Men's Group meeting for February will be held on Monday, **February 24**. 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.

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.

Upcoming Events



February 2 - Newcomer Drop-In Circle

1st Sunday of every month @ 12-12:30 in the Parlor

February 12 - Lunch Bunch

2nd Wednesdays of the month @ 12-1:30 in the Parlor
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!

February 12 & 19 - "Transforming Separation to Connection: Where Neurobiology Meets Spirit"

7-8:30 pm in the Parlor, RSVP to office@uuithaca.org

In this 2 part workshop, Anita Devine will guide participants in practices that encourage our experience of interconnectedness with each other, and with the web of life.



We will examine the internal barriers in mind, body, and spirit that create loneliness, separation and isolation.

We will discover through this experiencing, ancient and modern ways to heal the myth of separation, and create internal and interpersonal coherence.

Anita Devine LCSW-R has been serving in a therapeutic capacity for more than 25 years. She inspires transformation in how people perceive themselves and their world by offering counseling services and educational programs. Anita counsels individuals and couples in private practice as a Clinical Social Worker/ Psychotherapist. Her office is in Ithaca. Anita is a member of FUSIT. Join us for an interactive and fun journey!

February 19- Pub Theology at Liquid State Brewery

6:30 pm at 620 West Green Street, Ithaca

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 TRUST. Feel free to bring some food for yourself or to share! Non-beer and non-alcoholic drink options available! Bring the kids (as long as you keep an eye on them)! Bring your friends! Hope to see you there! Pub Theology takes place on the **3rd Wednesday** of every month.

Volunteers Needed to Make Lunches for Day Center

*We need 2 more volunteers to make and deliver 15 bag lunches each to the St. John's Community Services Day Center on **February 4**.*

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.

First Unitarian Cookbook Sale to Benefit Mark Pedersen GA Scholarship

Do you like to cook? Would you like to know the treasured recipes of fellow FUSIT members? Between 2007 and 2011 the FUSIT Cookbook Committee published four cookbooks of seasonal recipes contributed by 125 gifted cooks in our congregation. They offer a wide variety of tasty options for every preference and diet. Sets of Winter, Spring, Summer and the master index will be for sale for \$12 in the Parlor during coffee hour, and via the office, **February 9-23**.

Individual cookbooks will be available for \$5.

All proceeds will go to the Mark Pedersen Memorial General Assembly Scholarship Fund. Mark was an excellent cook, and contributed several of his favorite recipes to these cookbooks. He loved the UUA General Assembly, and wanted more of us to go as delegates. In his memory, we created this scholarship to help those with financial need to attend. Please contact Sara Catterall with any questions.

Final NICE cohort until Fall 2020!

February 9, 16 and 23 following Sunday service 12-1 pm!

Are you new and interested in exploring your spiritual beliefs? Want to know more about Unitarian Universalism?

Considering becoming a member or need to renew your membership? Join us for the final NICE (Newcomers. Inspired. Connected. Engaged.) cohort of the 2019/20 church year! SIGN UP AT THE WELCOME TABLE or email: memcoord@uuithaca.org.

(Note: This 3 part class satisfies the path to membership requirement.)

Possible Ponderings



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

February 2 – 8: How does “showing up” for others and yourself help to build trust?

February 9 – 15: Pay attention this week to how you spend your time. What does it say about what you value? How could you better align your time and your values?

February 16 – 22: What do you say to yourself when you're struggling? How is that going for you?

February 23 – 29: Who are the people in your life that you trust most? Why do you think that is the case?

From the Office

With the move to Breeze we now have the capability to email financial statements for congregant tax purposes. Contribution Reports for 2019 have been emailed to everyone who has an email in Breeze. If you did not receive a statement and would like one, please check your junk email and then contact the office to get signed up with Breeze or to have a paper statement mailed to you.

-Jessica English, Congregational Administrator

Book Sale: "Emptying the Closet" Clearance! **Sunday February 2, in the Parlor**

Last chance to buy titles from previous sales.

Lower prices than ever before!

Cash or check only

Sale of new books from UUA bookstore coming this spring.

Revised Shakespeare Film Schedule

March 1 – Trevor Nunn's *Twelfth Night*, 3:00 pm

March 22 – Kenneth Branagh's *As You Like It*, 3:00 pm

March 29 – Michael Radford's *The Merchant of Venice*, 3:00 pm

April 12 – Julie Taymor's *The Tempest*, 3:00 pm

April 26 – Kenneth Branagh's *Hamlet*, 2:00-7:00 pm (food and beverages offered during intermission)

May 24 – Ben Elton's *All Is True* (Shakespeare's last 3 years of life), starring Kenneth Branagh as Shakespeare, 3:00 pm

Free to all church attendees (members and guests).

Not open to the public. All programs in the Mark Pedersen (Arch) Room (elevator available).

Time commitment: two to three hours (EXCEPT HAMLET)

Arranged and moderated by Preston Wilson

FUSIT Is Hiring

An Engagement and Outreach Coordinator

First Unitarian Society of Ithaca is hiring a part-time Engagement and Outreach Coordinator to join our staff. Read the full job description and learn how to apply at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NWzwnUwo_ppSKB4vb2OQiItyaumN6YG7m-NXoGen4Io/edit.

The Engagement and Outreach Coordinator will guide and support the congregation in fostering a culture of welcome and building a community of belonging and engagement. The Engagement and Outreach Coordinator will work closely with our Membership Team, a group of lay leaders, our Hospitality Team Coordinator, and the Minister.

We hope to find someone to join our professional staff as our Engagement and Outreach Coordinator who is warm and friendly, enthusiastic about our spiritual community, organized, and who embodies our spirit of welcome and hospitality. Please share widely!

Newsletter Deadlines for 2020

Deadline	Month	Services
February 13	March 1-31	Mar 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29
March 12	April 1-30	Apr 5, 12, 19 & 26
April 16	May 1-31	May 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31
May 14	June 1-12	Jun 7
May 28	Summer 2020	Summer 2020

Budget Requests Sought for 2020/2021

Committee and event chairpersons are encouraged to submit their committee's 2020/2021 budget requests to Jennifer Streid-Mullen at streidmull@gmail.com by Friday, **February 14th**.

Race and Racism Meeting

The February session of the Series on Race and Racism will take place Tuesday, **February 25**, at 6:30 pm in the Parlor. The session is intended primarily for members of the FUSIT community who identify as white. We are exploring the history of race and racism, what it means to be "white" in a racialized world, and how ongoing racism impacts every one of us. We hope you will be prompted to think, and to question, and to contribute to the series! Please come!

For more information, contact Beth Howard at beth4howard@gmail.com.

*Art in the Parlor is pleased to announce
a multi-generational show*

Art for All Ages

And everyone is invited to participate!

Art for All Ages will be featured in the Parlor for the month of **March**. You must sign up by **February 16**. You don't need to be a professional, you don't need to go it alone. You can enter your art as a family group, with a group of friends, or as your own unique, individual self.

Contact: Donna Faivre-Roberts for more information as well as hints and tips for showing your art to best advantage.

(Please note all art must be ready to hang.)
faivrette52@yahoo.com

Joys and Sorrows

Care Contact: Madonna Stallmann,
madonnaoftheprairie@gmail.com

Each week we lift up our joys and sorrows during Sunday worship. If you would like to include a joy or sorrow from your life, please fill out the green slip of paper in the pew and place it in the basket before the first hymn each Sunday.

Application for Pedersen Memorial GA Scholarship

This scholarship was developed using funds donated to FUSIT in memory of Mark Pedersen. Mark loved attending General Assembly (GA) and wanted more members of FUSIT to attend GA as delegates. In his memory, we created this scholarship program to help defray the costs for registration and/or travel to General Assembly for those with financial need.

Each year, no more than up to \$2,000 will be granted to applicants showing financial need.

Application Deadline: **March 1st** (additional applications will be accepted through **April 30th** if the maximum amount has not been granted by that date). Email or print to office@uuithaca.org.

The guidelines for this scholarship are as follows:

- An active member of FUSIT or registered participant in FUSIT RE program.
- Each family can apply for support for up to 2 people's (youth and/or adult) early registration fees.
- Applications for other support will be seen as indication of level of commitment of individual and will not be assumed to replace a FUSIT grant (in other words, if they receive a work assignment that covers registration, they may still use the FUSIT money to defer travel/housing costs).
- No family will receive a grant 2 years in a row, and preference will be given to those who have not received FUSIT funding in the past.
- A team of 3, including the minister and at least one Board member, will review applications and make the grants.
- All applicants who are granted funding must attend General Assembly as delegates on behalf of the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca. See the guidelines for delegates here: <https://www.uua.org/ga/congregations/delegates>

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Address:

Age:

Member of FUSIT (have you signed the book)?

Have you attended/participated in UUA General Assembly in the past? If yes, which years?

What other funding are you seeking in order to attend UUA General Assembly (scholarships through the UUA, volunteering, etc.)?

Why do you want to attend UUA General Assembly?

How would receiving this scholarship enable you to attend UUA General Assembly?

GA will take place in Providence, RI from June 24-28th.

Service Dog Policy

With the exception of service dogs, the presence of animals, (e.g., pet dogs, cats, birds, reptiles, etc.) in the church facility is prohibited except for special occasions or pre-approved events.

As defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA, and are not permitted in church buildings.

Service animals may accompany people with disabilities in all areas of the facility where the public is normally allowed to go. Service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the individual's disability prevents using these devices. In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.

The person bringing the service animal into the church building shall be financially responsible for any damage caused by the animal. It is expected that the person bringing the service animal into the building will inform the minister, staff or church officers of any safety issues, special considerations, or dangers the animal may pose to children or adults in attendance, so that these concerns can be addressed and shared with the congregation when appropriate. Since a service animal is a working animal, members of the congregation should not seek verbal or physical contact by beckoning or calling, or attempting to pet or engage the service animal in play.

For more information, please read the Americans with Disabilities Act FAQ's https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_qa.html

Staff approved 1/21/19