



ITHACA

UUU Connections

2019 / 2020 Issue No. 7

March 2020

Sunday Celebrations at 10:30 am

Sunday, March 1: *The Practice of Generosity - Gifts*

-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. What are the gifts we have to give to our community, this congregation and the world? How do we live into a sense of abundance, gratitude and generosity? *Special music by UUUU and Friends*

Sunday, March 8: *No Person is An Island*

-Rev. Margaret Weis

It has been said that none of us travels this life's journey on our own. Indeed, for many of us, community is what helps us get through the challenges of life. Together we will explore how our journeys are buoyed by our relationships, our values, and our hope for the future. *Special music by David Coester, guitar*

Sunday, March 15: *Time, Religion and a Ford Econoline Van*

-Guest speaker David Salomon

First Unitarian member David Salomon recounts a trip into the Southwest, ancestry, architecture, and the afterlife, and arrives at an understanding of our UU religion as one that holds sacred the care for that which has come before us, and that which endures after our individual journeys have ended. *Special music by FUSIT Choir*

Sunday, March 22: *A Journey Toward Goodness*

-Guest speaker Sarah Wolff

A graduate of Chicago Theological Seminary, and current college English professor Sarah Wolff will offer reflections on the concepts of inherent goodness, sin, and the necessity of collective liberation through the lens of poetry, language, and the ways inequality plays out in our societal structures. *Special music by VOICES Multicultural Choir*

Sunday, March 29: *Packing for the Journey*

-Rev. Margaret Weis

In this multigenerational service we will explore together what sustains us on our life's journeys. What are the items, memories, or stories that we carry with us in our lives? How do they inform our outlook and our path? *Special music TBD*

Ministerial Musings

*We build on foundations we did not lay
We warm ourselves on fires we did not light
We sit in the shade of trees we did not plant
We drink from wells we did not dig
We profit from persons we did not know*

This is as it should be.

Together we are more than any one person could be.

Together we can build across the generations.

Together we can renew our hope and faith in the life that is yet too unfold.

Together we can heed the call to a ministry of care and justice.

Reverend Peter Raible, Unitarian Universalist minister

Lately I have been reflecting on the path that was imagined for me before I was even born. What are the bricks that were laid long before I came to be? What were the paths already trod that helped to influence me before I breathed my first breath?

I think of the people in my family who valued education and knowledge. I think of the generations of religious professionals who sought meaning in the world's beauty and in its suffering. I think of the artists and activists who did their part in their lifetimes just to leave what would be a lasting imprint on this world and its institutions. I think of my DRE in my home church, who really saw me and gave me a voice early-on.

Without these people and their commitment to love, justice, and meaning-making, I may not be the person I am today.

We are fortunate to be part of a faith tradition and congregation with a solid foundation in the values we hold dear. This place and its people have been here for over 150 years. The faces may have changed, the issues of the time have changed, and styles and methods of leadership and worship have changed. But our core values remain the same - to be a presence of liberal religion, vibrant music, invigorating youth programs and justice-seeking people in Ithaca and beyond.

Our mission to create connections, find inspiration, and engage the world is rooted in our foundation of Unitarian Universalism. Indeed, we stand on the shoulders of giants.

(continued on page 2)

Religious Exploration News

For information about Religious Exploration, please contact Susanne Quagliata at dre@uuiithaca.org or 607-273-7521, ext. 23.

From Susanne Quagliata, Acting Director, Religious Exploration

Preparing for Transition

As many of you know, I took on the role of Acting Director of Religious Exploration in August 2018. Working with our wonderful children, dedicated volunteers, and amazing staff has inspired me. I am ready to transition out of this role and return to being an active member of our faith community. However, before that happens we need to do our part to set our next DRE up for success. One of the best ways we can do this is to ensure we have a strong RE Team.

Our current RE Team of Jill Barbuti-vanLeuken, Leah O'Connor, Andrew Quagliata, and Kim Wilkinson have contributed in many ways in the last two years. But, the RE Team will need fresh energy and ideas to support our next DRE. Please consider joining the RE Team this year to help with our transition.

Included below is a list of RE Team member responsibilities:

- Attend monthly RE Team meeting.
- Staff the RE Table before and after service once a month.
- Contribute your talents in at least one of the following ways:
 - Volunteer to be a Lead, Assistant, or Substitute Teacher in the RE program.
 - Lead or coordinate a Creative Sunday.
 - Assist with planning one RE event annually (e.g., chalice making).
 - Act as a liaison between the DRE and Youth Group, OWL, Coming of Age or Crossing Paths.
- Ensure RE programming reflects UU Principles and represents the interests and needs of the Congregation.

Contact me today if you have any questions, would like to learn more, or to express your interest in joining the RE Team.

Don't Forget!
Daylight Saving Time
Begins on March 8

March Adult Forums

Please join us for two related "Responding to the Climate Emergency" events. The first will be an evening presentation on Thursday, **March 19th**, at the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca. There will be a second follow up weekend workshop on **March 20-22nd**, held at the Eco Village Ithaca.

Thursday, March 19th, 7:30 pm: **Communities for the Future:** **How Do We Respond to the** **Climate Emergency?**

Please join us for a presentation by Kosha Joubert, Executive Director of the Global Ecovillage Network, based at the Findhorn Community in northern Scotland. Kosha will discuss the global ecovillage movement and address their lessons for all of us as we contemplate our responses to the climate emergency. Advance tickets \$10; or \$12 at the door. For information or to purchase tickets, please write to: learn@ecovillageithaca.org

Friday, March 20 - Sunday, **March 22nd: Communities for** **the Future: Our Response to the** **Climate Emergency**

Please join us for a follow up weekend workshop with Kosha Joubert, Executive Director of the Global Ecovillage Network, based at the Findhorn Community in northern Scotland. In this participatory and interactive workshop, you will learn to use the newest ecovillage design tools and become an ambassador for a new culture of regeneration. For more information and to register, go to: <https://ecovillageithaca.org/gen-workshop-2020/> or write to: learn@ecovillageithaca.org



Sponsored by the Environmental Interests Circle of First Unitarian Society of Ithaca.

(Ministerial Musings cont'd from cover)

As we begin our pledge season, I encourage you to think about the people and institutions that have helped to form you in your journey. Which are those that have withstood the challenge of time? Some may be indirectly related and others more clearly bound to you and your life. I know that FUSIT is one of those places for me and for all of us who continue to gather in the name of love and justice amidst a beautiful and broken world.

I hope you'll consider continuing that legacy with your generosity and commitment to this place and its ministry.

See you on Sunday!
Rev. Margaret

Side with Love Collection for March

During the month of March we will be collecting menstruation products. Some of the most needed items amongst people experiencing financial insecurity and homelessness are menstruation products. Maxi pads and tampons are not covered by SNAP benefits, are expensive, and really, are an absolute necessity for women and girls every month. During Women's History Month we will be collecting maxi pads, tampons, and reusable and disposable menstrual cups during our first hymn all five Sundays in March! These items will be distributed to various local organizations: Planned Parenthood, The Advocacy Center, and SJC (formerly Rescue Mission).

Joys and Sorrows

Our thoughts are with ...

...Pat Court who had heart surgery to replace her aortic valve on February 18, at Packer Hospital in Sayre, PA. Cards and phone calls are most welcome, and call to arrange visits. Healing thoughts are very much appreciated.

...Earl Rose as he recovers from shoulder surgery.

...Jan and John Pfeiderer after the passing of John's mother, Pauline Pfeiderer, on October 19, in California.

Thanks to...

...everyone who donated money during the Shared Plate collection on January 26th for ABBA House. We raised \$1328!

...Hospitality Team 2, under coordinators Donna Faivre-Roberts and Tom Roberts, who organized volunteer power to make Sunday services and coffee hour a welcoming time on January 19, and to Team 3, under Coordinators Sharon Beltaine and Jesse Koennecke, for organizing volunteers for the services on January 26 and February 2, 9, and 16.

Babies First News

Calling All Bakers, Jam, Jelly, Pickle, Chutney and Candy Makers!

The Babies First Spring Bake Sale will be held on **March 22 and 29** during the social hour in the Parlor after the service. Please support Babies First by purchasing a delicious treat or two.

If you would like to donate any of the above for the Spring Bake Sale, please call Jane McArthur at 216-2151 or janespickmcarthur@gmail.com. We would love to add YOUR name to our bakers list! You can drop off your goodies in the kitchen before the celebration on **March 22nd or March 29th**. Please include an ingredients list in consideration of folks with food allergies.

Babies First is an all volunteer organization, in its 27th year at FUSIT, that provides tangible help to babies, young children, and their families in need within Tompkins County by offering **free** baby equipment. Referrals are received directly from individuals or from 18 plus non-profit public agencies throughout the county.

Babies First accepts "like new" baby equipment including **pack 'n plays, strollers, high chairs, baby carriers**, etc. They also provide new unused car seats for infants and toddlers. Donations of equipment or financial contributions are always welcome.



All Church Night March 17th!

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 **March 17th!** 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
Outreach and Engagement

Board of Trustees February Meeting

The Board of Trustees will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, **March 10**, at 6 pm in the Parlor. All interested persons are invited to attend.



Green Tip from the Environmental Interests Circle

A vast array of podcasts explore facets of environmental issues and their inter-sections with social issues, opportunities to learn, while on the go, about the topics that most interest you. A Google search for "environmental podcasts" will yield many lists of recommendations.

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

Minister

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Religious Exploration

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Outreach and Engagement

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Congregational Administrator

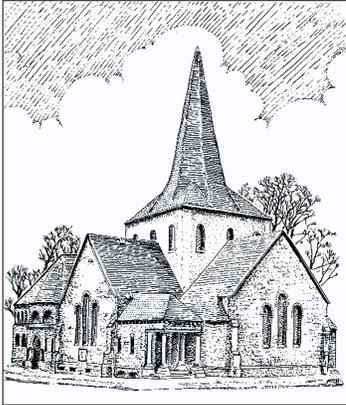
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**Red Cross
Blood Drive
March 19 from
1-6 pm**

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 March will be held on Monday, **March 23rd**. 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.

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. Please note that Rev. Margaret will be on study leave **March 12-20**. If you are in need of emergency pastoral care, please call Rev. Jo Von Rue (570) 899-0457 who is covering pastoral emergencies.*

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.

March Book Discussion Group

The Book Discussion group will meet on Friday, **March 13**, (the second Friday) to discuss "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens, a compelling tale of a forgotten girl in the unforgiving coastal marshes of North Carolina. 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, **March 22**, 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.

Social Justice Council Meeting

The Social Justice Council will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, **March 9**, 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.

Weekly Food Collection

Every week we collect dry or canned food for delivery to a local food pantry. Please bring non-perishable items to the basket which is located in the Garden Entrance.

Upcoming Events



March 1 - Newcomer Drop-In Circle

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

March 8 - Pledge Sunday, Magic of Ministry Feast and New Member Ceremony

March 11 - Lunch Bunch, 2nd Wednesdays 12-1:30

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!

March 18 - 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 JOURNEY. 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! Pub Theology takes place on the **3rd Wednesday** of every month. 620 West Green Street, Ithaca

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.

Soul Matters Drop-In Group Sunday, March 15

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, **March 15**, 12:15-1:30, in the Mark Pedersen Arch Room. The topic for March is Journey. You are welcome to bring lunch or food to munch on.

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, **March 6th**.

Welcome New Members

Please give a warm welcome to Alexis Abramo and Juliana Garcia who recently signed the Membership Book.

AIDS Ride for Life

Interested in joining the FUSIT and Friends team for the STAP AIDS Ride for Life in September? We gather throughout the summer months to train, get to know one another, raise money for a great cause, and push ourselves physically. Registration is here (please select "FUSIT and Friends" for your team): <http://aidsrideforlife.org/rider/registration>. If you are interested in signing up or learning more, please email Rev. Margaret at minister@uuthaca.org.



Spark the Magic

giving with love

It doesn't take a sorcerer to see that love is a gift often given and received at First Unitarian. But it does take an annual pledge campaign to make sure that the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca has the resources to achieve all the inspiring things that are planned for this year. We are growing, and that means we need to grow our giving. Registrations for Religious Education enrollment are up 72 percent. And attendance on Sundays is up 30 percent.

This week you should be receiving a letter about this year's campaign and your pledge card in the mail. If you can, bring your completed pledge card to church on **Pledge Sunday, March 8**. Then join in the magical celebration of dancing your pledge down the aisles and up to the Annex for a **Magic of Ministry Feast**. If that sounds too strenuous, make your pledge online or by mail or phone, but do come and enjoy the lunch and some enchanted fellowship.

Why is your annual pledge of support so important and why do we need it now? Annual pledges help us plan for the year ahead. The majority of our society's income (75%) comes from our annual gifts. The board will create next year's budget based on our expected revenue. The budget is prepared in April and presented to the congregation at the annual meeting in May. How much we can plan to do next year depends on the success of our pledge drive this spring. You can pay your pledge weekly, monthly or all at once over the next year.

*Your support helps us to minister
our magic to others in our congregation
and beyond.*

Questions about pledging? Contact Sharon Costianes (sharon.costianes@gmail.com) or David Salomon (dsalomon01@gmail.com).

Want to pledge online? Go to our pledge page <http://bit.ly/SparkMagic> or, abracadabra, you can text the amount of your gift to (607) 260-6616 with the word "spark" (e.g. "\$150 spark") to designate it for this year's campaign!!!

*Sincerely,
Sharon Costianes, David Salomon, and the entire
Stewardship Team*

The FUSIT Shakespeare Program

March 1 – Trevor Nunn's *Twelfth Night*, 3:00 pm with Ben Kingsley as the Fool

March 22 – Kenneth Branagh's *As You Like It*, 3:00 pm with Kevin Kline as Touchstone

March 29 – Michael Radford's *The Merchant of Venice*, 3:00 pm, with Al Pacino as Shylock

April 12 – Julie Taymor's *The Tempest*, 3:00 with Helen Mirren as Prospero

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

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



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

All programs in the Mark Pedersen Arch Room (elevator available). All films subtitled.

Time commitment: two to three hours (except Hamlet)

Arranged and moderated by Preston Wilson.

New Small Group Ministry for LGBTQ+

March 11 from 6-7:30 pm in the Potter Room

Beginning this March a new Small Group Ministry is forming, especially for FUSIT's LGBTQ+ community. The group will follow the same general format and structure as other Small Group Ministries at FUSIT. Gatherings will take place monthly on the second Wednesday of the month from 6 to 7:30 p.m in the Beatrix Potter (Library) Room. Come enjoy this opportunity for fellowship and community within our larger FUSIT community, in a safe, confidential and nurturing environment. If interested, please contact Kevin Moss, kevinm607@hotmail.com.

Possible Ponderings

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

March 1-7: What sparks magic in you? How can you do more of it?

March 8-14: What makes this congregation different from other groups you are part of? How does it help you on your life's journey?

March 15-21: What gets you here on Sunday morning? What gets in the way of you making it to this place each week?

March 22-28: What social justice issues make you come alive?

March 29-April 5: How has your journey been impacted positively by other people? Have you told them that?



Have you started thinking about attending the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly this year? It's going to be in nearby Providence, Rhode Island from **June 24-28, 2020**. Click [here](#) to start planning your time there exploring this year's theme of **Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!**

We are in touch with our theological roots, we are engaged in transforming our faith, and we are fired up to take action in the wider world.

This year's General Assembly coincides with the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower's arrival. This will give us a chance to wrestle with our history of colonialism, invite us into truth-telling, and center on indigenous people.

The Mark Pedersen Memorial GA Fund is available to help defray the costs of registration and/or travel for those with financial need. Contact office@uuithaca.org before **March 1st** for an application and further information.

Soul Matters Material for March on "Journey"

Our March worship theme at First Unitarian Society of Ithaca is Journey. 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-Journey>

Newsletter Deadlines for 2020

Deadline	Month	Services
March 12	April 1-30	April 5, 12, 19 & 26
April 16	May 1-31	May 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31
May 14	June 1-12	June 7
May 28	Summer 2020	Summer 2020

Racial Justice Group

The next session of the Series on Race and Racism will take place Tuesday, **March 24**, 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.

Meetings are usually held on the **4th Tuesday of every month**.