



# ITHACA

# UUU Connections

2021 / 2022 Issue No. 7

March 1-31, 2022

## Getting to Know Our Team Leaders

### Antiracism Ministry Team (ARMT), Shared Leadership

**Jennifer Streid-Mullen, Peggy McKernan, JoAnn Kowalski, Barbara Shew, Nancy Miller, John Gaines, Fred Balfour, Jess Brown, Jens Wennberg, Sue Roenke, Beth Howard**

The Antiracism Ministry Team strives for equity, inclusion and justice in our work within the congregation and beyond. We aim to help First Unitarian of Ithaca evolve into a truly anti-racist community, welcoming for people of all races, ethnicities and cultures, and actively engaged in work for racial justice. We welcome all who are committed to these goals to join us.

We meet approximately monthly with rotating meeting leadership. We also have smaller working groups engaged in specific efforts, including but not limited to Living the Pledge to End Racism workshops, antiracism book and film series, discernment around the proposed 8th UU Principle, and support for local antiracist organizations.

Contact: Beth Howard [beth4howard@gmail.com](mailto:beth4howard@gmail.com)

### In-Person Services Continue in March!

**Pre-Registration for Sunday services is no longer required.**

**See updated Way Forward Guidance on pages 9-10. No RE classes. Services will also be live streamed.**

**Masks and social distancing are required. Temperatures taken.**

**March 13  
Daylight Saving  
Time Begins**



### Your Board is Listening: Winter Open Question - From John Gaines

You provided over 170 responses to the Fall Open Question. Thank you for your engagement! Valerie Graves and Therese O'Connor have provided an analysis of those responses. Our Winter Question goes to the heart of who we are - ***"Given our history and our hopes for the future, for what purpose does our religious community exist in 2022 and beyond? In other words, what is and should be our true Mission?"*** How do YOU respond to this question?

Please send your response(s) of 12 words or fewer to [jagivjagiv@gmail.com](mailto:jagivjagiv@gmail.com) by **March 15**. If you would like to see the Google sheet with all responses, please email me.

Thank you for your assistance in this vital work!



### Celebrations Associates Magdalen Lindeberg, Chair

The Celebrations Associates help plan the Sunday services. This year we are particularly focused on identifying speakers and assisting them in crafting services!

Magdalen and her family have been Ithaca residents for over 20 years. She is the assistant director and communications lead for Cornell's School of Integrative Plant Science. In her spare time she enjoys quilting and biking.

### Our Mission

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

# Religious Exploration News

For information about Religious Exploration, please contact Emily Richards at [dre@uuihaca.org](mailto:dre@uuihaca.org).

## Greetings from the DRE

March has arrived and with it the first hints of spring. A time when the cold frozen ground begins to soften and new life cautiously emerges into the increasing light and warmth of the changing season. A time for renewal. This is also a time of renewal for us here in this community. Our theme this month is Renewing Faith and it strikes me how fitting this sentiment is. The word renew is defined as to resume after an interruption. And our lives have existed in a period of extended interruption for two years now. Interruptions to our work, schooling, and day to day routines. Interruptions to our relationships, our plans, and our safety. Interruptions to this faith community. In this time of renewal I am inviting you to return, to resume. To rejoin us in covenant as we travel together on this journey toward spiritual wholeness. To come back to the places and people and practices that fill your need for connection and purpose. To renew your faith here, with us. Here you are welcome. Here you belong.

Emily Richards, Director of Religious Exploration

## RE Plans for March

### Family Movie Night (Movie TBA)

**Saturday, March 12th at 6:30 pm** Arch Room

Please join us for a family-friendly movie night. All welcome.

### In-Person RE for Children and Youth + Parents Group

**Sunday, March 13th & Sunday, March 27th** 11:45am-12:30pm in the Arch Room

Kids of all ages are invited to join us for an opportunity to reconnect with one another and this community the **2nd and 4th Sunday of March** following services. We will focus on the joy of being together and engaging in collaborative creation.

Pre-registration is not necessary but all children must be signed in and out by a parent or guardian.

*Parents will be invited to stay and have an opportunity to meet in a separate space for group discussion and support.*

**Youth Game Night** for ages 12 and up will be held on **Friday, March 18th** from 6:30 pm-8:00 pm in the Arch Room. Board games of various types will be provided and participants are encouraged to bring their own as well.

### Youth Advisory Board

Are you a young person in our community who would like to be more involved in planning and helping to implement activities for our youth? Do you have ideas to share about meaningful projects and activities? Please have your youth fill out this form to let us know about your interest. [Youth Advisory Board](#)

### Small Group Ministry for Parents

Are you an individual who is actively parenting a child or young person? Would you like an opportunity to join a group of other individuals to explore your own personal journey and faith through the lens of parenting?

*Please fill out this form if this is something that you would be interested in possibly participating in.* [SGM for Parents](#)

### Box Fan Filter Creation Workshop - Saturday, March 20th at 12:30pm FUSIT Annex

Help make our meeting rooms and RE classrooms safer and learn how to make your own effective affordable air purifier known as a [Corsi-Rosenthal box](#) out of simple easy to find materials. We will have materials on hand and welcome donations of 20x20 box fans. Build filters for FUSIT, and take the instructions and your new skills home to build your own!

### Volunteers Needed for RE Programming

RE volunteers are needed to help lead youth and children's activities as well as to help with events. Please consider this opportunity as a way to reconnect with our community, give back, and make a profound difference in the lives of our young people and families. [RE Volunteer Sign Up](#)

### Expanding Community

For many this pandemic has brought increased feelings of isolation and being cut off from others. We always welcome new members to our community and faith and hope to provide a safe space of connection and learning for all during this time of physical distancing. Please continue to invite any and all people that you know that you believe could find meaning by exploring what the FUSIT community and Unitarian Universalist faith can offer.

## Renewing Faith

By Rev. Dr. David Breeden

*We ask "what's the point?"  
to renew our faith,  
to renew our trust  
that our world is enough,  
that we are enough.  
We ask "what's the point?"  
to remind ourselves  
that loving our world  
and each other is our way.  
We ask "what's the point?"  
to renew our faith that  
loving choices create  
a loving life.*

### Adult RE

#### Team Members needed.

Please contact Emily Richards at [dre@uuihaca.org](mailto:dre@uuihaca.org) if you are interested in helping to reinvigorate adult education programs at FUSIT.

## Religious Exploration is Seeking Team Members and Volunteers

The RE program is hopeful that we will be able to offer in-person gatherings in our buildings soon. That means we need volunteers to lead and assist with these weekly activities. The RE Team needs new enthusiastic members to help guide our programming. If you have been looking for a way to make a huge impact on this community please consider the RE Team. Volunteers to be mentors to our children and young people, as well as leading adult programming for parents is needed. Commitment can be as little as a single one hour program up to weekly regular meetings for youth.

## Joys and Sorrows

Our condolences to out to the family of long-time member and former President of our Board, John Spence, who died at the age of 69 on February 3.

From Mary Kirkpatrick: "A sorrow, that for several years now, Dick Cogger's memory loss due to Alzheimer's gradually deprived him of the active, creative and social life he had known – and a joy, that a solution was found in the memory care unit of Walden Place, a residence in South Cortland. Dick has been a resident there for a month now. He feels very settled in, and his still gentle and friendly nature is appreciated by all the good staff there. It's naturally a huge transition for both of us."

*Joys and Sorrows are now shared during Sunday Service. Please send notices to the team at [joysandsorrows@uuithaca.org](mailto:joysandsorrows@uuithaca.org). When considering what is shared in Joys and Sorrows, please note, these services are live streamed and available to the public on our YouTube Channel.*

## Social Justice Council Upcoming Meetings

The Social Justice Council will meet on **March 14, April 11, May 9, and June 13**. Meetings are held from 5-6:30 pm on Zoom.

The Social Justice Council exists to inform the congregation about important social and humanitarian needs and issues and to provide avenues for constructive service and action.

SJC selects each month's Sharing Sundays recipient and gets reports or proposals from SJC Action Teams. For more information, contact Jackie Jablonski at [jackiejab@me.com](mailto:jackiejab@me.com).

## March Worship Services

*The theme for March is "Renewing Faith" and the Celebrations Team is looking forward to speakers whose voices can help us to widen our circle as individuals and as a community:*

### March 6, "Shelter in a Time of Storm"

*Speaker Magdalen Lindeberg*

Reflections on community, sanctuary, and the bonds of shared experience.

### March 13, "The Happy Faith Riddle"

*Speaker Emily Hopkins*

Personal experience has shown over and over again how faith bestows its own magnificent benefits, so much so that it sometimes can seem that faith itself is the thing to have faith in. Where does God come in?

### March 20, (Vernal Equinox)

#### "Apprehended by Faith"

*Speaker Eric Clay, M.Div., Ph.D.*

When we enter the fray of life, we experience wonder if we allow hope and trust to accost us, and set aside our fear. There is nothing more powerful to submit to than hope and trust, and there is nothing more powerful to fight with. Whether we die from an invasive virus (COVID), or from an invasive species (homo sapiens) we will all die, but the struggle can also give expression to hope, trust and the fulfillment of what is possible.

### March 27, "Do You Want to Throw a Snowball?"

*Speaker Kim Wilkinson*

Cultivating playfulness in ourselves and in our beloved community.

*Sign ups are required in order to attend Sunday service. And everyone is invited to stream the services on our YouTube channel!*

## Soul Matters Material for March- Renewing Faith

The Soul Matters theme for March is Renewing Faith. This month's packet includes a few short readings, spiritual exercises, and discussion questions for you to consider. The material can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/SoulMattersMar2022>

*"Gratitude is the parent of all other virtues" -Cicero*

**Join the  
FUSIT  
(internal)  
Facebook Page:**  
**[https://  
www.facebook.com/  
groups/  
171869686459/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/171869686459/)**

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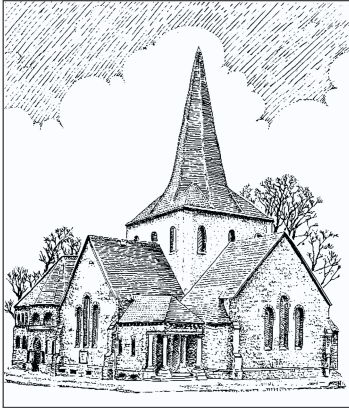
*Bookkeeper  
Lauren Ponzoni  
[office@uuithaca.org](mailto:office@uuithaca.org)*

## Emergency Pastoral Care

In case of pastoral need, call Madonna Stallman 607-216-5083. She will direct pastoral needs for weddings, memorial services and emergency pastoral care to Rev. Janet Shortall.



The First Unitarian Society of Ithaca  
306 North Aurora Street  
P.O. Box 6  
Ithaca, NY 14851-0006



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Visit our Website and get  
your newsletter:  
[www.uuithaca.org](http://www.uuithaca.org)

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## Possible Ponderings

### ***The theme for March is Renewing Faith.***

*Possible Ponderings is an offering of ways you might consider engaging more deeply with the theme or reflecting on the ways the idea of Renewing Faith shows up in your life.*

**March 1-5:** What have you trusted since childhood?  
What have you never lost faith in?

**March 6-12:** Has age allowed you to be more or less faithful to your true self?

**March 13-19:** Have you ever been made trustworthy by someone who has risked putting their trust in you?

**March 20-26:** Despite its losses and challenges, COVID has clarified priorities for many of us. So, because of COVID, what are you now more faithful to?

**March 27-31:** Is it time to take that leap of faith? You do know, don't you, that we weren't meant to make our homes on the safe edge of the cliff.

### **Women's Circle - Monday, March 28**

Women's Circle will meet via Zoom on Monday evening, **March 28**, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. We are now generally meeting on the 4th Monday of the month. All who identify as women are welcome. This is a drop-in group, so no need to sign up; just come. Anyone is welcome to bring a poem or a reading. For information or questions contact Nancy Miller at [ananda7733@gmail.com](mailto:ananda7733@gmail.com) or 607 539 7733.

Zoom link Meeting ID: 819 4014 1421  
Passcode: 874536

### **Men's Group - Monday, March 28**

The Men's Group will meet once a month on the 4th Monday of the month. The February meeting is scheduled for **March 28** at 7:00 pm in the Parlor. All who identify as male are invited to join us. For further information please contact Carsten Hess at [carsten@hess.net](mailto:carsten@hess.net) or Kevin Moss at [kevinm607@hotmail.com](mailto:kevinm607@hotmail.com).

### **Social Media Connections**

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/ithacaus](https://www.instagram.com/ithacaus) and  
Twitter, @IthacaUUs.

## March Book Discussion Group

The group is combining March and April and discussing the book *It Can't Happen Here* by Sinclair Lewis on **March 25th**. On **May 6th** the book will be *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo and on **June 3rd** *Unorthodox* by Deborah Feldman. All meetings are at 12:30 pm on Zoom. For further information contact Jennifer at [streidmull@gmail.com](mailto:streidmull@gmail.com).

## "Widening the Circle" UUA Book Discussion March 22

In 2017, UU leaders of color were asked to share their insights into how the Association could continue moving forward in the midst of another racially charged moment. The question is, how will our "living tradition" keep up with the times? What choices will we make—or fail to make—and how will that affect the relevancy and the survival of our faith? The report analyzes structural and systemic racism and white supremacy culture within Unitarian Universalism and makes recommendations to advance long-term change.

Join Jennifer Streid-Mullen and others on Tuesday, **March 22**, at 7:00 pm on zoom for a discussion of this important report. Copies are available to download for free at <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/cic/widening>, and hard copies are available in the church library.

Email Jennifer at [streidmull@gmail.com](mailto:streidmull@gmail.com) to register or with questions.

## Thanks to Your Generosity

Through the Shared Plate Offering, the following donations were given to these charitable organizations:

On December 24 the offertory was shared between Babies First which received \$365.55 and Food Bank of the Southern Tier which also received \$365.55. 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. Food Bank of the Southern Tier's mission is to build and sustain hunger-free communities throughout the Southern Tier, through their Community Advocates Program, an Education Series, distribution of farm fresh food, and monetary donations.

In January OAR (Opportunities, Alternatives and Resources) of Tompkins County received a total of \$469. Their mission for over 40 years has been protecting the civil liberties of those incarcerated in the Tompkins County jail through ensuring legal representation in the case of indigents, bailing eligible individuals pre-trial, a re-entry education program, and transitional sober housing.

## Box fans needed!

Buildings and Grounds and Religious Education are teaming up to build affordable portable air cleaners for our spaces! Do you have one or more 20x20 inch box fans in your home that you could donate to this effort? Please contact Sara Catterall at [sara.catterall@gmail.com](mailto:sara.catterall@gmail.com), or drop them off in the hall by the main office.

## History of FUSIT now available!

The book *A Liberal Church* is the history of the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca from 1865 to 1945. It was written by Carol Kammen, the Tompkins County Historian, and aided greatly by FUSIT member Beverly Henderson West. Read about being a liberal congregation in the midst of orthodoxy, and wonder how and why FUSIT was planted in Ithaca and how it grew.

The book is available for a \$15 donation in the parlor after services or in the church office anytime the office is open.

## CHERISHING OUR PAST BUILDING TOMORROW TOGETHER

Yes, it is almost spring and pledge season at our beloved First Unitarian Society of Ithaca. If you are new, this is your opportunity to join us in making a pledge of support for the coming fiscal year—July 2022 through June 2023. If you make a pledge every year, now is the time. Look for your pledge packet in the mail. You can bring your pledge card with you on **Pledge Sunday, March 6**, or see below for other ways to pledge.

Throughout March, you will hear why our pledges are so important. In this transitional year, the board has many decisions to make about a minister search plan. Modest and grand, with everyone giving what they can, our generous pledges will determine our capacity to live into our mission in the year ahead. Cherishing our past and building tomorrow together takes all of us and a good deal of cash.

Our annual giving accounts for more than 70 per cent of our church's income and is vital this year while in-person fundraiser events are still limited.

Our goal, in this our 2nd COVID year, is the same as last year, \$330,000. This amount will give us the funds needed to support our current programs and staff, the option to search for a minister, and keep us ready to resume full services.

What does your annual pledge support? One of Ithaca's oldest and most liberal and welcoming church communities. Our message of kindness, love, and hope is needed more than ever in these divisive times.

Making a pledge is easy. Your pledge packet should arrive soon. It contains a lot of information about what your annual giving supports and why it is so important. You can return your pledge card in person at a Sunday service or mail it in. Also, you can pledge online at [uuithaca.org](http://uuithaca.org), call in your pledge at 607-218-2088 or pledge by email at [office@uuithaca.org](mailto:office@uuithaca.org).

Thank you for cherishing our past and helping us build tomorrow together. I look forward to seeing you **March 6**. Questions? Contact Matt at [stewardship@uuithaca.org](mailto:stewardship@uuithaca.org) or 240-271-9224.

*Matt Hare (Chair) & the Stewardship Team*

## **SOME HISTORY on THE 8TH PRINCIPLE**

Unitarian Universalism is no stranger to movements that call for racial justice both within and beyond our institutions. There have been many instances where pockets of people within UU have worked to say racism is a problem and that we are committed to fighting racism and other oppressions. It was in 1997, the General Assembly first voted to commit to intentionally becoming an anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multicultural institution.

At the last two General Assemblies, the UUA published, *Widening the Circle of Concern*, a three-year study conducted and written by the Commission on Institutional Change that “analyzed structural and systemic racism” throughout the Association and which proposed recommendations to address the shortcomings. In June 2021, the General Assembly overwhelmingly passed a Responsive Resolution to include antiracism and anti-oppression in the Principles.

UUs across the country are being called to action and the UU Principles will guide us, but are they deep enough to result in social change regarding racial and social justice and equity? How is this 8th Principle different from the First – *We covenant and affirm to promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person*. Perhaps it hasn’t gone deep enough to result in social change and therefore the need for the demonstrative language of the 8th Principle?

On a local level at FUSIT, at the Annual Meeting in May, 2021, Jess and Miles Brown presented the wording for the 8th Principle:

***To affirm and promote journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.***

At that time, plans were discussed as to how to educate the FUSIT congregation on the 8th Principle and its meaning. In May of 2021, there were 61 UU congregations that had adopted the 8th Principle; today there are 153.

The Anti-Racism Ministry Team (ARMT) has taken on the responsibility to continue the conversation. To date, the ARMT has been conducting Living the Pledge workshops in which approximately 85 people have participated.

A workshop held on Sunday, February 13th, introduced the 8th Principle and multicultural change as a developmental process for congregations. Paula Cole Jones, co-author of the 8th Principle, provided information as to how other UU congregations have approached the spiritual and structural aspects of moving more fully into our vision of the Beloved Community.

The 8th Principle subcommittee plans to offer opportunities for the congregation to engage in discussions, ask questions and imagine the possibilities. There is such a session planned for Thursday, **March 31**, at 7:00 pm on Zoom. Further information on connecting will be provided in the mid-week announcements.

## **News from The Antiracism Ministry Team (ARMT)**

**The next Living the Pledge to End Racism Workshop will begin in early April**, and will run for six Saturday mornings. We'd like to see a large percentage of our congregation go through this enlightening and inspiring experience. If you have already taken the workshop, invite a friend to do so! See our [web page](#) for more information, or contact the office if you'd like to register for the next cohort. Even without participating in the workshop, anyone can [sign onto the Pledge to End Racism](#) at the FUSIT website.

Our antiracism book group and film series are ongoing. The **book group** meets every two months, and the **film series** once a month. See the blurb below for more information about the book. The next regular film screening is Tuesday evening **March 8th**, at 6:30 pm. The film title is to be determined, and suggestions are always welcome. Contact Peggy McKernan for more information ([peggy.ithaca@gmail.com](mailto:peggy.ithaca@gmail.com)).

The Antiracism Ministry Team welcomes new team members. Help with one of our current projects or propose others. Help us build the Beloved Community here at First Unitarian and beyond. Our leadership is shared. Our current contact person is Beth Howard: [beth4howard@gmail.com](mailto:beth4howard@gmail.com).

## **Common Read Book Group March 15**

UU Reads For Social Justice will meet virtually, **March 15**, at 7 pm to discuss *“The Sum Of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together”* by Heather McGhee.

Her book has been on lists of best book of the year and the author has been on major television talk and news shows. “A book for every American, Elizabeth Gilbert”. You can find the author’s videos on YouTube.

The Tompkins County Public Library has several copies. If you would like to join this group, please contact JoAnn Kowalski, [jmkowalski@gmail.com](mailto:jmkowalski@gmail.com) or Barbara Shew, [barbrandys1@gmail.com](mailto:barbrandys1@gmail.com).

## **FUSIT Musicians Wanted for House Band!**

I’m interested in forming a “house band” to provide occasional music at FUSIT services and special events, playing songs with a mellow acoustic rock and/or folk vibe appropriate for the FUSIT ministry and mission. Instrumentalists and vocalists welcome! If interested, please contact Kevin Moss at [kevinm607@hotmail.com](mailto:kevinm607@hotmail.com). Let’s talk!

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



## 2022 FUSIT SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER COMING SOON!

Due to changes in congregational interests, minimal volunteer capabilities, and pandemic restrictions, fundraising teams were created last year to test out online auctions, using the Bidding Owl platform. This resulted in our raising approximately \$9000, with the service auction proving to be the more successful of the two.

It is therefore recommended that we hold one large fundraising auction in the Spring, setting a goal of \$12,000. With the work of a strong auction team, along with congregants who will generously offer wonderful items up for bid, spread the word, and actively participate, reaching our goal will be assured.

The auction will be open to all those in Ithaca and its surrounding areas. At least 50% of our bid items will be donations of gift certificates and baskets from local merchants, thus offering ample outreach opportunities. Team meetings will begin in March.

More details to follow.



## UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY MULTIPLATFORM / PORTLAND • 2022

**UUA General Assembly, Portland, Oregon** June 22-26, 2022

***“Meet the Moment: Reimagining Radical Faith Community”***

Join UUs from around the world for General Assembly in Portland, Oregon. This year’s annual meeting of the UUA will be multiplatform (in person and online). In addition to business sessions, the General Assembly (GA) program offers workshops, lectures, and worship and witness opportunities during the five days of GA. Registration options for in-person and/or virtual participation are open. For more information contact [generalassembly@uua.org](mailto:generalassembly@uua.org).

### ***Pedersen Memorial GA Scholarship***

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

Application deadline is **March 1st**. Email [office@uuithaca.org](mailto:office@uuithaca.org) for further information and to request an application.

***Did you know you can text in your  
donations to the offering plate on Sundays?***

***Simply text 607-260-6616 with the amount + offering (eg: \$5 offering)  
to donate by phone. It's super easy!***



## ***From your Board of Trustees***

Your board has spent a good deal of time in recent weeks in discussions about how best to move forward in the process of looking for a future minister. There are many dimensions to this question: what do we want or expect of a minister: spiritual leadership, pastoral care, Sunday sermons, staff supervision, outreach to the community? Is it reasonable to expect a minister to handle all of these and, if not, how should we prioritize this list?

What can we learn from our history – the book by Carol Kammen documents the last eighty years of that history and makes it clear that we have had only two long term ministers over that period and that periods with a short term minister or no minister at all were common. The average length of a minister's tenure nationwide is only five to seven years.

We also need to factor in current realities – there are more than twenty UU congregations in the US currently without a minister, there have been a lot of retirements during the pandemic and there is a relatively small pool of applicants out there looking for positions. What type of minister are we looking for – interim, developmental or contract, full or part time. Are there other alternatives at least in the short run? There are also financial considerations that we need to factor in. The board recently met with Keith Kron from the UUA to get some ideas on how best to weigh some of these issues.

As you can appreciate this is a complicated process and the board is looking for as much input as possible to navigate the minister decision process.

*Love and courage to you all!*  
*Simon Catterall*



## ***Kindness***

*A poem by Naomi Shihab Nye*

Before you know what kindness really is  
you must lose things,  
feel the future dissolve in a moment  
like salt in a weakened broth.  
What you held in your hand,  
what you counted and carefully saved,  
all this must go so you know  
how desolate the landscape can be  
between the regions of kindness.  
How you ride and ride  
thinking the bus will never stop,  
the passengers eating maize and chicken  
will stare out the window forever.  
Before you learn the tender gravity of kindness  
you must travel where the Indian in a white poncho  
lies dead by the side of the road.  
You must see how this could be you,  
how he too was someone  
who journeyed through the night with plans  
and the simple breath that kept him alive.  
Before you know kindness as the deepest thing inside,  
you must know sorrow as the other deepest thing.  
You must wake up with sorrow.  
You must speak to it till your voice  
catches the thread of all sorrows  
and you see the size of the cloth.  
Then it is only kindness that makes sense anymore,  
only kindness that ties your shoes  
and sends you out into the day to gaze at bread,  
only kindness that raises its head  
from the crowd of the world to say  
It is I you have been looking for,  
and then goes with you everywhere  
like a shadow or a friend.



## **Way Forward Team Guidance for Continued Re-opening**

### **Phase 3 - February 17, 2022**

*We are excited to continue to welcome members of our congregation back into our sanctuary for our Sunday morning worship services with the following guidelines:*

- A maximum of 30 individuals or groups of people (family groups, pods etc.) or combination thereof, up to five total within each group, who are comfortable being within six feet of one another, not including those people who are a part of the service, will be welcomed into our sanctuary each Sunday morning.
- **Pre-registration for Sunday services will not be required but all people attending must sign in and out at one of the entrances when entering and leaving the building.**
- Everyone attending services will be required to have their temperature checked at the door. A temperature of 100.4 or higher will mean that individual will not be allowed to attend services or any activities inside the building that day.
- Physical distancing between groups will be required in the sanctuary during all services, with designated spaces clearly marked.
- Everyone must be masked at all times while in the building, save for anyone who is actively speaking at the podium. As per CDC guidance, it is strongly recommended that you wear the most protective mask you can that fits well and that you will wear consistently, such as an N95, N94, or similar style. Masks will be available as needed.
- Every person who will be leading Sunday worship service, i.e the RE leader, Celebrations Associate, all musicians, guest speakers etc., will need to provide a negative COVID rapid test the morning of the service.
- A social hour will follow each service but no food or drink will be served and we ask that people not bring their own to limit the amount of time people are not in masks.
- **We request that anyone who has tested positive for COVID 19 within 48 hours of attending any in-person programming at FUSIT please contact the office so that other individuals who were present can be informed.**

*We are opening up our building use outside of Sunday worship to all FUSIT groups including, but not limited to, the following:*

- FUSIT Board
- Staff
- Small Group Ministry
- Team and Committee Meetings
- Other small FUSIT groups such as Women's Group, Men's Group, Book Club etc.
- Individuals or small groups who wish to utilize our physical resources, such as the library or organ
- Listening Circles
- Other official FUSIT gatherings
- Memorial Services, Wedding, and other celebrations

*Approved spaces include: the Sanctuary, the Annex, the Parlor, the Arch Room (Mark Pedersen Room), the Library, and the Conference Room (122 Ellen Watkins Harper Room).*

- Library, **Youth Room**, and Conference: **Maximum of 12 people**
- Parlor, and Annex: Maximum of 40 people
- Arch Room: Maximum of **25 people**
- Sanctuary: Maximum of 100 people
- Everyone must use the sign in/out sheet placed at one of the five entrances to the building: Annex, Parlor, Front, Garden and Parish House. This must be done each and every time, even if it is a brief visit.

*In addition we will be expanding rentals of our spaces beginning on December 1st, 2021 under the following guidelines:*

- Rentals to outside groups may resume following FUSIT safety guidelines.
- All renters must continue to practice COVID safety precautions including masking, social distancing, and contact tracing, as well as any other requirements stipulated by their specific rental agreement.
- All groups must adhere to the number of participants per each space listed above.
- No food or drink may be served at any events inside the FUSIT building.

All individuals, even those who are fully vaccinated, must wear a mask and practice social distancing guidelines while inside the building.

*If the answer to any of the below three questions is yes, or if you have a temperature of 100.4 degree or higher upon arrival, we ask that you please refrain from using the building for any reason.*

1. Have you had any COVID-19 symptoms in the past 14 days, including fever/chills, cough, shortness of breath, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell? EXCEPTION: If you had a negative COVID test while experiencing these symptoms or after these symptoms subside, you may use the building, following FUSIT's masking guidelines as usual.
2. Have you had a positive COVID-19 diagnostic test in the past 14 days?
3. Have you had close contact with a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case in the past 14 days? EXCEPTION: Fully vaccinated people may get tested 3 - 5 days after exposure and quarantine until they receive a negative test result, then may use the building following FUSIT's masking guidelines.

*Please follow current CDC guidelines for domestic and international travel.*

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel-during-covid19.html>

All room requests must be made at least one week in advance.

All use must be reserved through the office, not Breeze. Please email Michelle at [office@uuithaca.org](mailto:office@uuithaca.org).

*Food may be brought into and consumed in the building with the following guidelines:*

- Only consume food you personally brought for yourself and place your mask back on as soon as you have finished eating
- Plan on removing all garbage/leftovers, please do not leave anything in the building
- No shared food or potlucks at this time
- Food may not be brought in for Sunday services
- Food or drink may not be served at any event whether it is a FUSIT event or a rental event
- All surfaces must be wiped down before and after eating

All groups must clean up after themselves.

There must be a minimum of one hour between the end of one gathering and the beginning of the next in each space. All other groups may meet indoors at any location of their choosing, complying with all of the guidelines by NYS for unvaccinated people.

### **Outdoor gatherings**

For outdoor gatherings social distancing is highly recommended, in the case that social distancing cannot be maintained, masks are recommended, even for vaccinated individuals.

### **Closing Policy**

FUSIT will be carefully following the guidance of local and state health officials, as well as monitoring other local agencies, such as schools, when deciding when and if to return to virtual-only gatherings.

In addition, should there be evidence that spread of the COVID19 virus has happened in our spaces, at an official FUSIT event, we will temporarily move to virtual until we are assured that all transmission has been detected and contained.