



ITHACA

# UUU Connections

2021 / 2022 Issue No. 10

June 1-September 4, 2022

## From Our Board of Trustees

*What are highlights or is most fulfilling about your year on the BoT?*



**John Gaines:** My top three highlights are: working with and getting to know our wonderful staff, hitting the ground running as a Board on July 1 and working closely with such a dedicated and proficient group of Board members. All of these are essential components of the Beloved Community.



**Walt Peck:** The most gratifying thing that has come out of this year for me has been the creation of a working structure of Committees which, when the year started, we needed quite badly but did not really have.



**Nancy Miller:** The most satisfying part of my Board work has been to support our fabulous competent staff at their weekly staff meetings and in their work. Plus I am grateful for how we as individual Board members are able to listen to each other, learn from each other, and even disagree with such generosity.



**Simon Catterall:** I've enjoyed working with my fellow board members who have shown a great deal of commitment, caring and energy over the last couple of years.



**Elton Hall:** I've been repeatedly moved by the way Board members have exhibited our seven principles (and the proposed 8th) in its collective work and by the support for our Beloved Community in congregational conversations during this difficult time.



**Therese O'Connor:** I have been inspired by my board colleagues' insight and work over the past two very challenging years. I have also enjoyed getting to know and working with Michelle Waffner.



**Valerie Graves:** I have been so impressed by the commitment and care that my fellow board members have for FUSIT. It has been a pleasure to hear how thoughtful and conscientious everyone is in our meetings and how each individual brings good insight and skill to the table. I hope that our steadfast attention and intention will buoy this society along as we find our way, despite all the challenges we face as a congregation.



**Diana Nier:** I have been impressed by the way FUSIT members and staff pulled together despite various obstacles this year, and have worked to reimagine our organizational structure for a new era.



**Don Barber:** I am most proud that this Board has been transformational with its decisions and actions. Faced with unsettled situations, we have climbed to the balcony to navigate our path forward via inclusive partnerships with staff and lay leaders.



**Margaret Nichols:** My top three: seeing the wonderful work of our staff, teams, and committees; discovering our congregants' strong commitment to FUSIT; and working with the experienced, dedicated Board. It's been an honor.

### In-Person Sunday Services

**10:30 am June 5 in the Sanctuary**  
**10:30 am June 12 End of Year Picnic at Stewart Park, Large Pavilion**

**9:30 am Summer Services in the Parlor**  
**June 19 through September 4**  
**(no RE activities)**

**Summer Services are not live streamed.**  
**Masks required and social distancing encouraged.**

**Annual End-of-the-Year Picnic and Flower Communion**  
**Sunday, June 12, 10:30 am**  
**Stewart Park (large pavillion)**

Bring a dish-to-pass, your own plate and utensils, and a flower.

# Religious Exploration News

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

## Greetings from the DRE

And just like that June has arrived and our church year is coming to a close. A year full of challenges, and rising to meet those challenges, and celebrating the blessings of being in beloved community, together.

It can feel difficult to celebrate the blessings in our lives, to even notice them, amidst the grief of grim milestones, continued illness, attacks on bodily autonomy, and the day to day struggles that we all face living in this world. And I won't minimize the very real hardships we are all enduring with trite platitudes or over exuberant positivity.

What I offer instead is the acknowledgment that this is hard. Even as we yearn for comfort and connection the act of engaging can, in and of itself, feel overwhelming. Like one more thing we don't have the time or energy for.

Still, you are a blessing. Your continued presence, whether you are showing up to Sunday services, participating in team or committee meetings, attending small group ministry, or just reading these words, you are blessing this community. And it is a reason to celebrate.

We have endured hardships, and we have also created joy. We have been disconnected and separated, and we have come back together, united in our love for one another and this faith. We have been in need, and we have offered help and support. We can simultaneously mourn and celebrate. We can allow ourselves to be blessed, and bless others in return.

As this church year comes to a close, with so many unknowns still ahead of us, I choose to celebrate our many blessings. Not in spite of the adversity that we have faced, but because of it. Because we are still here. Moving forward together. Blessing one another and the world with the warmth of love, light of truth, and energy of action.

*Emily Richards, Director of Religious Exploration*

## Adult RE

### Pub Theology

#### **June 28th, July 26th, August 23rd, 6:30pm at Liquid State Brewing**

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 Celebrating Blessings. 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 4th Tuesday of every month.  
620 West Green Street, Ithaca

## RE Plans for June and Summer

### **FUSIT at the Ithaca Festival, June 2nd-5th**

Please join us as we march through the streets of Ithaca as a part of the Parade. Or visit us in Dewitt Park at our FUSIT table for information and activities.

### **End of the Year Service & Flower Communion at Stewart Park, Sunday, June 12th, 10:30 am**

Our final service of the year will be held at Stewart Park in the large pavilion and will include our annual Flower Communion and a potluck meal afterwards. Bring flowers to exchange, food to share (plus your own dishes and utensils), and come ready to play on the beautiful shores of Cayuga Lake.

### **Nature Church at Ellis Hollow Nature Preserve, Sunday, July 3rd, 11:30 am**

Meet us at the Ellis Hollow Nature Preserve, parking available in the lot on Ellis Hollow Creek Road, for a chance to connect with one another and nature. Bring water shoes and play clothes if you would like to splash in the creek.

### **Nature Church at Jennings Pond, Sunday, August 21st, 11:30 am**

Meet us at Jennings Pond in Danby, there is parking and restrooms available. There is a lovely loop trail through the woods, and if you would like to go swimming there is also a public swimming area there as well. *(continued on page 7)*

### ***all the holy nudges that we need...***

*By Rev. Dr. Rebekah Savage*

*Spirit of Life, Eternal Beloved of Mystery and Grace;*

*Receive our prayer:*

*We come before That Which is Greater than ourselves in gratitude for the fullness of our lives.*

*For the anguish and grief that informs our mission to Side with Love again and again.*

*For the suffering and disenfranchisement of our people that foments our passion for Justice and wholeness.*

*For complex lives, for hard lives, for real, full and overwhelmed lives, we give thanks for the blessings*

*that we have been given: the reassurance of community, the steady warmth of hope, and the unwavering faith that There will be better days.*

*We give thanks and seek your grace.*

*Spirit of Love, come alongside with all the holy nudges that we need,*

*So we may live in such a way that we celebrate all the blessings that we have been given.*

## Joys and Sorrows

Joys and Sorrows are now shared during Sunday Service. Please send notices to the team at [joysandsorrows@uuitbaca.org](mailto:joysandsorrows@uuitbaca.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.

Our thoughts are with **Arne Van Leuken**, who was recently hospitalized with a stroke caused by a neck injury. He is currently working with various therapists and is in good spirits, persevering and determined to get better.

A friend of the Van Leuken family is collecting cash donations through Venmo - @Heather-scott-spider.

Long-time member **Jeanne Paisley** sends her love to the congregation. She is a resident at the Seneca View Skilled Nursing Facility in Montour Falls and would welcome cards and calls. Please send cards to Jeanne R. Paisley Rm 220-1 Unit 1, Seneca View Skilled Nursing, Schuyler Hospital, 220 Steuben Street, Montour Falls, NY 14865. Telephone 607-535-8604. She can receive phone calls between 3:30-5:00 pm daily.

### Thanks to ...

John Gaines for helping with the Babies First cleanout! He took one and a half truck loads of old or unrepairable donated baby equipment that had accumulated over many years. He did heavy lifting on both ends of his trip. We are so grateful. Babies First now has room for more donations!

*From the Board of Trustees* - We want to express our gratitude and thanks to Marie Benedetti and the Auction Team consisting of Alice Churchill, Simon Catterall, Carol Whitlow, Jessica Brown, Liz Einstein and staff help from Michelle Waffner and Loretta Heimbuch for the extremely successful Community Online Auction April 29-May 1. The auction generated over \$7,000! Plus thanks to those who donated items - both from within the congregation and community businesses. But Marie has been the Auction Queen and we are so so grateful!

### June Book Discussion Group

On **June 3rd**, the group will discuss *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).



## June Worship Services

The theme for June is "Celebrating Blessings" and the Celebrations Team is looking forward to speakers whose voices can help us to explore this theme as individuals and as a community:

### June 5 "Reflections on Values Formation"

Speaker: C. T. Butler

C. T. has been attending FUSIT this past year. He has written extensively about consensus decision making. He is currently working on another book specifically about values, what are they, how to identify and define them and how to use something so deeply subjective (your values) to make objective decisions in groups.

### June 12 "We Are a Garden"

Speaker Emily Richards, Director of Religious Exploration

Join us for the annual Flower Communion ceremony and help us celebrate the blessings that accompany growth. Please bring a flower to add to our beautiful bouquet and you will receive a different flower to take home with you! Also, please bring a dish to share for our potluck picnic at Stewart Park. Music provided by FUUnion.

See page 6 for the list of Sunday Summer Services, which run from June 19 to September 4, at 9:30 am.

### Soul Matters Material for June - Celebrating Blessings

The Soul Matters theme for June is Celebrating Blessings. 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/SoulMattersJune2022>

### Congregational Administrator Summer Hours

From mid June - mid August, the office will be open 9-4 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Any changes to this schedule will be noted in the Weekly Announce, which will continue to be sent every Wednesday throughout the summer.

**First Unitarian is a UUA-recognized LGBTQ+ Welcoming Congregation**

Religious Exploration  
Emily Richards, Director  
[dre@uuitbaca.org](mailto:dre@uuitbaca.org)

Music Director  
Stephanie Ortolano  
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President, Board of Trustees  
Don Barber  
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Michelle Waffner  
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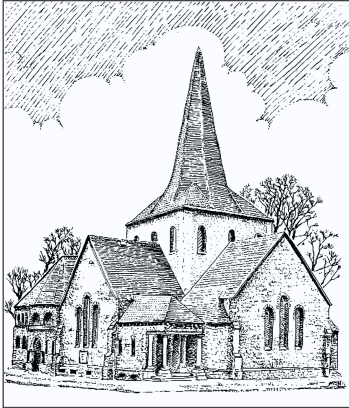
Sexton  
Rachel Seymour  
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Bookkeeper  
Lauren Ponzoni  
[office@uuitbaca.org](mailto:office@uuitbaca.org)

### 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 June is Celebrating Blessings*

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

**June 1-4:** When in your life have you felt like you were a blessing? How would you complete the sentence: "I've been blessed with\_\_\_\_\_."?

**June 5-11:** What role has the blessing of friendship played in your life?

**June 12-18:** What blessing did the religion of your childhood leave you?

**June 19-25:** Is there anything held in common by the people you know who feel blessed by life? What do they have to teach you about "the secret to feeling blessed"?

**June 26-30:** Has an obligation or burden ever surprised you with a blessing?

### ***History of FUSIT now available!***

The book *A Liberal Church* is the illustrated 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.

This book began on the occasion of our 150th anniversary, when Mark Pedersen asked our Ithaca historian Carol Kammen if she could write a book on the history of our church. A meeting was called for those interested in the project, committees were formed, and we proceeded on several fronts. After many delays, not the least of which was caused by the pandemic, the book was finally printed last summer.

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

### **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](http://www.instagram.com/ithacaus) and Twitter, @IthacaUUs.

### **Social Justice Council Upcoming Meetings**

The Social Justice Council will meet on **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).

### **Thanks to Your Generosity**

Once a month, the offering made during our Sunday service is donated to an organization chosen by the Social Justice Council.

The recipient of April's Sharing Sunday on April 24 was **the Mentor-Student Program**, a program at CCE Tompkins, which received \$402. Directed by FUSIT member Susie Kossack and serving middle school students in Tompkins County, the Mentor-Student Program develops mutually rewarding relationships between the students and mentors resulting in greater success in school for the student and greater empowerment in life for both mentor and student.

### **Help Needed to Provide Lunches for the Homeless Shelter during the Summer Months**

As a member of Area Congregations Together (ACT), FUSIT provides 60 lunches to the Ithaca homeless shelter on the first Tuesday of each month. So every month we look for four volunteers to share the work and provide 15 lunches each.

Can you please volunteer for **July 5th or August 2nd**? You would buy supplies, make the lunches within 24 hours of delivery, and deliver them between 9:30 and 11:30 am to SJCS Day Center at 618 W. State Street.

Each lunch will include a sandwich, a piece of soft fruit, and a cookie or other small dessert. Social Justice Council can reimburse your expenses, at your request. To volunteer and/or ask questions, please contact Jackie Jablonski at [jackiejab@me.com](mailto:jackiejab@me.com).



~ SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10<sup>th</sup> 2022 ~

### **Mark Your Calendars for the AIDS Ride for Life!**

Now entering its twenty-fourth year, the AIDS Ride for Life is a Fundraiser Ride around Cayuga Lake. It offers multiple route options, from 14 to 102 miles, beautiful scenery, fully supported pit stops with volunteers, snacks, first aid, bathrooms, hydration, Safety & Gear Road support. The 2022 annual AIDS Ride for Life will be held on Saturday, September 10th. With Covid-19 having altered our way of life, we have adopted virtual riding into our offering! Ride/Walk/Run "virtually" anywhere! Can't make the specific day? Don't like road-riding? This can be the option for you! Virtual Participant Registration will be a flat \$25 through now and Ride Day and just \$100 minimum required fundraising.



### **Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

That cheering and clapping you hear is from our entire congregation. We have done it! We, the members and friends of the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca, have pledged over \$305,000 for our 2022-23 church year! Thank you for your heartfelt generosity,

We have reached 92 percent of our ambitious \$330,000 goal! With all of us pitching in, we are able to Build Tomorrow Together. We can search for a new part-time minister, plan inspiring celebrations and thoughtful religious education, work for justice, the environment and Babies First, cherish our historic building, and create the connections and community we all need.

And we may yet reach that goal. The Stewardship Team is still contacting the households we have not heard from. It is important that we learn what all members value about our faith community and what your hopes are for tomorrow.

### **New Pledges Welcome!**

Know that you can make a pledge of support at any time, perhaps when your financial situation is clearer. Make your pledge by phone (607-273-7521), email ([office@uuithaca.org](mailto:office@uuithaca.org)) or online at [uuithaca.org](http://uuithaca.org). Simply click on *Make Your 22-23 Pledge Today* to find your way.

If you are unable to make a pledge now, just let us know. Your support will be graciously welcomed whenever the time is right for you. Here you belong.

*Matt Hare & the Stewardship Team*

### **Getting to Know Our Teams/Committees: Finance Committee**

*Nathan Fawcett, Committee Leader*

The Finance Committee assists the board in its oversight of the congregation's finances, ensures that routine financial reports are clear and helpful, and coordinates the annual audit. From time to time, holds educational sessions to ensure that board members have adequate understanding of the congregation's financial status and goals. The committee has no management authority and does not participate in day-to-day financial decision making. Contact: Nathan Fawcett, [nfri@cornell.edu](mailto:nfri@cornell.edu)

### **New Member Ceremony**

During the May 1st Sunday Celebration, the following New Members were officially welcomed into our congregation during a Commitment Ceremony.

*Carloyn Emerick, Jessica Brown, Phil Terrie, Kathy Wolf, Tim Ball, Lydia Dempsey, Jackie Jablonski, Margaret Smith, Tom Coakley.*



## Summer Services 2022

*Summer Services will be held again in the parlor on Sundays at 9:30 am from June 19 through September 4. These services will not be live streamed. Please join us in-person!*

**June 19** *“We are all Metaphysical” speaker Elton Hall*

**June 26** *“The Iroquois Commons and the Ithaca Commons” speaker David Schwartz*

**July 3** *“Faces in the Crowd: thoughts on interpersonal connections in the face of global division”  
speaker Magdalen Lindeberg*

**July 10** *“Reflections on Happiness Amidst Loss” speaker Edna Brown*

**July 17** *“The Hard Questions of UUism “ speaker Preston Wilson*

**July 24** *“Reproductive Justice” speaker Nancy Miller*

**July 31** *TBA*

**August 7** *“Consumers and Shapers” speaker Margaret Nichols*

**August 14** *“The Do-Gooders Dilemma: Charity Work vs. Justice Work” speaker John Gaines*

**August 21** *“Adrift” speaker Don Barber*

**August 29** *“Growing up in white America” speaker Barbara Shew*

**September 4** *TBA*



### *The Covenant of First Unitarian Society of Ithaca*

***Let us commit ourselves, again and again, to upholding our covenant together.***

A Covenant is a set of sacred promises that Unitarian Universalists make with each other to guide and support their communities. First Unitarian Society of Ithaca adopts this covenant to sustain our commitment to each other, affirm our connections when we struggle, and form the foundation of our respectful relationships with each other and the world.

*We covenant to:*

- Be together in community, guided by love and respect.
- Be open, friendly, and welcoming to all.
- Be engaged in congregational life.
- Communicate compassionately, directly, and honestly.
- Listen deeply and kindly to each other.
- Believe in others' best intentions.
- Support and inspire each other's quest for truth and meaning
- Acknowledge, respect, and value our differences.
- Work to serve our community's shared goals.

*(Religious Exploration continued from page 2)*

## **Our Whole Lives (OWL)**

The Our Whole Lives (OWL) comprehensive sexuality education program is one that parents have been asking for us to return to offering since we had to make the move to virtual programming two years ago. In partnership with FCC (First Congregational Church) we are offering a facilitator training this summer so that we can return to OWL programming for our middle school and high school youth in the fall.

If you wish to participate and this creates a financial difficulty please contact Emily Richards [dre@uuihaca.org](mailto:dre@uuihaca.org).

### ***Facilitator Training***

***Friday, July 22nd-Sunday, July 24th, Hosted at FCC, \$350 per participant, Meals provided***

*See the registration form for more details and to register for this weekend-long training.*

### **OWL Facilitator Training**

#### ***Assistance Needed to Provide Meals for OWL Training***

We need your help to support our wonderful participants and facilitators for our OWL Training this July. We will need meals provided Friday through Sunday for up to 22 individuals, with sensitivity to dietary needs. Please sign up below or reach out to Emily Richards at [dre@uuihaca.org](mailto:dre@uuihaca.org) if you are willing to help.

### **OWL Volunteer Food Sign-Up**

#### **RE Plans for Fall 2022**

The Religious Exploration Team at FUSIT is hoping to return to in-person classroom and Creative Sundays this fall but we can't do it without your help! We need volunteers to lead and assist in our classrooms twice a month, to offer their skills up for Creative Sundays, and to be on call as a possible substitute when one of our volunteers can't make it. We need every member of this community to show our families and young people that they are a priority. Please contact Emily Richards at [dre@uuihaca.org](mailto:dre@uuihaca.org) if you are interested in helping our community in this way.

#### ***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.

#### ***The 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 building beginning in February. That means we need volunteers to lead and assist with these weekly activities. The RE Team needs new enthusiastic members to

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.

## **Small Group Ministry**

### ***Small Group Ministry for Parents, Sunday, July 17th & Sunday, August 21st, 4 pm-5:30 pm***

Please join our Small Group Ministry especially for individuals who are actively parenting. The group will follow the Soul Matters themes with a focus on how they are related to the journey and experience of being a parent. Gatherings will take place monthly on the third Sunday of the month from 4 pm-5:30 pm on Zoom, with the possibility of moving to in-person meetings in the future. We invite you to join us for an opportunity for fellowship and community within our larger FUSIT community, in a safe, confidential and nurturing environment. If interested, please contact Emily Richards, [dre@uuihaca.org](mailto:dre@uuihaca.org).

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87606340943?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87606340943?pwd=dVczWmpCZVVGNtGxSUVVaGNMLzBRdz09)

[pwd=dVczWmpCZVVGNtGxSUVVaGNMLzBRdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87606340943?pwd=dVczWmpCZVVGNtGxSUVVaGNMLzBRdz09)

Meeting ID: 876 0634 0943

Passcode: 188035



*Creating the Maypole at the Sunday Celebration on May 1st.*

**If you are unable to attend Sunday services in person,** we invite you to watch the Live Stream at 10:30 am on our [YouTube Channel](#) and join us for a "Zoom Coffee Hour" following service. You can use the [Zoom link](#) or the meeting ID of 240-797-976.

The **Order of Service** will be posted on the YouTube Channel each Sunday for those watching virtually.

## **Your Board Has Been Busy!**

*John Gaines*

You may be familiar with the more formal aspects of the work of your Board of Trustees this year. The Board regularly publishes meeting agendas, meeting minutes, committee and ministry team reports, Sense of the Meeting reports, Board member articles in the Weekly Announce and Connections, the Annual Report, Open Questions, and letters to the congregation. We have also held occasional Congregational Conversations. And recently the Board has created the Ministry Fulfillment Committee and the Ministry Visioning Team and the Operations Administrative Team. That is all well and good, but what else has been happening this past year that you may not have heard about?

There are three behind-the-scenes activities that have not been in the spotlight. Firstly, a planning retreat was held last June before the new church year even got started. Given Covid restrictions we met at Cass Park for a full round of discussions on how we would get the year started on the right foot. That session helped set the tone for much of our work.

Secondly, we established a Slack Workspace for sharing internal communications and work products. When a new topic would emerge we would set up a new Slack channel so that posts dedicated to that topic could be shared without having to sort through volumes of email searching for the, "I know I read that somewhere" nugget. There are twenty-three Slack channels now.

And lastly, thanks to the expansive view that Fred Balfour has brought to the leadership development responsibilities of the Nominating Committee, your Board has been engaged with both extensive on-boarding and training during the year. Sample topics include UUA strategic thinking modules and legal aspects of serving on a church board. We all owe a debt to Fred for his persistence and creativity in helping us to be better board members.

I hope that this helps round out your picture of what your Board has been doing this year. As always, we are indebted to the church staff and many volunteers who have stepped up to keep the committees and ministry teams thriving this year. Thank you!



## **Ithaca Festival Tabling Invite!**

Come help us bring joy and connection to the Ithaca Festival! FUSIT will be offering a table with fresh, cold water, a collaborative paper-flower bouquet building activity, and information about who we are and what we do. We need volunteers to welcome and engage community members who are curious (or thirsty).

Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/i3bBWjvc1nPGp3pS8>  
or send questions to Jess Brown at [nariah@gmail.com](mailto:nariah@gmail.com)

## **Swim Across the Lake with Us**

Registration for Ithaca Hospicare's annual Women Swimmin' fundraiser is now open. Kathy Hopkins is organizing a FUSIT team to participate in this event, which will be held on Saturday, August 13. Swim the lake, be a boater, volunteer, donate, or go the distance! For 2022 there are lots of different options. Let Kathy know if you'd like to join the FUSIT team at [kathy1122@gmail.com](mailto:kathy1122@gmail.com). More information at [www.womenswimmin.org](http://www.womenswimmin.org).

## **Adult Choir**

The FUSIT adult choir is meeting on Thursdays at 7 pm in the Annex. We will be singing at the service on **June 6**. All are welcome! Please join us! You do not need to attend all rehearsals to be a part of this group.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Music Director, Stephanie Ortolano, at [music@uithaca.org](mailto:music@uithaca.org).



## **Come Join the Planning Committee for FUSIT's Unirondack Labor Day Weekend**

Have you been missing Unirondack?! Have you always wanted to go but didn't have a chance? Are you new and curious what it is all about?

Help make this laughter and connection filled weekend possible! So far we are a committee of 2 with great documentation to depend on from past leaders. We need more folks to help plan and bring food/supplies before we can send out registrations. What a gift we would be giving to FUSIT to start a new year with this tradition!

If interested in joining the planning committee or have questions you need answered before joining, please email Michele Hochstetter at [mhochstetter@gmail.com](mailto:mhochstetter@gmail.com).

Thank you!

**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!**

## **Our Mission**

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