



ITHACA

UU Connections

2022/2023 Issue No. 1

September 1-30, 2022

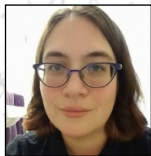
Our New Ministry Team

Welcome to Our New Congregational Life Team

This year the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca is excited to explore a new vision of ministry. The Ministry Fulfillment Committee proposed an innovative concept of collaborative ministry to the Board of Trustees which they enthusiastically accepted.



Rev. Peaches Gillette



Emily Richards



Rev. Janet Shortall

Welcome to our newly formed Congregational Life Team:

Director of Congregational Life: Emily Richards

Associate Director of Congregational Life: Rev. Peaches Gillette

Pastoral Care: Rev. Janet Shortall

Our Congregational Life Team will share the spiritual leadership by creating and leading meaningful weekly celebrations in conjunction with the Celebrations Team. **Worship will be led by Emily Richards two Sundays a month, Rev. Peaches Gillette one Sunday a month, and Rev. Janet Shortall four times over the course of the church year.**

This team will work collaboratively to create a unified and consistent vision of ministry through shared leadership and team participation, as well as working with Board of Trustees, staff, and lay leaders to foster connection and spiritual growth.

Our new Congregational Life Team members are looking forward to opportunities for more in-depth introductions and connections in the coming weeks so that our whole community can get to know them and so that they can learn more about how to best meet the needs of this congregation and its members.

A special thanks to the Ministry Fulfillment Committee, composed of Betsy East, Sue Rakow, Magdalen Lindeberg, Andy Turner, Scott Grover, and Margaret Nichols, for their hard work and creativity in finding a path forward for the upcoming year.

Report from the Ministry Visioning Team

As a vital component of the FUSIT commitment to shared ministry, the Ministry Visioning Team (MVT) has convened and has held its initial meetings during the summer. The charge to the MVT is to guide and coordinate the work of the ministry and serve as governance partners with the Board to implement the goals articulated in the annual Vision of Ministry. The MVT has the authority to make independent decisions regarding the implementation of the Vision of Ministry in coordination with the work of staff and other teams.

Members of the MVT are: Rev. Peaches Gillette, JoAnn Kowalski, Nancy Miller, Emily Richards and Don Rakow. The MVT is looking forward to connecting with members of this community as we move forward together in our shared ministry.

In-Person Sunday Services 10:30 am in the Sanctuary

Services will also be
live-streamed on our YouTube channel.

**Masks required and social
distancing encouraged.**

**Religious Exploration classes for
children and Nursery childcare
will begin in October.**

**Save the Date!
Sundae Sunday and Porchfest
Sunday, September 25**

Reminder: Water Communion

Please don't forget to collect a sample of water from a special place this summer, which you can share with the congregation at the Water Communion to be held on Sunday, **September 11**.

There will also be a Back to School blessing during the service so please bring your backpack, bag, laptop, device, pencil case or other item to the service as well.

Religious Exploration News

For information about Religious Exploration, please contact Emily Richards at dre@uuithaca.org.

Greetings from the DRE

A new church year is upon us once again and we find ourselves in a place that seems both familiar and unfamiliar at the same time. We stand together on a path, looking towards a return to religious community, a place that felt impossible just a year ago, yet with lingering uncertainties about how to get there or what to expect when we arrive.

I want to invite you now to join me on that Path to Belonging. And this isn't just one path. For some it may appear smooth and clear, and for others it may seem winding and overgrown. There may be forks and detours that we still need to traverse. As we travel together we need to ask ourselves, what paths must we lean into and relearn as we travel together into our complex, challenging and hoped for future? Along this path I hope you will be as overjoyed as I am to see some sights that you recognize, but haven't seen in a while, in our Religious Exploration programming this fall. I am pleased to share that our plans for RE this fall include:

- Hiring a new Religious Exploration Assistant
- Offering Religious Exploration classes for our children and youth during services beginning in October
- Re-opening our Nursery for childcare beginning in October or as soon as we are able to add a Childcare Coordinator to our staff team
- Offering Our Whole Lives (OWL) to our 8-9 graders this fall and 10-12 graders this spring

As we journey onwards together we may not always have the ability to see the way clearly, to know what twists and turns lie ahead. What we do know is that we are moving forward together on this Path of Belonging, where all are welcome and appreciated and loved. Where we all belong.

Emily Richards, Director of Religious Exploration

RE Plans for This Fall

Back to School Blessing, Sunday, September 11

Bring your backpack, purse, laptop, device, pencil case and more to receive a special blessing celebrating the start of the new school (and work) year and the joy of Belonging to a beloved community.

Sundae Sunday and Porchfest, Sunday, September 25 from 12 pm-2 pm

Join us for free ice cream in the parking lot and music on the porch. 8-9 grade OWL participants are invited to grab some ice cream and meet us upstairs in the Annex at 1pm for ice cream and icebreakers!

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Returns to FUSIT this Fall

The First Unitarian Society of Ithaca (FUSIT) and the First Congregational Church of Ithaca (FCCI) are excited to offer the Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexuality education program during the school year 2022-2023. Our 8th and 9th graders will do OWL this fall (register now!) and our 10th-12th graders will do OWL this spring (registration to come!).

OWL Schedule, Grades 8-9

- Friday, September 16, 6:30 pm-7:30 pm** Outdoor games and pizza at FCCI
- Sunday, September 25, 1:00 pm-2:00 pm** Sundae Sunday at FUSIT with ice cream and icebreakers
Grab your ice cream and then meet us in the Annex at 1:00 pm

Parent Orientation

- Sunday, September 11, 3:00 pm-4:30 pm at FCCI**
OR
- Thursday, September 15, 7-8:30 pm at FUSIT**

Additional program dates for October through January are included in the registration form below.

We will also offer six sessions for OWL Parents and Caregivers throughout this program happening at the same time on the following dates: **October 2, October 23, November 6, November 20, January 8 and January 22.**

Register your 8th or 9th grader for OWL here: [8th-9th Grade Our Whole Lives \(OWL\) Registration 2022-2023](#)

Adult RE

Pub Theology September 27th, 6:30 pm, 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 Belonging. Non-beer and non-alcoholic drink options available! Bring your friends! 21 years and older please. Hope to see you there! Pub Theology takes place on the 4th Tuesday of every month. 620 West Green Street, Ithaca

(continued on page 3)

Written by Universalist Edwin Markham:

He drew a circle that shut me out—
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle and took him in!

RE-Turn to RE

The Religious Exploration Team at FUSIT is planning to return to in-person programming for kids and youth this fall but we can't do it without your help! We need volunteers! 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@uuithaca.org if you are interested in helping our community in this way.

The Religious Exploration is Seeking Team Members and Volunteers

The RE Team needs new enthusiastic members to help guide our programming. 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

Joys and Sorrows are now shared during Sunday Service. Please send notices to the team at 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.

Our thoughts are with...

- Walt Peck, whose mother, Florence Peck, died on August 2 in Geneva.
- Barbara Shew, whose beloved grandson, Daniel Bolton, died very unexpectedly, peacefully in his sleep. He leaves four brothers, his mother and two children.
- Mary Schulz, whose husband Niels passed away on July 24.

Appreciations

Thank you to Dick Kurtz and Rachel Seymour for carrying a truckload of stuff out of our basement to be picked up by ReUse in early August! And to Kathy Wolf for hauling a trailer load of trash and recycling away in time to clear the parlor for our next renter.

As we nurture a culture of appreciation at FUSIT, let's sing praises to the many people who help make our community the wonderful place it is. Who here at First Unitarian Society of Ithaca have you noticed doing something above and beyond, who has been a quiet unsung hero, or who is doing an exceptional job? It can be a member or staff or friend to our community. Send your submissions to joysandsorrows@uuithaca.org.



September Worship Services

The theme for September is "The Path of Belonging" and the Celebrations Team is looking forward to speakers whose voices can help us to explore this theme as individuals and as a community:

Sunday, September 11

Water Communion and Ingathering

Rev. Peaches Gillette, Emily Richards, Rev. Janet Shortall

We invite you to share that which you hold sacred. The combining of the waters is a ritual that is symbolic of our shared faith coming from many different sources and the way that we come together in connection with one another and the natural world.

Sunday, September 18

"Promises to Keep: Wading the Waters of Belonging"

Rev. Peaches Gillette

Sunday, September 25

"The Act of Belonging"

Emily Richards

To belong is a choice, a series of actions that we make, over and over again. What are we choosing to belong to? How do our actions cultivate those desired bonds? Where are we finding kinship and connection? How can we create a community where everyone feels that sense of belonging?

Soul Matters Material for September - Belonging

The Soul Matters theme for September is Belonging. 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/SoulMattersSept2022>

Congregational Administrator Hours

Starting in September, the office will be open **Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am - 4 pm** and Michelle will be working remotely on Wednesdays from 9 am - 4 pm. This schedule does change occasionally so feel free to make an appointment with office@uuithaca.org if you have church business.

***Please note, the office will be closed on Monday, **September 5**, for Labor Day.

*The deadline for submissions to the Wednesday Weekly Announce email and Sunday's Order of Service is **Monday at noon**.*

Director of Congregational Life and Religious Exploration, Emily Richards
dre@uuithaca.org

Associate Director of Congregational Life, Rev. Peaches Gillette
assocdcl@gmail.com

Pastoral Care, Rev. Janet Shortall
js58@cornell.edu

Music Director Stephanie Ortolano
music@uuithaca.org

President, Board of Trustees Don Barber
sunnybrk@gmail.com

Congregational Administrator Michelle Waffner
office@uuithaca.org

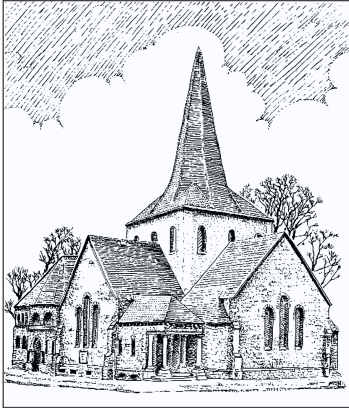
Administrative Assistant Loretta Heimbuch
adminasst@uuithaca.org

Sexton Rachel Seymour
sexton@uuithaca.org

Bookkeeper Lauren Ponzoni
office@uuithaca.org

First Unitarian is a UUA-recognized LGBTQ+ Welcoming Congregation

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

Possible Ponderings

The theme for September is The Path to Belonging

Possible Ponderings is an offering of ways you might consider engaging more deeply with the theme or reflecting on the ways the idea of The Path to Belonging shows up in your life.

September 1-3: When was the first time you thought to yourself, "Now I belong."

September 4-10 How does the assurance of belonging most often enter your body? Through words? Touch? Silence? Song? Solitude? Nature? Creative Expression? Memory?

September 11-17: Is living in the future distorting the fact that you are already home?

September 18-24: What one change in our UU Church Community would increase your sense of belonging?

September 25-30: Are you being tempted or pressured to sacrifice your integrity for belonging?

Women's Circle, Monday, September 26

Women's Circle will meet via Zoom on Monday evening, **September 26**, 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 or 607 539 7733.

Zoom link Meeting ID: 819 4014 1421
Passcode: 874536

Men's Group, Monday, September 26

The Men's Group will meet once a month on the 4th Monday of the month. The February meeting is scheduled for **September 26** 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 or Fred Balfour at fred.balfour@gmail.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/> and Instagram www.instagram.com/ithacauus

September News from the Board of Trustees

The Board is excited to begin this year with new governance partners. The Ministry Teams of Operations Administrative Team (Michelle Waffner, John Gaines, Rod Howe, and Walt Peck) and Ministry Visioning Team (Emily Richards, JoAnn Kowalski, Don Rakow, and Nancy Miller). The Board met in retreat with these two teams to begin developing collaborative relationships, communication patterns, and boundaries for our separate responsibilities.

The Board is also excited about the possibilities with spiritual leadership coming from a triad of local women with years of experience: Emily Richard, Director of Congregational Life; Peaches Gillette, Associate Director of Congregational Life; and Janet Shortall, Pastoral Care.

The Board recognizes that we are organized much differently than a year ago and before that without a minister, but we feel that we have moved to a place that builds on our enduring strength- our community.

Our **22-23 Vision of Ministry** (below) is the challenge for our leadership this coming year:

- Build and rebuild connection and community.
- Work toward collective liberation through justice, anti-racism and anti-oppression.
- Provide opportunities for spiritual growth and faith development that inspire transformation in ourselves and the world around us.

Please stand by for opportunities to meet our Congregational Life Team, more information about our new organization, the fall Open Question, and more congregational conversations to inform the Board in setting long range plans.

September Board of Trustees Meeting

The September meeting will be held **September 21** at 6:30 pm. The board meeting is a hybrid format, taking place in the church parlor and through Zoom. All FUSIT members are invited to attend this meeting. Ten minutes are set aside at the beginning of the meeting for congregation feedback. Email office@uuthaca.org or check the Weekly Announce email for the Zoom link.

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.

Fall Restoration Day, September 10, from 9-12

Join us to spruce up our buildings and grounds for the new season! Cleaning, weeding, and other tasks will be available indoors and outdoors for all ages. Contact Sara Catterall with any questions or suggestions: sara.catterall@gmail.com.



AIDS RIDE FOR LIFE

~ SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th 2022 ~

AIDS Ride for Life! FUSIT King Ferry Pit Stop!

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.

Continuing the tradition of the King Ferry Pit Stop being coordinated by FUSIT, Rod Howe will be the organizer this year. If you are ready to sign up, check out their new and improved volunteer form: <https://stap.salsalabs.org/volunteer2022> or contact Rod for more information at rlh13@cornell.edu.

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 Ride Day and just \$100 minimum required fundraising.

This year's theme will focus on kindness.

Welcome Peaches Gillette!

Beginning **September 1st**, we are very pleased to announce that Peaches Gillette will join the FUSIT staff as our new Associate Director of Congregational Life.

Peaches has been an educator for more than 45 years in both the private and public school setting and has structured literacy programs for two non-profit organizations including Brooklyn's Juvenile Detention Center. Presently, she substitutes for the Ithaca School District and the Newfield School District.

She taught language arts and poetry for College Initiative Upstate, a program that works to create educational pathways for individuals whose lives have been curtailed by court-involvement or a history of incarceration.

Peaches is an ordained chaplain. She has had the opportunity to work with battered women, the mentally disabled and veterans. She maintains an active chaplain relationship with individuals in Bedford Correctional Facility, Albion Correctional Facility and Attica Prison. Peaches is also a Spiritual Counselor and Race-Relations Specialist and a published poet.

Peaches sits on the Tompkins County Human Rights Commission and in the past, has served as a Tri-chair of the Eastern Southern Tier of the Poor People's Campaign. She presently sits on the Dryden School Board.

Although formally educated at Empire State College for her BS in Education and at Fordham University for her MS in Pastoral Care and Counseling, where she was nominated for a Fulbright, Peaches's compassion developed by experiencing the harshness of racism she faced as a child and by being raised by a mother who did not allow the harshness of being Black in America diminish her sense of peace, her love of others or her faith.

Operations Administration Team (OAT)

This newly formed team will work to oversee the administration of the church operations and serve as governance partners with the Board to manage operations. It will serve as a supervisor to the paid staff members and review their work annually. It will also be responsible for recommending the hiring and firing of paid staff members, should the need arise. It will also oversee spending and make budget recommendations.

Charge:

- Guide and coordinate the work of the paid staff
- Coordinate searches for new staff members
- Recommend hiring and firing of staff members to the Board
- Provide input to annual budgets and compensation recommendations for salary and benefits made in consultation with Finance and Personnel Committees
- Evaluate the paid staff's work, and report those reviews to the Board at least annually
- Provide a monthly written report to the Board summarizing staff activities and the Organization and Operation Team's focus areas
- Create intentional communication with the Ministry Visioning Team

Term of Service: 2 years, with 1 possible reappointment. After the first year of implementation, members will rotate off in alternate years to ensure a degree of continuity from year to year. Contact: oat@uuithaca.org

Worship Design Workshop

Tuesday, September 13, 7:00 pm in the Arch Room
Planning session for October, November and December using Soul Matters themes.

Expanding Community

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.

Diners Club is Back!

Diners Club is a wonderful way for adult members to get to know each other better while eating delicious food! We will now be able to resume this popular venue, keeping Covid precautions in mind and with respect to the Way Forward Guidelines.

As a Diners Club member, you participate in up to six small dish-to-pass dinners between October and May. Dinners are held in members' homes with each participant bringing part of the meal. Each month, new dining groups are created, providing the opportunity to dine with a variety of members throughout the year.

Look for more information in the Mid-Week Announcements about signing up. Hope you can join us!

Nametags

If you would like a nametag, please fill out your name on the nametag request form at the Welcome Table or contact office@uuithaca.org and we'll make one for you. Nametags can be found at the Garden Entrance rack or the rack by the Narthex entrance at the corner of Buffalo and Aurora.



LGBTQ+ Group
Wednesday, September 21
from 6:30-8 pm

This Small Group is especially for FUSIT's LGBTQ+ community. Meetings typically follow the same general format and structure as other Small Group Ministries at FUSIT. Gatherings take place on the third Wednesday of each month, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. **All who identify on the LGBTQ+ continuum are welcome.**

Come enjoy this opportunity for fellowship and community within our larger FUSIT community, in a safe, confidential and nurturing environment. For more information, please contact Kevin Moss, kevinm607@hotmail.com.

Social Justice Council

Many thanks to Jackie Jablonski for her leadership in SJC, as she has recently stepped down. The group is now looking for someone to take over this role for this critical part of FUSIT's mission.

The Social Justice Council meets once a month and 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.

Small Group Ministry (SGM)

A new small group is forming this fall. The group will meet primarily on Zoom, and meetings will be on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 7 pm. The group will continue from its beginning in September or October through June. SGM is a great way to develop significant connections within FUSIT whether you are new to FUSIT or have been a member or friend for years. Group members meet to talk about topics important to their lives, sharing from the heart, and also perform a service project of their choice each year to benefit FUSIT or the greater Ithaca community. Contact Marsha Kardon at 272-6582 or 607-592-2520 or mfkardon@gmail.com if you'd like to join this group or have questions about the group or SGM in general.

Parking

While we are still not allowed to park in the lot next to the church on Aurora Street, we did confirm that it is ok to park in the Town Hall parking lot on Sundays (on the corner of Buffalo and Aurora) as long as the gate is open.

Emergency Pastoral Care

In case of pastoral need, call
Kathy Hopkins at
607-592-3025. She will direct
pastoral needs for weddings,
memorial services and
emergency
pastoral care to
Rev. Janet Shortall.

Sunday, October 2, 9, 16

Fundraiser

Autumn Harvest: Sharing the Bounty

In the Parlor of First Unitarian Society of Ithaca
after Sunday Service from 11:30 am-1:00 pm

Open to members and their friends and families



- Juice/wine
- Pies
- Fruit/Vegetables
- Bread/Cake/Muffins
- Flowers
- Plants/Bulbs
- Jams/Jellies
- Baked/Cooked Meals
- etc.

Suggested Pricelist - buyers pay what they can

Autumn Harvest Donations

For those interested in donating “bounty”, we welcome your garden produce: fruits and veggies; baked goods: cookies, cakes, pies, muffins; fresh-picked flowers; jams and jellies; pickled products; salsas and sauces.

You are welcome to bring your donations on Sunday to the Autumn Harvest tables that will be set up in the FUSIT Parlor. The sale is open to FUSIT members, friends and families and will take place on Sunday, **October 2, 9, and 16** immediately after service from 11:20 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The event is a fundraising event for FUSIT and a good way to create community within our congregation. If you don't donate goods, please come and purchase these gifts from your fellow FUSIT members.

Bring your own container for transporting products you plan to buy. There will be a suggested price list for items.

Volunteers are needed for each of the three Sundays to help with assisting buyers with their purchases.

Please contact joAnn Kowalski at jmkowalskiro@gmail.com for questions or to volunteer for a shift on one (or more!!) of the three Sundays.

September UU Common Read for Social Justice

The UU Common Read For Social Justice will meet virtually on Tuesday, **September 20**, at 7 - 8:30 p.m. We will be discussing, “ON FIRE: The (Burning) Case for a GREEN NEW DEAL”, by Naomi Klein. Klein was the 2020 Ware Lecturer at GA (General Assembly). There are several copies available at the Tompkins County Public Library and one copy in our library.

Naomi Klein is an award winning journalist, a professor of Media, Culture, and Feminist Studies at Rutgers University. She is co-founder of the climate justice organization, The Leap. For more than 20 years she has been the foremost chronicler of the economic war waged on both people and the planet.

All are welcome to attend to learn more about the impact of climate change that is finally being seriously addressed by Congress. Greta Thunberg, climate activist, says “Naomi Klein’s work has always moved and guided me...”.

Send any questions to Barbara Shew (barbrandys1@gmail.com) or joAnn kowalski (jmkowalskiro@gmail.com)

Email Barbara or joAnn to receive the Zoom link if you plan to attend.

Help Needed to Provide Lunches for the Homeless Shelter

As a member of Area Congregations Together (ACT), FUSIT finds four volunteers to provide fifteen lunches apiece to the Ithaca homeless shelter on the first Tuesday of each month.

For this fall, we are seeking volunteers for **October 4th** and **November 1st**. Can you be one of them? 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. Deliveries are made through a window on State Street.

Each lunch should 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.

Way Forward Team Guidance for Continued Re-opening

September 1, 2022

We are excited to welcome members of our congregation back into our sanctuary for Worship Services as well as our many other programs for this church year.

Following the current guidelines set forth by the CDC and local health department, masking will be optional but is still highly encouraged for all FUSIT events with the following exceptions:

- All attendees of Sunday morning worship services will be required to wear a mask and a section will be reserved for continued physical distancing. Speakers will continue to take a rapid test before services.
- Masks will be required at all Choir rehearsals and performances or any time that extended group singing occurs.
- As a covenantal community we encourage all groups to have open and compassionate discussions about the needs of all participants in regards to mask use.
- We request that anyone who develops symptoms of COVID within 48 hours of attending any in-person programming at FUSIT, please get tested as soon as possible and if positive, contact the office so that other individuals who were present can be informed of possible exposure. Or, if you test positive within 48 hours without symptoms, also please contact the office.

****If at any point the Tompkins County Health Department moves to a mask requirement or mandate, or local infection levels warrant it, all FUSIT events will return to mandatory masking.***

If the answer to any of the below three questions is yes we ask that you please refrain from using the building for any reason and follow these [CDC guidelines](#).

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?
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?

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@uuihaca.org.

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.

Rentals

Space rentals are available with the following guidelines:

- All renters must continue to practice COVID safety precautions including following all county guidelines.

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.