



ITHACA

UUU Connections

2023/2024 Issue No. 3

November 1-30, 2023

Our Spiritual Journey

As we move from October into November we are passing over a threshold. If we can slow down, we might feel emotional overtones affected by the changing light and cooler weather. Some who love autumn may relish this season. Others may tend towards introversion. For some, myself included, SADS or seasonal affective disorder syndrome may set in. Of course, we just enjoyed a recent Halloween celebration.

Many Latin American cultures celebrate the Day Of The Dead during this late Fall season. Every November ancestors and loved ones who have died are remembered with altars of flowers and candles. There is music, celebration, dancing and eating. This is a time when the veil between this life and the afterlife is said to be very thin, when loved ones in both worlds can touch each other in this remembrance. When I see photos of people who celebrate the Day of the Dead, when I read about the celebrations, I see a people who have integrated death over many many generations into their everyday lives. Love, grief, celebration, living, all mixed up together.

This past summer, my husband went onto home hospice. He has had stable multiple myeloma for many years, but this past six months has seen some changes that resulted in this decision. I offer this personal story, with Cary's permission, because I am on a mission to de-stigmatize hospice. Many people think that hospice is a death sentence; for us, it has been a life sentence. His choice has allowed him to go off very egregious treatments that were robbing him of a life of quality, a quality--he says--that makes everyday life worth living.

Hospice does not take away life. It offers the possibility of a life made more full through skillful, kind and attentive care available 24/7. The team of loving and kind hospice workers and volunteers relieve us (sometimes along with supportive family and friends) of having to carry the weight of care alone or within a health care system that is not always cohesive. If we can come close to our fear of hospice, which underneath is a fear of death, how much more life can we have available to us as we are journeying on together. Cary and I are experiencing more tenderness, attention, freedom, love, healing, beauty, authenticity, playfulness, gratefulness (the list goes on), now, in this new terrain. May we all live our lives fully, until our last precious breath.

*Jayne Demakos, FUSIT Choir Director
Certified Music Thanatologist and therapeutic harpist*

Our Mission

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

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

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

***Nursery childcare is open
and Religious Exploration classes
for children have begun.
See page 2 for details.***

A reminder:

*Daylight Saving Time
begins Sunday, **November 5.**
Set your clocks back by one hour.*

Religious Exploration News

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

Greetings from the Director of Religious Exploration

The current Article 2 revisions include, for the first time, Generosity, as a core value of who we are as Unitarian Universalists. Centered on Love, these new values give us a way to explore this faith that we share and to lift up who we aspire to be. What does it mean to be Generous? Often I think we immediately assume that Generosity means material giving. Donating money or goods to important causes. But Generosity is so much more than that. Generosity is giving, yes, but that gift can be time, it can be assuming best intentions, it can be deep listening, it can be sharing what is on our hearts, it can be forgiveness and grace. What does Generosity, centered on our core UU value of Love, look like in your life and the lives of your children?

Classroom Sundays

Elementary: We had a wonderful start in our classrooms last month exploring our UU Heritage through covenant, connection, and lifting up our belief in science and reason. This month grades PreK-2nd and 3rd-5th will engage in activities around our theme of Generosity.

Middle School and High School: The youth began their Crossing Paths journey by grounding themselves in our UU faith. This month we will explore the teaching of Christianity with a visit to the Calvary Baptist Church on November 26th. If you have a young person who plans on attending please fill out our [Calvary Baptist Permission Form](#).

If you are interested in driving youth and attending some of these trips to learn more about the diversity of faith traditions in our communities please email Emily Richards at dre@uuithaca.org.

RE Registration

If you haven't already done so, please register your children below for the 2023-2024 Religious Exploration program! This information helps us to plan for the upcoming year.

[First Unitarian Society of Ithaca RE Registration Form 2023-2024](#)

RE Volunteer Opportunities

We have so much appreciation for all of the community members who have volunteered to enrich our community through participating in our Religious Exploration programming. Volunteering for the RE program is a gift of welcome that we all have to give and I hope you will consider joining our amazing team of volunteers. This important programming can only happen with the support of the entire community.

We are still in need of subs and one volunteer to join our PreK-1st classroom and one volunteer to join our 2nd-5th grade classroom this spring. We also have multiple opportunities to lead or help out with our Creative Sundays.

[FUSIT 2023-2024 RE Volunteer Sign Up](#)

Please join our FUSIT Parents Facebook Group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/fusitparents>

Emily Richards, Director of Religious Exploration

Religious Exploration Schedule for November

November 5th - Classroom Sunday

November 12th - Creative Sunday with joAnn Kowalski

November 19th - Multigenerational Sunday and Cornbread Communion

November 26th - Classroom Sunday - [Youth Field Trip to Calvary Baptist](#)

Nursery

The Nursery will be open every Sunday from 10 am-12 pm for young children between the ages of 0 and 4. Volunteers are needed to help fill in for the Nursery. You can volunteer as little as once or twice a year, or as much as once a month! Please contact our Childcare Coordinator, Melissa Heslop at childcare@uuithaca.org to get your name on the list!

The nursery is looking for donations of good condition toys, games, and activities such as Little People sets, building toys, and board/sensory books.

Religious Exploration Events for November

All Ages Game Night, Friday, **November 17th**, 6 pm-8 pm, Annex

Do you love games? We will have games of all types for players of all ages. Bring your favorite to share or play a new one. Snacks to share are always welcome.

Choose to Bless the World

By Rev. Rebecca Ann Parker

You must answer this question:
What will you do with your gifts?

Choose to bless the world.

The choice to bless the world is more than an act of will...

It is an act of recognition,
a confession of surprise,
a grateful acknowledgment
that in the midst of a broken world
unspeakable beauty, grace and
mystery abide.

(RE News continued from page 2)

Music for Little People

First and third Thursday, 12:30 pm-1:15 pm
Arch Room

November 2nd and 16th

Share in the joy of music in this bi-weekly class which is free and open to the public. Children 0-5 and their caregivers are welcome to meet us in the Arch Room the first and third Thursday in November. Sing, play, dance, explore instruments, and connect through music.

MUUSIC for You and Me

Sunday, November 5th

12:00 pm-12:45 pm, in the Arch Room

Explore our UU values through the joy and connection that music can bring in this monthly class for parents, caregivers, and young people of all ages.

Pub Theology

Tuesday, **November 28**, 6:30 pm
Liquid State Brewing

Join us at Liquid State Brewing for an evening of good fellowship and conversation at our favorite local brewery (owned by FUSIT members!). We will gather at 6:30 pm and reflect together on our monthly theme of *The Gift of Generosity*. Non-beer and non-alcoholic drinks options available! 21 and over please. Bring your friends! Hope to see you there! Pub Theology takes place on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 620 West Green Street, Ithaca.

Spiritual Practices Offerings

Do you engage in a spiritual practice that you would love to share with our community? We are looking for community members to offer opportunities for spiritual connection and deepening. This could include meditation, yoga, dance, journaling, drumming, chant, painting or drawing, breath work, poetry, or any other spiritual practice that you engage in. Offer a single session, or a series. Please contact Emily Richards at dre@uuithaca.org if you are interested.



Red Cross Blood Drive

Wednesday, **November 1**, from 1-6 pm,
in the Parlor. Donors will get a \$10 egift card.



November Worship Services

The theme for November is "The Gift of Generosity" 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, November 5 **"Generosity of the Spirit"**

Emily Richards, Director of Congregational Life
What does it mean to have a generous spirit? How do we connect with those around us on a deeper level and allow ourselves to be transformed? Generosity can challenge us, it can change us, and it can connect us. We will reflect upon our shared value of Generosity together in small groups in this non-traditional worship service.

Special music by Lloyd Graves (and friends)

Sunday, November 12 **"Generosity is the Fruit of a Supple Heart"**

Rev. Janet Shortall, Director of Pastoral Care
How to move with grace and flexibility in the face of inevitable heartbreak.

Special music by Southern Tier Singers' Collective

Sunday, November 19 **"We Give to Receive"**

Emily Richards, Director of Congregational Life
What are the gifts that we receive by giving of ourselves? How does living generously enrich our own lives, bringing us joy and fulfillment? We will explore the many gifts of generosity in this all-ages, interactive service, which will include our annual Cider and Cornbread Communion.

Special music by Children's Chorus of Ithaca

Sunday, November 26 **"Generosity, the Stage of All Virtues"**

Rev. Peaches Gillette, Preacher and Program Associate
Everything we are, everything we embody, everything we give from our hearts, can be gloriously magnified if we do so generously.

Special music by Jayne Demakos, harp

CHOIR

Sage Chapel
Community Christmas Service
Saturday, December 23, 5:30 pm

Dress rehearsal same day, time TBA

Rehearsals

every Thursday from 7-8:30 pm, in the Annex,
beginning **November 2**
(No rehearsal on Thanksgiving, of course)

Please contact Jayne Demakos to sign
up at choir@uuithaca.org



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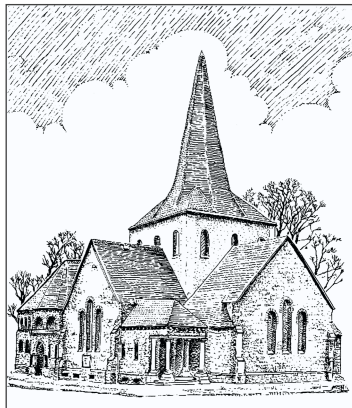
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Visit our Website and get
your newsletter:
www.uuithaca.org



Possible Ponderings

The theme for November is The Gift of Generosity

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 Gift of Generosity shows up in your life.

November 1-4: Who taught you the most about being a generous person?

November 5-11: What's been your hardest act of generosity?

November 12-18: How might Life be calling you to be generous in a new way in your closest relationships?

November 19-25: Do you have trouble giving yourself permission to receive the generosity or help of others?

November 26-30: Some say that attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity. Who needs the gift of your attention?



LGBTQ+ Group

Wednesday, November 15, 7:00-8:30 pm

This Small Group is especially for FUSIT's LGBTQ+ community. Gatherings take place on the third Wednesday of each month, from 7:00 to 8:30 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 Ely at eleanorwillard97@gmail.com.

Women's Circle, Monday, November 27

Women's Circle will meet via Zoom on Monday evening, **November 27**, 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



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/>



Social Justice Leadership Team (SJLT) **Activities and Opportunities**

Village at Ithaca

Efforts continue to assist 30 families associated with the Village at Ithaca. In partnership with four area congregations, we purchase, pack, and deliver items not covered by SNAP benefits for families in need – this month is soap and toilet paper. The items purchased change each month so check the Weekly Announce and Order of Service for updated information. This is a long-standing connection that we value and wish to sustain.

We would like to get other teams and individuals involved in the effort. There are several ways to help:

- Donate money so that items can be purchased. Any amount is welcome.
- Help pack the items to be delivered. This takes place at the Village at Ithaca hub the last Wednesday or Thursday of the month. Bring a friend or two to make it a social outing!
- Help deliver the items to families in the area.

There are other needs at the Village -- plenty of mentors needed along with general help with teens such as tutoring, etc!! There will be a Giving Tree for gifts for youth at the Village that will be available for the upcoming holiday season. Please contact Mary Clabby at maryeclabby23@gmail.com for your questions and to provide help.

Babies First

Babies First is planning an open house on **November 12** after coffee hour. Check out the newly remodeled room and RE children's artwork created to decorate the space. Funds are needed to buy new car seats. There is a grant application in process and an ask to a local retail business to help sponsor. The team of five takes turns meeting clients (no questions asked) to determine their needs and hopefully fulfill them. Strollers and other items are donated or bought at garage sales, resale shops, etc. but the car seats must be new. Sue Rakow and Walt Peck are the lead for the group. You are welcome to join us. It's fun and the need is great for families with young children.

Ithaca Sanctuary Alliance

Ithaca Sanctuary Alliance is looking for a coordinator for the sanctuary effort at the First Congregational Church of Ithaca (FCCI). A family of four from Peru is safe and residing in an apartment at FCCI. They are receiving help from area congregations and from our FUSIT members. There are items needed and they are listed on a spreadsheet. Mary Clabby can send that if needed. There is a box at the Garden Entrance for items to be donated. Loretta Heimbuch and Mary Clabby are our liaisons to the ISA. Thank you Mary and Loretta!!

Please save the date of **December 2** for a fundraising dinner of delicious Peruvian food at FCCI.

Side with Love

In September, children's art supplies were collected for Southside Community Center. For October, Side with Love was Richard Russell's coat drive for Reach Medical. In November, the collection will be for toiletries for Reach Medical.

Shared Plate

The Shared Plate in October was designated for Rise Together, the local effort associated with RIP Medical Debt, to eliminate medical debt for low income upstate NY residents. To date, Rise Together has collected \$13,500 thanks to the generosity of FUSIT members as well as other area congregation members. This initiative was a partnership with Area Congregations Together (ACT). If you would like to learn more about Rise Together and other health care initiatives, please reach out to Judy Jones at jwj2@gmail.com.

Please be sure to check the Weekly Announcements for the Side with Love donations being collected as it changes each month as does the Shared Plate. Please help us help our neighbors in need.

8th Principle Action Ministry

The 8th Principle Action Ministry (formerly the Antiracism Ministry Team) is planning a series of programs in the next several months to continue the educational efforts so that we may as a congregation "accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions." Look for announcements for the upcoming programs in the Weekly Announcements.

Environmental Interest Circle (EIC)

The Environmental Interest Circle will meet on Wednesday, **November 1** at 7 pm. This group is exploring the possibilities for money-saving and climate-saving improvements to the heating/cooling systems in our three FUSIT-owned buildings. Also we have begun to discuss a variety of ways to help congregants be better informed about climate action, make personal changes and join us in collective action steps. Meetings are the first Wednesday of the month. Contact Matt Franke-Singer at mfs@twcny.rr.com for further information. This meeting is held in the church parlor and over Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82995290979?pwd=NkZDS2V3MWJvd1JVTURmcTNSWFZnZz09>

Meeting ID: 829 9529 0979 Passcode: 750261

And finally, we are happy to announce that Judy Jones received an award from ACT. The Betty T. Morrow Founder's Award is presented annually to give special recognition to an individual(s) involved in the ACT community for "active service to humanity and community through participation in ACT." The person recognized at the 2023 ACT Annual Meeting is Judy Jones. Congratulations, Judy!! We're so pleased you received the recognition you deserve for all you do for our community!!

Efforts continue with many other social justice initiatives including **Demonstrating Our Values through Eating (DOVE)**, monthly lunches for the **Ithaca Homeless Shelter**, and bagging groceries at the **Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard**.

We hope you will consider joining us in our social justice efforts and encourage you to reach out and learn more about how you can get involved. Email sjlt@uuiithaca.org for more information.

Adult Religious Exploration (ARE) Programs

PLEASE NOTE. Based on recent survey results, **Adult Religious Exploration (ARE) programs are now scheduled for NOON IN THE ANNEX after the close of the Sunday services.** This offers enough time in the parlor to enjoy a cup of coffee or tea, a snack, and a bit of socializing before heading up to the annex for continued friendly learning and discussion. All are welcome.

Sunday, November 5 "Reducing Plastic Use in our Households"

Marie McCrae, FUSIT member

On Sunday, **November 5th**, we'll have conversation about reducing plastic use in our households. Plastics come directly from fossil fuels. Plastic never goes away. It does not biodegrade. It does break down into smaller bits, but it never goes away. Let's look at how to buy less of it, bring less of it home. Marie will present some good ideas and some alternatives, but she also wants to hear your stories and ideas. Together we can come up with a good list. Join up in the Annex at noon.

A lifelong conservationist, Marie was converted to being an energy activist by the fossil fuel industry's fracking campaign here in 2007/8. From anti-fracking to promoting solar energy was the next step, and Marie has been working/keeping up on energy issues ever since. She believes that every single effort each one of us makes to reduce fossil fuel use is a positive step.

Small Group Ministry and Surgeon General Vivek Murthy's 2023 Advisory

U.S. Surgeon General Murthy has issued an advisory about the epidemic of isolation and loneliness in the U.S. and how we can heal. He calls on us to strengthen our own connections and to help others and our communities to do so also. [Click here](#) for a link to the HHS (Health and Human Services) webpage.

Small Group Ministry fosters the development of significant connections within FUSIT for both new and long-time members and friends. I hope many of you will consider joining SGM soon whether you yourself feel the need for more connection, or whether you feel you have something to offer others in a small group to build connections. There are two facilitators waiting to form new groups, and some openings in others. Robin Cisne and Sue Roenke both plan to start groups that will be welcoming to all ages and genders, and a source of interesting dialogue, intellectual and spiritual exploration, and friendly support. Robin and Sue are both long time UUs with rewarding experience in SGM. Robin's group will meet twice a month at the church, times TBD by member consensus. Sue's group will meet on zoom for one church year on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 7 pm. Contact me at 272-6582 or 592-2520 or mfkardon@gmail.com if you'd like to join a group or have any questions about SGM.

Marsba Kardon, SGM Team Leader



A day to honor all those transgender people whose lives were lost to anti-transgender violence during the year, and learning about the violence affecting the transgender community.

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.

Appreciations

An appreciation from Margaret Nichols:
"Congratulations to Emily Richards for completing the Unitarian Universalist Association's long process for becoming a certified Religious Educator! She has done all the work involved in that on top of serving as our Director of Religious Exploration and our Director of Congregational Life and pursuing a divinity degree. Hats off to you, Emily, for this remarkable achievement!"

An appreciation from Sara Catterall:
"Thank you so much to Kathy Wolf for taking a trailer load of junk to Solid Waste for us, and to Simon Catterall, Jane Cogger, Dawn Grover, Scott Grover, Amelia Habicht, Michele Hochstetter, Kathy Hopkins, MaryPaul Kirkpatrick, Dick Kurtz, Magdalen Lindeberg, Madonna Stallman, Wren Tuatha, and Michelle Waffner for all your work on renovating and painting the main room of the annex! It looks beautiful already."

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.

Chili and Cornbread Lunch

Sunday, **November 19th**, 11:45 am - 1 pm, Annex
Please join us for the return of our annual Cornbread Communion during services, followed by a shared meal of chili and cornbread in the Annex.



Cooks Needed

Do you have an amazing chili or cornbread recipe that you would love to share? We need volunteers to make a pot of chili for our **November 19th** Cornbread Communion and Chili event. Options that are gluten free, vegan, and allergen friendly are especially welcome. Please [sign up here](#) or reach out to Emily Richards at dre@uuithaca.org.

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!

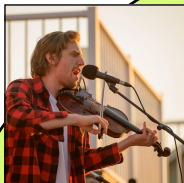
Ministry Visioning Team (MVT) Update and Upcoming Events

The Ministry Visioning Team met in early October and will meet again before the end of the month. Our work continues to provide support for the ministry staff of Rev. Janet Shortall, Emily Richards and Rev. Peaches Gillette. MVT also communicates regularly with the Operations Administration Team (OAT) so that both teams are working together and are aware of the actions each are undertaking.

We coordinated a Ministry Team Fair in conjunction with FUSIT staff, that was held after the service on Sunday, October 22. It provided an opportunity to explore our many teams and ministries and helped to show how volunteering can deepen congregants' connection to the FUSIT community. MVT members will spend some time this Fall reaching out to the various teams to see where we might be supportive in assisting them to carry out the Vision of Ministry.

The following Sunday, on October 29, there was a Matters of Our Lives from one of the MVT members, Don Rakow, and following the service, there was a Congregational Conversation regarding the governance structure that has been in place for the last year when First Unitarian Society of Ithaca embarked on an experiment which divided up the traditional tasks of a full-time minister. We are moving into our second year of this structure and feel it's important for individuals to have the opportunity to learn more and have their questions answered.

MVT will continue to work with the Board of Trustees on the Open Questions to be presented to the congregation. This effort helps in formulating the Vision of Ministry for each year.



From the Music Team

Beacon on Aurora, our monthly concert series, continues on Sunday, **November 19**, for an evening with **Aleksí Campagne**

Please note: the November Beacon on Aurora concert will be held at The Community School of Music and Arts located at 330 E. State St.

Aleksí Campagne is a bilingual contemporary indie-folk fiddle-singer from Montreal. As the son of Canadian Folk icon Connie Kaldor and student of Jazz Violin Legend Didier Lockwood, Aleksí combines his powerful voice with rich songwriting, all while accompanying himself on the violin and seamlessly switching between English and French.

Doors open at 6:30 and the concert starts at 7 pm.
\$20 suggested donation at the door. Cash preferred.

For more information and to reserve your ticket, go to <https://unitarian.ithaca.ny.us/index.php/beam-on-aurora/>

Contact Music Director, Stephanie Ortolano, at music@uuithaca.org

if you are interested in helping make this series a success! Bakers, coffee makers, and ushers needed!



Save the Date - Candlelight Christmas Service

This year's Christmas service at Sage Chapel will be held on **Saturday, December 23**. Music will start at 5 pm and the service will start at 5:30 pm. In order to allow Cornell staff to spend the holidays with their families, Sage Chapel is no longer available on December 24.

Mark your calendars for December 23.

Soul Matters Material for November- The Gift of Generosity

The Soul Matters theme for November is *The Gift of Generosity*. 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/SoulMattersNov2023>

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.

We are now seeking volunteers for **January 2**. 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.

Nametags

If you would like a nametag, please fill out the **nametag request form** at the Welcome Table or contact membership@uuithaca.org and we'll make one for you. Then look for your new name-tag at the Welcome Table after the Sunday service.

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.



Getting Started – Board of Trustees reflections for the fall

The Board of Trustees is charged with the broad governance functions of long-term planning, monitoring, and policy making. Last year, the Board began to clarify the new governance structure that was put in place after we found ourselves without a minister in the middle of the pandemic. The Board, the Operations Administration Team, and the Ministry Visioning Team learned about the power of their partnership, working in concert and being intentional about making sure that we strive together to work toward the Society's vision.

We were able to get to know each other better at a retreat in the summer so that we could get down to business in the fall. We hope we have a clear sense of what our policies are, continually reshaping them to assure that they serve to further our purposes. Our hope for this year is to spend little time determining who does what, instead trying to make these structures effective instruments to strengthen our community.

We have begun the year focusing on what we need to do to make sure our revenues are sufficient to support the programs we want so that we can support one another and work together to be a positive force for change in the broader community. This is not the work of the board alone. The finance committee, the stewardship team, and all of us together will work on this over the coming months.

Another priority has been how do we crawl out of the holes we dug ourselves into during the pandemic and create a culture of involvement in our church community. Our open question for the fall focuses on this topic. As we delve into this idea more deeply we hope to elicit ideas and actions that will encourage our growth as a thriving community.

Tom Coakley for the Board of Trustees

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

November Trustees Meeting

The November meeting will be held Tuesday, **November 21**, at 6:30 pm. The board meeting is a hybrid format, taking place in the church parlor and through Zoom. Monthly board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month. All FUSIT members are invited to attend this meeting. Ten minutes are set aside at the beginning of the meeting for congregation feedback. Please join us!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88258776990?pwd=VUxUTUMraVZDUFRQzQndSVFRraFIPdz09>

Meeting ID: 882 5877 6990

Passcode: 602445

Fall Open Question

Your Board wants to hear from you! Each year, the Board comes up with Open Questions as a means to hear from the congregation on topics of concern or inspiration within our community. These questions inform the work of the Board and the Ministry, and help direct the plans for the future. This fall, we would love to hear your answer to the following question:

What types of opportunities for involvement bring you a sense of meaning and purpose, and what barriers exist to you becoming more deeply involved in this community?

Send your responses to Valerie Graves, Clerk, at valeriemgraves@gmail.com
We look forward to hearing from you!