



ITHACA

UU Connections

2025/2026 Issue No. 2

October 2025

Our Spiritual Journey

"Compassion boils down to not being afraid of the suffering of your world or of yourself. It involves being open to what you're feeling about that suffering (grief, fear, rage, overwhelm) and brave enough to experience it... You can't heal something you're afraid to get near. Compassion is what impels you to act for the sake of the larger whole—or put more accurately, it is the whole acting through you." Joanna Macy

As Unitarian Universalists we believe that love is the center of this faith and all things. We could then understand compassion as what happens when love acts through us. When we are courageous enough to not only not turn away in the face of fear and suffering, but to work to free ourselves and others from that suffering. To invite the spirit of love to become a part of our being and to lead our actions. To ask the question, what might it mean to let compassion guide our view of humanity as whole and holy, even when it goes against our instincts? Even when we are uncertain or afraid? Where might love guide us then?

Welcome Home

We warmly welcome UUA President Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt and Rev. Dr. Adam Robersmith, minister of the Universalist Church of West Hartford, CT, and member of the UUA Board of Trustees back home to our community. Both Rev. Sofia and Rev. Adam became members of this congregation during their time at Cornell University where they earned degrees in scientific fields before going on to Starr King School for the Ministry. We are honored that they have chosen to share their ministry with us on Sunday, **October 26th**.

Stay and Connect

Following the **October 26th** service **"More Than You Know"** with Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt and Rev. Dr. Adam Robersmith, you're warmly invited to stay and join them for casual conversation during our Bagel Bash. As beloved members of our congregation, they're eager to reconnect and reflect with you on the lasting impact of this community and their experience as leaders of our larger faith.

Emily Richards, Director of Congregational Life

Sunday Celebration at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary.

Live-streamed on our YouTube channel.

[https://www.youtube.com/
@FirstUnitarianSocietyofIthaca/streams](https://www.youtube.com/@FirstUnitarianSocietyofIthaca/streams)

*Nursery childcare and Religious Exploration
classes for children.*

Fun Times Together!

LIVE Service Auction, Saturday, October 25

Don't miss out on this exciting evening which includes a delicious pre-auction dinner in the Annex at 5:30 pm, followed by dessert buffet in the parlor and then the LIVE Auction begins at 6:45 pm in the sanctuary. Bid on wonderful goods and services from FUSIT members and friends - excursions, dinners/brunches, gardening/yard assistance, favorite foods, organized hikes, babysitting, IT help, boat rides & more! Fill out a donation form here: <https://forms.gle/DK5StjEfXzMgjsiV8>
We'll be building community and connecting members of our congregation, in addition to raising funds.

*Sign up to help at the Auction Table in the parlor during coffee hour on Sundays or
contact the co-chairs, Loretta Heimbuch adminasst@uuithaca.org and
Jane Koestler j.e.koestler@gmail.com.*

Religious Exploration News

For information about Religious Exploration, please contact Madeline Natale at dre@uuithaca.org

Greetings from the Director of Religious Exploration

For the gift of this day and for our community of spiritual nurture and compassion, we give thanks.

We light this chalice as a symbol of our faith.

May our many sparks meet and merge in communion of heart and soul.

—Bruce Southworth

October Classroom Sundays

This month the Elementary aged children will explore our monthly theme “Cultivating Compassion” through stories, activities, crafts, and games.

Middle School will begin to explore their Unitarian Universalist Values through the lens of other faith traditions using the “Crossing Paths” Curriculum.

Youth who are in High School participate in a Connection Circle, exploring various spiritual practices and the meaning of intentional community.

Please register your children below for the 2025-2026 Religious Exploration program! This information helps us to plan for the upcoming year.

[FUSIT Religious Exploration Registration 2025-2026](#)

Volunteer Involvement

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 searching for a few volunteers who are interested in being a “floater”. This position is 2x a month during classroom Sundays. This volunteer would walk between the RE classrooms to support the classroom teachers and set up snacks in the Arch Room. Contact Madeline if you’re interested!

[FUSIT Religious Exploration Volunteer Sign Up 2025-2026](#)

Please join our [First UU Ithaca Parents Facebook Group](#)!

Religious Exploration Schedule for October

October 5th - Creative Sunday

October 12th - Multigenerational Service

October 19th - Classroom Sunday

October 26th - Creative Sunday and Halloween Party

The Nursery will be open every Sunday from 10 am-12 pm for young children between the ages of 0 and 4.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 8th-9th and 10-12th Graders

The First Unitarian Society of Ithaca and the First Congregational Church of Ithaca are excited to offer the Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexuality education program during the school year 2025-2026. Our 10th-12th graders will do OWL this fall (register now!). Our 8th-9th grader program will run again in 2026-2027.

The 10th-11th grade program will run Sundays from 1 pm-3:30 pm October and November with one full-day OWL Con to be scheduled in November.

All dates including the two required options for Parent Orientation can be found on the registration form. Register your 10th-12th grader for OWL here:

[10-12 Our Whole Lives \(OWL\) Registration](#)

Religious Exploration Wishlist

If you are looking to support the RE program and would like to purchase a gift, here is a list of items that would be useful and deeply appreciated. [RE Wishlist](#)

October Religious Exploration Events

All Things “Baby” Swap

Saturday, **October 11th**, 12 pm-5 pm, Parlor
Come swap out the old for something new!
Maternity wear, Premie-5T Children's Clothing and shoes, Baby gear/accessories, Children's toys and books... You do not need to bring anything to take what you need!

All items must be in gently-used condition (no major rips/ stains). Not accepting pumps & pump parts/accessories, or car seats at this time. Please come browse and take what you could use!

Movie Night

Saturday, **October 25th**, 5-8:30 pm
October Movie night is in support of the Live Service Auction. We encourage you to drop your kids off for this adored event while you enjoy a night in fellowship WHILE supporting this beloved community.

[Register Here](#)

Trick or Treat with (U)Us!

Friday, **October 31st**, 5:30 pm-7 pm
Meet us in front of the Parish House and then join us for trick or treating in the Fall Creek neighborhood. Children 5 years old or older may be dropped off. Children under 5 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Music for Little People

Wednesday, **October 8th and 29th**
12 pm-12:45 pm, Arch Room
Share in the joy of music in this class which is free and open to the public. Children 0-5 and their caregivers are welcome to meet us in the Arch Room each month. Sing, play, dance, explore instruments, and connect through music.

Connection Circle for Parents - Childcare Provided

Sunday, **October 19th** 12 pm-1 pm
Sophia Lyon Fahs Room
Our Connection Circle for individuals who are actively parenting will begin meeting again this month. Gatherings will take place monthly on the third Sunday of the month from 12pm-1pm, with childcare available. We invite you to join us for an opportunity for fellowship and community within our larger First UU community, in a safe, confidential and nurturing environment.

October Worship Services

The theme for October is “Cultivating Compassion” 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, October 5, “Holding on to True Compassion in a World of Virtual Connections” Rev. Peaches Gillette

Technology brings us together in one way, but separates us in other ways. The distance that social media places between real life relationships has altered authentic connections, and impacts our understanding of true compassion. Let's try to regain it's depth.
Music by Jacob Swanson

Sunday, October 12, “With Hearts Wide Open” Emily Richards, CRE

Join us for an interactive all-ages service where we will explore what it means to live with compassion. Through story and song we will celebrate the many ways our hearts can open wide and help us to connect, heal, and build a more loving and just world.
Music by Laura Ramos

Sunday, October 19, “Tending the Heart of Compassion” Rev. Janet Shortall

In October, as the nights grow colder, fire becomes central. Compassion as a warming force that sustains community. How do we tend the fire of compassion when burnout and indifference threaten to extinguish it?
Music TBA

Special!

Sunday, October 26, “More Than You Know” Rev. Dr. Sophia Betancourt and Rev. Dr. Adam Robersmith

As just two of the clergy and religious leaders to have come out of FUSIT, we are returning to you-our home congregation-to remind you with gratitude and joy that you are more impactful, more connected, than you know!
Music by worship leaders



Bagel Bash **Sunday, October 26th** **11:30 am-12:30 pm in the Parlor**

Join us after the service for a fun and delicious Bagel Bash in the Parlor! We'll provide the bagels and cream cheese and you are invited to bring the extras! Fruit, spreads, sweets, salads, whatever you'd love to share is welcome.

Director of Congregational Life
Emily Richards
CongregationalLife@uuiithaca.org

Pastoral Care Associate
Rev. Janet Shortall
pastoralcare@uuiithaca.org

Preacher and Program Associate
Rev. Peaches Gillette
pgfreedom09@gmail.com

Director of Religious Exploration
Madeline Natale
dre@uuiithaca.org

Childcare Coordinator
childcare@uuiithaca.org

Music Director
Laura Ramos
music@uuiithaca.org

Choir Director
Jayne Demakos
choir@uuiithaca.org

President, Board of Trustees
Megan McCormick
president@uuiithaca.org

Director of Congregation Administration
Michelle Waffner
office@uuiithaca.org

Administrative Assistant
Loretta Heimbuch
adminasst@uuiithaca.org

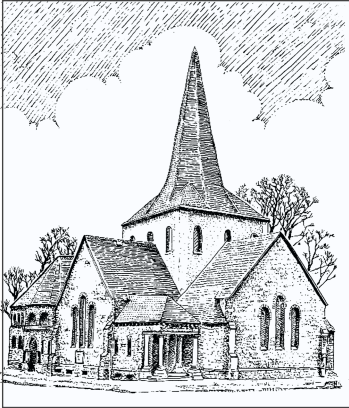
Engagement and Outreach Coordinator
Elizabeth Buckley
membership@uuiithaca.org

Sexton
Rachel Seymour
sexton@uuiithaca.org

Bookkeeper
Lauren Ponzoni
office@uuiithaca.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 October is Cultivating Compassion. *Possible Ponderings is an offering of ways you might consider engaging more deeply with the theme or reflecting on the ways the idea of Cultivating Compassion shows up in your life.*

October 1-4: Has compassion ever helped you find your way home?

October 5-11: Who is to thank for the way compassion “naturally” arises in you?

October 12-18: What do you need to do to stay tender and compassionate in the face of our consistently cruel political culture that wants you to go numb?

October 19-25: How would your feelings about and actions with that “difficult person” in your life change if you somehow discovered they were doing the best they can or that their aggravating behavior is not a character defect but a wound that runs deep?

October 26-31: What if your busy and important life is the true enemy of your compassion?

Parking

The church does not have a parking lot, but there is free parking on the nearby city streets on Sundays and the Town of Ithaca allows us to use their lot on Sundays (on the corner of Aurora and Buffalo, directly across from the church). Please do not park in the lot next to the church on Aurora St.

Current Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering is a great way to meet others in the First Unitarian Community and give back at the same time! Current Volunteer Opportunities can be found here: <https://unitarian.ithaca.ny.us/index.php/connection/volunteer/>

FUSIT Listserv

If you would like to be added to the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca listserv, please fill out the form at <https://fusit.breezechms.com/form/oe48af>. If you have any questions, email Michelle at office@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!*

Social Justice

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. Find more information about various teams on our website.

Side with Love and Shared Plate

Teams, Committees, and Small Groups are invited to sponsor a month for our Side with Love and Shared Plate Collections. The group would be responsible for choosing the organization, communicating with that organization about needed items for Side with Love, delivering goods, and communicating any pertinent information to Michelle and Loretta for the Newsletter, Weekly Announce, and Order of Service.

This is a wonderful opportunity to lift up and support local or national organizations that do work that is meaningful to your team or group. Sign up information can be found below.

Side With Love and Shared Plate 2024-2025

There will be **two** Shared Plates for October. Reach Medical will be the recipient on **October 19** and the UUA will be the recipient on **October 26**. Side with Love Collection for October will be Reach Medical. Every Sunday service in the month of October we will be collecting winter gear including coats, hats, gloves, scarves, thermal wear and blankets for those in need.

Reach Medical Project is a low threshold harm reduction medical practice in Ithaca, whose mission is to offer equitable, stigma-free access to healthcare for vulnerable individuals and improve health equity.

8th Principle Action Ministry

Please join us on Zoom on **October 22nd** at 7 pm to gather in community to share ideas and companionship, engage with one another and educate ourselves during this turbulent time in our history. We plan to learn more about the issues and legislation being proposed as well as actions to be taken.

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/84035815856?pwd=aHdwYVpoYldBVnRQNXdHhZdDUDlrUT09>

Meeting ID: 840 3581 5856 Passcode: 989761

The Environmental Interest Circle

The Environmental Interest Circle meets to discuss/exchange ideas and actions that further sustainable living for each one of us, for the FUSIT congregation, and for our congregations' role in the greater community. We will meet on **October 1st** at 7 pm in the FUSIT Library and over Zoom, and continue to meet every first Wednesday of the month.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/81644753524?pwd=SDBqaTN5eIM3ejltbGdJcGhPa3QxQT09>

Meeting ID: 816 4475 3524 Passcode: 894885

Newcomers Inspired

Connected and Engaged (NICE)



Oct 12, Oct 19,
and Nov 2



Contact Elizabeth:

membership@uuithaca.org

All are welcome!

"Newcomers Inspired, Connected, and Engaged" (NICE)

Do you want to learn more about UUism as a newcomer or returning member looking for connection? Are you interested in discussing the history of UUism, questions about getting involved with FUSIT, and what it means to be a member? NICE may be the place for you!

We will be running a session this fall after Sunday services, meeting on **October 12, October 19, and November 2** at 12 pm in the Sophia Lyon Fahs Room. Please RSVP by emailing Elizabeth at membership@uuithaca.org if you would like to request to join. If you're considering becoming a member, this is strongly encouraged as a step in the process.

Adult RE

Pub Theology

Tuesday, **October 28th**, 6:30 pm

Liquid State Brewing, 620 W. Green Street, Ithaca

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 Cultivating Compassion. 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.

Building a Better World

Explore a Better world through the table top role-playing game curriculum "Building a Better World". This RPG group meets in room 213 at 4 pm on Sunday **October 12th** and Sunday **October 26th**. Reach out to Mike Timonin if you have any questions.

Joys and Sorrows

Joys and Sorrows are 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.

"Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive" –
Dalai Lama



Update from the Strategic Planning Committee of the Board of Trustees

"To be vibrant and attractive, a congregation needs a shared sense of direction. A strategic plan answers the question, 'In what new and different ways will we touch lives in the coming 3 to 5 years?'" D. Hotchkiss, Congregational Consulting Group Consultant

From The Coastal Business Journal, Vol.2, Does Strategic Planning Help Churches?: An Exploratory Study (Shah, David & Surawsk, 12/03): *"The findings indicate that churches using strategic planning experience greater growth in both attendance and finances."*

These articles emphasize the importance of strategic planning to the success of a religious nonprofit organization, yet, throughout FUSIT's relatively long history we find no evidence of a prior strategic plan on record. The Strategic Planning Committee is excited to announce that this year FUSIT will introduce our first 3-5 year, forward-looking strategic plan for Ministry of this congregation. (Concurrently, the Finance Committee has been developing a financial strategic plan.)

For the past year the Strategic Planning Committee (an ad hoc committee mandated by the Board of Trustees) has been busy meeting and collecting data. We've looked at local demographics and upcoming infrastructure changes in our Ithaca community, examined strategic plans from other churches, and collected data from our congregation. An attempt to avoid redundancy led us to the archives of the pre-pandemic work of the DreamCatchers, along with a close look at results from Reverend Lydia's survey to the congregation; SWOT board add-ons by the congregation; and a look back at responses to open questions to the congregation posed by the Board of Trustees. Finally, from three carefully chosen open questions circulated to the congregation through the last third of the 2024 church year, we received 44 responses. These responses, along with the aggregate of other data collected, will direct our ministry in ways which reflect this congregation's values and desires for the next three to five years.

The Strategic Planning Committee has begun analysis of this data and the strongest trends have been identified. Most of these are no surprise: this congregation values community, service to others, intellectually stimulating sermons, and solid religious education. Our job now is to dive deeper into each of these broad trends to find further definition, and to examine more closely the many other threads among individual comments received. While working on this analysis, the committee is also busy writing a first draft of the strategic plan.

Please feel free to reach out to any member of the Strategic Planning Committee with your questions. We will be wearing purple name tags on Sundays, and we look forward to conversation.

Submitted by Rene Rogers

October Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board is now meeting on the third Wednesday of the month and will meet on **October 15**, at 6:30 pm. Board meetings are a hybrid format, taking place in the Parlor and through Zoom.

All FUSIT members are invited to attend these meetings. Ten minutes are set aside at the beginning of the meeting for congregation feedback. Please join us! Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/8825877699opwd=VUxUTUMraVZDUFQzQndSVFRaFlPdzo9>

Stay Connected

Curious about events and happenings at First Unitarian Society of Ithaca? Check out our Facebook page and stay current with what's going on in the community!

[First Unitarian Society of Ithaca Facebook Page](#)

Office Hours

For the month of October, Michelle will be in the office Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays and working remotely on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. If you have in person office business, please send an email to office@uuithaca.org to make an appointment.

Soul Matters Material for October

The Soul Matters theme for October is *Cultivating Compassion*. 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/SoulMattersOct2025>

FUSIT Annual Action Priorities

After feedback from leadership this year we are shifting our Vision of Ministry to Annual Action Priorities in an effort to bring clarity and focus to our shared ministry work. The three priorities that we will be directing our energy towards are:

#1: Live our 25-26 fiscal reality

Description: To create an amended revenue and spending plan for 25-26 by December 1, 2025 and implement through June 30, 2026

#2: Increase relevance and visibility of UU values and principles within our programming

Description: To focus our ministry work on the current needs of our community in light of current events and in a way that clearly demonstrates our UU values

#3: Strengthen congregational ownership

Description: To develop and implement approaches and programming that increase the congregations engagement in FUSIT activities and leadership

FUSIT Finance #4

Status of Savings Funds to Close Budget Gaps

We ended 19-20 fiscal year with savings of \$139,000. Since that time, the church leadership has decided to invest that savings in maintaining programs while we rebound from the pandemic. The peak of this deficit spending occurred 23-24. We started the year with \$54,000 in savings but ended the year using \$39,000 in savings to cover insufficient revenue.

So, we began 24-25 fiscal year with \$15,000 in savings. We ended that fiscal year using all those savings to fill in the \$32,000 space between spending needs and lacking revenue. The June 30, 2025, balance sheet shows we also used \$16,000 of prepaid 25-26 pledges to pay 24-25 expenses. So, we begin 25-26 with no savings back-up and \$16,000 less available funds for 25-26.

Much of this shortfall comes from pledge revenues, as of year-end, \$28,000 less than budget. And total expenditure was \$9000 over budget.

We have our work cut out for us to change this pattern.

Don Barber, Treasurer

Women's Circle Meets on October 27

Women's Circle usually meets via Zoom on the 4th Monday of the month from 7-8:30 pm. 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: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/82169260621?pwd=ZDk5anRKMMo2czhqSWgrSVhmbGFqdzo9>

Meeting ID: 821 6926 0621. Passcode: 015515



LGBTQ+ Group Meets Monthly

This Small Group is especially for FUSIT's LGBTQ+ community and meets monthly. **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. Please reach out to Ely at eleanorwillard97@gmail.com for more information.

- **October is LGBTQ+ History Month** Throughout October, this month is dedicated to learning about LGBTQ+ history.
- **October 11: National Coming Out Day** is an annual celebration promoting the right to live openly as an LGBTQ+ individual.
- **October 15: International Pronouns Day**, to educate and spread awareness about personal pronouns.

Upcoming Beacon on Aurora

An evening with Aleksí Campagne

Sunday, October 12, 7:00 pm

(Doors open at 6:30 pm)

Named **Penguin Eggs & Roots Music Canada's New Discovery of the Year**, Montrealer Aleksí Campagne blends his folk songwriting roots with an edgy, multi-layered sound resulting from his unique combination of voice, violin and looping-effect pedals. Aleksí won a 2024 Canadian Folk Music Award for his fully bilingual album, which offers 10 songs in English & the same 10 songs in French. Tickets: <https://fusit.breezechms.com/form/AleksíCampagne>



An evening with Hayley Reardon

Sunday, November 16, 7:00

(Doors open at 6:30 pm)

Hayley Reardon is a critically acclaimed folk-pop singer and songwriter, and a storyteller in the truest sense of the word. Her songs serve as postcards from an artist brave enough to take the road less traveled. Reardon dove head first into music at the young age of 15, and has dedicated much of her life to writing, recording and performing music around the world. She has released 4 studio albums, 7 EPs, 1 live album and countless singles-totaling over 85 original songs and millions of streams to date. Reardon has shared the stage with renowned artists including Lori McKenna, Rodney Crowell, Dar Williams, Anaïs Mitchell, Xavier Rudd, John Paul White, Rachel Platten and most recently, Ed Sheeran, who invited Reardon to perform at his Old Phone Pub pop-up in Ipswich, Massachusetts. Tickets: <https://fusit.breezechms.com/form/Hayley-Reardon-11.16>

Join Us - Choir Season 2025-26 Has Begun!

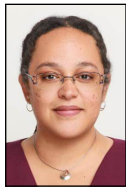
The FUSIT CHOIR is growing! Come join us. We rehearse in the church annex on Thursdays (except holidays) from 7-8:30 pm.

Note: the Sage Chapel Candlelight Service CHOIR will begin rehearsing beginning **November 7** in the church annex. Please look for announcements. Contact Jayne for more information at choir@uuithaca.org.

A Harpist at the Threshold: Hospice Stories of Love and Grace

Please join Jayne for her performance at the Kitchen Theatre Company on the evening of **October 19** as she shares deeply about her work as a music-thanatologist (music and end of life care). Moving and informative about this world that is important for us all.

Our October 26th Special UUA Guests



The Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt is the tenth president of the Unitarian Universalist Association and her twenty-year ministry has included serving as a parish minister, seminary professor, scholar and environmental ethicist, and public theologian.

Rev. Dr. Betancourt has contributed to the education of future faith leaders at Yale Divinity School, Starr King School for the Ministry, and Drew University Theological School, teaching courses on topics such as ministerial leadership, theologies, womanism and Earth justice, and combating oppression. She holds Ph.D., M.A., and M.Phil. degrees in Religious Ethics and African American Studies from Yale University, an M.Div. from Starr King School for the Ministry, and a B.S. from Cornell University with a concentration in ethnobotany.



Rev. Dr. Adam Robersmith (he/they) is a UU minister, spiritual director, and scholar who has studied biology, theology, history, human development, and the arts. Senior minister of the Universalist Church of West Hartford, Connecticut, his writing appears in the Skinner

House books *Love at the Center*, *Justice on Earth*, and *The Through Line* and in *Trilithon*, the journal of the Ancient Order of Druids in America.

Appreciations

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.

—A special thank you to Preston Wilson and Matt Franke-Singer for organizing the summer services, giving congregants a way to connect over the summer. We appreciate all of the work that went into these services!

—Many thanks to all those who helped with the memorial service for long time member Linda Loomis on September 20th. It was a lovely and meaningful service.

Care Cafe

In October, Care Cafe will be held on Sunday, **October 5th and 19th**. Future dates will be announced. Last year's gatherings created such meaningful connections and provided a warm space of support for everyone who joined.

I'm looking forward to continuing that spirit of community and comfort together. Every other Sunday, we will meet in the library at 12:00 pm until approximately 1:30 pm, after service and after coffee.

I hope you can join us as we reconnect and support one another in the year ahead.

Gratefully,
Rev. Peaches Gillette

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that our church is located on land that is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee People and the Cayuga Nation. Their presence is imbued in these lakes, valleys, gorges, and hills. May we nurture our relationship with our Haudenosaunee neighbors, and our shared responsibilities to this Place of their homelands where we mutually reside.

Expanding Community

For many this continues to be a time of 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. Please continue to invite any and all people that you know that you believe could find meaning by exploring what the Unitarian Universalist faith can offer.

Care Team

The Care Team provides pastoral care and support for congregants who are going through challenging times. If you or any member or close friend of FUSIT need some assistance, contact Kathy Hopkins at 607-582-3025 or Care@uuithaca.org.

Pastoral Care Emergencies

Please contact Rev. Janet Shortall at pastoralcare@uuithaca.org or 607-218-2088.

UUs of Color

We invite people of color (having African, Latinx, Asian, Arab, Middle Eastern, Native American, Pacific Islander identities) to gather with us. Our purpose is to commune with one another, amplify our voices, and promote diversity in our UU community. Activities may include having meals together, welcoming new POC into the congregation, planning a service, collaborating with other groups at (or beyond) FUSIT, and more. We meet the first Monday of the month at 6:00 pm and around meaningful events. Please contact poc@uuithaca.org for more information.

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 nametag in the Narthex nametag cabinet (corner of Buffalo and Aurora Sts.)

Our Mission

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