



I T H A C A

UUU Connections

2016/17 Issue No. 10

June 1-12, 2017

Sunday Celebrations 10:30 am

— June 4 “Goodbye with Flowers”

-Rev. Jane Thickstun

This last Sunday in the Sanctuary before summer, Rev. Jane will say goodbye and highlight all that we have accomplished together in these two years. We will also celebrate with the flower ceremony.

Everyone brings a flower to this intergenerational service and takes a different one home.

Special music by organ students of Stephanie Ortolano

— June 11 “Volunteer Appreciation and End-of-Year Picnic”

-Rev. Jane Thickstun

This Sunday, we'll gather at Stewart Park (Small Pavilion) for an intergenerational service where the highlight will be volunteer appreciation. Bring a salad or side dish item to pass.

Special music by the TARPS (Savage Club Rock Band)

Message from the Minister

The sun is setting on our time together. We knew from the beginning when it would end. It has been a full and productive time together.

I hope I am leaving you a little better off than when I came. Able to be a little more vulnerable and trusting, a little more open to new ideas and ways of doing things. With a stronger sense of belonging to a larger body of Unitarian Universalists and able to draw strength and inspiration from that. A better sense of the historical depth of our faith and the theological breadth. A little clearer in how you operate as a congregation, with a firmer foundation so that you are ready to plan for the future. So that you are ready to make plans for exciting ministry as you go forward with your new minister.

As I go on to a new ministry in Croton-on-Hudson, NY, I take many fond memories with me: of the biggest rummage sale I've ever seen, of ice cream and music for all who pass by, of a parade of ukuleles, of marching for women at the time of the 2017 inauguration, of good times at Unirondack, of the dedication of a church board who met twice a month, month after month, of high-functioning, well-run committees and teams, of an administrator to top all administrators, of some really great music and of countless individual encounters with unique individuals who shared some of themselves with me.

You have warmed my heart. I will miss you.

In faith, Rev. Jane

Everyone is invited
to the **End of Year Celebration, Picnic
and Volunteer Appreciation**
at **Stewart Park**



**Please plan to come with your entire family for fun and fellowship -
this year in the Small Pavilion at Stewart Park on
Sunday, June 11, at 10:30 am.**

Following the Stewart Park service there will be a BBQ Pulled Pork (and vegan alternative) Picnic Lunch with mixed berry cobbler dessert. Please bring a salad or side dish item to pass that can serve 12-15 people, along with your own tableware (cups plates, and your own utensils), to take home and wash - we want to make this a GREEN event.

We will need everyone to help out by either setting up or cleaning up - look for a sign-up sheet available in the Parlor on Sunday.

Religious Education News

Updated Directory is Available

At long last the new directory is available in two forms: paper and digital. Mark can send you a pdf of the version that was printed on May 18 or for \$1 you can purchase a paper version at the church.

Please note that anyone who is in our database can always access their own version at any time from anywhere in the world so long as you can connect to the Internet. Those instructions can be sent to you as well. Please email Mark at cadmin@unitiaca.org for any questions or assistance.

Lost and Found

Please check the Lost and Found area in Room 122 by **June 4th** to see if you happened to leave something at the church. Items not claimed by the end of the church year will be donated to the Recycle Sale.

Soul Matters Material for June on "Joy"

Our June worship theme at First Unitarian Society of Ithaca is Joy. This month's packet includes a few short readings, spiritual exercises, and discussion questions for you to consider. Here is the link: <http://tinyurl.com/FUSIT-Joy>

Our Vision

As the Unitarian Universalist presence in Ithaca, we envision ourselves as a vibrant, dynamic community. We cherish fellow seekers, nurture open dialogue and spiritual growth, and inspire action on matters of conscience, serving as a beacon of reason and hope in our interconnected world.

For information about Religious Education, please contact DRE Ann Stephenson at drefusit@gmail.com or 273-7521 ext. 23. To request childcare for any church event, contact Child Care Coordinator Meggan Conklin at childcare@unitiaca.org.

Greetings Beloved Community!

Summer is in the air! Can it be possible that Memorial Day weekend is upon us already? It will sure feel great to start soaking up all of that Sun!

On behalf of the RE Team, I want to take a moment to thank everyone once again who joined us as volunteers in the RE Children's Education Program in 2016-2017. It has been a vibrant and active year in RE, and the RE Team is busily planning, looking forward to an exciting RE Year in 2017-18 here at FUSIT! We have many exciting plans for this coming year, including expanded curriculum, now out for you to see, for preschool and elementary aged children, as well as a broad set of offerings and experiences for middle and high school youth, as well as adults! We look forward to gathering a fantastic group of volunteer teachers for this year's RE programs, and we are really excited!

One of the most exciting pieces of news is that we have picked solid dates for the Intergenerational Service Learning trip to Guatemala!! The trip will be our first FUSIT RE Service Learning trip, and is open to adults and parent accompanied youth 14+. High School Youth Service Learning Program participants in 11th and 12th grade are welcome to apply to travel with the group, chaperoned by RE Program Staff. Service at San Lucas Mission is focused on creating relationships through communal work on projects empowering local communities, and supporting economic and environmental sustainability. Contact the FUSIT DRE's office to learn more about this great intergenerational initiative, including fund-raising opportunities for youth, via sales of delicious, fair-trade Juan Ana coffee! Some brief details:

WHERE? - San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala in the mountains 68 miles west Guatemala City, in the Lake Atitlan region. It is a Mayan area known for its remarkable natural beauty.

WHEN? - Approximately Saturday to Saturday, FEBRUARY 18th to 25th, 2018. In country travel will be arranged by the Mission. **COST:** around \$1200 total - airfare, food and lodging.

WHAT? - Service at the Mission focused on building relationships through working together on various projects and at the coffee factory, empowering local community, and creating a sustainable economy for the people of the area. (Youth fundraising opportunities available).

WHO? - An intergenerational group of adults and youth from FUSIT and other local congregations. Members of our FUSIT community have participated previously.

CONTACT - DREfusit@gmail.com. To apply as a YOUTH RE GROUP PARTICIPANT (Youth Service Learning Committee) contact drefusit@gmail.com

LINKS: <https://www.sanlucasmision.org/volunteer/learn-about-volunteering/> <https://www.sanlucasmision.org/san-lucas-toliman/the-history>

We hope that many of you will be able to join us!!

To kick off the RE year, we welcome you all to join us as part of the RE Team next fall. In this time of renewal and growth, we in RE joyfully anticipate the new energy and leadership of Rev. Margaret Weis. We hope you will consider joining us as part of that fresh beginning!! Please feel free to stop by and chat this Sunday during our Spring Volunteer Recruitment Fair, and find out what's in store for next year! You may also contact the DRE's office via email (drefusit@gmail.com), or call me at 280-7270, for more information about the many opportunities to be a part of the RE Program. We hope to see you soon!! —Ann

Joys and Sorrows

Our congratulations go out to Charlie (Chelsea) Heimbuch-Skaley and Devin Krugman on the birth of their son, Sasha Aaron Doerig-Krugman on May 15th in Oakland, CA. Proud grandparents are Loretta Heimbuch and Stephen Maybee, and Jim Skaley and Jan Morgan.

Thanks to...

...members of HT2 A under Coordinator Jesse Koenneke, who acted as greeters and snack providers and helped set up and clean up for the social gathering after the Sunday services on April 23 and 30; and members of HT2 B under Coordinator Russ Charif, who took on these tasks after the Sunday service on May 7 and 14.

Contact HT Coordinator John Gaines at 607-898-3943 or at jag222@cornell.edu.

...those who showed up for Spring Cleaning the morning of May 20 - Mary Kirkpatrick, Mark Pedersen, Sara and Simon Catterall, Kathy Hopkins, Rick Hendrick, Marie Benedetti, Arthur Woll, John Gaines, Lydia Pettis, Dyan Lombardi, Tom Coakley, Susanne Quagliata, Keith Perry, Pat Evans, Mark Piechota, Andy Turner, Matt Hare, Whitney Wiggins, Beth Howard, and Savannah Charif.

They dusted and washed and organized inside and out, weeded and pruned and transplanted, carted away junk, and enjoyed pizza and conversation in the Parlor at noon.

Pastoral Emergencies

In case of a pastoral emergency (death or hospitalization), Rev. Jane Thickstun can be reached at 607-273-7521, ext. 22, if you need to speak with her.

For non-emergency pastoral care, please contact one of the chairs of the Care Team: Margaret Nichols at mmr1@cornell.edu, 273-3772, or Pat Court at pgc1@cornell.edu, 257-0942.

Additionally, if you need a ride to any event at church, please contact either Margaret or Pat at the numbers listed above as early as possible, so that they can contact a member who is willing to help. If you are willing to provide occasional rides for others, contact Margaret or Pat to give them your name and contact information.



Share Your Enthusiasm!

CONGRATULATIONS! What a great community we have here. With the help of a generous \$5,000 matching pledge we have met our original 2017-18 pledge goal – BEFORE the Annual Meeting. This is certainly a record! Enthusiasm indeed!

If you still haven't pledged - and we know there are a number of you out there - we still need your help! There are plenty of outreach plans and building maintenance projects we need to take on.

It would be great to fund these projects during Rev. Weis' first year – things like a new hearing assistance device system, protecting and making more visible our beautiful stained glass windows, and sharing our vision of a Beloved Community with our neighbors.

Please make your pledge today at <https://unitarian.ithaca.ny.us/pledge.php>. Questions? Need a new pledge card? Contact David Salomon at dsalomon01@gmail.com.

Bon Voyage Celebration for Rev. Jane

Please join us in saying a fond farewell to Rev. Jane after the service on **June 4th**. Jane has worked tirelessly over the last two years to help us discover who we are and who we want to be in the years ahead. We owe her a huge "Thank You!" for shepherding us through two transition years and preparing us for an exciting future! We'll share our appreciation of Rev. Jane and enjoy a yummy lunch together beginning at 12:00 in the Annex.

June Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, **June 13** at 6 pm in the Parlor. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Interim Minister
Rev. Jane Thickstun
273-7521, ext. 22
minister@uithaca.org

Religious Education
Ann Stephenson, Director,
273-7521, ext. 23
drefusit@gmail.com
Katey Kingra, RE Assistant
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Child Care Coordinator
Meggan Conklin
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Sexton
Sandy Soule, 272-4475

Bookkeeper
Lauren Ponzoni
bookkeeper@uithaca.org

Music Director
Stephanie Ortolano,
607-708-8088
fusitmusic@gmail.com

Adult Choir Director
Jennifer Lawrence Birnbaum,
fusitchoir@gmail.com

Care Team
-Pat Court
pgc1@cornell.edu or 257-0942
-Margaret Nichols
mmr1@cornell.edu or 273-3772

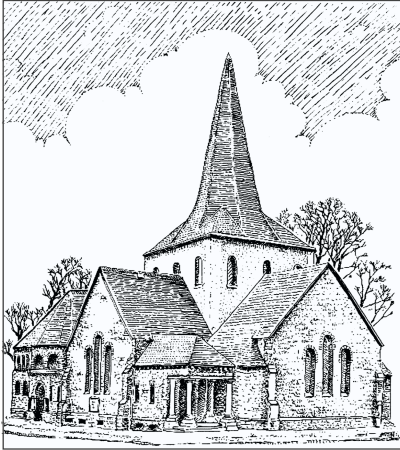
Membership Coordinator
Beth Pallace, 273-7521, ext 24
memcoord@uithaca.org

President, Board of Trustees
Laura Free
laurafree@me.com or 339-8332

Congregational Administrator
Mark Pedersen, 273-7521 ext 21
cadmin@uithaca.org

Administrative Assistant
Loretta Heimbuch, 273-7521
ext 28, adminasst@uithaca.org

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



**JOIN US for the Ithaca Festival Parade -
Wear your "Standing on the Side of Love"
T-shirt and Bring your Ukulele!**

Don't miss this opportunity to let your FUSIT pride shine on **June 2nd!** The Unitarian Universalist Ukulele Union (UUUUs) will bring their ukuleles and everyone will hit the streets of the parade with our yellow "Standing on the Side of Love" T-shirts. UUs all around the country are showing up at rallies and parades in their yellow shirts, to present a unified show of strength and commitment to our UU values. Wearing our "Standing on the Side of Love" shirts sends the message that we stand up for love in an atmosphere of hate and fear.

We also need volunteers for the Ithaca Festival booth! If you would like to volunteer or help out, talk to Beth Pallace at the Welcome table or email memcoord@uuithaca.org. See you at the festival!

Thanks to your Generosity

Once a month First Unitarian shares its Sunday offering with an organization chosen by the Social Justice Council. Recipients and amounts given were as follows:

November - *Ithaca Welcomes Refugees* \$355

January - *OAR of Tompkins County* \$569

March 26 - *Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes* \$648

May 7 - *Akwasasne Freedom School* \$809

General Assembly Delegates Sought

If you are a FUSIT member and you are planning on being in New Orleans, LA, OR at General Assembly (GA) from **June 21-25**, you could be a delegate!

These are the folks who make decisions, along with thousands of other UUs at GA, that impact what our focus will be as a religious organization. If you are interested, please contact Mark at 273-7521, ext. 21 or cadmin@uuithaca.org, and he will forward your request to the Board for their meeting on **June 13**.

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

Help Needed to Provide Lunches for Friendship Center in July and August

We need four volunteers to each make and deliver 15 bag lunches to the Friendship Center on Tuesday, **July 4** and on Tuesday, **August 1**.

Volunteers may be individuals, families, or groups of any kind. You buy supplies, make the lunches at home, or where you choose, no more than 24 hours before delivery, and deliver them between 9:30 and 11:30 am to 618 W. State Street.

Lunches must contain a sandwich, a piece of soft fruit (no apples) and a cookie or other small dessert and should be substantial since the recipients may not get another full meal that day. All foods should be easy to chew. The center asks that we make a simple list of the foods on the outside of the bag, so its staff can accomodate preferences and allergies.

Your expenses can be reimbursed by the Social Justice Council: just keep track of what you spend and contact Martha Ferger at marthafeger068@gmail.com.

The Friendship Center is a drop-in assistance center for Ithacans who are homeless or otherwise in need, run by the Rescue Mission Alliance of Syracuse. It provides assistance in landlord-tenant disputes, locating housing and obtaining social benefits, and free bag lunches twice a week. Our church provides 60 lunches on the first Tuesday of each month. Questions? Contact Jackie Jablonski at jackiejab@me.com or 319-4271.

Social Justice Council

The Social Justice Council will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, **June 12**, at 6:00 pm in the Arch Room. Come to learn what our various action teams are doing and how you can participate in our activities and programs.

Welcome New Member

Please give a warm welcome to new member Kelsey Utne who recently signed the Membership Book.

Original Book Discussion Group

Our next meeting is 12:30 on Friday, **June 2**, and the book will be *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander. Meetings are in the Library on the second floor of the Parish House on the first Friday of the month. Group members choose the books, both fiction and non-fiction, to read and discuss. Feel free to bring food and drink. The group welcomes new members. For more information please contact Jennifer Streid-Mullen at streidmull@aol.com or 351-3087.

Men's Circle - June 26

FUSIT Men's Circle will meet in the Parlor on the 4th Monday of each month this summer. The next meeting is **June 26**. All those who identify as male are invited to join us at 5:30 pm to share our stories and eat some pizza. Contact David Salomon, dsalomon01@gmail.com, Jens Wennberg jens207@gmail.com, or Matt Hare mph75@cornell.edu for more information.

Library Notes

You may have noticed several handwritten subject labels hanging from the shelves in our library. I have volunteered to organize the collection and hope to have it in much better order by Sept. There are many excellent books in many subject areas: UU history and authors; world religions; philosophy; meditation; parenting; current social problems and others.

The Care Team has purchased the following titles ready to circulate: "The 36-Hour Day, 5th, ed."; "Leaning Into Love"; "Things I've Learned About Dying"; "Caring For Family and Friends With Cancer"; "The Noonday Demons: an Atlas of Depression"; "My Age of Anxiety"; "100 Questions and Answers About Breast Cancer"; "How To Care For Aging Parents". Thank you, Care Team, for adding these to our library!

You may sign out any title by signing the book card (added by a former librarian) and/or a circulation sheet on a clipboard. Please include your name, phone number, title and date taken out.

If you would like to help in this undertaking or have questions about a particular title, contact Barbara Shew, barbrandy51@gmail.com, 386-717-8687.

Women's Circle - June 25

We'll meet Sunday **June 25th** from 11 am - 12:30 pm in the Library. All who identify as women are welcome. This group is on a 'drop-in' basis, so feel free to join any or all Circles and invite others who may not get weekly announcements. We are seeking to find a place of support around issues specific to women. Women's Circle is held the 4th Sunday of the month.

For more information, contact Nancy Miller at ananda7733@gmail.com or Wendy Salomon at wendysalomon15@gmail.com.

Unirondack 2017: Registration for Waiting List Only

Registration started on May 7 for the 10th Annual FUSIT Unirondack Labor Day Camp and it is now FULL. We are taking names for the waiting list in case those who have registered can't go. Register online at <https://firstuithaca.wufoo.com/forms/z1i6k8jk145osgu>

***First Unitarian Society of Ithaca warmly welcomes
our new settled minister, Margaret Weis!***

*She officially begins her position on
August 1, 2017*



Margaret is a lover of nature and music, and was raised in a family of educators. She loves bicycling, yoga, and singing. She loves to laugh and to be with people of all ages.

She has been currently serving as Minister of Religious Society at Bell Street Chapel in Providence, Rhode Island. She graduated with honors in 2012 from Andover Newton Theological School, and was a Presidential Scholar there. She grew up in North Andover, Massachusetts and is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist. Before going to seminary, she earned her bachelor's degree in Rehabilitation and Disability Studies and her master's degree in Rehabilitation counseling. She and her wife, Susan, have been married for six years this June. Their rescue dogs, Lela and Checkers, keep them on their toes.

2017 Grand Recycle Sale

How to prepare your donations:

1. Please make sure everything is clean and in good enough condition to be worth buying. Polishing and prettying things up will boost sales.
2. Please bring items for categories listed below in bags or boxes separately labeled. This will save endless amounts of time for the sorters. We recycle bags, boxes, and stuffing material.
3. Upon arrival with your donations, you will be directed to different classrooms or other spaces to deliver your items. The locations are:

- * Adult Clothing, Children's Clothing, Footwear & Luggage/Bags
- * Art & Rugs
- * Books & Audio/Video Media
- * Housewares
- * Furniture
- * Holiday & Crafts
- * Jewelry
- * Linen
- * Office & Electronics
- * Sporting Goods, Tools, Auto, Garden
Pet Supplies, etc.
- * Toys & Games



4. Make sure that each appliance/electronics/equipment is in working condition, and tape a note to that effect. Indicate the age and original price of major items, if known, and include user manuals if available.

Items we will NOT accept (because they do not sell):

- * Badly stained or torn clothing/linen
- * Single socks/shoes/gloves
- * Unfinished kits/sewing/craft projects
- * Non-flatscreen TV's
- * Computers/monitors/printers
- * Mattresses
- * Magazines/journals/manuals/encyclopedia sets
- * Food and liquids
- * Alcohol or tobacco products
- * Paints/thinners/solvents/asbestos products
- * Tires
- * Incomplete puzzles/games
- * Looseleaf binders
- * Light bulbs & batteries
- * VHS & cassette tapes
- * Broken electronics/appliances
- * Damaged dolls/toys
- * Used cosmetics/salves/ointments
- *Cribs & carseats
- *Clothes hangers
- *Old suitcases

2017 Grand Recycle Sale

When to bring your donated items:

Volunteers will be at the Aurora Street Garden Entrance to receive donations on the following days. (No one will be available at other times to accept donations.)

- * **Tuesday, June 20, 6-8pm**
- * **Wednesday, July 5, 6-8pm**
- * **Tuesday, July 18, 6-8pm**
- * **Wednesday, August 2, 6-8pm**
- * **Sunday, August 13, 11am-2pm (FINAL INTAKE)**

Contact Celia Morgan at 351-2249 or sheepthrills36@gmail.com for donation pick-up service, when volunteers are available. Also, contact Marie Benedetti at 319-0867 or marieben@twcny.rr.com to volunteer.

Volunteers are needed for:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| * intake | * setup |
| * transportation | * greeting |
| * sorting | * selling/cashier |
| * pricing | * breakdown/cleanup |

Setup will begin on **Sunday, August 13**, after service (11am-2pm).

Sorting, prepping, and pricing will take place Monday through Friday, **August 14-18** (Monday thru Wednesday 10am-4pm; Thursday & Friday 10am-1pm). Breakdown and cleanup will take place Monday, **August 21** from 3-6pm and Tuesday, **August 22** from 9am-12noon.

Sale times are:

Saturday, August 19	9am-4pm (full price)
Sunday, August 20	10am-4pm (half price)
Monday, August 21	10am-2pm (free with donation unless otherwise tagged)

Your comments and suggestions will be welcomed all summer long by Recycle Sale Chair, Marie Benedetti at 319-0867 or marieben@twcny.rr.com.

Thanks so much for your support. Remember that this event is a major FUSIT fundraiser, as well as a wonderful service offered to our local communities.