



ITHACA

UUU Connections

2016/17 Issue No. 11

Summer 2017

*This will be the last Ithaca UU Connections sent until August when we will announce Sunday services starting on **September 10th.***

Summer Sunday Celebrations
9:30 am

— Summer Services

Summer services begin on Sunday, **June 18**, at 9:30 am in the Parlor, and continue throughout June, July, August, and early September with regular services beginning again on **September 10**. Please see insert for schedule of featured summer speakers. Childcare will be available up to age 8.

— Reminder: Intergenerational Water Communion

-Rev. Margaret Weis

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 10th**. There will also be a "backpack" blessing after the service.

Mark Your Calendar!
Annual Grand Recycle Sale
August 19-21



Message from the Minister

I write this column surrounded by cardboard boxes and bubble wrap. Susan and I (and the pups) have been organizing, donating, preparing, and packing to head to Ithaca in just a few weeks! After spending some time at the UU Ministers Association Ministry Days and General Assembly, I am looking forward to the move and to getting settled in Ithaca.

In times of transition, I am always intrigued at the feeling of excitement about what is to come. As I prepare to join you all as your next settled minister, I am excited about many things: meeting you and getting to know you, spending time with you at Unirondack, doing some good planning and preparation with the staff and leadership, and learning more about FUSIT and its passions.

In my first weeks at FUSIT, I will be settling into my office and learning the ropes of the FUSIT and Ithaca communities. After I'm settled, I'll look forward to holding office hours and other opportunities to connect with you all! Stay tuned for more details about those opportunities.

On Sunday, September 10th, we will join together for our Ingathering and Water Service. I look forward to sharing this ritual with you all. I am also hoping you will join us for a "Blessing of the Backpacks" ritual on that day. Everyone is welcome - whether you are a professor, student, homeschooler, or a lifelong learner! I hope you'll bring your favorite backpack, briefcase, pencil pouch, or other beloved learning tool with you for us to bless together. We will offer our hopes for a year of exploration, seeking new wisdom, and deeper understanding.

It seems strange to already be planning for the fall, when we've barely entered summer! The excitement and anticipation is palpable and I am eager to be with you all soon!

I hope you have a safe, fun, and relaxing summer!

*Take good care,
Rev. Weis*

Our Mission

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

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

Religious Education News

Summer Office Hours

The church office will be open from 9-4 Monday through Friday until **June 27th**. The office will then be closed, except for Wednesdays, for the remainder of the summer, starting on **July 5th**.

On **August 21st** the office will reopen for full time hours again. During the summer, if you have any questions or if you need help or information from any of the staff, you may leave a message on the answering machine, which will be monitored regularly by the staff. To leave messages for the office (Mark Pedersen), use voice mailbox #21.

First Unitarian Society's Second Annual Summer Gathering

Join community members for summer fun, a dish-to-pass dinner and good conversation

Where? The Ellis Hollow Community Center (Genung Rd.)

What? A midsummer opportunity to connect, inspire & engage

When? Friday, **August 4**; Dish-to-pass at 5:30, but come early to play and be together
Bring a dish to pass

Interested in Cornell's famous BBQ Chicken?

The grillmaster is going to fire up the pit and cook 50 halves, let Wendy know by August 1st how many to set aside for you (\$5/half). We'll happily cook more if interest demands.

Ideas of things to bring: lawn chair, Frisbee, picnic blanket, ukulele, cards, football, board games, campfire song book, a cooler with your favorite beverages, lawn games, bathing suit & towel, flashlight, etc.

Rain or shine, under the pavilion;
Handicap accessible

Pack-in/Pack-out facility: bring plates/
utensils, and take it all home.

Questions? Want to reserve chicken halves?
Interested in helping to set-up/clean-up this
fabulous FUSIT summer tradition?

Contact: Wendy Salomon 646-831-6775
wendysalomon15@gmail.com

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 from September to early June, contact Child Care Coordinator Meggan Conklin at childcare@unitbaca.org.

Greetings Beloved Community,

Can it be that summer is upon us already? It seems like only last month that it was September, and we were busily scooping ice cream, tuning our ukuleles and excitedly preparing for a busy fall at FUSIT! Now, we welcome sultry summer breezes off the lake, languid evenings and mornings alive with singing birds and dripping dew. Time flies!

That summer freshness is alive in RE too - even while savoring a break from our busy church year schedule, we delight in the vibrancy of growing things! We welcome the many new families and members of our Society, and the smiling faces that they bring. We celebrate the long time supporters and volunteers that make our community so strong and vibrant. We look forward, expectant as the morning sunshine, to a bright, new day! September is not so very far away after all!

Our next church year brings us a new Minister, and will see FUSIT RE reaching out - with new ideas and inspiration - to our children and youth, the greater Ithaca Community, and to the World! A new season of Children's Programming awaits in Fall, including 'Harry Potter and the UU' for 9-12 year olds, and a brand new curriculum for our K-1 children, 'Love Surrounds Us!'. Our Intergenerational Service Learning program also takes flight, (literally!) with our planned trip to San Lucas Mission in Guatemala this coming February Presidents week! Youth will for the first time have the opportunity to join us on this trip as part of our Youth Service Learning Program, but it is open to all 14 and up! And, in October, a group from Ithaca will be traveling to Baltimore to learn more about Peace Circles, and how they can be used in our community. These are just some of the exciting things planned for 2017-18 at FUSIT.

We are growing indeed! But, like any growing thing, our new programs take care and nourishment to thrive. Every garden needs gardeners! That's where you come in. Both the Children and Youth program, and Adult RE need the energy and excitement of engaged people to provide the energy and inspiration to our community. As we welcome our new minister, Rev. Margaret, and gather the fruits of fellowship, let us consider how we feed this garden of ours. It needs all of us, each of us bringing our own special light, to grow strong. Many hands make light work, and working together is a joy like no other.

Feel free to get in touch with me, Ann Stephenson, your DRE, to find out more about being a part of RE. Chat me up at Unirondack, grab a coffee downtown, pop up to my office in the Parish house, or visit the RE table in the Parlor any Sunday. I know that we can find a place for you to shine in RE!

Until we meet again, have a wonderful summer!

Ann P. Stephenson
Director, Lifespan Religious Education

Joys and Sorrows

Our thoughts are with Cliff Earle who has moved into the Hospicare residence. Cards and short visits are appreciated.

The Salomon family asks you to keep their 18 year old son Benjamin in the light as he begins his chemotherapy treatment for Hodgkins Lymphoma.

Thanks to...

... members of HT2 B under Coordinator Russ Charif, who acted as greeters, ushers, snack providers, and helped set up and clean up after the Sunday services on May 21 and 28.

... HT2 Team C (The Collaborative Comets) under Coordinator Helen Ann Yunis, who will cover the services from June 4 through June 25. There are fewer jobs to be done in the summer, but HTs are an important asset to the services and help us to welcome the many newcomers that visit during the summer.

Snack providers, please remember to provide a list of potentially sensitive ingredients.

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

FUSIT First Pit Stop for AIDS Ride for Life - September 9th

FUSIT will be staffing the first pit stop for the 19th Annual AIDS Ride for Life (volunteers need to be there around 7 am and we are usually done by 10:30 am.) The ride is set for Saturday, **September 9, 2017.**

Hosting this pit stop has become a church tradition and our high school youth group has been a big part of this. It is a great deal of fun!

Two steps:

1. Let Phyllis Smith-Hansen know you plan to volunteer.
2. Sign up to volunteer at: <http://aidsrideforlife.org/volunteers> (click the King Ferry pit stop).

If you have any questions, please contact Phyllis Smith-Hansen at 277-3966 or psmithhansen@hotmail.com.



Pastoral Emergencies

Through July 31st, in case of a pastoral emergency (death or hospitalization), Rev. Jane Thickett can be reached at 607-273-7521, ext. 22. Beginning August 1st, please contact Rev. Margaret Weis at this same number.

For non-emergency pastoral care, please contact one of the chairs of the Care Team: Margaret Nichols at mnr1@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.

*Interim Minister
Rev. Jane Thickett
273-7521, ext. 22
minister@uuihaca.org*

*Religious Education
Ann Stephenson, Director,
273-7521, ext. 23
drefusit@gmail.com
Katey Kingra, RE Assistant
reassist@uuihaca.org*

*Child Care Coordinator
Meggan Conklin
childcare@uuihaca.org*

*Sexton
Sandy Soule, 272-4475*

*Bookkeeper
Lauren Ponzoni
bookkeeper@uuihaca.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
mnr1@cornell.edu or 273-3772*

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

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

*Congregational Administrator
Mark Pedersen, 273-7521 ext 21
admin@uuihaca.org*

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

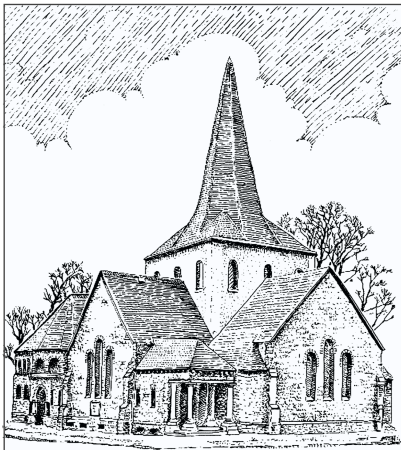
Updated Directory is Available

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@uuihaca.org for any questions or assistance.

Art in the Parlor Seeks Exhibitors

The Enhancement Committee is seeking exhibitors for art shows in the Parlor for the 2017-2018 calendar year. We prefer to show the artwork of members and friends of the church but we are open to the possibility of showing other artists. Exhibitions run six weeks and because the Parlor is used often during the year, work must be hung on the wall - nothing freestanding. If you are interested or have a suggestion for an exhibitor, please contact Marge Nelson at rumfygraf@twcny.rr.com or Diane Newton at dianewton899@aol.com.

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

2017 Grand Recycle Sale

When to bring your donated items to the Aurora Street
Garden Entrance:

- * **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 Marie Benedetti at 319-0867 or
marieben@twcny.rr.com to volunteer or for donation pick-up
service, when volunteers are available. Volunteers are needed
for intake, transportation, sorting, pricing, set up, greeting,
selling/cashier, breakdown/cleanup.

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)**

2017 Annual Meeting Results

*At the May 31st meeting 56 members were in attendance along with a number
of other congregants. The following was discussed and voted upon:*

*The 2017-18 Proposed Budget was passed as posted.

*Oliver Habicht, Wendy Salomon and Angela Zhang were re-elected
to the Board for three year terms and Marie Benedetti was re-elected
for a one year term.

*Micheline Contiguglia and Arthur Woll were elected to the
Nominating Committee and the current two members are leaving as
of June 30th. There are still three positions available that will need
to be temporarily appointed by the NomCom as required by the
Bylaws.

*A number of changes to the ByLaws were proposed and all were
approved.

* The proposed Congregational Covenant was approved.

* The congregation voted to approve a statement in favor of Single-
Payer Health Care which will be forwarded to the NY State Senate
as they are deliberating this matter at present.

Will You Help 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.

Welcome New Members

Please give a warm welcome to new members Joanne Kowalski, Tom Schill and Steve Glenn, who recently signed the Membership Book.

New Recycle Sale Management

Transitioning after Martha Ferger's very long lineage of running our exciting annual recycle sale, Sue Roenke picked up the reigns for a few years. Then, three years ago, Marie Benedetti and Carol Whitlow agreed to co-chair the event for a period of three years. In that time, some items they established were:

1. A new procedures manual, outlining clear and current instruction.
2. A supply closet and storage areas in the parlor basement.
3. Expanded advertising, PR, and social media.
4. New: volunteer tags, IOU tickets, sold/hold tickets, and laminated building & department signs.
5. A transport team and procedures for handling donation transport requests.
6. A detailed cleanup checkoff list.
7. Wegman's food donations for volunteers.

Now is the perfect time for two or three of you to consider co-chairing this fun event for next year so we can see this wonderful event continue into our future. On the job training and term limits!!! Please notify Mark of your intent as soon as possible.

New Photo Directories!

Stay tuned for information about our new photo directory which will be distributed by the end of the year. Let's make it easier for Rev. Weis by all getting our photos taken in September and October. Look for further details in the mid-week announcements.

UU Summer Camps

Summer camps in the region include Uniron-dack, Rowe, Ferry Beach, Star Island, and Murray Grove. And don't ignore DeBenneville Pines in California, U-Bar-U in Texas, Unistar in Minnesota, or The Mountain and Shelter Neck in North Carolina. Many centers have year-round programs.

Information for many camps is available on the Buffalo Street bulletin board and near the front door to the church office.

Fragrance Free Consideration

Some members of our congregation experience serious allergic reactions to strong fragrances and scents. Please refrain from using them when attending events at the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca.

Original Book Discussion Group

The monthly book discussion group will take a pause for the summer and resume their monthly meetings on Friday, **September 1st**, from 12:30-2 in the Library, which is located on the second floor of the Parish House. Group members choose the books, both fiction and non-fiction, to read and discuss. The group welcomes new members. For more information please contact Jennifer Streid-Mullen at streidmull@aol.com. or 351-3087.

Uniron-dack 2017: Registration for Waiting List Only



Registration started on May 7 for the 10th Annual FUSIT Uniron-dack 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>



2017 Summer Services and Guest Speakers

Summer Sunday services are held at 9:30 am in the Parlor, followed by a congregational response-time and social hour. Childcare is available to age 8.

June 18 - Jack Roscoe “Which Side Are You On?”

Jack will be presenting stories and songs that grew out of the American Labor Movement.

June 25 - Arthur Woll “Should ‘Faith’ be a Bad Word?”

A story about guiding adolescents towards statements of "faith" while simultaneously questioning the nature of the project.

July 2 - Ann Stephenson “Beyond Good and Bad - Equanimity and Transformation”

Good News. Bad News. When things go 'wrong' in our lives, we suffer - anxiety, disappointment, anger. Sometimes it feels that we are powerless to change an imperfect world. But wise teachers tell us, it's how we look at things that really matters, and that can transform even the harshest of life's realities.

July 9 - Nancy Miller “Rowing Toward Beloved Community”

Some reflections and musings on how we might hone our skills to be the loving, diverse, inclusive congregation we want to be.

July 16 - Don Barber “In Need of Mercy”

The foundations of our lives: government, social structure, and environment are under an ever growing assault. We are in need of mercy now. Where will we find it? How will we receive it?

Special music by Samuel Smith, piano

July 23 - Walt Peck “What is Worthwhile?”

Our lives are finite, but the alternatives for how we use our lives seem endless. So how do we choose?

Special music by oboe students of Emily DiAngelo

July 30 - Magdalen Lindeberg “Dreams of My Mother - Literal and Metaphorical”

Special music by Magdalen Lindeberg

August 6 - Beth Howard “A Fish In and Out of Water”

Beth will share thoughts on her personal journey from white oblivion to struggling anti-racism.

Special music TBA

August 13 - Carol Nickerson “Realizations” Confronting those ‘Ah-ha!’ (or maybe ‘Uh-oh’) moments of new awareness about who we really are.

Special music TBA

August 20 - No Service - RECYCLE SALE

August 27 - Margaret Nichols “Learning to Give (Sometimes)”

Thoughts about the pleasures and perils of generosity, and when it shades over into needless self-sacrifice.

Special music by Carolyn Grossman, piano

September 3 - Rev. Tim Dean “Transformational Interruptions”

Spiritual invitations in shifting times.

Special music by Roman Miller, flute