



ITHACA

# UUU Connections

2017/18 Issue No. 1

September 2017

## Sunday Celebrations 10:30 am

### — September 3 “Transformational Interruptions” (Last summer service 9:30 am)

-Rev. Tim Dean

Spiritual invitations in shifting times

*Special music by Rowan Miller, flute*

### — September 10 “Gathering the Waters”

-Rev. Margaret Weis

At this annual ingathering service all are invited to bring water from a place that is nurturing and sacred to you. We will gather our water together and reflect on the ways water connects us and brings us solace.

*Special music by Unitarian Universalist Ukulele Union*

### — September 17 “Whole-hearted Welcome”

-Rev. Margaret Weis

How do we welcome each other into our community? What does being a people of welcome require of each of us? How do we bring our whole selves into the ways we welcome wonder into our lives?

*Special music by Stephanie Ortolano*

### — September 24 “Welcoming Healing”

-Rev. Margaret Weis

In the midst of Rosh Hashanah and approaching Yom Kippur we will reflect on the call of each of us to own the ways we have failed one another - strangers, family and friends. We will reflect on the need to own the ways we have missed the mark and how to move forward in community.

*Special music by Adult Choir*

## Ministerial Musings

*Come, come, whoever you are  
Wanderer, worshipper, lover of leaving,  
Ours is no caravan of despair  
Come, yet again, come*

*Our theme for the month of September is “Welcome” and we will be exploring the ways that we welcome others into community and how we welcome ourselves to be brave, reflective, and open to possibility.*

*It feels appropriate that this is the first theme we will explore together in my time as your minister. I have felt so welcomed here by you all – starting in April when you called me and leading up to this point as Susan and I settle into our new home.*

*Many of you have invited me and Susan for dinner, and I am honored by your hospitality and welcome. Together with the Transition Team (formerly the Settled Minister Search Committee) we are planning dates and times for hosted dinners with groups of folks so I can get to know you and you may meet folks you don't already know. Keep your eyes open for opportunities to host or attend one of these monthly dinners! Kathy Hopkins is the organizer.*

*On Sunday, September 10th, we will join together for our Ingathering and Water Service. Remember to bring your water from a place that is special to you (we'll have some in case you forget). The following week we will have a “Blessing of the Backpacks”. 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.*

*As summer winds down, I hope you'll take some time to be outside, spend time with those you love most, and enjoy each day. I look forward to gathering with you all on September 10th (and some of you at Unirondack over Labor Day weekend).*

*Take care,  
Rev. Weis*

## 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.

## 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 Robin Fisher Cisne 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 Robin at 227-2790 or [riscisne@gmail.com](mailto:riscisne@gmail.com)*

## Successful Recycle Sale!

We had a very successful Recycle Sale this year thanks to 70 people who received, sorted, cleaned, priced, arranged and sold the treasures that came in. And many thanks to all the donors who brought in their items. We once more offered a tremendous service to the community as givers and takers, customers and salespersons, huggers and greeters and organizers and neat-eners and volunteers extra-ordinaire.

Thank us all from each of us and especially from the Great Grand Recycle Sale Committee.

## Art in the Parlor

Nancy Ridenour, a long-time friend of our Unitarian Society, will exhibit photographs in the parlor from **September 7 through October.** The work in the show represents her many photographic subjects: flowers found in her garden, Florida birds in their natural habitats and abstractions of both the cement sculptures in the Cornell Arboretum and Manhattan city-scapes. A reception will be held on **September 17** after the service starting at noon.



## Weekly Food Collection

Every week we collect dry or canned food for delivery to a local food pantry. Please bring non-perishable items to the basket which is located in the Garden Entrance.

## Religious Education News

*For information about Religious Education, please contact DRE Ann Stephenson at [drefusit@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:childcare@unitiaca.org).*

### Greetings Beloved Community!

We hope that you have enjoyed a restful and joyful summer! FUSIT RE invites YOU to **explore** our new name and new focus, embracing the ideas of inclusivity and openness as we learn together about ourselves and the world. We welcome you to join us in celebrating **Lifespan Religious Exploration** at the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca. Still RE, only better!

Our **Children and Youth Program** continues to expand, and re-envision itself as we move into this time of transition and growth! September will see our community of young people gather together for Community Sundays - 4 Sundays of group activities and team building, helping to orient children and families while having fun. We will engage in cooperative games, creative projects and sharing space with friends as we explore covenant, and what it means to move through the world joyfully and peacefully together!

Visit the RE table in the Parlor starting **September 10th** to check out our Kid's curriculum offerings for this year, and pick up your registration forms and RE handbook! **Children's Chapel** will return **October 1st**, providing a time to explore holding sacred space together, along with the addition of new monthly **Creative Sundays**. We are expanding this popular program, and will feature visiting artists leading community Visual Art Projects, Music and Drama Enrichment and many other exciting activities one Sunday a month. Age specific programming will occupy the other Sundays for your child's peer group.

Drop by the RE Table and check out what we have in store for your family! Look for our FALL FUSIT RE Registration events interspersed throughout September - special times where you can come, meet our staff, ask questions and hear more about our RE mission and vision. New parent resources and opportunities for engagement are in the works. Intergenerational RE is taking off as well!! Regional cooperative projects and Service Learning Trips with neighboring congregations, Youth Cons and a special focus on topics of interest to our rich and diverse community of all ages are scheduled. Just a few of this year's events to look forward to:

**\* 2017 Ithaca Porchfest and Sundae Sunday - September 24**

**\* International Institute of Restorative Practices - World Conference 2017  
October 23-25th, Bethlehem, PA**

**\* Service Learning Trip - San Lucas Mission, Guatemala, February 17-25, 2018**

With the arrival of our new minister, Rev. Margaret Weis, RE celebrates a renewed focus on intergenerational connection and family ministry. Please see us at the RE table in the Parlor, and discover the many opportunities available to our community locally, regionally and internationally, for engagement and action. One special way to become involved is new to us this year - Restorative Justice work. Our world is in particular need of peacemakers at this time in history, and RE is proud to be bringing the tools of Restorative Justice and Peace Circle work to our community. If you would like to know more, or perhaps even become trained as a facilitator in this work - please see DRE Ann Stephenson to find out about pursuing this exciting opportunity for social action.

*Looking forward to seeing you all very soon!*

*Ann and the RE Team!*



## Joys and Sorrows

Our thoughts are with Phyllis Smith-Hansen as she recuperates in South Carolina following surgery to replace her hip and repair her femur after a fall. She will be in rehab for several weeks. Please contact the office for her address if you'd like to send her a card of encouragement.

### Thanks to...

...members of the Hospitality Teams who acted as greeters, coffee makers, ushers and snack providers on the following Sunday mornings:

HT2 Team D, under Margaret Nichols, on July 2, 9, 16 and 23; HT2 Team A, under Jesse Koennecke, on July 30 and August 6 and 13; and HT2 Team B, under Russ Charif, for August 27.

### Hospitality Teams Welcome You

In 2014 we launched this community project as a way to both get jobs done on Sunday mornings and as a fun way to connect with and get to know other congregants.

Hospitality Teams at FUSIT have been a rousing success and continue to help change the atmosphere on Sunday mornings. This is the second year of our second generation of HTs. Team B, under Coordinator Russ Charif, is on duty 8/27-9/17. Team C, under Coordinator Helen Ann Yunis, then picks up the torch from 9/24-10/15.

If you have already actively participated on one of the four HTs, you know what this is all about. If you are new to the HT concept, I would urge you to give it a try. All you need to do to get started is send me an email or give me a call. I will be out of town 9/12-10/19, but will be able to respond to email.

Please contact me with any questions or comments. Thank you for your service to the congregation!

John Gaines, Overall HT Coordinator  
(607) 898-3943 or [jag222@cornell.edu](mailto:jag222@cornell.edu)

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

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



### Rev. Weis Community Office Hours

**Tuesdays 2-4 pm at  
CTB (College Town Bagels)  
on N. Aurora Street.**

Additional times to meet with Rev. Weis are available by making an appointment. Please email ([minister@uuithaca.org](mailto:minister@uuithaca.org)) or call (607) 218-4281 to make an appointment. *Fridays are her day off and, as such, she does not check email on Fridays.*

### Nametags

If you have misplaced your nametag, simply complete the form available on the table near the nametag cabinet on Sundays. The nametag will be waiting for you the next Sunday at the location you select. Please select one location where your nametag will be found, in whichever cabinet you place it. If you would like a pink triangle or rainbow ribbon affixed to your nametag, indicating your support for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities, you may indicate this on the nametag request form.

### 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.

### Pastoral Emergencies

*In case of a pastoral emergency (death or hospitalization), the Rev. Margaret Weis can be reached at 607-218-4281 (cell) if you need to speak with her.*

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

*Additionally, if you need a ride to any event at church, please contact either Pat or Margaret 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 Pat or Margaret to give them your name and contact information.*

#### Minister

Rev. Margaret Weis  
273-7521, ext. 22  
[minister@uuithaca.org](mailto:minister@uuithaca.org)

#### Religious Education

Ann Stephenson, Director,  
273-7521, ext. 23  
[drefusit@gmail.com](mailto:drefusit@gmail.com)  
Katey Kingra, RE Assistant  
[reassist@uuithaca.org](mailto:reassist@uuithaca.org)

#### Child Care Coordinator

Meggan Conklin  
[childcare@uuithaca.org](mailto:childcare@uuithaca.org)

#### Sexton

Sandy Soule, 272-4475

#### Bookkeeper

Lauren Pongoni  
[bookkeeper@uuithaca.org](mailto:bookkeeper@uuithaca.org)

#### Music Director

Stephanie Ortolano  
607-708-8088  
[fusitmusic@gmail.com](mailto:fusitmusic@gmail.com)

#### Adult Choir Director

Jennifer Lawrence Birnbaum,  
[fusitchoir@gmail.com](mailto:fusitchoir@gmail.com)

#### Care Team

-Pat Court  
[pgc1@cornell.edu](mailto:pgc1@cornell.edu) or 257-0942  
-Margaret Nichols  
[mmr1@cornell.edu](mailto:mmr1@cornell.edu) or 273-3772

#### Membership Coordinator

Beth Pallace, 273-7521, ext 24  
[memcoord@uuithaca.org](mailto:memcoord@uuithaca.org)

#### President, Board of Trustees

Laura Free  
[laurafree@me.com](mailto:laurafree@me.com) or 339-8332

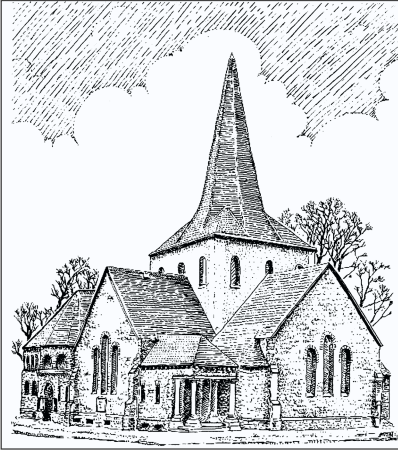
#### Congregational Administrator

Mark Pedersen, 273-7521 ext 21  
[cadmin@uuithaca.org](mailto:cadmin@uuithaca.org)

#### Administrative Assistant

Loretta Heimbuch, 273-7521  
ext 28, [adminasst@uuithaca.org](mailto:adminasst@uuithaca.org)

The First Unitarian Society of Ithaca  
306 North Aurora Street  
P.O. Box 6  
Ithaca, NY 14851-0006



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Visit our Website and get  
your newsletter:  
[www.uuithaca.org](http://www.uuithaca.org)

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### ***Help Needed to Provide Lunches for the Friendship Center***

We need three more volunteers to provide 15 bag lunches each to the Friendship Center on Tuesday, **October 3**, and four volunteers are needed for **November 7**. Lunches must contain a sandwich, a piece of soft fruit (no apples) and a cookie or other small dessert and be prepared within 24 hours of delivery to the Friendship Center at 531 State Street, Ithaca, between 9:30 and 11:30. Your expenses can be reimbursed by the Social Justice Council: keep track of what you spend and contact Martha Ferger at [marthaferger068@gmail.com](mailto:marthaferger068@gmail.com).

The Friendship Center is a safe supportive drop-in center run by Ithaca Rescue Mission that serves three free meals a week. Our congregation provides 60 bag lunches on the first Tuesday of every month. For more information, please contact Jackie Jablonski at [jackiejab@me.com](mailto:jackiejab@me.com).

### ***Our NEW WEBSITE is HERE!***

Thanks to a great deal of work by Gretchen Ryan we have our new website... it isn't complete and some of the links need to be "reset" but you should get a good idea of what it will look like when "finished" at: <https://unitarian.ithaca.ny.us/>  
Still to come: links for the calendar and ChurchDB database (work in progress!)

## **Everyone** is invited to the **Porchfest** on **September 24th!**

***Please plan to come with your  
entire family for fun, music and  
ice cream sundaes!***

First Unitarian Society of Ithaca has a central importance in the creation of the first ice cream sundae as noted in the VisitIthaca.com website. We have a rich history with connections to the Ithaca and Tompkins County community and our early years are intimately connected to Cornell University's founders.

We are excited to be celebrating our annual Sundae Sunday with the greater Ithaca community during Porchfest 2017. Our event will take place from noon to 2:00 pm in the parking lot between the Parish House and the office building at 310 N. Aurora Street. It will include our Ukulele players and the Better Weather String Band, performing on the porch, and ice cream sundaes of Purity ice cream.

## From the Social Justice Council

The Social Justice Council will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, **September 11**, at 6:00 pm in the Arch Room. Come to learn what our various action teams are doing, and participate in choosing the recipient of each month's "Sharing Sunday."

### Village at Ithaca Guest Speaker

On Wednesday, **September 13**, the SJC will be hosting a talk by Dr. Beverly Tatum at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. Dr. Tatum is the author of 'Why Are All The Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria: And Other Conversations About Race' and she will be speaking at Cornell's Sage Chapel earlier in the day. She hopes to connect with the greater Ithaca community by having a conversation focused on her 2003 book that was just updated.

### Study Circles on Race and Racism

From **September 26 through October 7**, from 7-8:30 pm in the Arch Room. For more information please contact Kirby Edmunds at [tfckirby@aol.com](mailto:tfckirby@aol.com).

### Eyewitness to Climate Change

On Wednesday, **September 27**, our Social Justice Council is hosting and co-sponsoring with the Interfaith Climate Action Network the exciting program "Eyewitness to Climate Change." Polar explorer Will Steger will speak and show photographs of thirty years of experience at the North Pole and in Antarctica by dog sled and kayak. The meeting will be at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.



### Care Team - September 17th

The Care Team will meet on Sunday, **September 17th**, from 12:15-1:15 in Room 122. Contact co-chairs Margaret Nichols at [mnr1@cornell.edu](mailto:mnr1@cornell.edu) or 273-3772 or Pat Court at [pgc1@cornell.edu](mailto:pgc1@cornell.edu) or 257-0942.

### Blood Drive - September 7

Fuel your community! At the Community Blood Drive on Wednesday, **September 7**, from 1-6 pm in the Parlor. Sponsored by the American Red Cross. Walk-ins welcome.

## Diners Club 2017: Come Dine with Us!

Diners Club is a wonderful way for adult members to get to know each other better while eating delicious food! As a Diners Club member, you participate in up to six small dish-to-pass dinners throughout the year. Dinners are held in members' homes with each participant bringing part of the meal.

On Sundays, **September 10th and 17th** you will be able to sign-up in the Parlor. You can also sign-up by contacting the coordinator Jane Koestler, at [j.e.koestler@gmail.com](mailto:j.e.koestler@gmail.com) or contact Mark Pedersen in the Church Office at 273-7521, ext. 21. The October dinner assignments will be mailed to members in **late September**. Hope you can join us!



### Board of Trustees September Meeting

The Board of Trustees will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, **September 12th**, at 6 pm in the Parlor. All interested persons are invited to attend.

### First Meeting of the Buildings and Grounds Committee September 10th

The Buildings and Grounds Committee will hold their first meeting of the church year on **September 10th** from 12-1 in Room 122. All are welcome to attend.

For more information please contact Sara Catterall, Chair, at [sara.catterall@gmail.com](mailto:sara.catterall@gmail.com) or 273-0191.

### Important: Parking

There are nineteen parking spaces available in the parking lot of the Thaler Building (310 N. Aurora St.) which are available to those attending this church and **ONLY ON SUNDAY MORNINGS**. We may use the eight spaces adjacent to the "office wing" (the old Parish House) and eleven spaces near Tioga Street west of the Thaler Building. Please do not park in the driveway area (even if you see parking spaces marked there) or the entrance area of the Thaler Building. Also, the parking meters in front of the Parish House on Aurora Street and the first one beside the church on Buffalo Street are reserved for people with disabilities. Please observe these reserved parking spaces.

### It's Never Too Soon to Sign Up for your Directory Photograph Appointment!

Yes, we thought it would be a great idea for everyone, including our new minister, the Rev. Margaret Weis, to have an up-to-date photo directory to better know each other. We have the following dates set aside for photo sittings:

**September 21-23 and October 16 & 17.** To sign up please use the link below:

<https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/y3plkzp4/>





## FUSIT Choir News

*I hope you've all had a wonderful summer full of green grass and peaches. Mine has been full of family and friends visiting from near and far, time by the lake, and musical endeavors. I spent four days at Smith College attending the Massachusetts ACDA conference and I have a giant stack of fabulous music to share with you in the coming year.*

### Rehearsals Beginning in September

We will begin rehearsing this season on Thursday, **September 7th** from 7:15-8:45 pm in the Annex.

#### FALL CHOIR DATES

**September 24**

**October 15**

**November 19**

**December 17**

**December 24** (Sage Chapel evening service)



### Justice Choir Forming Under the Direction of Jennifer Lawrence Birnbaum and Sean Linfors

Justice Choir Ithaca is forming for Ithacans to sing together, in joy or sorrow or rage. We will meet periodically to learn songs and share spirit and plans. We will assemble when the occasion arises, to stand together and sing in response to injustice here or elsewhere.

Our first meeting was on Saturday, August 26, but we expect Justice Choir will meet at least monthly, at a variety of times and places. We want to start singing together for our own spirit and to be ready to lead a song or two at a rally. Please join our email list at [justicechoirithaca@gmail.com](mailto:justicechoirithaca@gmail.com). Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/JusticeChoirIthaca/>

Justice Choir Ithaca intends to be a chapter choir of the organization in Minneapolis MN. <http://www.justicechoir.org/about.html>. Our leaders include Jennifer Lawrence Birnbaum, Choir Director of the First Unitarian Society; and Sean Linfors, Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education at Ithaca College. Other leaders will emerge as the group grows.

### Choral Workshop

We will be hosting the community choral workshop this year! Dr Sean Linfors (Asst Professor at Ithaca College and director of both the IC Chorus and Madrigal Ensemble) will be leading a workshop on Saturday, **September 23rd** from 10-12:30 (register between 9:30-10) in the FUSIT Annex.

### *Sounds of Singing: Extending Choral Traditions*

We are the musical products of our backgrounds and experiences, which provide rich resources for our music-making. Looking outside our own traditions can broaden these resources musically and culturally, even if we move outside our comfort zones. In this workshop, let's sing together, share some musical experiences, expand our palettes, and perhaps find insights in traditions new to us. We'll explore vocal techniques, ensemble practices, and a diverse repertoire of choral music.

FREE FOR FUSIT MEMBERS WHO PRE-REGISTER WITH JENNIFER - [fusitchoir@gmail.com](mailto:fusitchoir@gmail.com), otherwise it's \$20/person

- Jennifer Lawrence Birnbaum, Adult Choir Director

## Men's Group

We will be meeting at Unirondack and the first meeting in Ithaca this fall will be the fourth Monday in **September**, on the **25th**. All those who identify as male are invited to join us 5:30 - 7:30 pm in the Parlor to share stories and eat some pizza. Newcomers welcome. Contact David Salomon, ([dsalomon01@gmail.com](mailto:dsalomon01@gmail.com)) or Jens Wennberg ([jens207@gmail.com](mailto:jens207@gmail.com)) for more information.

### Soul Matters Material for September on "Welcome"

Our September worship theme at First Unitarian Society of Ithaca is Welcome. 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-Welcome>

### Did you know...

...that First Unitarian Society of Ithaca has a Facebook page, where you can find out about the exciting events happening in our congregation, see pictures of past events and connect with other area UUs. Like our page at <https://www.facebook.com/FUSofI/>.

### Unirondack Labor Day Camp

This is an intergenerational event that has become a beloved tradition in our congregation. Campfires, crafts, workshops, canoes, nature walks, starry nights, enriching conversations, and new friendships.

Consider attending the 2018 camp, where Ithaca UUs of all ages head to this Unitarian camp in the Adirondacks to enjoy working and playing together in a beautiful setting. This year there are over 100 folks registered to attend!

*If you have questions or would like to learn more about this wonderful event, please contact Wendy Salomon at [wendysalomon15@gmail.com](mailto:wendysalomon15@gmail.com)*