



ITHACA

UU Connections

2017/18 Issue No. 3

November 2017

Sunday Celebrations 10:30 am

— **November 5 “Abundance”**

-Rev. Dr. Christopher House

Special music by Unitarian Universalist

Ukelele Union & Friends

— **November 12 “Everyday Abundance”**

-Speaker Magdalen Lindeberg

How can we learn to be more mindful of the everyday abundance in our lives?

Special music by Burns and Kristy

— **November 19 “Abundant Love”**

-Rev. Margaret Weis

Join us for an intergenerational service with special music from the FUSIT Choir. We will reflect on the ways we see love abound in our relationships, communities, and efforts to build the beloved community. This is a service of gratitude you won't want to miss!

Special music by FUSIT Choir

— **November 26 “Springing Up in Us”**

-Rev. Margaret Weis

What is it that sustains you in moments when time seems short, but the demands of life feel full? How do we find our nourishment when the sense of overwhelm and need feel abundant? Join us as we reflect on this idea in word, silence and song.

Special music by Elizabeth Nelson, oboe

Our Mission

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

Ministerial Musings

*Be ours a religion which, like sunshine, goes everywhere;
its temple, all space;
its shrine, the good heart;
its creed, all truth;
its ritual, works of love;
its profession of faith, divine living. ~Theodore Parker*

These words hang at the entrance to our Sanctuary (the corner entrance), and are read each week by many who find themselves in our doors.

I love these words. They speak to the potential for love and a life of service and goodwill to ripple out into our lives and our communities. They call us to more than simply taking a few hours each Sunday for reflection and worship. They call us to live out those values all week and everyday.

This takes courage. It is simple to sit and think about what we believe, or how things should be. It is harder to live our lives according to those beliefs and hopes for a better community and world.

I hope you have been thinking about how you live a life of courage and live a life that is consistent with your values. The questions and ideas found in the Possible Ponderings (in this newsletter and also in the weekly order of service) are great ways to reflect!

One of the ways I've been bringing our UU faith out into the world is through my Community Office Hours. These happen on **Tuesdays from 2-4pm at Collegetown Bagels on N. Aurora** (check Facebook or call the office before heading in, in case I'm not there that day).

Community Office Hours are a chance for you to stop in for a check in on how your week is going, ask questions about the congregation or Unitarian Universalism, or just take a moment to reflect on something you've been thinking about. These hours are an informal way to connect with me and others who might stop in.

As always, if you would like to discuss a more personal concern, I am available by appointment for meetings in my office.

Hope to see you there!

Take good care,
Rev. Margaret

Please note that I will not be holding Community Office Hours on Tuesday, November 7th.

Daylight Saving
Time Ends
November 5

Religious Exploration News

Everyone is welcome!
Melting Pot Soup
November 19
12:15-1:30 in the Annex
Bring a bread to share

Two Part Series on Climate Change in New York

with Mark Wysocki

Wednesdays, **November 1 and 8,**
7-9 in the Parlor

Join Religious Exploration and Adult Forum for a two part series on climate change in New York. Mark Wysocki is an applied meteorological specialist at Cornell's Earth and Atmospheric Sciences department. How do we predict the weather and what does that have to do with climate change? In part 1 Mark will introduce weather data and its role in determining the current climate of a region and its role in predicting the future climate. In part 2 Mark will explore how climate change will impact the Northeast and New York.

Picking and Scrapping to Get By:

The Economy Supporting Rural Outsider Artists

with Dr. Constance Sullivan-Blum
Wednesday, **November 15,**
7-9 in the Parlor

Enjoy a peek into the gray market of our local picking and scrapping economy. With engaging anecdotes and fascinating pictures of how the rural poor are reusing and recycling our refuse.

Dr. Sullivan-Blum is a Cultural Anthropologist and the Folklorist at The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes.

Bonsai: Maximizing the Potential of the Tree and the Artist

Wednesday, **November 29,**
7-9 pm in the Parlor

A general introduction to the art and craft of creating bonsai trees, with photos, videos, and physical bonsai created by local bonsaiists. Brian Heltsley, longtime FUSIT member and currently President of the Finger Lakes Bonsai Society, will discuss the horticultural and artistic challenges of bonsai.

For information about Religious Exploration, 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@unithaca.org.

Greetings Friends!

I find myself thoughtful these days. Slowly, the warmth of Autumn is giving way to the meditative tans and grays of sleeping trees and fields. In this Season of Abundance, which is our theme for the month, it is a time for reflection; to think about the many blessings of our lives, the gratitude we feel, and to ask ourselves - are we living in Abundance?

Not, do we have enough, or could we have more - but are we cultivating a spacious, abundant mind? Do we move through the world with the sureness of plenty, or saddled with the scarcity mentality of 'not enough' that we apply to so many things; our finances, our time and energy, our own beings?

*For, wise teachers tell us, the world is as abundant as we allow it to be. It's all about perspective. As we contemplate that, and consider its implications - a wonderful way to practice Abundance it is by sharing with others. It has been a trying fall for many - as storms and fires have rendered thousands homeless. (Look for our coming Adult Forum Series presentations on Climate Change, Wednesdays, **November 1st and 8th**, to hear more about the region's rapidly shifting weather patterns.) Sharing is sorely needed in our world right now.*

*In a very real way, however, the need for greatness of spirit is closer to home than you may think. Food insecurity and hunger are a reality in Tompkins County and surrounding areas - and our community looks to our Abundant hearts to reach out, especially now. A lovely opportunity to do this will be featured in RE this month, as our 9-12 year old group collects food for local food pantries. They will be collecting in services between the **November 19th and Christmas Eve**, but a basket is always available for food donations in the Garden entrance as well!*

Asking of ourselves - 'Are there other ways we can address the issue of local hunger in an ongoing way?' is part of our larger conversation with children this month, and may spawn an intergenerational project we hope all will find inspiring!

Our Community has found other inspiration too - in its wealth of Abundant skills and interests! The UU Skill Bank is ready to start paying dividends - as members prepare to share their talents teaching others! Keep in touch through Facebook and the Website for news about upcoming Learnshops on Bonsai making as a Spiritual practice, Jewelry making and Peanut Brittle!! An Abundance of fun will be had by all who attend!

*And, speaking of attending, a planning meeting for the February Guatemala Service Learning trip is scheduled for **November 15th** at 6:00. We are delighted to invite interested FUSIT members, friends and members of other local congregations to come along on our Service Learning trip to San Lucas Tolimán, Guatemala this **February 18-25!** We'd love to have you along!*

*The recent October informational session was an introduction to the mission and preliminary conversation about travel options, utilizing the 'Friends of San Lucas' website, and video material from YouTube. I would encourage those interested to explore them. The coming November planning meeting will involve logistics and travel details for those ready to commit to the trip (preferably, commitments should be made by **December 1st**, but definitely by **December 15th** at the latest). There will be some folks traveling independently, and others booking as a group. Our group should max out at 20 total. All in-country travel will be provided by the mission. Hope to see you **November 15th** at 6 pm in the FUSIT Arch Room!*

With Warmest Wishes for an Abundant November,
-Ann Stephenson, Director of Religious Exploration

Joys and Sorrows

Our thoughts are with Camila Faraday as she recovers at home from knee replacement surgery. Cards and calls would be appreciated.

Care Team Looking for New Members

Whether you have time for an occasional task or a long-term commitment, please consider helping to provide pastoral care and support to congregation members who are going through challenging times. Sunday, **November 19**, from 12:15-1:15 in Room 122. Co-chairs Margaret Nichols, mnr1@cornell.edu or 273-3772 or Pat Court, pgc1@cornell.edu or 257-0942.



Interested in Having Thanksgiving Dinner at the Church?

We'd like to schedule a Thanksgiving dinner at the church on **November 23rd**, but we need someone to help coordinate the event. If you'd like to help plan this event or if you'd like to attend please contact Mark Pedersen at cadmin@uuithaca.org or 273-7521, ext. 21.

UUUU & Friends

Come join the music making on Sunday, **November 5**, at 10:15 in the Sanctuary. Singers of all ages are welcome. We'll learn a new song together and then sing it for the congregation during the service. UUUU & Friends is going to happen the first Sunday of each month. Contact Music Director, Stephanie Ortolano, at fusitmusic@gmail.com.

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 or 257-0942, or Margaret Nichols at mnr1@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.

Soul Matters Material for November on "Abundance"

Our November worship theme at First Unitarian Society of Ithaca is Abundance. 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-Abundance>

Thanks to...

...HT2 Team C, the Collaborative Comets, under Coordinator Helen Ann Yunis, for greeting, ushering, snack providing, coffee prepping and cleaning up at the Sunday services on September 24, and October 1, 8 and 15.

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

For more information about Hospitality Teams, please contact John Gaines, Overall HT Coordinator at (607) 898-3943 898-3943 or jag222@cornell.edu.

Choir News

Upcoming Thursday rehearsals

November 2 - regular rehearsal in Annex
November 9 - regular rehearsal in Annex
November 16 - regular rehearsal in Annex/
Sanctuary
November 23 - No Rehearsal - Thanksgiving
November 30 - regular rehearsal in Annex
December 7 - regular rehearsal in Annex
December 14 - regular rehearsal in Annex/
Sanctuary
December 21 - regular rehearsal in Annex

Upcoming Choir Sundays

November 19
December 17
December 24 (Sage Chapel evening service)

Special Holiday Choir Weekend Rehearsals

Saturday, **December 2nd** - 10:30 am - Annex
Saturday, **December 10th** - 12:15 - Sanctuary
Sunday, **December 17th** - 12:15 - Annex
Saturday, **December 23rd** - 10:30 am - Annex

Please contact Jennifer Lawrence Birnbaum at FUSITCHOIR@gmail.com if you are interested in joining the holiday choir for either December 17th (Hanukkah songs) or Christmas Eve.

Minister
Rev. Margaret Weis
273-7521, ext. 22
minister@uuithaca.org

Religious Exploration
Ann Stephenson, Director,
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Sexton
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Bookkeeper
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fusitmusic@gmail.com

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pgc1@cornell.edu or 257-0942
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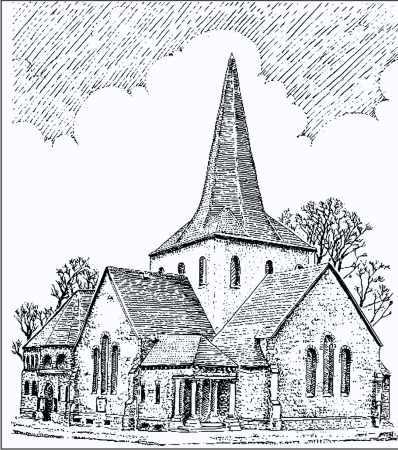
President, Board of Trustees
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Congregational Administrator
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Loretta Heimbuch, 273-7521
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First Unitarian is a UUA-recognized (LGBTQ) Welcoming Congregation

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

Board of Trustees November Meeting

The Board of Trustees will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, **November 14th**, at 6 pm in the Parlor. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Women's Circle

The Women's Circle will next meet on Sunday, **November 26**, at 12 noon to 1:30 pm in the Arch Room. All those who identify as women are welcome. Feel free to join any or all Circles and invite others. We are seeking to find a place of support around issues specific to women. Women's Circle will be ongoing every 4th Sunday of the month. If you have questions please contact Nancy Miller at ananda7733@gmail.com.

Men's Group

The Men's Group will be meeting on the fourth Monday in **November**, on the **27th**. All those who identify as male are invited to join us 5:30 - 7:30 pm in the Arch Room to share stories and eat some pizza. Newcomers welcome. Contact David Salomon, (dsalomon01@gmail.com) or Jens Wennberg (jens207@gmail.com) for more information.

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/>.

From Buildings and Grounds Team



The project to replace the protective glazing on the stained glass windows is under way! The new frames have been installed, and the windows themselves should arrive in a few weeks.

Thank you to Mary Kirkpatrick for her work diagnosing and repairing some significant foundation leaks on the old stone church, to Daphne Jameson and Keith Perry for their garden work, and to Leah O'Connor for her ongoing work caring for the plants in the Sanctuary.

The next Buildings and Grounds meeting will be Sunday, **November 5**, 12-1 (one hour!) in room 122. The Buildings and Grounds Team meets on the first Sunday of odd-numbered months. All are welcome.

For more information please contact Sara Catterall at sara.catterall@gmail.com or 273-0191.



Newcomers Brunch

Newcomers- Are you new to the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca (FUSIT)? Thinking about how you can get more connected?

We would like to invite all newcomers to a special event devoted to helping you CONNECT and give you a chance to chat with others who are new to FUSIT. Please join us for NEWCOMERS BRUNCH on Sunday, **November 5** from 12-1:30 in the Annex after Coffee Hour. This event is designed to provide delicious food and meaningful conversations. Come relax and learn something new about yourself and your "FUSIT" community.

Please RSVP at the Welcome Table or by emailing memcoord@unitihaca.org- See you there!

Exploring Unitarian Universalism

You are invited to come 'Explore Unitarian Universalism' with Rev. Margaret Weis on Sunday, **November 26**, from 12 -2:30 pm! Please join us for an opportunity to share your personal journey in spirituality. Participants are asked to bring something that symbolizes your spiritual journey and they will get a chance to ask questions. We will also provide a historical framework of the origins of Unitarian Universalism.

Please RSVP at the Welcome Table or by emailing memcoord@unitihaca.org

Upcoming Dates

*Introduction to UU:
December 17, January 14*

*Exploring UU:
January 7, February 18*

Blood Drive - November 7

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

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.

Rev. Weis Community Office Hours

Tuesdays 2-4 pm at CTB (Collegetown Bagels) on N.Aurora Street.

Additional times to meet with Rev. Weis are available by making an appointment. Please email (minister@unitihaca.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.

Office: 607-273-7521 ext. 22, Cell: 607-218-4281

***There will also be an opportunity to meet Rev. Weis at the church on November 18 from 2-4 in the Parlor.**

From the Social Justice Council

The Social Justice Council will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, **November 13**, 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."

At it's October meeting, the Social Justice Council chose the Angel Fund of the Cancer Resource Center as the recipient for Sunday, **November 26th's** offering. This fund is used to provide direct cash assistance to individuals with cancer in our community who have a specific and immediate financial need.

Upcoming Titles and Dates for Book Discussion Group

November 5: *Americanah*, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

December 1: *Lab Girl*, by Hope Jahren

January 5: *A Long Way Home*, by Saroo Brierley

February 2: *Fall Down 7 Times Get up 8*, by Naoki Higashida

March 2: *The Not-Quite States of America*, by Doug Mack

The group meets on the first Friday of the month at 12:30 pm in the Library (upstairs in Parish House). For more information please contact Jennifer Streid-Mullen at Streidmull@gmail.com or 351-3087.



Possible Ponderings

Our monthly theme is ABUNDANCE. Possible Ponderings is an offering of ways you might consider engaging more deeply with the theme or reflecting on the ways the idea of ABUNDANCE shows up in your life. These will also be printed in the order of service each week.

November 5-11: What would happen if you decided that abundance was lying around waiting for you to notice it, rather than something you earn or win?

November 12-18: Does time no longer feel abundant? Is that being forced on you? Or might you have a choice?

November 19-25: Are you jealous of others' abundance? Have you ever considered the possibility that those very same folks are jealous of yours?

November 26-December 2: Do you love that which is plentiful or that which is scarce?



Service Auction and Hors d'Oeuvres Saturday, November 11

Please join us for our newly revamped Service Auction which will be a **grand evening out** (with free child care) so that you can **socialize, eat** delicious hors d'oeuvres, **enjoy** a beverage of your choice and then **bid** on fantastic items.

LIVE MUSIC
Molly MacMillan
(piano) and Doug
Robinson (bass)
Duo

There will be delicious hors d'oeuvres and live music from 5:30 to 7:00 pm while you look over the catalog and then the **live auction begins at 7:00**. As a departure from prior years we will be suggesting that any item or service offered should be no less than \$20, so now is the time to part with those very special treasures you've been safeguarding or feel free to offer your services, vacation home, and delicious dinners. Due to the new venue and live music we are planning on only two small tables for Silent Auction items, which will also have starting bids of no less than \$20.

Please turn in your donation form at the Auction Table in the Parlor after Sunday service, online at <http://www.togetherauction.com/uuihaca> (where you can see what else has been donated so far!) or at the church office. Tickets for hors d'oeuvres are \$10 each and can be purchased at the Auction Table on Sundays in the Parlor, in the church office during the week, or you can reserve your spot by calling Mark Pedersen at the church office at 273-7521, ext. 21, and then pay for the tickets at the door.

Questions: Contact Amelia Habicht at meels66@gmail.com, or 257-5028, or Emily Hopkins at emilyshopkins@yahoo.com or 280-5561. For childcare, please email Meggan Conklin at childcare@uuihaca.org



Order Form for Poinsettias

This year we are again offering an opportunity to honor someone's memory with a poinsettia for our holiday decorations. To contribute a poinsettia please fill out this form and return to the church office or place in the offering plate on Sunday. A list of individuals honored in this way will be listed in the order of service on **December 3, 2017**.

Your Name _____

In Honor Of _____

In Memory Of _____

***Please check only one:

I would like someone to distribute this poinsettia to a person who could appreciate it _____

I will pick up this poinsettia after the service on **December 24th** _____

The cost is \$10.00 each. Please enclose your payment with this form and return by Wednesday, **November 29**