



ITHACA

UUU Connections

2017/18 Issue No. 8

April 2018

Sunday Celebrations 10:30 am

April 1 "Like Streams to a River: An Easter Service"

-Rev. Margaret Weis

Join us for this intergenerational service where we will celebrate the emergence of spring and of new hope for our community and the world.

Special music by UU Ukulele Union and friends

April 8 "Like Streams to a River: Direct Experience of Transcendent Wonder"

-Rev. Margaret Weis

Crossing cultural borders is one of the many ways we learn more deeply about ourselves and our world. Join us for this service where we will hear reflections about border crossings, including the recent service learning trip that brought 15 of our members to Guatemala.

Special music by VOICES Multicultural Choir

April 15 "Emergent Possibilities: An Installation Service"

-Rev. Lee Bluemel

An installation is a ritual to commemorate the new shared ministry between a minister and a congregation. Join us for this milestone service in the life of the congregation!

Special music by First Unitarian Choir

April 22 "Like Streams to a River: Earth-Centered Teachings"

-Rev. Margaret Weis

As we honor and celebrate the ways the earth nourishes, supports, and fuels our lives we will reflect together on our shared responsibility to care well for it. Join us for this Earth Day service where we will explore our UU source of earth-centered teachings.

Special music by Burns and Kristy

April 29 "Finding Your Voice"

-Sally Rogers

Join guest musician and composer Sally Rogers in an interactive, intergenerational service that will have everyone singing!

Special music by Sally Rogers and Claudia Schmidt

Ministerial Musings

I'm looking for a religion that first and foremost welcomes me as I am, a busy, flawed, often bewildered person who is doing her best in a complicated world.

~Rev. Jane Rzepka

I'd imagine each of you, like Rev. Rzepka describes above, is doing your best and you are welcome here. Each of you is welcome to bring your whole selves – the good parts and the not-so-good parts. And, in this community, we practice being human in a complicated world.

Part of that practicing to be human means learning how to be in community with one another. There will be times we will fail one another, and this community. There will be times when we, as individuals, will lose sight of the goals and hopes of the congregation, and need to be reminded of our bond to one another. In this process, it is important that we speak openly, and be gracious, with one another.

On April 15th we will have an installation service at First Unitarian. Some folks think this event is about me and my ministry. But it is so much more than that. The installation service is about all of us and our shared ministry. The installation is a formal covenanting between me, as your minister, and you, as the congregation that called me, and our goals and hopes for our ministry together.

We will covenant together with knowledge that, first and foremost, we are part of a faith tradition that welcomes each of us just as we are. We will do so with knowledge that we will, at times, disappoint one another. We will do so with the promise to keep showing up in our shared ministry, even when hard things happen.

The installation is an event for this congregation, this community, and our greater UU movement. I hope you'll be there! Together, let's celebrate our emerging shared ministry!

Oh, and there will be cake!

See you on Sunday,
Rev. Margaret

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

Lifespan Religious Exploration News

For information about Lifespan Religious Exploration, please contact DLRE 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@uuithaca.org.

Adult Forum "Food Inc" Movie

Wednesday, April 4, 7-9:00 pm, Parlor

An exploration of the impact of agribusiness on our food systems, and its implications for food democracy; discussion following.

Adult Learnshop Food Stories: Writing and Sharing Monday, April 16, 2-4:00 pm, Parlor

Led by Zee Zabava, 2017-2018 Tompkins County Poet Laureate! Share your food related memories in a safe, supporting, stimulating environment - be they comic, tragic or somewhere in between. Everyone has family food stories, whichever you choose will be just right. Join us and share yours!

Contact: DREfusit@gmail.com with questions or if you are interested in facilitating a 'learnshop' or want to give a lecture!

Mark Your Calendar

Ithaca Festival Parade and Exhibit Booth

June 1 & 2

End of Year Service and Dish-to-Pass Picnic at Stewart Park

June 10, 10:30-1:30 pm

This Spring, Focus on Adult RE at First Unitarian!! Introducing our new Adult RE Newsletter ~ FUSIT FOCUS!

As Unitarians, we celebrate the diversity of beliefs and traditions in our vibrant community; in fact, it is through our respect for these differences, and our shared principles, which we draw our dynamism and strength!

Within that framework, our **Lifespan Religious Exploration Program** seeks to offer plentiful opportunities for all adults to explore issues together in a non-judgmental environment of mutual respect and acceptance, as we seek to find ways to build a better world. In concert with our congregational mission to Connect, Inspire and Engage the world - RE will be screening films, inviting presenters and holding discussions around topics pertinent to our well-being as a Society, and to our global community.

Quarterly, we will select a topic central to our goals as the '**focus**' of much of our adult programming. Our new monthly RE newsletter - Focus- will be your guide to these programs. We invite you to come explore with us!

FUSIT's FOCUS for Spring: Food Democracy

Healthy food should be a basic Human Right. How can we take action in our own lives and communities to make this possible? Explore sustainable ways to produce food that protect our environment, our health and the global community. Find out how you can support local farmers and nourish your family by taking simple steps to address our broken food systems. Check our schedule of events at the Adult RE table in the Parlor, online at our website and Facebook for scheduled events. Want to know what's going on? Stay connected, or send a message, ask questions or get directions... Reach out to others about topics that interest you. Get involved in RE on: facebook.com/groups/FUSITRE or our Website: uuithaca.org

We Need You!

Want to be a bigger part of making Adult programming happen? Perhaps you, or someone you know has a particular area of expertise, or skill to share. Speak to our community by offering an Adult Forum presentation, or offer a 3 or 4 session Learnshop! RE is a whole lot more than Sunday School. We also have important volunteer positions available to support our adult programming as well. Currently, we are seeking a outgoing and engaged individual to serve in this key position:

Adult Forum/Learnshop Coordinator Needed

The FUSIT Religious Exploration Adult Forum/Learnshop coordinator will act as one of the congregational points of contact for individuals interested in Adult RE Programs. Working closely with DRE and RE Team the AFLC will support and host Adult Forum Lectures (Wednesday evenings or Sunday mornings), and occasional Learnshop Events, including welcoming guests and closing up following programs. They may also support AF and Learnshop presenters and participants by assisting in gathering materials for the program as needed. Acts as a sounding board for congregational concerns and requests regarding Adult RE Programming. Reports to the RE Team alternating months or as necessary.

We hope to see you soon at one of our exciting programs, films or classes - coming up this Spring!! We hope you get involved! And, keep your eye on our Children's Program table as well, as we introduce next years curriculum on Earth Day. New volunteer RE teachers will be joining teams to work next year with our young people, starting the month of May, so be certain to come see what's planned!! The First UU RE adventure starts with "YOU"!

Joy and Sorrows

The Salomon family asks that you please hold their 19 year old son, Ben, in the light. Ben's Hodgkins Lymphoma has returned. He is currently undergoing an aggressive second round of treatment, and Wendy and David ask that you send strength his way for his long and difficult journey ahead.

Our condolences go out to the friends and family of Barbara Pardee who died at Kendal on March 11th. A memorial service will be held at Kendal on May 5th at 2 pm. Condolence cards may be sent to her son, Scott Pardee, at 415 Second St., Ithaca, NY 14850.

Our condolences go out to the friends and family of Sylvia Rapp, a former member who died on February 17 in Arlington, TX.

April Book Discussion Group

On Friday, **April 6**, the book group will meet at 12:30 pm, in the Library, to discuss *French or Foe?* by Polly Platt. We'll discuss how to deal with other foreign cultures, not just the French. For more information please contact Jennifer Streid-Mullen at streidmull@gmail.com or 351-3087.

From the Social Justice Council

The Social Justice Council will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, **April 9**, at 5:30 pm in Room 122. Come to learn what our various action teams are doing, and participate in choosing the recipient of each month's "Sharing Sunday."

February Shared Plate Offering

Thanks to your generosity, on February 25, \$555 was given to the Multicultural Resource Center (MRC) in Ithaca, which celebrated its 30th Anniversary last year. The organization engages in cultural and systemic transformation by building with communities to eliminate barriers to racial justice, cultural dignity, equity and inclusion, and indigenous rights.

For more information go to:

<http://multiculturalresourcecenter.org>

Board of Trustees April Meeting

The Board of Trustees will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, **April 10**, at 6 pm in the Parlor. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Welcome New Members

Please give a warm welcome to Elton and Kathy Hall, Brenda and George Golden, Sharon Costianes, Joanne Farbman, Michelle Menter, Mike Mann, Molly Robbins and Tony Maranca, who signed the membership book at the New Member Ceremony on March 11th.

Thanks to...

...HT2 Team A, under Margaret Nichols for greeting, ushering, snack providing, coffee prepping and cleaning up after the Sunday services on February 18 and 25 and on March 4. Thanks to HT2 Team A, Jesse Koennecke, for taking on these responsibilities on March 11.

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

For more information about Hospitality Teams, please come to the Welcome Information Table on Sunday or get in touch with John Gaines, HT Overall Coordinator, at (607) 898-3943 or at jag222@cornell.edu.

Announcement

First Unitarian's Annual Meeting Wednesday, May 30

Important Reminder to Team Leaders:
*Please send your reports to Loretta Heimbuch by **May 1st** in order to be included in the Annual Report.*

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.

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

*Lifespan Religious Exploration
Ann Stephenson, Director,
273-7521, ext. 23
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*Child Care Coordinator
Meggan Conklin
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*Sexton
Sandy Soule, 272-4475*

*Bookkeeper
Lauren Ponzoni
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*Music Director
Stephanie Ortolano
607-708-8088
jusitmusic@gmail.com*

*Adult Choir Director
Jennifer Lawrence Birnbaum,
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*Care Team
-Pat Court
pgc1@cornell.edu or 257-0942
-Margaret Nichols
mnr1@cornell.edu or 273-3772*

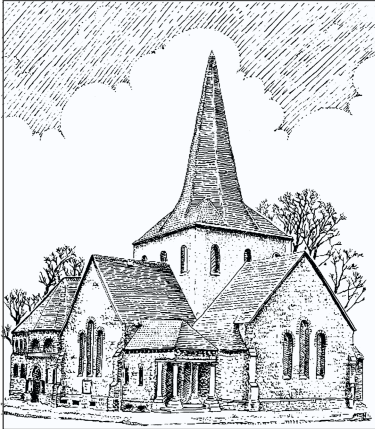
*Community Engagement and
Outreach Coordinator
Beth Pallace, 273-7521, ext 24
memcoord@uuiithaca.org*

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

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

*Administrative Assistant
Loretta Heimbuch, 273-7521
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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

First Unitarian Choir News

Come join choir! We rehearse on Thursday evenings and you can join for a month, a semester or the whole year. If you would like to join in, please contact Jennifer Lawrence Birnbaum at fusitchoir@gmail.com for more information. Upcoming Choir Sundays are **April 15th** and **May 20th**.

Soul Matters Material for April on “Emergence”

Our April worship theme at First Unitarian Society of Ithaca is Emergence. This month’s packet includes a few short readings, spiritual exercises, and discussion questions for you to consider. Here is the link:

<https://tinyurl.com/FUSIT-Emergence>

Women's Circle

The Women's Circle will next meet on Sunday, **April 29** (a change from the usual 4th Sunday of the month), 12 noon to 1:30 pm in the Library. 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. If you have questions please contact Nancy Miller at ananda7733@gmail.com or Wendy Salomon wendysalomon15@gmail.com.

Men's Group

The Men's Group meeting for April will be **April 30**. 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.

Please contact David Salomon (dsalomon01@gmail.com), Jens Wennberg (jens207@gmail.com) or Mark Piechota (markpiechota45@gmail.com) for more information.

Save the date: Spring Cleaning has been moved to Saturday April 7 from 9-12!

In order to prepare for the installation of Reverend Margaret Weis on Sunday **April 15**, we will be holding our congregation's annual Spring Cleaning on Saturday **April 7** from 9 am to noon! Come help us spruce up the place for this wonderful occasion! Weather permitting, there will be tasks inside and out, for all abilities and ages, and a pizza lunch will be provided at noon. Contact Sara Catterall at sara.catterall@gmail.com or 273-0191 with any questions, or suggestions for jobs that need to be done.

Did you know...

The First Unitarian Society is on social media? You can find out about events happening in our congregation, see pictures of past events and connect with other UUs.

*Like and follow us on Facebook,
<https://www.facebook.com/FUSofI/>
Instagram and Twitter,
[@IthacaUUs](https://twitter.com/IthacaUUs)*

"Babies First" Spring Bake Sale

April 29 - during coffee hour

The proceeds from our bake sales help provide children with car seats, cribs, strollers and other large items. We work with many agencies in Tompkins County to reach out to these low income families. We are the major program in Tompkins County that provides this service. Please support our program by purchasing a delicious treat of two.



All Bakers Needed!

If you would like to donate any jam, jelly, pickle, chutney, candy or baked item for the sale, please contact Jane McArthur at 216-2151 and be added to the list of bakers. You can drop off your goodies in the kitchen before the service on the **29th**. Thank you!

From the Care Team

Due to the Installation Service on April 15, the next Care Team meeting will be held on Sunday, May 20, from 12:15-1:15 in Room 122. Co-chairs Margaret Nichols, mnr1@cornell.edu or 273-3772 and Pat Court, pgc1@cornell.edu or 257-0942.

Flower Distribution

For the April 1st service the Sanctuary was filled with spring flowers that were given in memory or in honor of loved ones by congregation members. We thank the many people who helped distribute these flowers to a shut-in or an ill member of the church and who shared the love and the beauty of the season. We do this twice a year; usually around the end-of-year holiday time and at the beginning of spring.

Weekly Food Collection

Springtime weather doesn't eliminate hunger in our community. Remember to bring a box or can of food each Sunday. Drop off your nonperishable items in one of the baskets found in the Garden Entrance or the Corner (Narthex) Entrance, and we will deliver them to the local food pantry. Thank you so much!

A New Healing Group is Forming

This is an opportunity for those of us who are beginning to heal or continuing to heal from a physical illness, surgery, or injury to meet together for mutual support. We will discuss our experiences and share our healing practices. For more information contact Jennifer Streid-Mullen streidmull@gmail.com or Carol Nickerson carolnickerson@yahoo.com.

Last Art Exhibit for the Season

Cayuga Nature Photographers will hold its annual exhibition in the Parlor **March 29 through May 31**. CNP was founded in 1992 to promote photography of the Finger Lakes region to share the beauty of the area with its members and the community. All photographers with an interest in nature and landscape photography--amateur or professional--are welcome to join. More information will be available at the exhibition. This will be the last Parlor exhibition of the 2017-18 art season.

Help Needed to Provide Lunches for the Friendship Center

We need three more volunteers for **May 1** to provide 15 bag lunches each to the Friendship Center.

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 am.

Your expenses can be reimbursed by the Social Justice Council: keep track of what you spend and contact Jackie Jablonski at jackiejab@me.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.

Possible Ponderings

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

April 1-7: Has worry become your tomb?

April 8-14: Is one well-crafted and comfortable life what you really want? Was there a time when you planned on experiencing many lives in this one lifetime you've been given?

April 15-21: What if Life isn't trying to get us to transform into something new or better? What if it simply wants us to emerge into the awareness that we are already enough?

April 22 -28: What if we become beautiful only by helping others find their beauty?

April 29 - May 4: What if we become free only by helping others find their freedom?

**Installation Service for Rev. Margaret Weis
Sunday, April 15, 2018**

10:30 am with a reception at noon

An installation is a ceremony that formalizes the commitment between a settled minister and the congregation they serve. This most joyful and important event for a congregation occurs within the first year of a minister being settled. We called Rev. Margaret Weis to be our settled minister on April 30, 2017, and she began her ministry here in August. This installation service celebrates the start of her ministry with us and our shared ministry, working to live out our mission and vision.

UUA General Assembly 2018

June 20-24

Kansas City, Missouri

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend on behalf of the congregation and each congregation has a certain number of voting delegates who are also members of their congregations. If you are a voting member and wish to be a delegate, please speak with a Board member.

ALSO! Rev. Margaret will be participating in the Service of the Living Tradition as she will be recognized as having attained Final Fellowship with the UUA (this is similar to tenure in university)! And come hold the FUST banner at the opening ceremonies! For more information: www.uua.org

Do you enjoy the Summer Services?

You can be part of the team that will bring Summer Services to the Parlor this year. Join us to plan, produce, and/or present. Your enthusiasm, great ideas, and energy will be appreciated by all. For more information, contact Carol Nickerson at carolnickerson@yahoo.com or phone: 589-6120.

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.

Feel our Momentum, Fuel our Mission

Were you there when we danced our pledges and offerings down the aisle on that memorable Sunday in March? Thank you to all who made Pledge Sunday such a success—the choir, the drummers, the musicians, the dancers, Nancy Spero and the Rosebud Ramblers, the refreshment crew, the clean-up crew, and Reverend Weis, who challenged us to give joyously. What fun! Our Pledge Campaign's momentum is truly fueling our mission.

On pledge Sunday 45 of us made pledges totaling more than \$80,000. Added to our early pledges, by mid-March we had 81 pledges totaling \$189,418. That is the momentum we need to reach our goal of 225 pledges and \$325,000. Thank you to all who were able to increase your pledge this year. On average, people have increased their annual pledge by almost 10%.

Why are pledges of support so important and why do we need them now? Annual pledges help us plan for the year ahead. The board will create next year's budget based on our expected revenue. The majority of our society's income comes from our annual gifts. The budget will be prepared in April and presented to the congregation at the annual meeting in May. How much we can plan to do next year depends on the success of our pledge drive this spring.

If you have already made your pledge, thank you! If not, there is still time. Our momentum depends on you. Mail in your pledge card, bring it to church on Sunday or pick up one there, or pledge on line at our website: <https://unitarian.ithaca.ny.us/index.php/connection/donate/>

You can pay your pledge weekly, monthly or all at once over the next year. If you have questions about how to pledge or how much to give, contact David Salomon at dsalomon01@gmail.com or any Stewardship Team member.

Rev. Weis will not be holding community office hours until further notice. A regular time and day will be established at a later date.

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

