



ITHACA

UUU Connections

2017/18 Issue No. 10

June 2018

Sunday Celebrations

— June 3 “Blessed Refractions”

-Rev. Margaret Weis

Each of us has a unique way of being in the world and our diversity helps to enrich and enliven our community. In this PRIDE-inspired service we will celebrate the ways we each live into our authentic selves and how we can encourage others to do so as well.

Special music by Noam Ginsparg and Maya Johnson, strings

— June 10 “Transformative Blessing”

Join us for the annual Flower Communion ceremony and help us celebrate the power and beauty of community to bless us and enrich our lives. Please bring a flower to add to our beautiful bouquet and you will receive a different flower to take home with you! Also, please bring a dish to share for our potluck picnic at Stewart Park.

Special music by TARPs (Savage Club Rock Band)

Flower Communion Sunday

June 10th is Flower Communion at the Sunday service at Stewart Park. Please bring a flower to share as a symbol of the gifts we have to offer one another. If you are blessed with an abundance of flowers, please bring extras so that we can be sure to have enough for everyone.



Ministerial Musings

-Who and how are we called to be at this time, individually and collectively?

-How are we called to act and to live?

*-How does our Unitarian Universalist legacy strengthen us in living out our mission?
In what ways does our legacy present challenges and impediments to answering our call?*

These are the questions I, and thousands of other Unitarian Universalists will be pondering when we gather in Kansas City, Missouri from June 20-24 for General Assembly (GA). The theme of this year's GA is “All Are Called,” and I'm glad it is.

I believe that all of us are called to greater living and service to each other and the planet.

We are called by those who have gone before us in this liberal faith tradition.

We are called by those, in our movement and outside it, that struggle with oppressive forces, policies, and issues of racism, bigotry, and ethnocentrism.

We are called by the generations that will come and who depend on us to care for this planet and each other so that they might thrive in their lifetimes.

I encourage you to consider joining me at General Assembly this year. Registration is still open and it promises to be an enriching, challenging, and uplifting experience for all who attend.

I am especially excited as I will be participating in the Service of the Living Tradition, a service that honors ministers who have attained Fellowship within the UUA, those who have retired, and those who have died. Having attained Final Fellowship (much like tenure for professors) this year, I will be part of the service. I'd love for you to be there to celebrate with me!

Also, there will be a phenomenal Ware Lecture by Brittany Packnett, an activist and leader at the intersection of culture and justice. You can learn more about her here: <https://www.uua.org/ga/program/highlights/ware-lecture>

I hope you'll choose to engage with GA this year, whether by attending in person or watching the livestream of some of the events (including Service of the Living Tradition here: <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site>). The experience of engaging more deeply with Unitarian Universalism and Unitarian Universalists from around the globe never disappoints.

*Hope to see you there!
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 607-882-5058. To request childcare for any church event, contact Child Care Coordinator Meggan Conklin at childcare@unitbaca.org.

Photo Directory is Coming

At long last the new photo directory will be available this summer. If you prefer Mark can send you a pdf of the version minus the photos. 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@unitbaca.org for any questions or assistance.

Lost and Found

Please check the Lost and Found area in Room 122 by **June 3rd** to see if you happened to leave something at the church. Items not claimed by the end of the church year will be donated to the Recycle Sale.

Board of Trustees June Meeting

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

Interfaith Pride Service

**Wednesday, June 6th, at 6:00 pm
at First Baptist Church**

*Celebrating the LGBTQ+ community
in Ithaca. Various speakers
including 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.

My Friends,

At this time of year, our minds turn toward the blue lakes, warm breezes and sunny afternoons of Summer. Some of you, as I am, may be in the thick of gardening, spade in soil and a big grin lighting up your heart.

I think of Religious Exploration here at First Unitarian as I would a garden; we carefully nurture the seeds of curiosity with care and patience, allowing the bright sun of wonder to touch minds, young and old. Together, we can awaken to awe and wonder like blooming flowers - learning, seeking and growing in community. We in RE feel keenly that what we are here to do, is to invite, inspire and engage our community to dive deep, and find their connection to the upswell of energy we feel bursting forth, like flowers in a Summer Garden.

Without our effort, however, this Garden cannot thrive.

In this year of growth and expansion, the Religious Exploration Program here at FUSIT is looking ahead to new and exciting programming, to offering more of the experiences that have touched your lives. There is nothing like watching that sense of excitement and wonder in the eyes of our young people in RE, or hearing a stimulating conversation prompt deep questioning and commitment to action in those it engages. Sitting on a rooftop in a far away land, youth and adults alike, discussing what we have learned from a day of work and connection with a culture other than our own.

There is no substitute for direct experience.

It is that very energy that makes our community thrive, and is drawing new members and their families to our Sanctuary. To serve our community, we will all need to become gardeners - feeding, watering, GROWING our garden together! In that spirit, you can reach out - explore program offerings for next year and check out opportunities to be a part of our RE Garden. Member volunteers will be welcomed to sign up with teaching teams and working groups for the coming year. The sweet fruits will not only feed the minds of our community, but put a light in your heart as well.

It is our hope that the programs of Lifespan Religious Exploration serve as nurturing places to gather, explore, question, and gather knowledge about the world. Please consider being a part of RE! Help us to make FUSIT a rich source of spiritual and intellectual nourishment for all who enter our doors.

As stewards of this world, it is up to us to teach Peace, Tolerance and Inclusivity. To work for the well-being of our earth and the diverse people who inhabit it. We hope you will choose to support this important work, by joining us. Discover your special place in RE - to teach, to learn, and to grow, together!

~Ann Stephenson, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration

Joy and Sorrows

Our condolences go out to John Swanson upon the death of his wife, Charlotte Swanson, a long-time member who died on April 30 in Ithaca. Condolence cards may be sent to John at Green Haven Farms, 3311 State Route 96A, Interlaken, NY 14847.

Our condolences go out to Leah O'Connor, Gretchen Ryan, Gabe and Luka Ryan-O'Connor and Jessie Harper upon the death of Leah's father, John O'Connor, on April 27 in Ithaca. A memorial service is to be scheduled this summer.

Wendy and David Salomon ask that you continue to hold their son Ben in the light. Ben was admitted to Memorial Sloan Kettering hospital this week for a stem cell transplant to treat his recurrence of Hodgkin Lymphoma. It will be a very long and difficult journey for Ben, one it is hard to imagine a 19 year old taking. Please hold him in a bright, bright light. Please also send hope and strength to his parents and his sisters Olivia and Emma, as they all summon the daily love and courage required to help Ben through this.

Our thoughts are with Sue Roenke as she recuperates following gall bladder surgery.

From the Social Justice Council

The Social Justice Council will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, **June 11**, 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."

Shared Plate Offerings

Thanks to your generosity for the Shared Plate Offering, we were able to donate \$531 to Foodnet in March, and \$1,929 to the Unitarian Universalist Association's Living Tradition Fund in April.

Foodnet Meals on Wheels provides meals and other nutrition services that promote dignity, well-being and independence for older adults and other persons in need in Tompkins County.

The Living Tradition Fund of the UUA helps provide scholarships, debt reduction grants, and financial assistance in times of need to seminarians, ministers, religious professionals, other congregational staff, and retired ministers and their loved ones.

Thanks to...

...HT2 Team B, under Russ Charif, for greeting, ushering, snack providing, coffee prepping and cleaning up after the Sunday services on April 22 and 29, and to HT2 Team C, under Helen Ann Yunis, for taking on these responsibilities for the services on May 6 and 13.

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](tel:607-898-3943) or at jag222@cornell.edu.

Library News

Our library is beginning to take shape with the committee consisting of Carol Nickerson, Barbara Shew and Flo Smith. They are working to establish order among the many books accumulated over the years. The children's collection has been separated from the adult books. Identifying and labeling various subject categories is next. A library budget has been suggested to bring the collection more up to date.

On the first Sunday of the month selected books will be on display during the coffee hour, to be perused and signed out. We hope to entice the congregation to visit the library to be amazed at the wealth of materials therein!

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.

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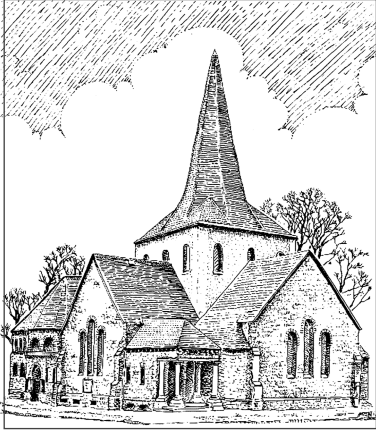
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Visit our Website and get
your newsletter:
www.uuithaca.org

Soul Matters Material for June on “Blessing”

Our June worship theme at First Unitarian Society of Ithaca is Blessing. 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-Blessing>

June Book Discussion Group

On Friday, **June 1**, the book group will meet at 12:30 pm, in the Library, to discuss *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng. For more information please contact Jennifer Streid-Mullen at streidmull@gmail.com or 351-3087.

Women's Circle - Sunday, June 24

We will meet Sunday, **June 24**, at 11:00 am in the Library after the 9:30 am summer church service. All who identify as women are welcome at the Women's Circle. For questions or more information Nancy Miller 539-7733 or ananda7733@gmail.com.

Men's Group

The Men's Group meeting for June will be **June 25**. 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.

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

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



"Newcomers Inspired Connected and Engaged (NICE)"

We are excited to announce a newcomer series that will begin Fall 2018 dedicated to helping you discover Unitarian Universalism! We will host a 4- class series designed for YOU to become Inspired by our liberal faith, Connect with other newcomers, and Engage with your spiritual self. Classes are conveniently scheduled on Sundays after service from 12-1:30 pm. Bring your lunch, explore UUism and share great conversation!

Cohort 1 dates: **9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 10/21**. Sign up now via email: memcoord@uuithaca.org or stop by the welcome table! Act fast, space is limited! There will be three other sessions of the series throughout the year.

Everyone is invited to the
End of Year Celebration & Picnic
 at Stewart Park (Large Pavilion)
*Please plan to come with your entire
 family for fun and fellowship on*
Sunday, June 10, at 10:30 am

This will be a dish-to-pass luncheon, so please bring a food item that can serve 12-15 people along with your own tableware (cups, plates, utensils) to take home and wash - we want to make this a GREEN event.

We will need everyone to help out by either setting up or cleaning up - Look for a sign-up sheet available in the Parlor on Sunday and sign up for the task you'd like to help with, as well as what dish-to-pass you expect to bring.



General Assembly Delegates Sought

If you are a FUSIT member and you are planning on being in Kansas City, MO, at General Assembly (GA) from **June 20-24**, you could be a delegate!

These are the folks who make decisions, along with thousands of other UUs at GA, that impact what our focus will be as a religious organization. If you are interested, please contact Mark at 273-7521, ext. 21 or cadmin@uuihaca.org, and he will forward your request to the Board for their meeting on **June 12**.

Thank you to Beth Pallace!

We are sad to announce that after 15 months with us, Beth will be leaving her position as Engagement and Outreach Coordinator in June. Beth excels at warmly welcoming all who enter our doors and uses her extensive social media skills to help Ithaca area residents learn about First Unitarian before they even enter our doors. Beth has decided to reconfigure her time to be able to better attend to her family and her graduate education. She plans to continue to be part of the community, but not in a staff capacity.



JOIN US for the Ithaca Festival Parade - Wear Your "Side With Love" T-shirt and Bring Your Ukulele!

Don't miss this opportunity to let your FUSIT pride shine on **June 1st!** The Unitarian Universalist Ukulele Union (UUUUs) will bring their ukuleles and everyone will hit the streets of the parade with our yellow "Side With Love" T-shirts. UUs all around the country are showing up at rallies and parades in their yellow shirts, to present a unified show of strength and commitment to our UU values. Wearing our "Side With Love" shirts sends the message that we stand up for love in an atmosphere of hate and fear.

We also need volunteers for the Ithaca Festival booth on June 2nd! If you would like to volunteer or help out, talk to Beth Pallace at the Welcome Table or email memcoord@uuihaca.org. See you at the festival!

Unirondack 2018: Registration Now Seeking People for the Wait List!

Registration for the 12th Annual FUSIT Unirondack Labor Day Camp on April 29th was quick and productive. Within the social hour all 100 camping spaces were taken! 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. We hope you'll join us from **Friday, August 31st through Monday, September 3rd** as Ithaca UUs of all ages head to Camp Unirondack to enjoy working and playing together in a beautiful setting.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about this wonderful event, please contact Gretchen Ryan at glr5@cornell.edu or 607-339-8866.



Possible Ponderings

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

June 3 - June 9: Who has helped you see your own potential and helped you see your own beauty?

June 10 - June 16: How will you bless the world today?

Art in the Parlor Seeks Exhibitors for 2018-19

The Enhancement Committee is seeking exhibitors for art shows in the Parlor for the 2018-19 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 Margy Nelson at rumfygraf@twcny.rr.com or Diane Newton at dianewton899@aol.com.



Grand Recycle Sale, August 18-20, 2018 "Blessing other people with our stuff"

Summer will be upon us soon now that Spring has erupted – green bursting everywhere. Donate that pile of stuff from Spring Cleaning! Intakes to receive your donations for the Grand Recycle Sale start the end of June (see insert for guidelines and Intake dates). And we have a second request – Volunteer for before, during, and clean-up! If many of us volunteer just a few hours of our time for the Sale, it is fun and easy to make this amazing fundraiser happen for our community. It truly takes a village...

We will have a **Kick-off potluck on Thursday, June 7th, at the church at 5:30 pm** for those who have already volunteered. If you haven't signed up yet come on down and do it then.

Then we will have another **Kick-off on Sunday, August 12th, for set-up and the beginning of Sorting Week**. We will have a Recycle Sale version of SignupGenius ready for use later in June for you to sign up for particular times.

Feel free to contact us, Nancy ananda7733@gmail.com or 607 539-7733 or Sue sue.roenke@gmail.com or 607 351- 8186 for further information or to share your ideas about how to make this event successful & FUN. Talk to us at coffee hour or at the picnic on Sunday June 10th.

Sue Roenke and Nancy Miller

Intake dates are June 27, July 10, July 25 and August 7 from 6-8 pm and August 12 from 11 am-2 pm.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! We have (almost) met our pledge goal!

This year's pledge campaign has reached a new high in both the total amount pledged and the size of the average pledge. As we go to press, our pledge total for the 2018-19 fiscal year is \$308,020. This figure is almost \$8,000 more than last year's pledge total. Our average pledge has steadily risen, from \$1,068 five years ago, to this year's \$1,596. We are within sight (94.8%) of our ambitious \$325,000 goal.

If you are one of the more than 182 members and friends who have already pledged your generous support for the coming year, thank you! Of those pledges, 81 increased their pledges, 56 pledged the same as last year, and 19 were new pledges. And if you are not one of them yet, it is not too late. You can make your pledge today.

Pledge via our website: <https://unitarian.ithaca.ny.us> or call Mark Pedersen in the church office: (607-273-7521, ext. 21).

What difference does your pledge make? A lot! A pledge today guarantees that we can fulfill our mission and expand our outreach in the months ahead. Pledges of all sizes are welcome and vital. How much we can do depends on how much we pledge to give in the year ahead.

Pledges can be paid weekly, monthly or all at once, any time between now and June 30, 2019. Or you can join the growing number of folks who arrange with their bank to pay their pledge automatically. See information on our website or talk with Mark about it.

Questions about pledging? Contact me at dsalomon01@gmail.com or 607-229-7996.

Thank you for fueling our momentum,

David Salomon, Stewardship Team



Seeking an Engagement and Outreach Coordinator

The First Unitarian Society of Ithaca seeks an energetic and motivated individual to join our dynamic staff team as the Engagement and Outreach Coordinator. This newly-expanded position is essential in our mission to engage newcomers and long-term members alike in putting their values into action, and finding community with our congregation and the world. The ideal candidate would be a self-starter, flexible, and able to work on a team and independently. We are looking for someone who is comfortable having conversations with new people, particularly on Sunday morning, and listening for ways they might find their place within our diverse and vibrant community.

The Engagement and Outreach Coordinator works closely with a team of volunteers, the staff team, and the minister to develop programming to involve folks in the life of the congregation. They are also responsible for our social media presence and marketing. As such, we are looking for a candidate that is comfortable with computers, web presence, and social media.

Weekly schedule is negotiable (with the exception of Sundays and staff meeting days). Summer hours are abbreviated, with more hours required between September and June. The candidate that is chosen will start immediately to ensure adequate training and engagement in the position. We are strengthened by diversity in all its forms and accordingly, we welcome all qualified candidates to apply. For more information please email cadmin@uithaca.org.