



ITHACA

UUU Connections

2017/18 Issue No. 11

Summer 2018

Summer Sunday Celebrations at 9:30 am

Summer Services

Summer services begin on Sunday, **June 17th**, at 9:30 am in the Parlor, and continue throughout June, July, August, and early September with regular services beginning again on **September 9th**. Please see insert for schedule of featured summer speakers. Childcare will not be provided.

NEW! Nature Church for Families

Are your children a bit too wiggly to sit through summer services, while RE (Religious Exploration) is on vacation? Would you like to have an alternative way to be contemplative and build community?

This summer, FUSIT volunteers will be hosting Nature Church at various free, outdoor spaces as an opportunity for families to be outside together, to connect with each other and with the natural world. All are welcome, and you can bring friends! All areas have open space for sitting, playing, and walking. Any walks will be easy to moderate, relatively level and less than an hour. Bring snacks and water.

Nature Church begins at 10:00 am

June 17 - Arboretum (on Forest Home Dr.)

June 24 - Beebe Lake (Parking at 1 Plantations Road)

July 1 - Cornell Botanical Gardens (124 Comstock Knoll Drive, Ithaca)

July 8 - South Hill Rec Trail (Entrance at the end of Juniper Drive)

July 15 - Bock Harvey Nature Preserve (150 Rockwell Rd, Newfield)

July 22 - Arboretum

July 29 - Beebe Lake

August 5 - Cornell Botanical Gardens

August 12 - South Hill Rec Trail

August 19 - Bock Harvey Nature Preserve

August 26 - Arboretum

Contact: Valerie at valeriemgraves@gmail.com to be added to the email list or for more information.

Ministerial Musings

"We need not think alike to love alike." ~ Dávid Ferenc

In 1568, in Transylvania, the Edict of Torda was signed, after much effort from Dávid Ferenc to the King and the government. This was the first law of "freedom of religion" in the world and was signed just three years after Dávid Ferenc preached his first sermon in a Unitarian spirit. The Edict of Torda was the document that established the Unitarian church as an entity in the world.

Why am I telling you this?

Because this July I am going there – to the place where Dávid Ferenc was born, where the Edict of Torda was signed, and many other Unitarian pilgrimage sites in Transylvania and greater Romania.

This year, in celebration of the 450th anniversary of the signing, there is a UU clergy pilgrimage to the area to visit these sacred sites and to engage with folks in Transylvania who are Unitarians. It is sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association and the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council, an organization that helps build partnerships between UUs throughout the world and offers trips to Transylvania like this one to immerse us in our history.

I am particularly excited to be traveling and delving into this rich history at a time when our world is fraught with religious violence and misunderstanding. As our society becomes more and more divided on issues of race, gender identity, religion, and ethnicity I am grateful to be spending time in reflection about the ideals of tolerance, peace, and deepening in understanding.

As we enter into the summer months, I hope you will also be reflecting on these things – the blessings of diversity, the possibility in community, the need to love each other even when (especially when) it's hard. I hope you will take some time to think about what history or stories have helped you feel rooted in difficult times.

I wish for you a summer of sunshine and time with those you love.

I wish for you a summer of unexpected joy.

I wish for you time for new experiences and revisiting important old ones.

I wish for you traveling mercies – whether near or far.

I wish for you rest, rejuvenation, and laughter.

Vigyázzon ("Take good care" in Hungarian – the language spoken in Transylvania),

Rev. Margaret

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



First Unitarian Society of Ithaca's 2018 Summer Gathering

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

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

What? A midsummer opportunity to
connect, inspire & engage

When? **Friday, August 3;** Dish-to-pass at 5:30,
but come early to play and be together

Bring a dish to pass

Interested in Cornell's famous BBQ

Chicken? The grillmaster is going to fire up the pit
and cook 50 halves, let Wendy know by **July 27th**
how many to set aside for you (\$6/half). We'll
happily cook more if interest demands.

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

Rain or shine, under the pavilion;
Handicap accessible

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

Questions? Want to reserve chicken halves?
Interested in helping to set-up/clean-up this fabulous
FUSIT summer tradition? Contact: Wendy Salomon
646-831-6775 or wendysalomon15@gmail.com

Reminder: Intergenerational Water Communion

Please don't forget to collect a sample of water from a
special place this summer, which you can share with
the congregation at the Water Communion to be
held on Sunday, **September 9th.**

Our Mission

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

Lifespan Religious Exploration News

For information about Lifespan Religious Exploration, please contact DLRE Ann Stephenson at drefusit@gmail.com or 607-882-5058.

Greetings Beloved Community!

We hope that you are looking ahead, as we are, to an exciting fall following this joyful summer break! We here in RE are savoring these languid days, as we excitedly look forward to the coming fall and all of its colorful opportunities! FUSIT RE invites YOU to **explore** ideas, learn new skills, and celebrate 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!

Our Children and Youth Program continues to expand, and re-envision itself as we continue to change and grow! 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! We will also launch a re-designed youth program for 6-12th graders, including 'Crossing Paths', an exploration of local faith traditions in our area!

Visit the RE table in the parlor starting next September 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 in October, providing a time to explore holding sacred space together, along with the continuation of our popular monthly **Creative Sundays**, featuring visiting artists, community Visual Art Projects, Music and Drama Enrichment and many other exciting activities. 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 here at the First Unitarian Society. New parent resources and opportunities for engagement are in the works. Come find out how you AND your kids can get involved!

Intergenerational RE is taking off as well!! Our 'Side with Love' action team will serve as a clearinghouse for access to the many opportunities for social justice activities in our area. Join us in providing the forward momentum for this intergenerational effort to make positive change in our community. Youth, and those who would like to serve as guides, are especially encouraged to take part in the many activities we anticipate being a part of next fall!!

In our second year under the leadership of Rev. Margaret Weis, RE continues its renewed focus on intergenerational connection and family ministry. Please see us in the fall at the RE table in the parlor, and discover the many opportunities available to our community locally, regionally and internationally, for engagement and action. There are **so many ways** to become involved this year - as a teacher, youth guide, parent supporter, or helper at our many RE community events. Our world is in particular need of peacemakers at this time in history, and RE is also 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 - or participate in any of our programs, please see DRE Ann Stephenson to find out about pursuing these exciting opportunities for social action.

Enjoy summer, and we will look forward to seeing you all next fall! ~Ann Stephenson

Joys and Sorrows

Our condolences go out to Karen Gilman and the family of Dano Hutnik who died on May 18th in Ithaca.

Our condolences go out to the friends and family of Elizabeth Reed who died in Ithaca on May 17th. A memorial will be held at Kendal on July 14th at 2 pm.

Our condolences go out to the friends of Pat Long, a longtime member who died on January 7th. A memorial service to celebrate Pat's life will be held on Saturday, June 9 at 11 am in the Sanctuary.

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.

FUSIT First Pit Stop for AIDS Ride for Life - September 8th

FUSIT will be staffing the first pit stop at King Ferry Winery 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 8, 2018**.

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

Two steps:

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

If you have any questions, please contact Phyllis Smith-Hansen at psmithbhansen@hotmail.com or 277-3966 or Rod Howe at rlh13@cornell.edu.

Summer Office Hours

The church office will be open from 9-4 Monday through Friday until **June 15th**. The office will then be closed, except for Wednesdays, for the remainder of the summer, starting on **June 27th**. On **August 20th** the office will reopen for full time hours again.

During the summer, if you have any questions or if you need help or information from any of the staff, you may leave a message on the answering machine, which will be monitored regularly by the staff.

To leave messages for the office (Mark Pedersen), call 607-592-3456.

Thanks to...

...HT2 Team C, the Collaborative Comets, under Helen Ann Yunis for greeting, ushering, snack providing, coffee prepping and cleaning up after the Sunday services on May 20 and 27.

Advance Notice: The third iteration of Hospitality Teams will be coming in the fall which means all current teams will be reshuffled. More information will be coming in the next month or so.

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

If you are not currently part of a Hospitality Teams, please see John Gaines or contact him at (607) 898-3943 or at jag222@cornell.edu.

New Members

Please give a warm welcome to our new members Alexandra Hartley and David Specht who recently signed the Membership Book.

Pastoral Emergencies during the Summer

In case of a pastoral emergency (death or hospitalization), contact Rita Rosenberg at 607-345-2579 or barber.rita@gmail.com. who will have contact information for the clergy who will be covering for Rev. Weis.

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.

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

Lifespan Religious Exploration
Ann Stephenson, Director,
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Child Care Coordinator
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Sexton
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Bookkeeper
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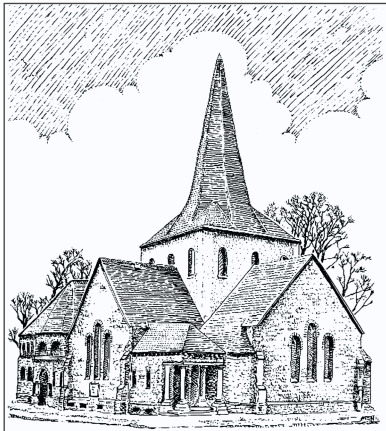
Community Engagement and
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Beth Pallace, 273-7521, ext 24
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Visit our Website and get
your newsletter:
www.uuithaca.org

Book Discussion Group

The group is taking a break during the summer, but will reconvene on **September 14**, at 12:30 pm in the Library, to discuss *The Hate You Give* by Angie Thomas. The following meeting will revert to the usual first Friday, and be **October 5** and the book will be *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah. At those meetings we will discuss books for the following months. Contact Jennifer Streid-Mullen at 351-3087 or streidmull@gmail.com.

Did you know...

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.

UU Summer Camps

Summer camps in the region include Unirondack, Rowe, Ferry Beach, Star Island, and Murray Grove. And don't ignore DeBenneville Pines in California, U-Bar-U in Texas, Unistar in Minnesota, or The Mountain and Shelter Neck in North Carolina. Many centers have year-round programs. Information for many camps is available on the Buffalo Street bulletin board and near the front door to the church office.

Fragrance Free Consideration

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

"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 new-comers, 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!

The first cohort of our "NICE: Newcomers, Inspired, Connected and Engaged" series is FULL! Here are other cohorts to join in 2018/2019:

Cohort 2: **11/11, 11/18, 12/2, 12/9** Breakfast **12/16**

Cohort 3: **1/6, 1/13, 1/20, 1/27** Breakfast **2/3**

Cohort 4: **2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17** Breakfast **3/24**

2018 Annual Meeting Results

At the May 30th meeting 58 members were in attendance along with a number of other congregants. The following was discussed and voted upon:

*The 2018-19 Proposed Budget was passed as posted.

*Matt Hare, Andy Turner and Kim Wilkinson were elected to the Board for three year terms and Marie Benedetti was re-elected for a one year term.

*There were no nominees for the Nominating Committee and the current two members (Micheline Contiguglia and Arthur Woll) are serving through the 2018-19 church year.

The remaining unfilled three positions will need to be temporarily selected by the Nominating Committee and appointed by the Board as per the Bylaws.

*The proposed Public Witness Policy was presented and the Board will vote on approving this at their **June 12th** monthly meeting.

First Unitarian's participation in the 2018 Ithaca Festival Parade and Booth was a success!

Thank you to the brave parade participants who made it out in the rain and, as usual, it cleared up by the time we had to March! Our fabulous volunteers pulled together at the booth on Saturday and we helped Ithaca festival goers create "Peace Flags" with sweet potato stamps and paint. This was an engaging and popular activity that the community has come to expect each year. It was so much FUN and we made a splash with new stickers, Honey Bee seeds packets and newly designed 'Side with Love' gold T-shirts!



Grand Recycle Sale, August 18-20

**"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. 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, in the church Parlor 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 and FUN. Talk to us at coffee hour or at the picnic on Sunday **June 10th**.

*Sue Roenke and Nancy Miller
Recycle Sale Co-chairs*

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

Volunteers Needed to Make Friendship Center Lunches for Rescue Mission Alliance

*We need three more volunteers to make and deliver 15 bag lunches each to the Friendship Center on **July 3rd**. We also need three volunteers to do the same on **August 7th**.*

Volunteers may be individuals, families, or groups of any kind.

You would buy supplies, make the lunches no more than 24 hours before delivery, and deliver them between 9:30 and 11:30 am to 618 W. State Street in Ithaca.

Each lunch will include a sandwich, a piece of soft fruit, and a cookie or other small dessert, and should be substantial since the recipients may not get another full meal that day. All foods should be easy to chew. The center asks that we make a simple list of the foods on the outside of the bag, so its staff can accommodate preferences and allergies.

The Friendship Center is a drop-in assistance center for Ithacans who are homeless or otherwise in need, run by the Rescue Mission Alliance of Syracuse. It provides assistance in landlord-tenant disputes, locating housing and obtaining social benefits, and free bag lunches twice a week.



Our congregation helps by providing 60 lunches (four volunteers making 15 lunches each) on the first Tuesday of every month.

If you have questions and/or would like Social Justice Council to reimburse your expenses, please contact Jackie Jablonski at jackiejab@me.com.

2018 Summer Services and Guest Speakers

Summer Sunday services are held at 9:30 am in the Parlor, followed by a congregational response-time and social hour. Childcare will not be provided.

June 17 “*Leadership, Power and Privilege*” - Susan Mann

Privilege is a buzz-word these days. But what is it, how do recognize it in ourselves – even when we don’t feel we have privilege – and how do we talk openly about it without getting defensive? Most importantly, how do we lead (ourselves and others) given the reality of privilege, and its intersection with power and authority in the workplace?

Special music by Christopher Morgan-Loy, piano

June 24 “*Contentment, Belonging, Love: From Personal Choice to Collective Liberation*” - Megan Barber

We spend a lot of mental energy trying to feel content, wondering if we belong, and judging on a case by case basis who to extend our love to. But what if we make the decision to stop questioning our birthright to feel content, to belong, and to love? How would that decision free us up to work on creating the world we want to live in?

Special music by Women’s Works, variety

July 1 “*Hopeful Signs Within The Shifting Religious Landscape Of Millennials and Generation X and Z*” - Janet Shortall

Millennials are making news these days continuing a downward trend of 25 years in stepping away from institutional religion. They are also much more liberal than older generations. Is there a connection between these trends?

Special music by Kurt Lichtman, vocalist

July 8 “*Faith-What Is That?*” - Elton Hall

We often call UU a faith tradition. What does this mean? Just what is faith, anyway? We'll explore how faith in many forms pervades our lives at many levels, and why our "faith tradition" is crucial to the world today.

Special music by Elena Galvan, soprano

July 15 “*Past and Future: the Importance of “And”*” - Sean Eversley Bardwell

This talk will explore the role of time - past and future - in our collective journey towards justice and equity. Consideration and framing will revolve around Dr. King’s famed quote, “the arc of the moral universe is long” within the context of “make America great again”.

Special music by Isaac Sharp, guitar

July 22 “*The Liminal Space*” - Aileen Fitzkee

Special music by Ross Hollow (folk/Americana duo)

July 29 “*We Are All Crickets*” - Walt Peck

Religion is often framed as the search for the answers to the big questions of life. Maybe it is something simpler than that.

Special music by Carolyn Grossman, piano

August 5 “*Equal Footing: Our UU Principles in the Posthumanist*” - David Salomon

Over the past two decades contemporary philosophers and historians have increasingly questioned the ethics, efficacy, and legacy of humanism. David Salomon will examine what this challenge to one of Unitarian Universalist seven sources means and what surprising opportunities it presents to our liberal religion.

Special music by Savage Club, vocals

August 12 “*Reflections From Minister Search*” - Don Barber

Grateful of our Past, Grasping where we are, and Envisioning our Future.

Special music by Noam & Miryam Ginsparg – strings

August 19 RECYCLE SALE

August 26 “*Being Present with the Past*” - Rod Howe

We are often encouraged to live in the present moment. How might we do that while also being present with and honoring the past?

Special music by Zachary Sweet, cello

September 2 “*Two Personal Heroes*” - John Gaines

Although I believe that the word “hero” has been vastly over-used in recent times, the concept of personal hero has deep meaning for me. I will introduce you to two of my personal heroes and talk about the impact they had in my formative years and continue to have in my life. Come meet Rev. John T. Walker and Dr. Samuel B. Ross, Jr., as I remember them.

Special music by Samuel Smith, piano