

#### 2018/19 Issue No. 2

#### Sunday Celebrations at 10:30 am

#### October 7-28: Side with Love Collection

For the month of October we are inviting you to put some love out into the Ithaca community for folks who need it. During Sunday services we will be gathering new socks for our neighbors who are using the Rescue Mission right here in Ithaca. Please bring cotton or wool blend socks to Sunday services and we will deliver them at the end of the month to people who need some new, clean socks. All sizes welcome!

#### October 7: "Culture of Love"

#### -Dr. Luvell Brown

Courageous leadership is needed to disrupt oppressive systems that have perpetuated marginalization. To make needed changes, leaders must build support and coalitions that survive the inevitable challenges associated with transformation. Dr. Brown will share experiences and anecdotes to describe a culture development process that results in loving organizations and communities. *Special music by Decho Ensemble, saxophones* 

#### **October 14: "Filling in the Cracks - A Service on Renewal"** -Rev. Margaret Weis

How do we find healing for the places within us that so sorely need it? What does it mean to heal, and what does it mean to find a new sense of purpose in that process? Together we will reflect on our broken places, how we heal, and how to continue on when healing is difficult.

Special music by Travis Knapp, singer/songwriter

# October 21: "Renewing Our Heritage: Reflections of a Unitarian Pilgrim in Transylvania"

-Rev. Margaret Weis

This summer, Rev. Weis traveled to Transylvania on a Unitarian pilgrimage 450 years in the making. She will share reflections on her time there – worshipping, witnessing, and making new connections.

Special music by Stephanie Ortolano, organ

#### October 28: "On Renewal and Remembrance"

-Rev. Margaret Weis

Together we will explore the ways we find renewal in our lives by reflecting on the lives of those who have died. We will explore some of the holidays and celebrations from around the world that acknowledge and celebrate the lives of those who have died.

Special music by First Unitarian Choir

Ministerial Musings

As we mourn the untimely and sudden death of our beloved Mark Pedersen, I am so grateful for this community. Mark was deeply loved by you all for so many years, and loved you well in his time here. Many have said that he was a valuable and consistent presence for this place and the heart of it, particularly through years of transition and difficulty. No truer statements have been said.

Kind, compassionate, incredibly generous, and a huge heart open to everyone. These are some of the words I use to describe our Mark. He is so dearly missed. We hold in our hearts Rod, Veasna, Sethik, and their extended family as they mourn the loss of their partner, father, and grandfather.

This month our theme is kinship, which feels appropriate to me as I reflect on the ways we show up for one another in good and not-so-good times. I hope that each of you knows you are deeply loved by the staff, leadership, and membership of this place and that we are here for you – for each other – in this difficult time. This church family is made richer and deeper because you are here.

On Saturday, **September 22**, we will gather to honor and remember Mark and his amazing life. I hope you can be there, or that you can find a time to honor and remember Mark in your own way.

We will be naming the Arch Room in honor of Mark and his dedication to this church community. A naming ceremony will occur sometime in the next few weeks, so please keep your eyes open for the announcement.

I n these coming days and weeks let us have grace and patience with one another. Let us open our hearts and leave space for those times when we need to grieve and remember. Let us continue on in kinship with one another, remembering our connections to one another are rooted in our shared humanity and the shared preciousness of our lives.

> In sorrow and gratitude, Rev. Margaret

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

October 2018

Newsletter of the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca (FUSIT), New York

# **Religious Exploration News**

For information about Religious Exploration, please contact Susanne Quagliata at drefusit@gmail.com or 607-273-7521, ext. 23.

#### A Message from Susanne Quagliata, Acting Director of Religious Exploration

I am excited to work with you and the young people in our community as the Acting Director of Religious Exploration. The support I have received from our members during this transition has been amazing, and I am inspired by the collective energy to provide a meaningful RE experience for our children and youth.

On a typical month we will offer curriculum-based, grade-specific Religious Exploration classes for children and youth on two Sunday mornings. The other two Sundays will include one Multigenerational Sunday and one Creative Sunday. Creative Sundays are when all of our children and youth come together to celebrate creativity. Projects involve art, music, dance, and other hands on activities.

As we begin a new church year, we are actively focused on registering children and recruiting volunteers. We've developed a new online registration form that makes it easy for parents and guardians to register their children. Every child needs to be registered (regardless of past involvement). Registering your child now will help us plan and save everyone time on Sunday mornings. Here is the link: <u>https://tinyurl.com/FUSIT-RE-REG-2018</u>. Almost 40 children are registered so far and we expect at least 20 more to be registered this month.

As the Religious Exploration program is a cooperative endeavor, volunteers are needed. This year we are making it easy to get involved. Lead teachers commit to eight Sundays and Teacher Assistants commit to four Sundays between October and January. This model has been well-received and I am happy to report we are almost fully staffed in our classrooms.

We are looking for volunteers interested in teaching, filling in as a substitute teacher, leading a Creative Sunday, offering an extra pair of hands to help with special events, and helping with other important tasks. You may express your interest in volunteering here: <u>https://tinyurl.com/FUSIT-RE-VOL-2018</u>

As always, you can register your children for RE and sign up to volunteer by stopping by the RE Table in the Parlor before or after service on Sunday. You may also email me at <u>drefusit@gmail.com</u> if you have any questions or feedback.

#### About Our New Acting DRE

Susanne earned a bachelor's degree in education from SUNY Geneseo and a master's degree in education from St. John Fisher College. She holds New York State Certification in Elementary Education grades pre-k to six and Special Education kindergarten to grade twelve. She has taught various grade levels in charter, private, and public schools. Prior to moving to Ithaca in 2013, Susanne earned tenure in the Brockport Central School District.

For the last three years she has operated a cooperative preschool out of her home where she developed the curriculum and was the lead teacher. Susanne loves music; she received a certificate from Music Together in Princeton, NJ.

Susanne has been an active member at FUSIT for the last few years. She taught religious education classes last year, she facilitated a Small Group, and was the team leader for the Aesthetics Team. She attends FUSIT with her husband, Andrew and two daughters.

#### RE Schedule

October 7: Classroom Sunday October 14: Creative Sunday October 21: Classroom Sunday October 28: Multigenerational Service

Please welcome our new Acting Director of Religious Exploration, Susanne Quagliata, who has graciously accepted this interim position!

#### Joys and Sorrows

Our condolences go out to Ron Pluck and his family upon the death of Ron's father, Lewis Pluck, who died on September 3rd in Ithaca.

Our thoughts are with Oliver Habicht who has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and is undergoing treatment. He and his family welcome your written support and words of hope and encouragement at

<http://www.habichts.net/> At this time, please refrain from sending Oliver email, texting, or calling him.

#### October "Soul Matters" on Renewal

Our October worship theme at First Unitarian Society of Ithaca is Renewal. 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-renewal

#### **Board of Trustees October Meeting**

The Board of Trustees will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, **October 9th**, at 6 pm in the Parlor. All interested persons are invited to attend.

#### From the Social Justice Council

The Social Justice Council will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, **October 8th**, from 5:30-7:00 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."

#### **Book Discussion Group**

The group will meet on **October 5**, at 12:30 pm in the Library, to discuss *Born A Crime* by Trevor Noah. The books for the next two months will be as follows: **November 2**, *A Piece of the World* by C. Baker Kline and **December 7**, *And There was Light* by J. Lusseyran.

Contact Jennifer Streid-Mullen at 351-3087 or streidmull@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 call the FUSIT office at 273-7521, ext. 21.

#### **Recycle Sale Thanks**

Huge thanks to our village of volunteers who all helped to make the Grand Recycle Sale 2018 a huge success. While a final to the penny tally may be a while in coming, we should top off at about \$20,000. WooHoo!! Many of you, especially the managers, put in a huge number of hours and worked with such open spirits. We are grateful. A Celebration is planned for Sunday, **September 30th**, at 12 noon. All are welcome!!

#### Thanks to...

...the Unirondack coordinating team for another fun-filled, engaging, and communityfilled experience at our favorite UU camp.

...HT2 Team C, under coordinator Russ Charif, for greeting, ushering, snack providing, coffee prepping and cleaning up after the Sunday services on August 19 and 26. Thanks to the Pick Up Hospitality Team for taking on those tasks on September 2 and to Team 1 of the Third Generation of Hospitality Teams (2018-2020) which began on September 9th under Coordinators Helen Ann Yunis and Pat Evans.

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

If you are not currently part of a Hospitality Team, please see Pat Evans or John Gaines on Sunday or get in touch with Pat at <u>patevans46@gmail.com</u> or John at (607) 898-3943 or at jag222@cornell.edu.

Thank you, all, for your efforts to increase our hospitality!

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

Religious Exploration Susanne Quagliata, Acting Director, 273-7521, ext. 23 drefusit@gmail.com

Sexton Sandy Soule, 272-4475

Bookkeeper Lauren Ponzoni bookkeeper@uuithaca.org

Music Director Stephanie Ortolano 607-708-8088 fusitmusic@gmail.com

Adult Choir Director Jennifer Lawrence Birnbaum, fusitchoir@gmail.com

Community Engagement and Outreach Coordinator Sarah Buckser, 273-7521, ext 24 memcoord@uuithaca.org

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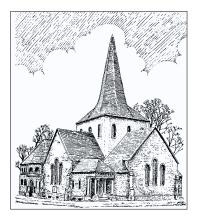
#### Historical UU Room Names

In an effort to connect more deeply with our Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist heritage and history, we have named some of the rooms (mostly those used for RE) at First Unitarian after influential Unitarians, Universalists, and Unitarian Universalists. We are highlighting some folks who have not traditionally been highlighted within Unitarian Universalism, including women and people of color.

In honor of our beloved Mark Pedersen, who left this world too soon, we will be naming our Arch Room in his honor. We hope to have a dedication ceremony sometime in the next few weeks.

Maps will be available on Sundays to help you find your way, and during All Church Nights to help with navigation for meetings.

Newsletter deadline for the next issue will be 9 am, October 18, 2018 and will cover November 1-30, 2018. Please email articles to Loretta Heimbuch at adminasst@uuithaca.org. The First Unitarian Society of Ithaca 306 North Aurora Street P.O. Box 6 Ithaca, NY 14851-0006



#### **Parking Notice!**

Please be aware that the First Unitarian Society **does not have ANY parking** available during the week and only by the generosity of the folks next door do we have parking for our Sunday services. Even if you're only running in for a minute, please park on the street.

#### 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.

#### Sunday Service CDs

Sunday Service CDs are available about 10 minutes after the Sunday Celebration from Sandy Soule, the church Sexton, and any extras are left in the boxes on top of the staff mailboxes in the Parish House. Please return any CDs you have finished listening to, to the box on top of the mailboxes outside the church office.

**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, <u>https://</u>www.facebook.com/FUSofI/Instagram <u>www.instagram.com/</u>ithacauus and Twitter, @IthacaUUs.

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

#### "Newcomers Inspired Connected and Engaged (NICE)"

A newcomer series that is dedicated to helping you discover Unitarian Universalism!

This 4-class series is 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!

Upcoming Cohort dates are as follows: 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

Sign up now via email: <u>memcoord@uuithaca.org</u> or stop by the Welcome Table in the Garden Entrance or after the Sunday service! Act fast, space is limited although there will be other cohorts set up throughout the 18-19 church year.

New members and friends will find several titles concerning UU history and faith in preparation for the NICE's (Newcomers Inspired Connected and Engaged) new Fall classes.

# 🎉 October Events

#### Wednesday, October 10th from 5-8:30 pm All Church Potluck Dinner followed by Team Meetings

-Saturday, October 13th (For information, please contact Rev. Margaret) Pastoral Care Training (Binghamton, NY)

Interested in learning more about how to offer care and connection to your friends and acquaintances here at the congregation? Curious to learn about how to offer care and compassion in a healthy and helpful way? Join members of the FUSIT Care Team and UUs from across central New York as we reflect on these things and receive training.

*—Sunday, October 14th* at 12 pm Mark Pedersen Room (Arch Room) **RE Listening Circle** 

As a community of faith and intention we are seeking to create opportunities for enriching the spiritual lives of people of all ages. Join us for a brief conversation about what the plans are for this year in religious exploration. Bring your ideas and your spirit of curiosity as we make our way through this year of discernment together.

#### *-Sunday, October 14th* at 2 pm (Dewitt Park) Interfaith Blessing of the Animals Service

Bring your furry, scaled, winged, or other animal friends for an afternoon of gratitude for the animals in our lives, and a blessing for good health and continued companionship. This is an interfaith service in partnership with other Ithaca churches and places of worship. All ages are welcome! Well-behaved pets are welcome on leashes, other pets who need some private space are welcome in crates and cages.

#### -Wednesday, October 24th 7-9 pm (Parlor)

#### You Went Where?!: Reflections from Transylvania

This summer Rev. Margaret traveled to Transylvania with her UU minister colleagues to visit the places where Unitarianism finds its earliest roots. In this evening of food, music, story, and pictures, come learn about this rich and vibrant place of history, fellowship, and deep faith. All ages welcome.

#### Oct 7 "Babies First" Fall Bake Sale

The Babies First Fall Bake Sale will be held on **October 7th** during the social hour in the Parlor after the service. Please support Babies First by purchasing a delicious treat or two.

# Calling All Bakers, Jam, Jelly, Pickle, Chutney and Candy Makers!



If you would like to donate any of the above for the October 7

Bake Sale, please call Jane McArthur at 216-2151 or janespickmcarthur @gmail.com. We would love to add YOUR name to our bakers list! You can drop off your goodies in the kitchen before the celebration on the 7th. Please include an ingredients list in consideration of folks with food allergies.

## Women's Circle

We will meet Sunday, **October 28**, from 12-1:30 in the Mark Pedersen Room (Arch Room). All who identify as women are welcome at the Women's Circle. For questions or more information please contact Carol Whitlow at whitlowcarol@gmail.com.

## Men's Group

The Men's Group meeting for September will be held on Monday, October 22. All those who identify as male are invited to join us 5:30 -7:30 pm in the Mark Pedersen Room (Arch Room) to share stories and eat some pizza. Newcomers welcome.

Please contact Jens Wennberg jens207@gmail.com or Mark Piechota markpiechota45@gmail.com for more information.

## Weekly Food Collection

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



#### The theme for October is **Renewal**.

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

**October 7-13:** Who can you gather around to support work for justice and goodness in our community and our world? Who are the resources for renewal right under your nose?

**October 14-20:** Leonard Cohen said, "There is a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in." What do you think?

**October 21-27:** Is there something (or someone) from your past who helps you find renewal in your life?

**October 28-November 3:** How do we renew our love of life while reflecting on the lives of those who have gone before us?

#### Volunteers Needed to Make Friendship Center Lunches for Rescue Mission Alliance

We need two more volunteers to make and deliver 15 bag lunches each to the Friendship Center on October 2nd.

Each lunch will include a sandwich, a piece of soft fruit, and a cookie or other small dessert (all foods must be easy to chew) and must be prepared within 24 hours of delivery to the Friendship Center at 531 State Street, Ithaca, between 9:30 and 11:30 am.

The Friendship Center is a safe supportive drop-in center run by Ithaca Rescue Mission that serves free bag lunches twice a week. Our congregation provides 60 bag lunches on the first Tuesday of every month. If you have questions and/or would like Social Justice Council to reimburse your expenses, contact Jackie Jablonski at jackiejab@me.com.

#### Music Team News

Our next UUUU and Friends Sunday is **November 4th.** Are you interested in joining us? You don't have to play a ukulele to be a part of this (although we have extras if you want to learn!). Singers and musicians of any and all instruments are welcome to participate. Contact Music Director Stephanie Ortolano for more information at <u>fusitmusic@gmail.com</u>.

The Music Team is looking for new members - are you interested in being part of the decision-making crew for Music Team Sundays and guest musicians? Do you want to help with events? Do you have an idea for a way to enhance the musical life of First Unitarian? Come to the Music Team meetings on All Church Night or get in touch with Stephanie at <u>fusitmusic@gmail.com</u>.

#### FUSIT Choir Fall Dates

Rehearsals are 7:15-8:45 in the Annex.

October 28 November 18 December 2 December 24 (Sage Chapel evening service)

A reminder that you can join choir for a month at a time! Just commit to coming for the 3-5 rehearsals before each Choir Sunday. New members excitedly welcome! Contact Choir Director Jennifer Lawrence Birnbaum at fusitchoir@gmail.com.

#### **Klezmer Band Forming**

Would you like to join a Klezmer band for our Hanukkah themed service on **December 2nd**? All ages and instruments welcome. Contact Jennifer at fusitchoir@gmail.com for more information.

#### Art in the Parlor

Donna Faivre-Roberts will have the opening art exhibition in the Parlor. Donna is a FUSIT member and serves on the Enhancement Committee. Her show features figurative wood sculptures inspired by natural forms found around Cayuga Lake. Everyone is invited to her opening reception Friday **October 5th**, 5:00-7:00 pm. Show runs **through October 25, 2018.** 

#### 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.

#### **Ride For Life Fun**

On September 8th, close to 400 bike riders, including Mark Pedersen, were fed and supported by a cheerful band of UUs at the King Ferry Winery during the STAP Ride for Life fundraiser.

This year's band was headed by Phyllis Smith Hansen and Rod Howe who were ably assisted by Scott Grover, Fran Helmstadter, Cameron Chen Hsien, Liz Einstein, Linda Loomis, Gretchen Ryan, Jackie Thompson, Fernando DeAragon, Stephanie Morse, Janet Shortall, Cindie Murray-Bartels, Claire Perez, Norma Helsper, Kim Keery, Amy Golinker, Carol Whitlow, Rev. Margaret Weis and Susan Weis. Everyone was serenaded by the beautiful music of the UU Ukulele Union members including Stephanie Ortolano, Scott Grover, Marie Kautz and Arthur Woll.

#### Do You Need Some Hope about Climate Change?

The newly-formed Environmental Interests Circle invites you to join us to read the book, *Grass, Soil, Hope* by Courtney White. We will meet to discuss it on **October 7 and 21** at 9 am in the Beatrix Potter Room (Library). Books are available for purchase during coffee hour for \$8 at the Social Justice table.

#### from reviews of the book:

"This is a book to read ... if you want to be infused with hope, and inspired to play a broader role in the face of climate change. For many of us who think about ways to create a more resilient world for future generations, it pays to think more about carbon. This book will get you started."--Jonathan Overpeck, co-director, Institute of the Environment; professor of geosciences and atmospheric sciences, University of Arizona, Tucson



# Save the Date! **Gala Service Auction & Hors d'oeuvres** Saturday, November 10

After last year's rave reviews about the Service Auction, we are planning another 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. There will be live music from 5:30 to 7:00 while you nosh and sip and look over the catalog and then the live auction begins at 7:00.

We are again suggesting that any item or service offered should be started around \$25, 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, delicious dinners for all to enjoy.

> A link will be available soon where you can donate quickly and easily online

Questions: Contact Amelia Habicht at meels66@gmail.com, or Camila Faraday at ccfaraday@twcny.rr.com or 592-5686 (leave message)



# Mark Stephen Pedersen

Mark died peacefully but unexpectedly at his home in Forest Home Sunday morning, September 16, 2018.

Predeceased by his parents Richard Pedersen and Barbara (Hansen) Pedersen and by his sister Dian Pedersen and his brother Scott Pedersen, he leaves behind his husband of 32 years, Rod Howe, his children Veasna and his wife Anna, Sethik ("Toothpick"), his sister Janet Kubitz and her husband Rick, his granddaughters Mahkia and Anna and several nieces and nephews and grand nieces and nephews.

While he never expected to be a father, he embraced fatherhood fully and was a caring and loving Dad to his two sons and served as a role model. When he learned that he was a grandfather, he embraced that role as well and enjoyed time with his granddaughters on a regular basis.

Mark was the First Unitarian Society in Ithaca (FUSIT) administrator for 22 years. Many members of FUSIT described Mark as the heart of the church. He shepherded FUSIT through many transitions with grace and humor. Mark was raised as a Unitarian Universalist (UU) in Needham, MA. He lived the UU principles on a daily basis and in recent years enjoyed attending UU General Assembly where he developed friends from around the United States. When asked how he maintained his equanimity he would say "I have hope." No matter how busy he was, he found time for people in need. He was unfailingly compassionate and was everyone's friend.

For the last nine years it was important for him to participate in the annual Southern Tier AIDS Program Ride for Life. In fact, he rode this year's 100 miles on September 8. Though diagnosed as HIV positive in the mid-1980s, he never let that diagnosis define or discourage him.

He loved Ithaca but required time at the ocean every summer for his spiritual well-being (notably in Provincetown, MA). Mark was a humble, gentle soul who could be funny and irreverent. He will be achingly missed. Those who had the good fortune to know him feel blessed. A collector at heart, he had the world's largest personal collection of egg beaters and the region's greatest collection of Christmas decorations.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, September 22 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Ithaca, NY (due to the expected number attending) with a reception to follow at First Unitarian Society in Ithaca (one block away).

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to FUSIT, 306 N Aurora St, Ithaca, NY 14850, or STAP, 314 W. State Street, Ithaca, New York 14850



# Please return no later than Please return no later thanks! Donation Form October 28, 2018. Thanks! Gala Service

# Gala Service Auction ~ November 10

#### Name: Street Address: City: E-mail: Telephone:

I donate the following service/item to the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca with the understanding that it will be auctioned to the highest bidder on November 10, 2018. All items/services offered should start around \$25.

Service/Item #1:	Service/Item #3:
You may sell this servicetimes.	This service is forpeople each time it is offered. You may sell this servicetimes. Suggested minimum bid for this item \$(optional) Will this item be available the night of the auction? yes orno *Optional – This donation must be used by(Date)*
Service/Item #2:	Service/Item #4:
You may sell this servicetimes.	This service is forpeople each time it is offered. You may sell this servicetimes.
Suggested minimum bid for this item \$(optional) Will this item be available the night of the auction? yes orno	Suggested minimum bid for this item \$(optional) Will this item be available the night of the auction? yes orno
*Optional –	*Optional – This densities must be used by
This donation must be used by (Date)*	This donation must be used by (Date)*

Questions? Contact Amelia Habicht at meels66@gmail.com or 257-5028 or Camila Faraday at ccfaraday@twcny.rr.com or 592-5686 (leave message).