



ITHACA

UUU Connections

2018/19 Issue No. 1

September 2018

Sunday Celebrations at 10:30 am

September 2: "Two Personal Heroes" (last summer service 9:30 am)

-Speaker 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

September 9: "Many Waters, One Stream" (begin 10:30 am services)

-Rev. Margaret Weis

Join us for our annual multigenerational ingathering water service where we will reflect together on the power of story and ritual to bring us together in community. Please bring some water from a place that is sacred or inspiring to you.

Special music by UUUU and Friends

September 16: "Choosing Family"

-Rev. Margaret Weis

We are born into a family, but we also acquire other people who are important to us along the journey of our lives. In this service we will reflect on the ways we find chosen family in life, how we connect with them, and how our lives are enriched by these relationships. This service will also include a Blessing of the Backpacks so please bring your backpack to be blessed during the Time for All Ages.

Special music TBA

September 23: "Intentional Community" (Multigenerational service)

-Rev. Margaret Weis

This congregation is a unique place where we are each welcome to explore, to find support, and to support one another. What does it mean to be an intentional community in this way? How do we foster our shared covenant and promise to care for one another and our greater community?

Special music TBA

September 30: "Kinship With the World Around Us"

-Speaker Magdalen Lindeberg

We are co-travelers with a marvelous array of life forms, all of us assembled from the same fundamental building blocks. Magdalen will reflect on how her activities as a biologist have contributed to a sense of wonder and interconnection.

Special music by First Unitarian Choir

Ministerial Musings

I went back-to-school shopping the other day.

Yes, I realize that I am no longer a student in the formal sense of the word, but I absolutely LOVE back-to-school shopping. I always have.

I grew up in a family of teachers and the end of August meant that we were all preparing for a new year – of learning, of sports seasons, of teaching, and of possibility. And that upcoming year of possibility meant a fresh notebook, super-sharp pencils, and maybe even some new sneakers.

Old habits die hard and that means that every year, in the end of August, I try to set myself up for a great new year. This means that I need to pick up some things to help make that happen.

This year, the things I carry with me include:

Excitement about the unfolding opportunities for engagement across generations at First Unitarian.

Wonder about the ways we will welcome newcomers and create possibilities for fostering intentional relationship.

Gratitude for a congregation of seekers who are eager to try new things, even when they are scary or different.

What are you carrying with you as we enter into a new season?

Perhaps you are packing some curiosity about how you can lend your talents and time to our church community. Perhaps you are packing a new interest in engaging with others in small group ministry, helping to create our Sunday services, or another leadership opportunity. Perhaps you are packing wonder, awe, and joy into your daily life and help others to do so as well.

Whatever you are carrying with you into this new church year, I hope you'll bring it all. Being "church" means that we bring our full selves, and every part of you is welcome!

Being "church" means that we try new things, together, and learn from the times when things don't go as we planned. Being "church" requires each and every one of you – your passions, your hopes, your disappointments, and your dreams.

I'm looking forward to welcoming you all back on September 9th, for our annual multigenerational ingathering service. Together we will reflect on the places that feed our souls and bring us solace. Then, the next week we will bless our backpacks, our briefcases, our yoga bags, or whatever tool we use to bring ourselves fully to our lives. I hope you'll join us!

Take good care,

Rev. Margaret

Religious Exploration News

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

Dear FUSIT members, families, and friends,

After three years of dedicated and passionate service, Ann Stephenson, who has served this congregation as the Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, will be moving on from her tenure at First Unitarian. Ann has accepted a teaching position at an area Montessori Adolescent Program, and they will be lucky to have her talent and service. We are grateful to Ann for her creativity and energetic commitment to the Religious Exploration program here at FUSIT. She has been a vital and important member of our staff team and FUSIT family, and will be missed dearly.

Ann's final Sunday will be **September 9th**, when we will thank her for her time, and have a chance to say goodbye to Ann as a congregation.

Ann wished that I share the following message to the community:

'It has been a great pleasure and privilege to serve the community here at the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca for the past three years. As Peacemakers, we work together to create a sanctuary in these uncertain times, each in our own ways. Holding as a common vision the stewardship of a better world, and creating safe space to learn and grow and for its inhabitants both young and old, is of immeasurable importance to me. As your DRE, along with the RE Team, it is my hope that we have been able to create some of that nurturing space. Of all the things I can imagine doing, I cannot think of a job that feels more meaningful than this. I hope to continue our work as I return to teaching, and to see you in future gatherings at FUSIT. Thank you all for the chance to share this time with you.' ~Ann

As we prepare to move forward, I am working closely with the RE team, Personnel Committee, and the Board to ensure that the Religious Exploration program will continue to thrive. We will be holding a listening circle in September to share more details of our plan for the year, and to hear from you about your hopes for faith formation at FUSIT.

In the meantime, we have decided to create an Acting Director of Religious Exploration position to begin immediately. We are fortunate that Susanne Quagliata, an active and gifted member of the FUSIT community has agreed to take on this contracted position and serve in this capacity for the year. Susanne will be responsible for the Religious Exploration program and the implementation of the plan for the upcoming year. We continue to be committed to creating dynamic, engaging, and transformative religious exploration experiences for people of all ages at FUSIT.

We hope you will consider how you can offer your gifts of time and energy to help provide such great programming!

Thank you,
Rev. Margaret Weis, Minister



Care Team Actively Seeking New Members

Here's your chance to make a difference! The Care Team has openings just waiting for you to fill. This year we'd like to try something new and divide up the activities that were previously all done by one or two people. Here's what is spoken for, and what is still available for you to do:

—Coordinating memorial services--being done by Nancy Dolge and Rita Rosenberg Barber (thank you, Nancy and Rita!)

—Sending cards to people dealing with a loss or illness, or celebrating a milestone--being done by Pat Court (thank you, Pat!)

—Coordinating periodic visits to Kendal--being done by Nancy Miller (thank you, Nancy!)

—Coordinating periodic visits to Longview--**open**

—Staffing the Care Team table at the coffee hour every week--**open** (room for 2 people, one to staff the table, the other to circulate)

—Coordinating the weekly flower delivery--**open**

—Coordinating periodic Care Team meetings--**open**

—Serving as contact person for the Care Team--**open**

—Representing the Care Team at periodic meetings of FUSIT team leaders--**open**

—Coordinating the holiday flower delivery in December and in the spring--**open**

—Coordinating the efforts of people to cook and/or deliver food from the Care Team to congregants who are shut in, etc.--**open**

—Arranging for delivery of the Quilting Group's quilts to congregants--**open**

—Coordinating the signing of birthday cards for congregants over 80 (for those who would like a card)--**open**

If you're interested in doing one of these things, but not for the whole year, that's doable, too. More information is coming soon, but if you have questions in the meantime, feel free to ask Margaret Nichols (email mnr1@cornell.edu, phone (607) 273-3772--leave a message).

Soul Matters Material for September on "Kinship"

Our September worship theme at First Unitarian Society of Ithaca is Kinship. 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/kinship-FUSIT>

Board of Trustees September Meeting

The Board of Trustees will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, **September 11th**, 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, **September 10**, 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."

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 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.

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 Mark Pedersen at 273-7521, ext. 21.

Photo Directories are Here!

You can now pick up your photo directory in the Parlor after the service on Sunday or during regular office hours during the week.

Thanks to...

...HT2 Team B, under coordinator Russ Charif, for greeting, ushering, snack providing, coffee prepping and cleaning up after the Sunday services on July 22 & 29 and August 5 & 12.

The Third Generation of Hospitality Teams (2018-2020) will start up on **September 9th**. Members of all four new teams (creatively and temporarily entitled 1, 2, 3, and 4) will be notified of their new assignments and new Co-coordinators shortly.

In the meantime, for the last summer service on Sunday, **September 2**, we will have a Pick Up Hospitality Team made up of volunteers from all four of the old teams. Please check your email for the Sign Up Genius link to help out for this service.

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

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

Book Discussion Group

The group will reconvene, after a summer break, 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.

Our Mission

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

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

Religious Exploration
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Sexton
Sandy Soule, 272-4475

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

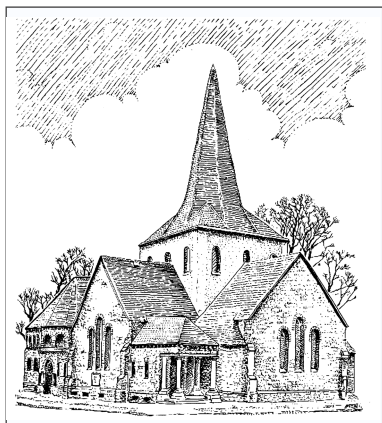
Community Engagement and
Outreach Coordinator
Sarah Buckser, 273-7521, ext 24
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President, Board of Trustees
Angela Zhang
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Mark Pedersen, 273-7521 ext 21
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Visit our Website and get
your newsletter:
www.uuithaca.org

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100 People Help with Successful Recycle Sale



We had a very successful Recycle Sale this year thanks to 100 people who received, sorted, cleaned, priced, arranged and sold the treasures that came in. And many thanks to all the donors who brought in their items. We once more offered a tremendous service to the community as givers and takers, customers and salespersons, huggers and greeters and organizers and volunteers extraordinaire.

Thank us all from each of us and especially from the Recycle Sale Chairs, Nancy Miller and Sue Roenke.

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.

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 begins this Fall - 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

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

The Cornell Farmworker Program is bringing
Enrique Morones to Ithaca
on Tuesday, September 25, at 6 pm
in the Sanctuary at First Unitarian,
with a Reception in the Parlor following the public talk
Sponsored by the Social Justice Council



Enrique is the director of 'Border Angels'
www.borderangels.org

**Border Angels Helps to Save the Lives of Migrants
through Migrant Outreach, Immigration Consulting and
Education and Advocacy**

All Church Night Piloting This Year!

Starting on **September 12th** we are looking to get us all under one roof during the week! On the second Wednesday of each month, we will gather for a **pot-luck dinner and ministry teams will have their meetings on the same night.** *We will be offering childcare!*

We hope this will be a great opportunity to encourage multi-team collaboration, welcoming of newcomers and families, and engaging together in community. We hope you'll join us!

The following teams will participate in our first All Church Night on **September 12th!** If you'd like your ministry team to participate in the All Church Night, have your team leader speak with Rev. Margaret.

The night begins at 5 pm with a shared potluck meal in the Parlor. Please bring a dish to share.

| Team/Committee | Time Slot |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Aesthetics Team | 6-7:00 pm |
| Music Team | 6-7:00 pm |
| Finance Committee | 6-7:00 pm |
| Membership Team | 7-8:30 pm |
| Religious Exploration | 7-8:30 pm |
| Buildings and Grounds | 7-8:30 pm |

Women's Circle

We will meet Sunday, **September 23**, from 12-1:30 in the 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, **September 24**. 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 Jens Wennberg jens207@gmail.com or Mark Piechota markpiechota45@gmail.com for more information.



Possible Ponderings^o

The theme for September is **Kinship**.

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

September 2 – 8: When was the last time you told someone they are like family to you? What would it be like to tell them that? Do you think they already know?

September 9 – 15: What are the communities that shape you and call you to your best self? How can you spend more time in those settings?

September 16 – 22: What are you carrying with you that brings you calm in times of tumult?

September 23 – 29: What does the idea of "church family" mean to you? How is it different than other groups of people?

September 30 – October 6: In what ways do you feel connected to other beings? When does that connection feel strongest?

Volunteers Needed to Make Friendship Center Lunches for Rescue Mission Alliance

We need four volunteers to make and deliver 15 bag lunches each to the Friendship Center on **October 2nd and November 6th**.

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 ackiejab@me.com.

Diners Club 2018: Come Dine with Us!

Diners Club is a wonderful way for adult members to get to know each other better while eating delicious food! As a Diners Club member, you participate in up to six small dish-to-pass dinners between October and May. Dinners are held in members' homes with each participant bringing part of the meal. Each month, new dining groups are created, providing the opportunity to dine with a variety of members throughout the year.

On Sundays, **September 9th and 16th** you will be able to sign-up in the Parlor. You can also sign-up by contacting the coordinator, Jane Koestler, at j.e.koestler@gmail.com or Mark Pedersen in the Church Office at 273-7521, ext. 21. The October dinner assignments will be e-mailed to members in late September. Hope you can join us!

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 Gallery Night in Downtown Ithaca. Show dates are **September 6th thru October 25, 2018.**

CHOIR NEWS

I hope you've all had a wonderful summer full of sunsets and waterfalls. Mine has been spent traveling, hosting family and friends visiting from near and far, time by the lake, and making music. I spent four days at Smith College attending and presenting at the Massachusetts ACDA conference and I have a stack of fabulous music to share with you in the coming year.

Rehearsals Beginning in September

We will begin rehearsing this season on Thursday, **September 6th** from 7:15-8:45pm in the Annex.

Fall Choir Dates

September 30

October 28

November 18

December 2

December 24 (Sage Chapel evening service)

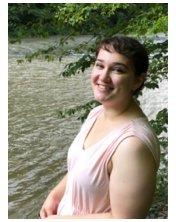
A reminder that you can join choir for a month at a time! Just commit to coming for the 3-5 rehearsals before each Choir Sunday. New members excitedly welcome!

Want to sign up? Have a question? Contact Jennifer at fusitchoir@gmail.com

- Jennifer Lawrence Birnbaum, choir director

Meet Our New Engagement and Outreach Coordinator, Sarah Buckser

Sarah Buckser is FUSIT's new Community Engagement and Outreach Coordinator. She is a recent graduate of SUNY Geneseo, a small school outside Rochester, New York. There she studied anthropology, specializing in the cranio-facial reconstruction of canids at archeological sites and material object analysis. In her free time Sarah enjoys painting, playing ukulele, creative writing, and studying for her LSATS. She plans one day to become a lawyer and fight for reforms in the juvenile justice system. Her passion for justice makes her especially proud to work at FUSIT, whose commitment to its community and the rights of those who are oppressed inspires her to strive to become more active in social justice movements. While raised Jewish, Sarah has many fond memories of attending UU services with her father, who grew up in the Church of the River in Tennessee. She has a pet hedgehog that is too fat for his own good and three wonderful little brothers who may visit our celebrations during the year. Sarah hopes to bring energy, passion and dedication to her new position and is excited to be a part of the staff and congregation that makes FUSIT such a wonderful place.



Join the Fun at Porchfest, September 23rd!

Bring the entire family for fun, music, and ice cream sundaes!

First Unitarian Society of Ithaca has a crucial role in the creation of the ice cream sundae. According to VisitIthaca.com, the Ice Cream Sundae was invented by FUSIT treasurer Chester C. Platt and first eaten by FUSIT's Rev. John Scott on April 3, 1892. This adds to our rich history of connectedness with Ithaca and the Tompkins County community.

We are excited to celebrate our annual Sundae Sunday with the greater Ithaca community during PorchFest 2018. Our event will take place from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm in the parking lot between the Parish House and the office building at 310 N. Aurora Street. Not only will we be serving delicious sundaes with Purity ice cream and plenty of toppings, live music will feature our Ukulele Union players and the Better Weather String Band.

We hope to see you there!

Nametags

If you have misplaced your nametag, simply complete the form available on the table near the nametag cabinet on Sundays. The nametag will be waiting for you the next Sunday at the location you select. Please select one location where your nametag will be found, in whichever cabinet you place it. If you would like a pink triangle or rainbow ribbon affixed to your nametag, indicating your support for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities, you may indicate this on the nametag request form.