



ITHACA

UUU Connections

2018/19 Issue No. 8

April 2019

Sunday Celebrations at 10:30 am

April 7: "Let Your Life Speak"

-Rev. Margaret Weis

Parker Palmer once said, "Before you tell your life what you intend to do with it listen for what it intends to do with you." What would it be like to listen to our lives speak and tell us who we are?

Special music by UUUU and Friends, and John Vandenburg

April 14: "Recurrences, Revelations, Rebirths & Revolutions Start with an Authentic You"

-Guest speaker Michelle Courtney-Berry

Michelle Courtney Berry is a serial entrepreneur - founder of a new nonprofit and a deeply experienced speaker - wellness consultant and coach who had opened for the Dalai Lama and Maya Angelou. She holds a graduate degree in Communication from Cornell and has spoken at and for UU many times. Find her on the web at MichelleCourtneyBerry.com

Special music by Ithaca Vocal Jazz Ensemble

April 21: "A Rite of Spring - A Multigenerational Eastertide Celebration"

-Rev. Margaret Weis

The Unitarian Universalist minister Max Coats once said, "We need a celebration that speaks the spring-inspired word about life and death, about us as we live and die, through all the cycling seasons, days, and years." Join us for such a celebration as we explore these themes together.

Special music by Stephanie Ortolano, organ

April 28: "The Power of Disagreement"

-Rev. Margaret Weis

Some might ask, "when will truth be revealed?" Some might say the truth has already been revealed. What would it mean to ask, "what is truth? How do we know it is so? Who decides

Ministerial Musings

I have been thinking a lot lately about why we gather in religious community.

We all come to this community for our own reasons – friendship, inspiration, connection, opportunity to engage with our faith and our values, exploration of religious and philosophical ideas, to laugh, to celebrate, to grieve, and to be with others who share these hopes.

In recent months, many of us have experienced the deep love that comes from community, as we have grieved the losses of many among us and offered support and love to one another in that grieving process. I am so grateful that this congregation exists – for all those who have been impacted by it over the years, for those of you here today, and for all those who have yet to darken our doorway.

Because this congregation is so important, we need to make sure we care for it well – not only with our time, treasure, and talent – but also with our intention.

The staff, board, and lay leaders are in the process of evaluating our policies and procedures for FUSIT. These are the ways we live out our covenant with each other, deal with issues that arise, and do our best to make sure we are building the safest community we can. Some of these policies have to do with our communications and postings, use of our space for rentals, and how we will interact with one another on social media. Other policies have to do with our physical safety, both in the building and between individuals.

As time goes on, these policies will be shared with you all, and I invite you to reflect on them and the care taken to develop them. We live in complicated times, which call for sometimes complicated responses. Our goal is to develop policies that are coherent, consistent, and realistic. Thank you, in advance, for your help in implementing them when the time is right.

We can live into our covenant and our mission to create connections, find inspiration, and engage the world, together, and do so in the safest and most responsible ways.

See you on Sunday!

Rev. Margaret

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

Religious Exploration News

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

April 7-28: Side with Love Collection Helping Our Furry Friends

This month we will be gathering items for the SPCA of Tompkins County. Please bring scoopable/clumping cat litter, new litter boxes of all sizes, canned dog food, dog toys (no tennis balls), spray or squeeze cheese, leashes and harnesses, small paper plates, dish soap, paper towels, and liquid laundry soap to Sunday services during the month of April. We will collect items during the first hymn each week, and larger/heavier items can be placed in the basket by the Welcome Table before or after service. Thank you!

Soul Matters Material for April on "Revelation"

Our April worship theme at First Unitarian Society of Ithaca is Revelation. 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/Ithaca-Revelation>

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 www.instagram.com/ithacaunus and Twitter, @IthacaUUs.

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.

From Susanne Quagliata, Director of Religious Exploration

As many of you know, our worship services for the last few years have been theme-based. Each month, we use a Soul Matters program theme, and we consider the question "What does it mean to be a people of..." In 2019, we've explored integrity, faith, and resilience. Reverend Margaret's sermons for the month, the readings, music, and even the work of the Aesthetics Team align with the theme. In addition, most of our small groups explore the themes in more depth during their meetings.

This month the theme is revelation, and our religious exploration program will focus on the theme too! Our children and youth will learn about Passover, Easter, and diversity. April is the perfect time to see what will be revealed in nature and within ourselves.

We hope the experience adults have in our sanctuary on Sunday can compliment what our children learn in religious exploration. It's my hope that by exploring the theme of revelation in RE, we can take our faith with us when we leave on Sundays and continue the dialogue throughout the week about what it means to be a people of revelation.

Please use the Possible Ponderings insert from your order of service on Sunday and the Soul Matters packet for inspiration.

Recommended Books for This Month's Revelation Theme

Rechenka's Eggs by: Patricia Polacco

A miraculous tale of friendship and caring.

All Are Welcome Here by: Alexandra Penfold

A warm welcoming book that celebrates diversity and gives encouragement and support to all kids.

**Be sure to check out the FUSIT library books on display at the RE table each Sunday. The books align with our worship theme or special events happening that month. There will be selections for both youth and adults and you can even sign them out!*

Religious Exploration Schedule for Children/Youth

April 7: Classroom Sunday

April 14: Creative Sunday

April 21: Multigenerational Sunday

April 28: Classroom Sunday

Joy and Sorrows

Our thoughts are with Bob Nickerson and family on the passing of his wife Carol. A service in memory of her life is planned for **June 8th** at 10:30 am at FUSIT.

Our thoughts are with David Pierce and family on the passing of his wife Janet. A memorial service will be held on **April 14th** at 3:00 pm at FUSIT.

Our thoughts are with the family and friends of Hazel Brampton, who recently passed away. A memorial service will be held at FUSIT on **April 17th** at 11:00 am.

Our thoughts are with Jennifer Birnbaum and family as she continues to navigate care for her father after his surgery.

Thanks to...

... the Aesthetics Team for the beautiful phoenix in the Sanctuary during March.

...to the Stewardship team for the fabulous "campfire cookout" celebration after the pledge service.

...to all who wrote cards to Jim Murphy following his surgery to remove a cancerous kidney.

... Team 2 under Coordinators Donna Faivre-Roberts and Tom Roberts for greeting, ushering, snack providing, coffee prepping and cleaning up after the Sunday service on February 17, and to Team 3 under Coordinators Sharon Beltaine and Jesse Koennecke, for taking on those tasks on February 24 and March 3 and 10.

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 patevans46@gmail.com or John at (607) 898-3943 or at jag222@cornell.edu.



Green Tip from the Environmental Interests Circle

Help FUSIT reduce our landfilled garbage by putting all food scraps and napkins into the compost bin beside the kitchen door during coffee hour.



All Church Night April 10th!

On the second Wednesday of each month, we will gather for a **Potluck Dinner at 5:30 pm in the Parlor & many teams will have their meetings.**

We will be offering free childcare!

A great opportunity for multi-team collaboration, welcoming of newcomers and families, and engaging together in community. We hope you'll join us!

Please bring a dish to share.

The following teams will participate in our All Church Night on **April 10th!**

If you'd like YOUR ministry team to participate in the All Church Night, have your team leader speak with Rev. Margaret.

Team/Committee	Time Slot
Aesthetics Team	6:30-7:30 pm
Music Team	6:30-7:30 pm
Religious Exploration Team	6:30-7:30 pm
Environmental Interests Circle	6:30-7:30 pm
Teen Team (HS Youth Group)	6:30-7:30 pm
Finance and Endowment	6:30-7:30 pm
Community Outreach and Engagement Team	7:30-9:00 pm
Care Team	7:30-9:00 pm
Buildings and Grounds	7:30-9:00 pm

Consider Joining Chalice Lighters!

What is Chalice Lighters?

Chalice lighters helps congregations with grants up to \$20,000 to assist congregations in our central east region to fund capital projects or add a staff member to increase their ministry. Small donations are pooled together from member congregations and grants are awarded three times a year. FUSIT could be eligible for grants if 20% of our members sign up. This would be a small addition to your annual pledge that would help other UU congregations and may help FUSIT as well. Its easy. \$20 or more donation three times a year is all that's required. You can sign-up on-line <https://www.uua.org/central-east/programs/chalichelighter/cerclsignup> or come to the welcome table and sign-up.

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 Ponzone
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

President, Board of Trustees

Angela Zhang
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607-216-7162

Care Team

Molly Robbins
robbinsmolly18@gmail.com

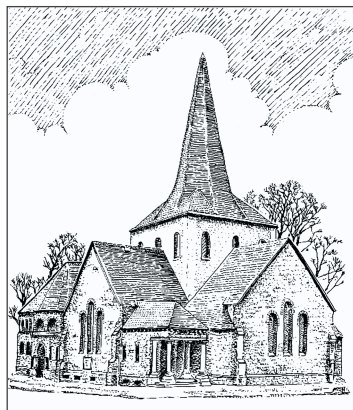
Congregational Administrator

Jessica English
273-7521 ext 21
cadmin@uuithaca.org

Administrative Assistant

Loretta Heimbuch, 273-7521
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The First Unitarian Society of Ithaca
306 North Aurora Street
P.O. Box 6
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Visit our Website and get
your newsletter:
www.uuithaca.org

Help Needed to Provide Lunches for the Day Center

We need four volunteers for **May 7** to provide 15 bag lunches each, delivered to the Day Center at 531 State St., Ithaca, between 9:30 and 11:30 am. For information about the new guidelines of what to prepare, please contact Jackie Jablonski at jackiejab@me.com.

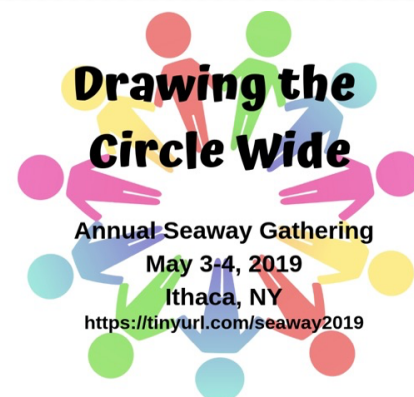
The Day Center (formerly the Friendship Center) is a safe supportive drop-in center run by St. John's Community Service, that serves three free meals a week. Our congregation provides 60 bag lunches on the first Tuesday of every month. For more information, please contact Jackie.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

June 19-23, 2019
Spokane, Washington
The Power of We

In a time of great challenge and heartbreak in our world, what does our faith demand from us? At this year's General Assembly we will explore the power, possibility, purpose, struggle and joy of finding the path forward together as Unitarian Universalists.



Pre-Emptive Radical Inclusion
2019 Spring Gathering
May 3-4

Come join UUs from across New York for a day of worshipping, learning and connecting!

Registration is now open!

Click [here](#) to save yourself a spot at this fantastic event.



Possible Ponderings

*The theme for March is **Revelation**.*

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

April 7-13: When has your life told you something you didn't expect? What did you learn from that experience?

April 14-20: Rev. Rebecca Parker once said, "Revelation comes to those who are radically hospitable to what they don't know." How can you practice radical hospitality to what you don't know? What would that look like?

April 21-27: What is a story about rebirth that speaks to you? How have you experienced revelation in that story?

April 28-May 4: Is there someone in your circle of coworkers or family with whom you disagree? How might you enter into intentional conversation with them about issues that matter to you?

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.

Weekly Food Collection

Springtime weather doesn't eliminate hunger in our community. Every week we collect dry or canned food for delivery to a local food pantry. Please bring non-perishable items to the basket which is located in the Garden

Women's Circle

The Women's Circle will meet Sunday, **April 28th**, from 12-1:30 in the Mark Pedersen Arch Room. All who identify as women are welcome at the Women's Circle. Contact Carol Whitlow at whitlowcarol@gmail.com.

Men's Group

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

Contact Jens Wennberg jens207@gmail.com or Mark Piechota markpiechota45@gmail.com for information.

Social Justice Council

The Social Justice Council will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, **April 8th**, from 5:30-7:30 pm in Room 122 (Francis Ellen Watkins Harper Room). Come to learn what our various action teams are doing, and participate in choosing the recipient of each month's "Sharing Sunday" and to enjoy good sociability and conversation. All are welcome!

Are you having trouble finding enough food to eat or to feed your family? If you are experiencing food insecurity, please let Rev. Weis know or connect with Joanne Farbman, who is our volunteer that helps those of us experiencing food insecurity connect with resources in our community. Joanne can be reached via email at jsfarbman@gmail.com.

Many undocumented young people (under age 21) working in upstate NY would be eligible for green cards and a path to citizenship if they can apply for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS). The Cornell Farmworker Program has already identified 8 youngsters just in the past few weeks and is now looking for individuals willing to act as legal guardians. (The process is complicated, but the young people probably would not live with the guardian, but would stay working on the farm). There will be an information session in the next couple of weeks, so if you would like to receive notice of the session, please contact farmworkers@cornell.edu or ags253@cornell.edu.

Update on Stewardship Campaign

We're off to a great start! You have already submitted or danced 103 pledges down the aisles on Sunday, March 10, totalling over \$155,000. We're well on our way to meeting our goal of \$325,000!

Our pledge luncheon was wonderful, and yet, not unique. Each and every week, members of our congregation open their hearts to share the love. Whether it's serving as a member of the care team, raising funds for Babies First to support local mothers in need, or simply sharing a smile, a hug, or a shoulder to cry on, we are actively supporting each other and the beloved community at large.

If you haven't made your pledge yet, please join us in celebrating the ways we as a congregation Share the Flame of hope, love, belonging, generosity and gratitude with each other and engage the world at large.

PLEDGE NOW at bit.ly/FUSIT/pledge, or bring it to church on Sunday, or mail it in. If we each give \$150 more than we did last year, we will meet our goal.

If you have any questions about pledging please don't hesitate to reach out! Contact Sharon Costianes (sharon.costianes@gmail.com) or David Salomon (dsalomon01@gmail.com) and we will gladly help.

Thank you for your continued generosity and love for our beloved community!

From the Care Team

The Care Team will hold its monthly meeting on All Church Night, **April 10th**, from 7:30-9:00 pm, after the potluck dinner.

If you have questions about how you'd like to be involved, feel free to contact Molly Robbins at robbinsmolly18@gmail.com.

Are you having trouble finding enough food to eat or to feed your family? If you are experiencing food insecurity, please let Rev. Weis know or connect with Joanne Farbman, who is our volunteer that helps those of us experiencing food insecurity connect with resources in our community. Joanne can be reached via email at jsfarbman@gmail.com.

"Crafting Worship" Workshop with Rev. Margaret: Saturday, April 6, from 10 - 1

Ever wondered how the Sunday services come together? Curious about how to write a sermon, choose readings, or find that perfect hymn? Rev. Margaret will be offering a half-day workshop on worship planning, sermon writing, and more! This is especially great for people interested in offering a summer service or curious about what that entails!

Living Into Our Promise Offering to Benefit Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU)

This past month, we gathered our Share the Plate offering to send to BLUU to continue their important work in our movement. Our pledged goal was to raise \$1500 and we have collected around \$1000. We are asking each of you to consider continuing to give to help us reach our goal for our donation to BLUU. You can send your payments to the office, or bring them with you this coming Sunday. Please indicate that the donation is for BLUU. Thank you! If you'd like to learn more about BLUU, click here (<http://www.blacklivesuu.com/>)

Book Discussion Group

The FUSIT Book Discussion Group will next meet Friday, **April 5**, in the Beatrix Potter Library Room at 12:30. The book will be *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves* by Karen Joy Fowler. For more information please 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 contact the Care Team Chair, Molly Robbins at robbinsmolly18@gmail.com.

Additionally, if you need a ride to any event at church, please contact Molly 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 Molly to give her your name and contact information.



AIDS Ride for Life - Mark Rides On!

REGISTRATION for the 21st Annual AIDS Ride For Life is open. Save the date! AIDS Ride For Life will take place **September 7, 2019** and is a fully supported 102, 90, 69, 42, 25 or 14 mile bike ride beginning in Ithaca, NY. You can pick the length that feels good for you! FUSIT members and friends can register at <http://aidsrideforlife.org/rider/registration>. When you register, the team name is "Mark Rides On". There will be a FB group created and training rides and other activities leading up to the big day! And if you don't ride, there will still be ways to be engaged leading up to and during the race. We will keep you posted on details as they unfold!

Summer Service Planning Begins Now!

During the summer months our services are led by you – the people in the pews! Services take place in the parlor and feature a variety of speakers throughout the summer months. This year, Don Barber will be coordinating these services and is looking for others to join in the fun! Please contact Don if you are interested in learning more: sunnybrk@gmail.com.

Board of Trustees March Meeting

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

Please join our Buildings and Grounds Team at All Church Night each month!

Can you help us with any of these tasks? Supplies provided. Contact Sara Catterall at sara.catterall@gmail.com.

- Assist with Sunday service support tasks
- Painting--many options, including small rooms, a metal door, and a radiator.
- Stained ceiling tile replacement
- Snake a drain
- Light carpentry projects

Mark Pedersen Fund Update

We were all heartbroken when our beloved Mark Pedersen passed away unexpectedly Sept. 16. Over 35 folks have contributed to a fund in his name, which now has over \$5,000.

We are pleased to announce plans to use this money. First, we will use a portion of it to buy a new phone system for the church. This is may not seem very exciting, but Mark desperately wanted to replace our clumsy system. A little of the money will be used to support the "Mark Rides On" team participating in the STAP AIDS Ride for Life this September.

The largest portion will be used to help defray costs of members attending the UUA General Assembly which occurs in June each year. Mark attended for many years and wanted to see more of our congregation attend. We are finalizing guidelines for applying for up to \$500 of support to attend GA in person or cover costs of remote online participation. This funding should be available for several years. Guidelines and application will be available on our website.

Grand Recycle Sale

August 17-19, 2019

Spring snowstorms among the teasing of a warm day has made it hard to think about Spring Cleaning. But when you do throw open your windows and doors on a sunny spring day and dive into changing over from winter to summer, **look for gently used things that can be donated to the Recycle Sale.**

*This major fundraiser depends on what you donate.
So pile up lots of good stuff for the sale!!*

It seems like a miracle that every year we make thousands of dollars for running our church from **YOUR STUFF!! Plus it is lots of FUN to volunteer for the sale! We connect and get to know each other as we sort clothes, laugh at odd items, and share our stories as we work.**

We are excited to be your Coordinators of the Recycle Sale again this year. Right now all we are asking you is to start saving stuff. As we move toward summer we will be asking for commitments to work during set-up/sorting week and during the sale. There are lots of opportunities to join the fun!! 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.

Sue Roenke and Nancy Miller

Intake dates are Tuesday June 25, Wednesday July 10, Tuesday July 23, Wednesday August 7, and Sunday August 11

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Welcoming Congregation**

Environmental Forum

Keep It Cool, Tompkins

*Sunday April 7, 9 am,
in the Mark Pedersen (Arch) Room*

Our speakers this month are Ithaca High School students Tilden Chao and Abigail Glickman, winners of the first Youth Climate Challenge grant from Sustainable Tompkins and Dr. Timothy Harris. Check out their website, Keep It Cool, Tompkins.

Their extensive research on the #1 Drawdown solution, Refrigerant Management, has included a local action plan. Come get informed about refrigerants and what you can do to reduce your personal impact from refrigerant leakage — AND — come get inspired by this example of applying research to make a local impact on global warming.

Mark Your Calendars for These Upcoming Events:

➤ **Friday, May 31 and Saturday, June 1**
Ithaca Festival Parade and Exhibit Booth

➤ **Wednesday, May 29**
First Unitarian Society of Ithaca's Annual Meeting
Starting with pizza dinner in the Parlor at 5:30
Meeting begins at 6:30 in the Sanctuary

➤ **Sunday, June 9**
End of Year Service and Dish-to-Pass Picnic at Stewart Park
In the Large Pavilion from 10:30-1:30

Important Reminder to All Team Leaders

*Please send your reports to Loretta Heimbuch by **May 1st** in order to be included in the Annual Report, which will be printed on **May 22**.*