



ITHACA

UUU Connections

2018/19 Issue No. 10

June 2019

Sunday Celebrations at 10:30 am

June 2: "Imagining Peace"

-Rev. Margaret Weis

John Lennon's song Imagine describes a world where people live in peace and harmony. What might it take for us to get there? How can we open our imaginations to the possibility of peace and love in a world that threatens to divide us?

Special music by UUUU and Friends

June 9: "A Bridge of Flowers"

-Rev. Margaret Weis

Join us for our annual Flower Communion service at Stewart Park, followed by a fabulous potluck picnic in the sunshine! We will also be celebrating the bridging of our high school seniors.

Special music by The Tarps (Savage Club Rock Band)

Sunday, June 16-Sunday, September 1:

Summer services starting at 9:30am

Ministerial Musings

*We affirm a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
~Unitarian Universalist 4th Principle*

One of the many reasons we gather as Unitarian Universalists is to expand our understanding of the world around us and our place in it. Here at FUSIT, this means engaging in a lifelong process of learning, education, and exploration about ideas, philosophies, our own spiritual journey, and the ways we make meaning of our life's experiences.

Lifelong faith formation is one of our main tasks at FUSIT, and one of the biggest reasons people find themselves inside our doors – the hope to grow and learn as a spiritual and intentional being in a world that challenges our values, hopes, and dreams.

I want to invite you on a journey with me. Next year, along with some offerings by myself and other staff, we will be asking for you to offer programming for our adult RE program. We are especially interested in offering programming that utilizes Unitarian Universalist curricula and framework, encourages spiritual growth, and furthers our mission and vision for FUSIT as the UU presence in Ithaca and beyond.

If you are interested in offering some programming, please check out these UU resources: <https://www.uua.org/re/adults/curricular-resources>

Many of the programs are free and laid out in a very user-friendly fashion. You can offer a program on your own, or along with another FUSIT member!

Here is the form to submit a proposal for a program: <https://forms.gle/XxCLQpqvPBwNSpmS8>

It is our goal to offer a rich and diverse array of faith formation options across the lifespan. If you are interested in offering multigenerational workshops, or engaging with our youth and children, please contact Susanne Quagliata at drefusit@gmail.com.

Let us engage with our fourth principle and go on a journey of seeking truth and meaning together.

I can't wait to see what your ideas are!

*See you on Sunday!
Rev. Margaret*

Everyone is invited
End of Year Celebration & Picnic
at Stewart Park (Large Pavilion)
Please plan to come with your entire family for fun and fellowship on

Sunday, June 9, at 10:30 am

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

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

Religious Exploration News

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

Soul Matters Material for June on "Imagination"

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

For April's Side With Love Collection, we collected these items for the SPCA:

34 containers of cat food, 31 containers of dog food, 17 containers of treats, 3 dog bowls, 100 paper plates, 13 toys, 3 misc, 5 bottles of soap, 10 rolls paper towels, and 8.5 lbs of cat litter. Please note that there will be no Side With Love Collection for the month of June, just the weekly food collection.

Weekly Food Collection

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 Entrance.

Lost and Found

Please check the Lost and Found area, which is behind the small square wooden door on the wall outside the church office, by **June 2nd** to see if you happened to leave something at the church. Items not claimed by the end of the church year will be donated to the Recycle Sale.

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 First Unitarian Society of Ithaca.

Fom Susanne Quagliata, Acting Director of Religious Exploration

My focus during this year of transition has been on our children, the curriculum, and communication. Included below are some reflections from this year organized around the "3Cs." For the full Religious Exploration Team 2018-2019 Annual Report, visit the following website: <https://tinyurl.com/FUSIT-RE-2018-2019>

Children: We began the year with 50 children and youth registered in our program and have expanded to 75. The average attendance on Classroom Sundays was 30. One of my favorite moments each week is our Time for Wonder; it's such a joy to see so many UU children and youth with us on Sunday mornings.

Curriculum: We use age-appropriate curriculum across our five different classrooms. The resources we have acquired include many different activities, games, stories, and material lists. Reviewing, selecting, and preparing the curriculum and acquiring and organizing supplies and materials each week can take a lot of my time. Our mid-year survey found that 95% of respondents strongly agree or agreed that current RE programming meets the needs of their children/youth.

Communication: In addition to my monthly updates here, I've provided a message in every mid-week announcement this year, sent weekly updates to parents, and maintained regular communication with over 40 volunteer teachers, assistant teachers, and substitute teachers. As a result, our survey found 90% of parents and guardians were very satisfied with the communication they received about Religious Exploration at FUSIT.

I am proud of what our Religious Exploration program has done this year. While I've done my best to share mostly facts, I'd like to take a moment to share my feelings. The FUSIT staff has been supportive and wonderful to work with. I am grateful to have had them by my side this year. The volunteers in the RE program have made everything that we accomplished this year possible. They have provided a loving and warm experience for our children and I can't thank them enough. It has been a joy getting to know all of our young UUs. I feel hopeful for our future after seeing the amazing hearts and minds that make up our program.

RE Book Recommendations for Imagination

Malala's Magic Pencil by: Malala Yousafzai

Malala's first picture book will inspire young readers everywhere to find the magic all around them.

We Are What We Do by: Kids!!!

Small actions multiplied by lots of people equals big change! These thirty-one creative, original ideas are contributed by kids for kids -- and each is guaranteed to have a clear and positive impact.

OWL News

Families with youth that will be in grades 7 & 8 and 10 & 11 in the fall of 2019 are invited to join our OWL Facilitators on **June 2**, 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm for an OWL Teaser.

The meeting will be held at the First Congregational Church in Cayuga Heights, as we will be offering the program with them in the fall. Stay tuned for exact location at UCC.

Joys and Sorrows

Our condolences go out to the friends and family of Peter Clark who passed away on December 29 in Groton. A Memorial service is scheduled for June 22nd at 1:30 pm.

Thanks to...

... all who donated in April to our Side with Love collection. We gathered 90 packages of menstruation products for those in need.

... Team 1, the Forest Cookies, under Coordinators Helen Ann Yunis and Pam Crosby, for greeting, ushering, snack providing, coffee prepping and cleaning up after the Sunday services on April 21 and 28 and May 5 and 12.

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

Rev. Margaret has given us an assignment, part of a new tradition of Radical Inclusion/Radical Hospitality:

During Coffee Hour each week extend a greeting to and start a conversation with someone you do not know or do not know well. After you have done this you are free to talk with friends or work on church business. We want to continue becoming The Welcoming Congregation.

Hospitality teams provide the organized volunteer power to make each week's Sunday service and coffee hour a welcoming time for all who attend. HT's provide opportunities to make real and important contributions to the FUSIT community with a very modest amount of time and effort.

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](tel:607).

Thanks to Your Generosity

During the month of April, we collected \$532 for the Sunday Shared Plate Offering, which we donated to the Finger Lakes Independence Center.

The Finger Lakes Independence Center is a community service agency in Ithaca that strives to empower all people with disabilities while creating an inclusive society through the elimination of social and architectural barriers.



SIDE WITH LOVE

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

Don't miss this opportunity to let your FUSIT pride shine on **May 30th** (assembling at 6 pm - look for location on our facebook page). The Unitarian Universalist Ukulele Union (UUUUs) will bring their ukuleles and everyone will hit the streets of the parade with our yellow "Side With Love" T-shirts. UUs all around the country are showing up at rallies and parades in their yellow shirts, to present a unified show of strength and commitment to our UU values. Wearing our "Side With Love" shirts sends the message that we stand up for love in an atmosphere of hate and fear.

We also need volunteers for the Ithaca Festival booth on June 1st! If you would like to volunteer or help out, email Sarah Buckser at memcoord@uuithaca.org.

Social Justice Council Meeting

The Social Justice Council will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, **June 10th**, 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 to participate in choosing the recipient of the monthly "Sharing Sunday," and to enjoy good sociability and conversation. All are welcome!



Green Tip from the Environmental Interests Circle

Food labels claiming ethical production or low environmental impact have a wide variety of meanings, some with more detailed definitions and higher accountability than others. The Sierra Club offers a guide to decoding ten such labels, at:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/2019-3-may-june/taste-test/supermarket-decoder-how-interpret-major-food-labels>

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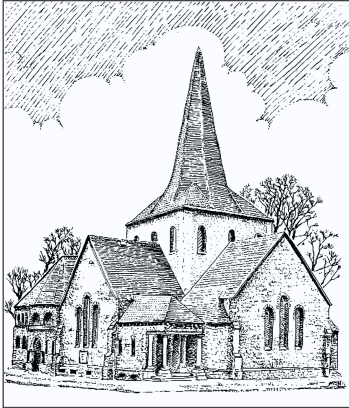
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Visit our Website and get
your newsletter:
www.uuithaca.org



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.

Attendees will leave inspired, with the tools needed to carry on the work into their own congregations and communities. Join us as we work for collective liberation inside and outside our faith.

The 2019 Ware Lecturer is [Richard Blanco](#). Selected by President Obama as the fifth inaugural poet in U.S. history, Richard Blanco is the youngest and the first Latino, immigrant, and gay person to serve in such a role.

General Assembly Delegates Sought

If you are a FUSIT member and you are planning on being in Spokane, WA, at General Assembly (GA) from **June 19-23**, you could be a delegate!

These are the folks who make decisions, along with thousands of other UUs at GA, that impact what our focus will be as a religious organization. If you are interested, please contact Jessica at 273-7521, ext. 21 or cadmin@uuithaca.org, and she will forward your request to the Board for their meeting on **June 11th**.

Women's Circle

Women's Circle will have a social gathering at Carol Whitlow's home sometime in June or July, date and time to be determined. Watch for email and listserv announcements. Anyone who identifies as female is welcome. Contact Nancy Miller ananda7733@gmail.com for more information.

Men's Group

The Men's Group meeting for June will be held on Monday, **June 24th**. All those who identify as male are invited to join us from 5:30-7:30 pm in the Fulgence Ndagijimana Room (formerly the HS Room) to share stories and eat some pizza. Newcomers welcome.

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

Upcoming Events



Ithaca Festival Parade and Exhibit Booth **Thursday, May 30 and Saturday, June 1**

We will be marching in the Ithaca Festival Parade on **May 30th** with our UUUU and Friends and handing out wildflower seeds and stickers. Then, on Saturday **June 1st** we will be tabling at the festival so be sure to come by and make some sharpie-tie-dye prayer flags! We need volunteers to march in the parade and to help with the booth so stop by the welcome table, or reach out to Sarah Buckser at memcoord@uuithaca.org. We hope to see you there!

Interfaith PRIDE Service: Monday, June 3rd at 6:30 pm, First Unitarian Society of Ithaca

Join us for the third annual Interfaith PRIDE Service where we will join together in story, song, and reflection celebrating the lives of LGBTQI folx and their allies.

Recycle Sale Kick-Off

Come to a **Kick-off Potluck** and short meeting on Thursday, **June 6th**, at 6 pm in the Parlor for those on the Recycle Sale Team and anyone else. All are welcome! You can sign up there.

End of Year Service and Dish-to-Pass Picnic at Stewart Park on Sunday, June 9

We will gather at Stewart Park (Large Pavilion) from 10:30-1:30. Please let Jessica know how you would like to help with set-up or clean-up by contacting her at 273-7521, ext. 21 or cadmin@uuithaca.org.

UU Quilters - Open Enrollment

Do you like to sew? Do you wonder if you'll use up your fabric stash in your lifetime? Have you exhausted your recipient list for quilts among your family and friends? Or would you like to experience quilting with a small group? No quilting expertise needed.

If you answer yes to any of these questions, the UU Quilters very small group will welcome you. Our mission is to make quilts that give us a creative outlet, while giving someone else, a bit of caring, love, and warmth. We have given quilts to the FUSIT Care Team, Catholic Charities home for young women, and the homeless shelter on Court Street.

The nitty gritty: We have boxes of fabric sorted by color. We have batting. We have some large fabric for backing. We usually tie our quilts. The actual piecing is done at your home with your sewing machine. We meet about once /month to sandwich quilts on the ping pong table in my basement.

Interested or have questions? Email Pat Gaines at pwg8@cornell.edu.

Possible Ponderings



The theme for June is Imagination.

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

June 1-8: Imagine the beloved community. What does it look like? Who is part of it? How can you tell it is beloved?

June 9-15: How have you been changed by this religious community? How have you changed it?

June 16-22: Albert Einstein once said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge." What do you think about that?

June 23-30: What is something you can create this week? What have you imagined that you could begin to bring to life?

Board of Trustees March Meeting

The Board of Trustees will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, **June 11th**, at 6 pm in the Parlor. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Book Discussion Group

The FUSIT Book Discussion Group will next meet Friday, **June 7**, in the Beatrix Potter Library Room at 12:30. The book will be *Cherokee America* by Margaret Verble. 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.



Grand Recycle Sale August 17-19, 2019

Connect, Inspire, Engage

Summer at FUSIT is all about the Recycle Sale bursting forth and taking over every corner of our buildings. Summer will be upon us soon now that green is bursting everywhere. Finally!!

Connect – In June connect with your extra stuff in attics, basements, garages, barns and closets and decide what has to go! Then **donate to the Recycle Sale!** See insert for Intake dates & times plus guidelines. Connect by **Volunteering for intakes, sorting, or during the sale or clean-up!**

Inspire – In June find inspiration by joining others to make this huge undertaking start to unfold.

Engage – In June and July, engage with others in our congregation as you bring in your stuff or by helping out at Intakes. Engage with the Sign-up-Genius to sign up for specific dates to work in August.

Come to a **Kick-off Pot-Luck** and short meeting on Thursday, **June 6th**, at 6 pm in the Parlor for those on the Recycle Sale Team and anyone else. All are welcome! You can sign up there.

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.....And you can be part of it!

Feel free to contact co-chairs, Nancy Miller, ananda7733@gmail.com 607 539-7733 or Sue Roenke sue.roenke@gmail.com 607 351-8186 for further information. Talk to us at coffee hour or at the picnic on Sunday, **June 9th**.

Intake dates are June 25, July 10, July 23 and August 7 at 6-8 pm and August 11 at 11 am-2 pm.

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/ithacauus and Twitter, @IthacaUUs.

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

Aileen Fitzke Ordination

Aileen Fitzke will be ordained by the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton on Sunday, **June 2** at 4:00 pm. All members and friends from both congregations are invited to attend the ordination and reception at FUSIT. The reception will be catered, but to make it extra special we are asking people from both congregations to **bring homemade desserts ready to be served.** Volunteers for greeting ministers, ushering, set-up and cleanup would be greatly appreciated. Contact Walt Peck at wgp8@aol.com.

Interfaith Pride Service

We will be hosting the 3rd Annual Interfaith Pride Service! Please plan to attend! Monday, **June 3** at 6:30 pm.

Join us for a service of love, faith, and inclusion as we celebrate our different faith traditions and communities as we pray, remember, lament, encourage, and hope together through reflection and song. Food will be provided following the service.

Participation by First Unitarian Society of Ithaca, First Congregational Church, First Baptist Church, Congregation Tikken v'Or, Temple Beth-El, St. John's Episcopal Church, St. Paul's Methodist Church, Forest Home Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, Ithaca College OSRL and more.



We Have Met Our Goal!

Thank you so much for your generous response to our 2019-20 Pledge Campaign. To date, our pledges total \$339,100. That is above our sustaining budget that will support the good works already in progress at First Unitarian of Ithaca.

But if you haven't pledged yet, it is not too late! Additional pledges will enable us to do more. We can support our Vision of Ministry and wonderful initiatives we would like to undertake. Mail your pledge, call the church office at 273-7521, pledge online at bit.ly/FUSITpledge, or talk to a Stewardship Team member when we call.

We are grateful for pledges received and hopeful that everyone will participate. Your pledge, large or modest, is vital. All of us together can make a real difference in what First Unitarian of Ithaca can do for our community.

Questions about pledging? Contact us at sharon.costianes@gmail.com or dsalomon01@gmail.com and we will gladly help.