



# ITHACA

## UU Connections

2019 / 2020 Issue No.2

October 2019

### Sunday Celebrations at 10:30 am

#### **Sunday, October 6** *The Temple of Our Being*

Rev. Margaret Weis

We often think about a temple or a sanctuary as a place with walls, and ceilings – a location. What if the sanctuary isn't something that is, but something that happens? How do we create a temple of being?  
*Special music by UUUU and Friends*

#### **Sunday, October 13** *Welcoming the Stranger*

Rev. Margaret Weis

What do we need to know about a person before we see them as our kin, a fellow being, or a person worthy of our care? How do we practice radical hospitality and welcome those we do not yet know?  
*Special music by Sue Smith, piano*

#### **Sunday, October 20** *Stories of Finding Home and Sanctuary*

Guest speakers: TBD

We find a sense of sanctuary, home, and belonging in different places in our lives. Some in community, at school, or other learning environments. Come explore the places and circumstances that help us find belonging, sanctuary, and a sense of wholeness.

*Special music by VOICES Multicultural Choir*

#### **Sunday, October 27** *Safer Places - A Reflection on Sanctuary*

Rev. Margaret Weis

In our striving to create a more just and safe world, we must also acknowledge the limits of that striving. We cannot guarantee that our words, actions, or missteps will never harm another person. How do we grow in our understanding of this, learn from our mistakes, and do what we can to create safer places in our lives?

*Special music by FUSIT Choir*

### *Ministerial Musings*

*Make us aware we are a sanctuary. Each made holy, loved right through.  
With thanksgiving, we'll be a living sanctuary anew.*

*-Lyrics to a UU song used at many Sanctuary Boston services*

When I was little, I loved going to church. I played sports that sometimes interfered with my ability to get there every week, but when I could go I loved it. I loved the singing, seeing people I knew and loved, listening to the stories, and seeing my friends. I especially loved the sanctuary – its vastness, its creaky pews, the velvet cushions, the stools for those of us whose feet didn't reach the floor to place our feet. In that space I felt seen, heard, and held in a way that was centering and foundational for me.

I have felt that way in other contexts as well – when I visit my college campus, sit on the couch in my parents' house where I grew up, ride in the Ride for Life, enter the sanctuary of another faith tradition, and walk in the woods. There is something about that sense of belonging, of being part of something larger, of sanctuary that lives in many places and times.

That being said, I have also come to truly appreciate the ways I am able to bring that sense to others. When I host a gathering at my home, or invite friends over for dinner, or meet new people, I have come to see those times as opportunities for creating a sense of sanctuary for others. I want others to feel that sense of being seen, being heard, and belonging, just as I have. This takes intention. To create a sense of sanctuary we must be intentional about how we gather, how we welcome those we do not yet know, and how we tend to the places and spaces in our lives that hold meaning for us.

I invite us all to reflect on the ways we are opening our spaces – at home, at work, at school, and at church – to others. How are we creating a sense of belonging? How are we welcoming those who do not yet feel they belong? How do we honor the gift bestowed on each of us – the gift of belonging – by welcoming others into “our” space?

This is how we create sanctuary – by opening our spaces, our minds, and our hearts to that which is not yet familiar to us. We create sanctuary anew with thanksgiving, and a constant reminder that each of us is holy and worthy – and responsible for acknowledging that holiness in others.

Let us do so with open hearts and, in the process, widen the possibility of love and relationship to flourish.

See you at FUSIT!

Rev. Margaret

## **Sambain Craft Night October 26th!**

*Have you ever wondered what the ritual of Sambain in Wicca involves? Have you ever wondered what other Halloween traditions are out there? Ever wanted to try casting a spell or making a potion? Then join us for our Sambain craft night on October 26th from 5:30-7:30. We will be making protection spell bags, learning about the ancient holiday of Sambain that turned into our modern Halloween, and creating a potion for new beginnings. This October add to your Halloween experience by joining us for the Sambain Craft Night led by Sarah Buckser. To RSVP email Sarah at [memcoord@uuitbaca.org](mailto:memcoord@uuitbaca.org).*

## **The Ride for Life on September 7 was a testament of love for Mark Pedersen**

*Like a beautiful cloth woven in many colors, so many FUSIT members contributed in ways large and small. There were 37 riders on the "Mark Rides On" team, who raised more than \$30,000 in Mark's name for the Southern Tier Aids Prevention program. They rode in jerseys designed by Margaret Weis, and Susan Weis was 'captain' and 'cheerleader' through all of their many practice rides. More than 30 volunteers supported riders at the King Ferry Pit Stop, many waving inspirational posters made at the summer BBQ and Unirondack. And over all the pit stop hours, songs of love and kindness (the theme for this year) played through the system brought by Russ Chariff. And at the Stewart Park celebratory dinner that concludes every Ride, scores of FUSIT members, friends and family ate together, hearing person after person speak of the extraordinary man Mark was and how our lives have been enriched forever by his presence among us. Many tears were shed throughout the long day and the weeks of preparation, but we were together in our heartache, just the way Mark taught us to be.*

## **Religious Exploration News**

*For information about Religious Exploration, please contact Susanne Quagliata at [drefusit@gmail.com](mailto:drefusit@gmail.com) or 607-273-7521, ext. 23.*

### **From Susanne Quagliata, Acting Director, Religious Exploration**

I always look forward to the beginning of the church year. It's such a joy to reconnect with old friends and welcome new friends to our community. It's also exciting to see some of our planning take shape. Highlights from September include:

- \* We hosted three Creative Sundays for our children that emphasized music, nature, and art.
- \* In partnership with First Congregational Church of Ithaca, we began offering Our Whole Lives (OWL) program to youth in grades 7 & 8 and grades 10-12 this year. Over 20 youth are participating in the lifespan sexuality education program.
- \* Under the direction of Jeannie O'Neill, our High School Youth Group began meeting regularly.

Between October and January we will offer eight Classroom Sundays, four Creative Sundays, and four Multigenerational Services. On a typical month we will offer age-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.

Please help us plan for the year by registering your children/youth on our online registration form here: <https://tinyurl.com/FUSIT-RE-REG>. All children and youth need to be registered regardless of past participation. Almost 40 children are registered so far and we expect at least 20 more to be registered this month.

### **Volunteering In RE Doesn't Take As Much Time As You Think**

Volunteers are the only way we can offer the programs we do. Since we only offer classes twice a month, a Classroom Teacher can still attend half of all Sunday services. Classroom Assistants can attend three out of every four Sunday services!

Susanne provides training, lesson plans, and lots of support to minimize outside effort from our volunteers. The curriculum is provided in advance and the classroom with all required materials is set up when volunteers arrive. Contact Susanne Quagliata at [drefusit@gmail.com](mailto:drefusit@gmail.com) to express your interest in volunteering.

Other volunteer opportunities include filling in as a substitute teacher, offering an extra pair of hands to help with special events, bringing in healthy snack, mentoring a youth in our coming of age program, or leading a Creative Sunday.

We are also looking for volunteers to do a quick cleaning of the nursery once a month. This will happen after service on the third Sunday of each month. It will involve wiping down toys, assessing the quality of toys, and light organization. Your commitment can be just a couple of times this year! Please contact Susanne Quagliata if you are interested.

### **Religious Exploration Schedule for Children/Youth**

**October 6:** Classroom Sunday

**October 13:** Multigenerational Service

**October 20:** Classroom Sunday

**October 27:** Creative Sunday

### **Open Mic Night - October 12th**

There will be an Open Mic Night on Saturday, **October 12th** from 6:30-8:30 pm, hosted by the Music and RE Teams. Join us for snacks in the Parlor and then entertainment in the Sanctuary. Read a poem, sing a song, tell a joke, dance, play your instrument alone or with friends.

All are welcome!



## Joys and Sorrows

Our thoughts are with Linda Loomis as she recovers from a recent fall. She is currently at Oak Hill Manor and would appreciate visitors.

## Thanks to...

...Hospitality Team 2, under coordinators Donna Faivre-Roberts and Tom Roberts, who helped with greeting, ushering, snack providing, coffee preparation and clean up after the services on September 8 and 15.

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

Hospitality teams provide the organized volunteer power to make each week's Sunday service and coffee hour a welcoming time for all who attend. HTs 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 John Gaines on Sunday or get in touch with him at (607) 898-3943 or at [jag222@cornell.edu](mailto:jag222@cornell.edu). Thank you, all, for your efforts to increase our Hospitality!

## Soul Matters Drop-In Group October 13

Jennifer Streid-Mullen and Susanne Quagliata are running a drop-in Soul Matters group monthly this fall, for anyone interested. Come and delve into a deep sharing and listening to each other on the topic of the month's Soul Matters package, and explore the theme of our Sunday services and RE program at a deeper level. The group format will echo a typical Small Group Ministry session, which will be explained. We will meet Sunday, **October 13**, 12:15-1:30, in the Mark Pedersen Arch Room. The topic for October is Sanctuary. You are welcome to bring lunch or food to munch on.

## 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.*



## All Church Night October 15th!

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 **October 15th!**

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	6-7:00 pm
Music Team	6-7:00 pm
Religious Exploration Team	6-7:00 pm
Environmental Interest Circle	6-7:00 pm
Membership Team	7-8:30 pm
Care Team	7-8:30 pm
Buildings and Grounds	7-8:30 pm

## Board of Trustees October Meeting

The Board of Trustees will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, **October 8**, at 6 pm in the Parlor. All interested persons are invited to attend.



## Green Tip from the Environmental Interests Circle

*Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County offers a ROTLINE (Compost Hotline) for your compost questions, problems, or requests. Call 607-272-2292 anytime and ask for the "Rotline."*

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

### Minister

Rev. Margaret Weis  
273-7521, ext. 22  
[minister@uuithaca.org](mailto:minister@uuithaca.org)

### Religious Exploration

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### Sexton

Sandy Soule, 272-4475

### Bookkeeper

Lauren Ponzoni  
[bookkeeper@uuithaca.org](mailto:bookkeeper@uuithaca.org)

### Music Director

Stephanie Ortolano  
607-708-8088  
[fusitmusic@gmail.com](mailto:fusitmusic@gmail.com)

### Adult Choir Director

Jennifer Lawrence Birnbaum,  
[fusitchoir@gmail.com](mailto:fusitchoir@gmail.com)

### Community Engagement and Outreach Coordinator

Sarah Buckser, 273-7521, ext 24  
[memcoord@uuithaca.org](mailto:memcoord@uuithaca.org)

### President, Board of Trustees

Andy Turner  
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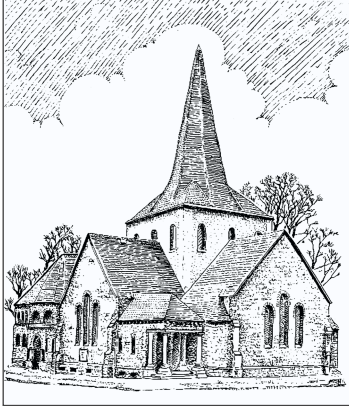
### Congregational Administrator

Jessica English  
273-7521 ext 21  
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### Administrative Assistant

Loretta Heimbuch,  
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your newsletter:  
[www.uuithaca.org](http://www.uuithaca.org)

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### ***Men's Group***

The Men's Group meeting for October will be held on Monday, **October 28**. All those who identify as male are invited to join us 5:30-7:30 pm in the Fulgence Ndagijimana Room (formerly the HS Room) to share stories and eat some pizza.

Contact Jens Wennberg [jens207@gmail.com](mailto:jens207@gmail.com) or Carston Hess [carston@hess.att](mailto:carston@hess.att) for information.

### ***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

### ***Pastoral Need***

*In case of a pastoral need, the Rev. Margaret Weis can be reached at 607-218-4281 (cell) if you need to speak with her.*

*Additionally, if you need a ride to any event at church, please contact Walt Peck at [wgp8@aol.com](mailto:wgp8@aol.com) or 277-6910 as early as possible, so that he can contact a member who is willing to help. If you are willing to provide occasional rides for others, contact Walt to give him your name and contact information.*

### ***Book Discussion Group***

The Book Discussion group will meet on Friday, **October 4**, to discuss the book *"This Is How It Always Is"* by Laurie Frankel. This novel focuses on the challenges of raising children, particularly a transgender child, even when the parents are fully supportive and well-informed. The meeting will take place at 12:30 pm in the Beatrix Potter Library Room. Contact Jennifer Streid-Mullen at 351-3087 or [streidmull@gmail.com](mailto:streidmull@gmail.com).

### ***Women's Circle***

Women's Circle will meet on Sunday, **October 27**, from 12-1:30 in the Mark Pedersen Arch Room. Anyone who identifies as female is welcome. Contact Nancy Miller [ananda7733@gmail.com](mailto:ananda7733@gmail.com).

### ***Social Justice Council Meeting***

The Social Justice Council will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, **October 11**, 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!

### ***Soul Matters Material for October on "Sanctuary"***

Our October worship theme at First Unitarian Society of Ithaca is Sanctuary. 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-Sanctuary>

## Upcoming Events



### **Newcomer Drop-In Circle:**

**1st Sunday of every month @ 12-12:30**

### **New Member Welcome:**

**Sunday, October 27** during worship

### **Ministry Team Fair:**

**Sunday, October 27th during coffee hour**

Come learn about the many and varying ways you can get involved here at FUSIT. We want to learn how you would like to lend your gifts of time and talent to this place of community and purpose!

### **Lunch Bunch:**

2nd Wednesdays from 12-1:30 starting on **October 9th**. Looking to connect with others during the week? Bring your lunch and join us in the Parlor for conversation, connection, and fun! Rev. Weis is hosting!

### **Five Wishes:**

#### **Planning Ahead for End of Life**

Join Rev. Margaret in a four-part series to explore the conversations and things to consider around end of life. This series will utilize the Five Wishes packet and aims to guide participants through having discussions with loved ones, expressing one's wishes, and planning for one's end of life. Please sign up by emailing Rev. Margaret at [minister@uuithaca.org](mailto:minister@uuithaca.org). First **four** Wednesdays in **October (2, 9, 16, 23)** from 6-7:30pm (please note, only four sessions)

### **Afternoon for Lay Pastoral Caregivers**

On Saturday, **October 19** at the UU Church of Binghamton our cluster will host a gathering of folks who are part of the Pastoral Care team in their UU congregations. Lunch will be at 12, the program will be from 1-4:00 pm.

Topics will include:

- Emergent issues you are facing in your congregations
- Boundaries and confidentiality
- UU Prayer?
- Hospital Visits
- Working in teams

Rev. Douglas Taylor, Rev. Jennifer Hamlin-Navias, Rev. Jo VonRue, Sky Williams-Tao and Rev. Darcey Laine will lead the afternoon.

If you would like to attend, RSVP to Rev. Taylor at [dtaylor@uubinghamton.org](mailto:dtaylor@uubinghamton.org) by **October 12** and let us know your dietary needs so we can preparing lunch accordingly.

### **Art in the Parlor**

Nancy Ridenour will have her second show of photographs in the parlor opening September. Her work features flowers from her spectacular garden in Ithaca, birds in Florida, zoo animals and abstracts from sculptures made by Cornell architectural students in 1963. Nancy says she has her camera with her at all times to capture the essence of sites and objects she encounters--places as far away as Rome, Paris and Egypt. Her show will run **through October**.

### **A Successful Grand Recycle Sale 2019**

Big Huge Thanks to all of the volunteers who made the sale a big success! We won't know the final total for a couple months, but our best guess is around \$22,000 for the operating budget. Hooray!! Many of you, especially the managers, put in an enormous number of hours with such open spirits. In addition items went to the ESL program, Second Wind, Turek Farms migrant worker camp, Catholic Charities, the ReUse Center, the Salvation Army, the SPCA, Sew Green, Mary Durham Boutique of the Women Opportunity Center, the Combat Paper Project and Mama Goose. We are so grateful!

*Nancy Miller & Sue Roenke, Co-chairs*

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

We are hosting a 3-class series dedicated to helping you discover Unitarian Universalism. Classes are conveniently scheduled on Sundays after service from 12-1:30 pm. Bring your lunch, explore UUism and share great conversation!

The cohort dates are: Cohort 1: September 29, October 6 and October 13; Cohort 2: November 10, November 17 and November 24; Cohort 3: February 9, February 16 and February 23. To sign up email Sarah Buckser at [memcoord@uuithaca.org](mailto:memcoord@uuithaca.org).



### **Possible Ponderings**

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

**September 29-October 5:** Is the speed and pace of your daily routine blurring your vision? Could the secret to finding clear sight be slowing down?

**October 6-12:** When did you first discover that "sanctuary" was more than a physical place?

**October 13-19:** What if sanctuary is something we build rather than something we find?

**October 20-26:** How is the season of fall offering you sanctuary? Or inviting you to think of sanctuary differently?

**October 27-November 2:** Some say sanctuary is not a place but "the love between us." How that been true for you?

**Save the Date!**  
**Gala Service Auction**  
**& Hors d'oeuvres**

**Saturday, November 9**

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 pm while you nosh and sip and look over the catalog and then the live auction begins at 7:00 pm.

We are again suggesting that any item or service offered should be started around \$20, 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, or delicious dinners for all to enjoy.

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

*Questions: Contact Jessica at the main office at [office@uuitbaca.org](mailto:office@uuitbaca.org) or 273-7521, ext. 21.*

**Upcoming Race and Racism Meeting**  
**Sunday, October 22**

*Have you noticed ... ?*

- race and racism are front and center in American society these days?*
- racial issues have been very much in our local news recently?*
- our own congregation is not exactly racially diverse?*

In America, most white people don't ever have to think about race. But most people of color face racial prejudice and racially-based injustice every single day. If you are concerned, outraged, or just want to better understand the role of race in our town, our country, our world, read on ...

Meetings will be held on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Parlor. All are welcome. If you would be interested in helping to lead or facilitate one session, or if you would like to be added to an email list to receive future FUSIT race-related information, contact Beth Howard at [beth4howard@gmail.com](mailto:beth4howard@gmail.com).

**Join the FUSIT Choir!**

Choir rehearsals have already begun for the year on Thursday evenings. If you'd like to join us to sing in October (or another month), please contact Jennifer at [fusitchoir@gmail.com](mailto:fusitchoir@gmail.com).

**Children's Choir**

We are thrilled to offer a new opportunity for music making, a FUSIT Children's Choir for ages 5 and up with Emily Richards. Children's Choir will take place in the Annex large space immediately following service, 11:45 am-12:45 pm on the following dates this fall; **9/29, 10/13, 10/20, 11/3, 11/17**. Children's Choir will perform on **October 13 and 20**.

**Volunteers Needed to Make Lunches for Day Center**

*We need two more volunteers to make and deliver 15 bag lunches each to the St. John's Community Services Day Center on **October 1st** and three more volunteers for **November 5th**.*

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 includes 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 Day Center is a drop-in assistance center for Ithacans who are homeless or otherwise in need. FUSIT provides 60 lunches (four volunteers making 15 lunches each) on the first Tuesday of every month.

Please contact Jackie Jablonski at [jackiejab@me.com](mailto:jackiejab@me.com) for specific sandwich preparation instructions, if you have questions and /or would like the Social Justice Council to reimburse your expenses.

**"Babies First" News**

Babies First is an all volunteer organization, in its 26th year at FUSIT, that provides tangible help to babies, young children, and their families in need within Tompkins County by offering **free** baby equipment. Referrals are received directly from individuals or from 18 plus non-profit public agencies throughout the county.

Babies First accepts "like new" baby equipment including **pack 'n plays, strollers, high chairs, baby carriers**, etc. Babies First also provides new unused car seats for infants and toddlers. Donations of equipment or financial contributions are always welcome.

After many years of dedicated service to Babies First, Lois Eckland is stepping down as coordinator. She was a constant presence at the church for pick-ups of essential baby equipment for families in need and to accept drop-offs of gently used baby items. She took calls and contributed her front porch for deliveries from Salvation Army (a service she and Dick have volunteered to continue.) Our church community is very grateful for all the hours she so willingly gave to a program that has been the core of our fellowship for decades.

It will take two people to fill her shoes. Walt Peck and Sue Rakow have volunteered to try to do that going forward. The changeover is in the works.

**CALLING ALL BAKERS! Bake Sale!**

The Babies First Fall Bake Sale will be held on **October 6th** 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 6th** Bake Sale, please call Jane McArthur at 216-2151 or [janespickmcarthur@gmail.com](mailto:janespickmcarthur@gmail.com). We would love to add YOUR name to our bakers list! Drop off your goodies in the kitchen before the service on the 6th. Please include an ingredients list for folks with food allergies. All proceeds go toward buying new car seats and other needed like new equipment.