



ITHACA

UUU Connections

2019 / 2020 Issue No.5

January 2020

Sunday Celebrations at 10:30 am

Sunday, January 5: Hymn Sing -Stephanie Ortolano

Let's sing in the New Year with a service of singing. We will be singing songs old and new and requests will be taken!

Special music by Stephanie Ortolano

Sunday, January 12: Practicing Possibility -Rev. Margaret Weis

In a world that demands so much of our energy and effort to work for justice and compassion, how do we tend to our spirits? As we strive to juggle the demands of our lives, where does spiritual practice and intentionality come in? Join us as we reflect on the possibilities that exist when we tend to our whole selves.

Special music by First Unitarian Pickup Choir

Sunday, January 19: Multiplying Possibility -Rev. Margaret Weis

How can we push past the challenges and tragedies of our world that threaten to knock us down and, instead, push open the door of possibility to move forward and multiply love in this world? Join us for a multigenerational service where we explore the possibility of joining our efforts together.

Special music TBD

Sunday, January 26: Possibility - How Do We Know? -Rev. Margaret Weis

At times we know what is possible, but how do we know which choice is right? How do we discern which path is that which we need to follow. Join us as we explore these things together.

Special music by David Coester, guitar

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.

Ministerial Musings

"Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and go do that, because what the world needs is people who have come alive." -Howard Thurman

As we enter into a new year, I invite you to ponder on this idea. The amazing Howard Thurman calls us to ask ourselves what makes us come alive, and do that – because the world needs people who have come alive.

The world needs you. There are so many possibilities that live through you in this world.

So many of us are creatures of habit, of routine, and of getting by day-to-day. I wonder what it might be like for us to break some of those habits – to search deep within ourselves and seek out the things that make our heart race, our eyes widen and our adrenaline rush. What are the possibilities that live in that space? How can we build lives that call us to be those versions of ourselves – the ones that bring us, and in turn the world, alive?

A new calendar year brings with it the possibility of a fresh start, turning over a new leaf, and trying something new. What will you try this year? What will be your practice this year?

Perhaps it is practicing kindness or generosity. Perhaps it is living into the possibility that every person (including you) is doing the best you can. Perhaps it is to refrain from speaking ill of others. Maybe 2020 is the year of being honest and open with your people, and yourself, about what you need, dislike, and want to change.

Who knows what this year will bring!

Whatever it brings, I am grateful to have you as part of this faith community. I continue to be excited about the possibilities we, as a congregation, can engage with in this community and world. Here's to another year of living our Unitarian Universalist values each and every day. It takes practice to co-create the world we dream about – thanks for bringing your wonderful self to the journey!

*Happy New Year,
Rev. Margaret*

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 January on "Possibility"

Our January worship theme at First Unitarian Society of Ithaca is Possibility. 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-Possibility>

Side with Love Collection for January

During the month of January we will be collecting items for Browncoat Cat Rescue, which is a volunteer run organization that focuses on unwanted and abandoned cats in Ithaca and its surrounding areas. Needed items are:

Clean towels and blankets, dry and wet cat food, cat toys, scratch posts, KMR (kitten milk replacer) and snuggle safe disks for kittens.

Sunday Service CDs

Sunday Service CDs are available about 10 minutes after the Sunday Celebration from Sandy Soule, the church Sexton, and any extras are left in the boxes on top of the staff mailboxes in the Parish House.

Please return any CDs you have finished listening to, to the box on top of the mailboxes outside the church office.

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

From Susanne Quagliata, Acting Director, Religious Exploration

Our religious exploration program is using a theme-based curriculum this year. Children and youth are exploring common themes in age-appropriate ways. This approach is helping create multigenerational connections and extending faith development beyond Sunday morning. The following list highlights some of the ways in which what's happening in our religious exploration program is extending beyond the classroom.

- Our children made memory squares that were included in the November aesthetics display in the Sanctuary and they also made acts of kindness boxes for members of our community to spread kindness throughout the month of December.
- Our preschool, kindergarten, first, and second graders made ornaments for Babies First.
- Our second and third graders are stitching together soft dog and cat toys that will be donated to a local animal shelter.
- Our fourth and sixth graders are taking the December collections and assembling kits for the men at Second Wind Cottages.

Religious Exploration By The Numbers

62 Children and youth registered
30 Average Sunday attendance
27 Dedicated volunteers
19 Second and third graders
15 Fourth, fifth, and sixth graders
13 Kindergarteners and first graders
10 Youth participating in Our Whole Lives
6 Preschoolers
4 Youth participating in Youth Group
1 Youth participating in Coming of Age

I want to give a very special thanks to the volunteers that helped in the fall classes:

Rita Rosenberg-Barber, Cori Meloney, Sara Watrous, Jill Barbuti-vanLeuken, Valerie Graves, Leah O'Connor, Sarah Posegate, Scott Gover, Madonna Stallman, Beth Pallace, Whitney Wiggins, Alexis Glennon, Jeannie O'Neill, Jamie Wells, Andy Turner, Evan Wray, Andrew Quagliata and his small group, Arthur Woll, Audrey Hopkins, Edna Brown, Powers, Nancy Miller.

Creative Sunday Leaders and helpers:

Alexis Abramo, Emily Richards, Aurelia Faraday

And those who subbed:

Sue Roenke, Carsten Hess, Kim Wilkinson, Kelsey Underwood

Religious Exploration Schedule for Children/Youth

January 5: Creative Sunday

January 12: Classroom Sunday

January 19: Multigenerational Sunday

January 26: Classroom Sunday

Thanks to...

...Jo Carcich for decorating the Parlor so festively for the holiday season.

...everyone in the FUSIT choir who sang for Linda and Barbara in early December.

...the Timonin family for the donation of a flat screen TV for the youth room.

...Sandy Soule who donated a TV for the RE program.

...Hospitality Team 4, under coordinators Russ Charif and Wendy Wolfe, who organized volunteer power to make Sunday services and coffee hour a welcoming time on November 17 and 24 and December 1, and to Helen Ann Yunis and Pam Crosby for organizing volunteers for the services on December 8 and 15.

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

HTs provide opportunities to make real and important contributions to and connections with 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.

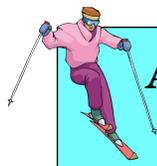
Thank you, all, for your efforts to increase our Hospitality!

Soul Matters Drop-In Group Sunday, January 12th

Jennifer Streid-Mullen and Susanne Quagliata are running a drop-in Soul Matters group monthly 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, **January 12**, 12:15-1:30, in the Mark Pedersen Arch Room. The topic for January is Possibility. You are welcome to bring lunch or food to munch on.

Board of Trustees January Meeting

The Board of Trustees will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, **January 14**, at 6 pm in the Parlor. All interested persons are invited to attend.



All Church Night January 21st!

On the third Tuesday 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 **January 21st!**

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

Congregational Conversation with the Board of Trustees

January 21 from 7-8:30 pm
in the Pedersen Arch Room



Green Tip from the Environmental Interests Circle

[LocalHarvest](http://www.localharvest.org) is a comprehensive national directory of small farms, farmers' markets, locally supplied grocery stores, restaurants, and more. It also provides online tools for farmers and a monthly e-newsletter on food systems and local eating. www.localharvest.org/ithaca-ny

Minister

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

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

Sexton

Sandy Soule, 272-4475

Bookkeeper

Lauren Ponzoni
bookkeeper@uithaca.org

Music Director

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

Adult Choir Director

Jennifer Lawrence Birnbaum,
fusitchoir@gmail.com

Interim Community

Engagement and Outreach
Beth Pallace
memcoord@uithaca.org

President, Board of Trustees

Andy Turner
ast4@cornell.edu
607-227-9820

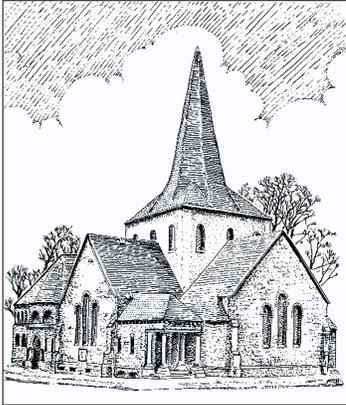
Congregational Administrator

Jessica English
273-7521 ext 21
office@uithaca.org

Administrative Assistant

Loretta Heimbuch
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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

Men's Group

The Men's Group meeting for January will be held on Monday, **January 27th**. All those who identify as male are invited to join us 5:30-7:30 pm in the Mark Pedersen Arch Room to share stories and eat some pizza.

Contact Jens Wennberg jens207@gmail.com or Carston Hess carston@hess.att for information.

Pastoral Emergencies

In case of 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 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, **January 3**, at 12:30 pm in the Potter Library Room to discuss the book "Prince of Les Cocuyos" by Richard Blanco. This is a memoir of Richard Blanco's childhood, which takes place in Westchester, Miami during the late 1970s and '80s. Blanco is known for being the first Hispanic and openly gay poet of the United States. On Friday, **February 7**, the group will discuss "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer, a book about indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge and the teachings of plants. For information contact Jennifer Streid-Mullen at 351-3087 or streidmull@gmail.com.

Women's Circle

Women's Circle will meet in the Beatrix Potter Library Room on Sunday, **January 26th**, from noon to 1:30 pm. All who identify as women are welcome. This is a drop-in group, so no need to sign up; come when you can. For information or questions contact Tricia Borg at pcbrogorg@yahoo.com or 224-436-0539.

Social Justice Council Meeting

The Social Justice Council will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, **January 13**, from 5:30-7:30 pm in Room 122 (Frances Ellen Watkins Harper Room). Come to learn what our action teams are doing, and to participate in choosing the recipient of each month's "Sharing Sunday," and to enjoy good sociability and conversation. We start with an appetizer potluck at 5:30 and then cover our agenda from 6-7:30. All are welcome.

Upcoming Events



January 5 - Newcomer Drop-In Circle

1st Sunday of every month @ 12-12:30 in the Parlor

January 8 - Lunch Bunch, 2nd Wednesdays 12-1:30

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!

January 15- Pub Theology at Liquid State Brewery

@ 6:30 pm. Join us for an evening of good fellowship and conversation at our favorite local brewery (owned by FUSIT members!). We will gather at 6:30 and reflect together on the monthly theme of POSSIBILITY. Feel free to bring some food for yourself or to share! Non-beer and non-alcoholic drinks options available! Bring the kids (as long as you keep an eye on them)! Bring your friends! Hope to see you there! Pub Theology takes place on the **3rd Wednesday** of every month.

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.

Volunteers Needed to Make Lunches for Day Center

*We need four volunteers to make and deliver 15 bag lunches each to the St. John's Community Services Day Center on **February 4.***

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 for specific sandwich preparation instructions, if you have questions and / or would like the Social Justice Council to reimburse your expenses.

Parking Notice!

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

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.

From the Care Team

The Care Team's next meeting will be on **January 12** from 12:00-1:30 in Room 122. Come to find out how you can be involved in this important work. The Care Team is always looking for those who can provide rides, make meals, assist with receptions, and do one-time manual labor tasks when needs arise. If you have questions about the Care Team, please contact Madonna Stallmann at madonnaoftheprairie@gmail.com.

"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 in the Francis David Room (204). Bring your lunch, explore UUism and share great conversation!

The last Cohort 3 dates are: **February 9, February 16 and February 23.** To sign up email memcoord@uuthaca.org.

Budget Requests Sought for 2020/2021

Committee and event chairpersons are encouraged to submit their committee's 2020/2021 budget requests to Jennifer Streid-Mullen at streidmull@gmail.com by Friday, **February 14th.**

Red Cross Blood Drive

The next Red Cross Blood Drive will take place on **January 9** in the Parlor from 1-6 pm.



Possible Ponderings

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

January 5 – 11: In starting a new calendar year, to which possibilities are you most looking forward?

January 12 – 18: Which daily spiritual practice could you try this week?

January 19 – 25: What is a way you can multiply the possibility of generosity in your community?

January 26 – February 1: How does listening to your gut help you discern which possibility feels right?

Meet New Members who joined FUSIT on December 15



Corirose Benitez Anjali is a transformational coach and communication trainer with a passion for empowering people to shift from what's wrong to what matters. As a queer Latina singer songwriter with a love of earth-based spiritual traditions she is elated to feel welcomed and at home in this covenant of community.



Wren Anjali, they/them pronouns, is dedicated to serving the Earth through sustainable living and facilitating nature connection experiences for people of all ages. Wren believes it is imperative to raise our vibration through singing together, expressing our gratitude, and telling life-giving stories in these challenging times. Wren experiences a deep sense of belonging at FUSIT and is delighted to step into membership.



Kevin Moss has been attending services at FUSIT since 2010, and at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canandaigua prior to that. He has participated in Small Group Ministry and Men's Group, and is looking forward to being more active and engaged as a Member! His interests include music, storytelling, cycling, hiking and science fiction/fantasy.



Beth Mudge is a retired nursery school teacher and longtime Ithacan. She comes from a United Methodist tradition. Beth enjoys hiking, camping, and traveling with her husband. She is looking forward to becoming part of FUSIT.

The FUSIT Shakespeare Program

January 5 – Kenneth Branagh's *Henry V*

January 19 – Roman Polanski's *Macbeth* (Subtitled)

March 1 – Trevor Nunn's *Twelfth Night*

March 22 – Kenneth Branagh's *As You Like It* (Subtitled)

March 29 – Michael Radford's *The Merchant of Venice*

April 12 – Julie Taymor's *The Tempest* (Subtitled)

April 26 – Kenneth Branagh's *Hamlet (Part I)* (Subtitled)

May 3 – Kenneth Branagh's *Hamlet (Part II)* (Subtitled)

May 24 (Bonus) – Kenneth Branagh's *All Is True*
(Shakespeare's last 3 years)

Free to all church attendees (members and guests).

Not open to the public. **All programs start at 3:00 pm in the Mark Pedersen Arch Room (elevator available).**

Films are two to three hours long with a ten minute intermission. Snacks and drinks allowed.

Arranged and moderated by Preston Wilson.

News from the Office

The office is always closed on Wednesdays.

Newsletter Deadlines for 2020

Deadline	Month	Services
January 16	February 1-29	Feb 2, 9, 16 & 23
February 13	March 1-31	Mar 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29
March 12	April 1-30	Apr 5, 12, 19 & 26
April 16	May 1-31	May 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31
May 14	June 1-12	Jun 7
May 28	Summer 2020	Summer 2020

Race and Racism Meeting

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, come to the monthly meetings for the series on **Race and Racism** that are usually held on the **4th Tuesday of every month** at 6:30 pm in the Parlor. Due to the Christmas holiday, however, December's meeting has been rescheduled for **January 28**. 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.

Pickup Choir - Sunday, January 12th

Meet at 9:15 am. Learn three Justice Choir songs to sing in the 10:30 service. All ages welcome. Guitars and percussion too!

Snow Plan

If inclement weather is forecasted and will impact our Sunday morning programming and worship service, this is the process by which service will be cancelled:

1. Minister (or Worship Leader and Celebration Associate) and Congregational Administrator will be in contact on Saturday, keeping up to date on the forecast and discussing options.
2. Decision to cancel will be made by 8 am on Sunday.
3. Decision will be communicated to all:
 - a. Staff
 - b. Worship leaders
 - c. Guest musicians
4. Administrator and other staff will communicate the cancellation via:
 - a. Facebook
 - b. Announce email
 - c. Website
 - d. Radio and Television

Application for Pedersen Memorial GA Scholarship

This scholarship was developed using funds donated to FUSIT in memory of Mark Pedersen. Mark loved attending General Assembly (GA) and wanted more members of FUSIT to attend GA as delegates. In his memory, we created this scholarship program to help defray the costs for registration and/or travel to General Assembly for those with financial need.

Each year, no more than up to \$2,000 will be granted to applicants showing financial need.

Application Deadline: **March 1st** (additional applications will be accepted through **April 30th** if the maximum amount has not been granted by that date). Email or print to office@uuthaca.org.

The guidelines for this scholarship are as follows:

- An active member of FUSIT or registered participant in FUSIT RE program.
- Each family can apply for support for up to 2 people's (youth and/or adult) early registration fees.
- Applications for other support will be seen as indication of level of commitment of individual and will not be assumed to replace a FUSIT grant (in other words, if they receive a work assignment that covers registration, they may still use the FUSIT money to defer travel/housing costs).
- No family will receive a grant 2 years in a row, and preference will be given to those who have not received FUSIT funding in the past.
- A team of 3, including the minister and at least one Board member, will review applications and make the grants.
- All applicants who are granted funding must attend General Assembly as delegates on behalf of the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca. See the guidelines for delegates here: <https://www.uua.org/ga/congregations/delegates>

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Address:

Age:

Member of FUSIT (have you signed the book)?

Have you attended/participated in UUA General Assembly in the past? If yes, which years?

What other funding are you seeking in order to attend UUA General Assembly (scholarships through the UUA, volunteering, etc.)?

Why do you want to attend UUA General Assembly?

How would receiving this scholarship enable you to attend UUA General Assembly?