



ITHACA

UUU Connections

2020 / 2021 Issue No. 10

June 1-August 30, 2021

Ministerial Musings

See page 3 for details about the services on June 6th and 13th.



The "Sankofa" is a metaphorical symbol used by the Akan people of Ghana, generally depicted as a bird with its head turned backward taking an egg from its back. It expresses the importance of reaching back to knowledge gained in the past and bringing it into the present in order to make positive progress.

My Beloved FUSIT Members and Friends,

The time has come where we must part ways and say goodbye to each other. Our four years of shared ministry have been such a joyful part of my life and I am so grateful to have had the privilege of being your minister.

In our time together we have been through so much - many deaths and losses, celebrations, milestones, new initiatives and efforts. We have danced in the aisles, brightened the sanctuary with installments from the Aesthetics team, hosted interfaith PRIDE celebrations, and engaged in multi-faceted worship design. We have made it through a year of a worldwide pandemic. We have welcomed new children and families, and said goodbye to many of our beloveds.

I am grateful to each of you for the ways you have invited me into your lives and the lives of your families. I am honored to have been through the blessings and challenges of these past four years together.

When I was installed, we made some promises to each other as we began our shared ministry together. On June 13th, we will have the chance to release each other from those promises, to reflect on our past, and find the pieces that should be carried forward. I hope that you will join in this ritual of bidding one another farewell in our journeys.

As difficult as it will be, after June 14th I will need to refrain from communicating with the FUSIT community. This is in line with the guidelines set out by my professional organization and is meant to be for the health and wellness of me and the congregation. This will include "unfriending" from social media and I will not be able to be involved in rites of passage (weddings, memorials, dedications, etc.) for a period of two years. I know this is difficult to hear. I know it will not be easy. And I believe it is the right way to proceed.

In my final time with you all, please know that my prayer and hope for you all is that you will continue to be gracious with yourselves and each other. My hope is that you will continue to deepen your connection to Unitarian Universalism and your own spiritual practices. My prayer is that you will continue to have a sense of humor, and allow for patience when you make mistakes. My prayer for each and every one of you is health, and wellness, and hope, and love to be with you every day of your life.

Thank you for calling me to be your minister.

*With love and gratitude,
Rev. Margaret*

Please Note

There will not be a summer newsletter this year. This June newsletter will be the final newsletter of the 2020-2021 church year. The next newsletter will be sent out the end of August and will cover the month of September 2021.

SAVE THE DATE
Stewart Park Pavilion
June 13, 2021
Time: TBD

There will be three time slots for appointments to a short service and a chance to celebrate Reverend Margaret and FUSIT.

In the meantime, please submit your tribute, anything from 30 seconds to 30 minutes, to Rev. Margaret Weis at www.tribute.co.

Religious Exploration News

Interim Minister Process

Following the UUA protocol with FUSIT's Board of Trustees, an Interim Minister Search Committee (IMSC) was formed to shepherd the process. Committee members are Walt Peck, Magdalen Lindeberg, Therese O'Connor, Elisa Collins-Zinder and Elton Hall. There is a two-way application process for both congregations and ministers.

Based on the application process, the UUA recommended five candidates to the IMSC. This committee has interviewed the candidates, ranked them, and notified the UUA. Soon the UUA will inform us of the final choice(s). Ultimately, the IMSC will make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees for a vote to hire the selected candidate.

From the Congregational Administrator

Hello Everyone! It is great to be on board and I look forward to meeting you all in person. I wanted to send an update about my hours.

From now **until June 14**, I will be in the office **Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9-4 and Wednesdays from 1-8.**

Starting **June 14 through August 16**, I will be in the office **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am-4:00 pm.**

Michelle Waffner

Help Needed to Provide Lunches for the Homeless Shelter

Summer is our most difficult season for finding volunteers to help meet FUSIT's commitment to providing 60 lunches to the Ithaca homeless shelter on the first Tuesday of each month.

Please consider helping on any of these dates: **June 1, July 6, and August 3.** You would buy supplies, make 15 lunches within 24 hours of delivery, and deliver them between 9:30 and 11:30 am to SJCS Day Center at 618 W. State Street.

Each lunch includes a sandwich, a piece of soft fruit, and a cookie or other small dessert. Deliveries are made through a window on State Street.

Social Justice Council can reimburse your expenses, at your request. To volunteer and/or ask questions, please contact Jackie Jablonski at jackiejab@me.com.

For information about Religious Exploration, please contact Emily Richards at dre@uuithaca.org.

Greetings from the DRE

Dear FUSIT Community,

What a year it has been. A year of changes, some painful and some joyous. A year of transitions and finding new ways of doing things and connecting with one another. A year to experiment and be met with both failures and successes. A year of missing our familiar spaces and being together as a community.

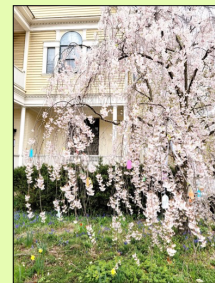
For me, looking back on this year one theme emerges: Hope. Through all of these trials and tribulations, through hardship and loss, this community continues to meet the world with hope in our hearts. I had the pleasure of getting to meet with a small group of youth this past month since we have been approved for outdoor gatherings and I was reminded once again of the hope that our children bring. Hope for a future that is better than the past or the present we live in. Hope that we will never return to the "normal" of before but will instead work to shape a new reality where not only can we be with one another again, with hugs and handshakes and smiling faces, but where we together create a society rooted in our shared values of equity, justice, and sustainability for every being.

As we look forward to next fall and the challenges and opportunities that we will be presented with I encourage you to consider giving your time and talents to the Religious Exploration program at FUSIT. It is my belief and hope that at some point in the next church year we will once again be joining together in person, in our sanctuary, and in our classrooms. In order to emerge from this time of uncertainty and separation with growth and connection it will take many hands. We will need classroom teachers, of course, but also volunteers to help lead Creative Sundays, pitch in for special events, coordinate childcare for our youngest community members, and assist in the weekly preparation and clean up for RE programming each week. Joining the RE Team is a wonderful opportunity to get involved and give back to the FUSIT Community.

A special thank you to every single person who helped out this past year in RE: Audrey Hopkins, Scott Grover, Dawn Grover, Jennifer Streid-Mullen, Brian Heltsley, Jan Pfeiderer, Kathy Hopkins, Leah O'Connor, Molly Ingram, Kim Wilkinson, Jessica Brown, Patricia Conroy, Jill van Leuken, Sarah Wright, Kelsey Underwood, Loretta Heimbuch, and Lynn Staack. I could not have done this without your generous support.

I hope that you all enjoy these summer months of sunshine, warmth, and rejuvenation. And I look forward to the fall and the possibilities it will bring, with hope in my heart.

Emily Richards,
Director of Religious Exploration



The Becoming Tree with messages of hope for the future.

Joys and Sorrows

Just a reminder that Joys and Sorrows will continue to be shared during our Zoom coffee hour while our services are virtual. Please send notices to the team at, joysandsorrows@uuitbaca.org by 9 am on Sunday before the service. Notices written in the chat during the meditation portion of the service will also be included.

Our thoughts are with...

...Andy Turner who is mourning the loss of his father Allan Turner, age 89, who passed on April 29 in Utica. Andy's mother, both siblings and four of Allan's grandchildren were able to be with him for his final hours. Andy has appreciated the kind words of support from throughout the FUSIT community.

...the family of Louise Greene Richards. Louise, age 97 of Cayuga Heights, passed away Saturday, May 8, at her home. Funeral services were held on May 13, at Perkins Funeral Home with Rev. Margaret Weis officiating.

...the family of long-time member Ginny Simons who died recently at age 96 in Massachusetts, where she moved to be with family after her retirement. All who knew her loved her greatly.

...the family of Deborah (Deb) Thompson, a long time member of the church who died on May 6th here in Ithaca. She had struggled with Alzheimer's disease for many years.



Green Tip From the Environmental Interests Circle

More and more people are choosing cremation under the mistaken belief it's an environmentally responsible way to dispose of human remains. As is true with many things, the most earth-friendly burial option is actually the old-fashioned way. We are lucky to have a natural burial cemetery in our corner of the world -- Greensprings Natural Cemetery preserve is a 130 acre nature preserve located in Newfield, NY offering affordable natural burial since 2006. For more information visit naturalburial.org or contact FUSIT member and Greensprings Manager Michelle Menter,

June Worship Services

Sunday, June 6: *Bouquet of Caring*

Rev. Margaret Weis

Our annual Flower Communion service is a symbolic ritual that illustrates the ways we bring ourselves to a community and are forever changed by it. Join us for a service where we will reflect on the good shared ministry we have had in our time with Rev. Margaret. Join us for a live flower communion ritual between 1-2:00 pm at the corner of Buffalo and Aurora Streets. Bring a flower and trade it for a different one. You may even get to take a peek at the beautiful new sanctuary!

Sunday, June 13: *Gathering at Stewart Park*

Join us for a new spin on our annual tradition! Join in a ritual of goodbye for Rev. Margaret and a celebration of our shared ministry together. Registration is available here for one of three time slots - [10:00am](#), [11:45am](#), or [1:45pm](#). We have a limited number of slots available for each time, so please be sure to register every member of your family individually and do so ASAP! All three gatherings will include signing in, temperature checks, masks, and social distancing to keep us all safe.

Opportunity for Service

Please consider serving as the FUSIT liaison to ACT—Area Congregations Together. Role involves building good relationships among Ithaca area churches AND communicating important news and events to our FUSIT folks. For more information contact Cora Yao, ACT Chair (301) 346-7570.

Summer Emergency Pastoral Care



Rev. Darcey Laine will be providing on-call emergency pastoral care between **June 15 and August 1**. If you are in need of this type of care,

please contact her at minister@uucas.org 607-220-4152. You can also contact Michelle in the office at office@uuitbaca.org, or call Madonna Stallman 607-216-5083, and they will connect you with Rev. Darcey.

Join the FUSIT
(internal) Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/171869686459/>

Leave a message for FUSIT staff by calling the Google voicemail number at (607) 218-2088

Minister
Rev. Margaret Weis
minister@uuitbaca.org

Religious Exploration
Emily Richards, Director
dre@uuitbaca.org

Music Director
Stephanie Ortolano
music@uuitbaca.org

President, Board of Trustees
Andy Turner
ast4@cornell.edu

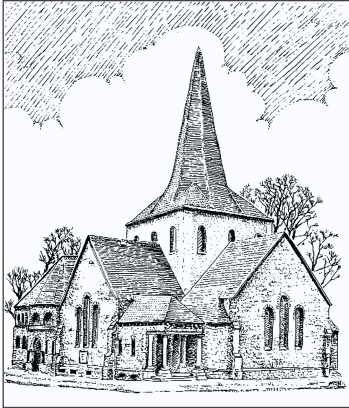
Congregational Administrator
Michelle Waffner
office@uuitbaca.org

Administrative Assistant
Loretta Heimbuch
adminasst@uuitbaca.org

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.

The First Unitarian Society of Ithaca
306 North Aurora Street
P.O. Box 6
Ithaca, NY 14851-0006



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

Possible Ponderings

The theme for June is Play

Possible Ponderings is an offering of ways you might consider engaging more deeply with the theme or reflecting on the ways the idea of Play shows up in your life.

June 1 - 5: What is one way you could be more playful in your life?

June 6 - 12: How have you been changed by community?

June 13 - 19: What are the ways that looking back to the past has helped you to shape your future?

June 20 - 26: How might you engage with your childlike side as you grow older?

June 27 - 30: What things bring you deep joy? How might you make more time for these things?

Women's Circle Monday, June 28, at 7 pm

Women's Circle will meet via Zoom on Monday evenings during the summer, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm **June 28, July 26, and August 23**. We are now generally meeting on the 4th Monday of the month. All who identify as women are welcome. This is a drop-in group, so no need to sign up; just come. Anyone is welcome to bring a poem or a reading. For information or questions contact Nancy Miller at ananda7733@gmail.com or 607 539 7733.

Zoom link is: Meeting ID: 819 4014 1421
Passcode: 874536

Men's Group

The Men's Group plans to meet once a month during the summer. All who identify as male are invited to join us. For further information about specific dates/times please contact Carsten Hess at carsten@hess.net or Kevin Moss at kevinm607@hotmail.com.

Social Media Connections

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.



Moving Forward
LOVE WILL GUIDE US

2021-22 Pledge Campaign Nears Finish

First of all, a huge thank you to the many, many members and friends who have already pledged their support of our beloved First Unitarian Society of Ithaca for the coming year! Your timely generosity and continued commitment give us all courage and hope for the future of our beloved church.

Despite uncertainty, you said yes, we are eager to leave this past year of illness and isolation behind. Our no-frills campaign is going well. As we go to press **124 members** and friends have pledged **\$268,347** for the year ahead. Thank you!

That total is good, very good for these uncertain times. But alas, it is not enough. To return to full strength this fall, we need all members and friends to join us in making a pledge of support.

More Pledges Are Needed

If you have not made your pledge yet, if you are wondering if your pledge is important, the answer is yes! Each pledge is vital. It takes all of us together to build a robust community that can create connections, find inspiration and engage the world.

If we haven't heard from you yet, please make that pledge today. More than 70 percent of our church's income comes from our annual pledges. Even when the pews were full, the collection plate only accounted for about 4 percent of the income. Fundraisers bring in some 7 percent, but those will continue to be on hold for awhile. Pledges—more generous pledges—are needed.

Experience the joy of giving. Make your pledge today. What our community can do in the year ahead depends on how much income there will be.

You can pay your pledge weekly, monthly or all at once anytime between July 2021 and June 2022. Keep it simple by arranging for payments to be transferred automatically from your bank each month,

Pledge online at <http://uuithaca.org>. Or email your pledge to office@uuithaca.org, call 607-273-7521 or mail that pledge card.

Thank you!
The Stewardship Team

Soul Matters Material for June on Play

Our June worship theme at First Unitarian Society of Ithaca is Play. 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/SoulMattersJune>

June Book Discussion Group

The next Book Discussion Group meeting is scheduled for Friday, **June 4**, at 12:30 pm via Zoom. The book is *The Girl with the Louding Voice* by Abi Dare. For further information contact Jennifer Streid-Mullen at streidmull@gmail.com.

Mark Your Calendars for the AIDS Ride for Life!

The 2021 annual AIDS Ride for Life will be held on Saturday, **September 11th**. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, this year's event will be a hybrid version, allowing the rider to choose the manner in which they would like to participate. More details to come.

Did you know
you can text in your donations
to the offering plate on Sundays?

Simply text 607-260-6616 with the
amount + offering (eg: \$5 offering)
to donate by phone.
It's super easy!

***A Liberal Church: The Early History of the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca (1865-1945)* by Carol Kammen**

At Rev. Margaret's farewell on **June 13**, these books will become available, for a **\$10 donation to the new LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FUND**. For this bargain price, you will receive 120 pages of entertaining history, with quite a few photos that author Carol Kammen says bring it to *life!*

The photos have an interesting history: Five years ago when Mark Pedersen kick-started this project, he eagerly provided many files of photos at the church which Beverly West, Judy Scarpella, and Connie Currier worked through, as well as collecting more from the History Center, and private collections. Then, in November 2019, just before the pandemic closed everything, Walt Peck and Jessica English discovered in a church closet five amazing archival scrapbooks (buried so deeply that apparently Mark never knew of them), full of records, newspaper clippings, programs, and more photos, evidently compiled in the early 1960s. The first scrapbook, from 1865-1947, is relevant to this early part of FUSIT history. Although it was discovered too late to make a big rewrite, you will see a few treasures that have been included.

When our church can be open again, we will exhibit more of this, but you will want to read the book to get oriented. You will see that frequent challenges and changes have *always* been part of our history!

Update from the FUSIT Board of Trustees

The FUSIT Board of Trustees will be providing a brief “Sense of the Board Meeting” report and sharing it through the weekly newsletter the week after a Board of Trustees meeting. The full meeting minutes will continue to be made available but this brief meeting summary is intended to keep the congregation tuned in to the activities and priorities of the Board.

 ***Here is the "Sense of the Meeting" from the May 5 meeting,*** held on Zoom from 6:40-7:59 pm.

New Treasurer: The Board has officially appointed Walt Peck as the new FUSIT Treasurer. He will serve concurrently with Jennifer Streid-Mullen until July 1, to provide administrative continuity.

Congregational Communication: The meeting was attended by several FUSIT members in addition to the Board and staff. We welcome anyone interested in attending Board meetings, and thank Jens Wennberg for his continuing updates on Stewardship.

Ministerial Transition: The Interim Search Committee has submitted FUSIT's application packet to the UUA and received packets from five excellent and diverse ministers in return. The interview process will begin after May 7, and the Committee can make an offer after May 19.

Summer Services: Given current levels of volunteer availability, even a skeletal program of summer services including 1 per month for June, July, and August appears unlikely, despite enthusiastic support for services expressed in surveys to date. With relatively few survey forms submitted so far, the Board is reluctant to accept this outcome. We will send out the summer service survey one more time -- if you would like to help bring our summer dreams to life, please respond and volunteer, or contact Diana directly at diana.nier@gmail.com!

Financial Update: The Board approved the consolidation and refinancing of two loans from Endowment to the congregation: one for the Annex remodeling in the early 2000s, and one for this past year's Sanctuary renovation. Endowment has also donated \$24,000 for the organ repairs, with no repayment required.

2021-22 Budget: The Board endorses the 2021-2022 budget as presented, with revenues and expenses of \$443,000, with the understanding that rapidly changing circumstances (i.e., lack of pledge payments for this year and diminished pledging for next year) may require the Treasurer(s) to withdraw the budget before the Annual Meeting and propose a revised smaller budget in a special June meeting.

As in prior years, Jennifer Streid-Mullen will lead a Congregational Conversation about the budget. This conversation is scheduled for May 23 at 12:30 pm, and a Zoom link will be sent out by May 19. Thank you to all our team leaders and our financial committees for all your hard work!

Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 26. Announcements will go out on May 9, May 16, and

 ***Here is the "Sense of the Meeting" from the May 12 meeting,*** held on Zoom from 6:34-8:05pm.

Congregational Communication: The meeting was attended by several FUSIT members in addition to the Board and staff. We welcome anyone interested in attending Board meetings, and thank Jens Wennberg for his continuing updates on Stewardship.

Leadership Development, Part 1: The Leadership Development Summit, held via Zoom on Saturday, May 8, was a great success! Rev. Margaret is working to make the recorded sessions available as a resource.

Leadership Development, Part 2: The Board and the Nominating Committee are working to create a more formalized onboarding process for new Board members, as well as more structured support for the Board.

Ministerial Transition: The Interim Search Committee is in the midst of interviews, and will submit a ranked list of candidates to the UUA on Friday, May 14. The Transition Office will work through a matching process and inform us of our best match early next week, at which time the Board has authorized our co-Treasurers, Jennifer Streid-Mullen and Walt Peck, to negotiate the offer. The Board has tentatively scheduled a short meeting for Wednesday, May 19, to approve the offer and officially hire our interim minister.

Summer Pastoral Care: The Board approved the signing of a contract with the Rev. Darcey Laine for emergency summer pastoral care between **June 15 and August 1**. Thank you to Rev. Margaret for arranging this important coverage!

Summer Services: Thank you to Amber Harris, who has volunteered to oversee one summer service! However, this still leaves us with two summer months devoid of services, despite enthusiastic support for some type of summer programming. Help bring our summer dreams to life! Contact Matt Hare (mph75@cornell.edu) to volunteer; fill out this Qualtrics survey to register your summer service preferences, or offer suggestions for speakers/outdoor venues/musicians: https://cornell.car.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0id1bEear7cbfmK

Online Communication: Michelle Waffner will spend a portion of her summer hours working to organize and update the FUSIT website. Team and committee leaders, please be prepared to work with Michelle as needed.

Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting is scheduled for 6:00pm on Wednesday, May 26. The nominee slates have been finalized and will be sent to the congregation, along with the meeting agenda, on Thursday, May 13. Additional announcements will go out on May 16, and May 23.

Looking Forward: The Board has begun to consider fundraising options for the 2021-22 fiscal year. Please contact Diana Nier (diana.nier@gmail.com) if you have any suggestions!

The next Board meeting will take place on **June 9, 2021, from 6:30-8:00pm** on Zoom.

New Energy for Antiracism at FUSIT

This church year brought renewed efforts in racial justice learning and action at FUSIT, in the form of **The (Richmond) Pledge to End Racism** and a new **Antiracism Ministry Team**.

The Pledge to End Racism (the Richmond Pledge) was developed at the First UU Church of Richmond (Virginia) in 2014 to encourage individuals, congregations, and communities to help dismantle racism and white supremacy. The founders also created a unique 12-hour training workshop to provide basic knowledge and tools for antiracism work. The workshop culminates with a personal commitment from every participant to help end racism and racial injustice.

Rev. Margaret and a small team from FUSIT (Jennifer Streid-Mullen, Jens Wennberg, Nancy Miller, and Beth Howard) brought the Pledge, and the “Living the Pledge” workshop to Ithaca in fall of 2020, launching with a virtual Sunday service featuring Pledge founders Anita Lee and Annette Marquis. The FUSIT team, trained by the Richmond leaders, conducted the first FUSIT workshop virtually in January and February, 2021 with 20 participants. The second virtual workshop concluded in April of 2021 with an additional 24 participants and four new facilitators recruited from the first cohort. Follow-up activities are planned for summer 2021, and a third workshop is scheduled for fall 2021. We hope to bring the Pledge and workshop to as many congregants as possible in the near future, and eventually to expand its reach beyond FUSIT.



The new **Antiracism Ministry Team** was launched in October 2020, with the mission of facilitating and supporting antiracism education and action in the FUSIT community. With more than a dozen initial members, the Team chose to divide its efforts into three areas: Programs, Projects & Activism, and Communication.

All of these areas have seen significant activity. In addition to Living the Pledge, the Programs group mounted a six-part series of films and lectures on racial justice topics. Each film or lecture is followed by discussion among participants, some with invited experts. To date the series has been attended by more than 40 people, including a few guests from outside the congregation. The Projects group supported the Small Group Ministry effort on behalf of The Village at Ithaca, collecting and delivering household supplies to families during the pandemic, in order to free up Village staff for their core mission, working for educational equity for Ithaca’s students. The Communications group has publicized the Team’s work, has provided a short informational piece on antiracism for each mid-week announcement, and is working to help FUSIT members learn about local opportunities for fighting racism and white supremacy.

In addition to these ongoing activities, the Team plans to work with FUSIT youth in the near future to present the proposed 8th UU Principle on Racial Justice to the congregation, and will offer information and discussion sessions with the goal of adopting the 8th Principle as a congregation at our Annual Meeting in 2022.

Dismantling racism in ourselves, our communities, and our nation is work for everyone at FUSIT. All ages, races and ethnicities are invited to join. If you’d like to be involved in the efforts of the Antiracism Ministry Team or the Living the Pledge to End Racism, contact Beth Howard at beth4howard@gmail.com. Current members of the Antiracism Team are: Beth Howard, Jennifer Streid-Mullen, Nancy Miller, Jens Wennberg, Peggy McKernan, Barbara Shew, Joann Kowalski, Fred Balfour, John Gaines, Corryn Sullivan, Jessica Brown, Sharon Costianes and Sue Rakow.

Antiracism Ministry Team Introduces “UU Reads for Social Justice”

“Even when we cannot gather in person, a Common Read can still bring us together.”

Knowing the power of the written word and the impact of storytelling, the FUSIT Antiracism Ministry Team is launching “UU Reads for Social Justice”.

Those interested in participating are invited to a bi – monthly review and discussion of current and topical titles from the UUA’s Common Read list (<https://www.uua.org/read>) as well as from authors who have presented Ware Lectures (<https://www.uua.org/ga/program/highlights/ware-lecture>).

Discussions will begin in September, guided by FUSIT librarian, Barbara Shew and member, Joann Kowalski, and will continue every other month.

The first title the group will discuss is **Breathe** by Imani Perry, the UUA Common Read for 2020/21. Participants are asked to read the book over the summer for the September discussion. The date for the first meeting is yet TBD.

Emotionally raw and deeply reflective, Perry’s book challenges society to recognize Black children as deserving of humanity. She shares her fear and frustration for her African American sons in an increasingly racist atmosphere. *Breathe* offers a broad meditation on race, gender, and the meaning of a life well lived as well as an unforgettable lesson in Black resistance and resilience.

Please e-mail Barbara Shew @ barbrandy51@gmail.com if you would like to order a copy of the book at a discounted price. The book is also available to order as an E-book or audio book at beaconpress.org, if that is your preference.

Those planning to participate are asked to **RSVP by June 15th**.

If you have questions, please contact Barbara or Joann Kowalski – jmkowalski10@gmail.com.

Thanks to You

Thanks to your generosity for the April Shared Offering, we donated \$815 to St. John’s Day Center, the homeless shelter in Ithaca.

Thank you to the presenters/organizers of our first annual Leadership Development Summit on May 8th - Rev. Margaret, Elton Hall, Fred Balfour, Corirose Benitez Anjali, Laura Free, Emily Richards, and Marie Benedetti.

Summer Services

The FUSIT Board is pleased to report that monthly Zoom summer services will take place. Watch for dates and specifics in the Weekly Announce. Due to continuing concerns about Covid-19, and the difficulty of providing equitable access to indoor facilities, summer services will not be held in the Parlor or the Sanctuary. Thanks to congregants who have stepped up to organize, assisted by staff and others, we expect to have one service in each of July and August.

Volunteers to help the Summer Service organizing team should contact Diana Nier at diana.nier@gmail.com.

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

Care Team during the Summer

The Care Team provides pastoral care and support for members and friends of the congregation who are going through challenging times. We will be available this summer. Madonna Stallmann madonnaoftheprairie@gmail.com is our contact person. Or contact the FUSIT Office, at 607-218-2088 or by email at office@uuithaca.org. Rev Darcy Laine will be available for pastoral care emergencies from **June 15th through August 1** when our Interim Minister arrives.

The Care Team provides calls and visits to who are isolated or ill or need support during life changes or loss of a loved one. We can give rides to appointments and church (when we are back in the sanctuary), meals to those who need them temporarily during illness or other times of need, information about community resources, receptions for Memorial Services for church members and more.

If you would like to volunteer contact us. How can we take better care of one another?

General Assembly 2021 - Circle 'Round for Justice - Healing - Courage June 26, 2021

GA is an unforgettable experience for the 5,000+ attendees from 750+ UU congregations. This June we will reconvene as an all-virtual event.

Circle 'Round for Justice • Healing • Courage is the theme for General Assembly 2021. GA is a time to circle 'round in community. We circle 'round in care and healing; for liberation and justice; and for love and courage. www.uua.org



The UUA President invites a distinguished guest each year to address the General Assembly as the Ware Lecture. Please join us Saturday, June 26 at 7:00 p.m. EDT / 6:00 p.m. CDT / 5:00 p.m. MDT / 4:00 p.m. PDT. [General Assembly registration](#) is required to view.

Stacey Abrams is the New York Times bestselling author of *Our Time Is Now* and *Lead from the Outside*, an entrepreneur and a political leader. She served as Democratic Leader of the Georgia House of Representatives for 7 years prior to running for Governor of Georgia, where she won more votes than any other Democrat in the state's history.

Desmond Meade is a formerly homeless returning citizen who overcame many obstacles to eventually become the President of the [Florida Rights Restoration Coalition](#) (FRRC), Chair of Floridians for a Fair Democracy, a graduate of Florida International University College of Law, and a Ford Global Fellow. He is the author of [Let My People Vote: My Battle to Restore the Rights of Returning Citizens](#), published by Beacon Press in October of 2020.

If you haven't registered for Virtual GA 2021 already, there is no better time than right now! Registered attendees are among the first to hear program announcements, such as the Ware Lecturer and featured speakers, and only registered attendees will have access to the NEW! GA app (coming soon). So register early to join online discussions, familiarize yourself with the GA schedule, and find your place in our community of communities.