

2022/2023 Issue No.4

Message from Director of Congregational Life

Musings on This Darkest Time of Year

My oldest child recently asked me why so many stories have in them this idea of "dark magic." I responded that the darkness has often held dangers, especially for our ancestors, when the night meant perils unseen. And for some reason this question and my answer has stuck with me. I have had this persistent feeling that my response was, not untrue, but quickly said and perfunctory.

December 1-31, 2022

In-Person Sunday Services 10:30 am in the Sanctuary

Services will also be live-streamed on our You Tube channel.

Masks required and social distancing encouraged.

Religious Exploration classes for children (see page 2 for details)

As we move closer and closer to the time when darkness holds sway over this part of the world there is a feeling of increasing magic, of the mystical, all around us. And it is not a coincidence that so many faith traditions celebrate holy days during this time. Days and nights filled with prayers and song, celebrations with candles and lights, rituals to honor the wonder and miracles of the earth and past events.

The enigma of the dark fills our legends and lore, it ignites, like a flame, the wonder in our souls for the unknown. There is a special kind of "dark magic" that mesmerizes and enthralls us, captures our imaginations, and fills us with awe for the great mysteries of the universe. A universe that we peer out into, seeking answers in the blackness of the night sky, sprinkled with pinpoints of light from stars and galaxies so vast and distant that, despite our advanceents in science, true comprehension continues to elude us. So perhaps the better answer to my child's question about "dark magic" would have been that the darkness is its own enchantment. As is the wonder of light that can only be seen in its embrace. A single candle in a well lit room or the brightness of the sun is lost, only in the blanket of shadows can that light be seen. The darkness evokes within us our need for connection to all that is sacred and mysterious.

As we enter into this holy month I invite you to seek out the magic and magnificence in the darkness of the year. The brilliance and wonder of the lights and love that make this time hallowed and sacred. To find connection and wonder in the mysteries of the unknown. To have faith, and feel the magic of the season.

With deepest gratitude, Emily Richards

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Sage Chapel (Cornell campus) Saturday, December 24th, at 5:15 pm

We joyfully return to our Christmas Eve tradition of a holiday worship service for everyone in the Ithaca community at Sage Chapel on Cornell's campus. A Christmas celebration with music, story, candlelight, and gratitude where we lift up our hearts in wonder and hope. Featured speaker Rev. Peaches Gillette . Special music by FUSIT Christmas Choir. All offertory donations will benefit the Babies First program.

From Associate Director of Congregational Life

Through our words – expressions of tenderness, encouragement, guidance, generosity, and the personal stories we tell about the process of our spiritual journeys, we can touch the hearts of those around us, inspire them to continue their own journeys, and stand as examples of the positive aspects of change.

We must not limit ourselves in our ability to change, no matter our ages or fears, despite the messages that tell us we cannot change or that change should be resisted.

We must learn to give change its due respect because it is "change" that moves us away from things we need to leave behind and change that adds beauty to the world; for example, the change in laws around equality is a change that strengthens all of us who hope for peace.

Change often feels like it happens "to us," which is true in many ways, but we must begin to understand the enormous emotional and spiritual influence we have over how we engage with change. *(continued on page 3)*

Newsletter of the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca (FUSIT), New York

Religious Exploration News

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

Greetings from the DRE

Happy Holidays! This is a season filled with joy and wonder, as well as stress and sometimes high expectations and disappointments. It can feel easy to be overwhelmed by the hustle and bustle, the shopping and wrapping, the baking and gatherings, the unending Christmas music that always feels to me like it starts too soon, but then ends too quickly. As the days grow shorter and shorter and we move closer to the longest night of the year, may you find and marvel at the wonder of the season. The wonder in a baby born long ago. In the miracle of oil that burned well past when it should have gone out. The magic in a candle burning to hold back the dark until the sun rises one more. The joy in a kinara shining for the principles we all share.

And when the days feel both too short and too long at the same time, may you find the holy, those moments when the ideal becomes reality, even if only for a second. And may it sustain you, nourish you, and illuminate your soul this holiday season.

Emily Richards, Director of Religious Exploration

RE Plans for December

Last month we completed our short RE-Turn to RE curriculum and held our first Wonder Worship. This month we are shifting back to RE classes based on our monthly Soul Matters theme of Wonder. And, of course, we are thrilled to be able to offer our No Rehearsal Pageant on **December 18th**.

We are still looking for an amazing individual to be our Childcare Coordinator so that we can re-open our nursery for those children who have not yet reached school age as soon as possible.

Everyone with kids ages birth through 12th grade should register their kids at the link below. This helps me with planning, and also helps to keep kids safe when they are participating in programming at church.

2022-2023 RE Registration

Upcoming Sunday Morning Religious Exploration Schedule

-December 4th: RE Classroom Sunday Arch Room immediately following a Time for Wonder

-December 11th: Wonder Worship Arch Room immediately following a Time for Wonder All are welcome

-December 18th: Multigenerational Sunday No Rehearsal Holiday Pageant

that tomorrow will welcome more light than today.

As it has for eons—for billions of years —the coming of light brings life.

Against a darkening sky, the roofline of

On this, the longest night of the year,

Winter Solstice Reflection

a house is strung with colored

we are warmed by the certain

By Gregory Jones

Christmas lights.

knowledge

May we be awed by the great miracles of light and life, and faithfully nurture the mystery and

magic of wonder.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Returns to FUSIT this Fall

The First Unitarian Society of Ithaca (FUSIT) and the First Congregational Church of Ithaca (FCCI) are excited to offer the Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexuality education program during the school year 2022-2023. Our 8th and 9th graders continue through the end of January and our 10th-12th graders will do OWL this spring (registration to come!).

We will also offer sessions of OWL for Parents and Caregivers throughout this program on the following dates: **January 8th** and **January 22nd.**

December OWL Schedule, Grades 8-9, at the First Congregational Church of Ithaca

—December 4, 1-3:30 pm

—**December 11**, 1-3:30 pm

(RE News continued on page 5)

From Associate Director of Congregational Life (continued from cover)

James Allen, a British philosophical writer and poet, born in 1864, wrote the following:

"Man is made or unmade by himself; in the armory of thought, he forges the weapons by which he destroys himself. He also fashions the tools with which he builds for himself heavenly mansions of joy and strength, and peace. By the right choice and true application of thought, man ascends to the Divine Perfection; by the abuse and wrong application of thought, he descends below the level of the beast. Between these two extremes are all the grades of character, and man is their maker and master."

The thinking within our culture pushes the narrative that change is hard, difficult, and our adversary. What is left out of the narrative is that, difficult or not, change is an opportunity for us to move forward.

We can get lost in our fears and worries over change, but it is only through change that we continue to grow in mind, body, and spirit. It allows us to rethink what we are going through and how we navigate our feelings. Change can motivate us to move from fear and worry onto acceptance and grace -reaching out selflessly, with wisdom, to those who might have difficulty with the changes they are experiencing. We can help one another through the weighty parts of change, but more importantly, we can share in the joy, hope, and knowledge that " change" will make the difficult times pass.

Albert Einstein said, "The measure of intelligence is the ability to change."

Rev. Peaches Gillette

Soul Matters Material for December - The Path of Wonder

The Soul Matters theme for December is The Path of Wonder. This month's packet includes a few short readings, spiritual exercises, and discussion questions for you to consider.

The material can be found at: https://tinyurl.com/SoulMattersDec2022

Emergency Pastoral Care

In case of pastoral need, call Kathy Hopkins 607-592-3025. She will direct pastoral needs for weddings, memorial services and emergency pastoral care to Rev. Janet Shortall.



🖉 December Worship Services

The theme for December is The Path of Wonder. Here are the speakers whose voices can help us to explore this theme as individuals and as a community:

Sunday, December 4 "Music, Movement and Meditation"

Emily Richards, Director of Congregationl Life

Collective spiritual practices can be experienced in a variety of ways. In this service, where the idea of worship, connection, and spirituality will be explored through a variety of group activities, we invite you to contemplate music in several forms and discuss its relevance and meaning, to join with others in connecting to an embodied faith practice, or to relax and free your mind through guided meditation.

Sunday, December 11 "Hearing the Invitation of This Season of Advent" Rev. Janet Shortall

I loved the Advent season as a child, especially the lighting of the candles. Perhaps some of you are familiar with the Advent wreath that traditionally holds four candles symbolizing hope, love, joy, and peace. How might this contemplative tradition speak to each of us, even as we hold diverse spiritual beliefs and practices?

Sunday, December 18 *No Rehearsal Holiday Pageant Emily Richards, Director of Congregational Life*

This all-ages service is filled with the wonder of the holidays. Come and take on the role of a child born, the star above, a menorah, yule log, a sheep or donkey, one of our choir of angels, or even one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa. Together we will create a joyful tale of the miracles of the season. Costumes are provided and cookie decorating to follow.

Sunday, December 25

No Service this day. See cover for information about the Christmas Eve celebration on the 24th.

Office Closure

The office will be **closed** (and Michelle will not be working) from **December 25 through January 2.**

In December, the office will be open **Sundays**, **Mondays**, **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am - 4 pm** and Michelle will be working remotely on Wednesdays from 9 am - 4 pm. This schedule does change occasionally so feel free to make an appointment with <u>office@uuithaca.org</u>. Director of Congregational Life and Religious Exploration Emily Richards dre@uuithaca.org

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Assistant Director of Congregational Life and Ancillary Pastoral Care, Rev. Peaches Gillette assocdcl@uuithaca.org 607-273-7521 ext. 22

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Music Director Stephanie Ortolano music@uuithaca.org

President, Board of Trustees Don Barber sunnybrk@gmail.com

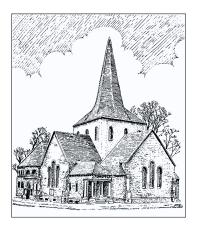
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First Unitarian is a UUA-recognized LGBTQ+ Welcoming Congregation The First Unitarian Society of Ithaca 306 North Aurora Street P.O. Box 6 Ithaca, NY 14851-0006



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



Possible Ponderings

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

December 1-3 : What was your first experience of wonder? Your first moment of awe?

December 4-10: They say the three main impediments to wonder are worry, accomplishment and judgment. When any of those three take center stage, wonder leaves the room. Is this in any way true for you?

December 11-17: If you were to make one change to your daily routine to let a bit more wonder in, what would it be?

December 18-24: Has age impeded or assisted your experience of wonder?

December 25-31: What would make your holidays more wonder-filled?

Expanding Community

For many this pandemic has brought increased feelings of isolation and being cut off from others. We always welcome new members to our community of faith and hope to provide a safe space of connection and learning for all during this time of physical distancing. Please continue to invite any and all people that you know that you believe could find meaning by exploring what the FUSIT community and Unitarian Universalist faith can offer.



Baby and Me Yoga

Tuesday, December 13th, 12:30 pm-1:15 pm First Unitarian Society of Ithaca Free and open to the public

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, <u>https://www.facebook.com/FUSofI/</u> Instagram <u>www.instagram.com/ithacauus</u> and

Twitter, @IthacaUUs.

(RE News continued from page 2)

RE-Turn to **RE**

The Religious Exploration Team at FUSIT is planning to return to in-person programming for kids and youth this fall but we can't do it without your help! We need volunteers!. We need every member of this community to show our families and young people that they are a priority. Please contact Emily Richards at <u>dre@uuithaca.org</u> if you are interested in helping our community in this way.

The Religious Exploration is Seeking Team Members and Volunteers

The **RE Team** needs new enthusiastic members to help guide our programming. If you have been looking for a way to make a huge impact on this community please consider the RE Team.

Volunteers to be mentors to our children and young people, as well as leading adult programming for parents is needed. Commitment can be as little as a single one hour program up to weekly regular meetings for youth.

Small Group Ministry for Parents

Individuals who are actively parenting need to form connections with others who share the same experiences and have their spiritual needs met. Please register here and when we have enough people to form a group we will set a monthly or bi-weekly time. Once we have a childcare coordinator hired we plan to offer childcare during these meetings.

Small Group Ministry for Parents

Holiday Decorating Party and Potluck

Saturday, December 3rd, 12 pm-2 pm, FUSIT Parlor Help us decorate our spaces for the holidays! Decorations both provided and welcomed, plus options to make some of your own. Bring a dish to share and experience the joy and wonder of community this holiday season.

All Ages Holiday Sing

Sunday, December 4th and Sunday, December 11th, 12 pm-1 pm, FUIST Annex

People of all ages are invited to join us for a free holiday gathering of song. We will sing holiday favorites, wellknown and new, from a variety of faith traditions. Anyone who would like is also welcomed to attend our No Rehearsal Holiday Pageant on **December 18th** take on the role of one of our choir of angels.

Holiday Cookie Decorating

Sunday, December 18th, 11:30 am-12 pm, FUSIT Parlor

The holiday season is upon us and that means baking and sweet treats! Please let us know if you are planning to attend, as well as if you have dietary requirements, so that we can make sure that we have enough for everyone.

Holiday Cookie Decorating Sign Up

Appreciations

An appreciation for those who volunteered to help with the Autumn Harvest Fundraiser – Keith Perry, Jane McArthur, Liz Einstein, Rita Barber, Elizabeth Bixler and Betsy East. Big kudos for joAnne kowalski for running the event, with assistance from Michelle Waffner, Loretta Heimbuch and Rachel Seymour. We are especially grateful for the gifts of those who tended gardens and plants and baked treats to donate for our community's fundraiser. Grateful for the work of many hands. We raised \$777!

An appreciation for everyone who helped with our Cornbread and Cider Communion and Chili Lunch by baking, cooking, organizing, prepping, cleaning up, and passing out food and drink. Thank you all so much for helping us offer these opportunities to be together.

And so much appreciation to Betsy East and Susan Murphy who had a very big hand in getting us back into Sage Chapel this year for Christmas Eve.

Who here at First Unitarian Society of Ithaca have you noticed doing something above and beyond, who has been a quiet unsung hero, or who is doing an exceptional job! Let's sing praises to the many people who help make our community the wonderful place it is. Send your submissions to joysandsorrows@uuithaca.org.

November Report from the Ministry Visioning Team to the Congregation

Members of the Ministry Visioning Team (MVT) have recently checked in with representatives of each FUSIT team to hear their thoughts on how they are functioning, what their current needs are, and how they see their work going forward.

We held an in-depth discussion with several members of the Social Justice Council, since long-time leader of that group, Jackie Jablonski, is retiring from that post and members are seeking help with restructuring the council in coming months and years. In response, the MVT has offered to draft an organizational plan that will then be shared with members of SJC for review and comment.

The MVT has advocated for the funding and restoration of a part-time Engagement and Outreach Coordinator, and we are very pleased that this position has been approved by the Board for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Finally, we have made progress on identifying three monitors for our new FUSIT listserv.

💂 Library Notes

HELP! The book cataloging project is almost done and our library collection has been enteried on our TinyCat online service! But, there are many books that have not been returned since 2017! We want to include these to make the collection complete for you to search online by author, title or subject. If you have books that have been signed out more than a month ago, we would really appreciate your returning them. After a short time you can renew for one month, our circulation period. Why not practice using the online catalog to look up a book on social justice, which is finished, by going to the TinyCat web site: https://www.librarycat.org/lib/FusitLibrary

We need volunteers to help arrange the shelves alphabetically by author. If you have an extra hour or two to make our library more accessible for users, we thank you!

Library team: Marie Benedetti, joAnn Kowalski, Barbara Shew.

Your Board is Listening

In October 2021, the Board of Trustees decided to use the tool called "*Open Question*" as was recommended by experts in the UU world.

For the past year, we put forth these questions and have gained much insight and information from the congregants who responded. All the teams and committees compiled responses that brought to the forefront good perspectives and suggestions.

The purpose of the Open Question is to maintain more connection and deeper engagement with FUSIT community members so we can plan and sustain the community into the future. It helps to understand what each of you is thinking and feeling about the direction of FUSIT.

This Fall's Open Question is:

What would make FUSIT more relevant to your life or the lives of those in your community?

We ask that each response be limited to 12 words or fewer. You may offer as many responses of 12 words or fewer as you would like, but we want to focus on the essence of your response.

Confining it to just a few words will help with that. How to respond: (1) meet with your team or committee who will compile your responses and send them to me. (2) Respond individually by sending me your thoughts (in 12 words or fewer) to therese2828@gmail.com.

We will again be compiling all responses onto a spreadsheet and sharing it with the membership. The board will also use the responses to consider and plan for the future.

Thank you for your involvement. Therese O'Connor Board of Trustees

December Board of Trustees Meeting

The December meeting will be held **Deceember 21** at 6:30 pm. The board meeting is a hybrid format, taking place in the church parlor and through Zoom. All FUSIT members are invited to attend this meeting. Ten minutes are set aside at the beginning of the meeting for congregation feedback. Email office@uuithaca.org or check the Weekly Announce email for the Zoom link.

Help Needed to Provide Lunches for the Homeless Shelter

As a member of Area Congregations Together (ACT), FUSIT finds four volunteers to provide fifteen lunches apiece to the Ithaca homeless shelter on the first Tuesday of each month.

We are currently seeking volunteers for **January 3rd**. Can you be one of them? You would buy supplies, make the 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. Deliveries are made through a window on State Street.

Each lunch should include a sandwich, a piece of soft fruit, and a cookie or other small dessert. Social Justice Council can reimburse your expenses, at your request. To volunteer and/ or ask questions, please contact Jackie Jablonski at jackiejab@me.com.



LGBTQ+ Group Wednesday, December 21 from 6:30-8 pm

This Small Group is especially for FUSIT's LGBTQ+ community. Meetings typically follow the same general format and structure as other Small Group Ministries at FUSIT. Gatherings take place on the third Wednesday of each month, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. *All who identify on the LGBTQ+ continuum are welcome.*

Come enjoy this opportunity for fellowship and community within our larger FUSIT community, in a safe, confidential and nurturing environment. For more information, please contact Kevin Moss, <u>kevinm607@hotmail.com</u>.

Social Justice Council Looking for Leadership

SJC is now looking for someone to take over the role of leader for this critical part of FUSIT's mission. The Social Justice Council exists to inform the congregation about important social and humanitarian needs and issues and to provide avenues for constructive service and action.

SJC selects each month's Sharing Sundays recipient and gets reports or proposals from SJC Action Teams. For more information, contact the Ministry Visioning Team at mvt@uuithaca.org.

Parking

While we are still not allowed to park in the lot next to the church on Aurora Street, we did confirm that it is ok to park in the Town Hall parking lot on Sundays (on the corner of Buffalo and Aurora) as long as the gate is open.

Women's Circle, Monday, December 26

Women's Circle will meet via Zoom on Monday evening, **December 26**, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. 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 Meeting ID: 819 4014 1421 Passcode: 874536

New SGM Forming

A new small group is waiting to form. The group will meet primarily on zoom, and meetings will be on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 7 pm. The group will continue from its beginning through June 2023. SGM is a great way to develop significant connections within FUSIT whether you are new to FUSIT or have been a member or friend for years.

Group members meet to talk about topics important to their lives, (including Soul Matters topics), and also perform a service project of their choice each year to benefit FUSIT or the greater Ithaca community. Contact Marsha Kardon at 272-6582 or 607-592-2520 or <u>mfkardon@gmail.com</u> if you'd like to join this group or have questions about the group or SGM in general.

Music News

Christmas Choir at Sage Chapel! Everyone is welcome to join in our Thursday evening choir rehearsals, led by DRE Emily Richards, in the Annex from 7-8:30 pm as we prepare for the 5:15 Community Christmas Eve Service at Sage Chapel. Any questions? Contact Music Director Stephanie at <u>music@uuithaca.org</u>.

Calling all musicians! If you are interested in playing your instrument at Sage Chapel on Christmas Eve, speak to Stephanie after a Sunday service, or send her an email: <u>music@uuithaca.org</u>.



Beacon on Aurora - Our brand new monthly concert series gets started on Sunday, **December 11th** at 7 pm. Duo *The Sea The Sea. The Sea The Sea*, Chuck E. Costa and Mira Costa, is an Upstate New York based indie folk-pop duo featuring what Bob Boilen (NPR's All Songs Considered) calls "excellent harmonies" and Huffington Post calls, "Two of the loveliest male-female voices you might ever hear this or any other year." The suggested donation for tickets is \$20, or you can help make this concert happen; we'll need help making coffee, baking cookies, selling tickets, and even housing the musicians (and their behaved, hypoallergenic service dog) after the show. Contact Stephanie at <u>music@uuithaca.org</u>. Check our church website for the most up-to-date info on upcoming artists!

Winter Solstice and Yule Celebration

Wednesday, December 21st, at 5:30 pm Mullstein Winter Garden (Cornell Botanic Garden)

Please join us for a celebration of the longest night and the return of the sun with ritual, light, and song. Dress warmly and bring an LED candle if you have one. All ages welcome. Please register in advance so that we can plan accordingly. With gratitude to our co-sponsor, Cornell University.



Annual Vision of Ministry

1. Build and rebuild connection and community.

2. Work toward collective liberation through justice, antiracism, and anti-oppression.

3. Provide opportunities for spiritual growth and faith development that inspire transformation in ourselves and the world around us.

Second Wind Cottages - Volunteer Opportunity

In the fall of 2019, land in Dryden was donated to Second Wind Cottages. A team of passionate board members and Dryden residents quickly formed who had a shared interest in providing housing to homeless women. The Second Wind Dryden House for Homeless Women is currently finishing construction on the 1st floor of this 2-story, 4unit housing. We could use more help finishing construction of the exterior before the winter weather arrives. Can you help? Sponsored by the Social Justice Council.

You can sign up for a shift here: sign-up link.

Side With Love for December

During December we will be collecting needed supplies for the Gayogohó:nǫ² (Cayuga Nation) and their allies, suggested by the Cortland UU church:

-Medical supplies (gauze wraps, gauze bandages, paper tape, trauma kits)

- Hygiene products (travel sized toothpaste, toothbrushes, feminine products)
- —Blankets
- —Flashlights
- —Cases of water
- -Warm winter outerwear (coats, work gloves, hats)
- -Handwarmers
- -Army Tents

You may leave your contributions in the donation baskets in the foyer of the garden entrance OR bring your donations to the sanctuary to be collected during each Sunday service in December.

Members of the Antiracist Ministry Team (ARMT) will arrange for delivery. Thanks so much for your contributions.



Attention All UUs with Inquiring Minds

The Adult Religious Exploration (ARE) Team is offering pre-service presentations to be held on the first and third Sundays of each month of the church year in the Annex, unless indicated otherwise in the Order of the Service, the Weekly

Announce, and/or the monthly newsletter. Coffee and treats are served starting from 8:45 am, with the presentation (including discussion and Q&A) running from 9:00-10:15 am. The Annex can be accessed through the garden entrance to the church on Aurora St. Here is the program scheduled for December:

December 4 - Judy Jones will speak on the benefits of the Healthy New York Act, the challenges it continues to face in getting passed by the NYS Legislature, and how you can help.

Private equity firms in the healthcare industry have become a troubling menace as they seek to extract outsized profits by buying up healthcare providers. These corporate owners focus on cutting costs, increasing prices, and stripping assets to maximize their short-term profits – all at the expense of patients, providers, and taxpayers. This is a topic that affects every one of us! Come to learn more!

FUSIT member Judy Jones has been a healthcare advocate for many years. In this session, she will show a video* of a lecture by Rosemary Batt, a professor at Cornell's School of Industrial and Labor Relations. Dr. Batt explains how private equity firms work, how they make profits, and how their investments affect the cost and quality of our health care. She will also consider the threat these arrangements pose to the long-term goal of establishing a single-payer health care system. There will be time for discussion and questions about this important topic.

Dr. Batt, in an ongoing collaboration with Eileen Appelbaum (co-director of the Center for Economics and Policy Research), has been researching and writing about the increasing role of private equity in healthcare (and other sectors of our economy) for over a decade and has a book pending on the subject.

Judy Jones is a member of the FUSIT Social Justice Council. She became active in the effort to pass single-payer health care in NY after hearing a talk on the advantages of this approach by Dr. Vivian Lorenzo at Adult RE in 2012. She joined a working group chaired by FUSIT member Rebecca Elgie, and has since testified at a state hearing on the issue of medical debt and has promoted fundraising for relief of same

* This is a segment of the video called "How Private Equity Makes Us Sicker" produced by Physicians for a National Health Program.

December 18 - The Cosentini Listening Project, An Introduction

Susan Cosentini is a native Ithacan and founder and owner of her own successful and very well-respected construction company for the past 30 years. Incorporating her ideas of ecological development, she has built two "pocket neighborhoods," Aurora and Amabel, designed to foster sustainable living. Meanwhile for over ten years she has been developing (on the side) a series of workshops in the art of listening, and several of our members have participated, some more than once. She is now a sought-after trainer in these skills. Her excitement for turning any conversation into an adventure of discovery is contagious!

More Adult RE

Pub Theology Tuesday, December 27th at 6:30 pm Liquid State Brewing

Join us at Liquid State Brewing for an evening of good fellowship and conversation at our favorite local brewery (owned by FUSIT members!). We will gather at 6:30 pm and reflect together on our December monthly theme of The Path of Wonder. Non-beer and non-alcoholic drinks options available! 21 and over please. Bring your friends! Hope to see you there!

Pub Theology takes place on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 620 West Green Street, Ithaca.

Nametags

Our tradition is to wear nametags for Sunday services. If you need a nametag (or need a new nametag), please fill out a nametag request form at the Welcome Table on Sunday. Indicate your preferred pronouns (she/her, he/him, they/them). We'll get it ready for you to pick up at the Welcome Table the following week. Then you can leave it in your preferred nametag cabinet, either at the garden entrance or at the narthex entrance.