



ITHACA

UUU Connections

2023/2024 Issue No. 10

Summer 2024

Our Spiritual Journey

Rev. Scott Tayler said "To be a people of renewal is to ask not simply, "How do I refresh?" but also "How do I return?" The challenge of life is not just about moving forward but moving forward without losing touch with all we have held dear."

When I think about what I hold dear I think about all of you and this faith which binds us together. I think about this community which offers peace and renewal. A place that we can come back to.

Like the flowers which we joyfully, and reverently, exchange each June, we are a people who return and return again. We are a people who believe in the power of transformation and a people who hold fast to the promises that we make to one another and this community.

May we continue to grow and learn from one another, holding love at the center.

Emily Richards, CRE, Director of Congregational Life

Sunday, June 2, 10:30 am, last service in the Sanctuary

*Live-streamed on our YouTube channel
Nursery childcare and Religious
Exploration classes for children*

Sunday, June 9, End-of-year picnic at Stewart Park (large pavillion) at 10:30 am.

**Summer Services run June 16 through September 1, at 9:30 am in the Parlor.
(see page 8 for details)**

FLOWER COMMUNION



First Unitarian Society of Ithaca
Sunday, June 9th at 10:30 AM

Stewart Park,
Ithaca, NY



Expanding Community

For many the pandemic and our increasingly busy, digital world bring about heightened feelings of isolation and being cut off from others. We always welcome new members to our community and 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 Unitarian Universalist faith can offer.

Please note that this issue is the final newsletter of the church year. The next newsletter will be September 2024.

Religious Exploration News

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

Greetings from the DRE

Thank you so much for a truly wonderful year, I am so grateful for the many gifts that your presence brings to our community. As we finish up our year with a focus on Renewal I want to lift up that you and your children are a vital part of the continuation of this community and our larger faith. Your energy and joy bring life and love into our spaces and our hearts.

May we all share the blessings that come from being together in community and may those blessings bring renewal, joy, and hope.

Emily Richards CRE, Director of Religious Exploration

Plans for the Fall

In the fall we will continue with our three classroom model, rotating between Classroom Sundays, Creative Sundays, and Multigenerational Sundays.

Our PreK-1st and 2nd-5th classrooms will be focusing on our monthly Soul Matters theme. The youth will have an exciting opportunity to participate in Building a Better World, a curriculum that engages Meaningful Questions for Role-Playing Games and Our World.

Our Whole Lives

We plan to offer Our Whole Lives (OWL) for grades 8-9 and 10-12 beginning in the fall in collaboration with the First Congregational Church of Ithaca. More information coming soon!

RE Registration 2024-2025

Please register your children below for the 2024-2025 Religious Exploration program! This information helps us to plan for the upcoming year.

[First Unitarian Society of Ithaca RE Registration Form 2024-2025](#)

Religious Exploration Wishlist

If you are looking to support the RE program and would like to purchase a gift, here is a list of items that would be useful and deeply appreciated. [RE Wishlist](#)

NEW RE Volunteer Opportunities for 2024-2025!

Volunteering for the RE program is a gift of welcome that we all have to give and I hope you will consider joining our amazing team of volunteers. This important programming can only happen with the support of the entire community. Now is the time to sign up to be a part of our Religious Exploration Program for Fall of 2024 and/or Spring of 2025! Sign up below to join one of our classrooms, lead a Creative Sunday, or fill in as a substitute. We need your help!

[FUSIT 2024-2025 RE Volunteer Sign Up](#)

Please join our UU Ithaca Parents Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/fusitparents>

Nursery

The Nursery will not be open after **June 2nd**. We look forward to seeing you back again in September!

Summer Religious Exploration Events

Summer Family Gatherings

June 23rd, July 21st, and August 18th Time and Location TBD

All families and children are welcome to meet up for a monthly summer gathering where parents can explore and discuss their spiritual journeys in community (and kids can play, perhaps with a shared hired babysitter).

Please contact Megan McCormick for more details. meganleighmc@gmail.com.



Every day is a renewal, every morning the daily miracle.

This joy you feel is life.

Gertrude Stein



Social Justice Leadership Team Activities and Opportunities

We hope you will consider joining us in our social justice efforts and encourage you to reach out and learn more about how you can get involved.
Email sjlt@uuithaca.org for more information.

No Shared Plate or Side with Love during the summer months.

There will be no Shared Plate or Side with Love collections for the summer. Look for information about the organizations we will be supporting, beginning again in September.

Environmental Interest Circle (EIC) - June 5 at 7 pm

We will organize next steps for each of us and the congregation to keep saving money and improve the sustainability of our lives. Meetings are the first Wednesday of the month, in the parlor and over Zoom. All are welcome. Please join us. Contact Matt Franke-Singer at mfs@twcny.rr.com for further information.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/81644753524?pwd=SDBqQTN5eIM3ejltbGdJeGhPa3QxQT09>

Meeting ID: 816 4475 3524
Passcode: 894885

Help Needed to Provide Lunches for the Homeless

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 seeking four volunteers for **July 2 and August 6**. 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 can reimburse your expenses, at your request. To volunteer and/or ask questions, please contact Jackie Jablonski at jackiejab@me.com.

June Worship Services

The theme for June is "The Gift of Renewal" and the Celebrations Team is looking forward to speakers whose voices can help us to explore this theme as individuals and as a community.

Sunday, June 2

"Pride - Now More Than Ever"

Emily Richards, CRE

Rev. Hannah Roberts Villnave writes, "People sometimes ask: Is Pride a protest or a party? And the answer is, of course, yes." We will come together to celebrate, and find delight in, what it means to be an affirming congregation and to shine our light with an all encompassing love.
Special music by FUSIT Choir

Sunday, June 9

"The Blossoming Hope of Renewal"

Emily Richards CRE, Rev Janet Shortall,
Rev. Peaches Gillette

The final service of the year is our Annual Flower Communion ceremony. Join us in celebrating the many blessings of being in community. Please bring a flower to add to our beautiful bouquets and you will receive a different flower to take home with you! Also, please bring a dish to share for our potluck picnic at Stewart Park.
Special music by FUSIT Band

Service of Remembrance

**Monday, June 24th, 6 pm,
FUSIT Parlor**

A gentle service of shared reflections and music to offer all a time to gather as a community to grieve the loss of congregants who died over the past year.

**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!**

Director of Congregational
Life and Religious
Exploration
Emily Richards
dre@uuithaca.org

Director of Pastoral Care
Rev. Janet Shortall
pastoralcare@uuithaca.org

Preacher and Program
Associate
Rev. Peaches Gillette
assocdcl@uuithaca.org

Religious Exploration
Assistant
Madeline Natale
reasst@uuithaca.org

Music Director
Stephanie Ortolano
music@uuithaca.org

Choir Director
Jayne Demakos
choir@uuithaca.org

President, Board of Trustees
Fred Balfour
fred.balfour@gmail.com

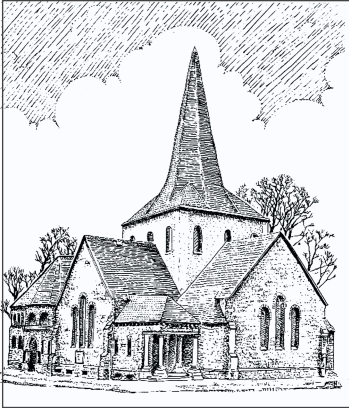
Director of Congregation
Administration
Michelle Waffner
office@uuithaca.org

Administrative Assistant
Loretta Heimbuch
adminasst@uuithaca.org

Sexton
Rachel Seymour
sexton@uuithaca.org

Bookkeeper
Lauren Ponzoni
office@uuithaca.org

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 The Gift of Renewal

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 Gift of Renewal shows up in your life.

June 1-8: How does your body tell you it is in need of renewal? What is it telling you now?

June 9-15: Which of your senses most reliably leads you to renewal? What might you do this week to make room for its gift?

June 16-22: If one were to *propose* that you make room for a day in which you produce nothing, don't check a single thing off your to-do list, confront no problems and search for no solutions, what would your first reaction be?

June 23-30: Renewal often happens through becoming lighter. So, what might your inner wisdom be nudging you to shed, let go of, or give up this summer?

Summer Pub Theology

Wednesday, **July 10**, 6:00 pm

Hopshire Brewery

Join us at Hopshire for an evening of good fellowship and conversation at one of our favorite local breweries. Non-beer and non-alcoholic drinks options available! Families and children are welcome. Bring your friends! Hope to see you there! Hopshire - 1771 Dryden Road, Freeville, NY 13068

Thanks to Your Generosity

Thanks to your generosity for the Shared Plate in April, we were able to donate \$687 to Ithaca Mobile Pack.

Summer Board of Trustees Meetings

The Board will meet on the second Tuesday of the summer months, on **June 18, July 16 and in August (date TBD)** at 6:30 pm. Board meetings are a hybrid format, taking place in the church parlor and through Zoom.

All FUSIT members are invited to attend these meetings. Ten minutes are set aside at the beginning of the meeting for congregation feedback. Please join us!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/88258776990pwd=VUxUTUMraVZDUFGzQndSVFRaFIPdz09>

Meeting ID: 882 5877 6990 Passcode: 602445



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
VIRTUAL GA • JUNE 20 - 23, 2024

Join us **June 20 - 23** for an all-virtual General Assembly 2024. Full online registration includes access to GA 2024 in the Whova event app, as well as on-demand programming, featured speakers, and major workshops. [Summary Schedule Grid Document \(PDF\)](#). For more information contact meetingplanner@uua.org.

Unirondack 2024!

Join fellow congregants at Unirondack over the Labor Day weekend (Friday Aug 30 to Monday Sept 2) for our annual (interrupted only for pandemics) community building kick-off to the new church year. And for some fun, relaxation, swimming, hiking, playing, reading, singing, discussing and what-ever-else takes your fancy.

Register here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdfU9rovekacUZci5zeKn17AOXdraq5vYE_Iv3x4VlxR7UCQ/viewform

Questions? Email Sue Mann (susan.m.mann@gmail.com) or Michele

Community-Wide Online Auction

This was an exciting event that took place the last weekend in April. The 220 Bidding Owl auction items included 93 gift certificates and baskets from 71 community vendors and 107 wonderful items and services donated by our FUSIT members and friends. The generosity of our 125 bidders resulted in our raising nearly \$11,000, far exceeding our projected goal of \$8,000! Congratulations to all the happy winners and a special thanks to our mighty auction team which included Marie Benedetti, Simon Catterall, and Alice Churchill. Much appreciation to all of you who participated with hanging signs, spreading the word, donating, and bidding, with specific assistance from Fred Balfour and Robin Cisne. And finally, recognizing the wonderful support from our staff: Michelle Waffner, Loretta Heimbuch, and Melissa Heslop. This certainly was a team effort, at its finest!

LGBTQ+ Group Meets Monthly



This Small Group is especially for FUSIT's LGBTQ+ community and meets monthly. **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. Please reach out to Ely at eleanorwillard97@gmail.com for more information.

LGBTQ+ Days of Remembrance

June is LGBTQ+ Pride Month

It also marks the month that same-sex marriage was legalized in the United States.

June 12 Pulse Night of Remembrance

Annual day of remembrance for the loss of 49 people in the Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida on June 12, 2016.

June 28 Stonewall Riots Anniversary

Remembering the Stonewall Riots that are described as the start of the Trans and Gay Liberation Movement in the U.S.

Soul Matters Material for June - The Gift of Renewal

The Soul Matters theme for June is *The Gift of Renewal*. 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/SoulMattersJune2024>



AIDS RIDE FOR LIFE

CELEBRATING 26 YEARS OF CYCLING | SEPTEMBER 7, 2024

09.07.24 | ITHACA NEW YORK

Mark Your Calendars for the AIDS Ride for Life

The 26th Annual Ride for Life will be held on Saturday, September 7, 2024.

Cyclists from all over gather at Stewart Park to cycle the 90 —100 miles around Cayuga Lake in order to raise funds for Southern Tier Aids Program (STAP). Traditionally FUSIT volunteers have supported this event by helping cheer on the riders at the first pitstop in King Ferry. Southern Tier Aids Program serves folks living with HIV/AIDS, others with two or more chronic illnesses, people who are LGBTQ+ Youth at Identity Youth Center, or Syringe Exchange participants. Come cheer on the riders! Registration is now open. Contact Kayla Thomas, Ride Coordinator, kthomas@stapinc.org.

Summer Office Hours

During the summer (mid-June through mid-August), the office will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays only. The Weekly Announce will continue to be sent out on Wednesdays though there will be **no Weekly Announce on June 19 or 26**. Congregants are welcome to use the listserv to promote their programs or events during this time. *Please note: Michelle will be on vacation from June 15 - June 30 so please plan ahead with any rental requests.*

Emergency Pastoral Care

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



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/> and Instagram www.instagram.com/ithacauus

From the Board of Trustees

During this time when the church year is barreling towards summer, all the activity associated with the annual meeting comes into focus. The leadership teams are crafting a new budget, and updating the society's vision of ministry; annual reports are being written, evaluations undertaken. Some members are finishing up their terms. A slate of new members has been nominated.

In the middle of all this, the board took a breath and paused to ponder what it feels like to be a board member at the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca. After all, it isn't an especially glamorous position. The board is the keeper of our policies. Congregants rarely effervesce about "policy," so, much of the time, the board is out of view.

Board members noted that the role is a time-consuming one. The younger members find it hard to carve time for board work in their busy lives and envy the retirees on the board. The retirees find the work tiring and envy the energy of the younger members. Currently, the board is well-organized, with needed tasks distributed throughout the year. Onboarding, both as training and getting to know one another, helps members adapt to working outside of their comfort zone. Over time, we feel like we grow into the unfamiliar and challenging roles that come with the territory.

Board members value this church highly. It is rewarding to spend time with and work with others who have this value, too. It is fulfilling to support an organization one cares about, to be effective in a function that many shy away from.

Collectively we have learned more about connecting with the Ministry Visioning Team, The Operations and Administrative Team, and the Budget Team, as the governance structure has progressed from an untested idea to a system in need of fine tuning. As the conversation progressed, we shifted away from enumerating the challenges to being grateful for the rewards.

Needless to say, we did not pause too long. There is plenty to do between now and the end of the year.

-Tom Coakley, Board member

Ministry Visioning Team Year End Report

The Ministry Visioning Team (MVT) continues to meet twice a month with the final meeting occurring in June for four of the members: Rev. Janet Shortall, Nancy Miller, Don Rakow and joAnn kowalski. Emily Richards, Director of Congregational Life and Religious Exploration, will continue as staff representative on MVT. Efforts to recruit new members to MVT have resulted in Betsy East and Therese O'Connor joining the team.

Our work this Spring has had a major focus on planning for Congregational Life staffing for the '24-'25 year. We are pleased to report that the current spiritual leaders will continue in the new church year. Rev. Janet Shortall will be contracted for pastoral care as well as participating with the Care Team monthly. Emily Richards and Rev. Peaches Gillette will continue in the same roles they held this past year.

Meetings were held with the Board of Trustees and the Governance Committee to continue partnership and encourage communication with these entities. Our work consistently extends to encompass other teams, committees, and the Board,

realizing the importance of collaboration and sharing of information in our shared governance structure.

The Staff Wellbeing Initiative is proceeding with supervisors conducting interviews with staff before the end of May. Once the responses are collected, they will be forwarded to Board member, Megan McCormick, for analysis. Our intent is to express gratitude and cultivate connection with staff by listening to their concerns and desires. Annual staff evaluations for ministry staff will be conducted in early June.

FUSIT will be participating in the Ithaca Festival parade and have an information table during the weekend of the festival. Look for information to volunteer to participate in the activities.

Joys and Sorrows

Joys and Sorrows are now shared during Sunday Service. Please send notices to the team at joysandsorrows@uuthaca.org. When considering what is shared in Joys and Sorrows, please note, these services are live streamed and available to the public on our YouTube Channel.

Appreciations

As we nurture a culture of appreciation at FUSIT, let's sing praises to the many people who help make our community the wonderful place it is. 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? It can be a member or staff or friend to our community. Send your submissions to joysandsorrows@uuthaca.org.

A sixth cohort of Living the Pledge to End Racism has begun with both FUSIT congregation and community members participating. To this date, over 80 people have taken the pledge. Special thanks to Nancy Miller for spearheading the latest effort and to the following who volunteered to be facilitators: Rev. Peaches Gillette, Nancy Miller, Lloyd Graves, Kimari Johnson, Wendy Fillmore and joAnn kowalski. Thanks also to Sue Roenke as Zoom Queen and Sara Catterall as communication coordinator.

From Margaret Nichols:

"Congratulations and kudos to everyone who helped make this spring's online auction the resounding success that it was. I especially appreciate the people who did all the legwork, emailing, etc. to win the participation and support of both Ithaca businesses and our own FUSIT community. Bravo!"

A big thank you from Buildings and Grounds to the fifteen people who came to our Spring Cleaning on May 18! Judy Jones and Fred Kardon weeded beds, and Michelle Buttino, Sara and Simon Catterall, Mike Daniels, Paul Drewry, Brian Harrington, MaryPaul Kirkpatrick, Dick Kurtz, Echo Lawless, Magdalen Lindeberg, Keith Perry, Madonna Stallman, and Kathy Wolf sorted and carried and removed six truck and trailer loads of trash and recycling and donations. Our parish house attic is ready to be evaluated for insulation!

Our Mission

Our mission is to create connection, find inspiration and engage the world.
Connect. Inspire. Engage.

Everyone is invited to the
End of Year Celebration & Picnic
at *Stewart Park*

Please plan to come with your entire family for fun and fellowship by the Large Pavilion at Stewart Park on

Sunday, June 9, at 10:30 am



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

NEW Summer Program Aftercare Available

Adventure Camp
June 27-28 \$130

Ages 5-12

CAMP AURORA

Creating Connection and Community

Downtown Ithaca

3 Themed Weeks

Fostering self-expression, creativity, and belonging, art, music, movement, field trips, play





Building Connection
July 1-5 \$260



Peace Village
August 19-23 \$325



Be the Change
August 25-30 \$325

For more information, contact us at:
CampAurora@uulthaca.org

First Unitarian Society of Ithaca
306 N. Aurora Street

Camp Aurora is a new week-long summer day camp in the heart of Downtown Ithaca for kids ages 5-12 that is centered on community, connection, and engagement. With a focus on creating meaningful experiences through exploring our interconnectedness to one another and the world, each fun-filled week will include art, music, movement, field trips, story, and adventure. Campers will have an opportunity to learn and grow together with an emphasis on self-expression, creativity, and belonging, with lots of space for free play and building social skills and relationships.

Camp runs from 9 am-3 pm each day.
Drop Off: 8:30 am-9 am
Pick Up: 3:00 pm-3:30 pm
Optional Aftercare: 3:30 pm-5:30 pm

Scholarships Available

Adventure Camp - June 27th-28th

Start your summer break off with two days of fun and adventure! Campers will explore a world filled with magic as they take on various roles to overcome the challenges and tasks set before them. Create the unbreakable bonds that can only be forged as a member of an adventuring party. Come and discover where the journey might take you.

Tuition \$130
Aftercare \$20

Building Connections - July 1st-5th (no camp July 4th)

Connection begins with ourselves, and stretches out to include our friends and family, our community, and our world. This week we will discover the fun and meaning that can be made through building connections. We will focus on building relationships and life-long friendships through movement, games, activities, and field trips.

Tuition \$260 ***\$240 for UU families**
Aftercare \$40

Peace Village - August 19th-23rd

Peace Village offers a week filled with a variety of engaging, hands-on activities with a focus on generosity, transformation, interconnectedness, compassion, and empathy. Campers will engage in art, activities, and games for a healthy mind, body, and spirit. Together we will explore both inner peace and how we spread peace in the world.

Tuition \$325 ***\$300 for UU families**
Aftercare \$50

Be the Change - August 26th-30th

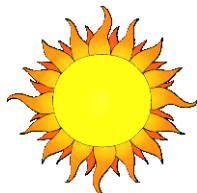
Find out how you can Be the Change as we discover how our passion for justice can make a positive impact in the world. Join us for a week of inspiring growth and building community that encourages each camper to become a changemaker. Be the light you want to shine in the world!

Tuition \$325 ***\$300 for UU families**
Aftercare \$50

Space is limited so please register today!

[Camp Aurora - First Unitarian Society of Ithaca](http://CampAurora-FirstUnitarianSocietyofIthaca.org)

First Unitarian is a UUA-recognized LGBTQ+ Welcoming Congregation



Summer Services

Every Sunday in the parlor between 9:30 and 10:30, June 16 thru September 1

Featuring sermons by FUSIT congregants and guest speakers

Each sermon followed by a group discussion. Coffee and tea served. All are welcome!

June 16: Jim Garbarino, A Spiritual Approach to Understanding Trauma

Most educated people have some appreciation for the psychological challenges posed by trauma—most notably PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). But beyond the psychological challenges are the existential challenges to core aspects of spirituality, profound questions regarding the “meaning of life.” This sermon delves into those spiritual/existential issues, drawing upon both research and first-hand experience with trauma in the lives of kids and adults, in the United States and all around the world.

June 23: Carol Whitlow: Home Sweet Home

In 2003, Ithaca welcomed a Karen man from a refugee camp on the Burma-Thai border. He was then able to bring his mother, brothers and sisters - an ever extending family who now call Ithaca home. Carol will share a conversation with Paw Pha about the adventure and challenges of making a new home far away from familiar language, culture, weather and politics.

June 30: Philip Terrie: A Conversation About Wilderness in the Adirondacks

Is There Wilderness in the Adirondacks? If so, how does it nourish the soul and body? Is it protected by Article 14 of the NYS Constitution? What are the historical and potential threats to wilderness in the Adirondacks?

July 7: Therese O'Connor, Es Muy Complicado

Glennon Doyle writes, “Blessed are those who make things awkward, for they wake us up and move us forward.” We humans are very complicated and often mysterious. Can a complicated journey through fear, addiction, and art offer some nuggets of insight or sparks of compassion? This will be awkward, but I’ll try to address it.

July 14: Howard Nelson (guest speaker), So Much Depends Upon William Carlos Williams

William Carlos Williams is best known for a short poem about a red wheelbarrow, but there is a lot more to him and his work than that. He’s a writer who has been important to me since a high school English teacher showed me that poem – a life-changing event. This talk will combine some of William’s poems and my reflections about him now, fifty years later. Handouts of poems will be provided.

July 21: Rod Howe, The Art of Seeing Altars Everywhere

How might one develop a practice of regularly honoring and remembering by seeing little (and sometimes big) altars everywhere? I’ll share my thoughts on this process and how it is helping me embrace life with a sense of gratitude and equanimity.

July 28: Preston Wilson, Popular Music as Empathetic Prayer

When interpreted by inspired performers, many popular songs can unite us in affirming life’s wonders and lamenting life’s sorrows. Concert videos of k.d. lang, Joan Osborne, Yusuf (Cat Stevens), Willie Nelson, and Simon and Garfunkel invite us to share in these powerful and empathetic musical prayers.

August 4: Phoebe Brown (guest speaker), What Does It Mean To Be in Alliance with Families for Justice?

The talk will be about Alliance for Justice (AFJ) programs, the importance of AFJ located in Central New York, and why Friends of AFJ is so important.

August 11: Wren Tuatha, Painters, Poets, Sculptors and Singers

We’ve heard of the Harlem Renaissance, the salons of Paris, and even the New York School. These communities mixed artists of every material and genre, blending their audiences in the process. What art results when writers, painters, choreographers, photographers, etc., deeply influence each other? Ithaca Poetry Center Director Wren Tuatha will explore this, with a fun look at an emerging genre, hybrid writing.

August 18: Walt Peck, Heresy!

Many of us are heretics. But what if the tables are turned? Follow the ebb and flow of one person’s faith journey as a Unitarian-Universalist

August 25: Fred Balfour, If “Community” is the answer, what is the question?

You have probably been asked some version of “Why do you go to a church that doesn’t believe in God?” Many of us say, “It’s for the community.” When your friends roll their eyes, what do you say next? Here’s the universal answer.

Sept 1: Bethany Ojalehto Mays, Lisa Levy, Dan Antonioli (guest speakers) Cornell On Fire

“We are a coalition of Cornellians and community members calling for a just and comprehensive university-wide response to the climate emergency.” (connect@cornellonfire.org)