



ITHACA

# UUU Connections

2024/2025 Issue No. 6

February 2025

## Our Spiritual Journey

*"If— like me —you're attachment rich, if you are included in most or many circles, if you belong in almost any place you find yourself, we have the opportunity and responsibility to include the uninvited... Look for someone who appears not to belong today and choose them." -Jan Edmiston*

My oldest child struggles a lot with feeling excluded. My youngest child does not. Not that she doesn't feel that way on occasion but it's not the norm for her the way it is for my oldest.

I have had the opportunity to watch the way that they interact with their peers and it is easy to see how the differences in their personalities affect their lived experience.

My youngest doesn't need to be invited to join in with whatever is going on. She seems to easily fit herself into any group of children, often leading games and inviting others to join.

On the other hand my oldest needs an explicit invitation. She flits around the edges, waiting to be asked to be a part of whatever conversation or game is happening. And when she has complained to me about nobody wanting to play with her I have often responded that she needs to just go join in. But it's not really that easy for most of us, is it?

At one of the religious educator conferences that I attended I remember commenting to someone that I found mealtimes awkward because I didn't really know anyone and those were the times we were on our own with no programming. And they responded that I should just go ask someone to join them for dinner. And suddenly I was on the other side of the response that I so often gave to my child. And it felt dismissive. As if walking up to a group of strangers and asking to join them should be easy and simple. But it's not.

It can be easy to exclude people unintentionally. All it takes is not noticing those who are flitting around the edges, waiting for that invitation to be included. To be asked to be a part of something.

So, this month I invite you to consider what it really means to live love through the practice of inclusion. Look for someone who appears not to belong, and choose them.

*Emily Richards, Director of Congregational Life*

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

**Sunday Services in the  
Sanctuary at 10:30 am**  
*Live-streamed on our YouTube channel*  
**Nursery childcare and Religious  
Exploration classes for children**

**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.



**Welcome Elizabeth  
Buckley, Our New  
Engagement and Outreach  
Coordinator**

We are pleased to welcome Elizabeth Buckley to our staff team as our new part time Engagement and Outreach Coordinator. Stop by the Welcome Table on Sunday mornings to say hello!

*"Hello! I'm Elizabeth. I've loved and lived in the Ithaca area for the past nine years. I'm passionate about fostering community engagement and love finding new ways to interact. Outside of work, I enjoy reading books, attending local events of all sorts, and trying new types of workouts. I look forward to meeting and getting to know you!" - Elizabeth Buckley*

Elizabeth oversees our Engagement and Outreach programs including newcomer events, the NICE program, Welcome/Membership Table and membership events. She can be reached at [membership@uuithaca.org](mailto:membership@uuithaca.org).

# Religious Exploration News

For information about Religious Exploration, please contact Emily Richards at [CongregationalLife@uuitbaca.org](mailto:CongregationalLife@uuitbaca.org).

## Greetings from Religious Exploration

This month we are Living Love Through the Practice of Inclusion.

February, as we all know, is Black History Month. And while Black History Month offers us an opportunity to honor the important voices and contributions of black Americans, our faith calls us to lift up the reality of racial oppression all the time, and to constantly examine and re-examine how we are living our values of justice and equity every day.

Living Love through Inclusion is, at its core, about noticing and feeling the pain that comes from being left out and unseen. As we explore the concept of inclusion together I hope that you are able to reconnect with memories of the many people in your life who included you and helped you feel fully seen.

Inclusion is more than just welcome, it's about creating a true place of belonging. About breaking down the barriers that we create, often without even realizing it, that keep people out. It's about putting love at the center, for everyone.

*...let's widen the circle until it breaks!*

*For as long as the circle exists*

*pieces and parts of ourselves*

*will always lie on the other side of the line.*

*The circle will never allow*

*the welcome we wish for... Rev. Scott Taylor*

## Religious Exploration Schedule for February

**February 2** - Classroom Sunday

**February 16** - Creative Sunday

**February 9** - Multigenerational Sunday

**February 23** - Classroom Sunday

*The Nursery will be open every Sunday in February from 10 am-12 pm for young children between the ages of 0 and 4.*

## Classroom Sundays

**Elementary:** This month the upper elementary aged children will be focusing on our monthly theme of Inclusion through stories, activities, crafts, and games. The younger elementary students will be starting to explore our UU Values with Legos.

**Middle School and High School:** The youth will continue to explore what role they will play in "Building A Better World", an RPG-based curriculum that will lead youth and adults through the process of creating a game setting as a faith development and community-building exercise reflecting Unitarian Universalist values. Please have participants bring a set of gaming dice to each session if they have them.

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](#)

We have so much appreciation for all of the community members who enrich our community through participating in our Religious Exploration programming. A huge thank you to our Fall Classroom teachers: Jess Brown, Brisa Teutli, John Pillar, Juliana Garcia, Elisa Collins-Zinda, and Mike Timonin. Being a part of the lives of our young people is deeply meaningful and the effects last a lifetime. This important programming can only happen with the support of the entire community. [FUSIT 2024-2025 RE Volunteer Sign Up](#)

Please join our [First UU Ithaca Parents Facebook Group!](#)

*Emily Richards CRE (Credentialed Religious Educator),*

*Director of Congregational Life*

*Madeline Natale - Religious Exploration Coordinator*

## Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 8th-9th and 10-12th Graders

Congratulations to our middle school OWL participants, who finished up their program last month. The First Unitarian Society of Ithaca will be offering Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexuality education program to 10th-12th graders this spring. More details to come!

## Camp Aurora

Camp Aurora is a 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. Weekly Camp Fee: \$325 Scholarships Available

Week One: **August 11th-15th**

Week Two: **August 18th-22nd**

Week Three: **August 25th-29th**

Register Today: [Camp Aurora Registration](#)

## Religious Exploration Events for February

### Love Month Cards and Crafts

Sunday, **February 9th**  
12 pm-2 pm in the Annex

Join us for a celebration of love as we make crafts and cards together just in time for Valentine's Day celebrations. Everyone should have access to fun and creative ways to share the love so, as always, this event is free and open to the public.

### Music for Little People

Wednesday, **February 5th and 19th**  
10 am-10:45 am in the Arch Room

Share in the joy of music in this class which is free and open to the public. Children 0-5 and their caregivers are welcome to meet us in the Arch Room each month. Sing, play, dance, explore instruments, and connect through music.

### Connection Circle for Parents - Childcare Provided

Sunday, **February 16th**  
12 pm-1 pm in the FUSIT Library

A Connection Circle for individuals who are actively parenting. The group will follow the Soul Matters themes with a focus on how they are related to the journey and experience of being a parent. Gatherings will take place monthly on the third Sunday of the month from 12pm-1pm, with childcare available. We invite you to join us for an opportunity for connection and community within our larger First UU community, in a safe, confidential and nurturing environment.



## February Worship Services

The theme for February is "Living Love Through the Practice of Inclusion" 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, February 2, "The Principle and Practice of Inclusion"

Rev. Peaches Gillette

In our culture, words that have virtuous connotations are used as ethical absolutes, but it is important to examine this notion.

Special music by Roberta Crawford, viola

### Sunday, February 9, "A Love That Embraces All"

Emily Richards, CRE

Join us for a celebration of love in all of its forms in this fun and engaging multi-generational service. Love has the potential to create a place of belonging for all of us. How can we embrace the love that is the center of everything?

Special music by Stephanie Ortolano

### Sunday, February 16, "Thinking About Ghosts"

Featured speaker David Salomon, FUSIT member

David Salomon reflects on the many mysterious, invisible things that both haunt and inspire us. From the dirt under your couch, to our shared history, to microorganisms, to the divine, we are surrounded by things that we can't see yet which frighten, motivate, and enlighten us. What ghosts are in your attic?

Special music by Rachel Liao, violin

### Sunday, February 23, "Embracing Generosity"

Emily Richards, CRE

The true blessing of inclusion is not that we get to come inside the circle; it's that we get to participate in expanding it. As the circle grows, so do we. Please join us in this celebration of our generosity, collective care for one another, and stewardship of this community.

Special music TBA



Director of Congregational Life

Emily Richards  
[CongregationalLife@uuiithaca.org](mailto:CongregationalLife@uuiithaca.org)

Pastoral Care Associate  
Rev. Janet Shortall  
[pastoralcare@uuiithaca.org](mailto:pastoralcare@uuiithaca.org)

Preacher and Program Associate  
Rev. Peaches Gillette  
[pgfreedom09@gmail.com](mailto:pgfreedom09@gmail.com)

Religious Exploration Coordinator  
Madeline Natale  
[reasst@uuiithaca.org](mailto:reasst@uuiithaca.org)

Childcare Coordinator  
Melissa Heslop  
[childcare@uuiithaca.org](mailto:childcare@uuiithaca.org)

Music Director  
Stephanie Ortolano  
[music@uuiithaca.org](mailto:music@uuiithaca.org)

Choir Director  
Jayne Demakos  
[choir@uuiithaca.org](mailto:choir@uuiithaca.org)

President, Board of Trustees  
Fred Balfour  
[fred.balfour@gmail.com](mailto:fred.balfour@gmail.com)

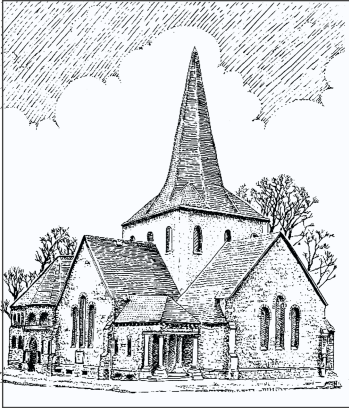
Director of Congregation Administration  
Michelle Waffner  
[office@uuiithaca.org](mailto:office@uuiithaca.org)

Administrative Assistant  
Loretta Heimbuch  
[adminasst@uuiithaca.org](mailto:adminasst@uuiithaca.org)

Sexton  
Rachel Seymour  
[sexton@uuiithaca.org](mailto:sexton@uuiithaca.org)

Bookkeeper  
Lauren Ponzoni  
[office@uuiithaca.org](mailto:office@uuiithaca.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](http://www.uuithaca.org)

---

## Possible Ponderings

*The theme for February is Living Love Through the Practice of Inclusion*

*Possible Ponderings is an offering of ways you might consider engaging more deeply with the theme or reflecting on the ways the idea of **Living Love Through the Practice of Inclusion** shows up in your life.*

**February 1-8:** If you could go back and change a moment of being excluded or excluding someone, what would it be?

**February 9-15:** What part of your personality do you wish your family of origin would have included and welcomed more enthusiastically?

**February 16-22:** How has aging impacted your feelings of being included or excluded?

**February 23-28:** Have you ever had an experience that gave you a cosmic sense of being included? A feeling of being at one with everyone and everything around you? Or a feeling of being embraced by the universe itself? If so, how did that experience change you?

## ***UUA Disaster Relief Fund***

This fund allows the UUA to respond flexibly to current disaster needs as well as to new emergency situations as they arise.

The Disaster Relief Fund disburses grants to UU congregations and recognized UU non-profit entities.

The Fund is part of a covenant between the UUA and congregations, between congregations who give generously and those in need, and with our community partners. Through this work, we are able to embody our faith and values.

Donations can be made online at [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org) or checks made payable to UUA Disaster Relief Fund, can be mailed to UUA Gift Processing, 24 Farnsworth St, Boston, MA 02210.

*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!*

## **Social Justice**

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. Find more information about various teams on our website.

## **Side with Love and Shared Plate**

Teams, Committees, and Small Groups are invited to sponsor a month for our Side with Love and Shared Plate Collections. The group would be responsible for choosing the organization, communicating with that organization about needed items for Side with Love, delivering goods, and communicating any pertinent information to Michelle and Loretta for the Newsletter, Weekly Announce, and Order of Service.

This is a wonderful opportunity to lift up and support local or national organizations that do work that is meaningful to your team or group. Sign up information can be found below.

### [Side With Love and Shared Plate 2024-2025](#)

For the month of February, **Babies First** loan program has been chosen by the Care Team and will be the recipient of the Side with Love collection. At this time, they are in need of the following items:

Baby wipes, bottles and nipples, pacifiers and/or pacifier clips, pack'n play sheets, burp cloths, receiving blankets, safety items such as cabinet locks and socket covers, and diapers of all sizes are a hot commodity.

Care Team has also chosen Planned Parenthood of Ithaca as the organization that will receive the Shared Plate for February.

## **8th Principle Action Ministry**

The 8th Principle Action Ministry (8PAM) will no longer be meeting on a monthly basis. Look for future program offerings including book discussion and film viewing opportunities.

Contact joAnn kowalski for inquiries or to offer ideas or suggestions at [jmkowalski10@gmail.com](mailto:jmkowalski10@gmail.com).

## **The Environmental Interest Circle (EIC) Meets February 5th** at 7:00 pm in the Parlor and over Zoom

The Environmental Interest Circle meets to discuss/exchange ideas and actions that further sustainable living for each one of us, for the FUSIT congregation, and for our congregation's role in the greater community. This group usually meets the first Wednesday of the month in the parlor and over Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/81644753524?pwd=SDBqQaTN5eIM3ejltbGdJeGhPa3QxQT09>

Meeting ID: 816 4475 3524 Passcode: 894885



## **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](mailto:eleanorwillard97@gmail.com) for more information.

## **National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day February 5th**

A national HIV testing and treatment community mobilization initiative targeted at Blacks in the United States and the Diaspora.

## **Women's Circle Meets on February 24**

Women's Circle usually meets via Zoom on the 4th Monday of the month from 7-8:30 pm. 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](mailto:ananda7733@gmail.com) or 607-539-7733.

Zoom Link: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/82169260621?pwd=ZDkyaanRKMmo2czhqSWgrSVhmbGFqdzo9>

Meeting ID: 821 6926 0621. Passcode: 015515

## **Pub Theology**

Tuesday, **February 25th** 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 monthly theme of *Living Love Through the Practice of Inclusion*. 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. 620 W. Green St., Ithaca.

## **Spiritual Yoga Class - February 21**

Please join our FUSIT exclusive Spiritual Yoga class with Madeline Natale. Yoga will be held at Yoga Farm Ithaca (509 N. Meadow St., Ithaca) on the 3rd Friday of the month from 5:30-6:30 pm with tea to follow! Bring your own mug, and maybe a snack to share. For further information, contact Madeline at [reasst@uuithaca.org](mailto:reasst@uuithaca.org).

## **Crochet and Knitting Circle**

Are you looking to join a tight knit group? Meet us in the Annex Youth Room from 12-1 pm every Sunday to exchange blissful stitches. This is an unstructured crochet and knitting circle. All ages are welcome, children under 12 years old must be accompanied by a designated adult.

## **Thanks to Your Generosity**

Thanks to your generosity, these organizations received the following in the shared plate offering:

December 23, Sage Chapel - **Babies First** \$2,137

December 29 - **Ithaca Welcomes Refugees** \$458



***Beacon on Aurora - An Evening with Nigel Wearne, Sunday, February 9, doors open at 6:30 pm, concert begins at 7 pm***

Nigel Wearne saunters after dark in the music of the night, blending blues, jazz and Americana-noir. Hailing from Gunditjmara country in the deep south of Australia, he's a guitarist and multi-instrumentalist with diverse influences such as Nick Cave, Tom Waits and Rickie Lee Jones. A deep thinker and truth seeker with a penchant for all things peculiar, he sings of human frailty, grace and the cosmos; songwriting that cuts to the bone.

Nigel has toured Australia, New Zealand, the US, UK and Canada and he's had a huge past 12 months... in 2023 alone he toured the US three times, the UK twice and played a bunch of festivals including MerleFest (USA), AmericanaFest (USA), Cambridge Folk Festival (UK), Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion (USA), Mile of Music (USA) and Old Settler's Music Festival (USA). 2024 has seen a UK winter tour and Official Showcases at UK Americana Music Week and Your Roots Are Showing (Ireland).

*\$20 suggested donation at the door. Cash preferred. Electronic payment options (direct to artist) will also be available.*

### ***FUSIT Choir***

Come sing with us! The FUSIT Choir rehearses on Thursdays, from 7-8:30 pm in the Annex. Join in this wonderful, joyful and important part of our community service. Text Jayne at 607-256-9488.

### ***Soul Matters Material for February***

The Soul Matters theme for February is *Living Love Through The Practice of Inclusion*. 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/SoulMattersFeb2025>

### ***Care Cafe - February 9th and 23rd***

*2nd and 4th Sunday of each month in the FUSIT Library*

Rev. Peaches Gillette invites you to the Care Cafe. During our time in the 'cafe', we openly express our thoughts, reaching into ourselves and deeply touching upon and sharing what it means to be fully human in a complicated world. Each gathering will focus on a loosely structured theme around spirituality, encouraging participants to freely explore all aspects of their spiritual journeys. Past groups have been excellent and enriching, as the flow of participants from week to week has created perfect cross-currents of relationships, broadening and securing FUSIT's sense of community. Time together in the Care Cafe allows many of us to meet and know one another more intimately.

Rev. Peaches Gillette [pgfreedom09@gmail.com](mailto:pgfreedom09@gmail.com)

## **Joys and Sorrows**

*Joys and Sorrows are now shared during Sunday Service. Please send notices to the team at [joysandsorrows@uuithaca.org](mailto:joysandsorrows@uuithaca.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.*

Our condolences go out to Marypaul Kirkpatrick and family on the death of her husband Dick Cogger, longtime member of FUSIT, after a long and gradual decline with Alzheimer's. He passed on January 10 at the Bridges residence in Cayuga Heights where he had been receiving excellent care. A celebration of his life will be planned for sometime in the spring.

Our condolences go out to Cheryl Botts and family on the death of her father, Henry Botts, who peacefully passed away last Sunday in his residence in Albuquerque NM. He was 94. He lived a humble and dignified life until his last breath. Cheryl and family will miss him dearly. He's an example of living life fully.

### ***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@uuithaca.org](mailto:joysandsorrows@uuithaca.org).*

*From Emily Richards*

-Thank you so much to everyone who was involved in the two services at Sage Chapel on December 23rd. To the musicians, the ushers, the readers, and everyone who planned, packed, and hauled, you are so appreciated.

-Thank you to the Barber family for hosting our Solstice Celebration, to those who helped organize, set up, and provide snacks, and to everyone who braved the cold to honor the longest night with us. The fires were lit and the light has returned.

*From Don Barber*

-Since the onset of COVID, First Unitarian Society of Ithaca has been intentional to facilitate engagement through Zoom connections for those who need or desire the ability to join virtually in community. I want to acknowledge Fred Balfour's gift to our congregation of a state of the art Meeting Owl. It follows the speakers visually and has much improved sound transmission. Thank you, Fred.

*From Therese O'Connor*

-I want to recognize Michelle Waffner for her wonderful organizational skills, detail orientation, and insights for this community. Michelle has her finger on the pulse of FUSIT in her administration job and with the Operations & Administrations Team, as well as being available on many Sundays to help members and friends. We appreciate you, Michelle.

*-A big thank you!*

The Babies First Team would like to thank everyone who dug deep in their pockets before the holiday and at the Community Candlelight Service to fund our work of supplying babies and their families with much needed equipment to start their lives. It came at a time of great need. We feel very cared for and loved by this wonderful community.

## Together We Rise



*February means it is Stewardship season!*

This year, *Together We Rise* is our theme with a slightly different approach to Stewardship.

“Together” expresses an emphasis on growing our connections through dialogue. We are still lifting ourselves up out of the pandemic, and we have so much further to Rise if we work Together! On **February 23rd** the Sunday service will be a celebration of everything at FUSIT we can be thankful for, and aspects of our mission and vision that we are rising to actualize. There will be music, and there may be dancing, but this year we are not dancing our pledges down the aisle. Instead, we will empower 20+ trained Stewards by ceremonially committing to support their engagement efforts when they call you to schedule a house visit or invite you to a cottage meeting. This ‘personal touch’ approach is about hearing what aspects of FUSIT are most fulfilling for you, and where you see opportunities for stronger connection, inspiration and engagement. The week before the Stewardship celebration service, look for the familiar letter summarizing our financial status and Stewardship goal. And expect to hear from a Steward the week after the service to schedule your conversation visit.

If you are interested in being trained to help as a Steward, please let us know at [stewardship@uuithaca.org](mailto:stewardship@uuithaca.org), or sign up on the volunteer bulletin board in the Parlor.

*The Stewardship Team*

*Matt Hare, Wendy Schearer, Jeanette Knapp, Margaret Nichols*

### **Openings in Small Group Ministry**

Small Group Ministry (SGM) is a great way to form significant connections within FUSIT and in the wider Ithaca community for both new and long-time members and friends. US Surgeon General Murthy has described the epidemic of isolation and loneliness in the US, and he calls on us to strengthen our own connections and to help others and our communities to do so. Below is a list of our small groups, their meeting times and their current openings. We hope you join us! If you have any questions or would like to join a small group, call or email Marsha Kardon at (607) 592-2520 or [mfkardon@gmail.com](mailto:mfkardon@gmail.com).

-Sunday once or twice a month at 7 pm on Zoom (3 openings)

-Second and fourth Sundays of the month at FUSIT from 9-10:15 am (currently full)

-Sunday monthly from noon - 1 pm at FUSIT, for those actively parenting, childcare available (new members welcome)

-First and third Monday of the month on Zoom at 7 pm (1 opening)

-First Tuesday at 6:30 pm either outside in member's backyard or on Zoom, monthly (1 opening)

-Wednesday 6 pm at FUSIT, LGBTQ+ associated group (2 openings)

-First and third Fridays, one in person, one on zoom at 10:30 am (2 openings)

## **You're Invited!**

### **Join us for a Newcomers Brunch**

When: Saturday, **February 8th**

Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Where: The Parlor

Are you feeling like a Newcomer? Come enjoy good food, great company, and a warm welcome to our community. We can't wait to get to know you better!

RSVP by **February 1st** to Sue Rakow [sue.rakow@gmail.com](mailto:sue.rakow@gmail.com) or 607-351-6576. We look forward to seeing you there!

*Hosted by Sunday Morning Small Group: Sara Catterall, Liz Einstein, Matt Hare, Kathy Hopkins, Margaret Nichols, Sue Rakow, Carol Whitlow, Wendy Wolfe*

When the winds on your path begin to swirl,  
may you find your breath.  
When the ground beneath your feet tremble,  
may you remember that still point of solidity inside,  
that is always waiting to welcome you back home.  
And from that place of empowering peace,  
may you be an anchor of calm  
for those who need it as much as you.

Rev. Scott Tayler

### **People of Color Affinity Group**

Are you a person of color looking to connect with other UUs of color? Please consider joining a newly formed group dedicated to growing a multicultural community and promoting diversity here at FUSIT. For more information, please contact [poc@uuithaca.org](mailto:poc@uuithaca.org).

### **Ways to Engage**

Curious about events and happenings at First Unitarian Society of Ithaca? Check out our Facebook page and stay current with what's going on in the community!

<https://www.facebook.com/FUSofI>

### **Current Volunteer Opportunities**

Volunteering is a great way to meet others in the First Unitarian Community and give back at the same time! Current Volunteer Opportunities are <https://unitarian.ithaca.ny.us/index.php/connection/volunteer/>

### **Nametags**

If you would like a nametag, please fill out the **nametag request form** at the Welcome Table or email [membership@uuithaca.org](mailto:membership@uuithaca.org) and we'll make one for you. Then look for your new nametag in the Narthex nametag cabinet (corner Buffalo and Aurora Sts.).

### **Office Hours in February**

The office is generally open 9 am - 4 pm Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and 8 am - 3 pm Sundays. Michelle works remotely Wednesdays.



### **Library Message**

Many books have been borrowed from our FUSIT library but not returned, according to our circulation book.

- Recommended time to borrow a book is 1 month. You can certainly re-borrow it, if you need more time after that, keeping the circulation book up to date with a new checkout date.
- When returning a book, remember to mark the date in the circulation book.
- Place all returned books into the RETURNS crate for re-stacking.
- This applies to the adult books only. Children's books have their own corner of the room and are handled exclusively by the RE group.

Remember that our library depends on you to keep it clean and orderly.  
*Thanks, Marie Benedetti*

### **February Board of Trustees Meeting**

The Board will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, on **February 18th**, at 6:30 pm. Board meetings are a hybrid format, taking place in the 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/8825877699opwd=VUxUTUMraVZDUFQzQndSVFRraFIPdz09>

Meeting ID: 882 5877 6990

Passcode: 602445

### **Ministry Visioning Team (MVT)**

The Ministry Visioning Team (MVT) works in collaboration with the Board of Trustees and the Operations Administration Team (OAT) to support the important ministries of this community. MVT continues to support the ministry staff, including welcoming Elizabeth Buckley into the role of Engagement and Outreach Coordinator.

In addition, MVT works to help guide the Vision of Ministry, support the ministry teams, and is involved in conversations and initiatives in relation to creating plans for financial health for this community now and in the future.

### **Expanding Community**

For many this charged political time can bring about increased feelings of isolation and division. We always welcome new members to our community and faith and hope to provide a safe space of connection and learning for all. 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.

### **Our Mission**

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

### **Celebrating our new values with the flame of love image from UUA**

We kindle the flame of love, spreading its light into the world through our values.

