



ITHACA

# UU Connections

2025/2026 Issue No. 8

April 2026

## Our Spiritual Journey

I love spring. The longer days, the slow return of warmth, the first flowers starting to poke their heads up from the soil, the wet smell of the earth, the possibility of growth and renewal and abundance.

This past winter was unusually cold and felt particularly long. It's been years since I can remember a winter where we had weeks, or months, of snow covering the ground, with an occasional thaw revealing the brown earth beneath, quickly covered again in the fresh white blanket of the next snowfall. My childhood was filled with winters like that. Winters where the air was so cold I would cover my face with my scarf or jacket and turn my back to the wind. Winters where my hair would freeze into crunchy points as I waited for the bus. Winters where sledding was a common occurrence because there always seemed to be enough snow. Winters where we would slide out onto the ice of the neighborhood ponds, careful not to go too far from the edges in case the ice became too thin to hold our weight. Winters filled with long nights, wet boots and wetter mittens. Winters that felt like they would never end.

Perhaps this is why the story of the resurrection in the Christian faith continues to resonate so deeply. We have all experienced a metaphorical winter season in our lives. A long, cold, dark time that felt like it was never going to end, even if it was punctuated by moments of joy. We are all collectively experiencing a long, dark season in our country's history right now, even as the literal spring is upon us.

Because, in the end, spring always appears, slowly at first, then with a sudden burst of color and birdsong as the forsythia bloom and the robins return.

This month we are invited to consider what it means to Embrace Possibility. What does possibility mean to you in these troubling times in which we live? What does it mean to all of us, as a people of faith, to embrace the possibility of a new world? And what possibilities might we make real once we enter into the springtime of our lives?

*Emily Richards, Director of Congregational Life*

### Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser

Sunday, April 26th  
12 pm-4 pm in the Parlor

Support our UU community with our Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser! Just in time for Earth Day, Beltane, and Mother's Day. Donate and purchase plants from annuals to perennials, from flowers to vegetables, from plants for your gardens to plants for your kitchens. Sign up below to donate plants, help with set up and/or clean, and to work the sale itself. Your contributions will help to nurture this community and the earth that we share.

Sign up [HERE](#) to volunteer!

**DONATIONS  
NEEDED!**

**SET UP  
AND  
CLEAN UP  
HELP  
NEEDED**



Just in time for  
Mother's Day!

**SPRING  
PLANT  
SALE**

**SUNDAY  
APRIL 26  
12PM-4PM**

First Unitarian Society  
of Ithaca  
306 N Aurora Street

Bring in your Annuals,  
Perennials, Shrubs and  
Bushes, Vegetables,  
Houseplants and more!  
Help support this  
community!



# Religious Exploration News

For information about Religious Exploration, please contact Madeline Natale at [dre@uuithaca.org](mailto:dre@uuithaca.org)

## Greetings from the Director of Religious Exploration

*“We are powerful because we have survived, and that is what it is all about—survival and growth.”*  
—Audre Lorde

The theme for the month of April is “embracing possibility”. Let us reflect on the transition into spring as a season of renewal and quiet resilience. Consider what you have endured, adapted to, or grown through in recent months. In what ways has your survival shaped your strength? As new life begins to emerge around you, what possibilities feel ready to unfold within you? If you feel inspired, write about how you can honor both your resilience and your capacity for growth as you step into this new season.

*With love, Madeline*

## April Classroom Sundays

This month the elementary aged children will explore our monthly theme “Embracing Possibility” through stories, activities, crafts, and games.

**Middle School** will continue to explore their Unitarian Universalist Values through the lens of other faith traditions using the “Crossing Paths” Curriculum.

Youth who are in **High School** are encouraged to join the weekly services or volunteer in RE. They are welcome to facilitate games and crafts for the elementary kids or play in the nursery with our babies and toddlers.

**Elementary** religious exploration is in a time of change. We are starting the new year by introducing “Choose your own Adventure” RE. All elementary kids will start RE in the arch room for Children’s Chapel. They will light their chalice, revisit covenant, embody the 7 values, and enjoy a story that aligns with the theme of the month. After this connection time they are invited to choose between 2 or 3 activities. Our goal is to deepen their connection with all of the kids in RE across many age groups and allow them to take ownership over their RE experience.

Please register your children below for the 2025-2026 Religious Exploration program! This information helps us to plan for the upcoming year AND keep your children safe.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd25nAdfKS-DrbPQF2Xum7a\\_oqg2j7Epf2hOcAW/cnmRxWmt3A/viewform?usp=header](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd25nAdfKS-DrbPQF2Xum7a_oqg2j7Epf2hOcAW/cnmRxWmt3A/viewform?usp=header)

## Volunteer Involvement

We are recruiting new volunteers to be in our classrooms for the 2026-2027 church year. Our new RE structure gives all volunteers more flexibility. If you’re new to Unitarian Universalism, volunteering is a great way to deepen your understanding of our UU values! [2025-2026 RE Classroom Schedule](#)

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

## Religious Exploration Schedule for April

Class runs from 10:45-11:45 am. School aged children are invited to start in the Sanctuary.

**April 5** - Creative Sunday, **April 12** - Classroom Sunday

**April 19** - Classroom Sunday, **April 26** - Multigenerational Service

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

## April Religious Exploration Events

**Music for Little People**, Wednesday, **April 15th and 29th**, 12:30 pm-1:15 pm, 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.

**Women’s History Trip**, **April 2**, 10 am-5 pm

Register your youth (11 yrs+) for a day trip to visit the National Women’s Hall of Fame, The Women’s Rights National Historical Park and the Harriet Tubman home. Chaperones will provide transportation for youth. [Register here](#)  
This trip is free for all youth and chaperones!

**Spring Celebration**, **April 4**, 12 pm-2 pm

Welcome warmer weather, longer days, and the season of growth through celebrating the many Spring holidays. Multi-cultural crafts and activities for children of all ages. Help is needed, sign up to [volunteer!](#)

## 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](#)

### Adult RE

#### Tabletop Games Connection Circle

**April 26th**, 2 pm, Room 213

Drop in to play a table top roleplaying game with fellow UU's. Drop in to participate in micro campaigns and other fun tabletop games. Questions? Reach out to Mike Timonin to receive a door code. ([Mike.timonin@gmail.com](mailto:Mike.timonin@gmail.com)).

#### Pub Theology

Tuesday, **April 28th**, 6:30 pm

Liquid State Brewing, 620 W. Green Street, Ithaca  
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 *Embracing Possibility*. Non-beer and non-alcoholic drinks options available! 21 and over please. Bring your friends! Hope to see you there!

#### Queer Cafe

**April 11th**

11 am-12 pm - Youth Room

*You're invited to our Queer Café* ☕🌈

Come hang out, build community, and enjoy a cozy space for snacks, conversation, and parallel play. Bring a craft, a book, a game, or just yourself. Whether you're chatting with friends or quietly doing your own thing alongside others, this is a space to relax and connect.

Family-friendly, but designed with adults in mind. Everyone is welcome, especially if you're looking for a low-pressure community space.

Tea, coffee, snacks, good vibes, and queer joy provided.

*(Adult RE continued on page 7)*

**You can request childcare for ANY event held by FUSIT in our building. Send childcare requests to Madeline ([DRE@uuihaca.org](mailto:DRE@uuihaca.org)).**



*voices can help us to explore this theme as individuals and as a community.*

## April Worship Services

*The theme for April is "Embracing Possibility" and the Celebrations Team is looking forward to speakers whose*

### Sunday, April 5, "Resurrection After Empire"

*Emily Richards, CRE*

Around the time that Jesus was born, Rome's 500-year-old republic collapsed into an empire, an authoritarian regime marked by persecution, endless wars, and enforced belief. As our own republic shows signs of similar decay, what hope can the resurrection story hold for us today?

*Music by Laura Ramos and Emily Richards, Guitar and Piano, Vocals*

### Sunday, April 12, "Embracing Possibility"

*Rev. Peaches Gillette*

The concept of embracing possibilities is deeply optimistic, allowing us to move away from rigid, predetermined outcomes. But let's explore whether all situations, or life experiences, present or offer possibilities.

*Music by Jayne Demakos, Harp and Hymns*

### Sunday, April 19, "The Challenge of Universalism"

*Magdalen Lindeberg, FUSIT member*

All are loved, all are saved: how can we approach our Universalist heritage and commitment in divided times?

*Music by Travis Knapp, Piano and Banjo*

### Sunday, April 26, "Turning of the Wheel"

*Emily Richards, CRE*

Join us for a multigenerational celebration of the gifts of the earth and the warmth that comes at the midpoint between spring and summer and reminds us that anything is possible. Dance around the Maypole, share in story and song, and experience the joy of the turning of the wheel of the year.

*Music by Ithaca Children & Youth Chorus*

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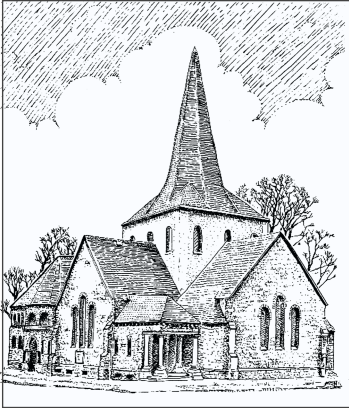
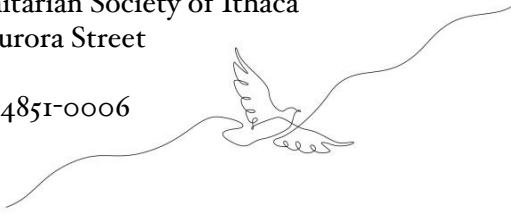
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Visit our Website and get  
your newsletter:  
[www.uuithaca.org](http://www.uuithaca.org)

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## Possible Ponderings

### ***The theme for April is Embracing Possibility.***

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

**April 1-4:** How would your life be different if you had trusted in possibility earlier in life?

**April 5-11:** Who helped you find your way back to possibility when all the doors in front of you felt closed? If you were to thank them, what would you say to them now, that you didn't or couldn't back then?

**April 12-18:** What have you learned about finding the possibilities that live on the other side of grief?

**April 19-25:** We're told to live each day as if it were our last. But what if instead we lived each day as if it were our very first?

**April 26-30:** If you could go back in time and expand your family of origin's sense of possibility in just one way, what would it be?

### **Mark Your Calendar!**

Unirondack Weekend will be held Labor Day Weekend,  
**September 4th-7th, 2026.**

### **From the Hospitality Team**

Do you like having coffee and snacks after services, and smiling ushers greeting you? Did you know that we only have them because congregation members volunteer to make it happen?

It's easy to take part, look for a sign up link in upcoming weekly announcements or contact [office@uuithaca.org](mailto:office@uuithaca.org). If you're new to it, others will be there to help--and it's a great way to get to know folks.

### **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 can be found here: <https://unitarian.ithaca.ny.us/index.php/connection/volunteer/>

### **FUSIT Listserv**

If you would like to be added to the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca listserv, please fill out the form at <https://fusit.breezechms.com/form/oe48af>. If you have any questions, email Michelle at [office@uuithaca.org](mailto:office@uuithaca.org).

## 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

In April, the Friday Morning Connection Circle will be sponsoring the Side with Love collection and the Shared Plate for Loaves and Fishes. Loaves & Fishes is Tompkins County's only community kitchen. Monday to Friday, they serve fresh, home-cooked meals in the dining room at St. John's Church at 210 North Cayuga Street.

During Sunday services, we will be collecting the main items they need: canned beans, fruits, corn, and tomatoes; juices of any kind; tuna; chicken or vegetable broth; shelf stable milk (both dairy and coconut).

## Democracy Circle

The 8th Principle Action Ministry (8PAM) has been gathering as a Democracy Circle to share ideas and companionship, engage with one another and educate ourselves and each other during this turbulent time in our history. Generally we meet on the second Sunday of the month.

In April we'll meet on **April 5th** at noon in the Sophia Lyon Fahs Room.

We discuss actions in which we can engage and listen to one another. Any and all are welcome, whether you attend once or often. Please bring your suggestions, ideas and thoughts. Initially small groups were formed to focus on various areas including Engaging with Others, Engaging with the Community, Communication and Action and Constitution Study. We continue to evolve with our ideas and actions.

## The Environmental Interest Circle

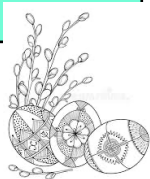
The Environmental Interest Circle meets to discuss/exchange ideas and actions that further sustainable living for each one of us, for the FUSIT congregation, and for our congregations' role in the greater community. We will meet on **April 1** at 7 pm in the Parlor and over Zoom, and continue to meet every first Wednesday of the month.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/81644753524?pwd=SDBqaTN5eIM3ejltbGdJeGhPa3QxQT09>

Meeting ID: 816 4475 3524

Passcode: 894885



## Care Team

The Care Team provides pastoral care and support for congregants who are going through challenging times. If you or any member or close friend of FUSIT need some assistance, contact Kathy Hopkins at 607-582-3025 or [Care@uuithaca.org](mailto:Care@uuithaca.org).

## Pastoral Care Emergencies

Please contact Rev. Janet Shortall at [pastoralcare@uuithaca.org](mailto:pastoralcare@uuithaca.org) or 607-218-2088.

## Care Cafe - April 19th

Thank you for joining us for Care Café, held every other Sunday during the church year from 12:00 -1:30 in the Library after service and coffee hour.

The conversations we share during Care Café are rich, honest, and designed to offer meaningful insights about our journey through life together. Childcare available upon request. Contact [dre@uuithaca.org](mailto:dre@uuithaca.org).

As we look ahead, here are upcoming dates:

### **May 3rd and 17th**

*Rev. Peaches Gillette*

## Expanding Community

For many this continues to be a time of increased 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 fear and division. 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.

## 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).*

—We are so very grateful to Matt Hare for the many years he led the Stewardship campaign. Thank you Matt for your energy and commitment to the financial health of this community.

—Many thanks to Hospitality Team leaders Jack Zinda, Cheryl Botts and Andy Turner, who organize and recruit members of the congregation to assist with ushering, coffee set-up, clean up, and providing snacks each Sunday morning. We appreciate you -and all the many volunteers who help with these tasks every week.

## Soul Matters Material for April

The Soul Matters theme for April is *Embracing Possibility*.

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/SoulMattersApril2026>



## UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JUNE 14 – 21, 2026

MEET THE MOMENT: TOGETHER EVERYWHERE

*General Assembly 2026, Meet the Moment: Together Everywhere*, will unfold in two parts with a midweek pause.

From **Sunday, June 14 to Tuesday, June 16**, delegates will engage in fully virtual General Sessions focused on the business of the Association. Programming resumes **Friday, June 19 through Sunday, June 21** with worship, featured speakers, and Meet the Moment themed programs that can be experienced online, at the studio site in Louisville or in participating local congregations. This flexible model makes GA more accessible, sustainable, and connected for UUs everywhere. To see an overview of the entire schedule, go to [uua.org/ga/program/schedule](http://uua.org/ga/program/schedule).

### Joys and Sorrows

*Joys and Sorrows are 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 the family of James Garbarino who recently passed away and will be remembered at a memorial service in the FUSIT Sanctuary on Saturday, **April 11**, at 4:00 pm.

Our condolences go out to the family of Kim Milling who passed away on February 23 at Kendal in Ithaca. There will be a memorial service to celebrate his life at Kendal at Ithaca on **May 30**, 2026 at 2:00 pm.

### Office Hours

For the month of April Michelle will be in the office Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays and working remotely on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. If you have in person office business, please send an email to [office@uuithaca.org](mailto:office@uuithaca.org) to make an appointment.

### 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 [dre@uuithaca.org](mailto:dre@uuithaca.org) for more information.

## Newcomers Inspired Connected & Engaged (NICE)



Please come to  
our 3 sessions:  
4/12, 4/19, 4/26



Contact Elizabeth:  
[membership@uuithaca.org](mailto:membership@uuithaca.org)  
**All are welcome!**

### "Newcomers Inspired, Connected, and Engaged" (NICE)

Do you want to learn more about UUism as a newcomer or returning member looking for connection? Are you interested in discussing the history of UUism, questions about getting involved with FUSIT, and what it means to be a member? NICE may be the place for you!

We will be running a session this spring after Sunday services, meeting on **April 12, April 19, and April 26** at 12 pm in the Youth Room. Please RSVP at <https://forms.gle/biqsPi9FoaCe6br6> if you would like to request to join. If you're considering becoming a member, this is strongly encouraged as a step in the process.

We hope to see you there!"

### UUs of Color will meet April 6th

We invite people of color (having African, Latinx, Asian, Arab, Middle Eastern, Native American, Pacific Islander identities) to gather with us. Our purpose is to commune with one another, amplify our voices, and promote diversity in our UU community. Activities may include having meals together, welcoming new POC into the congregation, planning a service, collaborating with other groups at (or beyond) FUSIT, and more. We meet the first Monday of the month at 6:00 pm and around meaningful events. Please contact [poc@uuithaca.org](mailto:poc@uuithaca.org) for more information.

### Come Sing with the FUSIT Choir

Rehearsals: **Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm in the church Annex.** We sing for one service a month. Contact Jayne for the schedule or just come to rehearsal. Jayne Demakos, choir director, [choir@uuithaca.org](mailto:choir@uuithaca.org).

### Women's Circle Meets April 27th

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=ZDkyanRKMmo2czhqSWgrSVhmbGFqdzo9>  
Meeting ID: 821 6926 0621. Passcode: 015515

## Message from the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is excited to share that we have officially adopted the 2025–2030 FUSIT Strategic Plan. As far as we know, this represents a milestone as the first long-term strategic plan in our organization’s history. The Board would like to extend sincere gratitude to the members of the Strategic Planning Committee for their diligent work and dedication in compiling this important document.

Conceived as a living document, this plan is designed to evolve alongside our congregation. It incorporates structured mechanisms for periodic evaluation and refinement, ensuring our strategic roadmap remains responsive to shifting priorities and emerging congregational needs. Ultimately, this document will serve as a compass, aligning our collective efforts with our shared mission and Unitarian Universalist values.

The complete seven-page strategic plan is available for review [on the FUSIT website](#). Please take a look; your input and feedback is a vital part of the long-term success of this strategic initiative.

*Rene Rogers for the Board of Trustees*

## April Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board meets on the third Wednesday of the month and will meet on **April 15th**, at 6:30 pm. Board meetings are a hybrid format, currently taking place in the Arch Room 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. Board Clerk Fred Balfour would like to extend an open invitation for congregants to bring cookies and treats for Board, MVT, and OAT members. Please join us! Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85316773587?pwd=YYoELJBzca3EDcvqllX4snaaFDUia8.1>

Meeting ID: 853 1677 3587

Passcode: 869602

In times like these,  
our faith does not retreat.

It rises.



Unitarian Universalism is not a tradition that turns away from the world’s pain. It is a living faith rooted in covenant and shaped by generations of activists and prophets—people who believed that revelation is ongoing, that every person carries a spark of the divine, and that “giving life the shape of justice” is the work of our hands and hearts. We do not affirm the worth and dignity of every person as a slogan—we live it as a mandate. Our theology insists that love must be embodied in systems, structures, and policies that protect and uplift. In the face of suffering and oppression, our faith responds with courage, not retreat.

Unitarian Universalism is not a tradition that turns away from the world’s pain. It is a living faith rooted in covenant and shaped by generations of activists and prophets—people who believed that revelation is ongoing, that every person

## Adult RE

*(continued from page 3)*

## Freedom and Connection, Taili Mugabee

**April 26th**, 12 pm-1:30 pm in the Annex  
Director of Ultimate Re-entry Opportunity, Taili Mugabee, is back this spring to continue discussions on the prison system, treatment of incarcerated folk, and re-entry initiatives.

## Our Whole Lives (OWL) Facilitator Training

In person, **May 15th-17th**

Rochester Unitarian is offering a weekend long OWL training for facilitators interested in teaching Middle School or High School. OWL is a comprehensive sexual education class that we offer for free to anyone who is interested. FUSIT will pay to train facilitators and fund their weekend stay. Online training is also available. Email Madeline at [dre@uuithaca.org](mailto:dre@uuithaca.org) for more information.

## Spiritual Yoga at Yoga Farm Ithaca

**April 18th**, 129 W. Falls Street, Ithaca, 10:30 am-11:30 pm



Join Madeline on the 3rd Saturday of each month for this Spiritual yoga series. Each gentle and accessible class will include Mantra, Meditation, Asana (pose), and Pranayama (breath). Yoga mats and other props are provided. Tweens and teens are welcome. **Free.**

## The Bible as History and Literature, A FUSIT Online Course

Beginning with Hebrew scripture, the focus of this course will be on the historical and literary qualities of the Bible’s actual words, with reference as well to the 3 great monotheisms of which it is the origin. In our discussions - core of the course - we’ll consider some Bronze & Iron Age Bible texts and historical backgrounds. Slow, careful consideration of Biblical chapters can make previously overlooked passages visible and sometimes surprising. Our text could be a college edition of the Bible, such as the Oxford Annotated Bible or Harper Collins Study Bible, available second-hand online, any edition - or any Bible, after first-day handouts, and do join at any time.

The instructor, who knows ancient Greek and works hard at her Hebrew, has taught this for years at the U of Illinois. An eight-week course, Wednesdays 7-8:30 pm online, from **Wednesdays, March 18th through May 6th.**

--For any questions or to get the course link, just e-mail Anne Winters at [awinters@uic.edu](mailto:awinters@uic.edu).

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/88088015059?pwd=KkkEb3bW1JVobH8D69IkVvIN6cZAGa.1>

Meeting ID: 880 8801 5059

Passcode: 624597



## Invest in Community: The Flow of Abundance

*As we bid winter goodbye and welcome the first signs of spring, we are entering the final stage of our annual pledge drive: "Invest in Community: The Flow of Abundance."*

At First Unitarian Society of Ithaca, our pledges are one of the **streams that nurture our growth**. Just as the spring thaw feeds our local gorges and forests, your financial commitments provide the vital, flowing energy that allows our programs, social justice work, religious exploration programs, and spiritual care to bloom.

### **Why the next few weeks matter**

Our budgeting process begins in earnest very soon. While we joyfully accept pledges throughout the entire year, the commitments we receive between now and mid-April are critical. Over 70% of our operational budget comes from your generous pledges. Knowing our anticipated resources before our budget meeting allows our leadership to:

- **Plan with Confidence:** We can commit to the projects that reflect our values.
- **Look Ahead Confidently:** A firm understanding of our abundance allows us to dream bigger and plant deeper for the church year ahead.
- **Ensure Vitality:** Early pledges mean we can move into the next season with certainty – allowing us to focus on our mission.

### **How to Participate**

If you haven't had a chance to submit your pledge yet, now is the perfect time. Every gift—no matter the size—strengthens the "flow of abundance" within our walls and out into the Ithaca community. [Pledge online here](#), or send the pledge card you received in the mail. Thank you for your generosity, your presence, and your investment in our shared future. We look forward to seeing what we can build together this coming year!

### **The Stewardship Team**

*First Unitarian Society of Ithaca*

### **Stay Connected**

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! [First Unitarian Society of Ithaca Facebook Page](#)

### **Nametags**

If you would like a nametag, please fill out the nametag request form at the Welcome Table or contact [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 of Buffalo and Aurora Sts).

### **Land Acknowledgement**

*We acknowledge that our church is located on land that is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee People and the Cayuga Nation. Their presence is imbued in these lakes, valleys, gorges, and hills. May we nurture our relationship with our Haudenosaunee neighbors, and our shared responsibilities to this place of their homelands*



### **Adapting to Climate Change:**

**How can our community prepare for what's coming?**

**April 5, Noon, in the Annex**

Please join us for an informal look at the future of local climate impacts and the strategies for adaptation.

Data on expected extreme weather events predicted for Tompkins County will be shared, followed by time for in-depth discussions about what actions, infrastructure, programs, and policies will be needed to address these impacts.

*A special presentation from Cornell Cooperative Extension Energy and Climate Change Team / Jerry Sheng and Anne Rhodes*

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

**First Unitarian  
Society of Ithaca**



## **2026 Community-Wide Online Spring Auction**

**3-Day Weekend - May 8, 9, 10**

**100+ Wonderful Local  
Community Vendor Donations**

*Info: [adminasst@uithaca.org](mailto:adminasst@uithaca.org)*

**NEW** Summer Program *Small group size*

\$325 per week  
Scholarships Available

Ages 4-10

# CAMP AURORA

Creating Connection and Community

Downtown Ithaca



**Two Weeks of fun!**

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

**Week One  
August 17-21**

**Week Two  
August 24-28**

For more information, contact us at: [CampAurora@uithaca.org](mailto:CampAurora@uithaca.org)

First Unitarian Society of Ithaca  
306 N. Aurora Street

"Forget not that the earth delights to feel your bare feet and the winds long to play with your hair" -Kahlil Gibran

## Teen Witch Camp

# EMBRACE YOUR INNER POWER

July 6th-10th 10am-3pm  
First Unitarian Society of Ithaca

This week long camp is for ages 12-16, older teens are encouraged to apply to be a Ritual Leader. Camp is \$300 for the week. Ritual leaders attend camp for free. More information can be found on our website [unitarian.ithaca.ny.us](http://unitarian.ithaca.ny.us)

In this space "witch" is a gender neutral term. All identities are welcome.

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

**Our Mission**

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

**Mark Your Calendars for June Pride Events!**

**Ithaca Pride Festival**

**June 12th-14th**  
Downtown Ithaca



**Glitter Ball**

**Friday, June 5th**  
**6 pm-11 pm**  
FUSIT Annex

**All Ages Karaoke**

**Sunday, June 7th from 12 pm-2 pm**  
FUSIT Annex



**Upcoming  
Summer Offerings**

**Teen Witch Camp  
July 6th-10th,**

12-16 yrs old, 10 am-3 pm

[https://unitarian.ithaca.ny.us/  
index.php/teen-witch-camp/](https://unitarian.ithaca.ny.us/index.php/teen-witch-camp/)

**Camp Aurora 2026**

**August 17-21st**

**August 24th-28th**

4-10 yrs old, 9 am-3 pm

\*Hiring Camp Counselors age

16+ for Camp Aurora\*

[https://unitarian.ithaca.ny.us/  
index.php/camp-aurora-2/](https://unitarian.ithaca.ny.us/index.php/camp-aurora-2/)

**You're Invited!**

*Join us for a Newcomers Breakfast*

**When: Saturday, April 25th**

**Time: 8:30 am to 10:30 am**

**Where: The Parlor**

Are you feeling like a newcomer? Come enjoy delicious food including vegan and gluten free options- great company, and a warm welcome into our community. We're excited to meet you and your family and help you feel right at home!

Please RSVP to Sue Rakow:

[sue.rakow@gmail.com](mailto:sue.rakow@gmail.com)

607-351-6576

We look forward to seeing you there!

*Hosted by the Sunday Morning Small Group:*

*Sara Catterall, Liz Einstein, Matt Hare, Kathy Hopkins,  
Margaret Nichols, David Pineda, Sue Rakow, Carol Whitlow,  
and Wendy Wolfe*