

# Highland Highlights

*First Congregational Church, UCC*  
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Office hours: Monday-Friday, 9-4pm  
*First Congregational Church, UCC*  
**July 5, 2018**

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK	
<b>Sunday, July 8</b>	
10:00 a.m.	Worship
11:20 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship Adult Ed. Committee
<b>Monday, July 9</b>	
10:30 a.m.	Women's Study

## UPCOMING

**Children & Youth Ministries** – Through August - Childcare will be available in rooms 1&2 after Children's Participation. The Youth are invited to attend worship with their families.

**Summer Childcare Volunteers** - Please sign up to provide childcare in our nursery/school age room this summer so families can feel encouraged to attend church  
<https://tinyurl.com/FCCsummercare>.

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE – OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

**Christmas in July Special Outreach Offering** - Our joy at Christmas is a response to God's promise of new life through the birth of Jesus. It is a joy we are called to share widely, through our witness and gifts, both to loved ones and to distant neighbors. You have the opportunity to be a part of this ministry that cares for the active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ. Your gift to the Christmas Fund will not only assist pastors, but also provide for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks next December to lower-income retirees. Your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. This is your opportunity to participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care.

**The Food Hub is Coming and we need help!** We will once again be a food hub for extra produce and eggs **from 7/15 - 10/15** this year. That means we need HUB HELPERS. Being a hub helper is quick, easy and helps Outreach continue this amazing hyper-local food security project. There will be a BRIEF (10 minutes max) informational session immediately after church on July 1st. You'll learn the steps involved, where supplies are located and get any of your questions answered. You can also sign up for slots. Come and find out how easy this can be, bring your elementary aged

and up kids, bring your spouse, bring your pew mate. We'll meet either in the library or just outside the doors.

## **PLANNING AHEAD – PLEASE COME – SIGN UP OR HELP OUT**

**Children and Youth Ministries** - Thanks be to God! We have a new Director for Children and Youth Ministries! Her name is Anna Sannes. While the search committee received applications from many intriguing candidates, Anna stood out from her first contact with us. Her professional summary reads, "Educator with a passion for building community and nurturing young leaders. Proficient in designing differentiated lessons to meet the needs of students of diverse needs, and experienced in training lay leaders." Anna has a degree in Government and Mathematics from Georgetown University, a Master of Educational Studies from Johns Hopkins University, and seven years of teaching experience in Baltimore, MD. She has also served as a Children and Youth Programs Coordinator at Cleveland Park Church (UCC) in Washington DC.

Several statements from Anna's cover letter further elicited the response from search committee members, that here is the person for whom we wrote the job description. "I've been inspired by the creativity, curiosity, and compassion present in young hearts and minds, and this position is a match for my skills and my desire to find employment in an open and affirming ministry." "I am interested in supporting First Congregational Church's commitment to making the world a more loving, just place."

Meeting her in person confirmed our feeling that we had just witnessed some amazing divine choreography. Anna will be joining us during the first part of August. For now, rejoice with us and pray for her smooth transition!

- Cyndi Slothower, for the Director of Children and Youth Ministries Search Committee.

**Women's Study Group** – We meet every **Monday at 10:15am in the library**. Newcomers are always welcome.

**Lunch Bunch** – Will meet again on **July 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm at the Ramada Inn** on Triphammer Rd.

**Worship @ Upper Buttermilk Falls** – **Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am** – We will enjoy summer worship outdoors at the Upper Buttermilk pavilion! Note the slightly later start time of 10:30am. All welcome! Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy with fellow worshippers after. Please note the park entrance fee is \$8. There will not be a service at FCC that day.

**Staff Changes** - Jessie Galbreath-Nocera, our Church Manager, will be leaving our staff on July 6. Jessie has worked in the church office for six years, and many of you have gotten to know her well. We wish her all the best in the next phase of her career. As we continue searching for a new staff person to take over administrative duties in the office, we are looking for a volunteer from the congregation to help compile weekly bulletins for a few weeks in July. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Mary Ellen Stewart ([maryellenstewart@fccithaca.org](mailto:maryellenstewart@fccithaca.org)). Thank you so much!

**Dish-to-Pass** - Following the service **August 5<sup>th</sup>**, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a meal together. Please bring your dish to the kitchen before or following the service if you can, and break bread with your church family.

**Men's Breakfast & Discussion** - We will meet again on **August 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am at the Royal Court Restaurant** on Meadow St. across from Tops & Wegmans.

**Brown Bag Bible Study** – We will break for the summer and meet again in August.

**Volunteer Opportunity** - In February, we heard students from Ithaca College and Cornell University Protestant Communities speak about their programs. One of the questions that arose was “how can we attract more young people to our congregation.” One of the barriers is lack of transportation. Entering freshman and sophomores do not have vehicles, and bus schedules change on the weekends making it difficult to get to church. Calvary Baptist Church has a van, which runs both to IC and Cornell to pick up students and bring them to their church. This appears to be highly successful getting students to church. Mueller Chapel is a beautiful Chapel and is an Interfaith venue. However, many students have expressed an interest in exploring churches in the community. Patricia Baxter would like to know if there is congregational support to pick up students at both IC and Cornell and bring them to worship. If you would be willing to transport some students, please contact her at [pbaxter002@twcny.rr.com](mailto:pbaxter002@twcny.rr.com). Please let her know your thoughts on the subject. There is a listserv on both campuses to help get the word out. We have the summer to help work out some of the details.

**Mosaic Glass Art** – Hanging in the Narthex is mosaic glass art made by our youth group. Please stop by and admire their work.

**FCCI is hiring!** For more information, see our website [www.fccithaca.org](http://www.fccithaca.org). Links are available on the homepage, and also under the “About” tab. Please share widely!

## **REMINDERS**

**Visitors, thank you for being here!** Please complete a Pew Card and place it in the offering plate.

**Sunday readers, ushers, greeters, and flower providers** are needed. Please sign up in the narthex.

**The sermons are online** - Under "Worship" on our new church website: [fccithaca.org](http://fccithaca.org). Text copies of the sermons are also available in the Narthex.

**If you or someone from our church family are going into the hospital,** please let the office know. David and Sue will visit you, and pray with you.

**Pocket Prayer Shawls** – Pocket Prayer Shawls are available in a basket inside the Library. They are free for taking and are used to hold and feel when praying, especially for healing.

**Prayers** - There are prayer request cards on the nametag table. If you have a prayer request, fill out the card and place it in the basket provided.

**DID YOU KNOW? IN THE CHURCH/COMMUNITY**  
*(See the bulletin board for more information about the events)*

**“Fast Blood”** - The Civic Ensemble <http://civicensemble.org/fast-blood/>, four-time Emmy Award-winner Judy Tate’s play *Fast Blood* will kick off this year’s Ensemble festival. Synopsis: "In the antebellum South, Effie and her mate Ham, slaves on a tobacco plantation, stumble across the body of a mysterious stranger who’s been lynched but is still alive. Their connection to the hanged man begins a journey into their past and a trek from vengeance to justice; darkness into light." *Fast Blood* is produced in association with the American Slavery Project and will be staged at the **Maggie Goldsmith Amphitheater, Lehman Alternative Community School**. On June 24, Judy Tate and *Fast Blood*’s director, actors and Ensemble staff visited several area houses of worship to promote this play that has deep spiritual themes. The festival will offer reserved tickets for \$20 and free tickets at the door for folks who find cost a barrier to seeing theatre. For more information: [info@civicensemble.org](mailto:info@civicensemble.org). **Performances: 7/5 (Preview) & 7/6 (Opening Night) & 7/7 at 6pm; 7/8 at 4pm; 7/12 & 7/13 & 7/14 at 6pm; 7/15 at 4pm; 7/19 & 7/20 & 7/21 at 6pm; 7/22 at 4pm.**