



Photo courtesy of Village of Central Square

# CIRCLE OF FELLOWSHIP

## The First Universalist Society of Central Square

*A Unitarian Universalist Congregation*

3243 Fulton Street (Route 49, near Route 11)  
Post Office Box 429, Central Square, New York 13036-0429  
Our church building is handicapped accessible.  
Phone: 315-668-6821 E-mail: [uucentralsquare@gmail.com](mailto:uucentralsquare@gmail.com)  
Church Web site: <http://www.centralsquareuu.com>

Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/UU-Central-Square/199139743511564>  
**Our Mission Statement**

The mission of the First Universalist Society of Central Square is to be a welcoming, diverse congregation, which values spiritual growth and service to the local and world community.

Andrea Abbott, Student Minister	315-635-7122	The Rev. Libbie Stoddard, Minister Emerita	315-343-4352
Leigh Parry-Benedict, Music Coordinator	315-657-5904	Ronna Schindler, RE Chairperson	315-623-7685
Winfield Ihlow, President	315-342-5939	Janie Garlow, Vice President	315-436-2238

APRIL 2015

### STUDENT MINISTER SNIPPET

There is only one thing on everyone's mind, at least judging from the interactions I have with people. Total strangers will start ranting at me, "When is this going to end?" And I rant right back. We are all indignant, as if somehow, someone has played a trick on us or is forcing us against our will. Of course, what I'm referring to is spring, or the lack thereof.

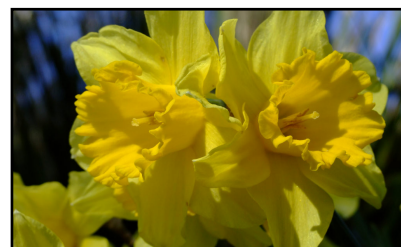
This has been a hard, cold, snowy weather with very few breaks from its rigors. I heard in church yesterday that even the skiers are sick of it, and that is saying something. Sick of it is exactly what many people are, literally as well as figuratively, with colds and flu and falls and other accidents all too common. We may pride ourselves on our hardy natures but about now most people would be happy to wimp out in some decadent setting.

Now here comes Easter, with its promise of renewal and new life. As we don our Easter bonnets, accessorized with our snow shoes, and wade through the drifts, we may feel like this is an empty promise indeed. But, somewhere we know that the old promise holds true. Life does come, dancing and singing, out of the hardest times. The sun is rising earlier, setting later, is stronger when it is here. Buds, foolish buds, have begun on the maples outside my window. The sap is rising and somehow it does, every year.

If spring and Easter make their promise to us, we, too, are asked to make a promise as well, the promise that we understand our obligation to the Earth and to everyone on the Earth, to love the Earth we live on so that this renewal can take place every year, not just for ourselves and our families but for everyone. We promise to hold in trust the life-giving Earth that belongs to everyone. May the daffodils and crocus arrive soon.

Happy Easter. Happy Spring.

Andrea Abbott



Please have articles for the next newsletter to Bob Haskell by no later than NOON on MONDAY, APRIL 27. Bob would be grateful if everyone would not wait until the last minute to submit articles. He prefers to receive articles via e-mail. His e-mail address is [rhaskell@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:rhaskell@twcnny.rr.com). His postal address is 29 Grove Street, Baldwinsville, NY 13027-2332. His telephone number is 315-635-5294.

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

### A SERMON BY THE REVEREND WEISSBARD

The Rev. David Weissbard writes concerning his sermon for the April 5 service:

“Most of you are old enough to remember The Lone Ranger. Every program would end with someone asking ‘Who was that masked man (who had just saved the town)’?. The old-timer could say, ‘Why, that was the Lone Ranger!’ I got to thinking about that as I considered what I might have to say about Easter next Sunday. There is a sense in which people asked a similar question about who this Jewish prophet guy was. There was not, as in the case of the Lone Ranger, just one answer. There were several, as you can find in the Christian Scriptures, and in the pulpits of the various churches. So, Sunday we will ask who was this guy who has inspired so many, and how does it matter to us?”

### A WEEK OF CELEBRATION

Some special events at our church and neighboring congregations this week include a Maundy Thursday evening service at our church at 7 p.m. on April 2. We use this time to celebrate our ties to each other and to the Earth. In addition, there will be services at 7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Central Square. After this service, the church will hold a prayer vigil until 7 the next evening when there will be a Good Friday Service. Anyone in the community is welcome to attend. The church will be locked for safety, but someone will be there at all times and anyone wishing to participate is asked to ring the bell to be let in. There will also be a Maundy Thursday service at the Central Square Community Church at 7 p.m. There will be a Good Friday service at Brewerton Christian Church at 7 p.m. on April 3. The community is invited to both of these services. An ecumenical Easter sunrise service will be held at 7 a.m. at the Central Square Community Church.

### FLOWERS FOR EASTER SUNDAY

Easter seems to have crept up. I would like to invite everyone to bring some flowers this Sunday to make our altar a cheerful display. Thank you.

Andrea

### BOARD SPLINTERS

The Executive Board met on Sunday, March 1.

It was decided that if the leadership of the church cancels services for unforeseen circumstances such as poor weather, the service leader and the musician will still be paid for their work since there is time spent by each in preparation for the service.

The Administrative Committee reported that we need to pay more attention to picking up after ourselves and cleaning up the carpet in the dining room since there is a meeting held there on Sunday evenings.

It was decided that the Stewardship Luncheon will be held on Sunday, April 12. It was also noted that Flower Communion will be on Sunday, May 31, and the Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, June 7.

The Executive Board also met on Sunday, March 29.

Ellen LaPine, Recording Secretary

### A “THANK YOU” NOTE

Many thanks for supporting Team Hart in the Mission Steps walk to raise funds for MS Resources of Central New York. Team Hart raised more than \$1,100 this year.

Special thanks to Nancy Hallock, for again coordinating the donations from friends at church; to Ann Peterson and Tim Hart, for walking with us; and to all who donated.

Thank you so much.

Best,

Margaret Hart

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote acceptance of one another  
and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.

## CLIMATE JUSTICE MONTH

From World Water Day, March 22, through Earth Day, April 22, Unitarian Universalists and others of faith and conscience will begin a spiritual journey organized by the new climate justice initiative, Committ2Respond. This initiative for individuals, congregations, and organizations is to commit to take action in three ways:

1. Shift to a low carbon future
2. Advance the human rights of communities affected by climate change
3. Grow the climate justice movement

Toward these goals, here is a poem to foster thoughts about the realities of climate change and what can be done:

### CLIMATE JUSTICE

Climate Justice is justice for all.  
Ignoring, denying will make for a fall  
It's justice to balance our planet Earth's air  
Knowing the damage, we all need to care  
Weather and climate are two different things  
Damage to climate is what burning fuel brings.  
America needs to lead and profess  
An energy model for all to address  
The alternatives to gas and to oil and coal  
To save and preserve our dear planet's soul  
The bomb trains blow and the pipelines leak  
The oil companies lie and faux news misspeaks  
The wildlife suffers a terrible fate  
We must develop new energy before it's too late  
Clean energy offers new jobs and clean air  
Climate justice offers a chance to be fair  
For Climate Justice we shout out a call  
For Climate Justice is justice for all.

By Barbara Kamerance



### ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BLOOD DRIVE

Many thanks to Susan Wells, Barbara Kamerance, Nancy Hallock and Janie Garlow for their help with the Saturday, March 7, blood drive. With their help the drive was quite successful, and we reached our 16-unit goal!

Our next blood drive is Saturday, May 9, to be followed by one on Saturday, July 11. Please tell family and friends, and when the announcements for these drives are placed on the church Facebook page share them on your timeline so we can spread the word through social media.

Thank you.

Ellen LaPine  
Social Justice Committee  
Blood Drive Coordinator

### CHOIR REHEARSAL

Leigh Parry-Benedict, music coordinator, reports that because the Stewardship Luncheon is scheduled for noon on Sunday, April 12, the regularly scheduled monthly choir rehearsal will be held at a date and time to be announced.

The choir now meets regularly at noon on the second Sunday of the month rather than at 6:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month.

### IT'S A MYSTERY

The church is missing several blue table cloths. If someone knows their whereabouts please let Janie Garlow or Ellen LaPine know where they are.

Thanks.

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

### CHILDREN FINISHING UP THEIR CREATION BEADS

No matter what religion you are or aren't, what you do or do not believe, we all have one thing in common. We are all here on this beautiful blue marble trying to do the best we can.

Last month the kids worked on designing their creation beads. The next step is to put the last bead into action. The bead? Themselves. What do we all have in common, what are our religious similarities and differences, how can we make this world a better place, starting from within. Our goal is to create a children's story, "Just Imagine."

Spring is finally saying "hello" and we will also be cleaning up the world around us, starting with our own backyard!

Ronna Schindler, Religious Education Committee chairperson and older children's teacher

### GREEN MINUTE: INVASIVE SPECIES

I had a gentleman stop at my house a few days ago because of what he saw on my property. I have five ash trees that give me wonderful shade in the summer. He wanted to give me a price to take them down before the emerald ash borer infects and kills my trees. I'm not ready to cut my beautiful trees down yet but, sadly, it may not be too long until I have to make that awful decision because the beetle has now been confirmed in 24 counties, including Onondaga, in New York state. Southern Oswego County has been identified as a quarantine area in an attempt to stop the beetle's spread. The emerald ash borer is a poor flier but is easily spread by hitchhiking on transported infected wood.

The Earth turns, seasons change, and species evolve and sometimes die out over time. Unfortunately, because humans now easily move all over the world, species of animals and plants that may or may not cause problems in their native area move around with us causing serious problems in non-native areas and sometimes wiping out native flora and fauna. Kudzu that is overtaking the South has been surviving as far north as Long Island. Carnivorous, air-breathing northern snakehead fish, which can spread from one body of water to another by slithering over the ground, have been found in Orange County. Closer to home, in Saratoga County burning bush is dominating the shrub layer of many forests. Many people use burning bush as landscaping. It is spread from the droppings of birds when they eat the berries.

There is a new state law in response to the serious problem of invasive species. Species identified as "prohibited invasive species" cannot be bought, sold, transported or intentionally planted. There is an illustrated online guide at the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Web site of prohibited plants that is very helpful. You will see plants that you may already have in your landscaping in this list that includes Japanese barberry and burning bush. The DEC is not telling you to remove plants you may already have but you should not share the plants with anyone for use in his or her yard. You will still be able to buy these types of plants at your nursery but they will be of a variety that is not invasive.

I encourage you to visit the DEC Web site for a lot more information on nuisance and invasive species. Once at the Web site, look for animals, plants and aquatic life on the left side.

Next month I'll talk about what you can do to help stop the spread of invasive plants and animals.

Ellen LaPine, Outreach Committee

### COFFEE AND CHAT

Women and men of the church will gather for Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread on Route 31 in Clay at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 16. All are welcome to join in casual conversation and to enjoy coffee or tea and other goodies. For more information about the group, interested persons are invited to contact Mary or Chet Perkins via e-mail at mperkins9@twcnny.rr.com or cperkins9@twcnny.rr.com or via telephone at 315-668-6719.

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

### **“CITY DINING CARDS”**

The Social Justice Committee will be selling “City Dining Cards.”

These are a deck of 50 cards for different restaurants in the Syracuse area. Each card is worth \$10 off a \$30 bill at some very good places. The cost is \$20/each deck and we keep \$10.

Please check out the list of restaurants and buy one for yourself, your friend or your neighbor, or to sell at work, school, etc.

There is more information at the church.

The sale will last only two to three weeks. Use a card twice in 2015 and it will pay for itself.

Thank you.

Nancy Hallock

### **A NOTE OF THANKS**

Thanks to these people for volunteering to serve as greeters on Sunday mornings: Ellen LaPine, March 29; Nancy Hallock, April 5; and Janet Jenkins, April 12.

Thanks to these people for volunteering to host the social times on Sunday mornings: Heather Rubinstein and Amy, March 29; Marcia Burrell-Ihlow and Winfield Ihlow, April 5; and Janet Jenkins, April 12.

### **WANTED: EYEGLASSES AND BOX TOPS**

Ronna Schindler reports that the children in the religious education program are collecting eyeglasses and “Box Tops for Education” coupons.

The eyeglasses will be donated to a program called “Gift of Sight.” The program refurbishes the eyeglasses, which are distributed to those in need.

For every “Box Tops for Education” coupon given to our local school, the school is given 10 cents to purchase things needed to help in our children’s classroom.

Please bring eyeglasses and “Box Tops” coupons to church.

### **IT’S THAT TIME AGAIN**

If you are interested in serving as an officer of the church during the church year beginning in June, now is the time to make your wishes known to any of the Nominating Committee members: Steve Garlow, George Tennant and Marcia Moore.

Positions to be filled at the annual congregational meeting on Sunday, June 7, are

president, vice president, treasurer, registrar, recording secretary and corresponding secretary, all for one-year terms, and trustee, for a three-year term. The congregation will also elect a Nominating Committee member for a three-year term.

The congregational bylaws specify that only an active voting member of the church who has attained the age of eighteen (18) years may serve as an officer.

### **HOSPITAL NEEDS BOOKS**

The library at the Veterans Hospital in Syracuse is always in need of books for patients and for those living there. Please bring books to donate to the box labeled for them in the dining room.

Barbara Kameranace will be taking them monthly to the VA.

### **A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers are needed to serve as greeters on Sunday mornings. Anyone with any questions is invited to contact Chet Perkins via e-mail at [cperkins9@twcny.rr.com](mailto:cperkins9@twcny.rr.com) or via telephone at 315-668-6719.

Volunteers are also needed to host the social time on Sunday mornings. Anyone with any questions is invited to contact Judy Tennant via e-mail at [gtennant001@twcny.rr.com](mailto:gtennant001@twcny.rr.com) or via telephone at 315-638-5357.

The Spiritual Committee invites anyone who wishes to place flowers near the pulpit for the morning service on Sundays to do so. There is a sign-up sheet in the dining room.

The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life.

The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love.

## **AN UPDATE AND AN INVITATION**

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the generous way you have met your pledges or paid more than the pledge that you made a year ago. Our church cannot run without you. You should have received an update about your pledges made over the past year, with a call for the 2015-2016-year pledge. I know you will make a pledge for the coming year, and, in fact, I have received a few pledges already. Please remember our canvass luncheon, organized by Arnold Hook and Winfield Ihlow, on Sunday, April 12. Come prepared to enjoy the lunch and to commit to our church.

Again, thank you.

Marcia Burrell-Ihlow

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## **APRIL 2015 CALENDAR**

2 – 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church. 7 p.m., Maundy Thursday evening service at our church. We will use this time to celebrate our ties to each other and to the Earth.

5 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., the Rev. David Weissbard leads the worship service. Random Acts of Kindness Sunday. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. 11:45 a.m., Social time. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which the Social Justice Committee asks everyone to bring magazines to the church dining room to exchange them for others. The committee will continue the recycling process by passing on any magazines that are left to the Public Safety Building Jail in Syracuse every two or three months.

9 – 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

12 – 9 a.m., Social Justice Committee. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., Andrea Abbott leads the worship service. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. 11:45 a.m., Stewardship Luncheon. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which the Social Justice Committee asks everyone to donate food items for our Downstairs Scotty. The committee also accepts non-food items for the Downstairs Scotty on this Sunday and at all other times. Such non-food items include soap, detergent, bathroom and facial tissues, toothpaste, and the like. All items will be taken later to the Downstairs Scotty thrift shop and food pantry at Divine Mercy Parish Center, 592 South Main Street, Central Square.

16 – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread, Route 31, Clay. 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

19 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., the Rev. Tanya Atwood-Adams leads the worship service. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. 11:45 a.m., Social time. 12:15 p.m., Drum Circle.

23 – 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

26 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., Andrea Abbott leads the worship service. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. 11:45 a.m., Social time.

27 – Noon, Deadline to have articles for the May newsletter to Bob Haskell.

30 – 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

## **CHANTING AND MEDITATION**

Anyone who is interested in chanting and meditation is invited to contact Tim Hart via e-mail at [timhart@a-znet.com](mailto:timhart@a-znet.com) or via telephone at 315-439-2541.

The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life.