

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.*

Telephone: 315-668-6821

E-mail:
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*Church Web site:
[http://www.
centralsquareuu.com](http://www.centralsquareuu.com)*

Facebook page:
[http://www.facebook.com
/pages/UU-Central-Square
/199139743511564](http://www.facebook.com/pages/UU-Central-Square/199139743511564)

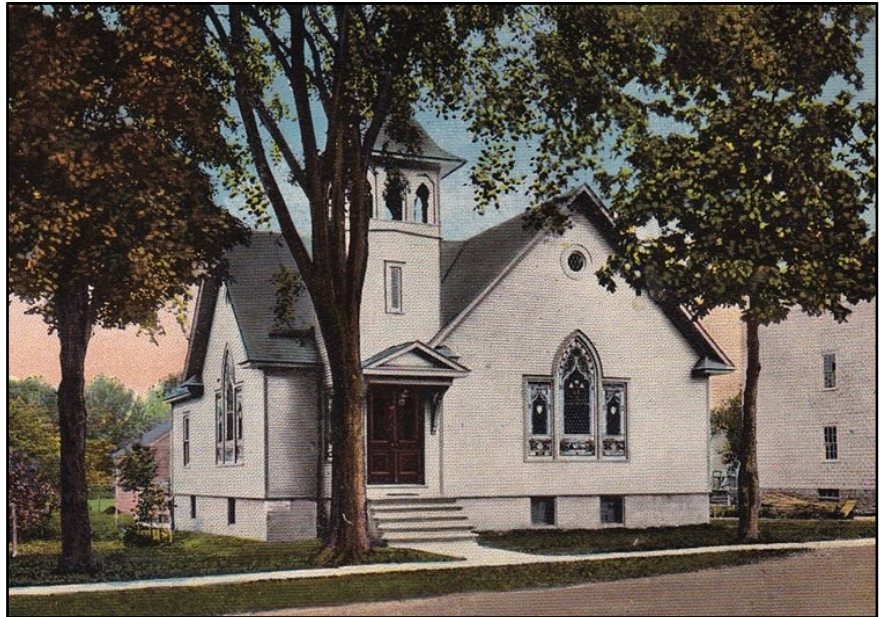


Image from an old post card

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, Religious Education Chair	315-623-7685
Winfield Ihlow, President	315-342-5939
Janie Garlow, Vice President	315-436-2238

Please have articles for the next newsletter to Bob Haskell by no later than NOON on MONDAY, JUNE 29. He prefers to receive articles via e-mail. His e-mail address is rhaskell@twcnv.rr.com.

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

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JUNE 7

The annual congregational meeting of the First Universalist Society of Central Square, New York, will be held in the sanctuary immediately after the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday morning, June 7, 2015.

The church bylaws specify that there shall be an annual congregational meeting on the first Sunday in June of each year.

The agenda for the meeting includes but is not limited to:

- Receipt of annual reports from incumbent officers and committee chairs.
- Consideration and adoption of the budget for the next church year.
- Election of officers for the next church year.



Photo courtesy of Village of Central Square

The bylaws provide that active members of the church 18 years or older shall have the power to vote. Any member of the church under 18 years shall have the right of voice, but not the power of voting or eligibility to hold office in the church.

The Executive Board has agreed to provide for absentee ballots and proxy votes if requested.

Child care will be available if requested.
All are welcome.

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.

PLEDGE CARDS

If you have not filled out and handed your pledge card for the new church year to Treasurer Marcia Burrell-Ihlow, the Executive Board encourages you to do so as quickly as possible.

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.

STUDENT MINISTER SNIPPET

June is the month of weddings, graduations, and, of course, that most exciting event, our annual meeting. As successive announcements have noted, it is scheduled for June 7 after church. This is our chance to govern ourselves, an exercise in democracy in keeping with our fifth principle "... the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." It may not be as ringing a statement as some of the other principles, but our method of governing ourselves distinguishes us from most other denominations. It makes us both free and responsible. We live and thrive or we wither, based on our ability and desire to continue.



I don't know about you, but there are times in my life when I've looked around and said, "I wonder where the person in charge is and when they'll get here to put this right." Then I remember, "Oh, dear, that's me." It's like this with our church, too. There are no superheroes, or supernatural heroes for that matter, that are coming to put things right. We are the hands that build and create for the future. Freedom and responsibility.

If I've spoken here of the daunting nature of responsibility, let me also remind myself and all of us of the joy of freedom. We are free to imagine, to dream great dreams, to see those dreams to fruition. We are free to devise a community in which all can thrive. We are mortal and fallible and we don't always get it right, but here we have the freedom to try and try again, the freedom to test who we are and what we can do.

Freedom and responsibility. Adulthood. The place where the dreams of youth are tested and the demands of life are met. In the words of one of our hymns, "Since what we choose is what we are, and what we love we yet shall be, the goal may ever shine afar — the will to reach it makes us free."

Andrea Abbott

THE REVEREND WEISSBARD TO FOCUS ON SECOND COMMANDMENT

The Rev. David Weissbard writes concerning his sermon for the June 7 service: "Checking back, I discovered that I still owe you sermons on two of the Ten Commandments. The second commandment is religiously somewhat controversial, and I believe it is of significance to our contemporary world. My sermon will be on 'The Care and Feeding of Idols'. Dave"

FORMAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAM DRAWING TO A CLOSE

This year has gone by quickly. June 21st will be our last formal class. Our pop-up children's story will be completed and ready to be read.

There will be adult supervision and activities for any child wishing to go back to the classrooms throughout the summer.

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

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.



GREEN MINUTE: A WARMER ONEIDA LAKE

I recently read an online article from the Cornell Chronicle, the in-house weekly newspaper published by Cornell University. It shows one of the Cornell research boats sitting in pea-soup-like blue-green water at the Cornell Biological Field Station at Shackelton Point near Bridgeport on Oneida Lake. The article also talks about major changes that Cornell researchers believe will be happening to the lake. The researchers predict that by 2099 the lake will be 6 degrees warmer, causing major ecological effects on the lake.

Oneida is New York state's largest interior lake with an area of approximately 80 square miles. Prevailing west northwesterly winds cause its shallow waters to mix frequently during ice-free months. Between mixing events, the upper layer of water warms and becomes less dense than the lower layer. This creates large temperature differences between the surface and bottom layers. As the climate warms, the temperature differences between layers are expected to increase and last longer because of an expected 61 additional consecutive days that the lake would be subject to mixing events. Cornell researchers predict that by 2099 there will be a 6-degree change in the temperature of the lake which would be enough to remove oxygen from the bottom waters. This would alter species composition and eradicate the remaining cold-water species that currently live in the lake.

You may have noticed that in the past few years beaches on Oneida Lake have closed more frequently because of blue-green algae blooms. In an article in the spring 2015 issue of The Oneida Lake Bulletin, the Oneida Lake Association discusses these blooms at length. Go to <http://www.oneidalake.com/includes/OLA%20Bulletin.pdf> to read this very informative article. Blue-green algae blooms can be hazardous. While in recent years only a few people have reported illness because of algae blooms in bodies of water across the state, several dogs have died suddenly after exposure. People should avoid eating fish caught from areas that have a thick paint-like or pea-soup-like coloration. The article says that as Oneida Lake warms it is expected that there will be more of these algae blooms and that blue-green algae are more likely than other algae species to thrive in warmer conditions.

Not all of the news is bad. The article says that much of Oneida Lake may fully support swimming and other recreational uses during most of the summer. They say that "if you see it, avoid it" is the best way to protect yourself from problems with blue green algae.

Ellen LaPine. Outreach Committee

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.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE



**PURE WATER
FOR THE WORLD**

The Adopt-a-Highway pickup on Sunday morning, May 17, went fine. Nice day and good workers.

We still have shirts, bags and aprons for sale.

The magazine collection is very large and I will take them to the Justice Center. Janie Garlow continues to take our donations to the Downstairs Scotty collection center.

Thanks to all who bring in deposit cans and bottles and also put coins in the collection plate toward our donations to Pure Water for the World. I recently sent in \$125.

The date for our next meeting will be announced.

Nancy Hallock, chairperson

BOARD SPLINTERS

The Executive Board met on Sunday, May 3.

Much of the meeting was used in planning for the annual congregational meeting on Sunday, June 7. It was decided to have an additional Board meeting to complete plans on Sunday, May 31.

Ann Peterson and the Rev. Libbie Stoddard reported that they will conduct an adult religious education program on Sunday, June 14.

The Outreach Committee has committed with the New York State Department of Transportation to continue to provide the highway pickup.

The Administrative Committee has several projects going, including repairing the railing on the front steps, several electrical projects, repairing the counters in the kitchen and fixing the drooping ceiling in the community room. If you can help with any of these projects, please contact Arne Hook.

Ellen LaPine, Recording Secretary

WORKSHOP ON AGING

The adult religious education workshop on aging, or “Dick and Jane Turn 55,” will be held on Sunday, June 14. The maximum number of people for the workshop is 12 people, and we have that many signed up. Anyone who would like to be on a waiting list in case there is a cancellation may add his or her name.

Anyone attending the workshop is asked to bring a bag lunch and a favorite writing instrument if he or she has one. There will be some pens and pencils available.

Ann Peterson

DRUM CIRCLE

We will have our usual Drum Circle in the Goettel Room on Sunday, June 21. Weather permitting, we will move our drumming to the back yard of the church.

Ann Peterson

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.

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, June 18. 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 encouraged to contact Mary or Chet Perkins via e-mail at mperkins9@twcny.rr.com or cperkins9@twcny.rr.com or via telephone at 315-668-6719.

MEN TO GATHER

Men will hold their annual gathering at Camp Unirondack from Friday evening, June 12, through Sunday, June 14. Interested men are encouraged to talk to Winfield Ihlow or Kurt Schindler, who have attended past gatherings, for details.

JUNE 2015 CALENDAR

4 – 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

7 – 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. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. 11:30 a.m., Annual congregational meeting. 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.

11 – 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

12 to 14 – Men will hold their annual gathering at Camp Unirondack.

14 – 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. Noon, The choir will conduct its monthly rehearsal. Adult religious education program. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which the Social Justice Committee asks everyone to donate food items for our Downstairs Scotty, which later will be taken to the Downstairs Scotty thrift shop and food pantry at Divine Mercy Parish Center, 592 South Main Street, Central Square.

18 – 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.

21 – 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., Last day of formal religious education program. 11:45 a.m., Social time. 12:15 p.m., Drum Circle.

28 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., The Rev. Libbie Stoddard leads the worship service. 10:50 a.m., There will be adult supervision and activities for any child wishing to go back to the classrooms throughout the summer. 11:45 a.m., Social time.

Anyone who is interested in chanting and meditation is invited to contact Tim Hart via e-mail at 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.