

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:
uucentralsquare@gmail.com

*Church website:
[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)

The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism

A FREE and RESPONSIBLE
search for
truth and meaning.

#4



Ours is a liberal religion that is guided not by a set creed or dogma, but by an open-minded quest for truth and meaning. Our congregations are places where people gather to nurture their spirits and join together to make a difference in our communities and the world.

Learn more about Unitarian Universalism, or find your local UU congregation at uuu.org

NURTURE Your Spirit. **Help HEAL** Our World.

Please have articles for the next newsletter to Bob Haskell by no later than 5 p.m.
on MONDAY, JUNE 26. He prefers to receive articles via email.
His email address is rhaskell@twcny.rr.com.

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



A MINISTERIAL MOMENT, OR MORE

Those rare days of June, those perfect days, are here again. After a rather chilly, rainy spring, the sun is shining and the world is fresh and green again. June is why we tough it out through the cold and sleet and snow because June is so unimaginably beautiful. I don't know if June would appear so wonderful if we hadn't experienced February. I don't know if we would appreciate the happy moments of our lives as acutely if we did not have tragedies, disappointments and sadness as contrast. I do think it is easy to take many things for granted. And I do think that, all too often, we overlook the good moments in life. Perhaps we see the good days more as respite from difficulties but fail to truly immerse ourselves in them. Let us, therefore, be as conscious of the glad days of warmth and light as we are of the sad days of rain and sleet. Let us give ourselves the gift of pausing to notice the leaves unfurling, the sun dappled lawns, the tapestry of flowers, even if it is only for the moment between our car and our destination. One moment of consciousness of the beauty around us can renew our love for this world.

The Rev. Andrea Abbott

THE REVEREND ABBOTT TO SPEAK ON JUNE 5

Rather than the Rev. David Weissbard, the Rev. Andrea Abbott will lead the service at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 5. The change in speakers comes after David called Andrea to say that his aunt had died on Long Island.



Andrea writes concerning her sermon on June 5: "I think the title will be 'The Hummingbird and the Golden Retriever' and I will, I hope, talk about the impulse toward compassion that runs through all of us, and, perhaps, through a surprising number of creatures. That's my hope now, though I'm not always sure what will happen."

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 16.

All are welcome to join in casual conversation and to enjoy coffee or tea and other goodies.

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.**

STEWARDSHIP TIME

Now is the time for our Stewardship Pledges. We are preparing for our annual budget proposal at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 5, after our regular service.

So, at this time, the leadership is reminding you that our community needs your pledge of support for the upcoming year. We come to our services on Sunday mornings (and sometimes for events on other days) to hear the message of the day, to share it with each other, and to consider how our UU faith can inform us on how we can deal with the world around us.

It is an unfortunate fact that our community cannot function for us without the financial support of the members. Although we could, maybe, be a community without our building and the modest payment to our ministers, I personally do not think that that would last very long. I do not think that a virtual community can take the place of an actual community.

We have a building and grounds that need maintenance and some occasional fixes. For example, a large part of the plumbing in the kitchen needed replacement recently and it took significant time. In the winter time we need heat, and we always need electricity for light and the appliances in the kitchen. And, as I mentioned before, we pay a modest amount to those who lead our services from the pulpit each week, be they “regulars” or guest speakers. And, let’s not forget about the music, in both its performance and the maintenance of the piano and the organ.

I think that the congregation is able to do a lot on the amount that the members have given in financial support in the past. Every member and family needs to assess their own amounts of support that they can afford to offer by reviewing the reward that is received in return. I know that everyone will be fair in their pledge. Ideally, a modest increase in the pledge amount would be most helpful. In the past, many of you have been even more generous than your pledges promise.

I would ask that you all think about what brought you to our congregation in the first place and what keeps you returning. And ask yourself what you would lose if our congregation could not function as effectively as it has been in the past. Worst case, what would you lose if the congregation disappeared.

Some of you have already filled out your pledge forms and returned them. It would be greatly appreciated by the Board if you would fill out and return your pledge form at your earliest convenience, so as to help us prepare the budget for the next year. Forms can be handed into to a Board member, or dropped in the collection plate on Sunday.

Our community greatly appreciates everyone’s past generosity. Please, let’s continue our support, and, if possible, increase the level of support that you have offered in the past.

Thank you.



Winfield Ihlow,
President of the Congregation

**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.



**NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF CENTRAL SQUARE, NEW YORK**

The annual congregational meeting of the First Universalist Society of Central Square, New York, is scheduled to be held in the sanctuary immediately after the worship service on Sunday morning, June 5, 2016.

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:

- 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.

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.

Child care will be available if requested.

All are welcome.



UU CIRCLE NEWS

The UU Circle is making plans for the Fall. We are planning another Pasta Fundraiser Dinner for October. We will be meeting soon for some preliminary planning, and everyone is invited. We will be selecting a date, making plans for assignments and gathering ideas. We hope that you will be able to come.

Ann Peterson

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.

BOARD SPLINTERS

The Executive Board met on Sunday morning, April 24.

Ann Peterson reported for the UU Circle that the Holistic Wellness Fair made over \$700, and then she presented a check for \$1,000 to the Board for the operation of the church. The Board thanked the members of the UU Circle for their hard work organizing and presenting this important fundraiser.

Arne Hook reported for the Maintenance/Buildings and Grounds Committee that upgrades to the sound system are continuing as he troubleshoots some problems. Wi-Fi for the church is being researched, and the associated costs are being compared, including a possible change for the telephone to a system that uses the Wi-Fi instead of a land line.

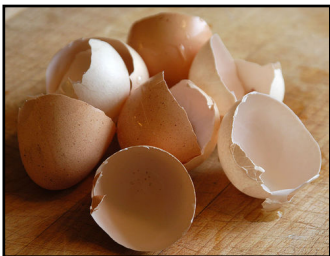
The Rev. Andrea Abbott reported for the Spiritual Committee that there have been complaints that we sing too much, so starting with the April 24 service we will try singing one fewer hymn. This will be a topic for discussion during the June 5, 2016, annual meeting.



Ellen LaPine
Recording Secretary

GREEN MINUTE: COMPOST IMPROVEMENT

Anyone who has seen my garden knows that I compost because you will see egg shells that have not broken down yet mixed into the soil. My grandfather always made sure we crushed the shells before we put them in the compost. That does help, but I saw what I think is a better idea in this month's Mother Earth News. It requires a bit more work but I think it will have good results.



Air dry your egg shells and, when you have enough, put them in your blender or smoothie maker, then process them on the highest speed. I used my Ninja. The shells break down to a grainy powder which can be used alone around tomatoes or other plants that need calcium or mixed directly into your compost.

"I love spring anywhere, but if I could choose I would always greet it in a garden." — Ruth Stout

Ellen LaPine
Outreach Committee

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.



EVERYONE IS ASKED TO BRING A FLOWER

Flower Communion will be celebrated as part of the service on Sunday, June 12.

The Flower Communion usually takes place in the spring. In this ceremony, members of the congregation are asked beforehand to bring a flower to the Sunday service. Upon entering the sanctuary, each person places his or her flower on the altar or in a shared vase. The flowers are blessed by the minister or congregation during the ceremony, and the sermon usually reflects upon the flowers' symbolism. At the end of the service, each person takes home a flower other than the one that he or she had brought.

Reginald Zottoli wrote, "The significance of the Flower Communion is that as no two flowers are alike, so no two people are alike, yet each has a contribution to make. Together the different flowers form a beautiful bouquet. Our common bouquet would not be the same without the unique addition of each individual flower, and thus it is with our church community: it would not be the same without each and every one of us. Thus this service is a statement of our community."

The Flower Communion service was originally created in 1923 by Unitarian minister Norbert Capek, who founded the Unitarian church in Czechoslovakia. The service was later brought to the United States by his wife, Maya.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP, MEDITATION

Anyone who is interested in the Spiritual Development Group or in meditation is invited to contact Tim Hart via email 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.

The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Unitarian Universalist Association will conduct this year's General Assembly in Columbus, Ohio, from Wednesday, June 22, to Sunday, June 26. Most events will be held in the Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 North High Street

The theme for GA 2016 is "Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect."

Publicity about the General Assembly reads, "Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the association through democratic process. Anyone may attend."

"Unitarian Universalists come together not only to do the business of our association, but also to learn from one another and from presenters, to worship and witness together, and to focus together on questions and commitments facing our faith today. We form a learning community."

"The faith world is increasingly multi-faith. People are crossing borders of religion and spiritual practice to create wholeness in their lives individually and collectively. The labels – Christian, Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, theist and non-theist – no longer define who or what we love, or how spirit moves in our lives. General Assembly 2016 in Columbus, Ohio, will assemble leaders and communities of many faiths to worship together, learn from one another, and create a new vision of faith that no longer divides us, but connects us to an interdependent future that works for all."

HOT NEWS!

We are wired!

As of 5 p.m. on Friday, the church building has WiFi. For more information, see Arne Hook.

The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against the idolatries of the mind and spirit.

The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

CHOIR NOTES



The choir will continue its weekly practice and performances through the summer months. Our rehearsals are every Sunday from 9:30 to 10 a.m. and the second Sunday of every month from 12 to 12:45 p.m. in the sanctuary.

On June 5, we will be singing “The Beauty We Love.” If you are interested in trying to sing in the choir, this would be an excellent song to try as the words and melody are beautiful, but simple.

Singing one Sunday does not mean that you are committing to every Sunday. Anyone is welcome to sing at any time. Our monthly rehearsal for this month will be on June 12 immediately following the social time.

Leigh Parry-Benedict, music coordinator

JUNE 2016 CALENDAR

5 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., the Rev. Andrea Abbott 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.

12 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., the Rev. Andrea Abbott leads the worship service. Flower Communion. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. 11:45 a.m., Social time. Noon, The choir will conduct its monthly rehearsal in the sanctuary. 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.

16 – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread, Route 31, Clay.

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.

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

JUNE 2016						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

In Unitarian Universalism, you can bring your whole self: your full identity, your questioning mind, your expansive heart.

As Unitarian Universalists, we do not have to check our personal background and beliefs at the door: we join together on a journey that honors everywhere we've been before.

BARNEVELD CHURCH TO CONDUCT ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

The Barneveld Unitarian Church invites us to its annual Pilgrimage. At this time, Unitarian-Universalists from around the region gather at this historic Oneida County church.

The schedule:

Saturday, June 18 — 8 p.m., Concert.

Sunday, June 19 — 10 a.m., Refreshments on the Lawn with music. 11 a.m., Service led by the Rev. Eve Stevens, UU Church of Utica. Immediately after the service, luncheon at Unity Hall and “An Architectural History.”

The Barneveld church has a long history. In 1793 Garret Boon, first agent of the Holland Land Company, cut a path through the forest from Fort Schuyler to the Cincinnati Creek. He located his

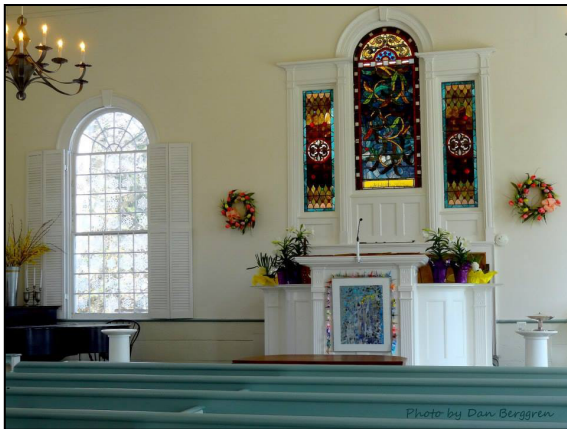
cabin here and called it Oldenbarneveld after a patriot martyr of Holland. This made the town, since named Barneveld, one of the oldest settlements in the area.

It was here in 1803 that the religious society was organized by Francis Van der Kemp, Adam Mappa, and Luther Guiteau. Mappa and Van der Kemp had fled Holland after unsuccessfully seeking to establish representative government. It was natural that these church founders emphasized democracy and freedom within this church. This they did by basing membership on good moral character rather than on doctrinal statements. Church members have a keen appreciation of their history,

and have restored their historical buildings in gratitude and respect for the past and hope for the future.

Through the years this church has stood as a monument to those who believe in the right of individuals to govern themselves and to make up their own minds in the realm of ultimate beliefs and commitments. Although this church has never been large in numbers, its influence has emanated far beyond the village limits, affecting the lives of well and little known men and women for nearly 200 years.

The congregation owned and maintained two other historic buildings besides the church (circa 1816) until not long ago. The Van der Kemp parsonage (circa 1797) was sold in 2006. Unity Hall, still owned by the church, is leased to a not-for-profit foundation that shares the use of the hall with the church and other community organizations presenting a wide range of programs and events.



Unitarian Universalists are united in shared experience: our open worship services, religious education, and rites of passage; our work for social justice; our quest to include the marginalized; and our expressions of love.

Unitarian Universalists believe more than one thing. We think for ourselves, and reflect together, about important questions.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Thanks to these people for volunteering to serve as greeters on Sunday mornings: Priscilla Sparks and Susan Woods, May 29.

Thanks to these people for volunteering to host the social time on Sunday mornings: Tracy Kinne, May 29; Janet Jenkins, June 5; and Mary Fran Yafchak, June 12.



ORNITHOLOGIST DAVID ALLEN SIBLEY TO SPEAK

If anyone is interested in going as a group or meeting up at the following event, please let Mary Fran Yafchak know at myafchak@twcny.rr.com or at 315-593-7786:

(From <http://wrvo.org/post/renowned-bird-guide-illustrator-and-ornithologist-david-allen-sibley-comes-syracuse-june-23#stream/0>)

“For birding enthusiasts and nature lovers alike, WRVO presents an intimate gathering with ornithologist David Allen Sibley, author and illustrator of ‘The Sibley Guide to Birds’, a New York Times bestseller. Join David Thursday night, June 23, for a presentation on wild bird identification as he shares his experiences creating some of the most comprehensive guides to North American field identification. Tickets for David Allen Sibley’s appearance at Traditions at the Links at Erie Village in East Syracuse are \$20 and available off of the web page listed above. The evening begins with dinner (included in the ticket price) at 5:30 p.m. David’s presentation will commence at 7 p.m.”



Kundalini Yoga as taught by Yogi Bhanjan is offered every Thursday evening at our church building from 6:30 to 7:45. Wear modest, comfortable, loose fitting clothing and a head covering, preferably white. White is the color of radiance and reflection. Bring a mat, light blanket and water to drink. Class consists of exercise poses, chanting and meditation. Cost is \$10. There will be no class on June 2. Hope to see you on June 9. All are welcome.

Unitarian Universalists are diverse in faith, ethnicity, history and spirituality, but aligned in our desire to make a difference for the good.