

# 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*

#1 The inherent  
worth & dignity  
of EVERY person



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 [uua.org](http://uua.org)*

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

## Our Mission Statement

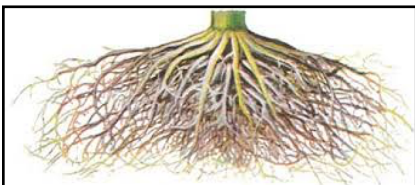
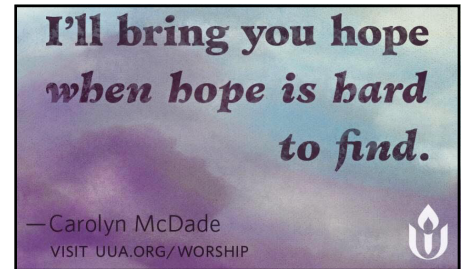
The mission of the First Universalist Society of Central Square is to be a welcoming, diverse congregation, which values spiritual growth and service to the local and world community.

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

### **A MINISTERIAL MOMENT, OR MORE**

It is the end of February and I can see March right around the corner. Though this was an easy winter, all things considered, I'm stretching to see around that corner, hoping to see March, lamb or lion, barreling toward us bringing spring. It isn't just the cold and the snow and ice that get to me, easy winter or not. It's that everywhere everything is the same dull washed-out grey. I cherish the memory of greens and blues and the bright reds and yellows of tulips and daffodils. In March we begin to hope for their return, to remember the days of spring. There are many Februaries in our lives, times when our hearts are heavy and everything seems to be that flat, washed-out grey. There are no bright colors and no warm breezes. We need hope to get through those times, even modest hopes. We need hope to get through the illnesses. We need hope to get through grieving. We need hope to get through those times when we feel we are stuck in winter, even if we don't quite know why we feel this way. For the shortest month in the year, the Februaries of our lives can be very long. The hope we long for is not cheap cliches or bumper sticker phrases but the kindness and understanding of the people around us, people who give us courage to see the cold days through. I hope this is what we offer each other here at this church. Though we may know that there are real problems besetting us individually and as a congregation, we come from a tradition that gives us the courage and the heart to see spring around the corner and to prepare a place for it.

The Rev. Andrea Abbott



### **THE REVEREND WEISSBARD TO SPEAK ABOUT VIOLENCE**

The Rev. David Weissbard writes concerning his sermon for the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, March 6: "One of the criticisms leveled against liberalism is that it fails to adequately address the harsher side of human nature. I believe there is some truth to the claim that we wear rose-colored glasses that blind us to some of the painful realities of life in our world. We are selective in our perceptions. That is not to say that conservatives have a more balanced perspective. Next Sunday I will focus on an important dimension of life in America today which we ignore at our own peril with a sermon on 'The Roots of Violence'."

### **SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP, MEDITATION**

Anyone who is interested in the Spiritual Development Group or in 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.

**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.**

## **RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE:**

**8 A.M. TO NOON ON SATURDAY, MARCH 5**

March is Red Cross Month. We're kicking off the month with our next blood drive from 8 a.m. until noon on Saturday, March 5.

Your blood donation helps the Red Cross do even more. The Red Cross started providing blood for patients in 1940. Although an estimated 38 percent of the U.S. population is eligible to donate blood at any given time, less than 10 percent of that eligible population actually does donate each year. Since every 2 seconds someone in the United States needs blood, the Red Cross is in constant need of everyday heroes to keep up supplies.

If you would like to donate blood, you can schedule an appointment by calling 1-800-Red Cross or you can sign up online by going to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

Please let your friends and neighbors know about the blood drive and be sure to tell them that we have one every two months in case they are looking for a regularly scheduled drive. If you have contacts within the community that might support us or partner with us for our drives, please get in touch with me, and I will reach out to them.

Thank you for your help.



Ellen LaPine

Social Justice Committee blood drive coordinator

## **HART TEAM TO WALK AGAIN**

Please donate to the Hart Team as it participates in the annual Mission Steps Walk on Sunday, March 6. There is a clipboard with a pledge sheet in the church dining room area.

The check-in will start at 9:30 a.m. on that day at Syracuse's Destiny USA – Canyon Area. The Walk will start at 10 a.m.

This local Walk raises local funds to help support local services provided to local persons with multiple sclerosis in Central and Upstate New York.

The Walk is sponsored by Multiple Sclerosis Resources of Central New York, Inc.® The organization was created in September 1998 by a group of concerned individuals within the community who felt clients with multiple sclerosis needed additional assistance to help them meet their daily needs. The organization is not part of a larger national organization.



**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.**

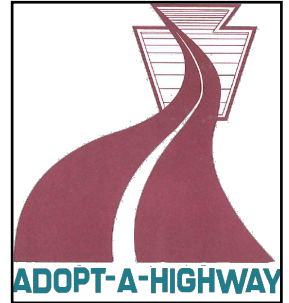
### **SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE TO MEET ON MARCH 13**

The Social Justice Committee did not meet this month because of circumstances in my life. The next meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 13. Everyone is invited to attend.

We have not set a date for a discussion of the book “Just Mercy,” but we do plan to show a film the same day. We sent \$200 to the Equal Justice Initiative from the church and from the SJC treasury. Suggestions on dates will be considered.

The Adopt-a-Highway dates for 2016 are April 24, July 10 and September 25. Details will be included in future announcements.

Continue to contribute coins, magazines, books, Downstairs Scotty items, returnable bottles and cans, and we will see that they get to the appropriate places.



Thank you from the SJC for all your help.  
Nancy Hallock, chairperson

### **JEANETTE ZOECKLER TO OCCUPY PULPIT AGAIN**

Jeanette Zoekler, who spoke to our congregation the Sunday before Labor Day 2014 about the first two phases of The Low-Wage Workers’ Health Project, will return to the pulpit on Sunday, March 13.

Jeanette is project manager for the Occupational Health Clinical Centers, serving Central



New York, the Southern Tier and the North Country. The state-run center, based near Carrier Circle, works to identify and prevent illness and injuries caused by work.

Jeanette will speak about the third year of the Low-Wage Workers’ Health Project, which involved discussions with workers. Workers talked about poor work conditions, deep exhaustion, and overt disrespect they experience daily. But, because they also derive meaning from their work, their voices also conveyed a desire to make change. To date, more than 550 low-wage workers have contributed to the Project.

Those of us who were fortunate enough to hear Jeanette speak in 2014 recall her talk as moving and thought-provoking.

Tracy Kinne will facilitate the service.

**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.**

## **CHILDREN TO FOCUS ON THEIR DIFFERENCES, SIMILARITIES**

We are stardust.

Every ingredient in the human body is made from elements forged by stars. Every rock, plant, animal, scoop of sea water, the air you breathe and the food you eat began from the collision of stars.

We will continue our lesson on how everyone is the same, and how choices give us our differences; how as Unitarian Universalists we respect those differences and work together to help each other find the answers that they seek; and respecting the journeys and guiding when asked.

Come check out the kids' silhouettes in our classroom. Learn their story.

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



## **GREEN MINUTE: CLEANING-PRODUCT LABELING**

According to Consumer Reports, cleaning-product labeling is subjected to little regulation. So what do the labels mean?

Plant-Based – the product may have come from a natural source or it could have been processed into a chemical.

Nontoxic – you would believe that the product will not cause adverse health effects but there is really no standard definition.

Organic – only the United States Department of Agriculture seal ensures that 95 percent of the contents are organic. Without the seal you don't know which ingredients meet organic standards.

Fragrance-Free – manufacturers can add a neutralizing odor to mask the scent of certain chemicals so it necessarily means that the product is gentler.

Antibacterial – be wary of this claim. The product may contain dimethyl benzyl ammonium chloride which is believed to contribute to breeding antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Watch for triclosan as well because the Center for Adaptation Genetics and Drug Resistance at Tufts University says that there is clear evidence that there's a release of toxic substances from the time this chemical is used to the time it is destroyed.

The Environmental Protection Agency has now issued a Safer Choice logo that you'll see appearing on some cleaning products. This label indicates that the EPA finds products that carry this label to be least harmful to the planet and your health. You can find out more about these new labels at [www.epa.gov/saferchoice](http://www.epa.gov/saferchoice).



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.**

## **PEACE COUNCIL IS SETTING UP THE PINS AGAIN**

The Peace Council's annual Strike for Peace! Bowlathon is coming up on Sunday, March 20, at the Lakeview Bowling Center (715 Old Liverpool Road, Liverpool NY 13088). This event puts the FUN in FUNdraiser! Session A will run from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., and Session B will run from 3 to 5 p.m. The Bowlathon is a great way to have fun with friends, family, and community members, and to raise money for peace and justice work at the same time! To download a registration form, click on <http://www.peacecouncil.net/2016-bowlathon-registration-form>.

Teams are 4 to 5 people (talk to us if you have a different number of people -- we can work it out!). Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for kids. More than 50 percent of the ticket price goes directly to support the Peace Council's work! Register and pay by March 4 and get \$2 off per person.

See Nancy Hallock if you are interested in forming a team.

You can also bump up the fundraising capacity of the Bowlathon by collecting pledges from your friends and family who won't be bowling with you. We award prizes and Pledger's Hall of Fame honors to teams with the highest pledge collections! Download the pledge form here.

Thanks for your support! See you at the lanes!



## **A NOTE OF THANKS**

Thanks to these people for volunteering to serve as greeters on Sunday mornings: Priscilla Sparks and Susan Woods, February 28 and March 6.

Thanks to these people for volunteering to host the social times on Sunday mornings: Janet Jenkins, February 28; Priscilla Sparks and Susan Woods, March 6; and Janie Garlow, March 13.



Volunteers are needed to serve as greeters on Sunday mornings. Anyone with any questions is encouraged to speak with Winfield Ihlow.

Volunteers are also needed to host the social time on Sunday mornings. Anyone with any questions is encouraged to speak with Judy Tennant.

The Spiritual Committee encourages 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 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.**

## **BEYOND THE WALLS OF OUR CONGREGATION**

As Unitarian Universalists, we often find ourselves wishing we could live in a world that more closely reflects our values. We want more of what we share within the walls of our congregation to exist outside the walls. Many of us dedicate our lives to creating small pockets of community that reflect our values.

It can come as a surprise to many Unitarian Universalists that there is already an established network of such communities throughout the United States and Canada. They are our Unitarian Universalist Camp and Conference Centers. And they have formed an alliance to help spread the word, the Unitarian Universalist Alliance of Camp and Conference Centers (UUACCC).

Each center is a unique place, often located in a spectacular natural setting. Most operate year-round or close to it, offering retreats, conferences, and summer camp experiences that reflect our UU values. They offer similar experiences to the summer institutes and assemblies but because they are center based they are able to do so on a continuous basis throughout the year with a great many opportunities for learning and growing in community.

Adults and families are often surprised to learn what a wide range of opportunities for fellowship, self-discovery and learning that Camp and Conference Centers provide throughout the year. And all take place in natural settings of unparalleled beauty.

For those of us with children, the centers that offer summer camp experiences for youth are especially important. It can be challenging for our children to find peers who share their values, and a place to belong where they can live those values. Unitarian Universalist Camp and Conference Centers are often a home away from home for young people.

In the words of a camper from Unirondack, a UU summer camp in the Western Adirondacks of New York State:

“You taught me to seek out the innate goodness in every human being. You taught me that there is no fully good person, and no consummation of evil ... that everybody is a rainbow. You just have to pick which colors to see, ... You taught me how to love. You taught me that love doesn't have to be between man and woman ... that any two people can love each other. Love is holding hands, love is sitting together, reading together, singing together, holding each other up, holding each other back, and letting each other go. Goodbye Unirondack. I love you. And now I'm ready to go love some more.”

Transformative UUnique experiences like this young person describes are an everyday occurrence at our Unitarian Universalist Camp and Conference Centers. There is something for everyone: youth, families of all kinds, and adults. Visit the UUACCC website to find links to UU experiences beyond the walls of our congregation.

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Our mailing address is:

Unirondack

Post Office Box 7880

New York, NY 10116



**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.**

### MARCH 2016 CALENDAR

**6** – 9 a.m., Executive Board. 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.

**7** – 5 to 7 p.m., The Rev. Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church. The sanctuary will also be open for anyone who wishes to use it for a time of reflection, prayer or meditation.

**13** – 9:30 a.m., Social Justice Committee. Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., Jeanette Zoeckler of the Occupational Health Clinical Center will speak during the worship service. Tracy Kinne will facilitate the service. 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.

**17** – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread, Route 31, Clay.

**20** – 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.

**27** – 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.

**28** – 5 to 7 p.m., The Rev. Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church. The sanctuary will also be open for anyone who wishes to use it for a time of reflection, prayer or meditation.

<b>2016</b>				<b>MARCH</b>		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have articles for the July newsletter to Bob Haskell by no later than 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 27. He prefers to receive articles via e-mail. His e-mail address is rhaskell@twcny.rr.com. His postal address is 29 Grove Street, Baldwinsville, NY 13027-2332. His telephone number is 315-635-5294.

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