

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 website:
<http://www.centralsquareuu.com>


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

The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism



#3

Acceptance of one another
& encouragement to
SPIRITUAL GROWTH
in our congregations.



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.

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

At the grocery store the other day, I was charmed by the bowls of pansies for sale. As I admired their little cat faces, I remembered that the name is from the French word pensée, or thoughts, and they were often given to tell someone that they were in the sender's thoughts. They are tough little flowers, able to withstand a spring frost or two, and for this reason are one of the first flowers of spring. I was certainly glad to see them. Even if this year was a mild winter, it was still winter and we are only just beginning to trust the weather and to poke our own faces out of doors to enjoy the sunshine. Our minds as well as our bodies respond to the longer days and warmer sun, and our thoughts, too, flower more at this time of year. We crawl out of the cave of winter, blinking in the sunshine and, a little tentatively perhaps, begin to feel more alive. Let us welcome all thoughts, let us encourage all ways to blossom. Our times cry out for creativity, for new thoughts, for new ways of seeing the world. This is what we have always been good at doing, so let us welcome the warmth of spring and feel the expansiveness of life within and around us. And so we send out our thoughts to each other, even to those we don't know. Happy May Day.



The Rev. Andrea Abbott



THE REVEREND WEISSBARD WRESTLES WITH "THE TRUTH"

The Rev. David Weissbard writes concerning his sermon for the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, May 1:

"From time to time I stop to think about 'the truth'. What is it? How do we know? Can we ever be certain? We want to be honest and to be able to trust others to tell the truth, but, are we being naive? Sunday I will be sharing some of my wrestling with the issue. 'To Tell the Truth'."

THESE VOLUNTEERS DESERVE A NOTE OF THANKS

Thanks to Priscilla Sparks and Susan Woods for volunteering to serve as greeters on April 24.

Thanks to Marcia Burrell-Ihlow for volunteering to host the social time on April 24.

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.

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. - NOON SATURDAY, MAY 14

“The need is constant. The gratification is instant.”

You often see this statement associated with Red Cross blood drives, and it is true. The need for blood is never ending but, as the warmer months come along, sometimes donations go down because people are quite busy. By taking just an hour of your day, you can potentially give someone a lifesaving blood donation. As you think about it, what is more gratifying than helping others when they most need it?



We will be having one of our regularly scheduled blood drives from 8 a.m. until noon on Saturday, May 14. 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. There is also a sign-up sheet in the dining room where you can make an appointment.

I have placed a sign-up sheet in the dining room for volunteers to help with the drive. If you can help for even a short time on that day it will be much appreciated.

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

UU CIRCLE

The UU Circle put a lot of work into the Holistic Wellness Fair. We think that the people who attended enjoyed the event and that we had a wonderful selection of vendors and workshops and a delicious variety of healthy foods.

We will be supporting Leigh Parry-Benedict with her musical event on Sunday, May 1. We hope that you stay for pizza and a sing-a-long prior to the performance at 2 p.m.

Ann Peterson

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, May 19.

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

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.

A NOTE FROM WINFIELD IHLOW

Hello everyone.

It is that time of the year. It is now time to think about your financial pledge to the congregation for the next year. You have either received a note and a pledge form already, or you will receive one soon.

The Executive Board greatly appreciates the support you have given to our society over the past year. You gave us enough support so that we have been able to undertake our activities and commitments with an adequate amount of funding. We hope that you have felt that your support was put to good use over the year.



Having a place to call our own also requires our financial support. It may be a mundane necessity, but it is a necessity nonetheless. Heat, light, maintenance, occasional repairs, compensation for clergy and staff, all need financial support. Our contributions toward the larger Unitarian Universalist Association also requires support.

So, at this time I am asking you to think about filling out your Pledge form with an amount that you find will allow the congregation to continue as a source for your spiritual and social and intellectual enrichment. Also, a modest increase would be greatly appreciated, and, I hope, worth it.

And, to give you advance notice, our yearly congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, June 5, 2016, right after the Sunday service that day. At that meeting, we will hear the reports of the congregation officers, the committees, review of the past year's finances and approval of the next year's budget, and the election of officers for the next year.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,
Winfield Ihlow
President of the congregation



A BUSY MONTH AWAITS THE CHILDREN

The mindfulness of meditation. It is all around us. The way we walk, the songs we sing, the sounds of nature around us. With the warmer weather we will be spending more time outside, chalking and walking our own labyrinth, celebrating life, making sure our feathered friends have plenty of nesting materials. We will begin working on our chalice quilt and continue writing our book of principles. We will also be celebrating Buddha's day of birth. A very full month awaits us.

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

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.



SILVERWOOD CLARINET CHOIR TO PERFORM ON MAY 1

The Silverwood Clarinet Choir, a group of musicians from Central New York, will perform a "Springtime Moods" concert at our church at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 1.

The choir will perform a variety of pieces from classical to popular to jazz. Some old time favorites will be contrasted with modern composition. Visitors will hear music from the Beatles to Elgar's "Enigma Variations" and from Scott Joplin to John Philip Sousa.

Scott Ciesla, a band director at Oswego High School, is trumpet soloist. Ciesla was named 2016 National Band Director of the Year by the U.S. Army All-American Bowl Selection Committee and the National Association for Music Education.

The ensemble saw Jef Six play trumpet and Guido Six conduct his Claribel Clarinet Choir from Belgium, and the Central New York ensemble will perform two pieces by the son and father on May 1. The two musicians were killed by a truck last October, and the Springtime Moods concert will be performed in their memory.

Among other contemporary composers to be represented are Franz Cibulka from Austria, Reinier van der Wal from the Netherlands, Luke Whitlock from the United Kingdom, Emily Gray from Canada and Matt Johnson of Seattle.

A \$5 donation at the door would be appreciated.

The choir was founded in 2006 and consists of Eb soprano clarinets, Bb clarinets, alto clarinet, basset horn, bass clarinets, contra alto clarinet and contrabass clarinet. The group performs original compositions as well as well-known arrangements from around the world. The ensemble performs throughout Central New York.

The clarinet choir is conducted by Pamela Mastrobattisto of Baldwinsville. Performers are Holly Bossert of Baldwinsville, Paul DiPastena of Liverpool, Kathleen and Kenneth Freer of Manlius, Liza Grethel of Pennellville, Walter Merriam of Fayetteville, Heather Molloy of Manlius, Colleen Reynolds of Baldwinsville, Melanie Smelski of East Syracuse, Linda Spinella of Liverpool, Terri Tallman of Chittenango and guest percussionist John Bird of Pennellville.

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

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.

FILM FOCUSES ON TEMPORARY WORKERS

The award-winning movie, "A Day's Work," which addresses temporary workers, a growing segment of the workforce, will be shown in Syracuse from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3.

The free screening will be at Legal Services of New York conference room, ground floor, 221 South Warren Street. It is part of a seven-community tour throughout Upstate New York.

The film, which has taken several awards, explores the hazards of temporary work and focuses on Day Davis, a 21-year-old Florida man killed on his first day as a temporary worker. It is detailed at www.TempFilm.com.

An average of 719 workers each month in Onondaga County are categorized as temporary, with a gross weekly wage of \$436, according to the state Department of Labor. Oswego County data is unavailable.

The screening will be followed by a panel discussion that will include Dave DeSario, the film's executive producer; local temporary workers; Gretchen Purser, a sociology professor at Syracuse University who has published extensively on the topic and is co-chair of the Workers' Center of Central New York; and others.

The screening is part of local observances of Workers' Memorial Day, which the Social Justice Committee is helping organize.

Tracy Kinne



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

Random Acts of Kindness is the congregation's program to financially assist those in need, whether church members/friends or people in the wider community.

Finances are provided by the congregation through a special once-a-month offering, normally on the first Sunday of each month. Random Acts of Kindness envelopes are found on the back of the pews.

The next Random Acts of Kindness Sunday will be observed on May 1.

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.

BOARD SPLINTERS

The Executive Board met on Sunday, April 3.

Janie Garlow reported for the Membership Committee that progress on the church website is proceeding on schedule with members giving the programmer content for the website.

Arne Hook reported for the Maintenance/Buildings and Grounds Committee that upgrades to the sound system are continuing with the purchase of an amplifier. Lawn mowing for the upcoming season was discussed. If there is a member of the congregation who is interested, please contact Arne. There was also discussion about filling the big hole that is in the driveway for the handicapped entrance.

Nominating Committee member Steve Garlow attended the meeting to discuss the many positions that need to be filled for the next church year. If you are interested in being on next year's Board, please contact Steve, George Tennant or Chet Perkins.

The next Board meeting was scheduled to be held on Sunday, May 1, but was later moved to 9 a.m. on Sunday, April 24.

Ellen LaPine, recording secretary



DRUM CIRCLE SEEKS TIMELY SUGGESTIONS

Ginny and I have been trying out a variety of times to conduct our Drum Circle that would work best for the most people. We have tried having the Drum Circle after coffee hour on Sundays and from 3 to 5 p.m. on Sundays. We have had almost no attendance with those times.

Someone suggested that we have the Drum Circle in the sanctuary immediately after the services. We are looking for suggestions for a time that would work best for people. Please talk to Ginny or me if you have any ideas.

Ann Peterson

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Please look for some adult religious education programs in the fall. We are still in the discussion and planning phase.

Ann Peterson

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.

GREEN MINUTE: LIQUID LAUNDRY SOAP

My mom volunteers for the Genesee County Office of the Aging. One of the things she does is help seniors with very low incomes stretch what little money they have to make ends meet. She recommends to her clients the recipe for laundry detergent below, one that she has been using herself. It is much less expensive than purchased laundry detergent and is environmentally friendly.

- 1/3 Bar Fels-Naptha Soap
- 1/2 Cup Washing Soda
- 1/2 Cup Borax Powder
- 2 Gallon Bucket

Grate soap into a large sauce pan. Add six cups of water and stir until the soap melts. It is important to stir until the soap completely dissolves and is not grainy but is a smooth consistency. Remove from heat.

Pour four cups hot water into the two-gallon bucket. Add soap mixture, washing soda and Borax; then stir. Once dissolved, add one gallon plus six cups of water; then stir. Let it sit covered for 24 hours. It will be a thin gel.

Use 1/2 cup per load.

You can find other similar recipes on the Internet.



Ellen LaPine
Outreach Committee

A “THANK YOU” TO MISSION STEPS CONTRIBUTORS

At the Mission Steps walk this year, Team Hart raised \$2,026.

Thanks to all who contributed, and to Nancy Hallock for coordinating contributions at church.

Your generosity is appreciated by all who have multiple sclerosis in Central New York, and those who care for them.

With gratitude,
Margaret Hart

The Walk was 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.

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.



Left to right, back row, Gene Butler, Jill Goddard, the Rev. Richard Gilbert, the Rev. Aaron Stockwell and Lee Shaw; seated left to right, Michael Surbaugh and the Rev. Mary Katherine Morn, during the signing of an agreement between the Boy Scouts of America and the Unitarian Universalist Association on March 24.

BOY SCOUTS, UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS RENEW AGREEMENT

By Adelle M. Banks

(RNS) The Boy Scouts of America and the Unitarian Universalist Association signed a new agreement Thursday (March 24) after the two organizations had previously been divided over gay rights.

“BSA Scout Law defines a Scout by qualities that Unitarian Universalists also lift up,” reads the memorandum of understanding signed by Scouting and Unitarian Universalist officials at the BSA headquarters in Irving, Texas.

It also notes “both Scouts and Unitarian Universalists strive to be good stewards of Earth.”

The UUA dissolved a previous agreement with the BSA in the 1990s because the scouting organization had banned openly gay members. In July 2015, the BSA dropped its ban on gay adult leaders, two years after it allowed gay youths.

“I am happy to see our two organizations form new bonds of mutual understanding which will allow Unitarian Universalist boys and young men who want to participate in scouting to be able to do so within their own Unitarian Universalist community,” said the Rev. Peter Morales, president of the UUA.

Zach Wahls, co-founder of Scouts for Equality and a Unitarian Universalist, also welcomed the juncture, calling it “a good day for the future of scouting.”

Boy Scout officials said they look forward to renewing their work with Unitarian Universalists. (Editor’s note: Reporter Adelle M. Banks formerly worked for The Herald-Journal, Syracuse.)

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.

MAY 2016 CALENDAR

1 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., the Rev. David Weissbard leads the worship service. Sermon title: “To Tell the Truth.” Random Acts of Kindness. 11:45 a.m., Social time. 2 p.m., The Silverwood Clarinet Choir will perform a “Springtime Moods” concert at our church. 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.

3 – 6 to 8 p.m., “A Day’s Work” will be shown at Legal Services of New York conference room, ground floor, 221 South Warren Street, Syracuse.

8 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 9:30 a.m., Social Justice Committee. 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 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.

14 – 8 a.m. until noon, Red Cross Blood Drive at our church.

15 – 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.

19 – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread, Route 31, Clay.

22 – 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.

31 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., the Rev. Libbie D. Stoddard leads the worship service. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. 11:45 a.m., Social time.

2016 MAY						
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	31				

www.free-printable-calendar.com

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 or via telephone at 315-439-2541.

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