

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)



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

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



A CEREMONY OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

Members and friends of the First Universalist Society of Central Square will gather in the sanctuary to ordain and install Andrea Abbott as its minister during a ceremony at 2 p.m. on Sunday, November 1.

In celebration of the event, the UU Circle will host a potluck luncheon in the dining room at noon.

A reception will follow the ceremony.

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

Can anyone think of November without thinking of turkeys? And dressing, mashed potatoes, squash and pumpkin pie? And, by extension, that famous or infamous picture by Norman Rockwell which resembles very few families alive today — or maybe even fewer than we imagine in Norman's time. When we think of Thanksgiving, we often have mixed feelings if this is the image in



our minds of the way things are supposed to be. We all have those images, the images of the way we are supposed to be, the way our families are supposed to be, and those images can really hurt when we look at the reality of our lives. Not only do most families not look like this idealized scene, often most families don't feel like this image. In this picture, not only is everyone white, there are no single parents, no same sex couples, no people with disabilities. Everyone is model-attractive and obviously prosperous. And everyone is so happy. I'm sure Mr. Rockwell did not intend to exclude. But the picture has become the symbol of the good life and therefore implies that those outside that range are somehow not normal, nor, perhaps, destined for happiness. This exclusion of a range of possibilities sometimes makes it hard for those outside that range to see the strengths of their own realities.

When we gather, however we gather, this Thanksgiving, I hope it is with an eye to the blessings our own families bring us, no matter if we are born to those families or whether they are ours through choice. Every family has its strengths as well as its problems and, by bringing to mind each person's gifts to the family and to the world, we do, indeed, give thanks.

Andrea Abbott

REVEREND WEISSBARD TO SPEAK ABOUT "ST. FRED"

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

"I have a saint whom I was privileged to see in person. While he was a television 'star', he was far more than that. I find that I refer to him often and think of him even more often. I believe he left a lasting impression on a whole generation of Americans -- and even on some of us beyond that generation. I know he did on me. Come early for Andrea's ordination-installation and find out whom. (I'm sure some have already guessed.)

"Dave"

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

The Social Justice Committee met on Sunday morning, October 18. After the treasurer's report, we discussed old business. This included the Lioness Club's Apple Festival, the Syracuse Peace Council's 79th Birthday Dinner and the Faith for a Fair New York conference.

The Adopt-a-Highway pickup scheduled for that morning was postponed because of the weather. Tracy Kinne, Janet Jenkins and I completed the pickup on Wednesday, October 21.

We will place an advertisement in the program for the Syracuse Peace Council's 45th Annual Plowshares Craftsair and Peace Festival to be held at Nottingham High School in Syracuse on Saturday and Sunday, December 5 and 6.

We will install plastic insulating film on church windows in November.

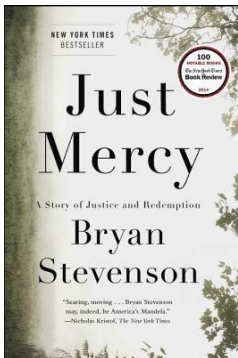
"Thank you" to the volunteers who are scheduled to work at the Red Cross blood drive scheduled at our church from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, November 14. There is a need for more donors.

Tracy Kinne agreed to attend a social justice meeting with the local Unitarian Universalist churches on Saturday, October 24.

The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) has chosen "Just Mercy" as the 2015-16 Common Read. We have ordered several books and would like many congregants to read the story and join in a discussion group.

The next committee meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. on November 15. There is room for all.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Hallock



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST "COMMON READ" 2015-'16

A Common Read invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. A committee including headquarters and field staff of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has chosen "Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption" by Bryan Stevenson as this year's selection.

In a review published in The Washington Post on October 23, 2014, Rob Warren points out that "Stevenson writes about his personal experiences representing poor people, people of color, women, and children incarcerated on death row or sentenced to die in prison. He makes a powerful case that the opposite of poverty is not wealth, but justice. In line with his grandmother's advice that you have to get close to understand, he reveals truths about the U.S. criminal justice system by sharing individual stories, taking the reader up close to see the results of unjust, life- and soul-destroying policies and practices."

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.

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE REGARDING THE BLOOD DRIVE
FROM 8 A.M. TO 1 P.M. ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14**



I have been notified by the Red Cross that if our drives don't start bringing in more people (our last two averaged about 10 people, but our goal is usually 14) then the Red Cross may not continue having the drives at our church. Please let your friends and neighbors know that our next blood drive will take place on Saturday, November 14, and that we have the blood drives on a regular basis every two months. If you have contacts within the community that you think I might be able to contact to support us or partner with us for our drives please get in touch with me and I will reach out to them.

For those of you who are able, please consider donating blood at this drive. It's easy, relatively painless, takes only an hour of your time, and provides a life-saving gift to our community.

Thank you for your help.

**Ellen LaPine,
Social Justice Committee blood drive coordinator**

THE ANNUAL FAIR SHARE APPEAL

The Fair Share is the amount of the contribution our congregation is asked to make each fiscal year to the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) and its St. Lawrence Unitarian Universalist District (SLUUD).

These contributions finance programs, services and resources that directly benefit and strengthen our congregation and the Unitarian Universalist movement as a whole.

Fair Share is based upon the number of members a congregation certified for the UUA General Assembly the previous February. Our congregation consists of approximately 45 active members. Our 2015-'16 Fair Share for SLUUD has been determined to be \$668.28 and for the UUA Annual Fund \$2,700, for a total of \$3,368.28. Thus, our combined Fair Share contribution is about \$75 per member.

Our congregation has a line item in its Operating Account budget, which covers \$2,300 of our total contribution.

We ask members if they are able to do so to write a check for \$75 payable to the church and to designate "Fair Share" in the memo. This would help us reach the designated amounts.

For more information, you may contact Marcia Burrell-Ihlow, treasurer.

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.

GREEN MINUTE: PROJECT FEEDERWATCH

Project FeederWatch is a survey of birds that takes place in the winter at backyard feeders as well as in community areas all over North America. In the United States the survey is operated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. FeederWatch data help scientists track broad scale movements of



winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance. FeederWatch data also tell scientists where birds are and, sometimes more importantly, where birds are not located. The survey helps track the kinds of food and environmental factors that attract certain types of birds and discovers how disease is spread among birds that visit feeders.

People of all skill levels and backgrounds participate in the survey. Individuals, families, classrooms and nature centers watch their feeders as much as or as little as they want to during two days each week, but less frequently is also fine.

There is an \$18 participation fee. Participants will receive a research kit that includes instructions and a bird identification poster. In the fall, participants will receive the year-end report and the Cornell Lab Newsletter.

If you are interested, go to www.feederwatch.org for more information.

Ellen LaPine
Outreach Committee



A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Thanks to Susan Woods and Priscilla Sparks for volunteering to serve as greeters on Sunday morning, October 25. Thanks to these people for volunteering to host the social times on Sunday mornings: Priscilla Sparks, Susan Woods, Ethan Parry-Benedict and Ronna Schindler, October 25; and UU Circle, November 1 (potluck luncheon).

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 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.

UU CIRCLE PLANS LUNCHEONS AND FUNDRAISER

The UU Circle will host a potluck luncheon in honor of Andrea Abbott's ordination and installation on Sunday, November 1. Please be sure to attend and to bring a dish if possible. We will welcome others to both the ordination and the potluck luncheon. So we will set extra places at the table and meet some new friends.

Fundraiser Planned: The UU Circle plans a "comfort food" fundraiser dinner on Saturday, December 5. Pearl Harbor Day is December 7, and we will honor veterans at this dinner. Any veteran with an ID will receive dinner free of charge. Our "comfort food" menu includes macaroni and cheese, squash soup, salad and dessert. Please plan to help with this event. Money that the UU Circle receives from this dinner will go to our treasurer to help support our church.

Coming Soon: The UU Circle will sponsor a "Lunch and Chat." We want to offer more opportunities for our members and friends to get together. At our first "Lunch and Chat" we will make plans for the next "Lunch and Chat." No reservations will be required. Just show up. Watch for details.



Ann Peterson. UU Circle



BOARD SPLINTERS

The Executive Board met on Sunday morning, October 4. Treasurer Marcia Burrell-Ihlow noted that our full payment of \$1,350 has been made toward our Fair Share to the St. Lawrence Unitarian Universalist District (SLUDD).

It was agreed to send \$200 to the Barneveld Unitarian Universalist Church for its handicapped lift project.

It was decided to have an open meeting after the social time on Sunday, October 11, to discuss freedom of the pulpit, issues related to this freedom, and if we want to put any limits on what can be presented in the pulpit.

There was a special congregational meeting after the morning service on Sunday, October 18, during which a motion was made and approved to ordain and install Andrea Abbott as minister of the First Universalist Society of Central Square at 2 p.m. on Sunday, November 1.

During the October 4 Executive Board meeting, it was decided to have a discussion after the social time on October 18 to discuss what people see as Andrea Abbott's role after she is ordained.

The next Board meeting will be at 9 a.m. on Sunday, November 8.

Ellen LaPine, recording secretary

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.



CHILDREN TO COMPLETE ONE PROJECT AND BEGIN ANOTHER

November brings the completion of our Peace Tree project and the beginning of learning about the history of our chalice and the designing of our own chalice.

We will also explore winter holidays here and abroad.

The end of the month will find us learning about the celebration of our Unitarian Universalist Seven Principles called Chalica.

Chalica starts the first Monday of December and continues for seven days to mark the Seven Principles. One thoughtful deed is to be done on each day to honor that day's Principle.

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

UU SEVEN PRINCIPLES

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote:

- the inherent worth and dignity of every person.
- justice, equity and compassion in human relations.
- acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.
- a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
- the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations

and in society at large.

- the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.
- respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

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, November 19. 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@twcny.rr.com or cperkins9@twcny.rr.com or via telephone at 315-668-6719.

**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.

PEACEFUL BLACK FRIDAY PROTEST PLANNED

The Social Justice Committee again this year is planning a Black Friday action on the sidewalk along Route 104 in front of the Oswego Walmart. We expect to march from 10 a.m. to noon on November 27.

The peaceful action will be part of a nationwide network of strikes and protests designed to show solidarity with low-wage workers in all fields and to urge Walmart, the world's largest retailer, to improve pay and other conditions.

Last year, six people held signs and marched in front of the Oswego Walmart. It was the first year the Social Justice Committee had organized a Black Friday action. The nearest actions usually are in Rochester and Ithaca.

Three of us walkers were church members and three were community members, so we believe the action answered a need in the community and also served as a vehicle for local residents to learn about our church and its activities.

Anyone is welcome to join us. Bring a sign; the national nonprofit Interfaith Worker Justice (iwj.org) provides some suggestions for slogans, and OUR Walmart (Organization United for Respect at Walmart, forrespect.org) offers additional information. Dress warmly and wear footwear with good traction in case there is any ice on the sidewalk.

According to the city of Oswego, we must keep moving, make sure not to block the sidewalk and refrain from harassing customers or anyone else (we wouldn't do that anyway!).

For more information, contact committee chairperson Nancy Hallock, njhallock@gmail.com, 675-8357, or Tracy Kinne, former Walmart worker, tracykinne@hotmail.com, 625-7965.

Thank you.
Tracy Kinne



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

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.

NOVEMBER 2015 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 topic: “St. Fred.” Random Acts of Kindness Sunday. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. 11:45 a.m., The UU Circle will host a potluck luncheon to celebrate the ordination of Andrea Abbott. 2 p.m., Ordination of Andrea Abbott. A reception will follow the ordination. 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.
- 2** – 5 to 7 p.m., 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.
- 8** – 9 a.m., Executive Board. 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 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.
- 9** – 5 to 7 p.m., 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.
- 11** – 7:15 to 8:45 p.m., The Spiritual Development Group meets at the home of Tim and Margaret Hart.
- 14** – 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Red Cross Blood Drive at our church.
- 15** – 9:30 a.m., Social Justice Committee meets. 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., Religious education program. 11:45 a.m., Social time. Drum Circle.
- 16** – 5 to 7 p.m., 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.
- 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.
- 23** – 5 to 7 p.m., 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.
- 25** – 7:15 to 8:45 p.m., The Spiritual Development Group meets at the home of Tim and Margaret Hart.
- 27** – 10 a.m. to noon, The Social Justice Committee will stage a Black Friday action in front of the Oswego Walmart.
- 29** – 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. Noon, Deadline to have articles for the next newsletter to Bob Haskell.
- 30** – 5 to 7 p.m., 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.

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