

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

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Church website:
http://www.
centralsquareuu.com

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



Photo courtesy of Village of Central Square

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, OCTOBER 26. 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.

STUDENT MINISTER SNIPPET

October means high autumn. Goldenrod and asters, apples hanging on the trees, pumpkins for sale at every farm I pass, all these autumn classics are spread before us. We all comment on the beauty of these days, filled with a golden sunshine that is somehow different from the sun in other seasons. And yet, as we talk about the beauty of this season, the next thing those of us in a certain age bracket say is, “but I dread what is coming.” We don’t have to name what we dread. Possibly the skiers and snowmobilers and other hearty winter types don’t say this, but all my friends do, as we imagine slippery sidewalks and snow-filled roads. We dread what is coming enough to take the joy from our autumn leaf watching and cider sipping. Living in this area is a constant reminder of the passage of time, the fleeting nature of life, and other cheery thoughts. However, with or without the reminder of the seasons, time does pass by and we are left to choose how we will deal with this fact of life. Will we let our awareness of time’s passing darken our enjoyment of the present or will we enjoy each day we have, each moment of beauty that we are given? Let us enjoy this autumn together and pause to savor every golden moment.



Andrea Abbott



THE REVEREND WEISSBARD TO SPEAK ABOUT THE POPE’S CHARISMA

The Rev. David Weissbard writes concerning his sermon for the service at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 4:

“I spent many hours last week watching Pope Francis barnstorm northeast America. There were many times I was moved and inspired, which is not to say that I am on the verge of conversion. Many people have been inspired by his words and actions and I believe it is worth considering that impact.

“My major research paper 51 years ago, when I was in theological school, was on the subject of charisma. I am processing the Pope’s visit in that context, and he certainly does provide a superb example. My title is ‘Charisma in Motion: Pope Francis in America’.

“Dave”

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.**

**SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 18**

The Executive Board of the First Universalist Society of Central Square has scheduled a short congregational meeting in the sanctuary immediately after the worship service on Sunday morning, October 18. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the ordination of our student minister, Andrea Abbott.

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.



SAVE THE DATE

The First Universalist Society is happy to announce the ordination of our student minister and friend, Andrea Abbott, at 2 p.m. on Sunday, November 1.

The ceremony will be preceded by a potluck luncheon at noon, and a reception will follow the ordination.

Your participation is needed and will be much appreciated.

There will be a short congregational meeting immediately following the Sunday service on October 18 to approve this auspicious event.

Thank you,
The Ordination Committee:
Winfield Ihlow, president
The Rev. Libbie Stoddard, minister emerita
Janie Garlow, vice president

PEACE COUNCIL TO CELEBRATE BIRTHDAY

Nancy Hallock is hosting a table at the Syracuse Peace Council's 79th Birthday Dinner on Saturday, October 3.

This means that she has set a table for 10 and is encouraging you to attend.

Nancy says the Peace Council serves a delicious vegetarian meal followed by entertainment. Nancy says it is a cool event and a big fundraiser for the Peace Council.

She encourages interested persons to contact her at 315-675-8357.

**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, September 13. We discussed some objectives for the coming year.

These included our sale at the Lioness Club of Central Square's 32nd Annual Apple Festival, Pure Water for the World, Guest at Your Table, the Syracuse Peace Council's 79th Birthday Dinner on Saturday, October 3, the Voices of Equality speaker series as part of a worship service, Mainstream Green (mainstreamgreen.org), and Faith for a Fair New York, which Tracy Kinne and Andrea Abbott will attend.

- Our Red Cross Blood Drive needs more volunteer commitment. This event is conducted once every two months, and Ellen LaPine doesn't have enough help on which to depend. Sign up ahead of time and put the blood drive on your calendar as a priority.
- The Social Justice Committee sold T-shirts, aprons and totes at the Central Square Apple Festival. The Festival was held from September 25 through 27.
- A donation of \$250 was made to Pure Water for the World, Inc. from our church. Pure Water, a non-profit organization, helps the underserved in developing countries by providing safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene education. The goal of Pure Water for the World, Inc. is to prevent children from suffering from water-borne diseases that cause pain and misery as a result of consuming contaminated water and improper hygiene habits. Pure Water does this by providing sustainable safe drinking water filtration systems, latrines and hygiene education to families and communities in developing countries. Our donations have gone to help efforts in Haiti.



— Photo by Janie Garlow

- The Faith for a Fair New York retreat is sponsored by the Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State, New York State Council of Churches, Reform Jewish Voice of New York, the New York State Episcopal Policy Network and New York State Interfaith Impact. The retreat will be held at the Dominican Retreat Center in Niskayuna, just outside Albany, and will run from 5 p.m. on Sunday, October 11, through 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13.



- The next Adopt-a-Highway pickup is scheduled for Sunday, October 18, starting at 8:30 a.m. at the church. Sign up soon. Volunteers need to wear work gloves and old shoes and old clothes. We will have a short Social Justice Committee meeting afterwards. Feel free to attend.

Nancy Hallock, committee chairperson

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.

GREEN MINUTE: BIRD FLU

Thanksgiving is next month. Traditionally many people have turkey to eat on this wonderful holiday. Do you know how your turkey was raised?

Earlier this year there was a 15-state outbreak of bird flu. In response, farm and government workers in hazmat suits used lethal gas and foams to “depopulate” entire barns of poultry, and the first million to die were turkeys. 31 million laying hens were put down in an attempt to stop the spread of the virus, and in the end 50 million total birds were killed. The United States Department of Agriculture suggested that winds were what helped spread the virus.



If you’re a turkey or a chicken on a factory farm, you eat processed corn and soy products infused with synthetic vitamins, not your natural diet of greens, bugs and worms. You have radiant heaters to keep you warm instead of sunlight because you never go outside the barn and you live in crowded conditions where the filth

and ammonia in the air makes breathing difficult. If you’re lucky enough to be raised on a pasture poultry farm, you eat a natural diet. You spend your time outside so you see and feel the sun and, according to the American Pastured Poultry Producers Association, sunlight kills the bird flu virus. Pasture-raised birds are also able to move around whereas factory-farmed birds live in cramped manure-filled barns which, of course, are conditions that make it easy for viruses and bacteria to spread and mutate into virulent strains.

I did a Web search for “pasture-raised turkey Syracuse NY” and got a few responses from 2014, so there are local options but I’d suggest that once the holiday gets closer you do this search to get up-to-date information. If you go to the farmers’ market, ask the vendor if the bird was pasture-raised. You will pay more but you’ll most likely get a much healthier bird for your Thanksgiving table.

Ellen LaPine,
Outreach Committee

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 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.

CHILDREN TO BEGIN PEACE TREE JOURNEY

October will be a busy month, beginning with our annual angel release (milkweed pods, the wind and glass balls to keep a memory).

We will then begin our Peace Tree journey. By empowering our children with knowledge of diversity and sameness in religions and culture, we give them the opportunity to become peace makers.

Our Tree will become an altar piece as we continue our lessons and our personal mandalas, celebrating our unity and our uniqueness through art.

As always, all are welcome in our classroom.

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



OPEN DRUM CIRCLE

There will be an open drum circle at our church from 3 until 5 p.m. on Sunday, October 18.

This circle is free, open to the public and welcomes people of all drumming abilities. People who have not ever drummed before, but are curious, are also welcome to attend. There will be a few drums to share.

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, October 15.

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.



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.

IMPORTANT REQUEST FOR THE BLOOD DRIVE, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 8 A.M. - 1 P.M.

I want to start by giving a huge thank you to everyone who has helped with the Red Cross blood drives during these past couple of years. Your help has been so very important for this much needed community service and is greatly appreciated.

The important request is for volunteers to sign up for our next blood drive which will take place on Saturday, November 14. I will be placing a sign-up sheet in the dining room in October, which is earlier than usual to sign up to help with this drive. It has been difficult during our last few drives to get enough volunteers to cover each shift without someone spending the entire day at the drive. Please look at your calendar and see if you can volunteer for a couple of hours on that day and then sign up on the sheet in the dining room or contact me and I will put you on the sign-up sheet.

Thank you for your help.



Ellen LaPine

Social Justice Committee Blood Drive Coordinator

BOARD SPLINTERS

The Executive Board met on Sunday, September 13.

Treasurer Marcia Burrell-Ihlow noted that a payment of \$675 had been made toward the church's Fair Share to the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) and the St. Lawrence Unitarian Universalist District (SLUDD).

The sanctuary was the most recent area to receive a thorough cleaning. It was decided that the hallways and floors will be the next areas.

The Board will be looking into continuing the work to help preserve our beautiful windows by installing hardware cloth on the outside of more of the windows now that there is \$400 in the Window Fund.

The next Board meeting will be at 9 a.m. on Sunday, October 1.



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.



A POPULAR TIME

Ronna Schindler, Religious Education Committee chairperson and older children's teacher, reads a story to an attentive gathering of children during the service at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 27.

— Photo by Janie Garlow

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.

OCTOBER 2015 CALENDAR

- 4** – 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. Sermon title: “Charisma in Motion: Pope Francis in America.” 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.
- 5** – 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** – 8:30 a.m., Worship Committee meets at the home of Nancy and Bob Haskell.
- 11** – 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. 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.
- 12** – 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.
- 14** – 7:15 to 8:45 p.m., The Spiritual Development Group meets at the home of Tim and Margaret Hart.
- 15** – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread, Route 31, Clay.
- 18** – 8:30 a.m., Adopt-a-Highway pickup, followed by a short meeting of the Social Justice Committee. 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., Special congregational meeting in the sanctuary. 12:15 p.m., Social time. The choir will also conduct its monthly rehearsal in the sanctuary. 3 to 5 p.m., Open drum circle.
- 19** – 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** – 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.
- 26** – 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.
- 28** – 7:15 to 8:45 p.m., The Spiritual Development Group meets at the home of Tim and Margaret Hart.

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.

CHOIR BEGINS A NEW SEASON

The choir is in full swing again now that we have entered into autumn. We will be working on some unison and multipart pieces that I'm sure everyone will enjoy.

Although our next monthly rehearsal will be at 12:15 p.m. on Sunday, October 18, monthly rehearsals will normally be at noon on the second Sunday of each month. These rehearsals will be in addition to our weekly rehearsals at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays.

We have some wonderful voices in our choir, but we are always open to new members. Anyone who would like to try out for a Sunday is welcome!

Leigh Parry-Benedict, music coordinator



A NOTE OF THANKS

Thanks to these people for volunteering to serve as greeters on Sunday mornings: Judy and George Tennant, September 27, and Winfield Ihlow, October 4.

Thanks to these people for volunteering to host the social times on Sunday mornings: Judy and George Tennant, September 27, and Janet Jenkins, October 4.



Volunteers are needed to serve as greeters on Sunday mornings. Anyone with any questions is invited to contact Chet Perkins via e-mail at cperkins9@twcny.rr.com or via telephone at 315-668-6719.

Volunteers are also needed to host the social time on Sunday mornings. Anyone with any questions is invited to contact Judy Tennant via e-mail at gtennant001@twcny.rr.com or via telephone at 315-638-5357.

The Spiritual Committee invites anyone who wishes to place flowers near the pulpit for the morning service on Sundays to do so.

UU CIRCLE PLANS LUNCHEON

The UU Circle is planning a potluck luncheon to celebrate the ordination of Andrea Abbott on Sunday, November 1. We hope that everyone can make it. We will be circulating a sign-up sheet.

Ann Peterson, UU Circle

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