

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

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, SEPTEMBER 28. 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

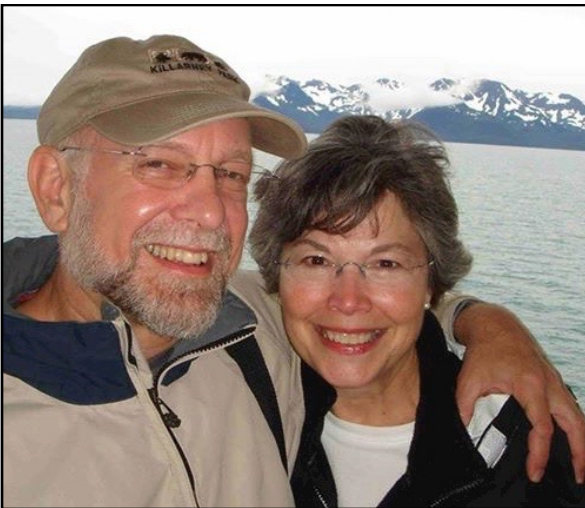
Just as we look for signs of spring, so now do we look, not so joyfully, for signs of fall? Is that maple tree turning red? Did you see the geese flying over? Have you noticed how early it gets dark? Fall has great beauty, everyone agrees about that, but once that has been acknowledged, the next words are always, "But you know what's coming next." Yes, we do and we also know that, at the end of winter, we will have the joy of looking for signs of spring. The drama of the seasons is much like the drama of our lives, cold and heat, days of bleak despair and days of wild abundance. I guess that's why we stay here. Here we mingle our lives to help each other through the dreary months of our lives and to share the joys of our days of flowers and sunshine.



For us, September marks the beginning of our church year. We come back from adventures far and near and prepare to shape what the year ahead will bring to us and to our church. This year will be marked by our new step railings which promise to bring stability and beauty to our way into the church. I hope the stability and beauty will follow us through the door and be our guides, not only to enter the church, but also to inform our actions, to remind us to reach new heights in our thoughts and deeds. I look forward to Incoming Sunday September 13th when we will dedicate our new railings and celebrate Water Communion, the mingling of our lives, our ideas and our hopes, with each other.

Andrea Abbott

THE REVEREND ADAMS TO SPEAK ON SEPTEMBER 6



The Rev. Joseph I. "Bud" Adams Jr. will lead the service at our church at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 6.

He has chosen as his sermon title "The Dark Night of Our Soul."

Having spoken at our church on several occasions, "Bud" is no stranger to our congregation.

He also served as minister of the First Baptist Church of Central Square from July 2001 to July 2012.

"Bud" received a master of divinity degree from the Central Baptist Theological Seminary.

Earlier, he had graduated from The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, where he majored in computer and information science.

In 1967 he graduated from Ford High School in his hometown of Royersford, Pennsylvania.

He and his wife, the Rev. Tanya Atwood-Adams, now live in Fayetteville.

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.

BLOOD DRIVE, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 8 A.M. - 1 P.M.

Labor Day is the unofficial end to summer but the need for blood donations knows no season. In appreciation of your commitment to help patients in our community, the Red Cross is



partnering with Sport Clips Haircuts for men by providing an e-mail coupon for a free haircut to those who donate during September.

Please consider taking an hour of your time from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Saturday, September 12, to donate blood at our church. You will be able to give either whole blood or double red cells during this drive.

You can make an appointment by using the sign-up sheet that is in the dining room, visiting www.redcrossblood.org or by calling 1-800-REDCROSS. Walk-ins are also quite welcome.

We need volunteers to help during the drive. There is a sign-up sheet in the dining room if you can help. Please contact Ellen LaPine if you have any questions. Thank you,

Social Justice Committee

BOARD SPLINTERS

The Executive Board met on August 8.

There was much discussion about publicity and revamping our website. Tracy Kinne has taken over publicity in newspapers and other media, and results have been positive. It was also acknowledged that the website is quite often the way that new people find us, so making it more appealing is quite important as we work toward gaining new members. We discussed some of the hurdles of getting people to church on Sunday, such as competing with school sports. We also discussed including more information on the Facebook page and website about religious education programs for both children and adults. In the end, a motion was approved to spend up to \$300 in revamping our website.

There was also considerable discussion about buildings and grounds. At the time of the meeting, the contractor was still working on the front stair railings and expected to install the new railings soon. In the coming year painting the sanctuary ceiling will be explored. It was decided that the sanctuary will be the next area of the church that will be concentrated on as part of our quarterly extensive cleaning. There will also be added attention given to the entrances to the church on a regular basis.

The next Board meeting will be on Sunday, September 13.

Ellen LaPine

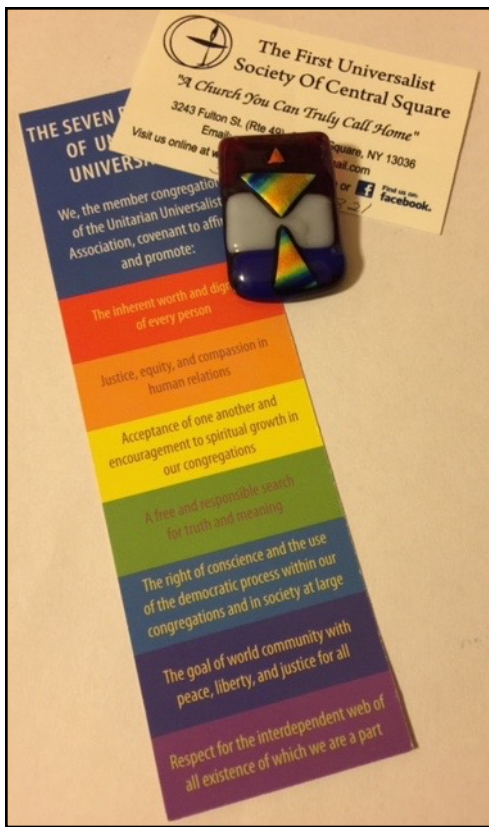
UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

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.

OUR CHURCH PARTICIPATES IN THE VILLAGE CELEBRATION

The Village of Central Square is observing its Quasiquicentennial (125 years) this year with a celebration on Saturday, September 12. The village is gathering items for a time capsule to be opened in 2090. Our church has added a fused dichroic glass flaming chalice crafted by Ronna Schindler and our Seven Principles.

Who will be around when the capsule is opened in 75 years?



INTERFAITH DINNER DIALOGUES SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

InterFaith Works' Dinner Dialogues will be held at various local host residences in and around Syracuse from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 17.

Gathering over a meal and discussing a number of questions, diverse individuals offer their personal thoughts about faith and spirituality. A trained facilitator guides and moderates the dialogue so participants feel comfortable sharing their thoughts.

Dialogue hosts provide a simple vegetarian dinner. Eating together is a symbolic act of tolerance, respect and understanding, as well as an outward expression of unity among those with varied beliefs and religious traditions.

Participation is free. Join us as we share, listen and learn how we as a community are united together. For more information about hosting, facilitating or attending, contact Daryl Files at 315-449-3552, extension 208, or e-mail dfiles@interfaithworkscny.org.

The Rev. Margaret Hart has been to five of these gatherings in the last decade, and highly recommends them. If someone wants to attend, but wants to go with someone, he or she is encouraged to contact her.

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: 10 USES FOR COFFEE GROUNDS

We UUs love our coffee. So what do you do with all of those coffee grounds? According to the “This Old House” website there are at least 10 things to use them for.

Scouring Pots – place grounds in a thin cloth, scour and rinse well.



Paper – make a watery mix of grounds and water, soak the paper, then let dry and next brush off any remaining grounds.

Repelling Insects – put a ring of grounds around plants to ward off slugs and ants.

Turn Mophead Hydrangeas Blue – work grounds into the soil to increase acidity.

Hide Scratches On Dark Furniture – dip a cotton swab in steeped grounds and apply to the scratch.

Deodorize the Fridge – place a bowl of dried grounds in your refrigerator or freezer to absorb odors.

Feed Plants – stir grounds into the soil or in a watering can to give seedlings a nitrogen boost.

Cockroach Trap – place 1 or 2 inches of moistened grounds in a can or jar, then line the top of the container with very sticky double sided tape. The scent of the grounds draws roaches to the trap.

Hand Scrub – rub a scoop of grounds between your hands to exfoliate and to remove smells such as fish or garlic.

Control Ashes – dump grounds on fireplace ashes to control the dust as you sweep them up.

Of course, if you compost them after using them to make coffee and one of the ways above you get three uses for your grounds.

Ellen LaPine
Outreach Committee

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP

The Spiritual Development Group meets from 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. on alternate Wednesdays at the home of Tim and Margaret Hart. It will meet again on Wednesday, September 2.

Please contact Tim via e-mail at timhart@a-znet.com or via telephone at 315-439-2541 if you plan to attend, or have questions about the group.

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.

SAVE THE DATE

The First Universalist Society is happy to announce the ordination/installation 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 after the Sunday service, and a reception will follow the ordination.

The planning committee is open to ideas and looks forward to your participation.

We the congregation will be ordaining Andrea, so a short congregational meeting will be announced soon to make this auspicious event official.

Thank you,

The Ordination Committee:

Winfield Ihlow, president

The Rev. Libbie Stoddard, minister emerita

Janie Garlow, vice president

A CHANGE IN OFFICE HOURS; SANCTUARY TO BE OPEN

Beginning September 14th, Andrea Abbott will change her office hours from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursdays to 5 to 7 p.m. on Mondays.

At this time, the sanctuary will be open for anyone who wishes to use it for a time of reflection, prayer or meditation. Silence and solitude are difficult to find in today's world and we wish to offer the use of our sanctuary for anyone, of any religion or none, to have some time alone for reflection. You may be there for the whole two hours or for five minutes, whatever your need is that day. There will be no organized service. If you would like to speak with Andrea, she will be available, but if you would rather spend some time alone, your desire for solitude will be respected.

As always, if you wish to speak with Andrea at times other than her office hours, she will be happy to set up an appointment to speak with you. Please contact her via phone at 315-635-7122 or 315-857-1086 or via e-mail at andrea279@verizon.net. Anyone meeting with Andrea is asked to park in the handicapped parking area on the west side of the church.

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.



THANK YOU, MARK

Our church is forever grateful to Mark Kringer for making and installing our new front door church railings. Mark crafted our Unitarian Universalist symbol, the Flaming Chalice, on each side. Mark is Ronna Schindler's brother and Grace Bristol's son. He is a member of the Methodist church in Cleveland, New York. Our old railings were very unstable and very dangerous to use. Mark said our new railings will last 200 years. The congregation will dedicate the new railings during Incoming Sunday on September 13. If you are in Central Square, drive by and take a look, or better yet, come to church if you haven't seen the railings already.

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.

CONGREGATION TO CELEBRATE WATER COMMUNION

Andrea Abbott will lead the congregation in a Water Communion observance during the service at 10:30 a.m. on Incoming Sunday, September 13.

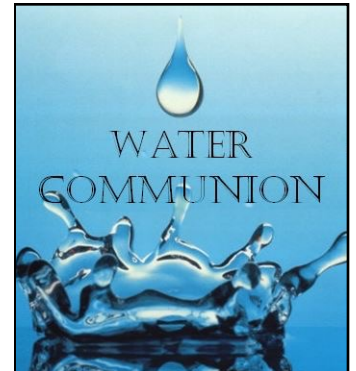
As the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) reports, “There are two holidays that many Unitarian Universalist congregations celebrate that are unique to our faith: the Water Communion and the Flower Communion. Both holidays are ceremonies that celebrate our Unitarian Universalist community and the importance of each individual’s unique contributions to that community.

“The Water Communion, also sometimes called the Water Ceremony, was first used at a Unitarian Universalist worship service in the 1980s. Many UU congregations now hold a Water Communion once a year, often at the beginning of the new church year (September).

“Members bring to the service a small amount of water from a place that is special to them. During the appointed time in the service, people one by one pour their water together into a large bowl. As the water is added, the person who brought it tells why this water is special to them. The combined water is symbolic of our shared faith coming from many different sources. It is often then blessed by the congregation, and sometimes is later boiled and used as the congregation’s ‘holy water’ in child dedication ceremonies and similar events.”

Thus, each person in our congregation is asked to collect a small vial of water (a film canister is a good size) during the summer, and to pour the water into a common vessel, while speaking briefly about the water’s significance, during the Water Communion.

Andrea has said, “Please remember to collect a sample of water that reflects any journeys made over the summer. Water from your kitchen faucet is fine as well, because many of the most important journeys are done at home.”



A NOTE OF THANKS

Thanks to these people for volunteering to serve as greeters on Sunday mornings: Priscilla Sparks and Susan Woods, August 30; Marcia Burrell-Ihlow and Winfield Ihlow, September 6; and Judy and George Tennant, September 27.

Thanks to these people for volunteering to host the social times on Sunday mornings: Priscilla Sparks and Susan Woods, August 30; Marcia Burrell-Ihlow and Winfield Ihlow, September 6; Mary Fran Yafchak, September 20; and Judy and George Tennant, September 27.

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES RESUME SEPTEMBER 13



Summer passes so quickly.

Formal religious education classes will start up again on Sunday, September 13.

We have a full year ahead of us.

We will be exploring our Unitarian Universalist identities as individuals and as a congregation, creating our classroom covenant, connecting our Seven Principles to our everyday life and how we live our faith.

There will also be many impromptu activities and discussions as our young ones question their own identities.

Our classroom is always open, so come on back and check things out.

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

CHOIR TO BEGIN A NEW SEASON

As we enter into the fall, the choir will be up in full swing again! We will be working on some unison and multipart pieces that I'm sure everyone will enjoy.

Monthly rehearsals will start up again at noon on the second Sunday of each month and 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! Our first monthly rehearsal will be at noon on Sunday, September 13. I hope to see you there!



Leigh Parry-Benedict, music coordinator

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, September 17. 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.

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.



THE REVEREND WEISSBARD TO SPEAK ABOUT “AMERICA’S TALIBAN”

The Rev. David Weissbard writes concerning his sermon for the Sunday, September 20, service:

“On September 20th I will address ‘America’s Taliban’. Jesus of Nazareth is said to have asked, ‘Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?’ I would not suggest that the Muslim Taliban represent a ‘speck’, but we seem to have difficulty recognizing the danger represented by their American cousins who seek to do to us what the Taliban have done in their culture. I hope you’ll be with us!

“Dave”

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 will be observed on Sunday, September 6.
The fund is administered by Andrea Abbott and Executive Board members.

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

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.

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

We need not think alike to love alike. We are people of many beliefs and backgrounds: people with a religious background, people with none, people who believe in a God, people who don't, and people who let the mystery be.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

We have a meeting scheduled for after the service on Sunday, September 13. The rest of the year we are aiming for the second Sunday of each month. Everyone is invited to attend. We will continue with our work on workers' rights and will discuss other issues you may want to address as a group. There will be a highway pickup in October, and more information will follow.

Nancy Hallock, chairperson

SOME CHANGES IN OUTREACH, PUBLICITY

As everyone probably knows, efforts are under way to increase outreach and membership. Part of that will involve revamping the church website and continuing the use of social media, as well as more traditional media.

The consensus is that the website and social media most likely will be a visitor's first contact with the church. Members of the membership and outreach committees, chaired by Chet Perkins and Nancy Hallock, respectively, are exploring options for redesigning the church website and maintaining it. Suggestions and help are welcome. Contact Chet, Nancy, Janie and Steve Garlow, who maintain the Facebook page, or Andrea Abbott, student-minister-turned-recent-seminary-graduate.

There will be a change in responsibilities for the more traditional, "old" media of newspapers, radio and television, and their affiliated websites. Tracy Kinne will submit information to these outlets.

Good candidates for traditional publicity include special events such as the recent stained-glass presentation, Voices for Worker Equality programs, the recent solar energy program, blood drives, the Renaissance holiday musical performance and the free community Christmas dinner. Some events that coincide with major religious observances or that include other churches also have a possibility of being broadcast or printed, such as our Maundy Thursday service or community ecumenical services in which we participate at Thanksgiving or Ash Wednesday.

Tracy needs to have information three weeks before an event.

Again, to offer input on the church website and social media, contact:

Chet Perkins, cperkins9@twcny.rr.com, 668-6719

Nancy Hallock, njhallock@gmail.com, 675-8357

Janie Garlow, mjgarlow@aol.com, 436-2238

Steve Garlow, stvn723@aol.com, 396-1363

Andrea Abbott, andrea279@verizon.net, 635-7122

To submit an item to local newspapers, radio and television, contact:

Tracy Kinne, tracykinne@hotmail.com, 625-7965

Unitarian Universalists welcome you: your whole self, with all your truths and your doubts, your worries and your hopes.

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

SEPTEMBER 2015 CALENDAR

- 2 – 7:15 to 8:45 p.m., The Spiritual Development Group meets at the home of Tim and Margaret Hart.
- 3 – 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.
- 6 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., the Rev. Bud Adams leads the worship service. Sermon title: “The Dark Night of Our Soul.” Random Acts of Kindness. 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.
- 10 – 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.
- 12 – 8 a.m. until 1 p.m., Red Cross Blood Drive at our church.
- 13 – 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. Incoming Sunday, featuring the dedication of our new railings and the celebration of Water Communion. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program begins its new church year. 11:45 a.m., Social time. 11:45 a.m., Social Justice Committee. 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 – 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.
- 16 – 7:15 to 8:45 p.m., The Spiritual Development Group meets at the home of Tim and Margaret Hart.
- 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. David Weissbard leads the worship service. David has chosen as his sermon topic “America’s Taliban.” 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. 11:45 a.m., Social time.
- 21 – 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.
- 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., 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.
- 30 – 7:15 to 8:45 p.m., The Spiritual Development Group meets at the home of Tim and Margaret Hart.

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