



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.
Phone: 315-668-6821 E-mail: uucentralsquare@gmail.com
Church Web site: <http://www.centralsquareuu.com>

Photo courtesy of Village of Central Square

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

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

SEPTEMBER 2014

STUDENT MINISTER SNIPPET

Just saying “September” conjures up for millions, maybe billions, the word “school.” This is true not just for current students but for teachers, administrators, support staff and parents. As the calendar flies past August, many of us may revisit our own response to our institutions of learning, our own memories of what it was like to be a learner. For me, this is most on my mind because this is no memory. I will be going back to seminary, and, for the first time in many, many years, I will be a full-time student. So I am pausing to examine my own attitudes toward being taught and I find they are mixed. On the one hand, I welcome the challenge and intellectual nurturing that I have received at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. On the other hand, as I look out at a beautiful bright blue late summer day, I realize how much I value my own time to enjoy and explore at my own pace. I know that I have learned more within the structure of seminary than I could ever have learned on my own. I have loved every class I’ve taken, enjoyed the readings, but the necessary papers and evaluations fill me with much anxiety. This is the process, however, the necessary pressure that does bring out the best, the challenge that makes me think more clearly and that trains me to be more rigorous as I learn. And so, to all my fellow students out there, I wish us all courage and the spirit of adventure as we journey down whatever path we are following. To all teachers and other school personnel, may you always remember what it was like to learn as well as to teach and may you always find joy in your essential work.

Andrea Abbott

A CHANGE IN OFFICE HOURS

Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursdays rather than on Mondays or Tuesdays as in the past.

Anyone meeting with Andrea is asked to park in the handicapped parking area on the west side of the church.

If you need to speak to Andrea at other times, please contact her to make an appointment via phone at 315-635-7122 or 315-857-1086 or via e-mail at andrea279@verizon.net.

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

A SERMON BY THE REVEREND WEISSBARD

The Rev. David Weissbard writes concerning his sermon for the September 7 service:

There is a down-side for a preacher who is only in the pulpit once a month: how to decide. There was the tragic death of the brilliant Robin Williams; the killing of 1,600 Palestinian civilians (men, women and children) by the Israeli government while 3 Israeli civilians have died; and the police killing of Mike Brown and the initial use of militarized police (with Israeli-trained leadership) to try to shut down the demonstrations. Each of these has religious ramifications that scream to be addressed.

I'm going to "bite the bullet," as it were, and stick with the first for my next sermon. More than twice as many people in America die from suicide each year as from homicide. We don't know what to make of it. While I certainly do not have "the answer," I have had some experience and done a lot of thinking about "The Permanent Answer to (Sometimes) Transient Challenges." I'll share what I have learned.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Hello from the Social Justice Committee.

We met at the church on Monday, August 18. Those present were Ann Peterson, Janie Garlow, Janet Jenkins, Andrea Abbott, Tracy Kinne and myself.

I will start with a BIG "thank you" to Ellen LaPine for coordinating the Red Cross Blood Drive on July 12. I think the next blood drive is scheduled for September 13. Also, a "thank you" goes to everyone who volunteered for the Adopt-a-Highway pickup on July 13, walking and picking up trash, and returning the signs to Mexico.

Tracy has arranged for two more speakers on the worker equality issue. Both will talk after the church service. The first will speak on November 2, and the second in January 2015. Tracy will provide details on each guest.

A Black Friday action against the unfair policies and practices of a local Big Box store is in the research stage.

We are contracting with Aaron Jenkins to print T-shirts and aprons that we will sell as a fundraiser for the Social Justice Committee. We'll share these items with you as samples become available.

I am ordering Equal Exchange coffee, by the case, this week. Check out coffee and other foods from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) at www.equalexchange.coop/uusc. Contact me real soon at njhallock@gmail.com or 675-8357.

That's all for now. Come to our next meeting, at 9 a.m. on Sunday, September 14.

Nancy Hallock

FALL CHOIR NOTES

This September will be the restart for regular choir rehearsals. The choir will have its regular once-a-month rehearsal at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 4. The choir meets on the first Thursday of each month and on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. before the regular service.

The choir is open to anyone who enjoys singing; no previous experience is necessary! I can work with all skill levels. The more voices we have, the merrier. So come on out and give it a try!

Leigh Parry-Benedict, music coordinator

A NOTE OF THANKS

Thanks to these people for volunteering to host the social times: Ronna and Kurt Schindler, August 17;

Janie Garlow, August 24; and Priscilla Sparks and Susan Woods, August 31.

Thanks to Susan Jennings for volunteering to serve as a greeter on August 24.

Thanks to Barbara Kamerance for providing flowers in the sanctuary weekly.

JACQUELINE LECLAIR WEDS GABRIEL HOUGH

The Rev. Libbie D. Stoddard officiated at the wedding of Jacqueline Kaye LeClair and Gabriel Thomas Hough in Oswego on Friday, August 22.

The bride is the daughter of Virginia Glahn, a member of our congregation, and Paul LeClair and the stepdaughter of Charles Glahn. The bridegroom is the son of Sandra and Thomas Hough.

Jacqueline and Gabriel have a son, Liam Gabriel Hough, a year old.

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM TO BEGIN NEW YEAR

September is fast approaching and with it the beginning of a new school year. Religious education classes will start up again on Sunday, September 7. Our main curriculum, Faithful Journeys, will include our Unitarian Universalist principles and their connection with social action in the community and around the world and how we even as a small congregation can make a big difference.

This month we will be taking part in a worldwide project called Pinwheels for Peace. We hope to get the entire congregation involved. Each month will include a different principle and project to be part of. Let us help our children find their way to a more loving future for themselves and others.

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

GREEN MINUTE: CONFLICT MINERALS

You may have heard of conflict or blood diamonds which refer to diamonds that originate in war-torn areas and that are sold to buy arms or in other ways to finance a conflict. Diamonds are not the only minerals involved in this trade. Tantalum is a key component of cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc. that use miniature circuit boards. Tantalum and other minerals such as tin, tungsten and gold are mined in a number of countries, including the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where the minerals are often extracted by using forced and child labor. Besides financing this type of slavery, the mining also funds the protracted and bloody conflict in the DRC that has claimed an estimated 5.4 million lives according to a 2007 mortality survey by the International Rescue Committee. War crimes in this country include the use of child soldiers and the massacre of civilians. Tantalum mining has also devastated the population of the Eastern Mountain Gorillas because they are hunted by the isolated miners for food.

In August 2012 the Securities and Exchange Commission published new regulations relating to the Dodd-Frank Act which required electronics manufacturers to trace and disclose where potential conflict minerals in their products are sourced. Companies had to file their first disclosure report by May 31, 2014, and annually on May 31 thereafter. Time will tell if this regulation amounts to real change.

Considering that these minerals are in many of the devices that we rely on every day, what do we do? Let's consider your cell phone. Ask yourself if it still works, and if it does, use it for as long as you can instead of replacing it every time a new model comes out. If it doesn't work, check iFixIt.com which promotes fixing electronics rather than tossing them out. This helps people extend their product's life, saves money, lessens the environmental impact and reduces the use of conflict minerals. If the device can't be fixed, find an e-Stewards recycler at e-Stewards.org, or take it to a Best Buy or Staples store. These stores send old electronics only to e-Stewards-certified recycling facilities.

Ellen LaPine, Outreach Committee

UU CIRCLE TO HOST LUNCHEON

Mark your calendar for a potluck luncheon on Sunday, September 28.

Celebrate the time of harvest and the equinox by sharing food with friends and catching up on what we have been doing during the summer months.

Ann Peterson, secretary-treasurer

BOOK CLUB NOTE

I would like to hear from all who are interested in continuing the Book Club, including suggestions on books, now that our summer hiatus is over.

We can discuss ideas for where and when to meet and other details.

Nancy Hallock, chairperson

DRUM CIRCLE

The Drum Circle will gather after coffee hour on Sunday, September 21.

There will be drums, maracas and rhythm sticks to share.

Everyone is welcome. Come and play, or just relax with the rhythms.

Ann Peterson

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.

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 Wednesday, September 17.

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

For more information about the group, you may contact Mary or Chet Perkins. Everyone is invited to attend.

SEPTEMBER 2013 CALENDAR

4 – 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church. 6:30 p.m., The choir will conduct its monthly rehearsal in the sanctuary.

7 – 9 a.m., Executive Board meeting. 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: “The Permanent Answer to (Sometimes) Transient Challenges.” Random Acts of Kindness. 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.

11 – 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

14 – 9 a.m., Social Justice Committee. 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.

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

18 – 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

21 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., Worship service. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. 11:45 a.m., Social time. 12:15 p.m., Drum Circle.

25 – 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

28 – 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., UU Circle will host a 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.

DON'T FORGET THAT MEMO LINE!

When you are writing a check for the church, please write on the memo line the purpose for which the check is being written. For example: Pledge, Fair Share, Random Acts of Kindness, Window Fund. Such action makes it easier to record the check in its proper place.

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed to serve as greeters on Sunday mornings. Anyone with any questions is invited to speak with Chet Perkins. Volunteers are

also needed to host the social time on Sunday mornings. Anyone with any questions is invited to speak with Judy Tennant. The Spiritual Committee invites anyone who wishes to place flowers near the pulpit for the morning service on Sundays to do so.

RETURN THOSE BOTTLES

You may continue to help the environment and make money for the Outreach Committee by leaving your returnable bottles at the church. A barrel into which to place your bottles stands near the entrance to the church kitchen.

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.