



# 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](mailto: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
Robert Haskell, President	315-635-5294	Winfield Ihlow, Vice President	315-342-5939

AUGUST 2013

### STUDENT MINISTER SNIPPET

August is here, high summer. I think I can see the flowering vine outside my window grow and climb as I watch it. All around the neighborhood, lawnmowers whir, busy in their never-ending battle with grass that seems to sprout a foot each day. Growth and energy are all being produced and stored, ready for us to harvest and use for our own growth and energy. It is amazing to think of the sun, the rain and the earth captured and transformed before our very eyes. That is magic.

I recently was witness to another kind of magic. My sister-in-law, her daughter and granddaughter visited us from Alaska and I discovered how much out of practice I am with 2-year olds. The entire energy output of the sun is nothing compared to the energy output of a 2-year-old. Why we have not somehow tapped into this as an alternative energy source baffles me. And, speaking of growth! It was amazing to watch how much she grew and learned in just the few weeks they were with us. It was wonderful to see her learn new words, try out different expressions and motor skills and figure out how to undo all the child-proofing I had attempted.

It made me wonder when all of that curiosity and development starts to slow down. Is it when we can navigate the world adequately and get into forbidden places with ease? Is it when we go to school and are told what we are to learn rather than to have the thrill of independent discovery? Is there a way to recapture that joy in growing and learning when we have grey hair and creaky joints? I'd like to think that our church gives us that open, receptive attitude, a way of greeting the world with the spirit of a child, no matter how old we get.

Andrea Abbott

### THE REVEREND WEISSBARD TO TAKE A DIFFERENT DIRECTION

The Rev. David Weissbard writes concerning his sermon for the service at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 4: "Speaking two consecutive Sundays for the first time (I acknowledge that Libbie Stoddard did three in a row this spring), I thought it would be well to go in a very different direction next Sunday. I am going to be exploring what some see as an oxymoron: 'Enthusiastic Religious Liberalism'."

Please have articles for the next newsletter to Bob Haskell by no later than NOON on MONDAY, AUGUST 26. Bob would be grateful if everyone would not wait until the last minute to submit articles. His e-mail address is [rhaskell@twcny.rr.com](mailto:rhaskell@twcny.rr.com). His postal address is 29 Grove Street, Baldwinsville, NY 13027-2332. His telephone number is 315-635-5294.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE, OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Social Justice Subcommittee did not meet during July. Our August meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 18.

The donations for Pure Water for the World continue to go well with coins from the collection plate and returnables. Last week I turned in 324 cans and bottles good for \$22.68, thanks to the campers here who don't return their cans and bottles. Nancy Haskell continues to be our official coin roller. I will send in a contribution soon and report the amount.

The Adopt-a-Highway pickup was completed on Saturday, July 27. The fall/third pickup will be in October. The date is to be announced.

As noted in the newsletter, the magazine exchange and Downstairs Scotty donations continue. I am suggesting that you watch for "Back to School supplies" sales (already in some advertisements) and add those to the Scotty box.

I have a good film that helps us see the plight of the migrant worker, entitled "After the Harvest." I will show it at the church if any interest is shown, and maybe at a community presentation. Thanks to Tracy Kinne for keeping us informed about some of the many problems with which the Workers' Center of Central New York deals.

I have received only two calls with support for the Book Club. Maybe someone has another idea. We could contribute our individual recent "good reads" in the newsletter. Some of us might consider joining a local library club, such as one at Cicero.

That's all for now. Miss you all, because my summer church attendance is poor. But I'm certainly enjoying the lake and family.

Nancy Hallock, Outreach Committee chairperson

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## GREEN MINUTE: WHAT DO YOU DO WITH ALL OF THAT ZUCCHINI

It's that time of year when we have an abundance of zucchini and summer squash from our gardens, or our neighbors and co-workers have an abundance that they can't wait to share. Just surf the Web and you'll find lots of ideas. I'll just offer a few suggestions; if something sounds good, just look it up in your favorite search engine and you'll find lots of "how to" info.

Zucchini bread is the go to way to use up lots of zucchini for many people. Try recipes that include chocolate, cinnamon, nuts or maybe dried fruits.

Slice it, brush it with olive oil, and grill. Add your favorite veggies and spices or maybe some cheese.

Cut off the top like a boat; bake it; scoop out the insides; mix with spices, plain yogurt, bacon or sausage; stuff back in the boat; and bake again.

How about zucchini brownies, cookies or zucchini blueberry pancakes.

Pickle it. Marinade it. Use it as a substitute for pasta. Try zucchini lasagna.

Use it raw like a cucumber in salads and snacks.

Be sneaky. Add it to your favorite comfort food recipes for moisture, bulk and calorie reduction.

Give them to your teachers, the mailman, the UPS driver, your doctor, the clerk at the hardware store, maybe even your favorite minister.

Best of all, donate them to your local food pantry. It is best to check first, but some are able to distribute fresh vegetables to those in need of good, nourishing food.

Good luck and while you are surfing the Web for zucchini ideas, don't forget to look for ideas on how to use the bumper crop of cherry tomatoes you'll have next month. My favorite way to use them is to mill them to make homemade tomato juice. Sweet and delicious!

Ellen LaPine, Outreach Committee

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## 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 kitchen.

Nancy Hallock, committee chairperson, is returning deposit bottles and cans for the committee treasury.

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

## MEMBERSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE, OUTREACH COMMITTEE

A "Conversation About Our Church" workshop is being planned after the church service on Sunday, August 11, for those who are interested in joining the church or who would just like to learn more about the church. There will be a Membership Sunday in early September for those joining the church.

We thank Lucy and Arny Stieber, Ann Peterson and Marcia Burrell-Ihlow for offering to serve as greeters on Sunday mornings. We need more volunteers. Contact Janie Garlow, Barbara Kamerance or Chet Perkins if you would like to help.

Janie Garlow and Chet Perkins, co-chairpersons, Membership Subcommittee, Outreach Committee

## SOCIAL HOUR AT THE LAKE

Lucy Stieber is responsible for the social hour on Sunday, August 4. She has relocated it to her and Arny's camp at 95 Barton Road on Pleasant Lake.

She will provide vegan chili (Kurt's recipe), pasta salad, fruit salad, green salad, bread, lemonade and ice tea. If someone wants to bring something else, she says that is fine.

## THANK YOU, ONE AND ALL

Expressions of gratitude go to a number of people, including:

- Arny and Lucy Stieber for brightening the front entrance and stairway railing leading up to the church as a result of their extensive scraping and application of new coats of paint. Everything looks beautiful.
- Steve Garlow for arranging for the restoration of the large stained-glass windows on the west and north sides of the sanctuary and for the installation of new mesh covers for the three large stained-glass windows in the sanctuary. The new covers were to be installed Tuesday, July 30. Steve also recently installed a new dehumidifier in the kitchen.
- Arne Hook for arranging for the removal of four trees surrounding the religious education wing. The work, which was to begin on Tuesday, July 30, will take about a week.
- Judy and George Tennant for volunteering to provide refreshments during the social time on Sunday, July 28, and Lucy Stieber for volunteering to host the social time for Sunday, August 4.
- Andrea Abbott, student minister, and Leigh Parry-Benedict, music coordinator, for arranging the hymn sing service on Sunday, July 7.
- Barbara Kamerance for leading the worship service on Sunday, July 14.

(Editor's note: I am sure that there are many others deserving of praise who have escaped my attention. For that, I apologize.)

## OFFICE HOURS

Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church from 5 to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays. If you need to speak to her at other times, please call to make an appointment.

## WHITE RIBBON MEETING

Oswego County Opportunities will conduct a White Ribbon informational meeting at our church from 6 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, August 22.

The White Ribbon Program is a program for men who are dedicated to stopping violence against women and to speaking up about violence against women.

## 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, August 21. 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 Nancy Haskell or Chet Perkins. Everyone is invited to attend.

## A REMINDER TO ALL

All or parts of our church building can be rented by non-members and organizations. Examples include non-member weddings, community activities, fundraisers, etc.

We have a building use policy and fee schedule that is available from Bob Haskell.

## SERMONS AVAILABLE ON CDs

We have audio CDs of most of the current Sunday sermons. These may be borrowed for your listening enjoyment.

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.

### SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The congregation of the First Universalist Society of Central Square voted at a special meeting conducted in the sanctuary immediately after the worship service on Sunday morning, July 21:

- To expend the money to remove four trees surrounding the religious education wing.
- To authorize Arnold Hook, Administration Committee chairperson, to choose one of the three lowest bidders based upon references and his discretion as to which company would best perform the task.
- To amend Section 3, Article XI, of the church bylaws to read in part: "... Once a budget has been approved by the congregation, the Board shall authorize the Treasurer to expend the funds as budgeted. The Board may reallocate funds, as long as the reallocation does not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for any single purpose. Any extraordinary or major expense not provided for in the budget and in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) shall necessitate the approval of the congregation at a Special Congregational Meeting called for that purpose, or unless such expenditure has been designated by the donor of the funds, or, in the case of the Living Memorial Fund, by the Memorial Committee."

Winfield Ihlow, vice president of the congregation, presided over the meeting.

### AUGUST 2013 CALENDAR

2 – 10 a.m., Executive Board retreat.

4 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., the Rev. David Weissbard leads the worship service. Sermon topic: "Enthusiastic Religious Liberalism." Random Acts of Kindness. 11:45 a.m., Social time at the camp of Lucy and Arny Stieber at 95 Barton Road on Pleasant Lake. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which the Outreach Committee's Social Justice Subcommittee asks everyone to bring magazines to the church dining room to exchange them for others. The subcommittee 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.

6 – 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

10 – 9:30 to 11 a.m., Choir practices in the sanctuary.

11 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Andrea Abbott leads the worship service. 11:45 p.m., "Conversation About Our Church." This is the once-a-month Sunday on which the Outreach Committee's Social Justice Subcommittee 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 St. Michael's Church Parish Center, 592 South Main Street, Central Square.

13 – 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

16 – 5:30 p.m., Supper at the Akropolis restaurant. 7 p.m., Video Discussion Group meets in the Goettel Room.

18 – 9 a.m., Tentative meeting time for Social Justice Subcommittee. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., the Rev. Tanya Atwood Adams leads the worship service.

20 – 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

21 – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread, Route 31, Clay.

22 – 6 to 7 p.m., Oswego County Opportunities White Ribbon informational meeting at our church.

25 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Andrea Abbott leads the worship service.

27 – 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

### CHURCH WEB SITE/FACEBOOK PAGE

Please remember the church Web site at <http://www.centralsquareuu.com/> and the church Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/UU-Central-Square/199139743511564>. You can also reach the Facebook page by clicking on the Facebook link at the Web site. To see the posts on the Facebook page, you have to click on "Most Recent Posts By Others" and "See All." To view the church's electronic calendar, just click on "Calendar" at the church Web site or click on "About" and then on "Products" on the Facebook page.

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