



CIRCLE OF FELLOWSHIP

The First Universalist Society of Central Square

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Our church building is handicapped accessible.
3243 Fulton Street (Route 49, near Route 11)
Post Office Box 429, Central Square, New York 13036-0429
Phone: 315-668-6821 E-mail: uucentralsquare@gmail.com
Church Web site: <http://www.centralsquareuu.com>

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 Benedict, Music Coordinator	315-303-4760	Ronna Schindler, RE Chairperson	315-623-7685
Robert Haskell, President	315-635-5294	Winfield Ihlow, Vice President	315-342-5939

SEPTEMBER 2012

STUDENT MINISTER SNIPPET

Suddenly, as the light turns more golden and the crickets are holding full orchestra practice in the backyard, I feel an overwhelming compulsion to buy pencils, a pen and a lunch box. Other areas may have their own rhythms, but for those of us raised in New York state, September means back to school. I am, indeed, going back to school, but this time, for the first time in many, many years, my focus is on school, not work. I am a full time retired person. This change in my status has not yet become real for me. I think any change, whether it is abrupt, gradual, sought after or inflicted on a person, takes a longer time to absorb than we often allow ourselves. We change every day, generally in ways we never notice. We are a little older, I hope a little wiser each day of our lives, and each day of our lives we encounter people and events that challenge us or inspire us, but often in ways so small it may be hard to notice. It is those big changes, the changes that require ceremonies and parties, those are the changes that really make us rethink our lives and what we are doing with them. This has certainly been the case for me.

September also marks the beginning of our church year as well. We will celebrate Incoming Sunday on September 9th with a water communion. Everyone is invited to bring 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.

Our church has changed over the summer. We have lost a few people who have moved from the area, who will be sorely missed. We hope to welcome new people through our doors and we look forward to seeing old friends and hearing of their adventures. We will be exploring a new music program this coming year. We hope to offer some new Adult RE programs that will let us explore what our faith means to each of us. Change is in the air. Come be a part of it.

Andrea Abbott

Please have articles for the next newsletter to Bob Haskell by no later than NOON on FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28. 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. His postal address is 29 Grove Street, Baldwinsville, NY 13027-2332. His telephone number is 315-635-5294.

THE REVEREND WEISSBARD TO DELIVER A LABOR DAY SERMON

The Rev. David Weissbard will preach at the worship service at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 2. The title of his sermon is "By the Sweat of Our Brows." It's a sermon for Labor Day.

UU CIRCLE PLANNING TWO ACTIVITIES

Annual Picnic

Sunday, September 9th, is the date of the annual church picnic. It will be held at the home of Barbara and Dave Kamerance, 992 County Route 4, Central Square, which is about 5 miles from the church.

This is a potluck picnic, and the Kamerances will provide beverages. There is a sign-up sheet in the church downstairs meeting room for a head count and to know what foods folks will bring. Directions will be given both in the weekly announcements and with printed hard copy.

Guitar Concert

Please mark your calendars for our guitar concert by international performer Peter Griggs at 1 p.m. on Sunday, October 28th. Mr. Griggs is a virtuoso in folk and classical guitar.

There will be a potluck luncheon for church members following the Sunday service.

The concert is free and open to the public, so please tell a friend or neighbor about this event. Mr. Griggs will have his recorded CDs available for sale after the concert.

Any donations will go toward the stained-glass window repair fund for the church.

If you have any questions, contact Barbara Kamerance at 402-2591 or at bkamerance@gmail.com.

BOOK CLUB TO READ ARMSTRONG BOOK

We will start our reading this fall with "12 Steps to a Compassionate Life" by Karen Armstrong. I checked onlib.org and the library has 15 copies; 13 are available if you want to reserve a copy. Feel free to buy or borrow, anyway that works for you. We will review the first half of the book at noon on Sunday, October 14. Andrea Abbott plans to start a 12-step program that will follow this book.

Our plan is to read one book over two months, between September and May. We can have reviews half way through if we want to do so. We may meet at private homes on occasion.

We will have more discussion in October to pick three more books and we are open to all suggestions for book selections and organization.

Nancy Hallock

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 19.

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

The women's and men's groups generally meet separately.

For more information about the women's group, you may contact Nancy Haskell.

For more information about the men's group, you may contact Chet Perkins.

All are invited to attend.

CHURCH WEB SITE/FACEBOOK PAGE

Please remember the church Web site at <http://www.centalsquareuu.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 acceptance of one another
and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE TO CONTINUE PROJECTS

The Social Justice Subcommittee met at Picasso's New York Pizza on August 20. After a delicious dinner of pizza and salad, we moved our work to Janie Garlow's gazebo.

It was decided to continue returning deposit cans and bottles (including plastic water bottles) and collecting coins from the offering plates to support Pure Water for the World, Inc. You have donated nearly enough money to purchase a second water filter (\$150) designated to go to Haiti. We hope to show a water-based movie this fall.

October 27 is the 22nd "Make a Difference Day." It would be great if we could plan a project. Check out makeadifferenceday.com and contact me with ideas.

The church has reserved a spot at the Apple Fest. We plan to share eco-justice ideas. We will print handouts on recycling and earth-friendly information and projects for adults and children. Please save empty paper rolls and round oatmeal containers, as we will have a couple hands on work for children.

Please bring in school supplies this coming Sunday for the Downstairs Scotty.

Nancy Hallock, chairperson, Outreach Committee

GREEN MINUTE: EMERALD ASH BORER

I have a number of ash trees on my property. Therefore, I have been very concerned about the possible invasion of the emerald ash borer (EAB). Currently the green beetle has been found as close as Rochester and the Albany area. Many say it's just a matter of time until it comes to Central New York. You can find a lot of information on the EAB at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7253.html.

The EAB can infest and kill all ash tree species native to North America. Larvae are white, about an inch long "worm" with bell-shaped segments. The larvae make S-shaped feeding tunnels just under the bark. If you see loose bark on your tree check underneath for this telltale sign. Adult beetles leave a distinctive D-shaped exit hole in the outer bark of the branches and trunk. Adults are roughly 1/2-inch long and 1/8-inch wide (smaller than a penny) with metallic green wing covers and a coppery red or purple abdomen. Adults may be present in late May through September but are most common in June and July. Signs of infection are tree canopy die back and yellowing and browning of leaves. Most trees die within 2-4 years of infestation.

You may have seen "purple prism" traps hanging high in ash trees. The traps are used for early detection and boundary marking of EAB infestations. Unfortunately, they don't catch enough beetles to control populations, but their use in early detection is crucial, as the sooner an infestation is found the easier it is to manage. The traps contain a lure which smells like a stressed ash tree. The lure and the trap's purple color draw in the beetles, which get stuck in the very sticky glue that coats the outside of the trap. When the traps are inspected throughout the summer, any EABs, or look-alikes, are collected and sent to a lab for identification. In 2010, all of the new infestations were first detected via the purple traps. More than 8,000 traps were set in New York state in 2010, primarily within a 100-mile radius of known EAB infestations and in high-risk areas, such as campgrounds. Don't worry if you have purple prism traps near your property. It doesn't necessarily mean that your area is under attack by EAB. It's just a precaution.

The EAB is not a particularly strong flier. Most long-distance movement has been directly traced to ash firewood or ash nursery stock. There is a very large effort within New York state, the Northeast and Canada to not move firewood more than 50 miles. If you are purchasing firewood, be sure you buy it locally and if you're going camping, get your wood where you camp.

If you think you have a possible infestation, take pictures, collect any adult EABs and larvae you can find and call the state Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC's) Firewood and Invasive Insects Hotline at 866-640-0652 or e-mail firewood@gw.dec.state.ny.us. You can also contact the county Cooperative Extension office.

Ellen LaPine
Social Justice Subcommittee, Outreach Committee

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.

IT'S A NEW YEAR FOR THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

The new school year is about to begin.

We had our first Religious Education Committee meeting, and things are in place for a spectacular year.

Our nursery is in full swing. The younger children will be working on the Unitarian Universalist "Tapestry of Faith" curriculum "Spirituality and the Arts."

The adult program is being set in place. Dates are to follow.

The Book Club is back in full swing.

The Video Discussion Group is about to resume Friday night sessions.

Drummers are continuing to meet on the second Friday of each month.

The committee discussed how we can get the word out to the community that we are here.

Letters will be sent to children who have come in the past, letting them know what this year's program is.

It was also suggested that we write something for the Citizen Outlet and The Palladium-Times, and possibly place an advertisement in the Shopper.

We are open to any suggestions to help grow our church and our RE program.

Our next committee meeting will be at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, September 16. All are welcome to attend.

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

FOOD PANTRY A BUSY PLACE

The food pantry at St. Michael's Church is very busy at its new location. During July, the pantry served 185 households. That totals 244 children, 331 adults and 61 seniors. The pantry served a total of 636 individuals with 5,724 meals.

The pantry workers truly appreciate our regular donations via the Downstairs Scotty. If you are wondering what to donate, the pantry is especially in need of toilet paper and pastas of any sort.

Ann Peterson

Social Justice Subcommittee, Outreach Committee

DRUM CIRCLE NEWS

The Drum Circle will be held from 6 p.m. until 8'ish on Friday, September 14. The village clerk has given the circle permission to drum outside. So, we will be drumming outdoors, weather permitting.

The Central Square Apple Fest will be held on Saturday and Sunday, September 29th and 30th, at a new location. The festival will be held at the Brewerton Speedway because the event has outgrown its former location. There will be a drum circle at the festival. So drop by and join in, or come by to find out how much fun a drum circle can be.

Ann Peterson

VIDEO DISCUSSION GROUP

The Video Discussion Group will view "Capitalism's 'Sacrifice Zones'" when it meets in the Goettel Room at 7 p.m. on Friday, September 7.

The "Moyers & Company" segment points out that there are forgotten corners of this country where Americans are trapped in endless cycles of poverty, powerlessness, and despair as a direct result of capitalistic greed.

Journalist Chris Hedges calls these places "sacrifice zones," and joins Bill Moyers to explore how areas like Camden, New Jersey; Immokalee, Florida; and parts of West Virginia suffer while the corporations that plundered them thrive.

"These are areas that have been destroyed for quarterly profit. We're talking about environmentally destroyed, communities destroyed, human beings destroyed, families destroyed," Hedges tells Moyers.

The video group plans to have supper at the Akropolis Restaurant just north of Central Square at 5:30 p.m. on the same day.

Please let Janie Garlow know via e-mail at mjgarlow@aol.com or via telephone at 315-436-2238 by Thursday, September 6, if you plan to attend the supper so that she may make a reservation.

Everyone is invited to attend.

Bob Haskell

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.

BOARD SPLINTERS

Members of the Executive Board, meeting in a special session on Sunday, August 26, approved the appointment of Leigh Parry-Benedict as music coordinator effective September 2.

Because Andrea Abbott, student minister, will be in Rochester on the first and third Sundays of each month in connection with her studies at the Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, the Executive Board has decided to conduct its regular meetings on the last Sunday rather than on the first Sunday of each month.

PRESIDENTIAL REFLECTIONS

Dear Friends,

Various readings have continued to draw my attention over the years. These include the following paragraphs; perhaps you will find them interesting, too.

The Rev. Susan Baller-Shepard, parish associate pastor at the First Presbyterian Church in Normal, Illinois, and editor of spiritualbookclub.com and its blog, has written:

“Nearly 30 years after I began studying theology, I want to know where everyday people, adults and children, find meaning. As a minister, I’ve stood at the maw of a grave with parents, watched addiction cut a swath through families, seen people get up, make coffee, do laundry, and get on with their lives even after the unthinkable has happened. I’ve watched people settle into mystery, as if onto a couch. Life and theology get reconfigured as people live lives they never thought they’d be living: the good the bad the ugly the unanswerable.

“The fact that a person trusts she or he can make it through a day, upright and breathing, despite the fact that life has dealt them a harsh blow, that is amazing. It’s not academic theology, not necessarily systematic theology, it’s lived theology, breath by breath. This is the theology that interests and inspires me now, as I watch courageous people live out their daily lives.”

Sloan Wilson has written in “A Sense of Values”:

“I value the ability to accept responsibility and I value courage – courage in the face of defeat. I think I value that most of all because every one of us, in one way or another, is defeated so much. Degraded, disgraced, humiliated – which of us hasn’t been all those things at one time or another? Look at the people you see walking on the street. What do most of them have to look forward to? Or back to, for that matter? Do you think that most of them even can feel they’ve managed to preserve any great degree of honor throughout a lifetime? No. But they go hurrying to their jobs, supporting their families, doing the best they can. There’s a lot of courage in this world. ... A sense of values is nothing if there isn’t enough courage to back it up.”

In describing hope, Ronald Aronson wrote in “Living Without God”:

“Prior to any religious impulse, and prior to any vision of a world getting better, hope is simply and fundamentally the energy to keep on. Life is hard, even harder, and sometimes impossible, and we must continuously find within and among ourselves the resources for coping with it: to not give up, to pick ourselves up and start over, to try again, to persist. This energy joins with will, with determination, with courage, with the ability to analyze situations, with exhortations to hang in in the face of loss, failure, defeat, confusion or tragedy. There is no point arguing over hope, because if it depends on reasons it is probably already lost. Rather, hope springs from the blind and uncomprehending act of keeping on, as the Joad family does in ‘The Grapes of Wrath.’ In fact, it is hope that creates its reasons.”

I am sure that you, too, have favorite writings that have continued to draw your attention over the passing years.

Bob

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.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

2 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. David Weissbard. Sermon title: “By the Sweat of Our Brows.” Random Acts of Kindness Sunday. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which you are asked by the Outreach Committee’s Social Justice Subcommittee to bring magazines to the church dining room so that you may exchange them for others. Nancy Hallock, committee chairperson, 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.

3 – Labor Day.

7 – 5:30 p.m., Supper at the Akropolis restaurant. 7 p.m., Video Discussion Group meets in the Goettel Room. Video: “Capitalism’s ‘Sacrifice Zones’.”

9 – 9 a.m., Social Justice Subcommittee. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott. Incoming Sunday with a water communion. 10:50 a.m., Resumption of formal religious education program. Congregational picnic at Barbara and David Kamerance's house, after the worship service. This is also the once-a-month Sunday on which everyone is asked by the Outreach Committee’s Social Justice Subcommittee to donate food items for the Downstairs Scotty, which later will be taken to the Food Bank at St. Michael’s Church.

14 – 6 until 8’ish p.m., Drum Circle. Outdoors, weather permitting.

16 – 9 a.m., Spiritual Committee. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. Tanya Atwood-Adams. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program.

19 – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread, Route 31, Clay.

21 – 5:30 p.m., Supper at the Akropolis restaurant. 7 p.m., Video Discussion Group meets in the Goettel Room.

23 – 9 a.m., Executive Board. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. Fall potluck dinner following the worship service.

30 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program.

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.

FAIR SHARE APPEAL

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

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. This year’s combined Fair Share contribution is expected to be about \$75 per member.

Our congregation has a line item in our budget, which covers \$2,000 of our contribution. Each year we try to pay our Fair Share in full. We make the first part of our contribution during December.

We are asking 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 our goal. For more information, you may contact Cara Lajewski via e-mail at clajewski@gmail.com.

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.