

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: 315-307-3400

E-mail:
uucentralsquare@gmail.com

Church website:
[http://www.
centralsquareuu.org](http://www.centralsquareuu.org)

Facebook page:
[http://www.facebook.com
/pages/UU-Central-Square
/199139743511564](http://www.facebook.com/pages/UU-Central-Square/199139743511564)

The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism



#7 Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part



Ours is a liberal religion that is guided not by a set creed or dogma, but by an open-minded quest for truth and meaning. Our congregations are places where people gather to nurture their spirits and join together to make a difference in our communities and the world.
Learn more about Unitarian Universalism, or find your local UU congregation at uua.org

NURTURE Your Spirit. Help **HEAL** Our World.

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.

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

A MINISTERIAL MOMENT, OR MORE

September and the year turns from summer to autumn. It is hard to let the summer go, but autumn has its own rewards. And, the point where summer turns to autumn, the equinox, is the time when days and nights are of equal length. It is a point of balance. We all need that point of balance in our lives and it is hard to find that place. We seem to naturally tend toward extremes, extremes of thought, extremes of speech, extremes of actions. Extremes are more interesting or perhaps seem more pure than the compromises and nuances necessary to find a resting point in our oscillations. Balance does not seem to be our natural place and I think we are surprised at what hard work it can be to maintain it. As we turn from summer to autumn, we are also reminded that change is constant. It's one of the reasons I like living in a place with four seasons. Turning from one season to another reminds me that change is our natural state, even when we are not aware that change is taking place. So, how do we maintain balance in an ever changing world? What do you do when forces seem to conspire to keep you off balance? What is your practice to find that still point in your life? One of the good things about belonging to a church which is open to many ideas is that we have the opportunity to learn from each other. Let's try to share some of our insights as we stand on the cusp of a new church year and a new season.



The Rev. Andrea Abbott

THE REVEREND WEISSBARD TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL “RELIGIOUS WAR”

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

“To some of us, it is clear that one of the fundamental tenets on which the United States was founded is that of religious liberty. That understanding is clearly not shared by all Americans. There are many who believe that our nation was founded to be a Christian nation, and no historical facts seem capable of persuading them this is not true. There have been periods in our history which have seen an increase in what is called ‘Religious Enthusiasm’, when people holding conservative religious perspectives have tried to reform the nation, to ‘call it back’ to what they perceive as its roots and mission. We seem to be on the brink or in the midst of such an era - what one might even perceive as a ‘Religious War’ in America. How we respond to a potential ‘Religious War’ is my subject for Sunday.

“Dave Weissbard”



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.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE 8 A.M. TO NOON ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

We will be having one of our regularly scheduled blood drives from 8 a.m. until noon on Saturday, September 10.



If you would like to donate blood, you can schedule an appointment by calling 1 800 Red Cross or you can sign up online by going to redcrossblood.org. There is also a sign-up sheet in the dining room where you can make an appointment.

I have placed a sign-up sheet in the dining room for volunteers to help with the drive. If you can help for even a short time on that day it will be much appreciated.

Please let your friends and neighbors know about the blood drive and be sure to tell them that we have one every two months in case they are looking for a regularly scheduled drive. If you have contacts within the community that might support us or partner with us for our drives, please get in touch with me and I will reach out to them.

Thank you for your help.

Ellen LaPine

Social Justice Committee blood drive coordinator

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CHILDREN TO MIX LEARNING AND FUN

What an amazing year our children have before them. Formal classes start on Sunday, September 11.

We have an inter-active project planned for the whole congregation. We will be creating terrariums for the Seventh Unitarian Universalist Principle, discussing what if nobody forgave, and learning multi-religious beliefs.

As a class we will be working on social action projects in the spring. We will be doing a project with the SPCA, the local food bank and the Lioness. We continue to save eyeglasses, ink jet cartridges and box tops for school.

This is only a sample of what the year has in store for the children.

I have the full curricula for this year for anyone who would care for a copy.

Here's to a year of learning with lots of fun thrown in.

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



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 HAS A BUSY MEETING

The Social Justice Committee met at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 15.

We talked about the Workers Rights demonstration in Syracuse, on Tuesday, August 16, to support a McDonald's employee with allegations of unjust firing and wage theft. Jackie Mabie and Tracy Kinne attended.

We also support the Green Light Campaign and will host a community information event at our church on Sunday, October 2.

**FAITH FOR A FAIR
NEW YORK**
2016 Conference
Register Now!
<http://bit.ly/FFNY2016>
**SEPTEMBER 25-27
SYRACUSE, NY**
For more information:
Emcneill@Labor-Religion.org



Tracy updated us on the Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State's Faith for a Fair New York conference in Syracuse on September 25-27. Some SJC members will attend, and some will help with transportation for out-of-town participants.

The next highway pickup is scheduled at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 9. We provide hats, vests and trash bags.

Help is needed at the next Red Cross Blood Drive scheduled from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, September 10. Please give blood, post fliers or volunteer your time to help that day.

Thanks to Arne Hook, more copies of "The Lynching" by Laurence Leamer were passed out on August 15. Everyone is invited to read and discuss this book. No date has been set for us to meet yet.

We spent much time talking about our coin collections each Sunday. A suggestion was made to the committee to use this money for a variety of causes. The SJC has decided to continue our Pure Water for the World donations 10 months per year. We will promote the November and December collections to be contributed to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's Guest at Your Table campaign. This is the usual time of year for this program. It can include coins in the collection plate and any checks so specified.

Please join us at our next meeting at 9 a.m. on Sunday, September 11.

Nancy Hallock

CHOIR NOTES

The choir will once again resume its weekly and monthly practices and performances. Our rehearsals are every Sunday morning from 9:30 to 10 and the second Sunday of every month following the service in the sanctuary. Singing one Sunday does not mean that you are committing to every Sunday. All are welcome to sing at any time. Our monthly rehearsal for this month will be following the service on Sunday, September 11.

Leigh Parry-Benedict, music coordinator



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

The Executive Board met Sunday, August 14, and heard about the possibility of continuing the successful Zen meditation series; decided to post directions involving thermostats, the elevator and other housekeeping items; and gratefully accepted the donation of a fire safe.

The Rev. Andrea Abbott reported that the meditation sessions during August were well received by the church and community. "It's the best thing we've done recently," Andrea said. "I'd like to see us keep this going. It's brought in people we hadn't seen before, and it gets exposure for the church."

One of the last sessions attracted 17 participants. "It shows there's a real need for something in this area, and we are the people who should be doing it," Andrea said. Plans are to continue the series if possible. The board thanked Janet Jenkins for her work organizing the sessions.



Andrea has delayed executing a survey on possibly changing the time of worship services from 10:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. She will begin asking congregants to fill out the survey after Incoming Sunday, September 11. She hopes this delay will allow for a more representative response. Please look for the survey, by email or in the form of printed copies placed in the sanctuary, soon, and let the board know what you think. If you need a printed copy mailed to you, please contact Andrea.

Arne Hook reported that the lift has been repaired at a cost of \$224, which is the usual repair cost. Occasionally the brake gets out of alignment, which Arne can fix. But now there is a scraping noise, so the repair service may have to be called again.

Arne will write out directions for putting the brake back in alignment and post them near the lift in case of an emergency. Arne also is working on improving the sound system. The system still isn't able to record, but it's a matter of Arne finding the time to devote to working on it.

Arne also will post directions for adjusting the three thermostats. President Janie Garlow and Janet have been working on building use guidelines. They will make a few revisions and post the guidelines, including Janie's and Arne's phone numbers as emergency contacts, at church.

The board gratefully accepted the donation of a fire safe by Priscilla Sparks. The safe belonged to Priscilla's late father, Pat Grosso, and is donated in his memory. Thank you, Priscilla.

The family of Jane Martin, a longtime member who died last year, has planted brown-eyed Susans in the memorial garden, and Janet will look for a marker for the plant.

Janie is still trying to find a replacement for nursery caregiver Haley Drabot, who is leaving

(Concluded on Page 6)

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.

BOARD SPLINTERS

(Continued from Page 5)

for college. The job pays \$12 per Sunday. (Since the meeting, Janie has arranged for Meghan Sonnacchio and Ella Wolf to fill the position.)

August membership committee meetings were suspended because of scheduling conflicts. Also, the cleanup day was postponed.

Treasurer Marcia Burrell-Ihlow reported that July's expenses were \$603.46 more than was taken in. She expressed some concern that the budget lacked about \$10,000 in pledges to break even at the end of the fiscal year in May. She said this happens nearly every year and the church manages to make up the deficit. (Since the meeting, Marcia has received additional pledges, lowering the deficit to about \$3,500.)



Board members discussed asking the Social Justice Committee, which began the practice of donating coins placed in the collection plate each Sunday to Pure Water for the World (www.purewaterfortheworld.org), an organization that provides water filters to places in Central America and the Caribbean where clean water is scarce, to consider using some of that money for other purposes.

Marcia suggested, perhaps a year from now, beginning a rotation where the money would be donated to Pure Water for the World for several months, then donated to another group, such as the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's Guest at Your Table program, for a few months, and perhaps used to make up any church deficit for a few more months. (The SJC later voted to begin sending the coins collected during November and December to the Guest at Your Table program, but to keep coins going to Pure Water for the World the rest of the year.)

Tracy Kinne, recording secretary



HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO CRUISE LAKE ONTARIO

Ramsey Ludington invites everyone to join him on his Ramsey's Dream for a cruise on Lake Ontario on Saturday, September 3.

The event will get under way at 10 a.m.

Everyone is to meet at the Ludington cottage located at 221 County Route 40 in Mexico, New York.

The cruise is subject to the weather.

For further information, Ramsey may be reached at 963-3798.

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.

GREEN MINUTE: WATER BOTTLES

We recently purchased a filter pitcher for water consumed at church. This is one more step we have taken toward our commitment to make our church more environmentally friendly. We are discouraging the use of bottled water at church. Here are some facts taken from the Internet about water bottles and why we don't want to purchase water in bottles but instead use the abundant water we have coming out of the tap.

A plastic water bottle takes more than 1,000 years to biodegrade in the land fill and if incinerated produces a stew of toxic fumes. It is estimated that there are more than 2 million tons of discarded water bottles in landfills.

One in five U.S. residents drink ONLY bottled water even though it is thousands of times more expensive than tap water. Studies have shown that bottled water is no safer than tap water and bottled water is less regulated than public tap water.

The making of bottles for water in the U.S. requires the equivalent of 17 million barrels of oil each year and generates 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide.

Plastic water bottles can contain Bisphenol A (BPA) which has been connected to cases of hormonal issues and cancer.

To visualize the environmental impact of bottled water imagine bottles lined up end to end in a straight line 190 times around the world.

Use of a BPA-free reusable water bottle is the green, sustainable choice. It can help you make sure that you drink enough water each day since you'll know how many ounces are in the bottle and how many times you have filled it, eventually becoming a habit to drink a certain number of bottles of water each day. Reusable water bottles come in all kinds of shapes, sizes and styles and require a minimal investment for a lifetime of use. I have several types that I have collected over the years, some that I use when doing certain activities because of their convenience.

Save a lot of money and save the planet. Use reusable water bottles.

Ellen LaPine, Outreach Committee



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP, MEDITATION

Anyone who is interested in the Spiritual Development Group or meditation is invited to contact Tim Hart via e-mail at timhart@a-znet.com or via telephone at 315-676-0332.

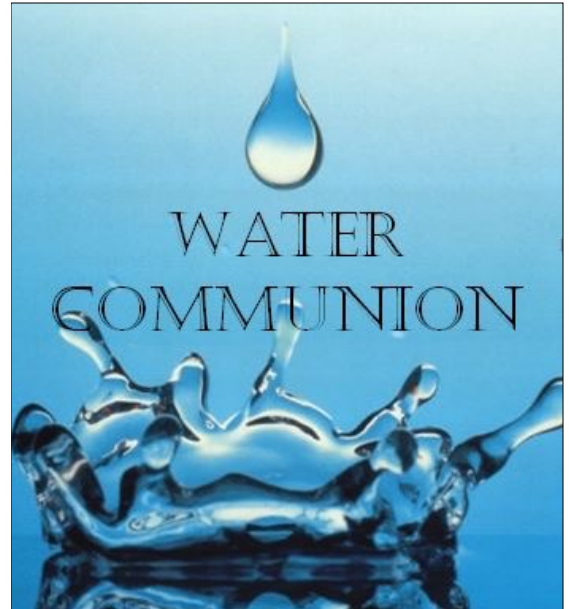
The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against the idolatries of the mind and spirit.

The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle

CONGREGATION TO OBSERVE INCOMING SUNDAY

September 11 will be our Incoming Sunday. We will celebrate with our traditional Water Communion. Please bring a small amount of water, real or from your tap, that symbolizes the water from the places you have been this summer. Water from your kitchen tap is fine. We mingle the water in one container and use this for child dedications, after we have boiled it, of course.

The Rev. Andrea Abbott will lead the service at 10:30 a.m. Andrea has chosen as her sermon title “In Praise of Remembering; In Praise of Forgetting.” She writes, “On this 15th anniversary of 9/11, this sermon takes a look at the role of remembrance and the role of forgetting. In particular, this is a look at the concept of memory and how it is altered depending on circumstances. Does memory help us or hinder in healing our lives and in coming to terms with tragedy?”



UU CIRCLE IS ALREADY PLANNING FOR OCTOBER DINNER

PASTA DINNER FUNDRAISER OCTOBER 15

The UU Circle will have a pasta dinner fundraiser on Saturday, October 15.

We are asking for your help with this event. Look for a signup sheet. There will be lots to do: food shopping, food prep, setting tables, washing dishes, clean-up and more.

Profits go to support the church. Please be generous with your time for this important event.

JANE MARTIN MEMORIAL LUNCHEON

The UU Circle hosted the luncheon after Jane Martin’s memorial service on Saturday, August 13.

We fed about 65 people and we were glad to be able to honor this longtime church member and provide for her family. Thank you to all who pitched in to help out.

Ann Peterson
UU Circle

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.

SPECIAL THANKS TO SOME SPECIAL PEOPLE

Thanks to these people for volunteering to serve as greeters on Sunday mornings: Judy and George Tennant, September 18.

Thanks to these people for volunteering to host the social times on Sunday mornings: Janie Garlow, August 28; Mary Fran Yafchak, September 4; Tracy Kinne, September 11; and Judy and George Tennant, September 18.

Volunteers are needed to serve as greeters on Sunday mornings. Anyone with any questions is encouraged to speak with Winfield Ihlow.

Volunteers are also needed to host the social time on Sunday mornings. Anyone with any questions is encouraged 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.

There is a sign-up sheet for all volunteers in the dining room.



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 15.

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

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP MEETS AT OUR CHURCH

The Central New York Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association is sponsoring a monthly alzheimer's support group for caregivers at our church.

The group meets on the fourth Monday of every month. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the Goettel Room.

This group is specifically designed for caregivers. It is free and open to the public.

For more information, call 315-472-4201.



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.

SEPTEMBER 2016 CALENDAR

4 – 9:30 to 10 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., the Rev. David Weissbard leads the worship service. He will speak about “how we respond to a potential ‘Religious War’.” Random Acts of Kindness Sunday. 10:50 a.m., Informal 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.

2016 SEPTEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

10 – 8 a.m. until noon, Red Cross Blood Drive at our church. 11 – 9 a.m., Executive Board. 9 a.m., Social Justice Committee. 9:30 to 10 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., Incoming Sunday. The Rev. Andrea Abbott leads the worship service. Sermon title: “In Praise of Remembering; In Praise of Forgetting.” We will celebrate with our traditional Water Communion. 10:50 a.m.,

Formal religious education classes start. 11:45 a.m., Social time. Choir practice will be held following the service 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.

15 – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread, Route 31, Clay. 18 – 9:30 to 10 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., Social time.

25 – 9:30 to 10 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., The Rev. Andrea Abbott leads the worship service. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. 11:45 a.m., Social time.

26 – 7 p.m., Alzheimer’s support group for caregivers meets in the Goettel Room.

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have articles for the July newsletter to Bob Haskell by no later than 5 p.m. on Sunday, September 25. He prefers to receive articles via e-mail. His e-mail address is rhaskell@twcny.rr.com.



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