

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.*

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*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)



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

Really, the world doesn't stop at midnight on December 31, pause and then start again. It's a pretty seamless transition from one moment to another and the laws of physics keep on in their inexorable work. Past moments, past days, past months and years prepared the way for whatever human events are working their way out. We are too small and too limited to see the patterns of the events. We only get a glimpse, partial and inaccurate, even with the passage of time and the work of historians. And our crystal balls are certainly more than cloudy. Nothing is more amusing than the record of past predictions. Or, perhaps sobering, since it gives us an idea about the limits of the human powers of foresight. In a way, I'm finding our inadequacies in this direction comforting. We do not know how 2017 will be, neither those who prophesy utopia nor those who prophesy Armageddon. We need to cling to the reality that, though we are not, each of us by ourselves, tremendously powerful, we are, together, a strong force. People are capable of creating the conditions under which things happen. Sometimes, we need to be reminded that we have this ability and what we need is the will to use it, under good conditions or bad. We also need to keep our compasses in good repair, to remember that we have a map to guide us into the future. Now more than ever, we need to get out that road map, the one we call the Seven Principles, and follow the path laid down for us there. No one said ours was an easy faith, but it is, ultimately, an honest and true one. Happy New Year.



The Rev. Andrea Abbott



HEALTH CARE: AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND TO HELP

When: Noon on Sunday, January 8

Where: First Universalist Church, 3243 Fulton Avenue, Central Square, NY 13036

Event: Come and learn about the New York Health Care Act. Health care is a human right, and this plan would provide complete universal health coverage for all New Yorkers (often called "single payer" or "improved Medicare for all"). The New York State Assembly passed this bill in 2015 and 2016. We need your energy to help achieve this transformative legislation. Ursula Rozen, Upstate Campaign coordinator, will teach us about the proposal, why it is so important and what we should be doing to help.

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.



THE REVEREND ABBOTT LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

The Rev. Andrea Abbott writes concerning her sermon, “Our Future in Our Hands,” for the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, January 1:

“This day begins a New Year, a day we set aside to look to the future, our hopes and fears. While we all live within the constraints of mortality and finitude, it’s also true that we still

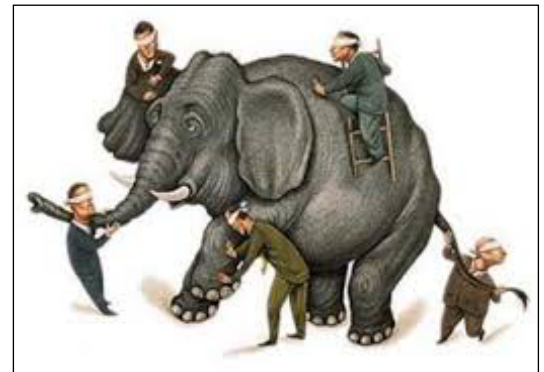
have a good deal of ability to determine events, both public and personal, if the will is there. In the Seven Principles and our Affirmation of Faith we have a set of values to guide us into the New Year. Come, let us reason together.”

THE REVEREND WEISSBARD TO PREACH TWICE

The Rev. David Weissbard writes concerning his sermons for January:

“So, family obligations have me switching with Andrea from my usual first Sunday in January to the second. I am planning to address ‘Values and Valuing’, trying to get to the root of what religion is about.

“Along the way, I seem to have also picked up the 4th Sunday, January 22nd. Several years ago, I had a friend who was struggling with a dependency on alcohol which was challenging her relationships with family and friends. I responded, as ministers sometimes do, with a sermon I called ‘A Letter to a Dear Friend, Drinking’. I am at a sufficient distance from Central Square that I can honestly say that I do not have a clue of anyone connected with this congregation who is wrestling with that problem, but statistics suggest that it is only that I do not know. It is for other reasons that this sermon came to mind, but it seems worth sharing for whomever it may concern.



“Dave”



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, January 19. All are welcome to join in casual conversation and to enjoy coffee or tea and other goodies. For further information, contact the Rev. Andrea Abbott via phone at 315-635-7122 or 315-857-1086 or via e-mail at andrea279@verizon.net.

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 FOCUSES ON SEVERAL ISSUES

The Social Justice Committee met on Sunday, December 18. The Christmas cards and treasurer's report were discussed. We have a few aprons and cards available (cards for your UU friends next year).

The Labor-Religious Coalition of New York State has contacted our committee to continue our involvement. The coalition has a very ambitious agenda and we will decide on what we can help with on an issue by issue basis. The Rev. Andrea Abbott will be our contact person.



We made a \$100 donation to the Equal Justice Initiative. We plan to learn more about criminal justice reform in New York State.

Ursula Rozen, Upstate Campaign coordinator, will present a program on Sunday, January 8, to explain the New York State Health Care Act. We will learn about universal health care, and how it will impact our future. We will serve extra refreshments before the noon program. The program is open to the community, but I hope many of you will stay for this very important issue.

We are researching the New Sanctuary Movement. This is a UUA-supported coalition of interfaith religious leaders. As a program of advocacy and witness, it calls for providing sanctuary for refugees as well as fighting for immigrant rights. How much can we commit our support to?

According to the UUA, "The New Sanctuary Movement, now called Sanctuary Movement, is a growing movement of faith and immigrant communities doing what Congress and the Administration refuse to do: protect and stand with immigrants facing deportation. Members pledge to protect immigrant families who face workplace discrimination or unjust deportation. Unitarian Universalists are joining the many religious leaders, congregations, and faith-based organizations of all denominations who are part of the Movement."

The Social Justice Committee's next meeting will be at 9 a.m. on Sunday, January 15. All are welcome to attend.

Nancy Hallock, committee chair

UU CIRCLE EXTENDS A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Thanks to everyone who baked for the sale and to everyone who bought and took home some wonderful goodies. We hope that everyone enjoyed the delicious, as always, potluck.

What do we have planned next? We would like to schedule lunch and chat at Tabatha's Family Tree Restaurant. Tabatha not only donated food to our spaghetti dinner, but she also donated cookies to our bake sale. So we would like to patronize her wonderful restaurant.

Ann Peterson



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.



CHILDREN TO CREATE LANTERNS

As December closes we are halfway to our goal for the Heifer Project. We will continue to sell buttons to raise funds.

January begins with creating our lanterns for Shinto New Year.

We will be delving into literacy and learning about the first book project.

Our chalices and altar cloths are completed, and we will begin writing our classroom affirmation.

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

GREEN MINUTE: THE DIRTY DOZEN AND THE CLEAN 15

Every year since 2004 the non-profit Environmental Working Group has produced its Shopper's Guide to Pesticides in Produce™ which ranks pesticide contamination on 48 popular fruits and vegetables. The guide is based on results of more than 35,200 samples tested by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration.

Here's this year's dirty dozen list in order of highest pesticide residue contamination to the least: strawberries, apples, nectarines, peaches, celery, grapes, cherries, spinach, tomatoes, sweet bell peppers, cherry tomatoes, cucumbers.

The group also compiles a list of the fruits and vegetables that were found to have the least pesticide residue. The clean 15 list in order of the least to the most but still minimal is as follows: avocados, sweet corn, pineapple, cabbage, sweet peas (frozen), onions, asparagus, mangos, papayas, kiwi, eggplant, honeydew melon, grapefruit, cantaloupe, cauliflower.

The website also has a section that looks at nutrition, ingredients and processing, and gives a score for hundreds of foods so you can make informed choices. This website might be one you want to save to your favorites. You can find it at <https://www.ewg.org/foodnews/index.php>.



Ellen LaPine
Social Justice Committee



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.

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.

JANUARY 2017 CALENDAR

1 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., the Rev. Andrea Abbott leads the worship service. Sermon topic: “Our Future in Our Hands.” Random Acts of Kindness Sunday. 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.

2 – 6 to 7 p.m., Peer-guided meditation at the church. All are welcome. In addition, the sanctuary will be open for anyone who wishes to use it for a time of reflection, prayer or meditation.

5 – 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.

8 – 9 a.m., Executive Board meets. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., The Rev. David Weissbard leads the worship service. Sermon topic: “Values and Valuing.” 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. 11:45 a.m., Social time. 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.

9 – 6 to 7 p.m., Peer-guided meditation at the church. All are welcome. In addition, the sanctuary will be open for anyone who wishes to use it for a time of reflection, prayer or meditation.

12 – 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.

15 – 9:30 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.

19 – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread, Route 31, Clay. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.

22 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., The Rev. David Weissbard leads the worship service. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program.

23 – 7 p.m., Alzheimer’s support group for caregivers meets in the Goettel Room.

26 – 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.

29 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., Worship service. The Rev. Libbie Stoddard leads the worship service. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. 11:45 a.m., Social time.

30 – 6 to 7 p.m., Peer-guided meditation at the church. All are welcome. In addition, the sanctuary will be open for anyone who wishes to use it for a time of reflection, prayer or meditation.

2017 JANUARY						
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	31				

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.