

# 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:  
andreaabbottuu@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)



## 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**

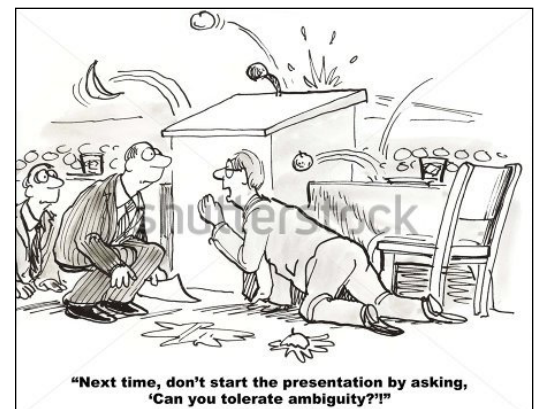
Between torrential rain showers that have me thinking about boat building and gathering two of every kind, we've been doing a little gardening. It is always so magical seeing the different flowers unfurl, yellows and blues and pinks, all different shapes from the elegance of the fringed iris to the cupped tulips, to the graceful curve of the bleeding hearts. It is this variety that makes a garden truly beautiful. We do not have a large garden but as we have worked with it over the years, it seems to have become a country unto itself, a land of interesting inhabitants that we have come to know and value. Central Square is not a large congregation but, like our small garden, it seems larger than it is as we get to know each other better and are privileged to enter each other's lives. We find richness and depth in each other the more we meet together. Like the flowers, we come in all sorts of shapes and shades, opinions and beliefs, (and that's just the ministers!). It is no accident that Flower Communion is one ritual celebrated in many Unitarian Universalist churches. Our flowers come from many different gardens, nourished in many different kinds of soil, from many different seeds. No two are alike and yet they form a beautiful bouquet, something never seen before. May we always see the beauty in this gathering. May we always grow closer in community.



The Rev. Andrea Abbott

### **THE REV. DAVID WEISSBARD TO SPEAK ABOUT AMBIGUITY**

The Rev. David Weissbard writes concerning his sermon for 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 4: "We are told that most people choose their religious communities on the basis of the certainties that those communities offer about the meaning of life and how it is to be lived. I would, and will, suggest that our Unitarian Universalist tradition has been one which, in contrast, celebrated ambiguity - although I fear that may not be as true as it once was. But, this Sunday, I am going to speak of what used to make us unique in the hope that it may still. My sermon title: 'A Celebration of Ambiguity'."



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, June 15. All are welcome to join in casual conversation and to enjoy coffee or tea and other goodies.

**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.**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY  
OF CENTRAL SQUARE, NEW YORK**

The annual congregational meeting of the First Universalist Society of Central Square, New York, is scheduled to be held in the sanctuary immediately after the worship service on Sunday morning, June 4, 2017.

The church bylaws specify that there shall be an annual congregational meeting on the first Sunday in June of each year.

The agenda for the meeting includes:

- Receipt of annual reports from incumbent officers and committee chairs.
- Consideration and adoption of the budget for the next church year.
- Election of officers for the next church year.

The bylaws provide that active members of the church 18 years or older shall have the power to vote. Any member of the church under 18 years shall have the right of voice, but not the power of voting or eligibility to hold office in the church.

Child care will be available if requested.

All are welcome.



**CONGREGATION TO OBSERVE  
FLOWER COMMUNION ON JUNE 11**

The Rev. Andrea Abbott announces that Flower Communion will be observed on Sunday morning, June 11. She has chosen as her sermon title "Flower Communion."

The Flower Communion usually takes place in the spring. In this ceremony,

members of the congregation are asked beforehand to bring a flower to the Sunday service. Upon entering the sanctuary, each person places his or her flower on the altar or in a shared vase. The flowers are blessed by the minister or congregation during the ceremony, and the sermon usually reflects upon the flowers' symbolism. At the end of the service, each person takes home a flower other than the one that he or she had brought.

The Flower Communion service was originally created in 1923 by Unitarian minister Norbert Capek, who founded the Unitarian church in Czechoslovakia. The service was later brought to the United States by his wife, Maya.



**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**

We met on Sunday, May 21, and talked of summer plans.

1. We are all excited about the Women's Gathering on Saturday, June 3, and hope you are, too.

2. Our next Adopt-a-Highway pickup is at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 9.

3. The next Blood Drive is scheduled from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 6. More information will follow, but we are planning a fundraiser at the same time and will need volunteers for both events.



4. A donation of \$125 was sent to Pure Water for the World from our church. Thank you for coins and bottle/can returns to fund this charity.

The next meeting date is to be announced.

Nancy Hallock, Chairperson

## **GREEN MINUTE: A CONFUSING TRIP THOUGH THE GROCERY STORE**

You walk into your grocery store and see that “Fresh, Local, Organic” asparagus is for sale. What do the descriptions really mean? The sign doesn’t indicate the name of the farm or where the asparagus actually came from. “Fresh” can mean just picked or unprocessed. In the case of prepared foods it can mean that the dish was prepared that day. “Local” can mean that the asparagus was raised in New York State but another retailer may use the term for produce from another state that was available within 24 hours of harvest. The only term that has specific guidelines is “Organic.” Organic food must be processed in accordance with Department of Agriculture regulations that promote sustainability and minimize exposure to pesticides and other synthetic materials.

If you see “Natural” chickens on sale, the USDA says that they are minimally processed and contain no artificial ingredients. This USDA guideline applies to meat, poultry and eggs only.

So now you decide to have some “Artisan” bread with your chicken and asparagus. This description may lead you to think that the bread is hand-made in small batches, which may be true. However, the term is also sometimes used to denote higher quality and premium in the case of mass-produced foods.

We’ve reached the time of year when truly local fruits and vegetables are readily available. There are also more and more local farms producing organically raised meats and eggs. Don’t be afraid to ask where your food comes from. Request that your store carry products that are locally and organically produced and that their origin be displayed with the product.



Ellen LaPine, Social Justice Committee

**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.**



### **VISIT A SENATOR'S OFFICE**

As part of the New York Health Act Campaign, I am planning a visit to State Senator Patty Ritchie's Oswego office.

We want to ask her to co-sponsor this bill: S4840.

This is a universal, single payer bill that will eliminate financial barriers to health care.

The bill passed in the state Assembly last week for the third year in a row.

Information is available at [www.nyncampaign.org](http://www.nyncampaign.org).

Think about joining our visiting party.

Nancy Hallock, Social Justice Committee chairperson

### **STATEWIDE CALL-IN DAY FOR NEW YORK HEALTH JUNE 2**

On Friday, June 2, we are flooding state Senate offices with calls in support of New York Health, especially in districts where the senator is not yet a co-sponsor of the New York Health Act.

We need lots of help to make this day of action a success. To volunteer with outreach (phonebanking and social media), please email [ursula@nyhcampaign.org](mailto:ursula@nyhcampaign.org).

More details coming soon. In the meantime, you can invite others to join you at the event.

### **HEALTH CAMPAIGN FOCUSES ON NORTH COUNTRY**

The Campaign for New York Health will conduct an organizational meeting for residents of the North Country's state Senate District 48 at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church in Watertown from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 10.

"Come be a part of the movement to spread health care to all New Yorkers! We'll talk about state and national efforts for improved Medicare for all. Bring your health care stories to share and any questions about how to demand health care coverage from state and federal legislators. Please let us know if you want to volunteer to help out. Spread the word about this event and the movement for the New York Health Act!" says Dr. Sunny Aslam, assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Upstate University Hospital. His email address is [spaslam@yahoo.com](mailto:spaslam@yahoo.com).

**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.



THE UU CIRCLE IS PLANNING A.

## GATHERING OF WOMEN

BECAUSE WE WANT TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTE

**SATURDAY, JUNE 3**

**1PM UNTIL WHENEVER**

**JACKIE'S PLACE: 99 WHIPPOORWILL LN, PENNELLVILLE NY 13132**

**Bring:**

- A friend
- A dish to pass and your own beverage.  
(Alcoholic beverages are o.k. too.)
- Any musical instrument you play.
- Any favorite music you have.
- Any favorite games.
- A favorite short reading
- A favorite recipe to share
- Insect Repellant

**There will be:**

Drumming, music, games, walking, singing, eating, smores around a campfire and more!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: JACKIE MABIE OR ANYONE IN THE UU CIRCLE @ 315-415-0963

**Directions:** (Will also tailor to suit, just call!)

From church- West on SR49 for 5.5 mi. Left on CR 54 for 1 mile. Right on Whippoorwill Ln. .4 of a mile to end.

From Rt 31 and Morgan Rd.: North on Morgan Rd. 1.6mi. Road name changes to CR10.

Continue for 4.5 mi. Left on Stewarts Corners Rd for 1.5 mi. Right on CR54 for .5 mi. Right on Whippoorwill Ln. for .4 mi to end.

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.**

# CNY CLUSTER REVIVAL

ON THE MAY MEMORIAL GROUNDS

AUGUST 12, 2017

This Potluck Picnic event is open to all UUs in central New York. We will gather for fun and fellowship. –

WHO - UU's from all Central New York congregations and friends

WHY - To CELEBRATE together

To BREAK BREAD with friends

To SING our favorite songs and learn some new ones

To NETWORK around the important issues of our faith

To BUILD COMMUNITY among our churches

To receive INSPIRATION to meet the challenges ahead

To have FUN

Walk-ins are welcome however if you can RSVP that would be great because it would help us plan for numbers. We hope you join us!

The schedule for the day

10:00 A.M. - 10:45 A.M. Arrival, In-gathering, Coffee

11:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. Celebration of Community service

12:30 - 2:00 P.M. Picnic Potluck we will gather at lunch in Affinity groups

AFFINITY GROUPS

Social Justice Environmental concerns Lay led services

Black Lives Matter Membership

Finances

Technology

Growth

**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 of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.**

## **CHILDREN TO FINISH STARDUST PROGRAM**

We have had a year filled with amazing learning experiences.

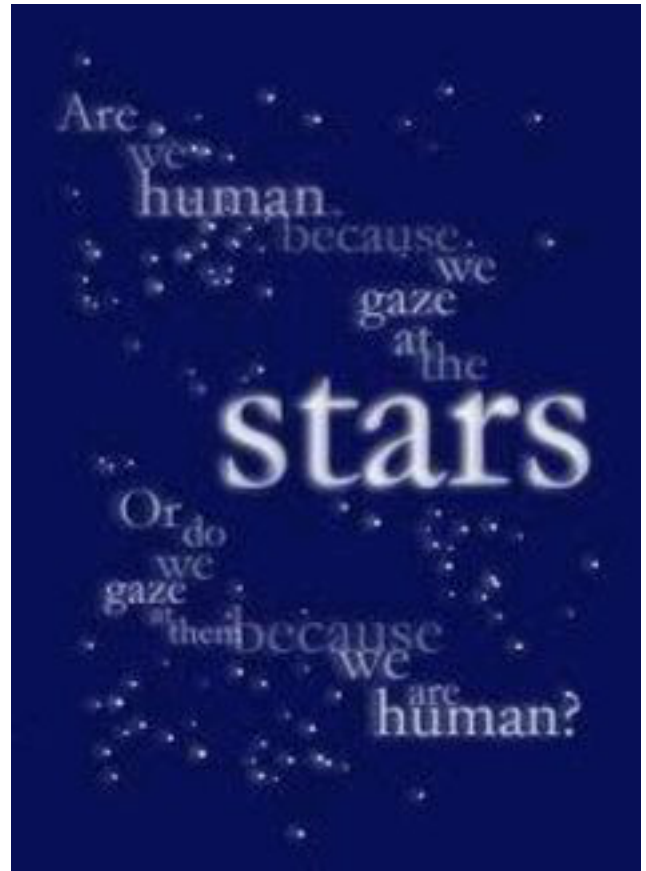
We will finish the year working on the program "We are stardust."

A program of discovery and where we fit in the universe.

We will create our chalk labyrinth and complete our hand chalice quilt.

A very busy month is ahead of us.

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



## **CONGREGATION WELCOMES FIVE NEW MEMBERS**

It was a joyful occasion when five people joined the church as new members on Sunday morning, May 28.

The five are Melissa Rude, Daniel Doolen, Linda Begoske, Jocelyn Mabie and Charles Lochner.

The Rev. Andrea Abbott officiated, and Registrar Arne Hook stood by as the five signed

the membership book Executive Board members participated in the ceremony as the congregation looked on during the morning service.

**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.**



## Declaration of Conscience

At this extraordinary time in our nation's history, we are called to affirm our profound commitment to the fundamental principles of justice, equity and compassion, to truth and core values of American society.

In the face of looming threats to immigrants, Muslims, people of color, and the LGBTQ community and the rise of hate speech, harassment and hate crimes, we affirm our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

In opposition to any steps to undermine the right of every citizen to vote or to turn back advances in access to health care and reproductive rights, we affirm our commitment to justice and compassion in human relations.

And against actions to weaken or eliminate initiatives to address the threat of climate change – actions that would threaten not only our country but the entire planet – we affirm our unyielding commitment to protect the interdependent web of all existence.

We will oppose any and all unjust government actions to deport, register, discriminate, or despoil.

As people of conscience, we declare our commitment to translate our values into action as we stand on the side of love with the most vulnerable among us.

We welcome and invite all to join in this commitment for justice.

The time is now.

**(Editor's Note: The congregation will vote on this Declaration of Conscience at its annual meeting on Sunday, June 4.)**

**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.**

**JUNE 2017 CALENDAR**

1 — 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.  
 3 — 1 p.m., Gathering of Women.  
 4 — 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: “A Celebration of Ambiguity.” Random Acts of Kindness Sunday. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. 11:45 a.m., Annual congregational meeting. 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.

5 — 5 to 7 p.m., the Rev. Andrea Abbott will hold office hours. To set up an appointment, please contact her via phone at 315-635-7122 or 315-857-1086 or via email at andrea279@verizon.net. The sanctuary will be open for anyone who wishes to use it for a time of reflection, prayer or meditation.

8 — 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.

11 — 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., The Rev. Andrea Abbott leads the worship service. Sermon title: “Flower Communion.” 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.

12 — 5 to 7 p.m., the Rev. Andrea Abbott will hold office hours. To set up an appointment, please contact her via phone at 315-635-7122 or 315-857-1086 or via email at andrea279@verizon.net. The sanctuary will be open for anyone who wishes to use it for a time of reflection, prayer or meditation.

15 — 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread, Route 31, Clay. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.

18 — 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 — 5 to 7 p.m., the Rev. Andrea Abbott will hold office hours. To set up an appointment, please contact her via phone at 315-635-7122 or 315-857-1086 or via email at andrea279@verizon.net. The sanctuary will be open for anyone who wishes to use it for a time of reflection, prayer or meditation.

22 — 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.

25 — 9:30 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 — 5 to 7 p.m., the Rev. Andrea Abbott will hold office hours. To set up an appointment, please contact her via phone at 315-635-7122 or 315-857-1086 or via email at andrea279@verizon.net. The sanctuary will be open for anyone who wishes to use it for a time of reflection, prayer or meditation. 7 p.m., Alzheimer’s support group for caregivers meets in the Goettel Room.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>June 2017</b>				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	

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

**We need not think alike to love alike. We are people of many beliefs and backgrounds: people with a religious background, people with none, people who believe in a God, people who don't, and people who let the mystery be.**

**THE FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY  
POST OFFICE BOX 427  
CENTRAL SQUARE, NEW YORK 13036-0427**

**JUNE 1, 2017, THROUGH MAY 31, 2018, PLEDGE FORM**

AS AN EXPRESSION OF LOVE AND APPRECIATION FOR THE  
WORK OF THE CHURCH:  
MY ANNUAL PLEDGE IS \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TO BE GIVEN IN INCREMENTS OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) WEEKLY ( ) MONTHLY ( ) ANNUALLY

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

( ) FAIR SHARE FUND ~ I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE AN ADDITIONAL DONATION TO FAIR SHARE.

THIS YEAR THE DUES ARE APPROXIMATELY \$75/MEMBER.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

( ) I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A ONE-TIME GIFT TO THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Together we can "LIGHT THE FLAME"

It is understood that it is YOUR intent to complete payment of this pledge by May 31, 2018. Circumstances do change and you may modify or cancel your pledge with a call or letter to our treasurer.

**Unitarian Universalists welcome you: your whole self, with all your truths and your doubts, your worries and your hopes.**