

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)



Telephone Numbers

Andrea Abbott, Student Minister	315-635-7122
The Rev. Libbie D. Stoddard, Minister Emerita	315-343-4352
Ronna Schindler, Religious Education Chairperson	315-623-7685
Leigh Parry-Benedict, Music Coordinator	315-657-5904
Janie Garlow, President	315-436-2238
Janet Jenkins, Vice President	315-243-7243

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

It's a little hard to imagine the picture perfect May day as I look out at gloomy skies and tentative tiny leaves. No matter what, however, the calendar will tell us that May has come even if we greet it in our down parkas. Perhaps May is as much a state of mind as it is a month and it is our challenge to find that perfect spring day in our minds, even when the mental weather seems more suited to February. I find this an uphill slog some days. I'm also wary of the Pollyanna frame of mind, the kind of outlook that refuses to look at the complexities and ambiguities of a situation. Unreasoning optimism can be as dangerous as unrelenting gloom. As May enters our lives this year, it does so with a great deal of diversity, now highlighting the leftover garbage from last fall that must be dealt with and now dazzling us with new blossoms and lacy leaves. It shows us the best and the worst and, we can't help but notice, they are all right around us. The beautiful and the ugly, the tragic and the comic, all are always part of our lives and give life its depth. Welcome, May.



The Rev. Andrea Abbott



THE REV. DAVID WEISSBARD FOCUSES ON “CIVILITY”

The Rev. David Weissbard writes concerning his sermon for Sunday, May 7:

“The current occupant of the White House has now completed his first 100 days in office. I have now delivered 100 sermons from your pulpit. For my 101st, I am going to turn to what I consider to be one of the great challenges of our time: ‘Civility’. This is not at heart a partisan issue -- or maybe it is: not in the sense of one party demonstrating it and

the other not, but it is a product of partisanship gone wild. I know I can count on you for a civil response to my sermon: ‘The Challenge of Civility’.”

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, May 18.

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 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.



SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Not much to say. We met on Sunday, April 23. We conducted our highway pickup at 8:30 a.m., and then followed with an official meeting.

We discussed local marches/rallies in the next two weeks: April 28, Climate; May 1, International Workers Day/National Strike Day; and May 12, Anti-Trump Escalated War and Budget Agenda.

There was a report on April 4's Health Care is a Human Right Rally in Albany.

The Women's Gathering will be June 3 at Jackie M.'s house. Details to follow.

From Chair: Nancy Hallock

GREEN MINUTE: BUILD A BETTER BIRD HOUSE

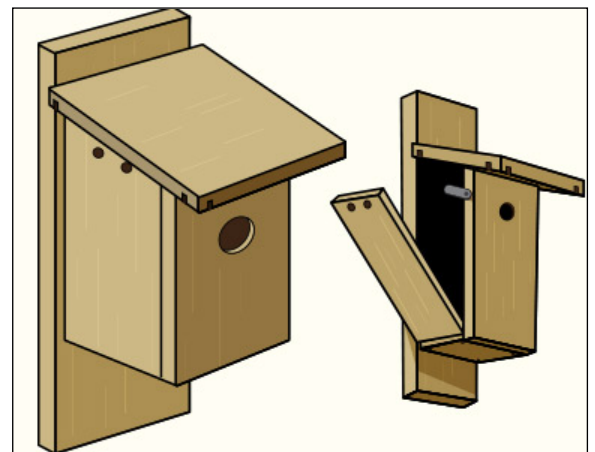
At the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Nest Watch website under its "Learn" section there are excellent instructions regarding constructing a good bird house/box for various species. It includes a Right Bird, Right House Tool. You select your region of the country and the habitat where you want to place your bird house. Once entered, you can select the bird you want to attract. The website will tell you how difficult the construction of the house will probably be and if its construction is "kid friendly". It will also tell you if your species is in decline in your area. For instance, I was surprised to find out that the American Robin is in decline in the Northeast. You'll also see nesting range and habitat for each bird. Once you've decided what bird box you want to construct, the website will ask you for your email address, and the plans for the bird house will be sent to you.

Within the same website you'll see information on height of the bird house/box from the ground, spacing between bird boxes, what to attach the box to and the direction the box should face. There is also information on managing invasive species, dealing with predators, managing nest box competitors and trouble shooting. There is even a section on how to install a nest camera.

When you look at the home page, you'll see that the Cornell Lab of Ornithology is looking for citizen scientists to provide it with data on many common birds that you might have in your yard, such as Cardinals, Black Capped Chickadees, American Robins, and House Wrens.

Nest Watch is marked as a favorite on my computer. If you're interested in birds you might want to check out the website and make it one of your favorites, too.

Ellen LaPine,
Social Justice 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.

PLEDGES DUE FOR CHURCH YEAR

Please make sure you complete your pledges for the 2016-17 year. Our fiscal year ends on May 31 and the new 2017-18 church year begins on June 1.

Many of you have sent in your pledge amounts for the 2017-18 year, but if you have not, please do that as soon as possible.

Marcia M. Burrell, church treasurer



**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 _____

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.

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.



UPDATING THE CHURCH DIRECTORY

Dear church members,

It's time to update the church directory.

Please send your updated information to Bob Haskell at haskellrobertc@gmail.com

Also, a copy of the updated directory will be found at church for you to edit directly.

LADIES, SAVE THIS DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 3

The UU Circle is planning a Gathering of Women on Saturday, June 3, from 1 p.m. until ?. The gathering will be held at the home of Jackie Mabie in Pennellville.

Why are we doing this? We all want to know each other better and we just can't manage that during coffee hour and potluck dinners. We are a commuter church, so we don't see each other on the street or in the grocery store either. We ask that you bring a friend that you would enjoy spending the day with and that would like to meet us and get to know us, too.

What will we be doing? Eating, of course. Please bring a dish to pass and your own beverage. Alcoholic beverages are OK, too. We will have some drumming and some music. If you play an instrument, please bring it. We will have laughter. If you have a favorite C.D., please bring it. Also, bring a favorite recipe to share.

We will be playing games that will help us to get to know each other. If you have a favorite, please bring it. Jackie's home is in a beautiful wooded setting, so we will take a walk for about a mile. We will have accommodations for those who can't walk that far.

We will also share a piece of poetry or a saying that we love, live by or adore. This, of course, is optional. Do you love Mary Oliver or have a favorite saying on your fridge? Feel free to bring it and share it.

We will have a bonfire and s'mores, too. At the end of the day, we hope to know each other better and maybe set another date to get together again. If you can't stay for the entire day, please come and spend what time you can with us.

Please ask any of the gals on the UU Circle for more details. Directions to Jackie's home will be available before June 3.

Ann Peterson



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.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Every action has a reaction.
We will be studying the yin and yang of our beliefs.
How a person's flaws become their strengths and how sometimes a strength can become a vulnerability.
How together we search for the answers we seek and question the answers we find.
Activities will include a hand print chalice wall hanging, creating our own imperfect treasure boxes and a lesson on being loved, flaws included.

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

BLOOD DRIVE SETS A RECORD

We had a very successful blood drive Saturday with a record 22 units of blood collected. Many thanks to Jackie Mabie, Nancy Hallock, George and Judy Tennant and Reese Hufnagle for their help with the drive.

Our next drive will be from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 6.

Ellen LaPine

Social Justice Committee blood drive coordinator



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.

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.



The UUA's interim co-presidents are the Revs. Sofia Betancourt and Bill Sinkford and Dr. Leon Spencer

TOWARD THE BELOVED COMMUNITY: UPDATES FROM THE INTERIM CO-PRESIDENTS

April 27, 2017

The Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA) Interim Co-Presidents, the Revs. Sofia Betancourt and William Sinkford and Dr. Leon Spencer, shared this message following the recent UUA Board of Trustees meeting:

Last Friday and Saturday we attended – two of us (Sofia and Bill) in person and one (Leon) virtually – the first meeting of the UUA's Board of Trustees since we were appointed interim co-presidents. We wanted to take this opportunity to report some observations about that meeting as we begin our work.

In our report to the Board, the three of us discussed our understanding of the charge we received from the Board and engaged in some initial reflections on how we will engage with that charge. We informed the Board that we envision a two stage process for this work. The first stage, already underway, will review UUA hiring policies, practices and outcomes, and put in place a set of interim policies to ensure that hiring decisions move us toward our vision of the Beloved Community.

The more important second stage – called the Commission in our charge – will address the central question of how the culture of white supremacy operates in Unitarian Universalism, what truth needs to be told, what reconciliation we need to seek, and what vision needs to shape our work together. The three of us are meeting face-to-face for the first time this week to begin planning for how the Commission will address these issues. We already know that the work of the Commission must involve an invitation to our congregations and the larger UU community to engage in discernment about how our aspirations for the Beloved Community need to be embodied in staffing and leadership throughout Unitarian Universalism.

(Continued on Page 8)

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.

TOWARD THE BELOVED COMMUNITY: UPDATES FROM THE INTERIM CO-PRESIDENTS

(Continued from Page 7)

Many of the discussions at this Board meeting were informed by the question of what our faith community and institutions would look like if we centered the experiences of people of color. One such discussion concerned the allocation of General Assembly reserve funds to increase the number of scholarships available to people of color – especially youth and young adults – to attend General Assembly. We were delighted by the Board’s decision to approve increased funding for these scholarships.



The three of us were also gratified by the Board’s continued support for its decision to allocate funds to Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) and were pleased to hear that BLUU feels supported in their work by the Board.

We have heard clearly that trust in UUA leadership has been severely compromised. We understand that beginning to repair this broken trust is part of our leadership challenge. But we also firmly believe that this situation should be viewed as an opportunity, not just a set of problems to be solved. We have an opportunity to reaffirm the hope that is at the center of our faith. As we set about the task of institutional change, we commit as well to a process of healing that leads to spiritual renewal.

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

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



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

A template for a check form. It includes fields for "John Doe", "123 Main St", "Anywhere US 10111", "Date", "790", "1-678/1239", "PAY TO THE ORDER OF", "DOLLARS", "MEMO", and a MICR line at the bottom: "⑆ 423956789 ⑆ 1001001239 ⑆ 0790".

DON'T FORGET THAT MEMO LINE!

When you are writing a check for the church, please write on the memo line the purpose for which the check is being written.

For example: Pledge, Fair Share, Random Acts of Kindness, Window Fund. Such action makes it easier to record the check in its proper place.

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.

MAY 2017 CALENDAR

- 1 — 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.
- 4 — 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.
- 7 — 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. 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.
- 8 — 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.
- 11 — 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.
- 14 — 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. 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.
- 15 — 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.
- 18 — 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread, Route 31, Clay. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.
- 21 — 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.
- 22 — 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.
- 25 — 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.
- 28 — 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.
- 29 — 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.

2017 MAY						
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			

www.free-printable-calendar.com

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.