

# 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.

### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

The Rev. Andrea Abbott, Minister	315-635-7122	The Rev. Libbie D. Stoddard, Minister Emerita	315-343-4352
Ronna Schindler, Religious Education Chair	315-623-7685	Leigh Parry-Benedict, Music Coordinator	315-657-5904
Janie Garlow, President	315-436-2238	Ellen LaPine, Vice President	315-675-3385

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

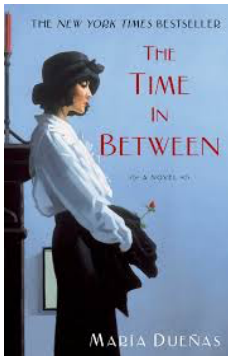
### **A MINISTERIAL MOMENT, OR MORE**

With all the rain and the warm temperatures, our garden (and, I assume everyone's garden) is a lush jungle. Of course the weeds have taken full advantage of the good conditions and the downpours which have kept their nemeses in the house, but the flowers themselves, those plants that we have so assiduously cultivated, they, too, have burst their bounds and are locked in mortal combat with each other. The bold chrysanthemum and phlox have almost completely crowded out the shy bachelor buttons. And so, in this time of abundance, we have to choose what to uproot and what to keep. So it also is with our obligations and commitments. It is a good problem to have more to do than what we can do rather than to have little or nothing to do. As well, we are grateful for our health that lets us over-commit ourselves with some assurance that somehow we can get at least most of it all done. However, like the prized flowers in our garden, there comes a time that we have to prune and cut back. That's when the dread word 'prioritize' rears its ugly head. How do we want our gardens to look? What is essential for their beauty and usefulness? What can go? As we try to pack a year into our too fleeting months of summer, I hope we all take the time to simply be, to watch the light play on the leaves, to dangle our feet in a lake or pond, to sit for a moment, at least, and feel the tender breeze on our skin. Perhaps that should be the first priority.



The Rev. Andrea Abbott

### **THE REVEREND WEISSBARD VIEWS "THE TIME BETWEEN"**



The Rev. David Weissbard writes concerning his sermon for 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 6:

"Many years ago, I was impressed by a sermon I heard at Chautauqua which explored the importance of 'The Time Between'. We often summarize a life with a hyphen: my mother lived 1916-2017, my first wife lived 1943-1987. But the question is, 'What happened in the period represented by the hyphen?' How about our lives? What are we doing with the time between? We'll consider that on Sunday.

"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, August 17.

**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.**

### **ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC**

Please plan to attend the Annual Picnic to be held at the Steibers' camp. The date is Sunday, August 6, following the church service. This is a dish-to-pass event. Wine or beer is O.K.

Directions to the camp will be provided. Plan to spend a relaxing afternoon of good company, good food and lots of good conversation in a beautiful setting. Thank you, Lucy and Army, for agreeing to host this event again this year.

Ann Peterson, UU Circle



### **BOARD SPLINTERS JULY 22, 2017**

Your Board wants you to know what is going on with our church. On July 22, 2017, the Board met for its annual retreat. Once we finished discussing Fair Share to the Unitarian Universalist Association and our regional association (Central East Region) the following highlights are shared here.

We decided that it is time to update our church directory. The current directory is available for changes at church each week, and once you preview the current directory, please send updates and changes to Robert Haskell ([rhaskell@twcny.rr.com](mailto:rhaskell@twcny.rr.com).)

Ann Peterson tracks attendance each week. She discovered that our average attendance for Sunday services has gone from 22 attendees to 28 attendees. This is a 27 percent increase. This is wonderful news.

Some additional work needs to be completed on the beautiful stained-glass windows in our sanctuary. The Plexiglas will come down and, while increasing access to light, we will also be preserving and protecting the stained-glass windows.

Automated External Defibrillators (AED) can save lives in a cardiac event. Our intention is to offer AED training for our church members. Please watch the newsletter for the training dates.

Thanks to the Grace Bristol funds, our bell tower is preserved for our use and for the next generation. Some simple maintenance will take place this summer. Ask Arnold Hook for details.

We discussed the First Universalist Church of Central Square's Fair Share. Fair share. Think about the words Fair (honor) Share. As a member church of the larger Unitarian Universalist Association we make an agreement to contribute a portion of our funds to the national organization and to the regional organization. We not only get a copy of the journal mailed to us at home, but our contributions contribute to the larger organization. Some members contribute an additional \$75 to their pledge amount, and others say, "Take the Fair Share out of my pledge amount." Either way our church makes a commitment to the larger organization. We are a part of the larger organization so that we are more than just a community church. We are part of a larger organization.

Feel free to ask any Board member if you have questions.

Marcia Burrell, treasurer

**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.**

### **GREEN MINUTE: A FRIEND IN MY YARD**

I've got a friend in my yard that looks after it when I'm not there. My friend has an elongated body a bit over 1 foot long, no ears, externally or internally, and no eyelids. My friend has a long, forked tongue that helps my friend to smell by picking up gaseous particles from odors and inserting them into a two-holed organ in the roof of the mouth, called the Jacobson's Organ. You've guessed it; my friend is an eastern garter snake. My friend is of average length but some eastern garter snakes can reach 3 feet.



Garter snakes vary in color from green to gray and some have a bluish tint. They are named for the ribbons (garters) that used to support people's socks before elastic, due to the 3 pale yellowish stripes running the length of their backs. They are the most common snake in New York state and are equally at home in moist areas near rivers, in wood lands or in back yards. Since garter snakes are cold blooded you'll see them basking in the sun to warm themselves but in the height of summer you're more likely to see them in a cool moist area. In the winter, garter snakes den communally in rocky crevices to hibernate.

Garter snakes generally have a mild disposition and can be handled gently. They are not aggressive and prefer to slither away from any perceived danger. However, if handled roughly they may bite even though they have no teeth. They will defend themselves from predators and curious humans by spraying a foul-smelling secretion from glands near the tail, then whipping and thrashing. This distributes a long-lasting smell resembling a ripe locker room far and wide. Therefore, like all wild creatures, they are best admired, not touched.

All snakes are attracted to cool, damp, dark areas associated with buildings, particularly if the structure is home to rodents or insects and they may enter houses through torn screens, open basement windows, or cracks in foundation walls or floors. They may also be found in barns, sheds, or other outbuildings. All openings 1/4-inch in diameter and larger should be sealed to exclude snakes from entering the building.

Having a garter snake in your garden is a wonderful occasion since they are voracious predators of slugs. They also eat earthworms, amphibians, carrion, insects, small birds, fish, crayfish, and other snakes.

As summer winds down, keep an eye out for a back yard friend of your own and maybe you'll be fortunate enough to find your friend in the garden happily eating its fill of pests.

Ellen LaPine,  
Social Justice Committee

**UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.**

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The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures,

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### **ALL ARE WELCOME AT BOARD MEETINGS**

The Executive Board meetings are usually the first Sunday of every month at 9 a.m. These meetings are open and all are welcome to attend. The next Board meeting will be on September 10, the second Sunday because of the Labor Day weekend being the first Sunday of the month. There will be no Board meeting in August.

Thank you,  
Janie Garlow,  
President



### **SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE HAS SHORT BUT BUSY SESSION**



The Social Justice Committee met for a short time on Sunday, July 9, after our Highway Pickup.

We reviewed our Pure Water for the World collection. Thanks to whoever brought in a HUGE bag of returnables!

We briefly discussed Tracy Kinne's project as sponsor for author Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis to come to Hendricks Chapel in October. Tracy will provide more information next month.

I have some political information concerning the United States 22nd District for anyone interested. Contact any member with your suggestion for future issues to research and maybe a book to read.

Nancy Hallock, committee chair

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT**

Summer fun continues. There are no formal classes.  
Ronna Schindler, Religious Education Committee  
chairperson and older children's teacher



### **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.

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**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.**

### AUGUST 2017 CALENDAR

3 — 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.

6 — 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: "The Time Between." "Random Acts of Kindness Sunday. 10:50 a.m., There will be no formal classes but children are free to come back to the classroom for crafting fun. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which the Social Justice Committee asks everyone to bring magazines to exchange for others.

7 — 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.

10 — 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.

13 — 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., There will be no formal classes but children are free to come back to the classroom for crafting fun. 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.

14 — 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.

17 — 9:30 a.m., Women and men of the church will meet at Panera Bread, Route 31, Clay, for Coffee and Chat. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.

20 — 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., There will be no formal classes but children are free to come back to the classroom for crafting fun.. 11:45 a.m., Social time.

21 — 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.

24 — 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.

27 — 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., There will be no formal classes but children are free to come back to the classroom for crafting fun. 11:45 a.m., Social time.

28 — 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.

2017 AUGUST						
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.**