

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:
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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)



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

Our Mission Statement

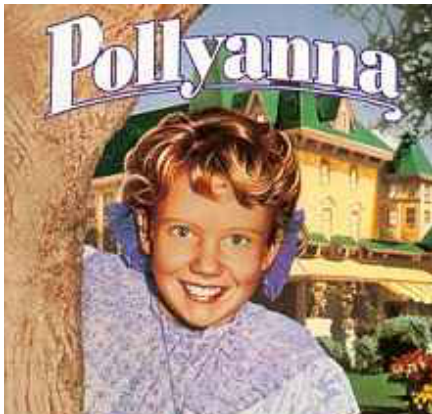
The mission of the First Universalist Society of Central Square is to be a welcoming, diverse congregation, which values spiritual growth and service to the local and world community.

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

A MINISTERIAL MOMENT, OR MORE

About the time you read this, a procession of school buses will have made its way with their reluctant or eager passengers to the doors of learning. About the time you read this, a few red leaves will have settled in our yard, several flocks of geese will have practiced their formations and the squirrels will look plumper. Each change of seasons invites us to a new round of endings and beginnings. In this part of the world, we begin to say goodbye to summer and hello to fall with many different signs and signals. For us at First U in Central Square, the second Sunday in September has become our ingathering Sunday, the day we officially begin our church year with Water Communion, a time for us to share our summer adventures. This is pretty much tradition by now, with echoes of a time when many Unitarian-Universalist churches closed their doors in late June and didn't open them again until after Labor Day, a time when many congregants took their vacations. In today's busy world, vacations, if people have them, are not so regulated by the seasons and we have been open in the summer for many, many years. And yet there is a sense that September marks a change, a settling in, a return to normal, whatever that is. By September, some people welcome a change to the old routine, welcome a chance to get back to the familiar, welcome the time to begin again whatever work or projects the delights of summer have interrupted. So may it be with us. Let the golden sunlight of September encourage us in our efforts to see our work, our summer's growth, to a great harvest.

The Rev. Andrea Abbott



THE REV. DAVID WEISSBARD ASKS "IS THERE SOME HOPE STILL?"

The Rev. David Weissbard has chosen as his sermon title for 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 3, "Woke, Yet? Now What?" He writes, "This has been a hell of a year so far! The Alt-Right has reared its ugly head like never in my lifetime. The UUA President resigned because of charges of white privilege. And now Charlottesville! (There's lots more between those.) Pollyanna herself would have trouble denying the mess we are in. Is there, however, some hope still? We'll be looking at that on Sunday."

THANK YOU!

Thanks to Tracy Kinne for volunteering to host the social time on Sunday morning, August 27.



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
2:30 – 6:30 P.M. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**

On Friday, September 8, there will be another of our regularly scheduled Red Cross blood drives.

You can schedule an appointment to donate blood by visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS. There is also a sign-up sheet in the dining room where you can make an appointment. If you cannot give but know someone who can, please tell them about this drive.

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

Thank you for your help.

Ellen Lapine, Social Justice Committee blood drive coordinator

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Social Justice Committee met on Sunday, August 20.

We agreed on a donation to the presentation by Dr. Liz Theoharis on Wednesday, October 11, at Hendricks Chapel on the Syracuse University campus.

We plan to discuss how best to show our support for anti-racism. We need to decide how much we will work with the Workers Center of Central New York this year.

The next highway pickup will be at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 15.

The date of the next committee meeting is to be announced.

Nancy Hallock, committee chair



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 21.

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.



CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TO START NEW YEAR

Summer is coming to an end and formal religious education classes will begin September 10.

We will start the year completing our congregational hand print chalice.

Thanks to everyone who helped this become a reality.

We will be working on the First and Second Principles.

Everyone is important.

All people should be treated fairly and kindly.

We have an amazing year ahead of us. Let the fun begin!

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

AUTHOR TO SPEAK ON ENDING POVERTY

Poverty isn't inevitable, and we as a society can end it, maintains the Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis in her book, published last spring, "Always with Us? What Jesus Really Said about the Poor."

The Rev. Andrea Abbott and I agree with Liz, and we're joining with the Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State to bring this author to Syracuse. Liz will speak and have a book signing at Syracuse University's Hendricks Chapel from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, October 11.

Liz is co-director of the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. She has spent the past two decades as an organizer working alongside people who are poor. She has advised grassroots groups including the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, the Vermont Workers Center, Domestic Workers United, the United Workers Association, the National Union of the Homeless and the Kensington Welfare Rights Union.

Liz also is national co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival.

Liz views the poor with respect; she sees the poor as equals who can be agents of social change. She rejects a paternalistic approach to ending poverty. Andrea and I couldn't agree more.

Ronna Schindler, who is office coordinator at the Syracuse University bookstore, is onboard, and the Social Justice Committee is helping with ideas and some much-needed funding so we can rent Hendricks, which starts at \$400, and pay Liz's expenses.

The talk will be free, and we hope to draw a sizable crowd. Please come, and spread the word!



Thank you.
Tracy Kinne

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.

GREEN MINUTE: PLANTS THAT ARE TOXIC PLANTS TO YOUR PET

I was at my veterinarian's office and noticed a listing of plants that are toxic to our pets, which showed some plants that were surprising to me. After a quick search on my computer I found the care2 website at www.care2.com/greenliving/24-common-plants-poisonous-to-pets.html. They provide a listing of 23 of the most common plants that are toxic to your pet. They also recommend that you go to the ASPCA website for a complete list of these plants.



The plants care2 lists are:

Aloe Vera, Amaryllis, Azalea, Baby's Breath, Begonia, Carnations, Castor Bean, Chrysanthemum, Cyclamen, Daffodil, Gladiola, Hosta, Ivy, Lillies (all types), Milk Weed, Morning Glory, Oleander, Poinsettia, Pothos, Sago Palm, Tomato Plant, Tulip and Yew.

Other plants that my vet's office had identified that are common are:

African Violet, Apple Seeds, Asparagus Fern, Bird of Paradise, Bittersweet, Bleeding Heart, Buttercup, Crown of Thorns, Hemlock, Hyacinth, Iris, Jasmine, Lupine, Mistletoe, Mushrooms and Toadstools, Narcissus, Onion, Philodendron, Poke Weed, Rhododendron, Rhubarb, Skunk Cabbage, Spinach and Wisteria.

Common signs that your pet ate a toxic plant are vomiting, anorexia, depression, diarrhea, abdominal pain, excessive salivation, seizures and nausea. If your animal is having seizures or losing consciousness, take him or her to your veterinarian or emergency vet center. Do not induce vomiting.

If your pet is not showing symptoms, but ingested something potentially toxic, call the ASPCA hotline at (888) 426-4435. Have the following information available: the species, breed, age, sex, weight, and information about the plant you suspected was ingested.

Ellen LaPine
Social Justice Committee

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP



The Central New York Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association sponsors a monthly alzheimer's support group for caregivers at our church. The group meets in the Goettel Room at 7 p.m. on the fourth Monday of every month.

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.

ADULT WORKSHOP FOCUSES ON AGING

The Rev. Libbie Stoddard and Ann Peterson will be giving an Adult Religious Education workshop on aging on Sunday afternoon, September 24th. Since we are all aging, this workshop is open to adults of all ages. Since the topic is vast, we will not be covering all aspects of aging, but have selected areas that we feel are meaningful. Also, we hope that this workshop opens up this topic for discussion beyond the workshop. A signup sheet will be circulated on Sunday during coffee hour.

Please plan on bringing your lunch. We will limit the number of people attending the workshop so that we are able to have meaningful discussion with those who attend. For the comfort of all who participate, we will be asking that everyone keep comments and discussions from the workshop confidential.

The Rev. Libbie Stoddard and Ann Peterson



MEMBERS WEEKEND



Join us for an informal gathering of friends. We will usher in the fall with activities such as hiking, canoeing and kayaking and will enjoy good food, conversation, music, games, discussion, campfires and the warmth of the lodge fireplace. Bring stories, games, musical instruments, and photos and memories of camp. This will also be a time to share your ideas and visions for Unirondack with our directors, board members and fellow Unirondack members and to participate and vote in our Annual Meeting on Saturday October 7, 2017.

Camp Unirondack

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.



CLERGY MARCH IN A 'FUNERAL PROCESSION' TO PROTEST HEALTH CARE REPEAL

WASHINGTON (RNS) — For the third week in a row, clergy showed up on Capitol Hill to protest Senate action on health care.

As in past weeks, some were arrested.

But on this Tuesday (July 25), the group ratcheted up the drama by marching to the Capitol, carrying a cardboard coffin and poster-sized death certificates for those who would lose health insurance.

“We say, we will not bury the dead buried by your bills,” said the Rev. Robin Tanner of Beacon Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Summit, N.J. “... Health care is a human right. And so we say, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, let our people live.”

While they originally planned to deliver the coffin to McConnell, they instead waited more than two hours to witness the vote opening formal debate on the Republican bill scuttling former President Obama's health law.

The weekly protests have begun to take on a semblance of habit, and a press release from organizers said clergy will continue to gather every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. until Congress recesses.

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.

SEPTEMBER 2017 CALENDAR

3 — 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., 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.

4 — 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 — 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.

8 — 2:30 to 6:30 p.m., Red Cross Blood Drive.

10 — 9 a.m., Executive Board meets. Meetings are open and all are welcome to attend. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., The Rev. Andrea Abbott leads the worship service. Ingathering Sunday, the day we officially begin our church year with Water Communion. 10:50 a.m., Formal religious education classes resume. 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.

11 — 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.

14 — 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.

17 — 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., the Rev. Bud-Adams leads the worship service. 10:50 a.m., Religious education. 11:45 a.m., Social time.

18 — 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.

21 — 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.

24 — 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. 11:45 a.m., Social time. Adult Religious Education workshop.

25 — 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 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

www.free-printable-calendar.com

In Unitarian Universalism, you can bring your whole self: your full identity, your questioning mind, your expansive heart.