

# Circle of Fellowship

November, 2017

The First Universalist Society of  
Central Square, New York  
3243 Fulton Street  
(Route 49, near Route 11)  
Post Office Box 429  
Central Square, New York 13036-  
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Our Church is Handicapped Accessible

Church Phone: 315-307-3400

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tralsquareuu.org

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/  
pages/UU-Central  
Square/199139743511564](http://www.facebook.com/pages/UU-Central-Square/199139743511564)

Any information or ideas? Send to:  
csuunewslettereditor@gmail.com



What are the kids up to? See what Ronna has to say on page 2.

Ellen La Pine asks for everyone to donate and/or volunteer at the upcoming Blood Drive, See page 3!

Take a look at Ellen's Green Minute on energy savings and care for our environment! Page 3.

Upcoming Sermons: Page 4  
and we'll update as we learn more.  
Ministerial Musings, Page 5

## 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 to affirm and promote justice , equity and compassion in human relations

## From RE Director Ronna Schindler

We concluded October asking for the help of the congregation in placing UU Rocks around our neighborhoods to be found by others. On the backs of these rocks is the Church's website.

It is our hope to make our church a little more visible to area communities through our website.

We still have a few rocks left in the dining room that need a new home. Please consider joining in on the fun.

November is looking to be a very busy time for our children in Religious Exploration.

It has come to my attention that this is what our young people are doing.

They are exploring the multitude of ways that religion may become part of their lives.

We will be continuing to learn about our principles, what they represent to us, and how we follow them in our daily lives.

#2 Being fair and kind. Learning to accept one another and the differences that make us who we are.

#3 Learning together. How we think can change our lives. We will be discussing this quote from the Dalai Lama

and how it pertains to our own lives.

Take care of your thoughts because they will become words

Take care of your words because they will become your actions

Take care of your action because they will become your habits

Take care of your habits because they will become your character

Take care of your character because it will form your destiny

And your destiny will be your life. ~Dalai Lama~

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**Red Cross Blood Drive**  
**Friday November 24th 2:30 – 6:30 p.m.**

The American Red Cross encourages people to share their good health this holiday season by donating blood for patients in need. A decline in donations occurs from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day when donors are busy with holiday activities and travel. However, patients don't get a holiday break from needing lifesaving transfusions. In fact, every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. On Friday, November 24, 2017, the day after Thanksgiving, there will be another of our regularly scheduled Red Cross blood drives. Let's take this opportunity to start the holiday season off with a successful drive. You can schedule an appointment to donate blood by visiting [redcrossblood.org](http://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 very much appreciated. Ellen LaPine

Thank you for your help.

**Green Minute**  
**3 Green Ideas**

**While looking around the** New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's website I found several good green ideas. Here are three of them.

**Recycle your torn, stained and unwearable clothing, sheets, towels and bedding.** Charities accept all sorts of used textiles, including those deemed too worn or damaged to donate. Instead of throwing out a stained shirt, socks without mates, or ragged jeans, give them to the Rescue Mission, Salvation Army, Goodwill or another charity. Many of these charities have large collection bins outside their stores or you can find them at major retailers around the area as well as outside of some churches. Charities make money selling donated textiles, useful textiles are kept out of landfills, and 95% of them are reused.

Many species of insects, birds, sea turtles, bats, nocturnal rodents, snakes, fish, and even plants are harmed by nighttime lighting. Turn off the lights or use lower wattage outdoor lights, motion-sensitive lights and fixtures with shields that direct light downward.

If you're going on vacation, turn down your water heater. There is no sense in keeping 40+ gallons of water warm when no one's around. Leave yourself a note to remember to turn it back up when you return. 120 degrees is adequate for most purposes. Hotter water is necessary only if your automatic dishwasher lacks a pre-heat function.

Ellen LaPine

# UU Congregations covenant to affirm and promote justice , equity and compassion in human relations

## Upcoming Services For November, 2017

Nov 5, 2017 [Reverend David Weissbard](#)

A Sermon by the Reverend David Weissbard, Sunday, November 5, 2017

“Surviving Fantasyland” Several weeks ago, Winfield Ihlow tipped me off to a most insightful book I have had the pleasure and pain of reading: Kurt Andersen’s Fantasyland: How America Went Haywire: A 500-Year History. It is one of those books that yield a perspective on life that helps us to feel “Wow! I understand.”

Nov 12, 2017 [Reverend Andrea Abbott](#)

Who am I Speaking to? A Sermon by the Reverend Andrea Abbott, Sunday, November 12, 2017

In this season of giving thanks, it is worth a moment to think about to whom our thank yous are addressed. Does it matter to whom we send our gratitude? How might it change the nature of our understanding of grace?

Nov 19, 2017 [Rev. Bud Adams](#)

A Sermon by the Reverend Bud Adams, Sunday, November 19, 2017

Our services give insight into the seven principles of Unitarian-Universalism. We draw from personal inspiration, the teachings of thoughtful people from different times and places, sacred writings of many traditions, and events in our world today. From this, we craft a spiritual message to inspire our thoughts and actions as we conduct our lives.

Nov 26, 2017 [Reverend Andrea Abbott](#)

A Sermon by the Reverend Andrea Abbott, Sunday, November 26, 2017

Our services give insight into the seven principles of Unitarian-Universalism. We draw from personal inspiration, the teachings of thoughtful people from different times and places, sacred writings of many traditions, and events in our world today. From this, we craft a spiritual message to inspire our thoughts and actions as we conduct our lives.

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## **Ministerial Musings**

### **Reverend Andrea Abbott**

Thanksgiving is coming at a fast clip. Something I read recently mentioned that if those much cited people from outer space visited us, near the end of November they would think that we worship a turkey goddess. Or, in some circles, perhaps the god or goddess of tofu. Thanksgiving is, like all good holidays, much about food but that is not to be despised. We sometimes forget that we wouldn't go far without it. We are, most of us, pretty far removed from the source of our nourishment. Lucky for us, I think we are not in danger of food scarcity. And I hope everyone has good digestion and good appetites. This means that we can focus on other things; friends and family, the warmth of getting together. When (if) we say grace as we sit down to the laden table, we are not as acutely aware of our good fortune as perhaps our ancestors were. Or as people in other parts of the world are. Or as people rather uncomfortably close may well be. We also may not be as aware as we might be of how much our own good fortune to be where we are is not of our own doing. But for the grace...As we gather together with those we love, our good fortune is certainly worth a thought, a thought that does not have to be either guilty or self-justifying, but just a moment of gratitude that also acknowledges our dependence on the earth and dependence on each other.

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