

Circle of Fellowship

January, 2018

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

13036-0429

Our Church is Handicapped Accessible

Church Phone: 315-307-3400

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Church website: centralsquareuu.org

Facebook:

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

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



Stained Glass Chalice in the UU Church in Budapest, Hungary. Compliments of Marcia Burrell.

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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 justice , equity and compassion in human relations

Green Minute
Native Plants

We're now entering into the long cold days of winter. It's the time of year when watching birds at your feeder can bring hours of enjoyment. Part of getting those birds to the feeder involves providing the types of plants in your yard habitat that support birds. More native plants mean more choices of food and shelter for native birds and other wildlife. To survive, native birds need native plants and the insects that have co-evolved with them. The National Audubon Society has a free resource to help you decide what native plants you might want in your yard.

Go to www.Audubon.org/Native-Plants then enter your Zip Code. You will be able to view recommendations for bird-friendly plants that will thrive in your yard. You'll see a description of each plant and what types of birds favor the plant. A tab called "Local Resources" will give you a list of local nurseries where you can purchase the plants. If you register your email address you can add items to your personal plant list and have the list emailed to you along with tips for creating wildlife habitats.

We'll soon be dreaming of getting out into the yard to do some planting. This website is a good resource to use as you make your winter plans for your spring garden.

Ellen La Pine

Red Cross Blood Drive
Friday January 19th 2 – 6 p.m.

Need a New Year's resolution? The American Red Cross suggests "Give More Life!" Why not resolve to make blood donation a priority in 2018. There is currently an urgent need for blood donors to give at our Red Cross blood drive from 2 to 6 p.m. on Friday, January 19, 2018. 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 very much appreciated.

Thank you for your help.

Ellen LaPine
Social Justice Committee Blood Drive Coordinator

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My Return from Budapest



The Basilica of
Budapest,
Hungary

My daughter says I take weird pictures. She might be right, but I hope you enjoy the pictures I think might be of interest to you. I visited the Basilica, the Great Synagogue (Largest in Europe), and of course our very own Unitarian sister church. For almost two months I was a tourist in Hungary while resting, revitalizing, and researching for my semester-long sabbatical. When you're alone in the city, and you've gone to virtually all of the famous places, museums and churches and synagogues you yearn to be home. One of the most enjoyable visits was to the Unitarian Church with The Reverend Jozsef Kaszoni, Vicar. He was gracious and kind to me for 20 minutes of conversation. He has a sister church in the United States, somewhere that the Budapest church has had a long relationship. Vicar Joseph will be retiring in the spring and will be replaced with two ministers. Must be nice.

From my short experience, Hungarians have a long and rich history. They are a resilient and very welcoming people. There is so much to learn about our world history in Budapest.

Attending church does not seem to be a thing in Budapest, but this Catholic state/government has lots of Muslims and Jews. They had a bank holiday and celebrated All Saints Day on November 1. Government buildings and schools were closed for the holiday. Many people visit places like Margaret Island on Sundays and enjoy time with family. This family tradition seems similar to our U.S. customs.

People also seem to visit the many Malls in Budapest. Our U.S. Capitalism has arrived in Budapest, from the many Starbucks, KFC, McDonald's and Burger Kings I saw all over the place. I'm told that people don't have much money, but the American based places always seemed to have lots of people, at all hours of the day.

I am happy I had an opportunity to be in Budapest, but I am thrilled to return home to be with my husband and friends here in Central New York.

Ask me questions about the pictures and ask me questions.

Marcia

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RE News

With the beginning of the new year comes the opportunity to explore multi religious beliefs. From the birth of Guru Gobindh Singh of the Sikh religion to Baha'i World Religion Day.

We will create our resolutions for a more peaceful world, and explore our own power and ability to make change.

Even the smallest action causes a ripple effect. As the children will learn in the Orange jelly bean story.

From working on our golden rule puzzle to making our own personal world religion mobiles we will learn our similarities and how we can use that knowledge to create our own ripple effect.

Ronna Schindler

A Note from Our Music Director

The choir will be off and running with the new year! We will be practicing at 9:45 each Sunday before the service as well as at 12:00 following the service and social time the first Sunday of each month. We will be doing our first full rehearsal of the new year on January 7th at 12:00. This rehearsal is the time where we learn any of the more challenging music for the month. Anyone interested in singing with the group is always welcome to join at any time.

Leigh Benedict

Music Director

Central Square UU Sermon Schedule For January, 2018

Jan. 7th- David Weissbard: Women Lie

Jan. 14th- Andrea Abbott: Looking for a Wizard

Jan. 21st- Bud Adams

Jan. 28th- Andrea Abbott: Another Bite of the Apple

Most sermons are available at our sermon archive on our website [here](#).

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January Message from The Reverend Andrea Abbott

Yesterday it was 16 degrees *above* zero and I felt that we were in the middle of a heat wave. That's not a good sign. Not being one of those winter sports types, my main activity on these cold days has been to walk from armchair and book to kitchen and tea cup. When they start Olympic events in these categories, I'll be a contender. My usual reaction to winter is to hang on and get through. And yet, there are charms to the slowing of pace after Christmas, for those of us lucky enough to be able to indulge in this as I am. We are undistracted by color and movement in a frozen world of whites and greys. All around us, everything seems to exist in a meditative hush. And in this absence, we find what we have inside of us to sustain us, as the bare trees are sustained by their stored goodness of the summer. I wish you a warm and content January.

Noteworthy Pieces from the Web for UU Discussion

I selected two pieces from websites this month I thought readers would find discussion worthy.

The first is from novelist and essayist, Marilynne Robinson, in the American Scholar:

<https://theamericanscholar.org/what-is-freedom-of-conscience/#>.

The second is from a civil rights lawyer and activist many have heard in person, Bryan Stevenson. This is on his Tanner Lecture: <https://www.harvardmagazine.com/2017/12/bryan-stevenson-tanner-lecture-white-supremacy-slavery>.

Enjoy and Share. Arne

UU Universe

Check out recent news from the UUA here: <https://www.uua.org/pressroom/stories>

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Some Splinters from the Executive Board:

Hello all,
here are some of the things that your Executive Board has been busy with over the past two months.

Thanks to all of your participation, the Comfort Food Dinner, organized by the UU Circle, earned \$500 for our church finances.

Also, the annual Cookie Exchange / Bake Sale was a success as well.

And of course, the annual Christmas Day Dinner for us and the wider community of Central Square also was a success. As usual, Kurt was the prime organizer. Food and games were enjoyed by many.

As you all have figured out by now, Bud Adams will be stepping in as our Third Sunday of the Month Minister in our pulpit. I am sure you will all agree that while we will miss the messages that Tanya brought, Bud has always been a welcome speaker in our pulpit.

Every member is encouraged to check out our web page and our Facebook page to see how we represent ourselves to the outside world. If you have any comments or suggestions about what you see, please send them to Chuck or to Mary Fran.

On January 14, the Social Justice Committee will be hosting a lunch along with the showing of the documentary film "The Memphis 13". In October 1961, 13 first graders became some of the smallest pioneers of the Civil Rights Movement when they desegregated the Memphis City Schools. 'The Memphis 13' is their story. The film lasts about 35 minutes.

It has been a while, so the Board it soon to undertake an update of the Church Directory. So, if there have been any changes in your contact information since the last version, please let a member of the Membership Committee know.

Please help out with the Coffee and Snacks after the Sunday service if you possibly can. We should not let this task fall to the same few people most of the time.

If you pass by the building after dark, you may notice that lighting for the parking lot has been installed on the east side.

Which brings us to our new neighbor, Mr. Eric Stropp, who purchased the bank building next door. He intends to make it into an office building. The Board, principally Arne, worked out an agreement for the common use of the parking area between us.

And finally, the Board heard a report from Mr. Robert Sullivan, a local attorney, who did some investigating of our property boundaries and the details of the real estate that the church owns. It was a very interesting report. More investigation will be done soon by a committee of the Board. Mr. Sullivan graciously did his investigation *pro bono*.

That is what we have for now. Please feel free to ask your Board members for any additional information you may like to have.

Winfield Ihlow-Board Secretary

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Church Calendar For January, 2018

January 14– Potluck Luncheon and film,

The Memphis Thirteen after services.

January 10 and 17– Two pagan groups meet at the church.

January 18– Coffee and Chat at Panera, 9:30 am

Alzheimer’s Support Group meets the last Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Goettell room.

January 19– Red Cross Blood Drive from 2:00-6:00 pm.

Coffee Hour Refreshment Schedule

January 14– Potluck Luncheon and a Movie

January 21-Open to sign up

January 28– Mary Fran

Interested in volunteering for refreshments? Talk to Judy Tennant and sign up after services

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Social Justice Activities

The Social Justice Committee met 12/10/17. We confirmed our treasury balance and noted a recent donation to the Equal Justice Initiative.

Two flags were bought. One to hang on each side of the church front doors. (One American and one rainbow). Our December donation of \$156 to Pure Water for the World, on Giving Tuesday, was a matched donation. There was more planning made for the cookie sale. Four people volunteered to make soup and two brought bread. We advertised this event to the community. We made \$106, which was donated to the church and everyone seemed to enjoy the soups! We have arranged Potluck and a Movie for 1/14 and 2/11. We will have a monthly SJC meeting at 9:00 both those mornings (and all are invited). Ellen has a note about the 1/19 blood drive. We have a concert planned in April and will announce specifics after confirmation with Colleen Kattau. That's all. Respectfully submitted, Nancy Hallock