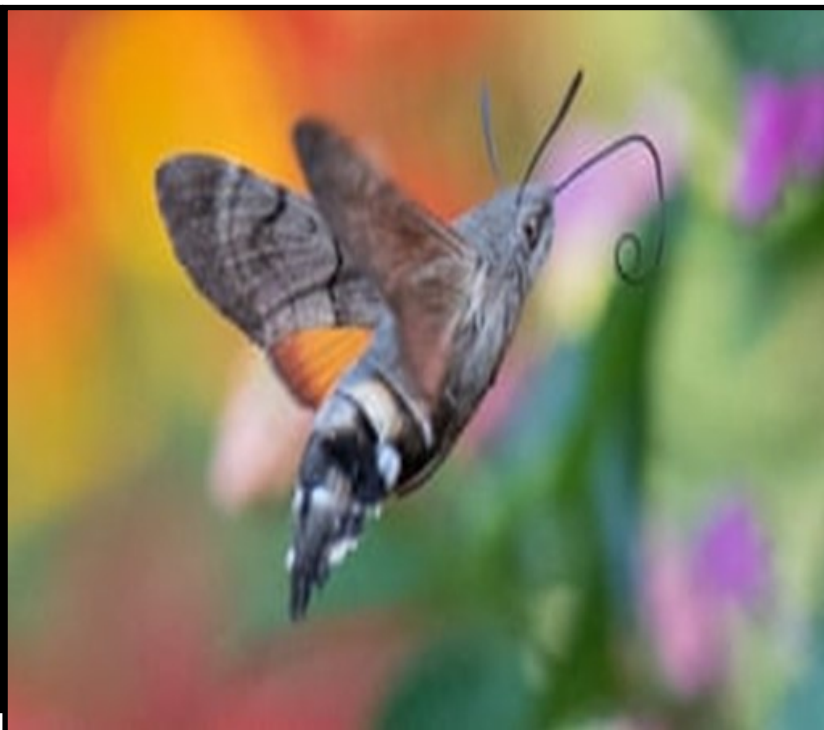


Circle of Fellowship
Monthly Newsletter of the First
Universalist Society of Central
Square, NY
September, 2018

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

The First Universalist Society of
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UU-Central Square/199139743511564](https://www.facebook.com/pages/UU-Central-Square/199139743511564)



Just Because- One of Nature's Delights: The Hummingbird Moth

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Ministerial Musings

As I write this, fall shows little sign of arriving. A few overeager leaves have turned red and drifted down, but there is little sign of many more joining them. It is hot, hot, hot and shorts and sleeveless tops are still the fashion preference of the day. I love fall, except for its position in the calendar. We all know what follows fall. Certainly, the word bittersweet was coined to describe this season. However I may think of the world turning away from the warmth of the sun, I find I feel more unease when things are not as I have come to expect. Our area in perpetual summer sounds great until we start to think about the consequences of that. Not good. And even the paradise of summer can become boring. I often wonder what the residents of Hawaii or other tropical paradises have to talk about when they obviously can't keep on saying, "Great day, isn't it?" Probably something we'll never have to worry about.

Because, eventually, the seasons do change here. Eventually change comes to everybody and to everything. September has been the start of a new church year, which we will celebrate with Water Communion on September 9th. We, too, will face change, either change we choose or change that is chosen for us. How we respond to our times is a test of our strength and our commitment to this place we all love. No one lives in perpetual paradise. Even paradises change. What worked for our grandparents will not work for our grandchildren. How will we face these times and the years to come? We all have our needs, our desires, our fears to contend with. We also have our strengths, our vision and our love to see us through the coming year. Change is necessary and, if we have the courage to see us through, we can work together to keep our past heritage and create a church that is truly an inspiration for the future.
The Reverend Andrea Abbott

Sermon Calendar

September 2nd Rev. David Weissbard Being Human

September 9th Rev. Andrea Abbott Water Communion

September 16th Rev. Libbie Stoddard

September 23rd Rev. Bud Adams

September 30th Rev. Andrea Abbott

October 7th Rev. David Weissbard

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Green Minute
Garlicky Swiss Chard

It's been a good year for my garden with an abundance of veggies that I have eaten, shared with neighbors and canned. At the end of our growing season the hearty Swiss chard continues to produce even after a light frost. If you have Swiss chard in your garden or want to purchase it at the farmer's market, here's a quick recipe that uses the wonderful garlic that is also abundant this time of year.

1 bunch Swiss chard
2 tablespoons olive oil
salt to taste

4 cloves garlic, coarsely chopped
1/8 teaspoon red pepper flakes

Cut washed Swiss chard into 1 inch strips. Separate the thick stalk sections from the leafy strips. Cook the stalk sections in salted boiling water for about 2 minutes then stir in the leafy strips. Cook until the leaves are wilted and the stalks are fork tender. Drain and set aside.

Heat olive oil, garlic and red pepper flakes in a large skillet for about 3 minutes. Add the drained Swiss chard, cook and stir about 2 minutes. Season with salt to taste.

Ellen LaPine

Notable Pieces of Interest

The link below leads to a Des Moines letter to the editor by Rob Tibbetts, father of Mollie Tibbetts, a college student who was recently murdered. He speaks out against the politicization of his daughter's death.

<https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/columnists/2018/09/01/mollie-tibbetts-father-common-decency-immigration-heartless-despicable-donald-trump-jr-column/1163131002/>

I would strongly recommend a read of these two volumes by Johann Hari. He is a remarkable voice and brilliant writer on our society's need to rethink our approaches to mental illness and addictions. The two books are [Lost Connections](#) and [Chasing the Scream](#). Check them out.

Any recommendations? Let me know. Thanks. Arnold Hook

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Red Cross Blood Drive
Friday September 21st 2:30 – 6:30 p.m.

More than 15,000 kids and teens in the U.S. are diagnosed with cancer each year. Many of them will need blood, sometimes daily, while undergoing chemotherapy treatment. The Red Cross urges donors of all blood types to give blood in support of kids fighting cancer, patients with sickle cell disease and others facing serious illnesses. We will have another of our regularly scheduled Red Cross blood drives on Friday, September 21st from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. Please consider donating or volunteering You can schedule an appointment to donate blood by visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS but no appointment is necessary. Even if you cannot be a donor, please tell others about the 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. Ellen LaPine

Church Events Calendar

September 9th: Church Board Meeting, 9:00am

Each Monday in September: Minister's Office Hours 5:00-6:00 pm and Silent Meditation at 6:00pm

September 10th: Building Screens for Stained Glass Windows (Arnold Hook or Winfield Ithaca for details.

September 21st: Red Cross Blood Drive at the church from 2:30pm to 6:30pm

September 23rd: Book Discussion of The Sun Does Shine after the service

September 28th: Dinner and a movie. Meet at The Acropolis Restaurant for dinner and see the movie afterward at the church. The film will be Part 1 of Joseph Campbell's Mythology series.

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Social Justice Committee

We met 8/19@ 9am, next mtg. is 9/16 @.9am. The 3rd and final October Highway Pickup is 10/14. Meet at church @:30a, wear old shoes and gloves.

The \$300 collected to help immigrant families was donated to Slocum House, as suggested by the Workers Center.

Our next Blood Drive is 9/21 2-6pm. Donors and helpers are needed.

A book discussion of "THE SUN DOES SHINE" will be on 9/23 after the service.

We continue to collect cans and coins for PURE WATER FOR THE WORLD.

On 9/28, dinner and a film will begin @5p at the Acropolis, followed by an episode from Joseph Campbell's series watched at the church.

In coordination with the UUC, we are considering working with "IN MY FATHER'S KITCHEN" . This organization assists the homeless in Syracuse. A representative will be invited to speak.

Also plans are in the works for a Clarinet concert and the McCarthy's concert in December. (Plus more music in the Spring).

We will continue monthly Potluck Lunches with an occasional change from the 3rd Sunday. We'll keep you posted.

Bye for now, Nancy Hallock

UU Universe

A new film on Netflix tells the story of The Reverend Carlton Pearson, a former fundamentalist minister who had an epiphany on the nature of his God and human suffering that led him ultimately to leaving his church and founding a religious life with Unitarian-Universalism. His story was first told with Ira Glass on the podcast, This American Life, years ago and is now reproduced in this docudrama. Read the article on the UU website [here](#).

The online UU World reports on the beliefs of UUs compared to other responders to the Pew religious typology quiz. You can read the results and take the quiz yourself. Read it [here](#).