

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

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

Ministerial Musings

November 2018

This month we honor the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. As the all-knowing Wikipedia tells us, “It came into force at 11 a.m. Paris time on 11 November 1918 ("the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month") and marked a victory for the Allies and a complete defeat for Germany, although not formally a surrender. Although the armistice ended the fighting, it needed to be prolonged three times until the Treaty of Versailles which was signed on 28 June 1919, took effect on 10 January 1920.” As this reminds us, armistice means that there is an agreement to end the fighting but it does not necessarily end the war, nor does it create a lasting peace. The seeds of World War II were planted in World War I and it can be said that the seeds of much of the conflicts around the world were planted in both of the World Wars as territories were carved up with little regard to the people who actually lived in them. As we enjoy peace in this country, we sometimes forget that a lasting, world-wide peace is yet but a dream.

The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month will be remembered at church by a special service by Winfield Ihlow. At the eleventh hour the bell will be rung, a hundred years after Vernon Goettel, a leader of our church whom some remember, rung the bell on the first Armistice day.

Reverend Andrea Abbott

Religious Education

As darkness seems to creep in sooner each day we will working on "Finding the light in the darkness".

There is good in everyone but sometimes we judge people by first impressions and do not take the time to really get to know them.

Inherent worth and dignity. What is it and how can we accomplish it?

In ourselves, our congregation, our corner of the world and beyond.

These are the questions we will be asking as we continue our STAR (special, terrific, awesome, remarkable) lesson plan we will be including the congregation.

After all we all have star qualities.

Ronna Schindler
RE Director

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Green Minute
Finding a Green Energy Company

Janet Jenkins asked me to look into what it takes to find a green electricity provider. This led me to the [New York State Green Power Program](#)'s website. From there you can search for energy offers by zip code. You can ask the website to give you companies that use green power and it will show you their rates and historic pricing scales as well as ways to contact them. Be careful as some of these companies want you to sign up for their maintenance programs and have cancellation fees. This website is a good place to start but it would be wise to look into each company individually. You can try the Better Business Bureau, Call Me Power.com, and NY Energy Ratings.com to name a few places.

One thing I notice as I look into each company is that the reviewers recommend that you choose a fixed rate plan over a variable rate plan.

As we start to hunker down for winter, it might be a good time to review our energy needs and look into a supplier that uses renewable sources. Thanks for the suggestion Janet.

Ellen LaPine

Red Cross Blood Drive
Friday November 23rd 2:30 – 6:30 p.m.

We will have another of our regularly scheduled Red Cross blood drives on Friday, November 23rd from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. All presenting donors will be entered to win a \$50 VISA gift card and will receive a free long-sleeved Red Cross T-shirt while supplies last. 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. There will be 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

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Notable Pieces of Interest

When the Social Justice Committee was discussing books about white privilege, I thought of an online magazine that has taught me a lot -- about white privilege, intersectional feminism, transgender equality and lots of other issues.

It's everydayfeminism.com. It doesn't require registration and is free to read. Some short- to medium-length articles are:

- 5 Things to Do (And Not Do) to Support Someone with Depression
- 160 Examples of Male Privilege
- 7 Reasons White People Should Not Wear Black Hairstyles
- I'm Latino. I'm Hispanic. And They're Different, So I Drew a Comic to Explain
- What's Wrong with Fat-Shaming?
- 4 Ways We Ignore Poverty and Blame Poor People and What You Can Do to Help
- 7 Ways to Use Spiritual Practice to Heal and Resist

Happy reading!

Social Justice

Social Justice Committee

The SJC met briefly after the Highway Pickup on October 14.

We firmed up treats for Ghost Hunters and lunch items for the pot luck lunch with speaker on Sunday 10/21.

Planning is going on for this year's UUSC Guest at Your Table campaign. The 2018 theme is Justice Across Borders.

After John Tumino's talk, we collected donations for In My Fathers Kitchen. We asked him how we could help. He encouraged a monthly pledge. Also, you can carry a give away bag in your car to give to homeless you see on the streets while driving. Place in them a couple pair of socks, and maybe a pack of baby wipes and candy bar or cookies. Most importantly, also include John's contact info.

Next meeting is 11/11. All are welcome. Nancy Hallock

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Sermon Calendar

- November 4th Rev. David Weissbard A Veteran's Day Dilemma**
- November 11th Winfield Ihlow Special Service in Honor of the 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day**
- November 18th Rev. Bud Adams**
- November 25th Albert Zaranka and Leigh Parry-Benedict Jazz Vespers: A Service of Music**

Church Events Calendar

- November 4th: Executive Board Meeting
- November 18th: Thanksgiving Themed Potluck Luncheon
- November 23rd: Red Cross Blood Drive
- December 16th: McCarthy Family Holiday Concert
- December 30th: Sign up to see "Elf" at Syracuse Stage. Contact Nancy Hallock

Refreshments Calendar

- November 4th: Volunteer Needed
- November 11th: Mary Fran
- November 18th: Thanksgiving Themed Potluck-Bring your favorite dish to pass.
- November 25th: Volunteer needed

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UU Universe and Beyond

We recently had the good fortune to have John Tumino of [In My Father's Kitchen](#) come and present to us at First Universalist Society of Central Square an overview of the work he and his wife, Leigh-Ann, do with providing food and other services to the homeless of Syracuse. I would urge everyone to look at the website and contribute to John and Leigh-Ann's work in helping the homeless.

Andrea and I had the good fortune to attend with a large crowd at Henninger High School a presentation by Matthew Desmond, author of **Evicted**, a study of home evictions of the poor in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Desmond was introduced by Mayor Ben Walsh. The problems of Milwaukee are the problems of housing in Syracuse, Central Square and thousands of other places in this country and the world. I highly recommend the book and Desmond's ongoing work to help the poor with housing issues. Click for More Information: [Here](#) and [Here](#).

Climate Change is beginning to have noticeable and significant effects on world conflicts and economic distress along with numerous other difficulties. As UUs we need to be examine what we are doing and what we can change. These are challenging issues for our survival as a species and a planet. Recent articles which highlight what we know is affecting our planet can be found in a valuable website, [Yale E360](#). This website gives a wide range of essays and research on climate change.

Have you thought about how climate change and migrations are interconnected? Take a look at this piece by several authors, ["The Unseen Driver Behind the Migrant Caravan: Climate Change"](#).

The UUA website has several articles of interest on the home page of the website on race, migrants and white supremacy. [Click here](#).