

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

E-Mail for Reverend Andrea Abbott:  
[andrea279@verizon.net](mailto:andrea279@verizon.net)

Church website: [centralsquareuu.org](http://centralsquareuu.org)

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



**In This Issue**

**Page 2: Ministerial Musings**

**Page 2: Ellen's Green Minute**

**Page 3: Ronna's Education Note**

**Page 3: Social Justice From Nancy Hallock**

**Page 5: Refreshments Calendar**

**Page 5: Sermon Schedule**

**Page 5: Church Events Calendar**

**Page 6: Come Hear the Holiday Concert by The  
McCarthy Family on December 16th!**

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

**Ministerial Musings**

A friend of mine recently asked what U-U's do to celebrate Christmas. We have known each other since we were little so I was surprised at the question. She'd seen Christmas trees at my house, caroled with me and exchanged Christmas presents for many, many years. She also wanted to know how U-U churches celebrate Christmas. The best answer I could give was, "It depends on the person. And it depends on the church." I covered some options. Some, like my family, celebrated a secular holiday--Santa, presents, tree, cookies--with some discussion about the merging of the Christian Christmas with pagan holidays for the return of the sun. For many, family becomes the focus. Others may ignore the holiday. Yet others use it as an occasion for giving rather than consuming. Yet others may concentrate on the Winter Solstice. Others may emphasize the birth of a man whose teachings have great meaning to many. We are a church that encourages each member to seek for their own truth. While this season, mostly in its commercial aspect, fills every inch of space, I hope that all will use this time to find a meaning that can last longer than the holly and the mistletoe.

The Reverend Andrea Abbott

**Green Minute**  
**Environmental Footprint Calculator**

What is your "Earth Overshoot Day"? This is the date on which your lifestyle will have used up your fair share of global resources for the year. Go to [www.footprintcalculator.org](http://www.footprintcalculator.org) and they will help you examine your lifestyle details to help you identify unexpected ways you use non-renewable resources. They will ask you questions ranging from driving habits to whether your groceries come in plastic packaging.

The answer you get for your "Earth Overshoot Day" might surprise you. Mine certainly did. I'm sad to say mine is March 31<sup>st</sup>. So what's next? It can be overwhelming but they try to help you take steps to make needed changes. As they said in the email they sent to me, "*We want to help users like you answer the question "now what?" And we want to help you turn your Footprint data into action. In fact, that's exactly what Global Footprint Network does with governments. Similar to how the Calculator helped you measure your personal Ecological Footprint, our team also measures the Ecological Footprints – or resource consumption – of [cities](#) and [countries](#). Decision-makers then use this data to develop and monitor sustainability policy.*"

You can learn more about this organization and its work at [www.footprintnetwork.org](http://www.footprintnetwork.org).

Ellen La Pine

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

**Religious Education**

With the beginning of December comes Chalice.

Starting on the first Monday of December and continuing for seven days one thoughtful deed is done each day to honor that day's principle. What a wonderful way to begin the months lessons.

- 1 We believe each and every person is important
- 2 We believe all people should be treated fairly
- 3 In our congregation, all people are accepted and we learn together
- 4 We believe each person is free to search for what is true and right in life
- 5 Everyone deserves a vote about the things that concern them
- 6 We believe in working for a peaceful, fair, and free world
- 7 we believe in caring for our planet Earth and every living thing that shares it with us

With winter our feathered friends need a little help finding food we will be making it a little easier with pine cone feeders.

We will also be making fleece caps to donate to those in need.  
What a busy month we have ahead of us.

Ronna Schindler  
RE Director

**Social Justice Committee**

The SJC met November 11. We discussed several issues.

1. "Guest at Your Table "(GAYT) Campaign.... All coins in the Sunday collection plate will be donated to GAYT. Donation boxes and envelopes are in the dining room. The program will continue through December.
2. Cardboard boxes in the basement are to receive non-perishable food and toiletries for the Lions Club Christmas program, through 12/16.
3. PW4W was sent \$300 on Tuesday 11/27, plus matching funds. Our 2018 donation totaled \$478.
4. Mittens, hats and scarves are being collected to go to the CSHS. They will be distributed with their Coat Drive. If you are interested in donating a coat , they must be only gently used and clean. They collect for the next 2 weeks.
5. Plans were made to attend "White Christmas" in Fulton 12/9 @ 3p. All are invited to attend future meetings, the 2nd Sunday of each month at 9a.

Nancy Hallock

Circle of Fellowship

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

### UU Universe

The Winter,2018 edition of UU World contains an article on white supremacy by Crystal Fleming based on he book, [How to be Less Stupid About Race](#).

### Notable Pieces of Interest for UUs

I urge everyone to read Ellen LaPine's [Green Minute](#) and take a look at our Earth footprint as well as that of our country's. [The recent federal climate report](#) is showing how rapidly climate change is happening and the effects it is already having. The disastrous fires in California are only the most recent evidence of climate change intensifying these events. I highly recommend the volume, [The Ecology of Fear](#) by Mike Davis, which gives the history of how natural events and human actions cause the worsening of fires and environmental destruction in California.

Two volumes on economic issues I would highly recommend are: David Graeber's, [Debt: The First Five Thousand Years](#). Graeber provides a fascinating alternate perspective on economic history up to the present day.

Wolfgang Streeck's, [How Will Capitalism End?](#) , explores how drastically our relationship to our political economy has been altered in the last half-century leaving us with greater political and economic inequality than at any other time in our history.

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

### Church Events Calendar

#### Sermon Calendar

December 2nd Rev. David Weissbard -**The Four Agreements**

December 9th Rev. Andrea Abbott- **The Moral Economy**

December 16th Rev. Bud Adams

December 23rd Rev. Andrea Abbott- **Christmas Celebration**

December 30th Rev. Libbie Stoddard

#### Coffee Hour Refreshments:

December 2nd: Kurt Schindler

December 9th : Marcia and Winfield Ihlow

December 16th: Concert and bake sale

December 23rd : Pot Luck: Favorite Christmas 'sides'

#### Church Calendar:

December 12th and 19th: Pagan Group Meetings

December 16th: McCarthy Family Holiday Concert and Cookie Sale

December 17th: Alzheimer's Support Group, 7:00 pm

December 20th: Coffee and Chat at Panera, Rte. 31

December 25th: Christmas Dinner, Open and Free to Public from Noon til...

December 30th: ELF at Syracuse Stage

January 6th: Church Board Meeting, 9:00am

January 18th: Red Cross Blood Drive: 1:30-6:30 pm

January 19th: AARP Safe Driving Course, 9:00am-3:30pm.





# Holiday Concert with the McCarthy Family

First Universalist Society  
of Central Square

December 16<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.



**Jim McCarthy:** Guitar, Vocals

**Deirdre McCarthy:** Concertina, Tin Whistle, Spoons, Vocals

**Cian McCarthy:** Guitar, Vocals

**Shane McCarthy:** Guitar, Mandolin, Vocals

Freewill offering   Refreshments   Bake sale

More info: [centralsquareuu.org](http://centralsquareuu.org), 315-307-3400