

Circle of Fellowship
Monthly Newsletter of the First
Universalist Society of Central
Square, NY
May, 2019



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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Green Minute
Bird Moms

I received the following information from a local bird supply retailer on bird moms and thought others who have an interest in the world's birds would enjoy this information. Here are noteworthy behaviors of some local mother birds.

- **Most Talented Mom** - It takes as many as 12 days for a female Oriole to weave her nest. One Baltimore Oriole was observed spending 40 hours interlacing her basket-like nest. It included over 10,000 stitches and thousands of knots, all done by mom's talented beak.
- **Most Loyal Mom** - A pair bond may form between a male and a female Carolina Wren at any time of the year. She will stay with him for life, always foraging and moving around within sight of her mate.
- **Quickest Mom** - Black-capped Chickadees have one of the shortest incubation periods of all birds. Their eggs can hatch in as little as 11 days.
- **Supersized Mom** - Sharp-shinned Hawk females average over 40% larger than their male counterparts. This size difference is the largest of all of North American birds of prey.
- **Mini-Mom** - A mother hummingbird weighs only about eight times more than the eggs she lays.
- **Most Overworked Mom** - Mourning Dove moms may raise up to six broods per year, more than any other native North American bird.
- **Most Laid-back Mom** - Unlike most other bird moms, robins do not lay their eggs at sunrise. They lay their eggs several hours later during the mid-morning. Since earthworms are easier to find during early morning, they feed first and then return to the nest to lay their eggs.
- **Most Devoted to Mom** - Young Tufted Titmice often remain with their parents throughout their first winter. They have been known stay with mom into the next nesting season and help her to raise the next brood.

The Last Mom - American Goldfinch moms are one of the last songbirds to nest each year, waiting until mid-to-late summer when thistle seeds and down are readily available.

Happy Mother's Day!!

Ellen LaPine
Social Justice Committee

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passion in human relations

Social Justice

This was a busy month for all. The SJC and the UUC (which are mostly the same people) served a very nice pork dinner 4/26. Thanks to everyone who helped organize, advertise, bake, clean-up, and more. The abundance of baked goods came in very handy for clarinet staff and students on 4/28. The concert was wonderful.

We are providing snacks to the CNY Folksmarch participants at Vanderkamp, June 15,16. This is a group of recreational, non-competitive walkers.

The event has been conducted monthly since 1981. First walk is free.

Please sign up for the high-way pickup on June 30.

I encourage everyone to remember donations for the Food Pantry of the Divine Mercy Church.

Our next meeting is scheduled for 5/12 and all are invited.

Nancy Hallock
Social Justice

Religious Education

We are learning the different ways and places that people pray.

From temples and churches to their own backyard and why they pray.

We will also be creating personal affirmation cards and learning how to use them. Once we have completed our cards we will share them with the congregation.

Ronna Schindler
RE Director

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Ministerial Musings

Just before the end of April, a friend of mine and I declared a holiday and went out on the back roads around Weedsport to track the wild trillium. We found a hillside covered in them on a road I could never find again. (Hint for those who live around Central Square: There's some on Morgan Road as well). Trillium are one of the earliest wildflowers each spring, with three white petals as translucent as fine china, ephemeral as mist. They flower for a brief time but when their flowers fade it's hard to remember that they were ever there.

Just around the time for trilliums, we also begin to hear the spring peepers, peeping their little hearts out in almost every pond, ditch, or puddle. Some of the puddles are so small, it's hard to believe they could hold such a robust concert. Then, as the weather gets warmer, the concerts end and we forget their thrilling music.

Hope often comes this way, announced in small, inconspicuous signs rather than in large neon letters. Sometimes we have to pay attention to see those signs. How beautiful they are after a long, long winter. How beautiful they are after the winters in our hearts. I wish for all of you trilliums and peepers in your lives.

The Reverend Andrea Abbott

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Sermon Schedule

May 5th Rev. David Weissbard-**A Religious Humanist Perspective**

May 12th Rev. Andrea Abbott- **Mother-Work: Reflections on the often Invisible Work Involved in Mothering**

May 19th Rev. Libbie Stoddard

May 26th Rev. Andrea Abbott

Red Cross Blood Drive
Friday May 17th 1:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Did you know that when there's no time to determine a patient's blood type or for immune deficient infants, doctors reach for type O blood? Type O negative can be given to any patient, regardless of their type and in critical trauma situations; type) positive blood can be given to over 80% of the population and is overall the most in demand blood type.

We will have another of our regularly scheduled Red Cross blood drives on Friday, May 17th from 1:30 to 6:30 p.m. Presenting donors will receive a \$5 Amazon gift card via email. No matter your blood type, 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
Social Justice Committee Blood Drive Coordinator

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Dear Congregation,

The church has received funding to offer two lunch-discussion courses this summer and fall. The two courses being offered are part of the North West Earth Institute (www.nwei.org) discussion course series.

Each course is open to both congregation and community members but limited to 12 participants. There is no cost to attend and the cost of food and a course book for each participant is covered by the grant. (Note: The cost of the book is due at final registration but will be reimbursed to each participant at the end of the course.)

Courses will meet once per week and run for either 6 or 8 weeks (depending on the course, see below). The time of day can vary but a meal will be served as part of each session. **Final scheduling will depend in part on the availability of people who will commit to attend.**

If you would like to sign-up for either workshop, please let Mary Fran know by May 27 (in-person, myafchak@twcny.rr.com, or 315-593-7786) along with any constraints on your availability during the months of June through October.

A Different Way: Living Simply in a Complex World

The concept of “living simply so that others may simply live” has been around for hundreds of years. People choose to live simply for many reasons and as our world changes, the motivations for and benefits of living a simple life also evolve. Today, we choose simple living as a way to make our own paths in life, paths that allow for investing our time in the things that matter most to us, making choices that create less waste and more good, using (or not using) technology intentionally, and critically examining the messages that tell us what to believe, what to value, and who to be. *A Different Way: Living Simply in a Complex World* connects our individual values and actions to the larger picture and helps us to find power to make real change in our lives, communities, and in the world at large.

Length of Course: Six sessions, Course Book \$30

Choices for Sustainable Living

The term “sustainability” is used so freely, it’s difficult to understand what it can mean. At its essence, sustainability embodies hope for a healthy, just and bright future for us all. *Choices for Sustainable Living* provides participants a powerful opportunity to explore sustainability more deeply and learn its unique meaning from individual, societal and global perspectives. *Choices for Sustainable Living* helps you discover new ways of living and together, making change more possible and powerful.

Length of Course: Eight sessions, Course Book \$33

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Church Events Calendar

5/6-Office Hours

The Outreach and Planning Committee will meet at 5.

The Rev. Andrea Abbott will hold office hours tonight from 6 to 7 p.m. To set up an appointment, please contact Andrea at andrea279@verizon.net or

1 (315) 857-1086

The sanctuary will be open for anyone who wishes to use it for a time of reflection, prayer or meditation.

5/16- Coffee and Chat at Panera's on Route 31 in Clay at 9:30. All are welcome!

5/17- Red Cross Blood Drive 1:30 to 6:30

5/19- Stewardship Luncheon following the Sunday Service

You are cordially invited to our Stewardship Luncheon. Arne Hook will provide delicious sandwiches and soups for our enjoyment as we talk about next year's budget and pledging to support the work of the church. We need your support to keep our church moving forward into the next decade. Thank you!

5/24- Lawn and garden cleanup at church has been scheduled to Friday 5/24 starting at 1:00 pm.

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Notable Pieces of Interest

Dreams of the Natural World

It is Spring and it is time to be out in the natural world around us. But I have been reading reflections on the natural world and want to suggest some pieces by writers who bring the natural world to us at a time when it is threatened with catastrophic changes. WS Merwin wrote a very moving poem entitled [Thanks](#) for us to reflect upon the wonders around us.

Robert MacFarlane has been writing on hiking and nature for decades. I would recommend his early book, [The Old Ways](#), about walking and sailing ancient pathways through the world.

Barry Lopez, author of the monumental work, [Arctic Dreams](#), has a new volume of essays, [Horizon](#), on his journeys to many beautiful landscapes and peoples.

Finally, Nan Shepherd writes movingly about the Caringorm Mountains of Scotland in her book, [The Living Mountain](#).

So go out into the world and wonder!

Read anything you would like to share? Let me know. Thank you. AJH