

Circle of Fellowship

Monthly Newsletter of the First
Universalist Society of Central
Square, NY

June, 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

The First Universalist Society of
Central Square, New York

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Hello, June.

Be a month of peace and love.



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Ministerial Musings

June has been traditionally the month for weddings and graduations, and, looking at the array of greeting cards, this is still the case. What these have in common is that they are powerful time markers, stage of life markers. This is also the end of the school year and the month when we usually celebrate Flower Communion, as we will on the 23rd. Traditionally does not always mean that every graduation or wedding occurs in June, and not every Flower communion does, either. Nature doesn't always cooperate in turning out picture perfect Junes, either, and this cold spring has meant that many flower-oriented festivals, such as the Peony Festival in Baldwinsville, have been celebrated without their star performers. Lives do not always have the same predictable events, the same predictable stages at the same predictable times either. As U-U's we celebrate the flowers, whenever they arrive, and we celebrate each life, whatever and however it blooms.

The Reverend Andrea Abbott

Sermon Calendar

June 2nd: Reverend David Weissbard: "How Little We Know"

June 9th: Reverend Andrea Abbott:: "Believing is Seeing"

June 16th: Reverend Bud Adams

June 23rd: Reverend Andrea Abbott: "Beauty and Truth: Flower Communion"

Check out our sermon archive at <http://www.centalsquareuu.org/sermons/>

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Green Minute

Bird Dads

Since I talked about bird moms last month here's some fun information on bird dads from an article in *Birds and Blooms* magazine.

Builder: The male house wren is serious about nest-building, because it's what helps him attract a mate. He starts constructing a few nests at once, and his female partner chooses the most promising one and finishes it.

Incubator: Northern flicker fathers do the heavy lifting when it comes to keeping the eggs warm. Their incubating duties leave them sitting on eggs all night long and half the day as well.

Provider: While a snowy owl mom is busy with the nestlings, the dad brings food to keep everybody fed. If it's been a particularly good year, he may leave a large stockpile of dead lemmings and other rodents around the nest.

All-Around Parent: Not only do male sandhill cranes help with nest-building, incubation, and feeding their young, but families stick together through fall migration, winter and the beginning of spring migration. Young cranes learn and benefit from both parents.

Dead-Beat Dad: There's one in every crowd. Male hummingbirds may be flashy, but they're not very helpful. They don't even stick around to watch the females raise their young.

Co-Parenting Skills: Cardinals and Baltimore oriole dads fly back and forth with food once their babies are hatched and after the youngsters have left the nest, these bird dads feed them for several days to make sure they have the best chance of survival. If the female starts working on a second nest before the previous brood is completely independent, the male may become super dad and take on caring for the fledglings entirely on his own. The **American robin** brings his female partner bits of material as she constructs the nest. At dawn, he constantly sings from a high perch. It may be a little annoying for his human neighbors, but he's doing the important job of protecting his territory. Without his vigilant efforts, other robins might invade and eat all the juicy bugs and worms, making it harder to find enough food for their future nestlings.

Downy woodpeckers work together to carve a nest hole in a dead tree trunk or limb, taking turns chiseling away to create a safe, secure cavity. They both incubated the eggs by taking turns during the day, but at night it's usually Dad who takes over. Once the babies have hatched, both parents help feed them. Sometimes the male downy woodpecker will end up feeding the young more than the female does.

Birds of prey like hawks and owls have a similarly balanced parenting style, although males and females take on different roles. For example, both red-shouldered hawk parents build the nest but only the female does the incubating and watches over the young once the eggs hatch. The male isn't slacking off, though. It's his job to keep the food supply coming, first for the female as she sits on the egg, and then for the whole ravenous family.

Happy Father's Day!! -Ellen LaPine

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Saturday July 13 Yard Sale

The SJC/UUC are making plans to have this sale, but everyone is invited and encouraged to join in. We have secured a donation from Byrne Dairy for Dixie cups. We will give one away with each purchase and sell the rest. We will also sell popcorn, cans of soda, and bottled water. These will not be labor intensive. Donations to sell should be brought to the church by June 30. We will collect in the back community room. We are asking everyone to price their items. We have nice easy-remove tags and will help you determine a price if you want. You must tell us if you want the item back if not sold. We will scout the church to sell unnecessary items on 6/10 @ 5p. We will leave them for review if any are to be claimed.

Items: Clothes, only clean and gently used

Kitchen items, small appliances. tools. linens. books, camping gear, garden items plants, furniture. children's stuff, If you have a question call a committee member.

We will need volunteers for: set up(7am), shifts to serve where needed, sign making, poster design and distribution, tents and more as ideas take shape. Please save the day or help ahead of 6/13.

Thanks in advance. Let's make this a successful fundraiser for the church.

Nancy Hallock

Upcoming CNY Folksmarch

CNY Folksmarch is a group that plans monthly walks at cultural and natural sites around the region. First-time participants walk for free, and each walker gets a commemorative button. Walkers can start from 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday, June 15 or 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, June 16 and finish whenever they like. Details can be found at the Folksmarch website: <https://folksmarch.wordpress.com>– Tracy Kinne

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Social Justice

The SJC met on May 16. We discussed the Chuck Lochner Memorial Free Library and front sign that will be part of an Eagle Scout project. The rest of the time was spent planning the July Yard Sale. Organizing the set-up, advertising, refreshments and volunteer help. I will write up a separate note explaining what we have decided on so far. Reminder: Highway pickup is 6/30 @ 8:30. A speaker will be at church 6/19 (pot luck lunch day) to discuss with us a project to build a "Francis House" type home for terminally ill in Oswego County.

Nancy Hallock

SJC Chair

Church Events Calendar

6/5 Betty Figie's birthday

Some of us are planning to visit her around noon on that day.

Morningstar Residential Care Center

Room 316

17 Sunrise Terrace

Oswego, NY 13126

REFRESHMENTS

6/9 Kurt & Ronna

6/16 Potluck with guest speaker from Wellness House Ministries

Theme: Summer picnic foods. Bring side dishes. We will supply hotdogs, rolls and toppings.

6/23 Volunteer needed

6/30 Mary Fran

7/6 Carey & Bonnie

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed as greeters and to host the social time on Sunday mornings. Anyone with any questions is invited to speak with Judy Tennant. The Spiritual Committee invites anyone who wishes to place flowers near the pulpit for the morning service on Sundays to do so. There is a sign-up sheet for all volunteers in the dining room.

PLEDGES for 2019 - 2020

Thank you to all who pledged.

Your pledge is important to the work of our church. If you intend to pledge and haven't, please do so. The treasurer needs to complete the accounting for next year's budget.

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Two Courses to be offered on Sustainable Living

The church has received a grant from the New York State Conference of Universalists (NYSCU) to offer two courses on sustainable living. If you are interested Maryfran's note tells you how to get more information. AJH

Dear all,

I am including folks on this note who I believe had interest in attending one or more of the sustainability courses that the church will be offering. If you know of anyone else who is or might be interested, please let them know.

So that we can get these on the calendar, please let me know your interest and availability as soon as you can in any of the following ways:

- Contact me for a form to let us know you are interested or
- Answer via SurveyMonkey at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YGFWHZG>.

Looking forward to thinking with you all as these courses get off the ground :-),

-Maryfran Yafchak

Notable Pieces of Interest

Andrea and I went to Europe a few years back and, in preparation, we took out what are called carbon credits or offsets which involve purchasing ways to offset the CO2 emissions of the aircraft on which we traveled. We paid an organization to plant trees that would absorb the equivalent of our trip's aircraft emissions. Sounds good and sound? Maybe not. Pro Publica is a great journalistic website which just published an extensive study of such programs and found evidence that, not only does carbon sequestering of this kind not work, but the way the programs operate may make CO2 emissions worse. Pro Publica received extensive criticism for their investigation and, to their credit as one of the best journalistic sites, they wrote about the criticisms as well. Need a good news and investigative journalism site? Click on [Pro Publica](#).