

Circle of Fellowship
Monthly Newsletter of the First
Universalist Society of Central
Square, NY
September, 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
3243 Fulton Street

(Route 49, near Route 11)

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Central Square, New York 13036-0429

Our Church is Handicapped Accessible

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Church website: centralsquareuu.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/



Matthew Stevens of Central Square as part of his Eagle Scout project planned, built and installed a little library and wayside pulpit in front of our church. Thank you, Matthew

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Ministerial Musings

Every living thing in our garden is singing The September Song. It's an old song filled with longing and nostalgia. The sun is golden and the sky's blue is deeper than it was just a few weeks ago. The birds and squirrels are stuffing themselves as fast as they can. The flowers look tired and send their seeds out into the world in every way they can. We know what is coming.

The turn from summer to fall always used to make me sad. After fall is well established, I can enjoy it for itself but it's the time of change that is hard for me. No matter how much I know that the seasons must turn in order for the world to exist, I'm sad when summer slips away. I know I'm not alone in this.

Somehow this year, however, I'm seeing it a little differently. Perhaps it's the fires in California and Brazil. Perhaps it's the memorial for the glacier in Iceland, but I see the turn from summer to fall to winter as a reassuring time and this change not as loss but as a pledge for the future.

Reverend Andrea Abbott

Sermon Schedule

September 1: Rev. Andrea Abbott: **“Better Together”**: An ecumenical service a few weeks ago made me reflect about different beliefs and community.

September 8: Rev. David Weissbard: **“Give Them Hope, Not Hell”**: A look at our Universalist tradition and what it means today.

September 15: Rev. Bud Adams

September 22: Rev. Andrea Abbott: **Water Communion**: Our end of summer service with a few words about water in general.

September 29: Rev. Libbie Stoddard

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Welcome Hilary

Hello! My name is Hilary Weissbard and I am 27 years old! I have a bachelor's degree in Photography, and am a lover of cats and small dogs! You have probably seen me sitting in the pews with my little baby boy, Finn! I was born in Rockford IL and the second day of my life my Mom and Dad took me to church, and seeing as I was the Minister's daughter, I was the church's baby! I was raised in that church and knew everyone! The Rockford UU church was my family, which made it very very hard to leave them when I moved to Canton NY in 2006 because my dad, David Weissbard, retired from ministry (or so he thought). I wasn't as dedicated to going to church every Sunday because I felt like I was betraying my church back in Rockford, and I never felt fully comfortable in the Canton church. When I was 24, I moved to Philadelphia PA, and I tried going to the Germantown UU church because I wanted to be apart of a family. I liked their church, and the Minister knew my Aunt Barbara Wells, who is also a UU Minister! But due to my work schedule, I wasn't able to get to church very often and soon just gave up entirely. When I lived in Canton, I would go with my dad once he started to preach in Central Square and Watertown, and attend church with him to hear his sermons - So when I eventually moved to Clay NY in 2016, I started slowly attending this church, little by little. You all were so very welcoming to me, and when you found out that I only lived 10 minutes away, you all encouraged me to come to more services! I haven't felt this welcomed at a church since I was at my Home Church in Illinois! This church has become my family, and I am very thankful that you all have welcomed me, and now my son Finn, with your open arms! I hope to continue to be a member here for many years to come!

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Welcome to Bonnie and Cary Farmer

Bonnie and Carey Farmer live in Palermo with their two rescue dogs, Jaxon and Wishbone. Bonnie is a retiree. She worked 34 years in the child welfare field. Carey currently works in child welfare. Bonnie and Carey have been together for 21 years and were married last October. Carey is from Scriba and was raised as a Catholic. Bonnie is from Constantia and had a secular upbringing. They enjoy going to flea markets, vacationing by the ocean, and spending time with family and friends. They decided to join the church to gain spiritual fulfillment and a sense of community.

Religious Education

Believing in yourself.

Who are we? How do we interact with those that share our life.

We will be creating our wonder boxes. Filling them with what gives us our identities.

What gives us courage and how we can help others.

Ronna Schindler

RE Director

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Green Minute
Some Fall Ideas

Fall is my favorite time of year. It's a great time to go outdoors while the temperature is still comfortable, the air is crisp and seems cleaner, and the bugs seem to have all but disappeared. It's also a great time to start a compost pile. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) says that 24% of the solid waste in landfills in this country is yard and food waste. By composting this waste then later using it to enrich your soil, you can reduce the need for water and fertilizers, even if you have a small garden or use containers.

On the colder days when you want to be indoors, it's tempting to turn up the heat. You may want to just throw on a sweater instead. According to the EPA, heating an "average" 2280 square foot home is 34% of your annual utility bill and for each degree you lower your thermostat, you can reduce your usage by 4%. It is recommended that you set your thermostat at 68 degrees or lower.

While you're turning down your thermostat, don't forget to check the thermostat on your hot water heater. Most manufacturers pre-set them at 140 degrees but by setting it to 120 degrees, you may increase the lifespan of the water heater and save 3-5% in energy costs for every 10 degree reduction in temperature.

Finally, according to the U. S. Department of Energy, sealing leaks around your house can save you from 5 to 30 percent in energy costs. Don't forget to check for drafts around windows, electrical outlets, baseboards and pipes then stop the draft by using caulk, window plastic and other sealing products.

"Autumn is the season to find contentment at home by paying attention to what we already have." - Unknown

Ellen LaPine
Social Justice Committee

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EMERGENCY NEED!!

**Red Cross Blood Drive
Friday September 20th
1:30-6:30 p.m.**

Right now, blood donations are being distributed to hospitals faster than donations are coming in creating a critical shortage that leaves patients at risk for delayed surgeries or treatment.

We will have another of our regularly scheduled Red Cross blood drives on Friday, September 20th from 1:30 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 so that we can help alleviate this emergency situation.

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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Social Justice

SJC will meet 9/15 @ 9am. We will meet the 2nd Sunday each month.

We participated in a Back-to-school event organized by and held at the Cleveland United Methodist Church, for Northshore kids. MaryFran and Tracy volunteered and brought our donations of socks and underwear. They reported that the event went very well.

At the September meeting we will discuss our ideas for a focus issue. Also, the possibility of a plan to collect all year for our participation in the next school project.

The final 2019 Highway-Pickup is October 13, and we're always looking for volunteers.

All are welcome at meetings and to join us in social justice work.

Nancy Hallock

Social Justice Chair

Church Events Calendar

9/8: Executive Board Meeting in the Church Dining Room

9/19: Coffee and Chat at Panera, Route 31, Clay, NY

Join friends for Coffee and Chat on Thursday, September 19 at Panera Bread on Rte 31 in Clay. We meet at 9:30.

9/20: Red Cross Blood Drive, 1:30-6:30

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UU Universe

UUs may or may not be aware of the controversies at the UUA General Assembly surrounding publication of The Gadfly Papers by Reverend Todd Eklof of Spokane, Washington. Eklof was highly critical of the actions of the UUA and various groups within it involving systemic racism, gender identities and class. Eklof received much criticism including a letter of censure from the UU Ministers Association you can read [here](#). There are far too many issues to go into here. I would encourage interested people to read the background as these issues affect all of us and our denomination. I would suggest reading Gadfly (although paying for the book has been itself a point of contention) and also numerous pieces by people in TRUUsT and DRU-UMM. If you do an online search there are other important resources as well.

Notable Pieces of Interest

I recently read this opening statement by US Attorney Justin Herdman read in the indictment of James Reardon, the self-described white nationalist who made threats to the Jewish Community Center of Youngstown, Ohio. The reported story is [here](#). The full text of Herdman's statement is [here](#).