

Circle of Fellowship
Monthly Newsletter of the
First Universalist Society of
Central Square, NY
April, 2020

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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

UUA Resources and Covid 19

Here is some information and resources from The UUA and also available at their website:

<https://www.uua.org/safe/pandemics>

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

Church website: centralsquareuu.org

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

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

Sunday Services

The First Universalist Society of Central Square is presenting our Sunday services on the Zoom Platform at <https://zoom.us/j/902138902> .

April 5th, 2020: The Reverend David Weissbard: "Shipwreck Theology"

Back on March 1st, I postponed the anticipated sermon because I was having trouble pulling it together, but I promised it for April 5th. It did come together, and I was planning to proceed with it when I realized I wanted to respond to Palm-Sunday with reference to our current crisis, so I am postponing the March sermon to May!

What we are going through today is an illustration of Allen Saunders comment in a 1957 Reader's Digest, "Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans.

April 12th, 2020: The Reverend Andrea Abbott: "The Mushroom Soup Lesson"

April 19th, 2020: The Reverend Bud Adams

April 26th, 2020: The Reverend Andrea Abbott

Social Justice Committee

The SJC met 3/8. We reviewed SPC Birthday Dinner, Earth Day services, NWI Sustainability classes, and the Climate Action contest we initiated with the Central Square HS. All were cancelled, altered, or are on hold. (Like the rest of usual routines.) The speakers from OCO gave a wonderful presentation. The SJC gave them \$50, plus collected \$91 when we passed the basket. The next Adopt-a-highway pickup is 4/19. This may need to be rescheduled. I will keep you informed. See you on Zoom service 4/5.

Nancy Hallock
Social Justice Chair

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Green Minute
Spring Planting

In this strange time we're living in, one good way to practice social distancing is working in the garden. Whether you have a few containers on your porch or a huge garden plot, you can start planting some things before Memorial Day. Here is some information I found on the Smart Gardener blog. <http://blog.smartgardener.com/in-the-garden/spring-vegetables> I encourage you to check out the blog. It has a lot of good gardening information.

4-8 weeks before the last frost, plant the hardiest plants including peas, leeks, onions, spinach, parsley and shallots.

2-4 weeks before the last frost plant lettuce, cilantro, radish and mustard.

2 weeks before the last frost it is safe to plant carrots, beets, broccoli, cabbage, kale, chard and potatoes.

Smart Gardener says it's important to get your spring crops in the ground as early as possible so that they have time to sprout and mature before the warm summer days cause them to bolt or develop bitter flavors. They say that cool weather crops are not as perturbed by a cold spell and will just sit and wait until the weather warms up enough for growth. Maybe we can learn something from our spring crops about patience when things aren't going our way.

Ellen LaPine
Social Justice Committee

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Ministerial Musing

April 2020

Social isolating has tired me out! I have communicated with people by phone, text, email, and now Zoom. By the evening, I'm ready for some real isolation. I'm thrilled to be in touch with everyone, but, since social distancing began, I'm more social than I've ever been. I'm not the only one. When I talk to people, they, too, say they are in touch more with friends and relatives, co-workers and acquaintances. Our bodies may not be going many places but our conversations are spanning vast distances. No matter what we talk about, the underlying message is, I miss you. I care about you. You are important to me.

In addition, we are out and about, even if in prescribed ways. I have never seen so many walkers in our neighborhoods; single walkers, walkers in couples, walkers in families. We all keep six feet between us when we meet, a little awkwardly perhaps, and almost everyone greets each other. The other day, I found that Beaver Lake was temporarily closed due to high volume traffic.

I hope, as people walk, they are noticing the new buds on the trees and the daffodils and crocuses beginning to unfurl their colors. I hope they notice all the joys of the natural world, the feel of a warmer wind, the changing clouds. I hope they fall in love with all of this and remember it when life becomes busy again.

Not only are we discovering the joys of ordinary things, the often taken for granted parts of life, we are rediscovering the old truth, the only real truth. Amid the grief and sorrow and anxiety of these times, we are finding again that life is fragile and that life is sacred. Let us hope that we remember this, always.

Reverend Andrea Abbott

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Pieces of Interest

I have spent some time perusing the internet and books for background resources on plagues and Covid 19. Here are some sources I found interesting and useful to understand this pandemic. Click on the links. AJH

[The Coronavirus Dashboard](#): Click on this link to a useful overview of the epidemiology developed by a 17 year old teen, Avi Schiffmann! This is a remarkable overview of the world's struggle in this pandemic.

[IHME Covid 19](#): This site gives information on state by state stats including hospital use and updated projections of the course of the pandemic. The site also tracks other health issues.

[Visual Capitalist](#): This site provides a list of Covid-19 resources including a visual history of past pandemics.

[Spillover: Animal Infections and The Next Human Pandemic By David Quammen](#): This is a really valuable and well-written volume of science writing by David Quammen. It is also eerily accurate about predicting what factors and conditions contributed to the current pandemic. A must read for understanding pandemic origins and ecology.

One of our UU Families Seeks a For Summer

Charles and Marcia Moore are seeking a rental for this coming summer into the fall of 2020. If you know of a possibility, please get in touch with them by e-mail, moore@oswego.edu.