

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

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

Church website: centralsquareuu.org

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



Members of the Social Justice Committee held a Peace Vigil at Central Square on June 6, 2020 remembering the lives of George Floyd and the many other victims of police violence.

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Green Minute
Questions To Ask At The Farmers Market

It's that time of year where we will be able to obtain more local foods. Here are some questions suggested by the magazine *Your Green Life* from Green America for you to ask.

"Did you grow this food? If not, who did?" – Even if you find the food at a farmers market it may not have been raised locally. Follow up questions might be about farming practices and the working environment for their workers.

"What farming practices do you use?" – Does the farmer use regenerative farming practices such as reduced tilling, cover cropping, rotating crops, composting, growing perennial and diverse crops and if they are organic methods or working toward organic certification. Even if they are not certified, it is a good indicator that they may be on the path to regenerative farming.

"Where is your farm?" – It's always a good idea to find out how far your food is traveling. You may even ask them if they offer opportunities to see their farm.

If you're buying meat, cheese or eggs you can ask *"How are the animals raised?"* – You will want to listen for answers that give scenarios of mimicking the animal's natural habitat and how much time they spend outdoors. Are they integrated into parts of the farm with trees or other crops?

"Where do you get your seeds?" – Maybe the farmer uses heirloom varieties or open sourced seeds or even saves their own. Be sure to ask of the seeds are genetically modified.

Ellen LaPine
Social Justice Committee

Reschedule of Wedding Date

Hilary and Zach have had to reschedule their wedding because of the pandemic. They have cancelled the August, 2019 planned date and rescheduled for June, 2020.

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Ministerial Musing June 2020

It has been a beautiful day today, warm with clear blue skies and fluffy white clouds. In our neighborhood, children play. Bubbles float from bubble wands in iridescent, fragile magic. Sometimes, in my neighborhood, I feel like I live in a bubble. It seems so picture perfect. And yet we are still in a pandemic. The church is closed. We will keep it closed until it is safe to open, when experts in epidemiology tell us that the evidence says it is safe. We don't know when that will be. We don't know if declining infection in our area means that we are safe or if we are just in a lull. So we will wait, maybe until there is a vaccine. And then maybe we'll wait two weeks longer.

We also live in another bubble. We are seemingly free from the virus that has caused many to take to the streets, the virus of racism. And yet, this, too, is like the illusion that the CORVID-19 virus does not affect our lives. Racism infects all our lives, whether we seem to be affected by it or not. Like the CORVID-19 virus, its invisibility makes it more dangerous.

We see ourselves as healthy and whole. We are people of good will. We want everyone to be healthy and whole as well. It can be very hard to hear people who tell us that change is necessary for all of us to live in a world that is not a fragile bubble. Sometimes change can seem like a threat. And yet, we know that a world that is good for only a few is really not good for anyone.

We have had to close our church to keep ourselves safe. But we should open our hearts and minds for the same reason. Only with open hearts and minds can we be truly well.

Reverend Andrea Abbott

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CHURCH CALENDAR

1. June 1 – 5:00 p.m. Outreach and Planning Committee
2. June 7 – 9:00 a.m. Board Meeting. 10:30 a.m. Rev. David Weissbard. Immediately following service Annual Congregational Meeting.
3. June 10 – 7:00 p.m. First UU Consider discussion via Zoom meeting
4. June 14 - 10:30 a.m. Rev. Andrea Abbott- “Sacrifice”
5. June 18 - 9:30 a.m. Coffee and Chat via Zoom meeting
6. June 21 - 10:30 a.m. Rev. Bud Adams.
7. June 24 – 7:00 p.m. First UU Consider discussion via Zoom meeting
8. June 28 - 10:30 a.m. Rev. Andrea Abbott- “Fear and Goodness”

SAVE THE DATE:

July 17 – 1:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive