

Circle of Fellowship
Monthly Newsletter of the First
Universalist Society of Central
Square, NY
August, 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)



John Lewis

1940-2020

In This Issue

Page 2: In Honor of John Lewis

Page 2: Social Justice

Page 3: Thank you, Matthew

Page 4: Ellen's Green Minute

Page 5: Ministerial Musings

Page 6: Church Events Schedule

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

In Honor of John Lewis

Congressman John Lewis died on July 17th, 2020. He was a great leader for civil rights in Congress and in communities throughout the United States. His voice lives on in his words and active involvement in the struggle for civil rights. Click the links below to read

his obituary: <https://www.legacy.com/news/celebrity-deaths/john-lewis-1940-2020-civil-rights-legend-u-s-rep-from-georgia/>

Listen the words of his last op-ed spoken by Morgan Freeman:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXa7Vn8Ar6M>

And listen to the eulogy delivered by President Barack Obama:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8P3X9AiN8E4>

Social Justice Committee

The Adopt-a-highway program has been put on hold for all of the state.

A donation of \$200 has been given to the annual "Back to School" program for 130 kids in the Cleveland area. The plans have been revised due to covid-19. (\$100 from RAK and \$100 from the SJC.) We also had a small collection of sox and underwear that will be delivered this week.

Nancy Hallock, Social Justice Chair

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

Thank You, Matthew

Last September, 2019 The First Universalist Society honored Matthew Stevens for his Eagle Scout project restoring our Wayside Pulpit and building a Little Library outside our church in Central Square. This year, Matthew returned to add finishing paint to the Little Library. Matthew is a person who keeps his commitments. Thank you, again, Matthew for all your hard work.



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

Green Minute
How to Make a Rain Barrel

I wrote this article back in 2012 and decided to visit it again this month after reading about ways to use less water in the Choices for Sustainable Living curriculum we are discussing on Mondays at 1:30. I made my barrel the way I describe below and it has held up well. I do put it away in the winter so it doesn't freeze.

The most difficult part is obtaining the barrel. Try posting a request for one on www.freecycle.org. There are local groups within Freecycle where you can post your request. If you can't find a barrel, you can use a plastic trash can but try to get one that is quite sturdy so the sides don't flex.

You'll need a spigot that you can attach a hose to, washers, caulk and a bit of wide mesh screen. Drill a hole about two to three inches from the bottom of the barrel just a bit smaller than the width of your spigot so you need to push and screw the spigot into the hole. Easy does it; don't force it. Let the spigot make its own threads in the plastic as you screw it in. If your spigot doesn't come with it, you'll want a washer on the front and the back of the hole where you have inserted it. Place caulking around the hole to prevent leaking. Once the caulk is cured, place the screen over the back side of the spigot and fasten. This keeps any debris out of your hose.

If your barrel does not have a top, you can make one out of an old piece of plywood or a trash can lid. It is best to have a top to keep debris out of your barrel. Cut a hole in the top large enough to accommodate your downspout. You may want to put a sink drain strainer or some other type of screen over the hole to keep out debris.

At this point your barrel is done. Place it under your downspout and on top of something to get it off the ground thereby letting gravity help with the flow of water from your spigot. I have mine about three feet off the ground and get a good flow from the barrel. Attach your hose and you are ready to go. Your garden and your plants will love it!

Ellen LaPine
Social Justice Committee

Ministerial Musing

August 2020

By my reckoning we have been dealing with CORONA 19 since March. As we enter our fifth month of dealing with the virus, I think we can all see that this isn't much fun anymore. Even the hardest introvert, I'm sure, is feeling the strain of the seldom relieved days of their own company. For those truly observing social isolation, the days start to blur, Thursday becoming much like Monday or Tuesday. The improvement in the infection rates for New York State as a whole as well as the spike in cases in those places that have opened up more is enough to convince me that social distancing and masks are essential until we have a reliable vaccine. I tell myself that five months is not so long even if, sad to say, it includes the wonderful summer months. Those are the golden months here in Central New York, with festivals and outings, picnics and parties. Even the State Fair is cancelled. I used to hate the crowds and noise that accompanied so many of these events, so, what a hypocrite I am, I now miss all that. Or, at least some of it.

We have to communicate in new ways. These ways have been both a blessing and a warning. Email, text and Zoom have kept us in touch, but they lack something that is, I believe, still part of being human. They lack tone. They lack spontaneity. They certainly lack physical contact. They lack all the unnoticed ways in which we truly communicate. Not only are we isolated but we are shadows of our former selves when we do meet. Isolation and the limitations of electronic communication are powerful ingredients for misunderstandings, for hurt feelings, for further withdrawal. I like emojis but they do not bridge the gap. We all, me especially, need to be careful how we write and how we read. We have to check our responses and keep lines open. We are right to sacrifice many of our desires to see one another but we must hold out hope that we will treasure contact with each other more, see other people for the miracles that they are, when we can meet again.

The Reverend Andrea Abbott

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

Events Schedule for the First Universalist Society of Central Square

If you need to speak to the Reverend Andrea Abbott, she can be reached at:

1 (315) 857-1086 or andrea279@verizon.net

8/3 Online Discussion Course on Sustainable Living

What: Discussion Course on Sustainable Living

When: Mondays, June 29 to August 17, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Where: Online through First Universalist Society of Central Square
(www.centalsquareuu.org)

Cost: Free

The First UU Consider group is paused until after the Sustainable Living Workshop.

Sermon Schedule: Join us on Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/94662078732?pwd=V3d6eWlvSWMyUUlaNlhUNIRQK2Z4UT09>

August 9: Reverend Andrea Abbott: “The Fish in the Rock”

August 16: The Reverend Bud Adams

August 23: The Reverend David Weissbard: "Privilege" :My 80th birthday got me thinking about a number of things. One of them is the somewhat controversial theme of privilege. Raised, as most of us were, with the fantasy of America as a classless nation, many people are offended by Barry Switzer's use of the phrase "born on third base" to describe someone who was "born with a silver spoon in their mouth but arrogantly thinks their standing in life is because of their own doing." On August 23rd we'll be looking at the concept of privilege and what it means for the American Dream.

August 30: The Reverend Libbie Stoddard

PURE WATER FOR THE WORLD

Set up a jar in your home for the loose change you normally give during the offertory for Pure Water for the World's important work and then when we are all back together you can put the contents of the jar in the collection plate.

Thank you for helping us get through these difficult times.