

Circle of Fellowship  
Monthly Newsletter of the First  
Universalist Society of Central  
Square, NY  
September, 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  
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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/  
UU-Central Square/199139743511564](https://www.facebook.com/pages/UU-Central-Square/199139743511564)

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**Ministerial Musings**

September already! I am amazed that we're still virtually meeting, amazed that September looks only marginally different from July in terms of face to face meeting. I'm grateful for the amount of control over the pandemic that has been achieved in New York State, but it is still hard not to be a bit anxious about the length of time we may have to continue to meet virtually. It's hard not to have some idea about what's coming in the future. Uncertainty is the order of the day.

Ordinarily, (remember ordinary?) this coming Sunday would have been Incoming Sunday, Water Communion Sunday, the Sunday we celebrate our coming back together after our summer adventures. I planned to postpone that celebration until we really do come back together, physically, in our church. In the meantime, however, this time has given us a chance to find out what is vital to us. It's clear to me that we have been together, every Sunday, not missing a beat. All of us, gathered, are the true body of the church.

No matter what the future holds, I will hold that close to my heart.

Andrea Abbott

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**Green Minute**  
**How to Save Seeds**

One plus to all of the isolation we have had this summer are good gardens. Many of my friends have told me they have their best ever gardens because they have been able to spend more time in them. Since many of us have all of those happy plants and as garden season winds down, you might want to consider saving seeds from those wonderful vegetable and flower plants. The Sierra Club says, “*Seed saving at a local level makes sense: Each generation of seed becomes more adapted to the microclimate in which it’s saved. Because it’s been difficult to buy seeds since the pandemic struck, backyard gardeners would be wise to save some seeds this fall to plant next spring. Start with foolproof plants like peas, beans, lettuce, sunflowers, dill, arugula, and parsley. Remember, you can only save seeds from open-pollinated plants; that is, hybrid plants won’t make true-to-type seeds. Check the seed packet or nursery label—F1 denotes a hybrid variety.*”

To collect and dry your own seeds:

After a plant has completely flowered, let the seeds set on the plant until they swell and the plant turns brown. Let the pods of beans, peas or any other plant that makes pods dry out completely on the vine.

Put seed heads or pods into paper bags and dry them further in a dark, dry spot for 10 days or so.

Once you think they’re ready, tap a seed with a hammer. If its coat shatters, the seed is adequately dry. If it doesn’t, the seed is too wet and may mold in storage.

Seal dry seeds in a glass jar or air tight plastic container.

Label your container with seed type and date saved. This information is important because seeds should stay viable for two years and because many seeds look identical.

Share your seeds with neighbors and friends.

Ellen LaPine  
Social Justice Committee

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**Social Justice**

First, please remember to do your US Census Forms

Second, remember to to vote this year

Third, remember to keep saving for Pure Water for the World.

Nancy Hallock

Social Justice

**From Around the Web**

The link below will bring up a recent report by The Brennan Center written by Michael German, an investigator of white supremacist terrorist groups and a former FBI agent. German studied the close links white supremacist groups have developed with many US police departments. This has serious implications and direct effects on injustice for people of color in our society. German's report is worth reading by everyone. Click on the link.

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/hidden-plain-sight-racism-white-supremacy-and-far-right-militancy-law>

**9/18 Church Blood Drive**

The Red Cross says there is still an ongoing urgent need for people to give blood. You can donate blood at our Red Cross blood drive from 1:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Friday, September 18th. However, due to social distancing protocols, this drive will be held at the Baptist Church across the street at 701 Main Street. It is highly encouraged that you schedule an appointment because in an effort to control the number of people in the building at one time, walk-ins may not be allowed. You can schedule an appointment by visiting [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

If you can help by volunteering at the blood drive please contact me at [Dartfrog7777@aol.com](mailto:Dartfrog7777@aol.com)

Ellen LaPine

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### Church Events

#### September Sermon Schedule

Our Zoom link for the church services and meetings is:

<https://zoom.us/j/94662078732?pwd=V3d6eWlvSWMyUUlaNlhUNIRQK2Z4UT09>. The service begins at 10:30 am.

**September 6<sup>th</sup>**: The Reverend David Weissbard

**September 13<sup>th</sup>**: the Reverend Andrea Abbott will speak to us via Zoom at 10:25.

**“Equinox”**: Ordinarily, this would be incoming Sunday and we would have Water Communion. This Sunday, I'd like us to share in the spirit of Incoming Sunday by taking a little time to have us share some of our summer with each other. I'm asking everyone to think about the most important thing that happened to them this summer and share this briefly with each other. Objects to illustrate this, perhaps a special stone or a piece of art are welcome as well. I'm looking forward to everyone's response.

**September 20<sup>th</sup>**: The Reverend Bud Adams

**September 27<sup>th</sup>**: The Reverend Andrea Abbott

#### **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.

#### **Pledge Donations**

Pledge donations may be made through your bank's BillPay account, PayPal or by a check mailed to:

First Universalist Society

PO Box 429

Central Square, NY 13036

#### **Save The Date**

First UU Consider will start soon. Stay tuned for more information

#### **9/14 Need Volunteers**

If you are able to help to repair & paint the windows in the RE wing please contact Winfield Ihlow.

#### **9/17 Coffee and Chat**

Coffee and Chat will resume on Thursday, September 17 via Zoom. We look forward to seeing you on Zoom.

Circle of Fellowship

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

## Privilege Walk Exercise as used by Dave Weissbard in Privilege Sermon 08/23

- 1 If your primary ethnic identity is "American," +1
- 2 If your ancestors were forced to come to the USA not by choice, -1
- 3 If you were ever called names because of your race, class, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation. -1
- 4 If there were people who worked for your family as servants, gardeners, nannies, etc. . +1
- 5 If you were ever ashamed or embarrassed by your clothes, house, car, etc. -1
- 6 If one or both of your parents were "white collar" professionals: doctors, lawyers, teachers, etc. +1
- 7 If you were raised in an area where there was prostitution, drug activity, etc.,. -1
- 8 If you ever tried to change your appearance, mannerisms, or behavior to avoid being judged or ridiculed -1
- 9 If you went to school speaking a language other than English, -1
- 10 If there were more than 50 books in your house when you grew up, +1
- 11 If you ever had to skip a meal or were hungry because there was not enough money to buy food when you were growing up -1
- 12 If you were taken to art galleries or plays by your parents, +1
- 13 If one of your parents was unemployed or laid off, not by choice -1
- 14 If your family ever had to move because they could not afford the rent -1
- 15 If you were told that you were attractive, smart and capable by your parents, +1
- 16 If you were ever discouraged from academics or jobs because of race, class, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation -1
- 17 If you were encouraged to attend college by your parents, +1
- 18 If you have a disability -1
- 19 If you were raised in a single parent household -1
- 20 If your family owned the house where you grew up +1
- 21 If you own a car +1
- 22 If you were ever offered a good job because of your association with a friend or family member +1
- 23 If you were ever denied employment because of your race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation -1
- 24 If you were paid less, treated less fairly because of race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation -1
- 25 If you were ever accused of cheating or lying because of your race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation -1
- 26 If you ever inherited money or property +1
- 27 If you were ever stopped or questioned by the police because of your race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation -1
- 28 If you were ever afraid of violence because of your race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation -1
- 29 If you were ever uncomfortable about a joke related to your race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation but felt unnaafe to confront the situation -1
- 30 If you were ever the victim of violence related to your race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation -1
- 31 If your parents did not grow up in the United States -1
- 32 If your parents attended college +1
- 33 If your parents told you that you could be anything you wanted to be +1