

Circle of Fellowship
Monthly Newsletter of the First
Universalist Society of Central
Square, NY
December, 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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Our Church is Handicapped Accessible

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

Green Minute
Homemade Gifts For Our Furry Friends

I received the following recipes from the Oswego County Humane Society and thought I'd pass them on. Perhaps you want to do some cooking for your furry friends as a special gift for them this holiday season.

Tuna, Pumpkin, Biscotti Cat Treats

- 1 Cup whole spelt flour (easiest on digestion)
- 1 Can low-sodium tuna in water (do not drain)
- 1 Egg
- 2 Tablespoons extra-virgin light tasting olive oil
- ½ Cup canned pumpkin

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Mix all ingredients in a medium bowl. Spread dough evenly on prepared pan to about 1/8 inch thickness. Score top of dough with a knife into 1 inch by ½ inch strips. Bake for 20 minutes, remove from oven and cool for 5 minutes. Flip sheet of treats; peel off paper and then bake for another 8 minutes. Turn off oven and let pan of treats sit for 1 hour to crisp up. Remove and cool completely on a wire rack. Cut into strips along scoring lines. Store in the refrigerator or freezer.

Oatmeal Cookie Dog Treats

- 9 oz. Old fashioned oatmeal
- 12 oz. Whole wheat flour
- 1 ½ oz. Blueberries
- ½ Cup yogurt
- 1 Small ripe banana
- Cookie cutter

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a backing rack with parchment paper. In a large bowl mash the blueberries and banana; add yogurt and mix together. Add oats and whole wheat flour. Knead the dough and roll it out to approximately ¼ inch thick (if the dough is a bit sticky to handle add a bit more flour). Cut with cookie cutter. Place on parchment paper and bake the treats for 30-40 minutes or until they are brown. Turn the oven off and allow the treats to cool inside the oven completely before removing.

Hope you and your pets have a happy, healthy and safe holiday!!

Ellen LaPine
Social Justice Committee

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The UU Circle announces the First Annual Mary Perkins Un-Bake Sale.

If you have donated baked goods to our annual bake sale fundraiser, you know how much all of the ingredients cost and how much time you have spent baking. Then you probably would purchase a pie, cake cookies or brownies that somebody else baked. This could add up to a tidy sum.

If you choose to donate, you can add the donation amount to your pledge check by adding a note in the memo portion of the check with the amount and a notation that it is for the Un-Bake Sale.

Thank you for anything that you may give in memory of our dear Mary.

Ann Peterson

UU Circle

Sunday Sermon Schedule

December 6th: The Reverend David Weissbard-'To Punish or to Heal' I concluded my last sermon [October] noting "Actually, the next two chapters in the book [ProTruth] are actually my favorites: "Rational Communication and the Backfire Effect," and "Collaborative Truth-Seeking Instead of Argument." I would suggest to you that these two chapters spell out a significant part of what Unitarian Universalist churches are supposed to be about. I'm sorry we don't have time to go into them in detail." Actually, they are even more timely now in the context of a major decision President-elect Biden is facing: to focus on prosecution of Trump or attempting to heal the great divide in our nation. It is far from a simple decision. I certainly cannot resolve it, but I believe it is worth our considering in the light of our UU principles.

December 13th: The Reverend Andrea Abbott-'An Old Story Retold'

December 20th: The Reverend Bud Adams

December 27th: The Reverend Andrea Abbott

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Church Events

Notice to Our Members and Friends Regarding Continuation of Virtual Services.

Although some churches and organizations have reopened on a limited basis in our area, we have decided that we will continue to meet virtually for the foreseeable future.

Our Zoom link for the church is: Services on Sundays at 10:30am.at

<https://zoom.us/j/94662078732?pwd=V3d6eWlvSWMyUUlnIhUNIRQK2Z4UT09>

Christmas Eve Service by Zoom December 24th at 4:30 pm at Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/94662078732?pwd=V3d6eWlvSWMyUUlnIhUNIRQK2Z4UT09>

Virtual Holiday Choir

Anyone interested in participating in a virtual choir for the holidays, please contact Leigh at: Leighpbmusic@gmail.com

Book Club

Do you want to join a book? Contact Nancy Hallock at njhallock@gmail.com if you are interested. We will read "The Women in the Castle" and next "The Whole Town is Talking".12/6 Executive Board

The executive board will meet via Zoom at 9:00. All are welcome!

Pure Water For The World

Please continue to collect your change at home. The change collected will continue to go toward our participation in "Pure Water for the World".

Pledge Donations

Pledge donations may be made through your bank's BillPay account or by a check mailed to: First Universalist Society PO Box 429Central Square, NY 13036

Plowshares Craft Fair - Join Us Online This Year for Our 50th Anniversary! Central New York's premier multicultural craft fairs, Plowshares celebrates a world where people enjoy their work and have control over it.

Plowshares will be virtual this year! 10 weeks of sharing, shopping, & crafts now thru January 31, and a 50th Anniversary Celebratory Weekend of online performances & live-streaming events on Dec. 5-6!

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Ministerial Musings

This COVID ridden year, we went a little crazy and bought a lighted Christmas decoration for our yard. It's in the shape of an old fashioned airplane in red and green with presents in the cockpit. The lights are on the wings. Up to now, we'd been satisfied with a wreath on the door and a garland above it. We used our grandson as an excuse, imagining how thrilled he'd be with it, but, of course, it was for us.

This year, people have been putting up Christmas decorations since well before Thanksgiving. There is a great craving in these dark days for some kind of light and cheer. If we can't have the celebrations we've become used to, we'll put up lights and glitter to create some cheer. This craving for light in the midst of darkness is one reason that Christmas was grafted onto the old feast of Yule when beacons were lit on the highest hills to signal from one small, huddled group of huts to another that light would return, that darkness would not have its way. And here we are with a lighted airplane signaling to our neighbors lighted deer.

I think we are seeing a glimmer of light. There are vaccines that may vanquish the demon virus. There is a new hope that compassion and understanding will once more be the values of this nation. It is just a glimmer yet and many things may happen but it is a welcome gleam in the darkness that has surrounded us.

This season of lights, let us hold our candles high, with hopeful hearts. Let us learn from the hard year behind us and vow to create, for years to come, a world of generosity, kindness and peace.

Reverend Andrea Abbott