

**Circle of Fellowship**  
**Monthly Newsletter of the First**  
**Universalist Society of Central**  
**Square, NY**  
**January, 2021**

**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

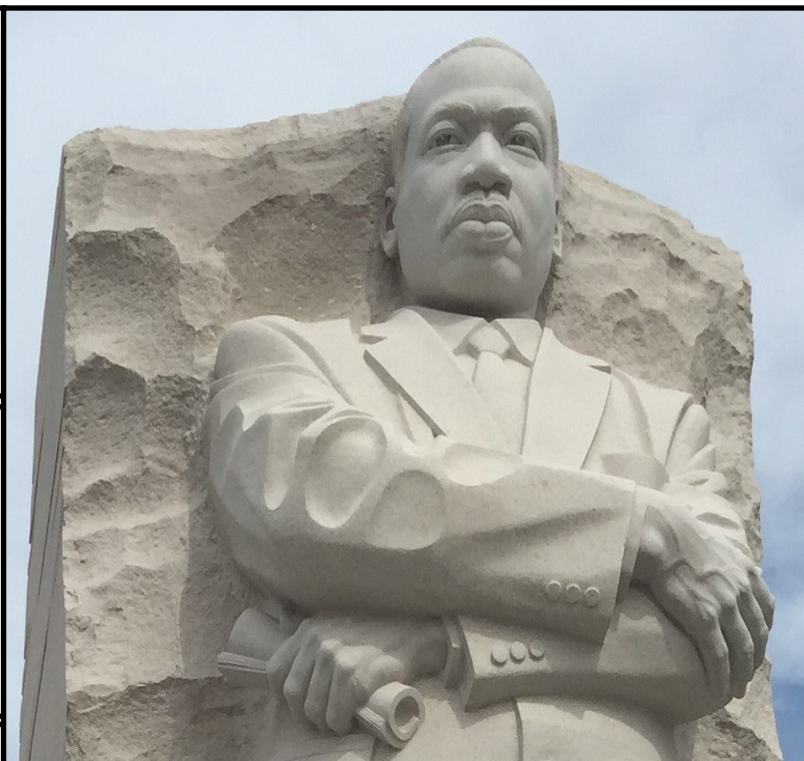
Our Church is Handicapped Accessible

Church Phone: 315-307-3400

E-Mail for Reverend Andrea Abbott:  
[andrea279@verizon.net](mailto:andrea279@verizon.net)

Church website: [centralsquareuu.org](http://centralsquareuu.org)

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



**Martin Luther King Day**

**January 18, 2012**

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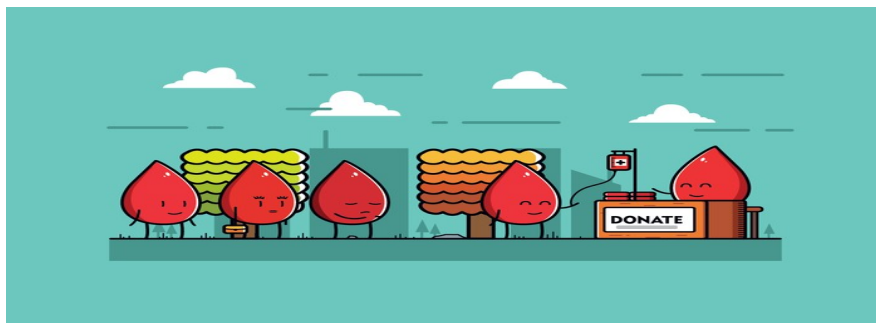
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**Red Cross Blood Drive**  
**Friday January 15th 1:30 – 6:30 p.m.**

The American Red Cross has notified us that the need for blood is at a critical level at this time. With that in mind, you will have any opportunity to donate blood at our Red Cross blood drive from 1:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Friday, January 15th. 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).

Thank you.

Ellen LaPine  
Social Justice Committee

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**Green Minute**  
**Community Solar**

According to the New York State Energy Research and Development Agency (NYSERDA), *“Community solar is a group of solar panels with access to the local electricity grid. Once the panels are turned on and generating electricity, clean energy from the site feeds into the local power grid. Depending on the size and number of panels the project has, dozens or even hundreds of renters and homeowners can save money from the electricity that is generated by the project. By subscribing to a project, you earn credits on your electric bill every month from your portion of the solar that’s generated by the project, accessing the benefits of solar without installing panels on your home.”*

As NYSERDA notes, New Yorkers receive many offers from energy companies. The information they provide is designed to help you decide if you want to go with an energy company and what to look for. If you go to <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/NY-Sun/Solar-for-Your-Home/Community-Solar/How-it-Works>, they answer questions about finding and choosing a community solar project.

At [https://www9.nationalgridus.com/niagaramohawk/business/energychoice/4\\_how.asp](https://www9.nationalgridus.com/niagaramohawk/business/energychoice/4_how.asp), National Grid also offers some assistance on how to shop, estimate your savings or additional cost, how to find a supplier in your area and what their prices are.

As the new year starts, perhaps it’s time to review our home’s energy needs and what green options are available.

Ellen LaPine  
Social Justice Committee

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**Thank From UU Circle**

Thank you to everyone who generously donated to the First Annual Mary Perkins Unbake sale. We made a total of \$680.00 which will be part of our annual pledge in this very unusual year. Hopefully in 2021 we will be able to return to some of our more traditional ways of fundraising.

Thank You All,

Ann Peterson

UU Circle

**Sunday Services**

**January #rd: The Reverend David Weissbard**

**January 10th: The Reverend Andrea Abbott : Lesson from a Snowman**

**January 17th: The Reverend Bud Adams**

**January 24th: The Reverend Andrea Abbott**

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## Ministerial Musing

January 2021

There are pitfalls in procrastination. If I had written this right after the first of the year, as I had intended, I would have talked about the hope of a new year, the beginning of the end for the virus, the possibilities of a more humane and compassionate political climate. Unfortunately, I didn't do that. Events moved past my thoughts at that time. Now I struggle with the meaning of the new year in light of the violence and hate that has lately engulfed this country. If the new year is a turning point, in what direction is this turn? It seems, on a quick look, as if the turn may be as much for the worse as for the better. It's hard not to see things that way.

Many more able writers than I have commented on the violence in D.C. Any words I might have about this seem either weak or derivative. People have commented on the need for strong institutions, the terror of anarchy, the need for honesty both in government and in personal life. All so true. There has been a lot of condemnation and surely there is enough blame to spread around. And yet, I don't find myself frightened or angry. I do find I am depressed. I'm depressed because it seems as if hate is so easy to learn but love takes a lot more learning. Will we learn how to love each other in time or is our time to be spent on destruction because we can't face the pain of real change?

Then I remembered that we are the church of hope. I remembered the last line of an old Christmas carol., written by a Longfellow, a Unitarian. Adapted slightly it says, "The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on Earth, goodwill to all." That is what we have believed, even as we know that the right doesn't come about by magic. It comes about because of the hard, hard work of teaching and acting to bring it about. It takes more time than we would like. It often comes when it is least expected, but it does come about. As we enter 2021, let us do so with the words of John Murray, one of our founders on our lips, "Go out into the highways and byways. Give the people something of your new vision....Give them not hell, but hope and courage." Let us give each other compassion, hope and courage this year and all years.

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**Church Events Calendar**

**Our Zoom link for the church is:**

**<https://zoom.us/j/94662078732?pwd=V3d6eWlvSWMyUUlaNlhUNIRQK2Z4UT09>**

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

**We will continue to meet virtually for the foreseeable future.**

**1/9/2021 Retreat via Zoom.**

**Congregational Ingathering for “Soul-Our System” Retreat via Zoom Meeting January 9th with Targeted Ministry Program Minister Rev. Lori Staubitz**

**The "Soul-Our" retreat will now be held only one day on Saturday, 1/9 in two sessions. It will begin at 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. then we will take a break for lunch and reflection on the morning session. We will then reconvene at 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**This is an invitation for you to help shape our future. The year 2021 is here and the planets are aligned! We want to use the new year to explore our own “orbits” and the ways in which we can “align” ourselves and our church for the most meaningful outcomes.**

**Come lend your experience and creative ideas to make this time truly soulful as we explore very practical applications for moving forward together.**

**Knowing how challenging online events can be; we plan for small group break out discussions and time away from the screen for lunch and personal reflection. This event is free to all members and friends.**

**Thanks and hope to see you at the retreat!!**

**Ellen**

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Save the Date

1/13 Connect & Consider

You're Invited!

If you're looking for a place to share your thoughts and make connections then Connect & Consider is for you. On the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 7 PM ET there is a free and open dialogue series (via Zoom) that touches a range of topics. The series is not a "course". The focus is on having enjoyable conversations and making connections, When we join together, it will happen!

On Wednesday January 13th the topic is Change. Why talk about change? Well, life is change. Some change is thrust upon us. Other change is self-imposed. And still other change is what we try, or would like to try, on others. Do we seek change, or shun it? If we seek it, how do we accomplish it? If we shun it, what methods do we use to avoid it? Why do we react the way we do?

The Suggested Readings are on the following pages 8 and 9

The Zoom link and reminders will be sent several times before 1/13.

ARNY

Facilitator - Connect & Consider

First Universalist

cell 734-216-1814

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**1/13 Connect & Consider**

The following are some references to help get the dialogue started.

Changing Yourself.

\* "I Hate Change!" 10 Ways to Cope When it All Hits the Fan - Harley Therapy™ Blog.

\* <https://www.verywellmind.com/the-stages-of-change-2794868>

\* <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/crucial-conversations/201507/the-human-side-change>

\* <https://academyofideas.com/2018/04/how-we-change-human-plasticity-and-the-process-of-changing-our-life/>

\*[https://www.ted.com/talks/sara\\_garofalo\\_the\\_psychology\\_behind\\_irrational\\_decisions#t-234978](https://www.ted.com/talks/sara_garofalo_the_psychology_behind_irrational_decisions#t-234978)

Suggested Readings Continue on Page 9



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**Responding to Change.**

\* <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/in-flux/201107/5-tips-help-you-respond-effectively-change>

\* <https://ic-space.gcs.civilservice.gov.uk/change-communications/understanding-how-people-react-to-change/>

\* <https://www.leaderonomics.com/articles/personal/2-ways-respond-to-changes>\* <https://www.success.com/the-3-ways-people-react-to-change/>

Changing Others.

\* <https://www.lifehack.org/articles/communication/12-ways-help-someone-change.html> Further study on the change process:\* Seven Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen Covey;

\* Core Transformation: Reaching the Wellspring Within by Connirae Andreas;

- Immunity to Change: How to Overcome it and Unlock the Potential in Yourself and Your Organization by Robert Keegan and Lisa Laskow Lahey.

Arny Stieber