

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



**Women's History Month**

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**Green Minute**  
**How Some Animals Survive Winter**

Did you know that some turtles breathe through their butt in the winter or that opossums often lose the tips of their tails to frostbite? Did you know that the black capped chickadee actually has a part of its brain increase in size in the fall so it can remember where it made its cache of food so it can go back to it in the winter?

I ran across a video by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation that runs for 40 minutes and gives some basic information about several animals that are common to NY State. Some of the animals are bear, deer, moose, beaver, martin, fisher, ground hogs, skunks, frogs and salamanders among others. They talk about how these animals adapt and how we can help them adapt. I found it interesting and learned a couple of things. You can watch the video at [https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=169625424688108&ref=watch\\_permalink](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=169625424688108&ref=watch_permalink).

Ellen LaPine  
Social Justice Committee

**Social Justice Committe**

The Social Justice Committee initiated a Book Club three months ago. The book chosen for March is:

"Finding Dorothy" by Elizabeth Letts. This is the CNY Reads One Book selection for 2021. Information about community activities is available online. We have chosen two more books. "Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics" for April. "The Little Paris Bookshop" by Nina George for May. This gives everyone time to get their hands on a used copy. Discussion is always the last Wednesday of the month at 4:30 via zoom. Please continue to collect coins and bottle return money for PW4W.

If you copied the Advent calendar from the CUMC, the monies should be donated to your favorite charity. I just thought it was a fun way for folks to give daily. We all have our favorite "causes" and when we are able to meet in person, I'd like to establish priorities going forward for the 1st Universalist Society of C.S. as a group for 2021-2022. In the meantime, we can "Make a Difference from a Distance" in our own way.

Nancy Hallock

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### Random Acts of Kindness

#### Funding

The Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) program is funded by the congregation to financially assist those in need. Our congregation's value of "service to the local and world communities" is part of our Mission Statement and this program provides the opportunity to live up to that ideal. The funds distributed to people in need are usually less than \$100 and typically go for things like aid in paying medical services, fuel, rent, or other like living expenses.

#### Envelopes

Normally envelopes for donations to RAK are provided in the pews on the first Sunday of each month and then placed in the regular collection plate. Of course, it has been almost a year now since we have met in person and the RAK fund is quite low. **If you would like to make a donation to RAK please make note of it on your check and send it to our address at PO Box 429, Central Square NY 13042.**

#### Giving

One suggestion to figure out what you might want to give is to determine what you normally gave each month and then send a one-time donation for what you would have given in a year. However, any other amount of donation to RAK that you feel comfortable with would also be very much appreciated.

Thank you,

First Universalist Church of Central Square  
The Finance Committee

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**Ministerial Musing March 2021**

The night of March 1<sup>st</sup>, the old saying about this month was certainly evident. The wind blew so hard and long I worried about our old maple trees. It sounded like a lion, indeed. Now, if the rest of the adage is true, perhaps March 31<sup>st</sup> may be calm and warm and lamb-like. March is a good month for extremes. We live in an age of extremes, according to many. We have seen the blasts of too many storms and often have huddled in fear in the past few years. We may have become a little too used to the peaks and valleys of this kind of life. We seem to have lost the ability to find a balance, a way that is neither the lion of storms or the lamb of passivity, but the balance that will take us through ordinary, undramatic times. In the midst of the highs and lows, it is too easy to lose sight of the journey. Most of our lives are, if we are lucky, spent neither in drama nor in apathy. Instead, let us be available to those who need a hand to steady them and be ready to ask for a hand to steady ourselves. The hardest task is to find that balance that will let us walk safely but purposefully through all the events of our lives.

-Andrea Abbott

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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.

April 4<sup>th</sup>: Executive Board Meeting

The Executive Board will meet next Sunday at 9:00. All are welcome.

**Sunday Service**

Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>: The Reverend David Weissbard : “Population: Firecracker or Bomb? UU Paul Ehrlich’s 1968 Population Bomb has almost achieved gospel status. But is it as simple as that? I do not think so, so we will explore how its concepts relate to “The Worth and Dignity” principle.

Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>: The Reverend Andrea Abbott: “The Kids in the Class”

Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>: The Reverend Bud Adams

Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>: The Reverend Andrea Abbott: “ Sharing of Life’s Glories”

**PURE WATER FOR THE WORLD**

We ask that you will continue to collect your change at home. 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 429

Central Square, NY 13036

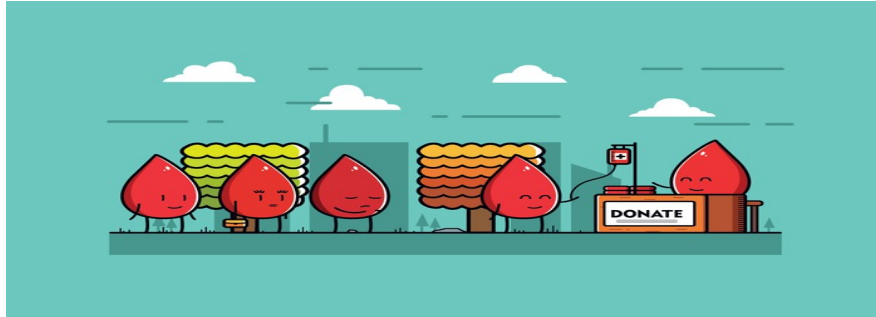
Wednesday, March 10th at 7:00 - **Connect and Consider** will meet. The topic is Government: the good, the bad and the invisible.

3/11 Search Committee Meets at 4:00 via Zoom

3/21 Planning Committee After the service today, we would like as many as possible to stay connected on Zoom to discuss the Retreat with Lori Staubitz.

**Book Club**: On 3/24 at 4:30 we will review Finding Dorothy by Elizabeth Letts.

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**Red Cross Blood Drive**  
**Friday March 19th 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, March 19th. 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 [dart-frog7777@aol.com](mailto:dart-frog7777@aol.com).

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Thank you.

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**Board Meeting Minutes**

The First Universalist Board of Trustees has voted to make Board meeting minutes available through the newsletter. Minutes access is restricted to individuals who are granted access by Church officers. You may already have access but, if you do not ,you may request it by responding to the popup notice on access. The link is:

[Board Minutes](#)