

Circle of Fellowship

Monthly Newsletter of the First
Universalist Society of Central
Square, NY

April, 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

Church website: centralsquareuu.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/UU-Central-Square/199139743511564

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

Ministerial musing

April, 2021

April Fools, indeed! It's April 1st and the weather has decided to play its tricks. First, after a brief false spring, the weather forecast called for a blizzard, maybe several inches of the white stuff. We all shuddered. However, this morning we woke up to find only a skim on the ground. Someone is chuckling somewhere. That's life in Central New York. It makes us resilient, adaptable and maybe a little distrustful of authority. What could be more U-U? As this spring progresses, we will continue to need all these attributes. Going forward, we will have many questions. When will it be safe to meet in person? Will the vaccines be effective against the COVID variations? Whose information do we trust? If we are able to emerge from the cocoons we have spun ourselves this winter, will we want to do so? It can be cozy in a cocoon. I hope we will find the right balance between caution and courage to once again come together to build our community.

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Green Minute
Random Acts of Kindness

My insurance company sent me a list of ideas for random acts of kindness for animals, people and the planet that I decided to share with you. Whether you want to do one a day or one a week, here are some ideas for each day in April.

- Leave that pile of leaves or brush alone so animals can use it for shelter.
- Pay for the next person in line.
- Leave an extra big tip.
- Hold the door for someone.
- Donate some food or bedding to the animal shelter.
- Commend a store employee.
- Send a card to a friend.
- Leave money on a vending machine.
- Post an encouraging note in a public place.
- Help a neighbor.
- Participate in a virtual fundraiser for animals.
- Post a positive review or hold off on that bad review.
- Compliment someone.
- Donate to a cause you care about.
- Leave the dead stems in your garden a bit later so the beneficial bugs on them have time to hatch.
- Give your neighbor's furry friend a special treat.
- Deliver homemade food to a friend.
- Call someone who lives alone.
- Volunteer to help others.
- Put a special treat out for the birds.
- Let someone else ahead in line.
- Pamper your pets.
- Donate to a food pantry.
- Donate books.
- Look up something important about the environment then post it on social media.
- Volunteer at a community garden or help your neighbor with their garden.
- Give a friend a list of their best qualities.
- Feed someone's parking meter.
- Plant flowers, shrubs and trees that will support the bees, butterflies and birds.
- Be kind to yourself too.

Ellen LaPine
Social Justice Committee

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Dear Members and Friends:

Every year in the early spring in years past we held a stewardship luncheon to kick off our pledge canvass for the upcoming church year. Our church year runs from June 1 to May 31. Of course, this is again not a normal year so as we observe social distancing by staying at home, we cannot have our luncheon again this year. However we still need to invite you to contribute some of your time and financial resources by pledging for the new church year. Churches exist because friends and members do the necessary volunteer work and pay the bills. If everyone does a little of the work it gets done in good order. Some teach religious education. Some maintain the building. Others serve on committees, come to work parties or help with community events. It becomes a way to not only help the church, but to get to know others. For now, we are staying connected through Zoom video Sunday services, discussion and chat groups. Of course, we all are looking forward to the time that we can get together again. If everyone makes a financial and/or a service contribution to our church we can continue to work to expand and grow, with old and new programs and community outreach. We also have the unknown in our budget this year as we look toward Rev. Andrea's retirement in October and finding someone to take up the very important place she has held in our church and in our hearts.

Our bylaws say: *“An active member shall be expected to participate in the Church's activities and to make a recordable financial contribution or to contribute services to the Church during each fiscal year.”* We know that people are in varying life circumstances. Some are caring for relatives or have health concerns or medical bills of their own. Others are between jobs. We do not ask that you place undue hardship upon yourself but neither should your pledge be easy. Rather it should reflect a serious commitment to the place you have chosen as your spiritual home. We know this commitment works both ways. We will continue to strive to provide a safe, welcoming environment where everyone is respected and nurtured.

A pledge form is included with this letter. Please fill it out and send it to PO Box 429, Central Square NY 13036 so it is received by no later than April 15th so that we have the information as we prepare the budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. If you prefer, you can email your completed pledge form to Janie Garlow at mjgarlow@aol.com. If you'd like to consider other types of giving that might be a bit out of the ordinary, please feel free to contact our treasurer Marcia Burrell with any questions you have.

Warm Regards,
The Stewardship Committee
Circle of Fellowship

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passion in human relations

The First Universalist Society of Central Square
PO Box 429
Central Square, New York 13036

June 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022 Pledge Form

As an expression of love and appreciation for the work of the church:

My annual pledge is: \$ _____ To be given in increments of \$ _____
() Weekly () Monthly () Annually () Regularly

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

() The information above is an addition or change to the current directory.

() Fair Share Fund: This year, our contribution is approximately \$75/member. (Fair Share is our contribution to the UUA's Annual Program Fund. Go to <https://www.uua.org/finance/apf/why-we-give> for more information.)

I would like to give an additional donation to Fair Share. \$ _____.

() I would like to give a one-time donation to the work of the church. \$ _____.

() I would like to give a service donation (i.e. cleaning, lawn mowing, etc.) _____.

Signature _____ Date _____

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT IT IS YOUR INTENT TO COMPLETE PAYMENT OF THIS PLEDGE BY MAY 31, 2022. CIRCUMSTANCES DO CHANGE AND YOU MAY MODIFY OR CANCEL YOUR PLEDGE WITH A CALL OR LETTER TO OUR TREASURER.

THANK YOU.

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Social Justice Committee

We will do our 1st highway pickup 2021 in April. I need volunteers. Please reply if you can help and we'll set the date. 10a would be a good start time, as we could evaluate the church grounds after. Maybe even do a little work or at least plan chores for later this month.

Still collecting cans and coins for PW4W? Save them, count them and send me a check towards our next donation.

I will schedule an official meeting soon. I encourage everyone to join and help set an agenda for 2021.

Ellen is retiring as "Green Minute" author/editor-in-chief. This leaves a once in a lifetime opportunity available for the right person. Please consider contributing. Rotating writers could be fun.

Nancy Hallock

Social Justice Chair

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Our Zoom link for Church Services 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.

Sunday Services

April 4th: The Reverend David Weissbard

April 11th: The Reverend Andrea -“The Invisible World”

April 18th: The Reverend Bud Adams

April 25th: The Reverend Andrea Abbott

April 11th: Our Strategic Planning retreat discussion will resume after the service today. All are welcome.

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

Save the Date

4/14 Connect & Consider at 7:00 Topic TBA

4/27 Book Club

On 4/27 at 4:30 we will review “The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics for April. “The Little Paris Bookshop” for May. Meetings will be on the last Wednesday of each month at 4:30.

Board Minutes Link

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19qrK7kymxUGJedQlrGpMCeEH-S25H9x1?usp=sharing>

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Our Water Crisis: An Eclectic List of Resources

Spring is a season when we often become aware of water and renewing life. First Universalist of Central Square has for several years made congregation donations to an organization, [**Pure Water for The World**](#), that funds and builds low cost water access systems to Communities throughout the world. Please consider a contribution to Pure Water for the World.

I thought about water issues as Erin Brockovich has just published a new book I just started on water issues entitled:

[**Superman’s Not Coming: Our National Water Crisis and What We The People Can DO About It**](#)

Then these articles just appeared in The Guardian: [**“Meet Arizona's water one-percenters”**](#)

And [**“Florida faces 'imminent' pollution catastrophe from phosphate mine pond”**](#)

Finally, a classic everyone should read on the history of water and politics in the West, [**Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water, Revised Edition**](#) by Marc Reisner.

AJH