

**CIRCLE OF FELLOWSHIP**  
Monthly Message for All Ages  
*Together We Can, Together We Will*  
January 2023

**OUR MISSION**

**To be a welcoming diverse congregation that values spiritual growth and service to the local and world community.**

The First Universalist Society  
of Central Square New York  
3243 Fulton Street  
Post Office Box 429  
Central Square, NY 13036-0429  
Building Phone: 315-307-3400  
Website: [CentralSquareUU.org](http://CentralSquareUU.org)  
Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/pages/UU-Central-Square](http://www.facebook.com/pages/UU-Central-Square)

Trustees

Erin Barry	Marcia Burrell
Janie Garlow	Nancy Hallock
Winfield Ihlow	Ellen LaPine
Ann Peterson	Ronna Schindler
Arny Stieber	Lucy Stieber
Paul Wenham	Susan Woods

We are more than a “church”. We are a community that believes in the **Seven Principles** which are grounded in the humanistic teachings of the world’s religions.

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person.
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregation.
4. A free and responsible search for meaning and truth.
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregation and in society at large.
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



**JANUARY EVENTS CALENDAR**

- Sunday, January 8th 9AM -Trustee Meeting  
(in person & Zoom)  
Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> 6:30PM – Planning Meeting  
(Zoom only)  
Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> @ 2PM – Book Club  
“The Life She Was Given” by Ellen Marie Wiseman  
(Zoom only)

**SUNDAY MINISTERIAL CONVERSATIONS**

**January 1st- Rev. David Weissbard**

A dozen years ago, I started the New Year with a sermon on "Searching for the Meaning of Life." I am sure you will not be surprised to know that I was not able to resolve that search at that time. I am sure you do not expect me to resolve it now. I do think, however, that it is worth looking at that challenge once again, so we will this Sunday. I hope you will join us.

**January 8th – Rev. Kurt Hohmann**

Ground and Center: Finding Your Inner Soul  
Grounding is reinforcing our connection to the Earth. Centering is reinforcing our connection to ourselves. So grounding and centering is a lot like finding our footing on icy pavement - a perfect topic for January. The coldest, darkest days of winter are a perfect time for rediscovering our individual truths, our essence, our souls. I hope you will join us!

**January 15th- Rev. Bud Adams**

**January 22<sup>nd</sup> – Martha Ryan –**

**Children’s Advocacy Center**

**January 29<sup>th</sup> – Music Service/mini concert.**

**Musician(s) or group to be announced.**

**Pastoral Care**

Rev. Bud Adams is the minister to call if someone needs pastoral care. If you or someone else you know needs to speak with a minister please contact Bud at (315) 395-1926 or (315) 637-0468. His email is [bud.adams.1@juno.com](mailto:bud.adams.1@juno.com)

## SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Social Justice Committee will meet Jan.15 @ 9am in the building and on Zoom. We'll set a schedule for projects in 2023.

Continuing with PW4W (Pure Water For The World), collection for Divine Mercy's Downstairs Scotty, Adopt-a-Highway, fundraisers, and any new plans you want to add to our agenda.

Everyone is welcome to contribute.

Thanks, Nancy Hallock

## EDUCATION FOR YOUTH & ADULTS

### Monthly Story for All Ages



For January we see the youth of our church discovering the paths they can take to find their moral and emotional centers.

We will be lighting our path for the new year by writing a resolution on personal lanterns that we are creating. Learning to find our own starry center. Finding the me I chose to be. The magic of making choices is ours. What happens when we make a choice. Can we make a different choice and how will those choices affect us.

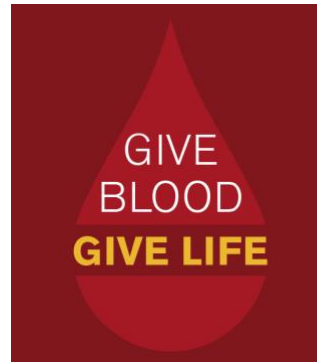
We will make story stones and create cairns. Learning to keep our balance as we find our path. Creating our own personal patchwork path to follow as we traverse the challenges set before us. Think of it like a game of jenga. And yes we will be doing that also.

A busy month lays before us. Ronna Schindler

### **Marketing Committee Report**

*Arny Stieber, Committee Chair.*

The Marketing Committee continues to use the results of the Survey to make recommendations to the Trustees. In January we will present options for the Order of Service. In addition, we are using one side of the large sign in front of the building to broadcast one of our Seven Principals. The Principal will be changed every two weeks or so. If you have ideas that will help our growth, or concerns that are hindering our growth, please contact one of the Committee Members - Susan, Erin, Paul W. or ARNY



### **Blood Drive**

#### **First Baptist Church**

Large Room  
701 N. Main Street, Central Square, NY 13036

**Friday, January 13, 2023**  
**1:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

First Baptist Church – 701 N. Main, Central Square. *Start the New Year with the gift of a much needed blood donation.* It is highly encouraged that you schedule an appointment but walk-ins may be welcome if all appointments do not fill. 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

### **UU BOOK CLUB**

The UU Club typically meets (in building & zoom) on the last Wednesday of each month at 2PM.

The reading schedule is:

January 25<sup>th</sup> – Funny Farm by Laurie Zaleski

February 22<sup>nd</sup> – The Boys, a Memoir by Ron Howard

March – Our Missing Hearts by Celeste Ng

It is not necessary to be member of the congregation to participate. Most books are readily available through the library or on-line, or discount books. Please contact Nancy Hallock (315) 533-7067 if you are interested in participating.

### **READING FROM UUA**

#### **Authentic Selves Edited by Peggy Gillespie**

Groundbreaking in its depictions of joy and community, *Authentic Selves* celebrates trans and nonbinary people and their families in stunning photographs and their own words. Foreword by Jazz and Jeanette Jennings.

### **WHO DO YOU KNOW?**

We are in need of speakers for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month. We are using the Soul Mater theme but a presenter is not bound by them.

If you know someone who can speak (in person or via Zoom) on an appropriate topic for our community, please let Lucy Stieber know.

## **SOUL MATTERS THEME** **FINDING OUR CENTER**

When we talk of finding our center, it's natural for calm and rest to be the first things that come to mind. Who would expect anything different? After all, the need for calm is everywhere we look. So, so many of us are tired. We're overworked, over-busy, over-committed, overly scared. We are often so weighed down by responsibility and worry that it only takes one drop of something unexpected to tip us over. So, yes, we long for rest. Yes, we want to swirl to stop. And yet, helping us find peace and calm is not the only work found on this path of finding our center. As our faith reminds us, being a "centered person" often involves the opposite of keeping things calm. In order to move toward a balance of justice, we have to upset the current state of things. Oppressive systems need challenged and toppled. And to accomplish that, we need to sacrifice calm and comfort, including our own. We need to remember that achieving a balance of equality requires us to be purposefully *off-balance* and *out-of-step* with our culture, or as Martin Luther King Jr. said, we need people who are *maladjusted* to the way things are.

Add all this up and suddenly "our center" appears to be a much richer place than is often recognized. It's not simply a place of peace and calm; it's also a place of being pushed and launched. What you hear in this deep space within is not just the whisper of "Rest" and "Breathe," but also "Take a deep breath and jump!" We encounter an invitation there, not just relaxation. It's a still point, yes. But a still point upon which we pivot and turn to something new. So as we try to make sense of "finding our center" this month, it's fine to pull up the image of the Buddha sitting peacefully under a tree, but we can't let that overshadow the image of a diver balancing way up there on her diving board, pausing to regain her composure and courage so she can leap and go "all in."

Maybe in the end, instead of only asking each other, "Are you centered these days?" We need to ask, "Where is your center sending you these days?" and "Where is your center calling you to go".

## **COVID PROCEDURE**

Until further notice please observe the following:

- If you don't feel well, please do not come to church.
- With the upsurge of the new Omicron Variant BA-5, mask wearing is recommended but not mandated. There are masks available at the building.
- All people are encouraged to continue to use hand sanitizer.
- Groups using the building should follow the same guidelines plus their group's specific protocols.
- We have coffee and cookies after the service, in the dining room. If you bring homemade treats please also include a packaged choice.
- If you come down with COVID-19 after attending a service or gathering, please contact Nancy Hallock at (315) 533-7067 or at njhallock@gmail.com.

We will review these guidelines periodically as the situation changes and will provide updates as needed.

## **NEWSLETTER**

Please send all newsletter items or suggestions to Lucy Stieber at [lastieber@aol.com](mailto:lastieber@aol.com) or call 734-678-653

## **COVID PROCEDURE**