

## CIRCLE OF FELLOWSHIP

### Monthly Message for All Ages – April 2023

*Live your values aloud, not alone. Our open-minded, open-hearted spiritual community helps people lead lives of justice, love, learning and hope.*

## 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  
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### Trustees

Erin Barry	Marcia Burrell
Janie Garlow	Nancy Hallock
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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.



## APRIL EVENTS CALENDAR

- \* **Sunday, April 2nd -9AM -Trustee Meeting** (in person & Zoom)
- \* **Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> – Oswego Child Advocacy Event – April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and a fundraising dinner/dance with an 80s theme will be held.** Details on page 3 of the Newsletter.
- \* **Wednesday, April 26th @ 2PM – Book Club** “Anxious People” by Fredrik Backman. (Zoom only)

## SUNDAY SERVICE CONVERSATIONS

### Link to service

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

### **April 2nd- Rev. David Weissbard** Sumbunall"

They say that ministers tend to preach sermons that they most need to hear. I know that is true of me. Twelve years ago I delivered a sermon that I believe bears repeating -- at least, I need reminding of its message. I dare say I believe many of us can use a reminder of it from time to time. I hope you will agree.

Dave

### **April 9th – Rev. Kurt Hohmann**

"Chocolate Hares & Colored Eggs - A Season of Hope." Can the contents of an Easter basket contribute to a greater sense of hope, optimism, and positivity?

### **April 16h – Rev Bud Adams**

**April 23rd – Ron VanNorstrand – Retired Civil Rights Lawyer, Military Veteran, Peace Activists.**

**April 30th – Music service Steve Mullane – Singer & Songwriter.**  
[StephenMullaneMusic.com](http://StephenMullaneMusic.com)

## 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

### MUSICAL WELCOME!

Jody Brown, a former member, has agreed to be our pianist until Albert returns in June and hopefully again after Albert's departure in the Fall. It is a pleasure to have Jody back!

### TREASURER REPORT – Marcia Burrel

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your pledges and other donations this year. We are meeting our pledges and many of us are giving more. We are back out in person and Zoom Sundays, and it's time for us to think about the coming 2023-2024 pledge for the coming fiscal year.

Pledge what you can and give what you can to support our church.

Think about our new music. Think about our variety of sermons. Think about our volunteers who keep us going. Your pledge and financial giving allows us to maintain our UU community.

Thank you for being a part of us.

### SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE – Nancy Hallock

Continuing need for: Coins; Hats; Divine Mercy donations; Sunday snacks.

Adopt-a-highway pickup 4/30 @ 8a.

Ann is still researching a trip to Auburn to visit the Tubman and Seward Houses. We will confirm interest and dates.

April 15 is the Free Smoke Alarm installation with the Red Crossing Central Square homes. We still need volunteers.

Don't forget the Red Cross Blood Drive on May 12 1:30-6:30p.

Help in all projects is appreciated.

### MARKETING COMMITTEE – Army Stieber

The Committee continues to work on the survey recommendations. Our focus is now on communications – both internal and external. We have a draft of a new "Welcome" flyer that is more descriptive of our position in the community, our beliefs and our history. Once the weather warms up we will put the condensed Seven Principals, in 4" letters, on the parking lot side of the building.

### EDUCATION FOR YOUTH & ADULTS



### MONTHLY STORY FOR ALL AGES

Resistance means preventing something from happening or refusing to do something. Speaking the truth gives us power. It may be to out a bully, help someone who has been wrongly blamed or as simple as protecting a tree in a park. Through meditation we resist our thoughts from going this way and that. The change in breath is voluntary as you become mindful of the present. We resist anger by learning to control and quiet our breathing.

We will be learning meditation.

How else can we practice resistance?

We will be creating junk sculpture, and learn to recycle paper by making new paper. Plastic milk jugs can become butterflies and books read again. Clothes and unused toys can have a new life.

We will resist by making a difference.

Ronna Schindler

### READING FROM UUA

"Twice as Hard: The Stories of Black Women Who Fought to Become Physicians, from the Civil War to the 21st Century" by Jasmine Brown.

Black women physicians' stories have gone untold for far too long, leaving gaping holes in American medical history, in women's history, and in black history. It's time to set the record straight.

### UU BOOK CLUB

The UU Club typically meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 2PM. Zoom only .

The reading schedule is:

April – Anxious People by Fredrik Backman.

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.

## **SOUL MATTERS THEME for April**

### ***The Path of Resistance***

*...it starts when you say We  
and know who you mean, and each  
day you mean one more.*

*--Marge Piercy, from The Low Road*

Out of all our themes this year, resistance is among the most complex. But it also may be the most simple.

Let's start with the complexity.

Sometimes resistance involves bravely picking up a picket sign; other times it asks us to courageously put down our masks and expose who we really are. Sometimes it involves defeating the enemy; other times it's a matter of noticing that treating them as the enemy defeats us all.

Often the path of resistance asks us to stay in it for the long haul, but just as often it's about taking that first tiny step. Most of the time it requires us to fight to the bitter end, and yet there are many moments when we need to stop resisting and let go.

Resistance certainly takes the form of speaking the truth to power, but often what the world needs even more is for us to speak the truth in love.

Bottom line: the path of resistance is tricky business and takes multiple, even contradictory, forms.

But beyond this complexity lies the simplicity of Marge Piercy's words. In **all** cases, she reminds us, the path of resistance starts when we say "We!" For instance, the power of our picket sign resides in the fact that it hangs alongside those of others. Being who we are usually begins with another loving us for who we are. Both the long haul and our first courageous step are made possible by reaching out to receive a helping hand.

It's all one big reminder that none of us resist alone. Or maybe what really needs to be said this month is that none of us **have to** resist alone. Each Or maybe what really needs to be said this month is that none of us **have to** resist alone. Each and every path of resistance is daunting. But they are made even more daunting when we tell ourselves that we must travel those paths by ourselves.

So, yes, we certainly need pushed and prodded this month. But maybe what we need most is to be

reassured. Reassured that - when the road gets too treacherous, when the forces against us grow too big, other will be by our side. Maybe it's not more courage that is required, but more connection. Maybe what we really need to hear is not simply "resist!" but "I will resist with you!" and "Let's start with 'W E'!"

Maybe it is as simple as that.

## **Oswego Child Advocacy Events for April**

April is Child abuse prevention month, so we have a few things going on in the month of April.

The Child Advocacy Center flashes back to the 80s with a "**Totally 80's Party with a Purpose**". Flash back to the 1980's and help raise money for the Child Advocacy Center of Oswego County!

Saturday, April 15th at the Lake Ontario Event & Conference Center in Oswego NY. The party begins at 5:30pm with cocktails and some "totally rad" 80's trivia courtesy of Bearded Trivia. Music and dancing throughout the night with 80's tribute band PopRox. We'll have a photo booth to capture your "totally wicked" 80's outfit and there will be a prize for the best dressed. Cash bar and small plate food items will be available to purchase.

### **TICKETS ON SALE NOW!!**

**\$35 presale or \$300 for a table of 10.**

**After March 15th tickets will be \$40 per person.**

All proceeds from this event help support the valuable and much-needed services provided at the CAC. You can check our and click events.

<http://www.oswegocac.org/> or call 315-592-4453

## **COVID PROCEDURE**

Until further notice please observe the following:

- If you don't feel well, please do not come to 1<sup>st</sup> U.

- 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.

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Please send all newsletter items or suggestions to Lucy Stieber at [lastieber@aol.com](mailto:lastieber@aol.com) or call 734-678-6533