

CIRCLE OF FELLOWSHIP
Monthly Message for All Ages
Together We Can, Together We Will
March 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
Facebook:
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.



MARCH EVENTS CALENDAR

SERVICES WILL RECUME IN THE BUILDING ON SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2023. Zoom also.

Sunday, March 5th - 9AM -Trustee Meeting (in person & Zoom)

Friday, March 10th – 1:30-6:30 – Blood Drive. See page 3 of the Newsletter.

Sunday, March 26th – Noon - Peace Council Presentation (Dining Room on Zoom). See page 2 of the Newsletter.

Wednesday, March 29th @ 2PM – Book Club
“Our Missing Hearts” by Celeste Ngo
(Zoom only)

SUNDAY SERVICE CONVERSATIONS

March 5th- Rev. David Weissbard

“Selma Is Sacred Ground” That’s the heading on an open letter to President Biden and the Members of Congress from Bishop William Barber, co-chair of the Poor Peoples Campaign, and others. I have added my signature to that letter which was issued as a call to remember and act in response to the anniversary of Bloody Sunday, March 7, 1965. As UU’s we are called to “Affirm and Promote: Justice, Equity, and Compassion in human relations.” March 5th being the Sunday closest to the anniversary, we will be looking at the history of Bloody Sunday, our UU involvement in its aftermath, and the responsibility that history lays on us.

March 12th – Rev. Kurt Hohmann
Celebrating Eostre: the Rebirth of Spring

March 19th – Rev Bud Adams

March 26th – Rev. Peg Peck

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

UU BOOK CLUB

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

The reading schedule is:

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.

BLOOD DRIVE



Central Square Community Blood Drive First Universalist Church of Central Square

In the Large Room
701 N. Main St.
Central Square, NY 13036

Friday, March 10, 2023
1:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.



Lend an arm; we'll lend a hand. **Baptist church at 701 N. Main.** Come give in March and get a \$10 Visa Prepaid Card by email. PLUS, get a chance to win a \$3,000 Visa Prepaid Card to help with gas or grocery expenses! You could be one of five lucky winners. Terms apply: rcblood.org/help. 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 or calling 1-800-RED CROSS.** [You can help by volunteering at the blood drive!](#) Please contact Ellen LaPine

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 [website](#), [the child the child advocacy center of Oswego county](#) and click events!

SOUL MATTERS THEME for MARCH

Welcome to The Path of Vulnerability

*It may be that when we no longer know what to do
we have come to our real work,
and that when we no longer know which way to go
we have come to our real journey.*

The mind that is not baffled is not employed.

The impeded stream is the one that sings.

~ Wendell Berry

This month is a tricky one for us UUs. Let’s be honest. Berry’s celebration of vulnerability and limits is just not our thing. We are, after all, the religion of human potential, goodness and power! We don’t sing at impeded streams; we break through them. We don’t put up with confused minds; we keep at it until we become un-baffled. When we no longer know what to do, we just turn to each other and figure it out together. There is something deeply inspiring about viewing ourselves so capable and strong. But there’s a shadow side too. In pursuit of being our best and most powerful selves, we often fear leaning into vulnerability. It becomes a problem. The thing we need to protect ourselves from.

But it is a protection that betrays.

The theologian, C.S. Lewis, gets at this in his reflection on the vulnerability of love:

“To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to keep it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, It will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable.”

In other words, there’s a big difference between breaking and being broken open. Yes, leaning into vulnerability is frightening. But often, it also unlocks a door, allowing grace to drift in.

For instance, a loved one dies and, to our surprise, our hearts aren’t just crushed, they are cracked open, illuminating beauty just a little more clearly. The absence we thought would haunt us, actually unveils how deeply we loved, and how lucky we are to have loved.

Or what about when we’re finally honest about the fears and burdens we hide? In that leap of courage, we discover that telling our truths doesn’t just make us feel weak or exposed; it opens our eyes. We become able to see that others hide their pain and fear too. And with that, the faceless crowd becomes a sea of fellow travelers. All of us connected. All of us aware how much kindness is needed, even when the other’s pain is not easy to see.

It’s all about understanding that vulnerability isn’t weakness but a softer form of strength.

Remembering that. Or what about when we’re finally honest about the fears and burdens we hide? In that leap of courage, we discover that telling our truths doesn’t just make us feel weak or exposed; it opens our eyes. We become able to see that others hide their pain and fear too. And with that, the faceless crowd becomes a sea of fellow travelers. All of us connected. All of us aware how much kindness is needed, even when the other’s pain is not easy to see. It’s all about understanding that vulnerability isn’t weakness but a softer form of strength.

Remembering that isn’t easy. But it is necessary. It’s maybe *most real* work, as our friend Wendell Berry would say.

COVID PROCEDURE

Until further notice please observe the following:

- If you don’t feel well, please do not come to 1st 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.

Please send all newsletter items or suggestions to Lucy Stieber at lastieber@aol.com or call 734-678-6533