

CIRCLE OF FELLOWSHIP

Monthly Message for All Ages – May 2023

Fire consumes, and casts a bright light.

May our chalice flame consume our regrets for the past, our fears about the future, and our worries about today.

May it light for us a path of joy and peace.

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
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Central Square, NY 13036-0429
Building Phone: 315-307-3400
Website: 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.



Welcome to All

MAY EVENTS CALENDAR

- * **Sunday, May 7th -9AM -Trustee Meeting**
(in person & Zoom).
- * **Wednesday, May 31st Book Club**
(Zoom only)
- * **Friday, May 12th 1:30-6:30**
Red Cross Blood Drive

SUNDAY SERVICE CONVERSATIONS

May 7th – Rev. David Weissbard

"Drawing Larger Circles". I have mentioned more than once over the years that I believe that religion, at its best but sadly not always, is about encouraging people to "draw larger circles." I will be going into more depth about that concept in my May sermon.

May 14th- Rev. Kurt Hohmann

Celebrating the Creative Spark.
Creativity is a powerful force, nothing short of magic. It flows throughout all of nature and each of us, connecting us to spirit and the deeper truths of our souls.

May 21st – Rev Bud Adams

May 28th – Ralph Singh. Author, Educator, Story Teller and Community Builder

Link to service

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



April Presenter

Ron VanNorstrand

Topic: Afghan Youth Voices – If We Had Only Listened

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



Blood Drive
Central Square Baptist Church
Large Room
701 N. Main St.
Central Square, NY 13036
Friday, May 12, 2023
1:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.



SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE – Nancy Hallock

We are still collecting: coins, non-perishables for the Food Pantry, and winter accessories.

Our smoke alarm project did not happen. (no one signed up)

4/30 is the adopt-a-highway pickup. We need more volunteers to keep this going.

If you are interested in carpooling to Auburn to visit the Tubman and Seward Houses in May, contact me. Ann is in charge, but not available online.

You could talk to her in person on Sunday.

I am suggesting a fundraiser at church. It's time to move forward, if we can round up enough helpers.

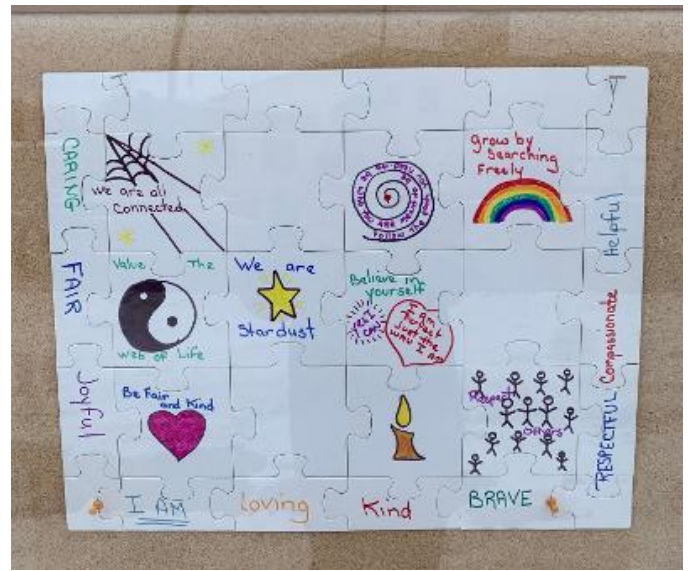
Maybe a "Soup and Salad Bar". Several crocks of soup, bread, crackers, make your own salad and desserts.

A soft opening..... The Baptist Church has had a corned beef dinner, a pork dinner and a craft fair in the past 2 months.

There must still be a market out there. Any other ideas for dinner or other money raisers? We all need to get involved.

MARKETING COMMITTEE – Arny Stieber

The Committee continues to work on the survey recommendations. Our focus is on communications – both internal and external. We have a new "Welcome" bifold flyer that is more descriptive of our position in the community, our beliefs and our history.



MONTHLY STORY FOR ALL AGES

Spring is in full bloom and we will be helping the birds with their nesting supplies. From recycled yarn, string and ribbons we will create outdoor hangers for their pleasure.

The path to creativity helps us solve problems by transforming our ideas into solid, tangible results. It's like putting pieces of a puzzle together and you see the whole picture.

We will be solving our personal puzzles as we create a collage tree of our lives. From the roots and trunk we ask our questions, branching out to form our answers. We shall have a very busy month. Ronna Schindler

READING SUGGESTIONS FROM MARCIA BURRELL

This site brings you to information about famous UU Women in History. An enriching resource for UU ☺

<https://www.uua.org/pressroom/stories/celebrating-uu-women-history>

UU BOOK CLUB

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

The reading schedule is:

May- "The Storyteller" by Jodi Picoult.

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 May *Creativity*

EDUCATION FOR YOUTH & ADULTS

Creativity is our ability to dream things up and make them happen. — Peggy Taylor.

Dreaming things up. We're all familiar with that part of the quote. Who doesn't love conjuring up new ideas and images? Who isn't impressed when someone takes pieces of *what is* and - almost magically - presents us with *what could be*? However, the same can't be said about the second half of the quote, the part about "making those dreams happen." That side of the creativity equation gets short shrift. We celebrate the fun piece about dreaming and leave off the hard piece of making our imaginings real.

And it's not just the hard part; it's the scary part too. Maybe that's why we avoid it. Putting something new into the world takes bravery, whether that's a piece of art or the art that is you. Being creatively unique can cause the crowd to cheer and swoon, but it can also lead to being laughed at and left out. Yes, there is joy, beauty and play in creativity, but there is insecurity, loneliness and self-doubt as well. Which means that this month is not just about imagination, artistry and self-expression, but also courage.

Something as daring as creativity is dangerous if we try to do it alone. We need to remind each other that there is no such thing as "a person of creativity," only "people of creativity." For instance, new ideas come from the clash of debate. New art emerges only after inspiration from those who've gone before. Better forms of community are built on the back of those who have toiled and sacrificed long before we put ourselves on the line.

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.

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

COVID PROCEDURE