

## CIRCLE OF FELLOWSHIP

Monthly Message for All Ages –September 2023

"When I venture out to bring you to shelter, that is where love begins.  
When I risk my comfort to ease your suffering; when I act against hatred, violence, and injustice; that is where courage begins." Rev. Andrée Mol,

### 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.

Welcome to All!



### SEPTEMBER EVENTS CALENDAR

- \* **Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, Sunday - Trustee Meeting, 8:30 AM – (in person & zoom)**
- \* **Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>, Friday – Blood Drive, 1:30 – 6:30 PM. Baptist church, 701 N. Main, Central Square.**
- \* **Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday - Book Club, 2 PM (Zoom)**  
"The Soul of the Octopus" by Sy Montgomery

### SUNDAY SERVICE CONVERSATIONS

**September 3rd– Rev. David Weissbard.**

Monday will be Labor Day. One of the sad things about human nature is our tendency to set aside special days to celebrate something important, and before long, to forget what the purpose of that celebration was. How often have you thought about why Congress voted in 1894 to set aside Labor Day as a holiday? Facing what I see as my responsibility to redress that common omission, I turned first to my all-time favorite Unitarian Minister, The Rev. Theodore Parker [he who first spoke of democracy as government "of the people, by the people, and for the people" and "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." In 1846, Parker delivered a sermon on "The Perishing Classes and Why They Perish," which I believe provides a point of departure for addressing the need for our attending to Labor Day, hence my title for Sunday's sermon, "The Perishing Class: 2023." I hope you'll make room in your holiday weekend to join us. Dave

**September 10<sup>th</sup> - Rev. Kurt Hohmann**

Mabon: Restoring the Balance

Just as the Autumn Equinox represents a time of balance between light and dark, so too can we find ways to find our own balance in a world of turmoil, and recognize the darkness as a canvas for the light to shine more brilliantly.

**September 17<sup>th</sup> – Rev Bud Adams**

**September 24<sup>th</sup> – Jennifer Bittner**

**“An Introduction to Honeybees”**



**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)



**Blood Drive**  
**Central Square Baptist Church**  
Large Room  
701 N. Main St.  
Central Square, NY 13036  
**Friday, July 14, 2023**  
**1:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**



**DATE IS SEPTEMBER 15** (sorry, couldn't change the old flyer)

This drive is staffed by our own First Universalist volunteers. Please contact Ellen LaPine if you can help. When you come to give that day, the Red Cross will say thanks with a \$10 gift card by

email to the merchant of your choice. Plus, you'll be automatically entered for a chance to win a backyard theater package, including a laser wireless projector and screen, projector tripod, smokeless firepit, Adirondack chair set with four chairs and two tables and a movie night snack package! You can schedule an appointment by visiting [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE – Nancy Hallock**

The SJC/UUC held a successful Rummage and Ice Cream sale 8/12, making close to \$500.

Many from the congregation contributed items and volunteered at the sale. We have plenty of "stuff" and plenty of ice cream left and need to set a date to do it again.

I would like to have baked goods to sell that day. No one event is big enough. If we have customers in the bldg., we need to get their \$\$ . Do we have enough folks to volunteer to bake? Everyone would need to sign up. Bake bread, cookies, cupcakes, whatever and then a batch of brownies. Use a mix if you want: add nuts, PNB swirl, cream cheese swirl, frosting ??, a variety . Please volunteer and also suggest a date.

Return your bottles and put that change in the collection plate for PW4W.

I will take our food donations to Divine Mercy in 2 wks.

The next and last highway pickup for the season is October 22 @8:30. Bye 4 now and thank you. Nancy

**MARKETING COMMITTEE – Susan, Paul, Erin, Arny**

\* T-shirts and hoodies have been delivered. The intent is to gain recognition of 1<sup>st</sup> U and create dialogue. Thus . . . wear them! If there is enough interest (need an order of at least 12 pieces) we may have more printed with a different saying on the back. Perhaps “WE ARE ALL RELATED”

\* We have put our web site and a condensed version of the Seven Principals on the big parking lot side of the building in 4” letters. (See photos) This may help answer the community question – “What are your beliefs?” We will also put them on the Agway side before the snow flies.

**MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE** – Paul W, Paul S, Win, Army.

- \* The lawn continues to be mowed at no charge by Stewart's Lawn Care.
- \* Clean up outside the building is being done by a number of people as they get time and are motivated.
- \* The kitchen floor had some water on it due to poor drainage on the Agway side. This long time problem needs attention. Low, no cost ideas are welcome.

**EDUCATION FOR YOUTH & ADULTS**



September brings the gift of welcoming. To be welcomed is to receive with gladness or delight. To inspire, uplift, encourage and love. Through the month we will delight our senses with the creation of a rainbow chalice. We will uplift ourselves and others by becoming water protectors and learn what it means to encourage the protection of our world, locally and distantly. We will inspire the personal growth of awareness of our resources and design both windsocks and a personal traveling altar from found objects, giving them a new purpose. May our time together be filled with inspiration and encouragement for each other. Welcome back. Ronna Schindler

**UU BOOK CLUB**

The UU Club typically meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 2PM. Zoom only. The reading schedule is:  
**September 27<sup>th</sup> "The Soul of the Octopus" by Sy Montgomery**  
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 SUGGESTIONS FROM MARCIA BURRELL**

This site brings you to information about famous UU Women in History. An enriching resource for UUs. ☺  
<https://www.uua.org/pressroom/stories/celebrating-uu-women-history>

**UUA WOMEN OF NOTE**



**Margaret Moseley (1901-1997)**

UU Margaret Moseley was denied entrance to every nursing program in Boston because of her race, so instead she became a civil rights activist. She founded a consumer cooperative and served on the board of the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts as well as founding member of Freedom House, a leader of the anti-McCarthyism movement in the 1950s. She also helped form NAACP chapters throughout Cape Cod. The second UU Community Cooperative house in Boston's Jamaica Plain neighborhood will be named for Moseley.

**SOUL MATTERS**

**"The Gift of Welcome"**

It seems to go without saying. To be welcoming, we've got to think big. Notice how often we speak about "widening the circle" and "making more room." We place a priority on *expanding* our minds by welcoming new experiences and new ideas. Those that help usher in love are "big-hearted." Those who help us welcome change are "the ones with *the big idea.*" Ask someone what image goes

with welcoming and they will surely say a person with *open arms*.

So bigness, yes, let's be sure to follow that road.

But what about that smaller trial? The one that runs right alongside the wide road?

The one harder to notice and certainly hard to travel? The one that whispers, "Don't forget the work of becoming smaller"? We're learning that this path must be traversed as well. For instance, those of us who are white are realizing that to truly welcome diversity, we must shrink and de-center our voices. We long-timers are discovering that welcoming newcomers requires right-sizing our needs and putting our preferences second. The tree huggers have been telling us for years that we can't save the wider world without shrinking our wants.

The spiritual masters remind us that feeling at home in the universe demands that we see ourselves as a tiny part of a greater whole, rather than believing that the whole world revolves around us. The brilliant confess that their secret is the smallness of humility and the willingness to admit when they are wrong. And isn't it downsizing and living simply that allows us to welcome in more experience, adventure and peace? Of course, there's also the work of downsizing our egos enough to admit mistakes. Without that how can we ever welcome in forgiveness and the work of repair?

Bottom line: There is a deep spiritual connection between the smallness of self and the expansiveness of relationship. It's a curious and wonderful truth: the road to a wider welcome often starts with limiting our own size. By becoming "smaller," we paradoxically are better

able to welcome in and receive the gift of "more." So friends, as you journey this month, think big! But also, stay small.

Many spiritual traditions call us to welcome the unwelcomed. Here's how the Buddhist teacher, [Pema Chödrön](#), describes this holy work:

*"Accepting something isn't the same as liking it. To accept a feeling that we habitually associate with discomfort doesn't mean we immediately turn around and start enjoying it. It means being okay with it as part of the texture of human life."*

### **NEWSLETTER ITEMS**

The Newsletter comes out at the beginning of each month. It is assembled by Lucy Stieber based on your input. If you have items, please email to Lucy at [LASTIEBER@aol.com](mailto:LASTIEBER@aol.com)