CIRCLE OF FELLOWSHIP
March 2026

OUR MISSION
LIVE YOUR VALUES OUT LOUD NOT ALONE

The First Universalist Society of Central Square
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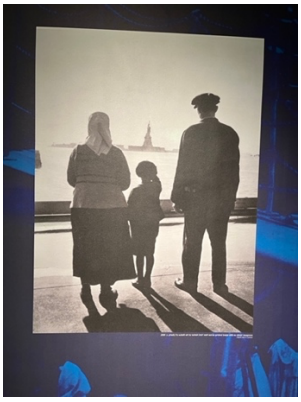
Trustees

Marcia Burrell	Susan Woods
Janie Garlow	Nancy Hallock
Winfield Ihlow	Ellen LaPine
Ronna Schindler	Jane Wenham
Arny Stieber	Lucy Stieber

We are a "church" as derived from the Greek word ekklesia, which means an assembly of people – a community. We believe 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.

WE BELIEVE IN DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & LOVE



We are a resilient people

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1st, Sunday - Trustee Meeting 9AM (Dining Room)
5TH , Thursday – Widening the Circle discussion group, 6:30 PM. On Zoom. See below.
25th, Wednesday - Book Club - "The Art of Living" by Thich Nhat Hanh Feel free to join in on Zoom.
28th, Saturday – "No Kings" rally. 2 PM. See Social Justice section below.

NOTE: Services, Book Club, Widening the Circle are also on

ZOOM

SUNDAY SERVICE CONVERSATIONS
10:30 AM in the building & on Zoom
3/1 Rev Andrea Abbott
3/8 Rev. Kurt Hohmann - Verdandi's Spring
3/15 June Kraus – past President of Central Square Lions
3/22 Rev. Andrea Abbott
3/29 Fifth Sunday Service

UUA has developed an 8th Principle. It is being discussed by individual congregations as to its need and usefulness. The adoption is optional. Our service on Sunday, April 5th will discuss the pros and cons of its adoption.

The principle is:
We covenant to affirm and promote: Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that

accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions. Please contemplate for your input.

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

WIDENING THE CIRCLE

The next UUCS discussion group, Widening the Circle, will be held on Thursday, March 5th from 6:30–7:30 PM, facilitated by Ellen LaPine.
Our topic for the evening is: Favorite Quotes and Poems. All are welcome—we look forward to sharing this time with you!
The ZOOM link is the same as for our Sunday services.

PAGAN GATHERINGS

Úthellingu Kindred invites you to join us in the dining room on the **second Saturday every month** from 5-8 pm, for a casual get-together where you can meet and socialize with Norse Pagans. Snacks & beverages are always welcomed! We're open to honorable folks regardless of race, ethnic origin, gender or sexual orientation. All who welcome all are welcome.
To learn more visit www.uthellingu.org or contact uthellingu@gmail.com
Rev. Kurt Hohmann

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The girl scouts are sponsoring the **Youth Empowerment Initiative program.** This is a community driven referral system that provides up to 40 families with needed resources. Currently 27 families are involved.
Also there will be an Easter Eggstravaganza breakfast for the community on March 28th..
Contact Katie for more dertails - KaHaberer@yahoo.com

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE – Nancy Hallock.
* The March blood drive is Friday, March 13th 1:30pm-6pm. Volunteers are always welcome.
* The SPCA is accepting clean, plastic med bottles. Eyeglasses are also being collected. There is a collection box in the dining room.
* We have an ongoing collection for winter mittens and hats. There is a collection bag in the coat closet. Don't forget to check out end of season sales. Or sew, knit or crochet something.
* There is a "No Kings" rally on Saturday 3/28. Meet at the cross roads in Central Square @ 2 pm. Bring signs. Music and snacks provided. We will also be tabling and doing voter registration.

MARKETING COMMITTEE – Susan, Paul, Katie, Arny
* The new web site is coming along. It should be up in a few weeks. We'll let everyone know because the URL has changed.
* An easy give-away is our UUA book marks. They have the Seven Principals on one side and our Sources on the other. Carry a few with you and be ambassadors for 1st U.
* Reminder - wear your 1st U hoodies and T's, not just to Service but everywhere!
* The ***most effective way to grow our Congregation is by personal contact.*** Invite people to our Service. Tell them about our Seven Principals. Many people are looking for an accepting community and that's us! With our Zoom connection they can be anywhere. SPREAD THE WORD.
* If you have ideas on how we can let others know about our openness and acceptance to all beliefs, please let a committee member know.

NOTES FROM TRUSTEE MEETING ON MARCH 1ST REGARDING BUDGET

Our pledges are being met. We thank all for your support. UNFORTUNATELY, due to the small number in our congregation, it is not sufficient to meet our expenses. Over the past several years we have trimmed the budge to basics. We are working on more fund-raising activities such as our autumn rummage sale, but most importantly, we need more members (which is always our goal). Anything you can do to help will go a long way!
There will be a pledge drive in April. Just something to keep in mind. The Social Justice Committee will be sponsoring a Zoom conversation on fund raising in the near future.

PALESTINE
An Opportunity for Us to
Live Our Seven Principals.
Compiled by Arny Stieber

With all that is going on, it's easy to forget about the people of Palestine. Please don't. Israel's ability to get away with genocide, with the full cooperation of the U.S. government, is a key to the disasters happening in the Middle East and beyond. Our first Principal is: The inherent worth and dignity of every person. Our fourth Principal is: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

The first link below is updated daily and has a wealth of information.

* https://ifamericansknew.org/
* Zionism and Propaganda
* What Does This Say About Ourselves?
* Israel and the UN
* Documentary: "How Israel Won the West"

Our government is violating International and U.S. law because of its support for the destruction and death in Palestine. Over $40 billion of our tax dollars have been spent in the past two years supporting this illegal and immoral activity. This money could have been spent helping WE THE PEOPLE. One area – 20% of U.S. children go to bed hungry every night. I'm always open for discussion. Please contact me (voice or text) 734-216-1814.

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Rev. Bid Adams requested that this response he received from Marcia Burrell re. his sermon on resilience be shared. It is a powerful reminder to each of us!

Marcia's Response

"Today, as I listened to Bud Adams preach about resilience, I realized something uncomfortable and humbling: I have the privilege of being resilient.

I have a job. I have a retirement plan. I live in a home with a car in the driveway and a partner by my side. My children are employed and thriving. By most measures, my life is steady and secure. What problems do I truly have? None that threatens my survival. None that test my dignity at its core.

And yet resilience, as Bud reminded us, is not just about surviving hardship. It is about standing in the gap when hardship belongs to someone else.

I cannot speak of resilience today without honoring the people in Minneapolis who stood out in the cold, protesting the deaths of Alex Preti and Nicole Good. They gathered in freezing temperatures because their moral temperature runs hotter than comfort. They marched not because it was convenient, but because it was necessary. That, too, is resilience — not the quiet endurance of personal comfort, but the costly insistence on justice.

For years, people have cried out about lives lost at the hands of those sworn to protect them. For years, many in this country have looked away — until grief and anger could no longer be contained. Much of the burden has fallen on young men, mostly of color, pushed through systems that fail them long before they ever fail the system. We have tolerated poor schooling, unstable housing, inadequate healthcare, and food deserts. Poverty is not a crime, but we have built structures that make escape from poverty feel nearly impossible. And then we ask, why aren't they resilient?

Resilience without justice is just survival.

As I reflect on this, I think of my parents. They were immigrants — part of the Windrush generation — who came to rebuild a nation still scarred by war. They arrived without diplomas, without wealth, without safety nets. My father left a farm where he helped raise seven younger siblings. My mother lost her mother before the age of two and was raised by many different families before finding stability through church and marriage. Neither had more than a sixth-grade education, yet they were self-taught through faith, scripture, and the deep cultural wisdom of Jamaica.

Their resilience was quiet and determined. It was the resilience of keeping your head down, working hard, and hoping that obedience and effort would be enough. They watched the Civil

Rights Movement from a distance. They heard about a “troublemaker” named Martin Luther King Jr., and they were afraid. Afraid that disruption would threaten the fragile foothold they had carved out in a country that did not entirely welcome them.

It is easy for me now to judge that fear. But fear can also be a form of resilience — the kind that protects what little you have when you have known what it means to have nothing.

The marchers of the Civil Rights Movement — inspired by leaders like Dr. King — gave their lives for a future they might never see. They marched before it was fashionable. They marched because their children deserved better. My parents did not march. But they benefited from those who did.

And here is the hard truth: I am still benefiting.

Today, immigrants are again spoken of as criminals and thieves. Families who, like my parents, came to build and rebuild are treated as threats rather than neighbors. The language may change, but the pattern remains. And once again, resilience is required — not only from those targeted, but from those of us with enough safety to risk our comfort.

Bud’s sermon reminds me that resilience is not passive. It is not simply enduring what comes. It is choosing courage when silence would be easier.

My parents taught me resilience through their sacrifices and hard work. The Civil Rights marchers taught resilience through protest and prophetic witness. The demonstrators in Minneapolis teach resilience through solidarity in the freezing cold.

I stand here today aware of my privilege. I have not marched as others have marched. I have not risked as others have risked. But I have benefited from their courage — just as my parents did.

If resilience is a gift, then it is also a responsibility.

May we honor those who endured.
May we honor those who marched.
May we honor those who stand in the cold today.

And may our resilience move us beyond comfort — toward justice.”

Marcia Burrell

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