

CIRCLE OF FELLOWSHIP

May 2026

OUR MISSION

Our open-minded, open-hearted spiritual communities help people lead lives of justice, love, learning and hope.

The First Universalist Society of Central Square
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

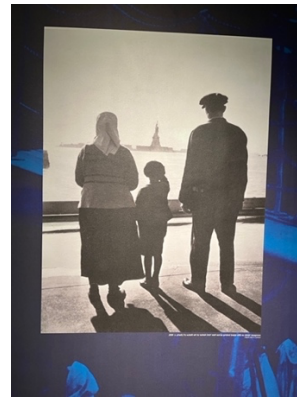
Trustees

Marcia Burrell	Susan Wood
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

MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 5/3 Sunday - Trustee Meeting 9AM (Dining Room)
5/7 Thursday – Widening the Circle discussion group, 7:00PM. (note time change) On Zoom. See below.
5/14 Thursday – Plant Exchange (see Social Justice Committee – below)
5/27 Wednesday - Book Club
“The Correspondent” by Virginia Evans.
Feel free to join in . See below

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

ZOOM

SUNDAY SERVICE CONVERSATIONS

10:30 AM in the building & on [Zoom](#)
5/3 Libby Frank - The Militarization of Youth
5/10 Rev. Kurt Hohmann -Daring to Know
5/17 Rev. Bud Adams
524 Rev. Andrea Abbott
5/31 Fifth Sunday

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

Please join us next week as we switch gears and share positivity in our meeting group. The discussion will begin with a question about our favorite traits and why. A way to share values, explore identity and encourage positive self-worth. Each meeting is strictly an hour facilitated by Trustee Ellen LaPine. The discussions are illuminating, educational and always inspirational. Check it out: Thursday May 7 at 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (note the time has changed with the new season!).

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.

Contact Katie -KaHaberer@yahoo.com

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE – Nancy Hallock.

I have been talking informally with committee and other church members about social issues and fundraising ideas. The Appraisal event was successful with a profit of \$616.

There will be a plant exchange May 14th at church. Please thin out your garden, bring them that day and maybe take something different home. We can possibly open this to the community. It might not be profitable, but fun.

I am talking to Katie about partnering with the Scouts for a Chichen BBQ.

I will call the CSHS music department to talk about any "private" kid bands. (need a place to rehearse or perform.)

How to reach the public to rent space?=use our new sign ?

I am investigating an idea that Susan suggested, Can we offer rides to polling sites?

I'm sure there is more to discuss and share, so just email me, or talk up at coffee time.

Thanks for reading. Nancy

BOOK CLUB (Zoom)

The book club will meet during the summer.

The upcoming books are:

"The Correspondent" by Virginia Evans. Discussion on 5/27.

"The Frozen River" by Ariel Lawhon. Discussion on 6/24.

"The Gravediggers Daughter" by Joyce Carol Oats. Discussion on 7/29.

MARKETING COMMITTEE – Susan, Paul, Katie, Arny, Brenda.

* The new web site is almost done! There is a new URL – FirstUCS.org. We'll advise everyone when it's activated. The old site will remain active for at least 6 months. A notice will be put on the old site directing people to the new. We also have a Facebook and Instagram page.

* Be sure to request and use our very attractive, pride color 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.

PALESTINE

An Opportunity for Us to Live Our Seven Principals.

Compiled by Arny Stieber

Our Seven Principals guide us in our relations. The first Principal is: The inherent worth and dignity of every person. Our fourth Principal is: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

I realize that many people think Palestine has no relationship with what's going on in the Middle East. However, based on many reports I've seen (not in the U.S. of course), Palestine is at the heart of the violence perpetuated by the U.S. and Israel and the violence has spread across the Middle East and may soon go beyond.

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"](#)

Why does Palestine matter? 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 has been spent in the past two and a half 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.

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