

CIRCLE OF FELLOWSHIP September 2026

OUR MISSION

**“Courage starts with showing up
and letting ourselves be seen.”**

—Brené Brown

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: FirstUCS.org

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

Trustees

Marcia Burrell	Susan Wood
Janie Garlow	Nancy Hallock
Winfield Ihlow	Ellen LaPine
Ronna Schindler	Jane Wenham
Arny Stieber	Katie Haberer
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.



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

9/3. Thursday– Widening The Circle discussion group. 6:30-7:30PM On Zoom. (See Below)

**9/6 Sunday - Trustee Meeting 9AM
(Dining Room)**

9/11 Friday - Blood Drive (see below)

**9/26-27 Saturday and Sunday – Applefest
(see below)**

9/30 Wednesday- Book Club 1PM

**NOTE: Services are in-person and on Zoom,
Book Club, Widening the Circle are only on
[ZOOM](#)**

8TH PRINCIPLE See the end of the newsletter
for potential action items

SUNDAY SERVICE CONVERSATIONS

10:30 AM in the building & on [Zoom](#)

9/6 Theresa Harris from Zonta

<https://www.zonta.org/>

9/13 Rev. Kurt Hohmann - “Not from Nothing”

9/20 Rev. Bud Adams

9/27 Rev. Andrea Abbott

RUMMAGE SALE – Tanya Atwood-Adams

We will be having a Rummage Sale at our Church on Saturday, October 3rd. from 10am-4pm. Donations for the sale may be brought to the church beginning Sunday Aug. 16th. If possible, please box your donation items. If you have larger items, such as furniture please, contact me, Tanya Atwood-Adams (315)395-6605.

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 Thursday, September 3rd 6:30-7:30PM PM on [ZOOM](#) Each meeting is strictly an hour facilitated by Trustee Ellen LaPine. The discussion topic for September is: "What has darkness given you that light could not?" 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

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Friday 9/11, 1:30-6:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church

701 N Main St., Central Square, NY

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

APPLEFEST

We will be at the Central Square Applefest (in Brewerton) with a table selling baked apple products on Saturday and Sunday, September 26 and 27. We need people to help bake at the church prior to those dates and to be selling products at the table at the event. We all know what we're better at and we're calling for all hands on deck to make this event a success.

Please contact Ellen (dartfrog7777@aol.com), Katie Haberer (kahaberer@yahoo.com) or Nancy Hallock (njhallock@gmail.com) to tell us what you're willing to help with.

This is a much needed money maker for the church. Please respond with what you can do to help.

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.

It's been a busy summer for all of us.

I'll start with "What social justice issues are you concerned about?"

I think we all agree on our need to "Save Democracy and Liberty and Justice for All". We are each working in this direction in our own way.

Participating with the North Shore Indivisible group serves to keep me hopeful.

They are a dedicated and yet warm, friendly group that are serious in their goal.

If you would like to propose a specific project or idea to express the Society's views in a public way or not so public, please speak up. The 7 Principles, and rainbow flag are wonderful examples.

The SPCA is still accepting Rx bottles, which I will deliver next week. They also need blankets, comforters and towels. There will be a drop box in the dining room for these items. We are collaborating with Girl Scout troop 10871 as our Apple Fest fund raiser. I will keep a list of who can volunteer and when. Our congregation will continue to collect winter accessories for the Lioness.

That's all for now. There's always more to come.

Nancy H.

PS: Brenda Chapman is the Democrat (and Independent) candidate for District 6 Oswego County Legislature. "The Choice for your Voice"

BOOK CLUB (Zoom)

The book club will meet the last Wednesday of the month during the summer at 1PM on [ZOOM](#)
Sept 29 – “The Emperor of Gladness” by Ocean Vuong
Oct 27 – “The Reformatory” by Tananarive Due
Nov 24 – “107 Days” by Kamala Harris

MARKETING COMMITTEE – Susan, Katie, Arny, Brenda.

* The new web site is activated! The new URL – FirstUCS.org. 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 IS KEY

**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 Israel and fully supported with our tax dollars. The

violence has spread across the Middle East and may soon go beyond. The reason for this violence is because there have been **no consequences for illegal and/or immoral actions.** The last link below points this out.

The first link below is updated daily and has a wealth of information. The next are historical. The last is about an attack on a U.S. military ship that killed 34 and wounded over 170 of our military.

* <https://ifamericansknew.org/>

* [Zionism and Propaganda](#)

* [What Does This Say About Ourselves?](#)

* [Israel and the UN](#)

* [Documentary: “How Israel Won the West”](#)

* [The Day Israel Attacked the U.S.](#)

Why does Palestine matter? Our government is violating International (Genocide Convention and others) and U.S. law (Leahy law and others) 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.

WE APPROVED THE 8TH PRINCIPLE --- NOW WHAT?

THE 8TH PRINCIPLE: 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.

At our most recent annual congregational meeting on June 7th 2026, we voted to adopt the 8th Principle. Various comments from other congregations state that this is an ACTION Principle, meaning that we should take specific actions to truly implement this Principle.

Implementation of this Principle was discussed at our Board of Trustees Retreat on August 5 2026. We concluded that this project will take

some time to implement. Since we are not sure of what actions should be taken, I offered to review available resources and summarize some options for specific actions.

To help prepare myself for this project, I have collected some resources that I would like to share with everyone:

- Listen to YouTube presentations:
[“8th Principle on Dismantling Racism: Canadian UU Experience”](#)
(1 hour and 24 minutes)
- Listen to Ted Talks: [“Racism has a Cost for Everyone”](#) by Heather McGhee (14 min) and [“How racial bias works – and How to Disrupt It”](#) by Jennifer L Eberhardt (14 min)

After reviewing the above and some other resources, I will be communicating to you in this newsletter some ideas about specific actions we could take to implement this Principle. Please contact me if you have any suggestions or would like to help with this project:

Lotus5@twcnny.rr.com

Susan Woods

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