



CIRCLE OF FELLOWSHIP

The First Universalist Church of Central Square

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Andrea Abbott, Divinity Student

635-7122

Janie Garlow, President

436-2238

Rita Thornton, Music Coordinator

699-4824

3243 Fulton Street (Route 49), near Route 11, Post Office Box 429, Central Square, New York 13036-0429
Telephone: 315 668-6821

Church website: <http://www.centralsquareuu.com/> or <http://centralsquareuu.com>

Our church building is handicapped accessible.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the First Universalist Society of Central Square is to be a welcoming, diverse congregation, which values spiritual growth and service to the local and world community.

OCTOBER 2009

DIVINITY STUDENT DIGRESSIONS

Summer's over. This always comes as a shock to me, even if it happens every year with some regularity. Change is like that. We know it's going to happen, but it still takes us by surprise. One good (?) thing about living in Central New York is that we don't have to travel to see different climes. We just stay put and they come to us. This past month we welcomed home the travelers among us with Water Communion, hearing their travelers' tales. This was a time to reflect on our own journeys, even if our journeys only took us as far as the front door. We have all journeyed in our minds and hearts, all faced changes in our lives, even if the view remained the same.

If we were using the Jewish calendar, we would have just celebrated the beginning of a new year, a celebration that begins with reflection and atonement. I watch the children on my corner waiting for the school bus and remember the start of a new school year, with all its excitement and anxiety. We enter a new church year with many of these same feelings. We begin to grow anew, and this has been preceded by much reflection, as well as by excitement at new possibilities. This is not to overlook the anxiety that change always brings.

This past year has been a year of change for the church. We are still seeing how the changes will work out. In many ways, I think we are on firmer footing than we have been for a while. We have two ministers who will be in the pulpit on a regular basis, the Rev. David Weissbard on the first Sunday of the month and the Rev. Tanya Atwood-Adams on the third Sunday of each month. On the first Sunday in November we are looking forward to the Rev. David Bumbaugh, who is someone not to be missed. We have a firm foundation and now it is time to build a stronger church. I welcome the ideas and energy you will provide in our shared work.

– Andrea Abbott, divinity student

MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC

Our Choir is missing you. Come early, learn an anthem to sing at the morning service, as well as singing special music for special occasions. We meet every Sunday morning at 9:30. I hope to see many of you.

– Rita Thornton

Note: Please have items for the next newsletter to Bob Haskell by no later than NOON on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31. His address is 29 Grove Street, Baldwinsville, NY 13027-2332; his telephone number is 635-5294; his e-mail address is rhaskell@twcny.rr.com

UU CIRCLE PREPARING FOR RUMMAGE SALE

Our church potluck picnic was a success! Great food as usual. We all offer a big thanks to Betty Figie for the use of her beautiful outside surroundings. It was a perfect place for a picnic. The meat tray was also a hit, because hardly anything was left. Let's continue to make all our events a success.

Speaking of events, our next one is our Rummage Sale. It will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 17. There are many ways we can use your help, besides your bringing in items for the sale. We will need help in organizing, sorting and pricing items. There will be a pricing guideline to follow for some items. We needed help in putting up tables in the Community Room and bringing items in from the shed after church on Sunday, October 4. As of then, you can bring your items only to the Community Room.

Look for a schedule in the East Room to sign up for particular things. We have dates set up to sort and price:

Tuesday, October 6, from 6 p.m. until ?

Wednesday, October 7, from 6 p.m. until ?

Saturday, October 10, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Sunday, October 11, after church, arrange tables in the Dining Room and begin to take items there.

We have scheduled days off in between those dates so that we don't become exhausted as we did last year. Some mentioned that we come to church during the day to price and organize. That sounds great to me. Thanks.

The DEADLINE to bring donated items to church is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13.

Volunteers, if you see items you would like to purchase, there will be a notepad for you to place your name and

We will need grocery bags to bag up purchases on the day of the sale. We could also use hangers.

Food and beverages will be served during the sale. Volunteers who sign up to work on the day of the sale will be given a free lunch.

We appreciate your contributions and your time to help with this fund-raiser. Remember that this and all other fund-raisers benefit the church and are a big part of our budget.

Save the date of Saturday, November 14, for our next Smorgasbord Dinner.

Thank you all for your help. If you have any questions, contact anyone on the UU Circle committee.

– Rita Thornton, UU Circle president

WHAT IS THE UU CIRCLE ???

The UU Circle was founded several years ago as a supporting organization for our church. Its aim is to support the church financially and socially. Its leaders work hard to plan the events that will bring in funds or that we can all enjoy.

We sometimes think congregation members and friends think of the UU Circle as "they," somebody working and planning for the rest of "us." It's not "they"! "We" are the UU Circle. Everyone in the church is included, and is invited to bring ideas to planning meetings, as well as being welcomed to help out with fund-raisers, lunches and other activities.

To paraphrase an old saying. "We have met the UU Circle, and it is us!"

Concerned members,
Chet and Mary Perkins

CHILDREN, HERE'S A BIG CHANCE TO SING

Any child who will be 10, 11 or 12 years of age by June 2010 and who would like to sing in a large children's choir at General Assembly 2010 is urged to contact me as soon as possible at 699-4824. The General Assembly will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and will offer children an opportunity to make lots of UU friends and to have a "once-in-a-lifetime" music camp experience. An audition is required, and the deadline for the audition is Oct. 20.

Ethan Hayes Reehil will be applying and auditioning for this great opportunity. Please wish him well when you see him. Thanks, Ethan.

– Rita Thornton

RETURN THOSE BOTTLES

Nancy Hallock, chair person of the Social Justice Committee, reminds all that they may continue to help the environment and make money for the church by leaving their returnable bottles at the church.

GREEN MINUTE: 10 WAYS TO TURN YOUR FALL GREEN

1. **Eat local food:** Beets, cauliflower, potatoes, peppers, pumpkins, carrots, apples. Local farmers' markets are overflowing with seasonal delights. Raw or cooked, in a pie or canned for use later in the year, local food is a delicious way to reduce your carbon footprint.
2. **Compost your yard waste.** Along with your vegetable scraps from your kitchen, compost your yard waste. Add some leaves to your compost bin, insuring that they go back to the earth in wonderful fertilizer for your garden next spring.
3. **Visit an apple orchard.** Have you tasted the apples this year? They are the juiciest and tastiest in recent memory. Have an inexpensive outing with your family. Many orchards have the added attraction of Halloween mazes and hay rides.
4. **Check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.** Replace the batteries, and then recycle the batteries at your local landfill or Wegmans or some hardware stores.
5. **Plant bulbs.** Flowers not only add to landscape beauty, they also reduce landscape run-off. Gardens with native plants accomplish this. They save carbon emissions used to ship non-native plants and help control invasive non-native species.
6. **Buy recycled clothing.** Give away clothing that you don't need. Rejuvenate your fall/winter wardrobe with a few vintage or recycled finds. Clothing takes a serious toll on the environment in production and shipping, and some of it later takes over the landfill. There are lots of great consignment shops and the Rescue Mission stores. Don't forget about rummage and garage sales. It's lots of fun to find that special item and spend very little to get it.
7. **Check out the fall colors.** Take a day trip, take a walk or ride a bike. We live in an amazing area with some of the best scenery anywhere. Always remember to take some time for your self to recharge, and fall is a wonderful time to get back in tune with your neighborhood.
8. **Caulk your windows.** Homes expand and contract, and caulk dries out. On a windy day carefully take a candle near your windows and check for air blowing through. Put on your storm windows or put plastic on the windows. Air leaks eat up lots of your energy during the winter.
9. **Adjust the thermostat.** Just two degrees up in summer and two degrees down in winter can save a whopping 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide and \$98 a year.
10. **Do an annual furnace maintenance and replace the furnace filter.** Cleaning and adjusting your furnace annually insures that your furnace is running efficiently. It's inexpensive to do – from about \$40 to \$100 – and will end up possibly saving you hundreds of dollars.

– Social Justice Committee's Green Team

A DIFFERENT DATE FOR COMMITTEE MEETING

The Social Justice Committee will conduct its monthly meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 10, rather than on Sunday, October 11.

The committee will meet with the Rev. Bud Adams to consider a joint project to oppose torture.

YOU ARE INVITED TO DONATE FOOD

The Social Justice Committee encourages everyone in the congregation to bring food items for the Downstairs Scottie at the church on the second Sunday of each month. This month's date is Sunday, October 11. The food will be taken to the Food Bank at St. Michael's Church the next day.

The committee will continue to accept non-food items for the Downstairs Scottie at this and all other

times. Such non-food items include soap, detergent, bathroom and facial tissues, toothpaste, and the like.

SOCIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

"Doing Justice In An Economic Tsunami" is the theme of the fourth annual conference of the Social Justice Council of the Saint Lawrence District, Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst will host from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, November 7.

The theme speaker will be the Rev. John Buehrens, former president of the UUA.

For those interested in attending the conference, the link to the brochure/registration form to be printed is http://www.sld.uua.org/pdfs/2009/2009_SJConferenceFlyer.pdf

“WE ARE THE STEWARDS OF THIS SACRED PLACE”

My Dear Friends,

It is our church, our society, our place of worship, yours and mine. It is our place for contemplation, rejuvenation, meditation, reflection, communion and prayer. We are the stewards of this sacred place. We bring to it our covenant, our promise and our pledge. This is a call to participate with your wisdom, your presence and your service. May you feel welcome, a welcome that says come, come as you are with your hopes and your dreams. This is a call to worship.

May we come together with love to bring new energy and strength to our place of worship.

With warm appreciation and blessings,
Janie

BOARD SPLINTERS

The Executive Board, at its regular monthly meeting on Sunday, October 4, designated Janie Garlow, Chester Perkins and Andrea Abbott as the church's delegates to the New York State Convention of Universalists' 181st annual meeting at the First Universalist Church in Rochester on October 16-17.

The Board also voted to put the money from a recent gift to the church by Jane Martin toward the full repayment of the loan for four new furnaces.

Board members expressed their gratitude to Mrs. Martin for the gift, to Arnold Hook, Andrea Abbott, Marilyn Nye and Betty Figie for providing the luncheon for the Saint Lawrence Unitarian Universalist District meeting for presidents and vice presidents at our church on September 26; and the UU Circle and Betty Figie for hosting the church picnic on September 20.

**REGISTRATION TO CLOSE SOON
FOR 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

President Janie Garlow reminds everyone that registration is scheduled to close on October 16 for “It Happened at Syracuse.” The “50th Anniversary Conference Celebrating the Birth and Growth of Unitarian Universalism” is to be held in Syracuse on Friday and Saturday, October 30 and 31.

October 31, 2009, marks exactly 50 years since negotiations were completed and a plan was adopted for consolidating the American Unitarian Association (AUA) and the Universalist Church of America (UCA) to create the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

This year's celebration will take place in the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Syracuse, which served as the central site for the general sessions of the “1959 Conference at Syracuse.”

This year's conference, sponsored by the Saint Lawrence District of the UUA, will:

- Relive the music, liturgy, faith practices and actions of that historic period.
- Revisit significant events leading up to the Conference at Syracuse.
- Explore the growth of the movement in the past 50 years.
- Consider the nature of our faith and the threads that weave our theological diversity into a common identity.
- Help us embrace the challenges we face in working to advance our future as a unique religious people with something to offer the world.

Four UU scholars will be on hand to provide their insights and perspectives about the meaning of “What Happened at Syracuse?” David Bumbaugh, David Parke, Richard Gilbert and Elizabeth Strong have each played leadership roles in the growth of the Unitarian Universalist movement.

To read more about the Conference at Syracuse and to print the brochure with registration form, go to: <http://www.sld.uua.org/50thAnniversary/50thanniversary.html>

VIDEO DISCUSSION GROUP TO MEET OCTOBER 16

The Video Discussion Group will meet in the Goettel Room at 7 p.m. on Friday, October 16.

The group will view two segments from the PBS program, “Bill Moyers Journal.”

In one segment, host Bill Moyers sits down with author Robert Wright to discuss why Wright thinks the notion of God is imperative to a moral society. In his latest book, “The Evolution of God,” Wright examines how the idea of God has changed throughout history.

In the second segment, religious scholars Cornel West, Serene Jones and Gary Dorrien offer a fresh take on what our core ethics and values as a society say about America's politics, policy and the challenges of balancing capitalism and democracy.

THE REVEREND BUMBAUGH TO PREACH HERE

The Rev. David E. Bumbaugh, professor of ministry at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago, Illinois, will preach at our church at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, November 1. Meadville Lombard is a theological school serving Unitarian Universalism and liberal religion.

The Reverend Bumbaugh, who has more than four decades of experience in parish ministry, served as minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse from 1984 to 1988.

Prior to that ministry, he served as minister of the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church in Alexandria, Virginia, from 1969 to 1984. After leaving Syracuse, the Reverend Bumbaugh served as minister of The Unitarian Church in Summit, New Jersey, from 1988 to 1998.

The Reverend Bumbaugh also has wide experience in public ministry.

Before joining the Meadville Lombard faculty, he taught at Drew Theological Seminary in Madison, New Jersey.

In recent years he has preached at the UU Fellowship of Chautauqua, which holds services at the Hall of Philosophy on the grounds of the Chautauqua Institution during the summer season.

He is the author of two books, "The Education of God" and "Unitarian Universalism: A Narrative History."

The Reverend Bumbaugh has a B.A. degree from Wilmington College in Wilmington, Ohio, and a B.D. degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School.

He is married to the Rev. Beverly Bumbaugh, with whom he served as co-minister of the churches in Alexandria and Summit. Both are ministers emeriti of the Summit church.

They have four grown children, one of whom is a graduate of Meadville Lombard, and three grandsons.

The Bumbaughs will be in the Syracuse area to participate in the 50th Anniversary Conference Celebrating the Birth and Growth of Unitarian Universalism on Friday and Saturday, October 30 and 31.

COFFEE AND CHAT

Women and men of the church will gather for Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread on Route 31 in Clay at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 21.

All are welcome to join in casual conversation and to enjoy coffee or tea and other goodies.

The women's and men's groups meet separately. For more information about the women's group, you may contact Nancy Haskell. For more information about the men's group, you may contact Chet Perkins.

WOODLAND HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL

It's the time of year to return to the woodland and join its spirits in a Halloween celebration. Woodland Halloween Festival will be held at the Amboy 4-H Environmental Education Center from 3:30 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, October 24. Creatures of all ages will delight in the afternoon of free, fun activities for the whole family.

Woodland Halloween Festival includes children's games and crafts, campfire program, light refreshments and a trick-and-treat trail at dusk. Along this trail, trick-and-treaters will meet and greet friendly forest critters. The trick-and-treat trail will be open only between 6 and 7 p.m. The last group will leave the trailhead at 6:45 p.m.

Woodland Halloween Festival will be held rain or shine. Participants should dress to stay warm and to ward off the spirit of chill. Activities will be moved indoors with inclement weather. This is a free public program that is financed by the Oswego City-County Youth Bureau.

The Amboy 4-H Environmental Education Center is located at 748 State Route 183, one mile south of Williamstown. If you would like more information on the Center or to receive a listing of coming public programs, contact the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oswego County 4-H Youth Development Program at 963-7286, extension 401, or at www.thatscooperativeextension.org. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oswego County provides equal program and employment opportunities. Please contact the office if you have any special needs.

– Chris Lajewski

The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life.

The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love.

CALENDAR

October

- 6-7 – 6 p.m. until ?, UU Circle to sort and price Rummage Sale items.
- 8 – 8:30 a.m., Worship Committee meets at the church.
- 10 – 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., UU Circle to sort and price Rummage Sale items. 10 a.m., Social Justice Committee meeting with the Rev. Bud Adams.
- 11 – 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott, divinity student. 11 a.m., Religious education. After church, UU Circle to arrange tables in the Dining Room and begin to take items there for the Rummage Sale. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which everyone is asked to donate food items for the Downstairs Scottie, which later will be taken to the Food Bank at St. Michael's Church.
- 13 – 5 p.m., Deadline to bring donated items to the church for Rummage Sale.
- 16 – 7 p.m., Video Discussion Group meets at the church.
- 17 – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Church Rummage Sale.
- 18 – 9 a.m., Religious Education Committee. 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. Tanya Atwood-Adams. 11 a.m., Religious education.
- 20 – Deadline to audition for children's choir at General Assembly 2010.
- 21 – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat, Panera Bread, Route 31, town of Clay.
- 25 – 8:30 a.m., Adopt-a-Highway pickup. 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott, divinity student. 11 a.m., Religious education.
- 30-31 – A 50th Anniversary Conference Celebrating the Birth & Growth of Unitarian Universalism, Grand Ballroom, Hotel Syracuse, Syracuse.

November

- 1 – 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. David Bumbaugh. Random Acts of Kindness Sunday. 11 a.m., Religious education.
- 7 – 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Social Justice Council conference at UU Church of Amherst
- 8 – 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. David Weissbard. 11 a.m., Religious education. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which everyone is asked to donate food items for the Downstairs Scottie, which later will be taken to the Food Bank at St. Michael's Church.
- 14 – Smorgasbord dinner.
- 15 – 9 a.m., Religious Education Committee. 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott, divinity student. 11 a.m., Religious education.
- 18 – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat, Panera Bread, Route 31, town of Clay.
- 22 – 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. Tanya Atwood-Adams. 11 a.m., Religious education.
- 29 – 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott, divinity student. 11 a.m., Religious education.

December

- 20 – Cookie sale.

Regular meetings

Wednesdays – 7 p.m., Spiritual Development and Empowerment group meets at the church.

Chanting and meditation

People who are interested should call Tim Hart at 439-2541.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT

The Wednesday evening group is now called Spiritual Development and Empowerment.

We meet Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the church. This is now a co-ed group.

We share personal spiritual experiences and take part in different personal empowerment programs as they are presented by our members and invited guests.

All are welcome, and we promote a safe environment with no proselytizing.

We are high energy, and welcome your input and experiences.

If you have questions, please call Chet Perkins at 668-6719 or Kurt Schindler at 247-0432.

– Kurt Schindler

The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life.