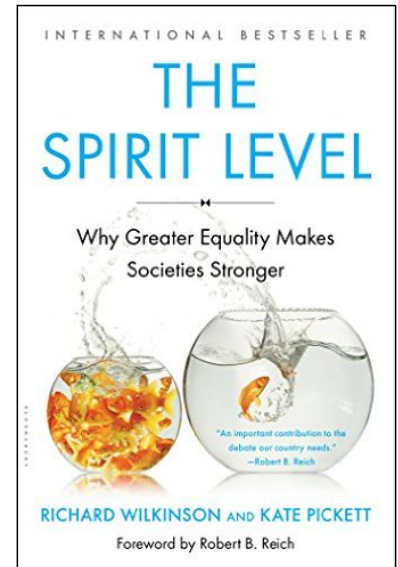


UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

A MINISTERIAL MOMENT, OR MORE

What do we do in the winter? Here we go into hibernation with a few good books. So, here are some picks that reflect some of the reading Arn and I have been doing over the dreary months. Our first pick is “The Spirit Level: Why Greater Equality Makes Societies Stronger” by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett. This is an exhaustively researched book that surveys data from a large number of countries in various parts of the world on topics such as physical health, mental health, addiction, obesity, education, violence, and other social issues. There is some commentary, but in general the authors let the statistics speak for themselves. Perhaps not surprisingly, people in countries where the gap between rich and poor is smaller do better on each social issue. The other books are “Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right” by Arlie Russell Hochschild, a voyage of discovery by a liberal Berkley professor into a conservative region of Louisiana, a journey that results in increased understanding by both the author and her subjects; “Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City” by Matthew Desmond, a look at the desperation of the poor in regards to housing in Milwaukee; and “Just Mercy” by Bryan Stevenson, which was the book read for discussion in the book club, a book which explores the abuses of the criminal justice system for the poor. (Quick plug, see Nancy Hallock for tickets to this author's talk in May.) In each of these works, the effects of the increasing gap between rich and poor are documented in vivid stories from those most effected. As well, the gap between our understanding of each other is also apparent. How we bridge this gap, both in compassionate help and in compassionate understanding, remains a central focus of the lives of all people of ethics. The need for all voices, and I mean all voices, in the discussion has never been more urgent. As Unitarian-Universalists, we need to keep both our ears and our minds open and use our critical faculties as never before so that the old dream of a world of peace, a world that meets human need, can be realized.



The Rev. Andrea Abbott



THE REVEREND WEISSBARD VIEWS STRUGGLE BETWEEN RELIGION, SCIENCE

The Rev. David Weissbard writes concerning his sermon for Sunday, March 5:

“It is fascinating how there are issues that we believe are resolved for once and for all, and then they pop up again. The so-called struggle between religion and science is one of those. What we thought was ancient history is not. We had an NBA champion, Kyrie Irving, getting attention for his insistence that the Earth is flat. We have politicians making decisions on the basis that scientists really don’t know anything about reality. This Sunday we will be looking at the relationship of religion and science when we look at ‘Star Stuff’.”

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

**UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote acceptance of one another
and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.**



AN OPPORTUNITY TO DONATE BLOOD

We will have one of our regularly scheduled blood drives from 8 a.m. until noon on Saturday, March 4. If you would like to donate blood, you can schedule an appointment by calling 1 800 Red Cross or you can sign up online by going to redcrossblood.org.

Please let your friends and neighbors know about the blood drive. If you have contacts within the community that might support us or partner with us for our drives, please get in touch with me and I will reach out to them.

Thank you for your help.
Ellen LaPine

Social Justice Committee Blood Drive Coordinator

GREEN MINUTE: A SUSTAINABILITY QUIZ

In the children's section of the February issue of NYS Conservationist magazine they had a sustainability quiz that I thought I'd give us all a chance to take this month.

1. How many gallons of water does it take to make one pair of jeans?
a) 2 b) 29 c) 290 d) 29,000
2. Each person in the United States uses the equivalent of _____ trees per year in paper?
a) 30 b) 13 c) 2 d) 21
3. It can take _____ years or even longer for a plastic bag to decompose in a landfill?
a) 500 b) 5 c) 50 d) 5,000
4. _____ are among the fastest-growing raw materials on the planet, making them an environmentally sustainable choice for new products.
a) Pine trees b) Bamboo plants c) Cotton plants d) Redwood trees
5. Each person in the United States produces about _____ pounds of trash per day.
a) 4.5 b) 2 c) 9 d) 11



Answers on Page 5 of this newsletter.

How did you do? Did anything surprise you? If you're thinking about spring cleaning or making some changes, please remember the 3 Rs. REDUCE your consumption of natural resources. REUSE items you already have or purchase from resale shops. RECYCLE plastics, paper, manufactured items such as electronics responsibly.

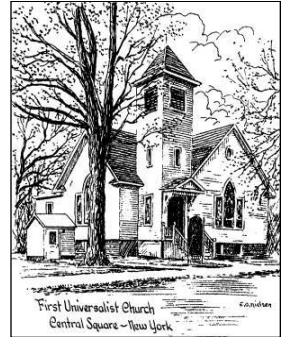
Ellen LaPine
Social Justice Committee

**UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote a free and responsible search
for truth and meaning.**

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

STEWARDSHIP LUNCHEON: AN INVITATION TO ALL

You are cordially invited as our guest to our Stewardship Luncheon immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, March 5. Arne Hook will be fixing up his delicious sandwiches and a soup. Desserts are welcomed. Stewardship is the time when we discuss the church finances and ask for donations. All are welcome to attend.



SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE KEEPS BUSY

The Social Justice Committee met on Sunday, February 12. Treasurer's report.

Six tickets to the talk by author Bryan Stevenson were ordered and bought. The program featuring the author of "Just Mercy" on May 2 is part of the Friends of the Central Library's Rosamond Gifford Lecture Series in Syracuse. The cost is \$35 for the program beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the John H. Mulroy Civic Center at 421 Montgomery Street in Syracuse.



Ellen LaPine and Paul Sulock have started the cleanup of the basement storage rooms. As we finish, we will make a list of items we can sell on Craigslist. The Rescue Mission took some items.

We talked of activities at the Central New York Solidarity Coalition.

We are still planning to meet with New York State Senator Patty Ritchie.

The first in the series of "Being Poor: Real Stories of Poverty" has been recorded. Susan Arbetter of WCNY hosts the 6-part Connect: NY series that takes you into the world of

poverty to look at the choices both the urban and rural poor must make every single day as they lack enough food, clothing, housing or money.

The Workers Memorial Breakfast will be in April in Syracuse.

We plan to attend Karen Wells' play in Canton as a group.

The next blood drive will be from 8 a.m. until noon on Saturday, March 4. We will post fliers and encourage donors.

The UU Circle will coordinate a Women's Retreat on Saturday, June 3. If you want to help with the planning, please stay after church on Sunday, March 12.

That's all.

Nancy Hallock, chairperson

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

CHILDREN TO BECOME SOMETHING IN NATURE

March is upon us and with the changing of the weather we all get fidgety and need to spend time outdoors.

March brings environmental awareness to our classroom.

We will each become something in nature. For example, a flower.

How does it feel to be under snow, growing or covered in trash?

What can we share with humans to make our life better?

We will also be learning to care for domestic animals, and how shelters care for those who have no one.

We will pick a shelter and learn what we can do to help. Then we will do what we can to help.

It is important to have knowledge of cultural and religious beliefs other than our own.

For we are a very diverse world.

With Easter just around the corner it gives us the opportunity to learn traditions of other religions.

And weather permitting we will have an egg hunt.

Thank you to everyone who helped us create our church family tree.

Ronna Schindler, Religious Education Committee chairperson and older children's teacher



THE REVEREND BLANCHARD TO SPEAK

The Rev. David Blanchard will preach from our pulpit at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 12. He has chosen as his sermon title "The Duty of Delight."

The Reverend Blanchard is a graduate of St. Lawrence University and Harvard Divinity School.

Ordained in 1986, he has served congregations in Lexington, Kentucky; Syracuse; Canton and Rochester. He is the author of "A Temporary State of Grace," and is working on another collection of writings.

He is not certain, but he has a feeling that the cornerstone of the Central Square church building may have been procured from his family's monument business in Baldwinsville.



ANSWERS TO GREEN MINUTE QUIZ

1. d; 2. c; 3. a; 4. b; 5. a

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.

“THANK YOU” TO THESE VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to these people for volunteering to serve as greeters on Sunday mornings: Priscilla Sparks and Susan Woods, February 26, and many other Sundays, and Judy and George Tennant, April 9.

Thanks to these people for volunteering to host the social time on Sunday mornings: Kurt and Ronna Schindler, February 5; Jackie Mabie and Priscilla Sparks, February 12; Leigh Parry-Benedict, February 19; Nancy Hallock and Janet Jenkins, February 26; Winfield Ihlow, March 12; Mary Fran Yafchak and Jackie Mabie, March 19; Janie Garlow, March 26; and Judy and George Tennant, April 9.



MARCH 2017 CALENDAR

- 2** – 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.
- 4** – 8 a.m. until noon, Red Cross Blood Drive.
- 5** – 9 a.m., Executive Board meets. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., the Rev. David Weissbard leads the worship service. Sermon title: “Star Stuff.” Random Acts of Kindness Sunday. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. 11:45 a.m., Stewardship Luncheon. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which the Social Justice Committee asks everyone to bring magazines to the church dining room to exchange them for others. The committee will continue the recycling process by passing on any magazines that are left to the Public Safety Building Jail in Syracuse every two or three months.
- 6** – 5 to 7 p.m., the Rev. Andrea Abbott will hold office hours. To set up an appointment, please contact her via phone at 315-635-7122 or 315-857-1086 or via email at andrea279@verizon.net. The sanctuary will be open for anyone who wishes to use it for a time of reflection, prayer or meditation.
- 9** – 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.
- 12** – 9 a.m., Social Justice Committee meets. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., The Rev. David Blanchard leads the worship service. Sermon title “The Duty of Delight.” 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. 11:45 a.m., Social time. Noon, The choir will conduct its monthly rehearsal in the sanctuary. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which the Social Justice Committee asks everyone to donate food items for our Downstairs Scotty, which later will be taken to the Downstairs Scotty thrift shop and food pantry at Divine Mercy Parish Center, 592 South Main Street, Central Square.
- 13** – 5 to 7 p.m., the Rev. Andrea Abbott will hold office hours. To set up an appointment, please contact her via phone at 315-635-7122 or 315-857-1086 or via email at andrea279@verizon.net. The sanctuary will be open for anyone who wishes to use it for a time of reflection, prayer or meditation.
- 16** – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread, Route 31, Clay. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.
- 19** – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., the Rev. Tanya Atwood-Adams leads the worship service. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. 11:45 a.m., Social time.
- 23** – 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.
- 26** – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., The Rev. David Weissbard leads the worship service. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program.
- 27** – 7 p.m., Alzheimer’s support group for caregivers meets in the Goettel Room.

| MARCH 2018 | | | | | | |
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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.