

CIRCLE OF FELLOWSHIP
Monthly Message for All Ages

The word "Worship" has a broad meaning. To Unitarian Universalist it is our shared practice of exploring, connecting to, and rating the ways that our individual lives fit into a larger whole.

OUR MISSION

To be a welcoming diverse congregation that values spiritual growth and service to the local and world community.

The First Universalist Society of Central Square, New York.

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www.facebook.com/pages/UU-Central Square

Trustees

Marcia Burrell

Janie Garlow

Winfield Ihlow

Ann Peterson

Arny Stieber

Paul Wenham

Nancy Hallock

Ellen LaPine

Ronna Schindler

Lucy Stieber

Susan Woods

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.

MAY EVENTS CALENDAR

May 5th Sunday, 8:30 a.m. Trustees Meeting.

In the Dining Room and on Zoom

ALL ARE WELCOME

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting Name: Board Meeting – in person and Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/94881952240?pwd=TEVPVEo2WE4zVHdJaHdlR1lwNWVZz09>

May 10th, Friday, 1:30PM-6:30PM - Red Cross Blood Drive. 701 N. Main St., Central Square.

Wednesday, May 29th, 2PM on [Zoom](#) - Book Club "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer

SUNDAY SERVICE CONVERSATIONS

10:30 AM on

May 5th– Rev. Rev Andrea Abbot

May 12th – Rev. Kurt Hohmann

Beltane and a Rainbow of Ribbons

The maypole, dating back at least hundreds and possibly thousands of years, provides a symbol both of summer's awakening and Nature's incredible diversity. What might a tangle of colored streamers mean in the modern world?

May 19th - Rev. Bud Adams

May 26th – Leah Russell

Service also on [Zoom](#)

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

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE – Nancy Hallock

We continue to collect hats, mitts and scarves for distribution by the Lioness.

We will continue to collect cans and coins on Sundays.

STEWARDSHIP

Dear Members and Friends:

Without your commitment to the First Unitarian Universalist Society, we could not pay for our water, electricity, insurance, phone, and Internet. Think about our sound system with Zoom, our gutters, which keep the water out, and the ongoing maintenance that our volunteers shepherd. It's time, again, to support our church with your promise.

Your promise comes in the form of a **pledge**. You have honored your pledges well in the past, and now is the time to pledge for the coming 2024-2025 year.

Thank you.

Marcia Burrell

Treasurer

PALESTINE – A U.S. Supported Genocide that is Happening before our Eyes.

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'm always open for discussion. Please contact me (voice or text) 734-216-1814

Suggested background information:

- * [Life in Occupied Palestine](#) by Anna Baltzer. Anna is Jewish. This documentary is about Anna's experience visiting Palestine about 15 years ago
- * [Israel Lobby](#) by history professor Walter Hixson (10/10/23)
- * [100 Year War on Palestine](#) w/Rashid Khalidi. (12/1/23)
- * June 8th, 1967, Israel attacks the [USS Liberty](#) killing 34 and wounding 171 U.S. military. The U.S. says nothing.
- * Chris Hedges [The Genocide in Gaza](#) (12/6/23)
- * [Israeli Myths](#)
- * Book: "The Hidden History of Zionism" by Ralph Schoenman.
- * Web site: <https://ifamericansknew.org/>

If you're interested in doing something, here are some suggestions.

1. Familiarize yourself with Palestine. What is typically presented by U.S. corporate media is Israel's version of history and current events. Go beyond that.
2. Become familiar with the [BDS Movement](#)
3. Contact your federal politicians (President, Senators, Representative) by email and/or phone. Their contact information is on their web sites. Once you fill out their email form, it's saved, so repeated contacts are easy. The people of Palestine are being killed, starved and

brutalized every day and our politicians need to be reminded that our tax dollars (\$4 billion/year and billions more in weapons) are the major funding source for the death and destruction. Tell them our tax dollars need to be spent on WE THE PEOPLE vs. death and destruction.

4. Attend seminars and actions in support of Palestine. U.S. Campaign for Palestinian Rights:

<https://uscpr.org>

5. Support individuals and groups that speak up for Palestine.

[If Not Now](#) is a group of young Jewish people who aren't afraid to condemn Israel.

6. Go to my [web site](#). I post something every day on Palestine.

MARKETING COMMITTEE – Susan, Paul, Katie, Amanda, Arny

* Reminder - [wear your 1st U hoodies and T's](#), not just to Service but everywhere! The community doesn't know we exist or what we stand for. Hoodies and T's are one way to spread the word and get noticed. If there is enough interest (need an order of at least 12 pieces) we may have more printed with a different saying on the back. Perhaps "WE ARE ALL RELATED". Let one of the Committee members know if you are interested.

If you have ideas on how we can let others know about our open approach and acceptance to all beliefs, please let a committee member know. *Our message is greatly needed in this time of division, distrust and fear.*

EDUCATION FOR YOUTH & ADULTS



UU BOOK CLUB

The UU Club typically meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 2PM. Zoom only.

On Wednesday, May 29th 2024 we will discuss the book "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer. This will be a Zoom only discussion.

It is not necessary to be member of the congregation to participate. Most books are readily available

through the library or on-line, or discount books.
Please contact Nancy Hallock (315) 533-7067 if you
are interested in participating.

UUA Reading Suggestion

“Seeds of a New Way”

Nurturing Authentic and Diverse Religious Leadership

Editors Manish Mishra-Marzetti and Nancy McDonald Ladd and
contributors explore how to foster and nourish diverse and
authentic leadership within congregations.

SOUL MATTERS

Welcome to the Gift of Pluralism

*A theory that there are more than one or more
than two kinds of ultimate reality.

*A state of society in which members of diverse
ethnic, racial, religious, or social groups maintain
and develop their traditional culture or special
interest
within the confines of a common civilization.

I wonder how the moonflower feels
about its sweet sister, the morning glory.
What it must be to know that world longingly
awaits another
while you must seek solace hidden under a night
sky.
When the world has told you to hide,
it is only the shadows that welcome you in.
And while blooming in the dark has its beauty,
It's also a lonely way to live.
And who can blame this moon-drenched cousin for
wanting to hide.
After all, we too know what happens out there in
the light of day.
We are parsed and picked over,
told who and what we need to be,
so that we will finally be loved,
finally let in.
And so we shape shift
until our own original curvature is no longer
remembered,
until our masks become indistinguishable from our
face,
until the pieces of us allowed out in the sun

forget the parts buried deep in the cold earthen
layers of time.

Maybe that is what the moonflower
is doing out there in the dark.
Maybe it's not hiding after all
but instead trying to remember
who it once was.

Or maybe it knows who it is
and its blooming is a way of saying
“Come find me. I'm still here.”

Which, of course, means that maybe this month
is not just about making it safe for *others* to come
out of the shadows
but also a reminder that we all have pieces and parts
buried in the dark.

So friends, what do you say?

Let's go find them.

Let's put ourselves back together again.

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