

CIRCLE OF FELLOWSHIP

June 2024

Monthly Message for All Ages

The road not taken is not a fork. That's too simple a thought, like flipping some coin. Either/or. Nope. It's not this or that. No or yes. It's nor/neither and all of the above and more. The road taken goes every way at once. There. There. They. Them. Go. Now. Live.

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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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.

JUNE & JULY EVENTS CALENDAR

6/2, Sunday. 9:30 a.m. **Trustees Meeting.**

In the Dining Room and on [Zoom](#)

ALL ARE WELCOME

6/2, Sunday. After Service.

Annual Congregation Meeting.

In the building and on [Zoom](#)

6/16, Sunday. This will be the **last Service for the summer.** Services will resume on Sunday, August 18th

6/23, Sunday. Noonish. Picnic at the Stieber's.

Contact Lucy at Lastieber@aol.com for more information.

6/26, Wednesday. Book Club.

"Foster" by Clare Keegan, 2PM on [Zoom](#)

7/12, Friday. Red Cross Blood Drive. 1:30-

6:30pm sponsored by the Social Justice

Committee (at Baptist Church in Central Square)

***** Please continue to send in your pledges. And know that Trustees and Ministers are available for support if needed**

SUNDAY SERVICE CONVERSATIONS

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

June 2nd. Rev. Tanya Adams

June 9th. Rev. Kurt Hohmann

Midsummer and the Path of Renewal.

Long days, abundant sunshine, and the beauty of nature are all around us during the season of Litha.

Let the clarity and transformation of renewal envelope you.

June 16th. Rev. Bud Adams

(Last Service for the summer)

August 18th. Rev. Bud Adams

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.

Please keep your donations at your home during the closure time.

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

* 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, June 26th 2024 we will discuss the book "Foster" by Clare Keegan.

The July 31st book is "How You Lose the Time War" by Max Gladstone and Amal Mohtar.

These are Zoom only discussions.

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.

PALESTINE

An Opportunity for Us to Live Our Seven Principals.

Compiled by Army 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.

UUA Reading Suggestion

When One Religion Isn't Enough

The Lives of Spiritually Fluid People

By Duane R. Bidwell

An exploration into the lives of people who embrace two or more religious traditions, and what this growing community tells us about change in our society.

SOUL MATTERS

Welcome to the Gift of Renewal

We are renewed by so many things: nature, each other, memory, music, play, solitude, silence, and - of course - our faith. Through small groups, calls to justice work, worship, caring for one another, covenant and accountability, our faith breathes new life into us.

But it also renews us in a way that often goes unnoticed: through questions! Or to be more precise, our faith has a sneaky way of changing our lives by changing the questions we ask.

Questions around renewal are a great example of this. For instance, the "renewal questions" lifted up by our secular culture revolve mainly around health (*Are you drinking enough water? Are you getting enough sleep?*) and work/life balance (*Are you making enough time for family, play and rest?*). Those are fine questions, but they only go so deep and push us so far.

Here's where our faith comes in. It enters the scene and in effect says, "Hey, look over here. There's a box with an entirely different set of renewal questions that nobody's opened yet."

Questions like: Are you sure it's your body that's tired, or could it be your soul?

What if "time away" isn't about restoring yourself in order to return to work, but rather making space to decide if it's time to re-imagine what your "true work" really is?

Is it time to renew your responsibility to those who will come after you?

Is it time to renew your commitment to carry on the work of those who came before?

What if you saw your daily living and loving as an opportunity (even a calling) to renew *others'* faith in humanity?

Could it be that continual self-improvement is not the path to renewal, but instead compassionate acceptance of who you already are?

And those are just the questions sitting on top of the pile!

So friends, this month, let's renew and refresh the questions we ask. Let's remind ourselves that, indeed, we change our lives by changing our questions. And, maybe most importantly, let's each ask ourselves, "What renewing question do I want to take with me into the summer?"

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
THERE WILL NOT BE A NEWSLETTER IN JULY.