

## CIRCLE OF FELLOWSHIP

August 2024

Monthly Message for All Ages

We have a legacy of “deeds not creeds.” Our work for a better world calls us to unexpected places as we harness love’s power to stop oppression. From grassroots community organizing to interfaith state, national, and corporate advocacy; in protest marches, prayer vigils, and press conferences; in homeless shelters and in prisons, Unitarian Universalists put our faith into action.

### 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.

3243 Fulton Street

Post Office Box 429

Central Square, NY 13036-0429

Building Phone: 315-307-3400

Website: [CentralSquareUU.org](http://CentralSquareUU.org)

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/pages/UU-Central Square](http://www.facebook.com/pages/UU-Central Square)

### Trustees

Marcia Burrell

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Nancy Hallock

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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.

### August & September Calendar of Events

Services and Book Club are also on [Zoom](#)

8/18 Sunday. 10:30AM First In-Church Service

8/25 Sunday. NEED A PRESENTER

8/28 Wednesday 2:00PM Book Club on Zoom  
“A Dress of Violet Taffeta” by Tessa Arlen

9/8, Sunday. 9:30 AM Board meeting  
All Are Welcome

9/13 Red Cross Blood Drive.  
1:30-6:30pm sponsored by the Social Justice Committee (at Baptist Church in Central Square)

9/28 Wednesday 2:00 PM Book Club on Zoom  
“James” by Percival Everett

### SUNDAY SERVICE CONVERSATIONS

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

August 18<sup>th</sup>. Rev Bud Adams

August 25<sup>th</sup> NEED A PRESENTER

September 1<sup>st</sup> Rev Tanya Adams

September 8<sup>th</sup> Rev Kirt Holman

September 15<sup>th</sup> Rev Bud Adams

September 22<sup>nd</sup> In Process

September 29<sup>th</sup> Julia (Music)

### 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](mailto: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.

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

\* Reminder - **wear your 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

We have contacted the UUA for help with marketing our congregation.

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. *Our message is greatly needed in this time of division, distrust and fear.*

**MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE** – Win, Ellen, Paul W., Paul S., Arny

\* We will be getting quotes to replace the main water valve.

\* We will be getting quotes to add a vent hood over the stove.

\* We're also looking at leveling the floor in the kitchen.

\* Good news – the gutters seem to have solved the water problem on the kitchen floor.

### **BOOK CLUB**

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

On Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> 2024 we will discuss the book "A Dress of Violet Taffeta" by Tessa Arlen

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.

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## **UUA Reading Suggestion**

### **"Lifting Our Voices"**

Readings in the Living Tradition

More than 250 readings are newly collected here to reinvigorate and update Unitarian Universalist worship.

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### **PALESTINE**

#### **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'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 8<sup>th</sup>, 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.

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Obituary for Berdella J. Scheemaker  
In Loving Memory

Berdella J. Scheemaker  
April 21, 1924 - July 20, 2024

Berdella Scheemaker passed away peacefully after a long life on July 20, 2024. She was born April 21, 1924 in Oswego County, NY to Pansy (Morse) and Elbert Johnson.

Berdella was a graduate of Paul V. Moore High and lived most of her adult life in Central Square NY.

Berdella was the devoted wife of the late Edmund Scheemaker (also of Central Square, NY). Together they raised 9 children. She is survived by 7 children; Joanne Ruscito, Carol Butcher (Joe), Joyce Baker (Dick), Michael Scheemaker (Pam), Nancy Scheemaker (Todd DeGarmo), Timothy Scheemaker (Kerry), Amy Wickert (Kevin). Predeceased by her daughter Bonnie Orso and son David Scheemaker. She is survived by 21 Grandchildren and many, many more Great Grandchildren.

She retired from the First National Bank of Central Square after 35 years of dedication, but as she so valued being social, she continued to find community through working part time at Chappels/BonTon until her 80th birthday.

Berdella had many wonderful lifelong friendships. We will remember her laughter over long card games with her friends that often included a signature dish - Limburger cheese! She had lots of hobbies during her lifespan that included Cross Stitch, Bowling, Golfing, Gardening, Puzzles and Scrabble! Her talent with stitchery won her 1st prize at the New York State Fair for her rendition of a country church after a snowfall. She taught us how to make a good pie and to appreciate the season of blueberries.

Berdella was proud to have traveled during her retirement on multiple cruises, to Ireland, and later to France where, against the advice of her traveling partner, removed her shoes in order to at least once walk barefoot on a Paris promenade.

We will especially remember our mother's courage when dad was diagnosed with chronic kidney disease in 1970. With no nursing background, a full time job and 5 children still at home, she entered training to be able to provide home dialysis for our father, becoming

one of the first in Onondaga County to be certified to do so. From 1970-1980, Berdella continued to work full time, returning home in the evenings to provide dialysis for her husband as often as four nights per week - often a 5 hour process. Her steadfast commitment to dad was remarkable and unwavering. When her first daughter, Bonnie, was later diagnosed with kidney disease she gave countless hours of support to her and her family during their time of need.

Berdella was a lifetime member of the First Universalist Church of Central Square where she volunteered and enjoyed singing in the choir and even playing the piano when the need arose.

She is loved by her children who will deeply miss her wonderful smile and positive attitude. Her perseverance throughout life made it seem like she would be with us forever.

Relatives and Friends are invited to a calling hour from 10 - 11 a.m. on Wednesday, July 24, 2024 at Harter Funeral Home, Inc. 9525 S. Main Street (Brewerton Rd.) Brewerton, NY with funeral services to be immediately following.

Any contributions can be made to the First Universalist Church of Central Square, 315-307-3400 (tel:315-307-3400)

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### **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](mailto:LASTIEBER@aol.com)