

**REMINDER: ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY,
JUNE 5TH AFTER THE SERVICE.**

YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED!

CIRCLE OF FELLOWSHIP

Monthly Message for All Ages
June 2022

The science is in: We don't have to accept doom and gloom for the Earth. Together, we can slow the dual crises of climate and biodiversity loss. This is a hopeful wake-up call, but only if we act with great urgency.

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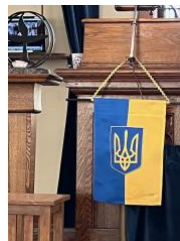
[www.facebook.com/pages/UU-Central Square](https://www.facebook.com/pages/UU-Central-Square)

Board Officers & Trustees

Ellen LaPine – President
Janie Garlow – Vice-President
Winfield Ihlow – Recording Secretary
Marcia Burrell – Treasurer
Ann Peterson – Corresponding Secretary
Susan Woods – Registrar/Trustee
Nancy Hallock – Trustee
Janet Jenkins – Trustee
Army Stieber - Trustee

UUA promotes and affirms seven Principles 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 congregations.
4. A free and responsible search for meaning and truth.
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations 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 EVENTS CALENDAR

We are pleased and honored to welcome Girl Scout Troop 10871 to our 1st U community!

***Sunday, June 5th – 11am-3pm. Girl Scout Troop 10871 hosts a Wellness event at the Tailwater.**

(see flyer at end of newsletter)

***Sunday, June 5th – Annual Meeting after service (In-person & Zoom)**

***Wednesday, June 29th 7pm – Book Club “Last Bus to Wisdom”**

SUNDAY MINISTERIAL CONVERSATIONS

**May 1st - Rev. David Weissbard
“Numbness in America”**

The mass killings in Buffalo and Uvalde have accented the growing feeling of numbness in America. Some have suggested that the Trumpist responses to the tragedies are, in fact, designed to elicit that response because numb people do not vote. This numbness is not a new problem: it has been growing for decades. Sunday we'll be looking at that challenge and ways of addressing it.

June 12th – Rev Peg Peck

June 19th – Rev. Bud Adams

June 26th – Paul Wenham

BOARD NOTES

The Congregation's Annual Meeting is June 5th following the church service in the sanctuary at 11:30. This is when the Nominating Committee presents the slate of officers for next year. This year the Nominating Committee couldn't find anyone willing to help with the operation of our community for 2022-2023. So, we're looking to reorganize. Some of the existing board members will stay on. The treasurer will continue to do the books with assistance, but nothing more. Both secretaries, corresponding and recording, will stay on as well as the Registrar. We're looking to become more task/committee oriented, asking volunteers to do the necessary task as the need arises. Thus, the operational responsibilities will be spread across the community with multiple task/committee coordinators.

All are welcome to the Board Retreat on Wednesday, 8/2 at 9:00 in the dining room and on Zoom. Bring your ideas and enthusiasm. If this time and/or date don't fit your schedule, convey your thoughts to Board/Trustee member. We are a community committed to the Seven Principals. ***Your participation is essential to keeping this community together!***

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We will discuss the options at the **Annual meeting** on **June 4th** and will **vote** at the Annual Meeting on which Affirmation or Covenant to adopt.

1. Continue to call it "Affirmation of Faith"
Love is the doctrine of this church
The quest of truth is its sacrament
And service is its prayer
To dwell together in peace
To seek knowledge in freedom
To serve human needs
For these high purposes
Do we unite in Worship
2. Rename to "Covenant of Faith"
We covenant with each other to strive for improvement
Within our selves and our world community
We covenant with each other to adhere to
the Seven Principals
Together we can. Together we will.
3. Rename to "Covenant of Faith"
Love is the doctrine of this church
The quest for truth is its sacrament
4. Rename to "Covenant of Faith"
We affirm that love is our greatest purpose
Accepting one another is the truest form of faithful living
The search for truth is our constant star
We pledge our hearts, minds and hands
To challenge injustice with courage
To find hope in times of fear
And to live out our Unitarian Universalist values
everyday as a beloved community
Thus do we covenant with each other and with all
that is sacred in life.
5. Rename to "Covenant of Principals"
Love is the doctrine of this community
The quest for truth is our sacrament
And service is our goal
To dwell together in peace
To seek knowledge in freedom
To the end that our minds may grow into harmony
with the cosmos
Thus do we covenant with each other
And with all existence
May it be so
6. Rename to "Covenant of Faith"
Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its law
This is our great covenant
To dwell together in peace
To seek the truth in love
And to help one another.

7. Our current "Affirmation of Faith"
Love is the doctrine of this church
The quest for truth is its sacrament
And service is its prayer
To dwell together in peace
To seek knowledge in freedom
To serve humanity in fellowship
To the end that all souls may grow into
harmony with the divine
Thus do we covenant with each other and with God
Amen

COVID PROCEDURE

We unfortunately feel the need to increase our protocols regarding the use of our building due to the high level of transmission of COVID-19 in Oswego, Oneida and Onondaga Counties. Beginning Sunday, May 1, 2022 and until further notice please observe the following:

- If you don't feel well, please do not come to church.
- All people must wear a mask while inside our building no matter your vaccination status. Masks will be available at the church for your use if you forget yours.
- All people are encouraged to continue to use hand sanitizer.
- Groups using the church may meet anytime when ready following the same guidelines plus their group's specific protocols.
- We will suspend having coffee after service in the dining room as long as transmission levels remain high in the three county area.
- If you come down with COVID-19 after attending a church service or gathering, please contact Nancy Hallock at (315) 533-7067 or at njhallock@gmail.com.

We will review these guidelines periodically as the situation changes and will provide updates as needed.

Pastoral Care

We are happy to announce that Rev. Bud Adams has agreed to be 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.

EDUCATION FOR YOUTH & ADULTS



Monthly Story for All Ages

June is a month to celebrate blessings. You may ask "What is a blessing, what does it mean? How do you count your blessings, are you a blessing?"

These are just some of the questions we will be exploring.

Can something that seems bad, turn out to be a blessing or can it mean something good for one person and not for another?

We will be tracking and exploring the blessings that surround us every day. We will be making blessing cards and a place to store them.

Interdiversity blessings and what they are will end our month.

We continue to collect eyeglasses, prescription bottles and sales receipts.

Summer is almost here. July and August there will be no structured classes. But fun can still be had in the classroom.

Ronna Schindler

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

* There is a newly planted rhododendron at the southwest corner of the building.

* The Adopt-a-Highway pickup was held 5/15. 5 volunteers participated.

* The "Love my Church" cleanup was held 5/18. 4 volunteers participated.

* I encourage you to make donations to the Downstairs Scotty in the designated box in our dining room.

Nancy Hallock

FUTURE EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday July 15th 1:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Blood donors report feeling a sense of great satisfaction after making their *blood* donation. Why? Because helping others in need just feels good. You will have an opportunity to help at our Red Cross blood drive on Friday, July 15th from 1:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. This drive will be held at the Baptist Church at 701 Main Street. It is highly encouraged that you schedule an appointment but walk-ins may be welcome if all appointments do not fill. You can schedule an appointment by visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

If you can help by volunteering at the blood drive please contact me at

dartfrog7777@aol.com.

Thank you. Ellen LaPine

Social Justice Committee

UU BOOK CLUB

The UU Club typically meets (in building & zoom) on the last Wednesday of each month at 7PM.

(summer time may change)

The group has selected books for the remainder of the year:

June 29th – "Last Bus To Wisdom" by Ivan Doig

July 27th – "The Life She was Given"

by Ellen Marie Wiseman

August 31st – "Ishmael" by Daniel Quinn

September 28th – "Born A Crime" by Trevor Noah

As you can see we read about a variety of topics.

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.

GREEN MINUTE

For recycling in Oswego County

You can mix all of these items together

- Brown Paper Bags
- Corrugated Cardboard
- Drink Boxes
- Dry Food Boxes
- Empty Aerosol Cans
- Gift Wrap & Cards
- Glass Bottles (all colors)

- Juice Cartons
- Junk Mail
- Magazines & Catalogs
- Metal Cans
- Milk Cartons
- Newspaper & Inserts
- Office Paper
- Pizza Boxes
- Plastic Containers #1-#7
- **How to Prepare**

If you use a transfer station: Rinse and place all items in a container with lid or a plastic bag. Bagged recyclables must be emptied at transfer station. If you use a waste hauler: Please contact your waste hauler for specific instructions

Theme for June Soul Matters – Celebrating Blessings. (There is no dedicated discussion this month.)

A Soul Matters facilitator once shared, “I guess after plan A fails, I need to remember there’s still a whole alphabet out there.” Who of us doesn’t need a little help remembering that?

With so many difficult things in our life and world in general, it’s easy to overlook the many things going right.

Unitarian Universalists don’t say a lot on blessings, but we do point to them. For us, blessings are not so much about giving something to each other as they are about helping each other notice all that’s *already been given*.

And it’s not just about widening our view to see the gifts and blessings themselves; it’s about widening our understanding of life. Pointing to blessings repairs our relationship with life, allowing us to see it as generous instead of indifferent or threatening. And that’s no small thing. Because when the world seems stingy with us, we start getting stingy with others. In contrast, those who feel blessed have little trouble passing blessings on. Life spills into us and we spill into others.

Words of blessing are often written as traveling partners, offering us not only hope but guidance for the path ahead. They point to what’s possible. They highlight treasures otherwise easily missed. They function as maps, reminders and challenges all rolled into one. They help us get to where we need to go. And nobody knows where we need to go better than ourselves. So while all those blessings written by others are nice, maybe it’s time to take up a pen and be your own blessing writer.

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partners, offering us not only hope but guidance for the path ahead. They point to what’s possible. They highlight treasures otherwise easily missed. They function as maps, reminders and challenges all rolled into one. They help us get to where we need to go.

Here’s how:

1. Start by reflecting on where you are right now on your journey and where you need to go.
2. Jot down a list of what you think you need to hold on to and remember as you take the next steps of the journey in front of you.
3. Read some of the blessings below for inspiration and structure ideas.
4. Put pen to paper or finger to keyboard and get writing.

It does get a whole lot easier to notice that there is a whole alphabet of blessings out there. One of the many blessings is aging.

The Blessing of Aging

Aging is more than one long process of loss and letting go. If we are open to it, it’s also a path littered with gifts. With that in mind, this spiritual exercise invites you to prove how rich the blessings of aging are.

Heaven knows there are plenty of people willing to go on and on about aging’s downsides. So why not produce a list of blessings that goes on and on?

Don’t just make a list; make a list that you keep expanding in some way. For instance, you might work on it for a week, not just a day. Or you could keep asking others what they would add to the list. The point is to find some method/strategy/practice to keep the list alive and growing.

Oh, and let’s be clear: this is for all ages. “Aging” happens to all of us, whether we are 80, 48 or 28. So keep yourself open to this exercise regardless of how old you are.

Here are quotes about the practice of **Celebrating Blessings**. Engaging these quotes and finding *the one* that especially speaks to you is a spiritual practice in and of itself.

1. When in your life have you most felt like YOU were a blessing?
2. How would you complete the sentence: “I’ve been blessed with _____.”?
3. What was the most significant blessing of your family system? Your birth order? Having a large extended family? Having a special relationship with your parents or siblings? Having a parent who wasn’t like other parents? A special family ritual? Your family’s love of books, or food, or jokes?

4. What role has the blessing of friendship played in your life?
5. Is there anything held in common by people you know who feel blessed by life? What do they have to teach you about "the secret of feeling blessed"

SOME UU HUMOR

- *When is a black dog not a black dog?
When it is a greyhound.
- *What kind of bird can write?
A PENGUIN.
- * Why did the mosquito go to the dentist?
To improve his bite

READING SUGGESTION FOR RELAXATION

"The Maid" by Nita Prose

Molly Gray is not like everyone else. She struggles with social skills and misreads the intentions of others. Her gran used to interpret the world for her, codifying it into simple rules that Molly could live by. She works at the upscale Regency Grand Hotel, taking pride in her neatly tucked bed corners and wiping every spot of dirt and dust from every surface. Then, one day she finds the dead body of Mr. Black, a wealthy real estate tycoon, in one of the guest rooms, sending her life into disarray and revealing the messy, gritty activities going on beneath their noses at the hotel.

READING FROM UUA

"Field Notes for Diverse Democracy"

From the former faith adviser to President Obama comes an inspirational guide for those who seek to promote positive social change and build a more diverse and just democracy. Editor: Eboo Patel

Please send all newsletter items or suggestions to Lucy Stieber at lastieber@aol.com or call 734-678-6533



Reach for the Stars

A Wellness Event

TICKETS SALES AT THE DOOR LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

WHEN: Sun., June 5th 2022. 11am - 3pm
WHERE: Tailwater Lodge
 52 Pulaski St, Altmar, NY 13302

Tickets: General Admission \$25 per person
 Registered Member of Girl Scout NYPENN Pathways \$20 per person

Event Agenda

10:30 am Registration opens
 11:00 am Welcome and Invocation
 11:10 am Vera House
 11:25 am NY Project Hope
 11:40 am Keynote Speaker - Liberty Resources

12:00 pm Breakout sessions
 ➔ Creative Self-Care with Liverpool Art Center
 ➔ Pet Therapy -Go Team Therapy, Crisis, and Airport Dogs
 ➔ Girl Scout Inspirational Rock Painting
 ➔ NYPENN Pathways Wellness Table
 ➔ Nature Walk
 ➔ Educational Tables

• 1:30 - 3:00pm Dance Party and Photo Booth w/ Jammin Beats DJ

**For more
Information**
 Katie Haber 315-
 380-8859

**Free admission
Tickets available**
 Limited amount of
 sponsorships made
 possible by local
 businesses.