



*News & Information from the  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton*



May 2015

**A MONTH OF SUNDAYS**

Worship services and religious education for children and youth begin at 10:30 a.m.

**May 3**

*Mayday!* – Rev. Meg Riley and Bob LaVallee,  
Pulpit Guests

Of any holiday of the year, May Day calls us to reflect on the pull between our desires “to savor and to save.” How do we balance the deep desire to dance joyfully with the flowers with our longing to make the world a little kinder and gentler? Reflections on balance, contradiction, and transformation. This special service will use our church’s internet and projection capabilities to bring Rev. Riley and seminarian Bob LaVallee to us live from Minneapolis. Please join us and be a part of this bold experiment!

Rev. Riley is Senior Minister of the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF), a UU congregation without walls. Started in World War II as an outreach to Unitarian soldiers, CLF now serves a diverse community including prisoners, young adults, religious professionals, and folks all over the world. Riley, a lifelong UU, lives in Minnesota and works with a staff from all over the world to create online worship, meditations, small groups, classes, and other fun. Bob LaVallee is a second-year student at Meadville Lombard seminary and a military veteran. He lives in Buffalo, New York, and is part of the CLF “Circle of Learning Fellows,” focusing his time on worship and military ministry.

*Greeters:* Oscar Sarmiento, Pam & Bill Short

*Social Hour:* Bob & Irene Gardner,

Bart & Margaret Harloe

*Worship Associate:* Jon Montan

*Collection Counters:* Ruth Baltus, Valerie Ingram

*RE Ambassador:* Sarah Bentley-Garfinkel

**May 10**

*Mothertalk* – Rev. Barbara Wells ten Hove, Pulpit Guest

Rev. Wells ten Hove is co-minister, with her husband Jaco, of Cedars UU Church on Bainbridge Island, WA. Barbara has been a minister for 30 years, beginning her training with David Weissbard who later had the good sense to marry her sister Karen Wells, who then became mother to Hilary. Barbara is delighted to preach in Canton, having spent two of her earliest years here.

*Greeters:* Suna Stone-McMasters, Judy DeGraaff,

Bryan Thompson & Gary Berk,

*Social Hour:* Barney Gage, Judy Gibson, Pat Glover,  
Richard Grover

*Collection Counters:* Pat Gengo, Tim Opdyke

*Worship Associate:* Doug Rubio

*RE Ambassador:* Sally Hoose

*Library Table:* Kathy Curro

**May 17**

*A Lover's Quarrel With the Universe* - Rev. Joel Miller,  
Interim Minister

*Greeters:* Emmy Stevenson, Ron & Sharon Tavernier

*Social Hosts:* Pat Gengo, Janet Green, Milner  
Grimsled, Esther Katz

*Worship Associate:* Jon Montan

*Collection Counters:* Jon Montan, Tim Opdyke

*RE Ambassador:* Esther Katz

*Library Table:* Lois & Duncan Cutter

**May 24**

*Memory and Spirit* - Rev. Joel Miller, Interim Minister

*Greeters:* Becky Van de Water, Tim & Rebecca Weld

*Social Hour:* Bobbi Haldane, Lan Norton,  
Karen Wells & David Weissbard

*Worship Associate:* Robin Collen

*Collection Counters:* Lonie Bogett, Will Siegfried

*RE Ambassador:* Jenn Whittaker

*Library Table:* Bonnie & John Danis

**May 31**

*Falling into Joy, Bungee Cords Optional* – Rev. Joel  
Miller, Interim Minister

New Member Sunday

*Greeters:* John Tyo, Sally Vrooman, Theresa Witmer

*Social Hour:* Gary & Sally Hoose,  
Charles & Lila Hunnewell, Jason Shirtz

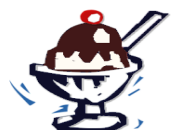
*Worship Associate:* Valerie Ingram

*Collection Counters:* Janet Green, Valerie Ingram

*RE Ambassador:* Maria Dickinson

**Ice Cream Sundae Sunday – May 3**

See page 3 for details



## IN THE INTERIM - REV. JOEL REPORTS

I've been using the term "shared ministry" to describe what a 21<sup>st</sup>-century UU congregation does. But like so many ideas in the 21st century world we live in, "shared ministry" isn't a certain program telling us just what to do. Just as I am unable - and unwilling - to promote a one-true religious path to you, I'm also unable to describe a one-true-way of being a spiritual community (regardless of my being willing or not).

Unitarian Universalism emerged about four centuries ago along with the profound shifts brought by science. By the time I was a child in a UU religious education program, most of the adults I knew assumed that if we somehow knew the positions and speeds of all the particles in the universe, we could calculate their behavior at any other time, in the past or future. Science had been so successful for us that we thought it was only a matter of time before we could predict the future with complete accuracy.

And then science itself provided evidence that this was false when the physicist Werner Heisenberg demonstrated that the more accurately a scientist measures the position of a particle, the less accurately she can know the speed, and vice versa. Heisenberg's theory disrupted this worldview, serving as evidence that the future is inherently unpredictable. The famous physicist, Albert Einstein (who had grown up Jewish and was an atheist), found this intolerable, and wrote, "God does not play dice."

Seventy-five years later, the physicist Stephen Hawking (also an atheist) explained that science came to show that "Einstein was doubly wrong when he wrote 'God does not play dice.' Not only does God definitely play dice, but He sometimes confuses us by throwing them where they can't be seen." (From a lecture on Hawking's website: <http://www.hawking.org.uk/does-god-play-dice.html>.)

This story from the history of science reflects similar patterns of change in congregational life: we can't predict our future with certainty. What we can do is shape our future by being both flexible and thoughtful. Shared Ministry, like the methods of good science, is a community of practice by peers.

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We're looking forward to welcoming new members into our spiritual community during the Sunday service on May 31. If you'd like to ask me about that or have decided to become a member of this community of practice, email me ([minister@uucantonny.org](mailto:minister@uucantonny.org)) or call me at 716-480-7064.

*Rev. Joel, Interim Minister*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's official! The Settled Minister Search committee has been established and we are on our way. If you have read previous columns, you know I am fond of journey metaphors. This situation is no different. We really are on a journey (maybe I should start using the acronym JTSM for journey to settled ministry!).

First thing, my gratitude goes out to the seven who said yes - Erika Barthelmess, Kim Bouchard, Jon Montan, Rajiv Narula, Theresa Witmer, Jenn Whitaker, and Pete Wyckoff. Their willingness to take on this critical task is an act of love and commitment to our church community. The credit for bringing together this wonderful group goes to Valerie Ingram, Ruth Baltus, Todd Moe, and Pat Glover, with timely guidance provided by Rev. Joel Miller. Thank you.

And so we begin. The Search Committee will start their work almost immediately, with a visit from our Ministerial Settlement Representative, the Rev. Craig Schwallenberg on June 12 & 13. His visit has two purposes - to provide training to the Search Committee and to meet with Church Council and the congregation to outline the roles and responsibilities of each during the search.

It would be easy to think, as a congregation, that our job is done, and we can set back and wait for the results. No so! We are on this journey, too. There will be opportunities in the coming months for us to offer thoughts and ideas on what we think is important in our new settled minister. Take advantage of these opportunities as they provide guidance and direction to the search committee. Be informed. We will be providing as much information as we can as the search goes on. Ask questions. If you don't understand something about this process, find out. (This does NOT include asking search committee members to violate the principles of confidentiality.)

Most importantly, think about what will come after the Search Committee has completed their work. That is when we, as a congregation, take over and do our part to ensure a smooth and successful transition to our new minister. It is our responsibility as a church community to be prepared to walk down this path with our new minister, taking on whatever we encounter, together.

*Barbara Beekman, Church Council President*

### RE UPDATE

In late March, I was fortunate to attend my first Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) Chapter Retreat and District Assembly in Niagara Falls. As part of the retreat, I was exposed to the idea of "experilearn" by Karen Bellavance-Grace, a 2013 Fahs Fellow and creator of Full Week Faith. She defines experilearn as "a faithful experiment in our religious lives together, which is born of and informed by a passion for our faith; subject to intentional discernment; allows room for Spirit and transcendence to attend; and uses theological reflection to evaluate and assess what works well in order to craft the next experilearn." Karen uses this term to describe a way of creating change in faith development in churches. It has me pondering how we can experilearn in our personal faith development. For an experilearn, one needs to decide what they want to learn, determine who they want to join them, define a time frame, actively learn and finally analyze or reflect on the results. For many, developing faith is an experilearn process. In our UU faith, we have many opportunities to experiment and learn. I invite you to experilearn this month, maybe delving deeper into our seven principles, our six sources, meditation techniques, social action, or compassionate communication. I hope you find inspiration and deeper faith.

For more information about the concept of experilearn, go to

[http://fullweekfaith.weebly.com/uploads/1/2/2/9/12293877/finalto\\_web.fahs\\_fellowship\\_paper\\_copy.pdf](http://fullweekfaith.weebly.com/uploads/1/2/2/9/12293877/finalto_web.fahs_fellowship_paper_copy.pdf)

#### *What's Coming Up In May for Religious Education?*

May 3

Ice Cream Sundae Sunday - Join us in celebrating our Religious Education Program with make-your-own sundaes!

- Take time to look at next year's curriculum, and talk to RE Committee members and staff about how you can get involved.
- Sign up to help with the RE program. We need teachers, assistant teachers, childcare providers, and youth group leaders. Or share a skill or idea beyond these jobs.
- If you won't be there to sign up, contact Carol Zimmerman at church.

*Have fun with congregational interviews with 2nd-4th graders during Social Hour!*

May 17

RE Sunday Practice

May 24

RE Fun Day

May 31

RE Sunday Practice

"Sexuality and Our Faith" workshop for the Youth Group



A reminder, please check the weekly enews for details about what's happening in RE for that week.

*Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education*

## THANK YOU THANK YOU...

- † Rev. Joel, Carol Zimmerman, Esther Katz, Heather Rousell, and Lorraine Olendzenski for a special evening of COA service planning and Pete Wyckoff for a super warm and sunny day in the woods with great snacks, which doubled as a fund raising opportunity! (From the COA youth)
- † All who helped host the April Red Cross blood drive: Joan Kepes, Linda Kenny, Margaret Mauch, Deborah Kalicin, Janet Stitt, Albert Glover, and Pete Beekman. And thanks to all who gave blood! This drive produced 114% over the goal set by the Red Cross.
- † Stephen Ledoux for donating a beautiful Japanese kimono.
- † Margaret Harloe, Jon Montan, Maria Dickinson, and David Bradford for overseeing the April 5 Fun Day.
- † Karen Wells for donating coloring supplies.
- † John Wood, Jackson Zebedee, Karen Bage, Barbara Beekman, Katheryn Whitehorne, Pat Glover, Heather Rousell, Janet McFarland, Pat Alden, Amy McFarland, Brendan Nolan, Tera Siegfried, Emmy Stevenson, Pat Gengo, Irene Gardner, Sheila Cerwonka, Stevie Michaelson, Braden and Arianna Whitaker, Jan DeWaters, Elyse Tavernier, Becky VandeWater, Cameron and Jim Rudd, Holly Barton, Emily Dixon, Helen Hutchinson, Wil Rivers, and Todd Moe for bringing cakes for Everybody's Birthday.
- † Carol Gable for guidance for the youth in creating their service.
- † The Glaser family for sharing their RE Moment.

## JOYS & SORROWS

- † It was a joy to have Pam and Bill Short and Janet Green all back with us in church last month.
- † Congratulations to Carol Strome and Theresa Witmer on the birth of their grandson, Rune, to Carol's daughter Kate, in early April.
- † Thoughts and prayers of healing for Margaret Harloe as her ankle heals.
- † Condolences to John and Donna Wood following Donna's mother's death in early April.
- † Loving thoughts to Milner Grimsled, whose brother Ron died in April.

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

### *Good news!*

We have an update on the fall canvass, and it takes the form of a very good piece of news. As of March 1, the canvass goal of raising \$211,000 through the annual pledge process was reached. We are very proud of the level of generosity displayed during the year's canvass. Thanks for responding so well the ambitious fundraising goal that we set this year! We have not forgotten about the responses to the Appreciative Inquiry; we are still organizing the information and drawing out themes and will provide a report of what the congregation shared to ensure it is accurate before we send it on to the search committee.

### *Stewardship & Budget and Finance Committee Retreat*

This year, in the spirit of our emerging culture of shared ministry, B&F and Stewardship Chairs Milner Grimsled and Bart Harloe have had a number of conversations about how these committees might work more closely together in planning, communicating, and coordinating our annual fundraising process, which ultimately led to a constructive morning together. Meeting together, the two committees focused on three things: (1) setting budget goals that are well understood and focused on the program priorities we have developed together as a community practicing shared ministries; (2) streamlining the canvass and budgeting processes to make things as simple and straightforward as possible; (3) preparing for a new settled minister by making sure both groups are communicating a clear and common message about the process and content of the church budget. The half-day discussion led to some important understandings about the next steps we need to take to further the future successes of our fundraising processes. For example, we agreed to move forward with ways to provide for online banking and processes for accepting online donations and gifts. Details about this aspect of our work together will be in the next newsletter. Services Auction: In order to meet our overall goal for this year, additional fundraising was built into the budget. Fortunately, there are a number of "best practices" that we have developed over the years. By now,

you are all aware that we are headed toward a services auction scheduled for May 16 at 6:30 p.m.. We have already received many offers of services auction items, and there is still time to submit more. Please continue to brainstorm! To stimulate your imagination, here is the link to some ideas about items that have been offered in the past: <http://www.uucantonny.org/documents.php?docid=381>

Questions about the services auction may be directed to Bart Harloe/[stewardship@uucantonny.org](mailto:stewardship@uucantonny.org). In the week before the auction, we will provide access to a catalog of auction items and describe the procedure to be followed during the actual auction process.

We look forward to what promises to be a very fun and exciting time!

*Bart Harloe, Stewardship Committee Chair*

## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE**

### *More on Joys and Sorrow from the Worship Committee*

Worship Committee members extend many thanks to the congregation for their open minds and hearts as we continue to explore options for handling joys and sorrows during our worship services. We appreciate the feedback we have received for the first option and encourage your continued observations and personal responses.

Starting on Sunday, May 10, we will explore another approach we are eager for the congregation to try.

### *Joys and Sorrows #2:*

- † BEFORE THE WORSHIP SERVICE BEGINS, members of the congregation are invited to write their joy and/or sorrow on a card located on the Joys and Sorrows table.
- † If you want to share your joy or sorrow with the congregation post the card on the bulletin board so others may read it.
- † If you choose to have your joy or sorrow be private, or only for Rev. Joel Miller, please post the blank side of the card. You may wish to put just your name on the blank side.
- † A prayer will be made and a candle will be lit for all the joys and sorrows each Sunday.
- † After the service, congregants will be able to read the joys and sorrows shared on the bulletin board.
- † Congregants may choose to add a joy and/or sorrow to the board at the end of the service, too.
- † The cards will be collected after each service and retained by Rev. Joel for follow-up as requested.

Members of the Worship Committee welcome your feedback on the joy and sorrow rituals we are trying over the next months. Please share your observations and responses on a feedback card or with one of the members of the Worship Committee.

*The Worship Committee: Doug Rubio (chair), Mark Berninghausen,  
Kim Bouchard, Robin Collen, Valerie Ingram, Jon Montan*

## **SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE UPDATE**

### *May Social Action Shared Offering: GardenShare*

Our church's social justice focus this year has been on inequalities in the North Country. A key issue faced by many North Country neighbors is food insecurity, a topic pursued in more depth by our food insecurity working group. Last fall our shared offering supported the Bearpacks program in Canton, which provides supplemental foods on weekends and school breaks to children on the free and reduced lunch program. This month's Social Action Shared Offering will be received for GardenShare, a community nonprofit that has been addressing food issues locally since 1996, seeking to end hunger and strengthen food security in the North Country. GardenShare's goal is to build a North Country where all of us have enough to eat and enough to share – where we all have food choices that are healthy for us, for our communities, and for the environment.



To that end, GardenShare has a number of programs that help families facing food insecurity to improve their access to healthy food grown by local farmers. GardenShare provides CSA Bonus Bucks, which families use to purchase CSA shares, arranges for SNAP/EBT benefits to be used at farmers markets in St. Lawrence County, and connects farmers and other groups supplying locally grown produce to our food pantries. The biennial Food Day Youth Summit provides an opportunity for North Country youth to engage with issues of food insecurity and related issues. (See <http://www.gardenshare.org/content/food-assistance> for more information.)

The proceeds from our **Shared Offering on Sunday May 24** will help GardenShare expand their services to end hunger and strengthen food security in our region. As we begin our new farming season, we hope you will contribute generously to this local organization in support of their mission of creating opportunities for every family to access healthy food sources.

You may contribute to GardenShare through cash in the offering plate and with checks (memo: GardenShare SASO) in the plate or mailed to the church.

*Margaret Harloe*

### **WELCOMING COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Sunday, May 31, the Sunday after Memorial Day, has been designated Membership Sunday. New members will be recognized and affirmed by our community by signing the membership book. Join us afterwards for a celebration of new members and newcomers during the social hour. Please bring a plate of finger foods to share (no utensils needed), small reusable plates for you and your family, and a reusable container for leftovers. In keeping with our Green Sanctuary program, we ask that you take your dishes home to wash. This is an exciting time for the congregation. Mark your calendars and feel free to bring a friend who might like to learn more about our UU church.

If you are interested in becoming a member of our church at this time, please see Rev. Joel about next steps. If you prefer to sign the membership book privately, you may become a member at a private signing with Rev. Joel.

*Andrea Smith, Welcoming Committee Chair*

### **KITCHEN CABINET**

A few people in the church are hoping to share the ministry involved in our social hours after the service. We are looking for a group of 12 people who will share responsibility for organizing supplies for the social hour, including washing the linens and generally ensuring its smooth functioning. This new team will adopt a month and ensure that social hour hosts have what they need for that month. There will still be a list of church members and friends assigned to be social hour hosts for each Sunday. We think this will ensure a good mix of old hands in the kitchen, those with somewhat less experience, and new folks. With this message we want to inform you about this change and invite you to let us know if you are interested in joining this group. If you are interested, please contact Becky VandeWater at [kitchen@uucantonny.org](mailto:kitchen@uucantonny.org) or call the church office at 386-2498. An organizational meeting (including lunch) will take place after service on May 3.

### **USHARE**

UShare is gearing up for another great year in the gardens. There will be a planting party for the Priest Garden on Saturday, May 17, and one for Cecilie on May 24. If you'd like to join us please let John Tyo or someone on the committee know and we'll get you the details. We are checking the gardens and prepping them for planting in the meantime. Plans are being discussed to repair the fence at Cecilie. One of the hives made it through the winter. This is a first for us and bodes well for honey production. Our next meeting is Sunday, May 2, in the upstairs room at church. Hope to see you there!

*John Tyo, UShare Chair*

## WEBSITE SURVEY

The Outreach Committee is working hard on plans to update and redesign the church's website. Please help us make the new website even better by taking this very quick, five-question survey! Click here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1I7bcWUKDBgfBp1qGlaOvWR0UxIT0mbubThAEMPuJJHs/viewform>

## CHOIR NEWS

The May schedule for adult choir is:

- 5/3 rehearse at 9:00 am
- 5/17 rehearse at 9:00 am, sing in church, with handbells.
- 5/31 rehearse at 9:00 am, sing in church

New members are always welcome! Contact me for more information or just show up at rehearsal. We'll be glad to see you. Music reading ability is helpful but not necessary.

*Carol Strome, Choir Director*

## NEWS FROM THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY PROGRAM

The thrift shop at 7 Main Street has been partially renovated and is adding a selection of costume jewelry. If you have any items to donate, you can drop them off or put them in our "Feed the Need" box in the Social Room. Don't forget that the food pantry and Canton schools backpack program appreciate your contributions of non-perishable food. We continue to need volunteers to help in the thrift shop. This is a pleasant way to get to know our neighbors. If you could provide a few regular hours or would be willing to put your name down as a substitute to be called on an occasional basis, please call Ray Crosby at Church and Community Program, 386-3534. And finally, our "makeover" includes a new website: check us out at [www.ccpcantonny.org](http://www.ccpcantonny.org).

*Pat Alden*

## SLD POSITION OPEN

The St. Lawrence District is seeking a new treasurer (see job description below). Anyone interested should contact SLD President Jeff Donahue at [Jeffrey.b.donahue@gmail.com](mailto:Jeffrey.b.donahue@gmail.com) and submit a summary of relevant financial experience. This is a board-appointed volunteer position they hope to fill near the end of May.

### SLD Treasurer's Job Description

- The district Treasurer is appointed by the district Board and attends Board meetings;
- Monitors and corrects as necessary the recording of receipts and disbursements in QuickBooks Online as performed or directed by the District Administrator and the District Bookkeeper to assure these conform to District policy and/or past practice;
- Produces and presents financial reports for District Assembly, district Board meetings, and at other times as requested;
- Participates in any audits or external financial reviews that may be necessary;
- Advises the Regional Lead, District Administrator, President, and Board on financial policy and prudent financial practice as necessary or requested;
- Serves on the district's Finance Committee who develops the annual budget.

If you would like to receive weekly electronic news updates,  
please email: [office@uucantonny.org](mailto:office@uucantonny.org)  
Deadline for next newsletter:  
**Wednesday, May 20**

## ON THE CALENDAR

### **Saturday, May 2**

8:30 a.m., Annual Spring Work Day

### **Sunday, May 3**

9:30 a.m., UShare meeting  
10:30 a.m., Worship and RE  
11:30 a.m., RE Ice Cream Sundae Sunday  
11:30 a.m., Kitchen Cabinet organizational meeting

### **Monday, May 4**

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

### **Tuesday, May 5**

6:30 p.m., Church Council meeting

### **Wednesday, May 6**

8:00 a.m., Building & Grounds Committee meeting  
10:00 a.m., Library work day

### **Thursday, May 7**

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir rehearsal  
7:00 p.m., HUUMANIST Group meeting

### **Sunday, May 10**

10:30 a.m., Worship and Children's RE

### **Monday, May 11**

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

### **Tuesday, May 12**

1:00 p.m., Outreach Committee meeting  
5:00 p.m., Fellowship Committee meeting  
6:30 p.m., Welcoming Committee meeting  
7:00 p.m., Chalice Circle

### **Wednesday, May 13**

10:00 a.m., Library work day

### **Thursday, May 14**

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir rehearsal  
7:00 p.m., Worship Committee meeting

### **Saturday, May 16**

6:30 p.m., Service Auction

### **Sunday, May 17**

10:30 a.m., Worship and Children's RE

### **Monday, May 18**

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

### **Wednesday, May 20**

*NEWSLETTER DEADLINE*

10:00 a.m., Library work day  
6:30 p.m., Religious Education Committee meeting

### **Thursday, May 21**

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir rehearsal  
7:00 p.m., Budget & Finance Committee meeting  
7:00 p.m., HUUMANIST Group meeting

### **Sunday, May 24**

10:30 a.m., Worship and RE

### **Monday, May 25**

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

### **Tuesday, May 26**

7:00 p.m., Stewardship Committee meeting

### **Wednesday, May 27**

10:00 a.m., Library work day

### **Thursday, May 28**

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir rehearsal

### **Sunday, May 31**

10:00 a.m., Youth Workshop  
10:30 a.m., Worship and RE



## **The Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton**

Interim Minister, Rev. Joel Miller

Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education

Nelly Case, Music Director                      Carol Strome, Choir Director

Gwen Cunningham, Congregational Administrator

The Reverends Anne Marsh and Wade Wheelock, Ministers Emeritus

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

(315) 386-2498                      office@uucantonny.org                      www.uucantonny.org