



News & Information from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton



June 2015

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

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

June 7

RE Sunday - Questions, Answers and the In-Betweens -

All RE Classes

Greeters: RE Committee

Social Hour: RE Committee

Worship Associate: Jon Montan

Collection Counters: Ruth Baltus, Valerie Ingram

RE Ambassador: Rhonda Rodriguez

June 14

A Great Sacred Fire - Rev. Joel Miller, Interim Minister
Reflections on the flowering of hope. This is also our annual Flower Communion -- bring some flowers to add to the common table of flowers for this special UU holiday.

Greeters: Cliff & Janice Westerling, Eileen Wheeler, Jim Williams & Donna Dilworth

Social Hour: Church Picnic

Collection Counters: Pat Gengo, Tim Opdyke

Worship Associate: Kim Bouchard

RE Ambassador: Wil Rivers

June 21

Sing Praises to Hymn(s) - Nelly Case and Betsy Kepes
What makes a hymn "good," the music or the words or a magical combination of the two? Sing along with Nelly and Betsy as they share some of their favorite hymns from our hymnals. They'll also include some hymn history, thoughts on why hymn singing is such an important part of a UU service, and time for a few requests.

Greeters: Eric & Jean Williams-Bergen,

Pete & Kathy Wyckoff

Social Hosts: Boris & Kim Jukic, Rhonda Rodriguez & Richard Cook

Worship Associate: Robin Collen

Collection Counters: Janet Green, Jon Montan

RE Ambassador: Esther Katz

June 28

Compassion is a Verb - Jan Hutslar, Student for UU Ministry
Sponsored by UU Church of Canton
Jan shares her stories, struggles, and thoughts about her journey toward a more actively compassionate way of being in the world. She will draw upon Unitarian Universalist and Buddhist theologies as well as life experience to ask guiding questions. Jan just finished her first year of UU seminary at Starr King School for the Ministry. She considers the North Country her home, and this congregation her strongest influence, and best role models, in pursuing ministry.

Greeters: Dick & Donna Kimball,

Dick & Peggy Mooers

Social Hour: Kathy Curro, Lois & Duncan Cutter, John & Donna Wood

Worship Associate: Kim Bouchard

Collection Counters: Lonie Bogett, Will Siegfried

RE Ambassador: Sally Hoose

Dairy Princess Parade - Saturday, June 6

Members and friends of our church will march with PFLAG, Prism, and others in support of marriage equality and our brothers and sisters of all sexual orientations and identities. Meet in the big parking lot behind the county office building on Judson Street at 12:30 to join the parade, then stop in front of the church to celebrate diversity with free rainbow sherbet after the parade.

Contact Carol Pynchon or Theresa Witmer for details on our rainbow parade!

Summer Newsletter

Please note that for July and August, we will be distributing a Summer Newsletter with all events and information for the summer months. If you have information you would like included, please email the Church Office at office@uucantonny.org by Monday, June 22.

IN THE INTERIM - REV. JOEL REPORTS

The Worship Committee and I have been trying different formats for the Joys and Sorrows ritual that is part of many Sunday services. We're trying out each of the different formats across at least four weeks so as many people as possible can experience the differing formats and provide enough opportunity to see how each format works in different services.

The goal of the Worship Committee's experiment is to deepen our experience of worship and to make it more accessible to as many North Country Unitarian Universalists as possible. Both the Committee and I have had some feedback from some of you, and I'm hearing strong views (of course - we're UUs!) on the different formats, as well as on the entire experiment itself. I'm grateful for deeply felt views that are shared - the church intends to make a loving and powerful difference in our lives, so changes like these I expect, even hope, will elicit feedback. Consider the alternative of receiving no feedback, either because there aren't strong feelings, or, even worse, strong feelings but no sharing of those feelings.

I'm reminded in this moment of advice I give to younger couples when they marry. "Disagreements happen. It's only human to experience conflict. Be sure to talk about your differences - but speak with compassion. Listen with compassion." (Truth is, I used to say "have your fights, but fight fair!" - but the older I get, the more I want to avoid using metaphors that evoke violence).

The experiment with different Joys and Sorrows formats is part of the work of our interim time together. Our spiritual work of staying connected even when we are in disagreement is a life-long project for us as individuals, as community, as the world itself. It's a project that matters profoundly, and your work, as a congregation, will ripple out into the larger world. As it has for almost 200 years, and will for at least that many years to come.

Rev. Joel, Interim Minister

FROM THE PRESIDENT

In last month's column, I noted that the Rev. Craig Schwalenberg would be coming to town on June 12 to start us off on our JTSM (journey to a settled minister). Friday evening he will be presenting a comprehensive outline of the search process to the entire congregation. Rev. Schwalenberg hopes to leave us with a clear sense of what we can expect from him as our MSR (ministerial search representative) as well as what resources the UUA can offer us during the search.

So, calling all questioners, skeptics, naysayers, cheerleaders, or the curious - this is your chance to find out, ask questions, make suggestions, or even just listen! Come and hear for yourself what we might expect in the coming year of JTSM.

Rev. Schwalenberg will also be conducting a training session for our Search Committee on Saturday, June 13. This is an all-day retreat that will give them the training and information they need for the work ahead.

I, for one, am anxious for this process to be underway, and I look forward to hearing what Rev. Schwalenberg has to say. Hope you will join us on June 12th.

Barbara Beekman, Church Council President

RE PONDERING/UPDATE

In preparing for the RE Sunday service, I am reminded of the value of working with others. It provides the opportunity to foster creativity and possibility. In a small group, using an outline from previous services, we have utilized our personal strengths, our knowledge of the different curriculums, and harnessed the power of collective thinking to create a service that will share with the congregation a small portion of what the children have been participating in all year as part of RE. This process of coming together to share ideas, opinions and knowledge is a wonderful way to gain new understanding, develop meaningful

relationships, and create something beautiful. As Mother Theresa once said, "You can do what I cannot do. I can do what you cannot do. Together we can do great things." As we get ready for the summer, when for many of us that means not participating in the church community on a regular basis, I encourage you to imagine what great things you can and want do and who you would like to join you.

What's Coming Up in June for Religious Education?

June 7 – RE Sunday Service – The children and youth will be sharing what they have learned this year in RE by answering questions about their faith and being UU.

June 14 – Summer RE Program Begins

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...

- † Big thanks to Nelly Case, Gretchen Koehler, and Rhonda Rodriguez for their musical talent performing with our COA youth; Richard Cook for his technical expertise; our Youth Group for their bridge moving and welcoming during the COA Service; and all the Mentors for working with our COA youth throughout the year!
- † Todd Moe for sharing his RE Moment and for donating a fantastic jester's hat and Laura Foster for assisting with the Youth Group/COA group gathering.
- † Rhonda Rodriguez, Esther Katz, Jenn Whittaker, and Wil Rivers for staffing the sign-up opportunities table during social hour during the month of May.
- † Karen Bage, Heather Rousell, Lorraine Olendzenski and Geetika Narula for chaperoning the Coming of Age trip to Boston.
- † Pete Wyckoff and John Tyo for assisting with the RE Fun Day on May 24th.
- † To all those who worked at our annual Spring Workday. 28 workers got so much done proving that many hands make light work.

JOYS & SORROWS

- † Continued good wishes to Coral Pondysh and her mom Karen Bage. Coral has been to Burlington multiple times recently for surgeries related to kidney stones. She has one more surgery scheduled in early June.
- † Healing thoughts are with Karen Wells, who has been suffering from severe spinal stenosis since the end of April. Hoping she is on the mend.
- † Judy Gibson sailed through hip replacement surgery in the beginning of May. Following a short rehab stay at Maplewood, she is now home getting in shape for summer fun!
- † A service celebrating the life of Ruth Whitney was held at our church on May 23. Thanks to all who helped and loving thoughts go out to Ruth's husband Byron and her family.
- † Deepest condolences to Ken Hebb and his family following the sudden and unexpected death of his brother James. James was well known as the chef at Blackbird Café and the loving uncle of Lexie and Henry.
- † Following two weeks in ICU in Florida, Louise Bixby's husband Bob is now recuperating in the hospital there. They're missing their friends in the North Country, but can't say yet when they'll be able to return. Bob is currently at Florida Hospital, 301 Memorial Medical Parkway, Daytona, Beach, FL 32117
- † Connie Nelson passed away on Thursday, May 28, at Maplewood where she has been a resident. Our loving thoughts are with David and their children and grandchildren.
- † Please hold Shirley Boeheim in your thoughts as she undergoes treatment for malignant melanoma. Her address is 2326 Hampton Court, Lima OH 45805
- † Mary Carmen Earle, church member since 1992, recently celebrated her 90th birthday! She extends her greetings to all friends and especially "Elders." She is currently living at the St. Joseph's Nursing Home at 950 Linden, St. Ogdensburg and would welcome visitors and/or correspondence.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

Thanks to all those who contributed items to the Services Auction and also to the more than 50 people who attended on Saturday May 16! It was both a fun-raiser and a fund-raiser! We had a great time while raising over \$5,000 for our operating budget. And special thanks to Theresa Witmer and Todd Moe who both did a brilliant job conducting the bidding process.

Please remember that it is the responsibility of the person with the winning bid to contact the donor and arrange for the delivery of the service or item at a mutually agreeable time. The contact information is available on the 3 X 5 card that you received when you paid for the item. If you have any questions, please contact Bart (stewardship@uucantonny.org) or give him a call at 386-2158.

Thanks again for all your generosity in the services auction process!

Margaret Harloe, Stewardship Committee

FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

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 doing Joys and Sorrows during our worship services. Worship Committee members consider this part of our transitional work that asks the entire congregation to exercise grace and forbearance in the face of change.

We appreciate the feedback we have received for the first option and encourage future feedback with your observations and personal responses. There is a feedback form and box located in the back of the sanctuary near the front door. You may also share your response with a Worship Committee member at any time.

We started on Sunday, May 10, exploring a new approach, a new ritual, that we will continue through the month of June. At the beginning of July we will be exploring another alternative format that will be explained in the summer newsletter.

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 at the front of the sanctuary and light a candle if you wish.
- + 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 remain 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 for all the joys and sorrows each Sunday.
- + After the worship service, congregants will be able to read the joys and sorrows that are shared on the bulletin board.
- + Congregants may also choose to add a joy and/or sorrow to the board after the service.
- + The cards will be collected and retained by Rev. Joel Miller for follow-up as requested.

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 JUSTICE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Escalating Inequalities

This year the Social Justice Committee has been focusing on issues related to the impact of escalating inequalities in the North Country. In our community roundtable last November, we directly focused on food and housing issues. As we have all seen in the media over the past few months, inequalities underlie virtually every justice issue in the world today. Access to food, water, health care, education, safe and peaceful communities – all are problems faced disproportionately by those among us with the fewest economic resources.

Last June, the UUA General Assembly voted to adopt a four-year study-action item on “Escalating Inequalities” as a justice focus for our congregations. With summer just around the corner, we would like to suggest that some of your summer reading/viewing time be directed at resources on inequalities. A good place to start is the UUA website (<http://www.uua.org/economic/escalatinginequality>), and we especially recommend the study guide created by the UUA to guide our consideration of this critical issue. We also encourage everyone to share any books, films, and other resources that will help us continue this work in the coming year.

Rachel Somers Grant Award

Each year, the Rachel Somers Grant Award (<http://www.uucantonny.org/pages/35/15/social-action-award>) is presented to a member of the community whose life and work follow Rachel’s example of a citizen activism. The 2015 award will be given to Heather Sullivan-Catlin in recognition of her work on food insecurity and sustainability issues relating to climate change. She has served on the Garden Share Board and is currently the chair of the local 350 group associated with Bill McKibben’s work on climate change. Last year she worked with her students on a comprehensive study of food insecurity in the North Country. We hope everyone will join us at the Sunday, June 14, service during which we will recognize Heather’s work in our community in addressing critical social issues.

Eileen Raymond, Co-Chair, Social Justice Committee

Blood Drive

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive in our Social Room on Tuesday, June 16, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Whatever your blood type, whether you are a new or a regular donor, your contribution is needed! Participants must be in good health, at least 17 years old, and weigh at least 110 pounds. Parental permission needed for 16 year olds. Please bring photo identification or your blood donation card. Walk-ins welcome. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 1-800-733-2767 or visit www.redcrossblood.org. *We also need volunteers to assist with registration* and giving out cold drinks and snacks. If you would like to help for a couple of hours, please contact Pat Alden at 854-8130 (or socialaction@uucantonny.org).

Pat Alden, Co-Chair, Social Justice Committee

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE INVITATION

Annual Church Picnic!

Everyone is invited to join us for food, fun, and fellowship at Canton’s Bend in the River Park right after church on Sunday, June 14. Grillers will be in place cooking burgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, and WE will bring the rest. Chips and beverages also provided. PLEASE remember to bring your potluck packs for the picnic lunch! Paper products and flatware will be available in any case.

We’ll share salads and desserts in the following way:

If your last name starts with A-N, please bring a salad to share.

If your last name starts with O-Z, please bring a dessert. (We request just finger food desserts in the interest of tableware and clean-up.)

We will again hold the 3rd Annual Dingleball (otherwise known as Ladderball) Tournament, which you will not want to miss. This is a family-friendly, challenging, fun-for-all-ages contest that is “capped off” by the presentation of the coveted Dingleball Crown. To register a team, e-mail or talk to Stevie Michaelson.

Bring a lawn chair, and if you like – Frisbees, volleyballs softball – things to play with! In case of rain, we will picnic in the Social Room at church, but we’ll hope for sunshine! Maps to Bend in the River Park will be on hand.

Plan to come along, even empty-handed. We will have plenty!

Stevie Michaelson, Chair, Fellowship Committee

COOTS LIBRARY BOOK reMARKS

Do you know a young person who has questions about sexuality and sexual health? Is it time for you to have “the talk” with one of your children? Or are you or a family member just curious about the latest information on sex-related topics? The perfect resource may be as close as the Coots Library. We have a great collection in the Young Adult section including: *It's Perfectly Normal: A Book About Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, And Sexual Health*, by Robie H. Harris, *It's So Amazing! : A Book About Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies, and Families*, by Robie H. Harris, as well as *The Period Book, Updated Edition: Everything You Don't Want to Ask (But Need to Know)* and *What's Going on Down There?: Answers to Questions Boys Find Hard to Ask*, both by Karen Gravelle. We also have an updated version of the old standby, *Our Bodies, Ourselves: A New Edition for a New Era*, by the Boston Women's Health Book Collective. With an 11 year old and a 14 year old at home, these books have gotten a lot of attention in my house. We're lucky to have them in our library. Enjoy!

Lorraine Olendzenski, Chair, Library Committee

OUTREACH REQUESTS

Weekly E-News Guidelines

Many thanks to all who submit information for the weekly e-news. Please remember that the weekly electronic news update is meant to include *brief church and church-related news* and information for the *coming two-week period*. Lengthier information and details can be included on the website, but we want to keep these weekly “blasts” *brief* and *newsy* so people will read them. Following are guidelines for e-news submissions:

- + E-news is sent on Wednesday evening to anyone who has provided an email address and requested to be added to the e-news list.
- + Submissions for the e-news should include basic who, what, where, when information, and contact information when possible. If there is extensive information, please provide a link to another source (or we can add information to the church website and link from the e-news).
- + The goal is for each news item/announcement to be three to four lines long.
- + Deadline: Weekly, Tuesday at 4 p.m.; send information to: office@uucantonny.org.

Seeking Church Photos

As the Outreach Committee makes progress on our new church website, we will be looking for new photographs. If you have high-quality photos of church people or activities/events that you are willing to share for use on the website, please send them to outreach@uucantonny.org. Also, keep our request in mind during upcoming church functions and fun. We're looking for sharp photos with clear focal points and plenty of smiling faces - photos that tell our story! Please send us your best...not your whole folder full! If you have questions, please check with Carol Pynchon.

SOLARIZE CANTON

In March, our congregation, along with several other Canton organizations, provided letters of support for a grant application submitted to NYSEDA by members of Canton's Sustainability Committee to initiate a Solarize Canton campaign. We recently learned that Canton is one of 26 communities in the state selected to receive funding for a Solarize campaign, which the committee has begun to work on.

Solarize Canton will kick off in early June with a float in the Dairy Princess Parade, information table in the park, and a door-to-door campaign soon after. Information sessions with members of the Canton Sustainability Committee and selected installers have been tentatively scheduled for the morning of Wednesday, June 13, at the Canton Free Library and evening of Monday, July 18, at the UU Church. Please consider attending one of these sessions to learn how you can reduce your carbon footprint, save money on your electric bills, and sign up for an assessment of whether solar will work for your home. Solar installations in New York are very affordable because NYSEDA provides financial assistance and both the federal and state government offer tax credits for solar projects. These tax credits are set to expire by December 2016 so the time to go solar is now!

Carol Gable

If you would like to receive weekly electronic news updates,
please email: office@uucantonny.org
Deadline for next newsletter:
Monday, June 22

ON THE CALENDAR

Monday, June 1

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Wednesday, June 3

8:00 a.m., Building & Grounds Committee meeting

10:00 a.m., Library work day

12:15 p.m., Staff Relations Committee meeting

6:30 p.m., Church Council meeting

Thursday, June 4

7:00 p.m., HUUMANIST Group meeting

Saturday, June 6

1 p.m., Dairy Princess Parade (meet at 12:30 to march)

Sunday, June 7 - RE Sunday

9:30 a.m., UShare meeting

10:30 a.m., Worship and RE

Monday, June 8

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

1:30 p.m., Outreach Committee meeting

Tuesday, June 9

6:30 p.m., Welcome Committee meeting

7:00 p.m., Chalice Circle

Wednesday, June 10

10:00 a.m., Library work day

Thursday, June 11

7:00 p.m., Worship Committee meeting

Friday, June 12

Time TBD, Rev. Schwalenberg meeting

Saturday, June 13

Time TBD, Search Committee workshop

9:30 a.m., Kitchen Cabinet meeting

Sunday, June 14

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

11:30 a.m., Church Picnic at Bend in the River Park

Monday, June 15

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Wednesday, June 17

10:00 a.m., Library work day

6:30 p.m., Religious Education Committee meeting

Thursday, June 18

7:00 p.m., Budget & Finance Committee meeting

7:00 p.m., HUUMANIST Group meeting

7:00 p.m., Solarize Canton meeting

Sunday, June 21

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

Monday, June 22

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, June 23

7:00 p.m., Stewardship Committee meeting

Wednesday, June 24

10:00 a.m., Library work day

Sunday, June 28

10:30 a.m., Worship and RE

Monday, June 29

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation



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