



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



January 2015

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

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

January 4

Transgender Issues – Kelly Metzgar, Pulpit Guest
Kelly Metzgar is a transgender woman living in Saranac Lake. Within the past 18 months she has come out to her family, her employer, and is currently living full-time as the woman she has always known herself to be. Kelly is active in transgender advocacy in the greater Saranac Lake region and at the New York State level. She is currently working to bring medical and mental health care to transgender individuals in the Adirondack North Country and to establish a safe place for TLGBQI youth and a PFLAG chapter in the Saranac Lake, Lake Placid, and Tupper Lake region. Kelly has spoken at the college and university levels as well as at the Saranac Lake UU Community.

Greeters: Zoe Baker & David Schryver, Helen & Roger Hutchinson

Social Hour: Jim & Stevie Michaelson,
Emmy Stevenson, Suna Stone McMasters

Worship Associate: Jon Montan

Library Table: Kate Whitehorse

Collection Counters: Valerie Ingram, Ruth Baltus

January 11

Jazz Theology – Rev. Joel Miller, Interim Minister

Greeters: Gary & Sally Hoose, Charles & Lila Hunnewell, Barney Gage

Social Hour: Eileen Visser, Sally Vrooman

Collection Counters: Pat Gengo, Tim Opdyke

Worship Associate: Mark Berninghausen

Library Table: Katherine Brown

January 18

Maladjusted: Inspired by Dr. King – Rev. Joel Miller,
Interim Minister

Greeters: Bart & Margaret Harloe, Valerie Ingram,
Kelly Johnson-Eilola

Social Hosts: Tim & Rebecca Weld, Cliff &
Janice Westerling

Worship Associate: Kim Bouchard

Collection Counters: Janet Green, Jon Montan

Library Table: Oscar Sarmiento

January 25

Auction Sermon: Reclaiming "Conservative" Economics –
Rev. Joel Miller, Interim Minister

Greeters: Boris & Kim Jukic, Deborah Kalicin,
Bill Kirchgasser

Social Hour: Erik & Jenn Whittaker, Eric &
Jean Williams-Bergen

Worship Associate: Robin Collen

Library Table: Margaret Harloe

Collection Counters: Lonie Bogett, Will Siegfried

Congregational Meeting Notice

~ Sunday, January 18 ~

Immediately following the service

Happy New Year!

IN THE INTERIM - REV. JOEL REPORTS

Starting in January, each member and friend of the UU Church of Canton will receive a phone call asking for suggestions about who should serve on the Search Committee for the church's next settled minister. In preparation for this call, I encourage each of you to think of two or three people in the congregation whom you regard as effective on a team and committed to the congregation as a whole. Self-nominations are welcome, too. The Church Council will use your suggestions to create a slate of nominees for the Search Committee. They will seek a balance of diversity and skills. Details about this process were described in the November newsletter.

Service on a Search Committee is a rich and powerful experience because as the committee members do this deeply spiritual work, they develop strong spiritual relationships. This committee also requires a significant time commitment for about 10 months - between 250 and 400 hours overall. For many of those months, the committee has weekly meetings for tasks like planning, consulting with the congregation, and initial phone interviews with prospective ministers. There are typically three weekends that require some travel in order to have in-depth conversations with potential candidates (the pre-candidating weekends). And when the Search Committee chooses a candidate, he/she will come to Canton for candidating week to interview with the entire congregation.

Representing your beloved community in the search for a great match of church and minister is a profound service to your congregation. If you have questions about being on the Search Committee, I would be delighted to talk with you. You can reach me by phone or text at 716-480-7064 or email at jmiller@uuma.org

In February, Carol Zimmerman and I will be (finally!) starting Chalice Circles. We invite you to join us in this journey of the spirit. We're starting two groups that will meet at the church; one will meet on 2nd Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and the other on 3rd Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Chalice Circles are a way to deepen our spiritual practices as Unitarian Universalists. They are small groups (10 people maximum) who meet monthly to share stories and personal journeys. The curriculum we will use, Heart to Heart, encourages us to listen deeply to each other and create together a shared space in which we feel empowered to speak from our hearts. We hope participants in our Chalice Circles will grow more rooted in the collective story of our community - that as we share our lives, our hearts and souls will grow in ways we can't yet imagine.

We're asking for a five-month commitment to participate in a Chalice Circle so each group has the time and consistency to develop the connections that enlarge us as humans. The curriculum is available at the church or online at the UUA Bookstore at <http://www.uuabookstore.org/Heart-to-Heart-P17026.aspx>. To reserve a place, leave a message with Gwen in the Church office (315-386-2498) or email Carol (dre@uucantonny.org) or me (jmiller@uuma.org) and let us know which Chalice Circle you'll be joining.

Rev. Joel, Interim Minister

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! I have to say I am honored and awed to begin 2015 as your president. To say I did not imagine myself in this position a year ago, is an understatement. But here I am, eager and ready to serve you as best as I can. This is an object lesson about not being surprised that life continues to be surprising. Apparently, it is a lesson I am still learning.

This year promises to be full of discovery, and I hope we can embrace what we find - good and bad - and learn something in the process. Our congregation has some serious work ahead of us as we begin our search for a settled minister and continue to evolve as a church community. I like to think of this time as

our voyage of discovery – we are explorers, seeking new worlds beyond our own little geographic location, meeting new people and engaging with new ideas. At the same time we are recommitting to the best of our history. As we all know, those we travel with are often what make a trip memorable, and so I look forward to embarking on this journey with you. As we make our way together, please contact with me (president@uucantonny.org) about whatever is on your mind or in your heart.

On behalf of the entire congregation, I would like to thank Tom Pynchon for his steadfast leadership during this past year. His “no-drama” style is both comforting and effective, and I intend to continue in the same fashion. Tom, you were the right person at the right time, and I appreciate your willingness to serve as president.

In closing, all I can say is Onward! By the time you read this, the days will already be getting longer however imperceptibly, and we will be one step further on our journey together. Thank you for the opportunity to serve our congregation.

Barbara Beekman, Church Council President

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

What Have We Been Up To?

During the RE Fun Day on November 30, children and youth created decorations for the Church and Community Program by making 3D paper stars, snowflakes, giant light bulb garland, and colorful paper Christmas trees. Using these decorations, the Coming of Age group decorated the Church and Community Thrift Store the following Sunday. During the Fun Day on December 28, children and youth participated in New Year’s activities like a guessing game of Happy New Year in different languages, creating masks of Janus the Roman God, and making fireworks.

What’s Coming Up in January?

RE classes are scheduled for the full month. Check the e-news for details each week. The Coming of Age youth will continue fundraising for their trip to Boston in May. Please consider supporting them by attending their first of three luncheons scheduled for Sunday, January 25, immediately after church. The Youth Group will have a presentation by SLU Islamic Culture Club on Sunday, January 18. They are continuing to look at environmental justice issues.

THANK YOU THANK YOU...

- † Joan Kepes, Helen Hutchinson, Linda Kenny, Stevie and Jim Michaelson, and Bill Hull for working as volunteers on the Red Cross December blood drive. For that drive, the goal was 38 units and we collected 49, with seven first-time blood donors. This will help an estimated 147 hospital patients.
- † Pete Wyckoff for covering in RE on short notice.
- † David Bradford and Karen Bage for helping with the Fun Day on November 30.
- † The Welcome Committee and UShare Committee for allowing me to participate in their meetings.
- † The Coming of Age Group with Emmy Stevenson and Karen Bage for decorating the Church and Community Program Thrift Store.
- † Carol Gable for organizing and chaperoning the Youth Group attending the contra dance at SLU.
- † Nelly Case and Carol Strome for support in directing the Holiday Pageant. Sara and Wil Rivers, Gwen Cunningham, and Ellie Siegfried for helping to manage and stage the holiday pageant. All the actors, musicians, readers. and audience for participating in the Mid-Winter Festival of Lights Holiday Pageant.

Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education

BUDGET & FINANCE UPDATE

Until I served on Church Council from 2006 to 2008 I had no real idea what it costs to fund our congregation to fulfill its mission in our community and beyond. The biggest share of our funding is our own pledges. And about 78% of our budget goes to pay for our employees' salaries and benefits.

At the end of one of my years on Church Council, when our projected budget for the next year showed a shortfall, we on Church Council voted to cut the Campus Outreach position. The next year, in the same situation, I was one of several people who stood in front at our worship service and asked those of us who were able to do so (including me!) to increase our pledge by a small percentage so we didn't have to make cuts that year. As I recall we raised enough additional pledge totals to balance our budget.

This is my second year as chair of our Budget & Finance Committee. This year we are again in a similar situation. Budget & Finance has reduced the proposed budget by \$7,000 based on the result of our Stewardship Committee's canvass. We have avoided cuts to our Religious Education program, building maintenance and utilities, Program Committee expenses, and Office Expense. Wider World contributions to the Unitarian Universalist Association and the St. Lawrence UU District are at 100% of Fair Share amounts.

For the second year in a row, we have included neither cost of living adjustments nor any raises in base pay for any of our employees.

The necessary Fund Raising Lines (Special Fund Raiser and Fair Share) to balance this reduced budget total \$16,763.

I know many of our members have pledged as much as their economic circumstances will allow. I also imagine there may be others, like myself, who can reassess our situation and make some kind of an increase, whatever size we can afford. I have looked at my circumstances from a viewpoint of generosity and gratitude for what this UU Church of Canton has meant, and means to me. I have found that I can increase my pledge - not by an exorbitant amount, but by a few percentage points over my initial 2015 pledge. If a number of us can do likewise we can do together what we could not do alone. And isn't that what being a "congregation" means?

*With Gratitude,
Milner Grimsled, Budget & Finance Committee Chair*

SOCIAL ACTION UPDATE

Social Action Work Groups

Last June the UUA adopted a new Congregational Study/Action Issue on *Escalating Inequalities*:

"Challenging extreme inequality is a moral imperative. The escalation of inequality undergirds so many injustices which our faith movement is committed to addressing: from economic injustice to mass incarceration; from migrant injustice to climate change; from sexual and gender injustice to attacks on voting rights."

For more information on this denominational study/action issue, click here

<http://www.uua.org/economic/escalatinginequality/index.shtml>

Here in Canton our congregation's Social Action Committee has been working on providing information and opportunities for action on the extent and impact of inequalities here in St. Lawrence County. We began with two large planning sessions, followed by a successful "Community Roundtable" on inequalities in access to safe housing and healthy food.

Our next step beginning early in 2015 is to form several work groups, composed of folks interested in exploring a specific issue in more depth. Each group's goal will be to make recommendations to the

committee and congregation on opportunities for education, advocacy, and service on their focus issue. We will also be looking for ways our church can network with others in the community working on these concerns.

The work groups will work rather independently and collaboratively, setting their own agendas, communication, and meetings. Even folks who may be away for some time in the winter are welcome to participate virtually. We hope everyone will consider joining one of these groups:

- Food insecurity and access, including mini-gardens or shared gardens
- Housing/energy/heating
- Health access and practices

Interested in learning more? Just send an email to Pat Alden or Margaret Harloe at socialaction@uucantonny.org with your name and interest, and we'll be back in touch soon.

Eileen Raymond, Social Action Committee Co-Chair

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The next American Red Cross Blood Drive will be on Tuesday, February 10, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in our Social Room. We need people to give much-needed blood, and we need volunteers to help with registration and hosting duties. To schedule your blood donation, contact the Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767. To assist with registration/hosting (two- to three-hour stints) please contact Pat Alden: socialaction@uucantonny.org.

FEED THE NEED

"Feed the Need" is an important way our congregation can remember the hungry in our community. Food contributions to the brown wooden box (usually in the corner of the Social Room by the kitchen) go to stock the food pantry shelves at the Church and Community Program. We also invite items that support the Canton schools Bear Packs program, which sends needy school children home for the weekend with food. Items for this program should be individual servings and easy to prepare, such as granola bars, quick oatmeal, and fruit cups.

Pat Alden, Social Action Committee

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

A Busy January for the Fellowship Committee!

Join the Fellowship Committee in welcoming international students from the four nearby colleges to a poluck supper at our church on Sunday, January 4 at 5 p.m., a time when the campus dining facilities are not yet opened. We encourage all interested to come, bring a dish to pass, eat together, share our home cooking with these students, chat and relax. The only agenda is to offer hospitality and socialize.

The following Saturday, January 10, we will offer our annual hockey night, with a casual supper (courtesy of the Fellowship Committee) at the Beekmans' home on Elm Street in Canton at 5 p.m. followed by an exciting evening of Division I college hockey at Appleton Arena to see SLU vs. Colgate at 7p.m. Pete will have reserved seat tickets available for us at \$11each. For this combined event, we will need a head count and ask that those interested in attending, please contact Barb or Pete by Monday the January 5. (If you need contact information please call the church office.)

On Sunday, January 11, following the church service, there will be another forum in the Romer Room, this time focusing on the 4th UU Principle, "A free and responsible search for truth and meaning". Joel's sermon will speak to that theme. Mark Berninghausen has agreed to facilitate the discussion. All are welcome to participate.

Big February Event!

Prepare for another UU Talent Show on Saturday night, February 28. This proved so successful two years ago, that it is being brought back by popular demand. Watch for the details in February newsletter, but be thinking about what your talent might be; dust off the tap shoes, find a partner for a funny (or not) duet, blow your horn, get new guitar strings--but *be sure* to put the UU Talent Show on your calendar. Brought to you by your friendly and ambitious Fellowship Committee.

Stevie Michaelson, Fellowship Committee Chair

2015 WINTER POTLUCKS

A tradition of Unitarian Universalism, Winter Potlucks offer a lovely gathering in a member's home enjoying great company of new and old friends as well as sharing a delicious covered-dish meal. There is no requirement to be a gourmet cook since the main objective is to get to know each other while having a wonderful gathering in a relaxed atmosphere. There are usually eight people at each dinner. Singles as well as couples are welcome. Families with children will be assigned to a children-welcome dinner - just let us know when you sign up. Consideration of food allergies and restrictions is honored as well as other specific needs a person may have - again, just let us know when you sign up. We want everyone to feel comfortable! Members volunteer to host dinners. Hosts will be given their guest lists about a week and a half in advance. The hosts will then contact their guests about a week in advance to discuss what item(s) each guest will bring, directions, and other logistics.

This winter's dates are Saturday, January 31, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. and Sunday, February 1, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. Deadline to sign up is Sunday, January 18. Sign-up sheets can be found in the Social Room during coffee hour or you can contact Linda Kenny or Andrea Smith (phone number and/or email addresses available from the church office). We will be looking for the following info - date, how many attending, children, special dietary or other needs, contact info, and whether you offering to be a host and/or a guest.

Andrea Smith, Welcoming Committee

COOTS LIBRARY BOOK reMARKS

Thank you to everyone who stopped by the Annual Book Fair. It was clearly our best one so far and we're grateful to all who browsed and bought. We hope you found something for yourself or a gift for a special someone; your purchases are contributing to a good cause. A special thanks to Barney Gage, David Nelson, Margaret Harloe, Todd Moe, and The Nolan Family who bought books for the library. And thanks to Bonnie Danis and Maggie Hockett, who each gave one of two young adult (and adult) books written by Maggie under the name M.A. Noble. The books are the St. Lawrence River mysteries *Taking Hart* and *Taking the Gold*. Come by the Max Coots Library and check out these and other new titles to help sustain you on these long winter nights.

Lorraine Olendzenski, Library Committee Chair

HANDBELL CHOIR NEWS

The handbell choir is on break from December 25 till at least January 15. Ringers, please watch your email for confirmation of a rehearsal on Thursday, January 15. Meanwhile thanks for your wonderful contribution to our holiday services, and I wish you a very happy New Year!

Nelly Case, Music Director

CHOIR NEWS

If you have been thinking about singing in the church choir, now is a great time to try it, as some of our "regulars" are away for the winter months. All voices are welcome! Music reading ability is helpful but not necessary. The choir rehearses three times a month at 9 on Sunday mornings and sings in church twice a month. The exact schedule is in the newsletter each month and also emailed to choir members in advance. This month's schedule is as follows:

1/4/15 no rehearsal
 1/11/15 rehearse at 9 a.m.
 1/18/15 rehearse at 9 a.m., sing in church
 1/25/15 rehearse at 9 a.m., sing in church

Carol Strome, Choir Director

LOOKING AHEAD - COMMITTEE CHAIRS GATHERING

Rev. Joel and Todd Moe invite committee chairs to check in on committee life, interim challenges so far, some new policy work on building use, and – especially -- the latest work we’re doing on shared ministry. We’ll meet on Thursday, February 5, at 6:30 p.m.

USHARE UPDATE

As promised, here are the totals for this season.

Basil	1 lb	Garlic	Undetermined	Pumpkin	29 lb
Bok Choy	6.5 lb	Honey	24.5 lb	Spinach	1 lb
Broccoli	35.1 lb	Kale	12.6 lb	Tomatillos	8 lb
Cabbage	54.9 lb	Leeks	25 lb	Tomatoes	308.9 lb
Carrots	41.8 lb	Onions	65.2 lb	Wax	~3 lb
Chard	62.6 lb	Parsley	12.3 lb	Zucchini	55.5 lb
Cucumbers	27.8 lb	Peppers	39.3 lb		
Garlic scapes	Undetermined	Potatoes	100 lb		

Grand total: 924 lb

For the social hour angels there is now a bucket by the back door for dumping the compost. I’ll periodically empty it in the composter in the garden. The gardens look beautiful with their snow blankets. Squirrels are pestering the bees but the colonies should be healthy.

Our next UShare meeting is Sunday, January 4, at 9:30 a.m. upstairs at the church. This is an exciting time as we plan the course of the committee’s activities this year. Hope to see you there.

John Tyo

CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESSES

You may have noticed that personal email addresses and phone numbers are no longer being included in the newsletter. Because it is posted on the website, the newsletter is accessible to anyone and everyone, which makes personal information vulnerable. For that reason, it is considered a best practice and recommended by the UUA that personal contact information not be used in electronically posted newsletters. Committee chairs and other church leaders have been assigned church email addresses, e.g., president@uucantonny.org, stewardship@uucantonny.org. Please use those whenever possible. If you’d like to contact someone directly and you can’t find a phone number or email address in the directory, give Gwen a call in the church office and she’ll help you out. Please make a note of any personal email addresses and phone numbers you gather so the interruptions to Gwen won’t be overwhelming.

Carol Pynchon, Outreach Committee Chair

If you would like to receive weekly electronic news updates,
 please email: office@uucantonny.org
 Deadline for next newsletter:
Tuesday January 20

ON THE CALENDAR

Sunday, January 4

9:30 a.m., UShare meeting
10:30 a.m., Worship and RE
5:00 p.m., International Student Potluck

Monday, January 5

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Wednesday, January 7

8:00 a.m., Building & Grounds Committee meeting
10:00 a.m., Library work day
6:30 p.m., Church Council meeting

Thursday, January 8

7:00 p.m., Worship Committee meeting

Saturday, January 10

5:00 p.m., Hockey Night

Sunday, January 11

10:30 a.m., Worship and Children's RE
Noon, Discussion of 4th UU Principle

Monday, January 12

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation
1:30 p.m., Outreach Committee meeting (tentative)

Tuesday, January 13

6:30 p.m., Welcome Committee meeting

Wednesday, January 14

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

Thursday, January 15

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir rehearsal
6:30 p.m., Investment Committee meeting
7:00 p.m., Budget & Finance Committee meeting
7:00 p.m., HUUMANIST Group meeting

Sunday, January 18

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

Monday, January 19

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Wednesday, January 21

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

Friday, January 23

Noon, Organ Concert

Sunday, January 25

10:30 a.m., Worship and RE
Noon, Coming of Age Fundraising Luncheon

Monday, January 26

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, January 27

5:00 p.m., Fellowship Committee meeting
7:00 p.m., Stewardship Committee meeting

Wednesday, January 28

10:00 a.m., Library work day



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