



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

---



**Summer 2015**

**A MONTH OF SUNDAYS**

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

**July 5**

*A Return to the Garden* – Charlie Bradt, Pulpit Guest  
The story that informs western religions, and therefore much of western cultures, has an old man with a beard plopping two human beings into a wonderful garden from which he later expelled them for disobedience. What if the story were told slightly differently? What story might we make up to take its place and what might be the consequences for our lives today? Charlie Bradt has been a student and teacher of meditation and yoga for more than 20 years. He has delivered many sermons at our church over the years, all focused on our inner journey and experience.

*Worship Associate:* Doug Rubio

*Collection Counters:* Ruth Baltus, Valerie Ingram

**July 12**

*Into the Woods* – Doug Rubio, Pulpit Guest  
The Stephen Sondheim musical “Into the Woods” is a fairy tale for grown-ups, with characters drawn from familiar children’s stories. There is a happy ending, but that is only the end of Act I. What happens after “happily ever after”? Act II shows us the unexpected consequences of the characters’ all-too-human desires and actions, and teaches us many lessons for our own lives. (You are encouraged to see the Community Performance Series live production of “Into the Woods,” July 6 through 11, in SUNY Potsdam’s Performing Arts

Center before hearing this sermon. Alternatively, the movie that was released last December is excellent.) Doug Rubio is a member of the Worship Committee. He has been attending our church for over 20 years, and has held a number of leadership positions. In his non-church life he is a professor of classical guitar at SUNY Potsdam.

*Worship Associate:* TBD

*Collection Counters:* Pat Gengo, Will Siegfried

**July 19**

*HUUtenanny*– John Danis, Pulpit Guest  
A service of sing-along songs that speak to and nourish our spiritual journeys.

*Worship Associate:* Mark Berninghausen

*Collection Counters:* Janet Green, Jon Montan

**June 26**

*The Making of a UU* – Jon Montan, Pulpit Guest  
Jon Montan has been a member of the Canton UU Church since 1983, but his path to becoming a UU was a winding one. The story of his spiritual journey will doubtless seem simultaneously unique – and familiar – to many.

*Worship Associate:* Robin Collen

*Collection Counters:* Lonie Bogett, Will Siegfried

---

**IT’S SUMMER - YAHOO!**

*We hope you enjoy the summer months, whether you stay put in the North Country or explore places further afield. We will be here, and encourage you to join us for worship and fellowship on Sunday mornings...even when the sun is shining! Please note that during the summer months, we do not assign volunteers to serve as greeters and social hour hosts. If you can volunteer in July or August, please contact the Church Office and let us know the Sunday you are available.*

**Summer Office Hours**

Please note that for July and August, the church office hours will change to:

**Monday & Wednesday 8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday & Thursday 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

Gwen is also available by appointment as needed. Please email or call the office if you need to schedule time outside these hours: 386-2498 or office@uucantonny.org.

*Have a great summer!*

## IN THE INTERIM - REV. JOEL REPORTS

It's wrenching to be across the continent at the General Assembly in Portland, Oregon, far away from you all in the North Country as I write. There's been loss and challenges in the congregation and in our nation this past week. My thoughts are with you, even as I am welcoming the many conversations I've had about my big, round button that says in bold type "Ministry in the Adirondacks" (and I realize that the North Country is connected to, yet distinct from the Adirondacks). I've had a lot of conversations about the beauty and community in the North Country of New York.

The Worship Committee met just a day before I made my 22-hour journey from Canton to Portland, and we talked a lot about the variations with the Candles of Joys and Sorrows. The Committee and I have learned a lot these past couple of months, and we read the feedback received from the congregation. We are planning a worship service on August 16 about the experiences and spiritual perspectives that shape the Joys and Sorrows.

There is a lot of conversation at GA about the terrible events in Mother Emmanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina. I'm grateful that - finally - the U.S. media have begun to tell the stories of the good people of that church and the tragedy they experienced; many sorrows and even joys in that wrenching tragedy.

One of the speakers here made a link between that tragedy, the great challenge of climate change, and our own very lives as Unitarian Universalists. Rev. Rob Hardies, in an address to the gathered UU ministers, explained that these are linked. Hardies, who is White, spoke of his fears for his son, who is Black. How vulnerable his son is, and, thus how vulnerable he is. And how our power as a religious people grows out of our vulnerability: "Shared vulnerability is the path to solidarity," he said. I thought of you all. I thought of the web of life, which is so close by in the North Country, and how it teaches me that everything is connected. We are vulnerable, but if we share that vulnerability, we are even more deeply connected, and out of that solidarity will come our power to change the world - to truly change and save the world.

The journey with the Joys and Sorrows had been to find the best ways for us to more fully welcome one another into that vulnerability with each other. And to give each other that courage that sustains us as we cherish and care for this beautiful world and our beautiful, vulnerable people - who are us.

*With much love,  
Joel*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sometimes you can be completely surprised. I know I was when Paul Siskind and Todd Moe made a remarkable proposition to Church Council. Their generous proposal, which Council has accepted, is to fund a biennial Symposium on Social Justice through a substantial financial contribution to our church. Paul and Todd envision a biennial event (held five times over a 10-year period) that will bring together people and organizations from our region to examine all aspects of a specific social justice topic. Not only would such an event be a worthwhile social justice project for the church, it would be an opportunity to share our UU principles with the greater North Country community.

Some of the ideas Paul and Todd put forth include inviting a notable, national expert in the topic as a keynote speaker, partnering with area institutions, inviting local experts to participate, and having an arts component connected to the theme.

An ad hoc group will be established as the organizing structure of the symposium, with significant representation from the Social Action Committee. This group will be formed in the coming months. I anticipate broad participation from the entire congregation in this project.

You might have noted that this will be a “biennial” symposium. This means it will be held every two years. It seemed to make sense since an undertaking of this magnitude needs a great deal of planning, and it will be important to allow enough time for this, without having the church in continuous symposium- planning mode.

Many details have yet to be worked out, but this is a tremendous opportunity for our church community to show the wider world who we are and what we stand for. I am humbled by the generosity of Paul and Todd, and thrilled by their willingness to advance a big idea.

*Barbara Beekman, Church Council President*

### **RE PONDERING/UPDATE**

Summer is upon us! I am reminiscing about my summer camp experiences. Spending time with new friends, singing songs around a campfire, seeing the mist rising off a lake, challenging myself to learn how to paddle a canoe in a straight line, and morning flag raising time. As an outdoor educator and previous summer camp director, I believe there is value in spending time in nature and sharing a common experience within community. Summer camp offers young people an opportunity to experience new things, learn how to get along, create lifelong friends, as well as participate in ritual. For those young adults working as summer counselors, they are developing leadership skills and understanding the importance of role modeling for young campers. Even for adults, a “summer camp” experience can provide an opportunity for spiritual renewal and connection with community.

As UU’s we have access to a “vibrant network of retreat centers, camps, and conferences that offer experiences of growth, connection, spirituality, and community throughout the year.” I would like to encourage you to check out these camps and centers, which offer an opportunity to deepen our UU values and traditions. Whether you visit Unirondack here in our backyard or travel to Star Island in Maine, summer is a great opportunity for spiritual renewal and faith development. Check out all the possibilities at <http://www.uua.org/directory/where/camps-retreats-and-conferences> or ask me for details.

### *What’s Coming Up in July and August in Religious Education?*

Please take a moment to register your child for the 2015-2016 year at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5TRJ9BH> Thank you!

We will be in summer mode until September 13. All ages will be participating in fun crafts and games throughout the summer. Please come prepared to be outside if the weather is appropriate.

*Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education*

### **THANK YOU THANK YOU...**

- † Joan Kepes, Debs Kalicin, Pat Dunkleberg, Kate Whitehorne, JoAnn McAllister, Linda Kenny, and Fred Glover for assistance with the June Red Cross Blood Drive.
- † Phil and Carol LaMarche, Judy DeGraaff, Esther Katz, Eileen Raymond, and Helen and Roger Hutchinson for their help with the June 24 Free Will dinner.
- † Linda Kenny and Mark Berninghausen for helping the Campus Kitchens dinner.
- † The many *many* people who helped with the memorial service for Paco Clark-Bouchard and the amazing pizza celebration after. Special thanks to Natalie Panshin and Esther Oey for coordinating the Caring Circle.

### **JOYS & SORROWS**

- † We are deeply saddened by the sudden, unexpected death of Francisco “Paco” Clark-Bouchard. Our thoughts are with Kim and Bida.

## MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

This is the first of numerous updates you'll receive from us about the settled minister search process.

We are:

- † Erika Barthelmeß, secretary, survey coordinator, website
- † Kim Bouchard, arranger (candidate and Search Committee visiting details)
- † Jon Montan, committee chair, communication with the UUA and our Ministerial Settlement Representative
- † Rajiv Narula, packet organizer and reference checker
- † Jennifer Whittaker, packet organizer and reference checker
- † Theresa Witmer, congregational communication, survey coordinator, website
- † Pete Wyckoff, treasurer

We encourage your questions and suggestions. During the next nine months of the search process, we will be asking for your help in various ways. Please see our "Covenant With the Congregation" below.

### *Meeting Highlights*

Rev. Craig Schwalenberg, our Ministerial Settlement Representative, came to Canton June 12 and 13 to meet with Church Council, the congregation, and the Search Committee. He met with Church Council on Friday afternoon and then led an open meeting with the congregation on Friday evening, to talk about the search process outlined by the UUA, which we will follow.

The following day, the Search Committee had a retreat (and first official gathering) with Craig from 9:30 to 4:30. We talked in detail about the process of searching for a new minister. By the end of the day, we all had our assigned roles along with quite a few tasks to complete in the coming week.

The Search Committee held the first of our weekly meetings on June 19. We discussed ways to keep church members informed of our progress. Lots will be on the new website, once that's up and running. In the meantime, look for our bulletin board in the Social Room at church, which will be up by the end of June. We'll also have a question/suggestion box. You can also contact any of us with particular questions or concerns.

### **Covenant With the Congregation**

Our goal as the Ministerial Search Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton is the successful settlement of the candidate that best fits the needs of our congregation; if that goal is not attainable, we will so inform the congregation. Throughout the search process, we are guided in our actions and communications by the desire to protect our congregation, ministers in search and their families and congregations, and the minister we hope to call.

### *Our Covenant with the Congregation*

We, the members of the Ministerial Search Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton, commit to uphold the following principles as we move forward in our search process:

- † Recognize and remain grateful for the trust bestowed upon us by the members of our church congregation.
- † Follow the search process and best practices as determined by the UUA Settlement Office, based on the experiences of congregations and ministers over decades of time.
- † Conduct our work with due diligence and to the best of our ability.
- † Keep the congregation informed of the search process.
- † Maintain transparency in the search process. We will not keep secrets from the congregation; we will keep some information confidential until we are able to share it.

In addition to our covenant with you, we hope the congregation will help us with the search in the following ways:

- † Recognize and remain grateful for the trust you have bestowed upon the Search Committee.
- † Participate in the search to the fullest extent that you can. Your participation might include completing the congregational survey, attending “cottage meetings,” and participating in Candidating Week. At times, we will need added support, which might include help with childcare or meals as we work.
- † Help us to maintain transparency in the search process. If you have a question, reach out and ask a member of the committee. If you have a concern, reach out and tell a member of the committee;
- † Understand that we will share as much information as we can and that we cannot share all information.

We acknowledge and are grateful to the church groups from which the search committee members have stepped away or reduced their roles. Thank you to those who step up during the search process to do work that we would otherwise do with you.

### **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Other than the annual Spring Work Day, much of the work of the B&G committee flies under the radar of the congregation. To give the congregation a better understanding of on-going work done by the committee, here’s a rundown on our activities over the last 30 days:

- † Coordinated repairs by RSI Roofing to the church bell tower (replacing slates, corner caps, and inspecting the rest of the tower roof); please note this portion of the roof was not touched when the church’s roof was replaced three summers ago.
- † Coordinated inspection of fire extinguishers by NCC Systems resulting in replacement of 20-year or older units and upgrading a number of under-sized units given the size of our building. We are in the process of installing brackets and signage for the extinguishers, and the committee will inspect extinguishers on a monthly basis to ensure proper pressure.
- † Scheduled Barkley’s to install a lock on the furnace room back basement door to better secure this space. Painted yellow caution strip and “watch your step” warning to alert people entering this space to the drop-off to the furnace pit. We are now in the process of rewiring light switches so basement lights are now turned off and on by the switch that controls the lights for the hallway when you first enter from the RE center space to access the hall and block room
- † Completed updates to the Landscaping Testimonial Book in response to church members who supported last summer’s replanting for the church’s front landscape. Please take a few moments to review the book that is located on the fireplace mantel in the Social Room.
- † Fixed problem with one of the interior elevator accordion doors.
- † Purchased three new 12-foot tables to replace the old heavy and in various stages of disrepair brown tables.
- † Installed pavers in the green space so we have a hardscape from Main Street to our front sidewalk for better access in winter. It took eight months to get the permit from DOT and about three hours to do the job!
- † Prepped and repainted the black lamp post at the start of our front walk.
- † Emptied, cleaned, and reorganized the Social Room closet.
- † Repainted the interior metal door and window casing at our back entrance.
- † Continued weeding, mulching, and watering of annuals in Memorial Garden and this and last year’s plantings.
- † Swapped out storm windows for screens in Joel’s office and the kitchen.
- † Moved Bell Choir music file cabinet from the Block Room to the Music Room.
- † Turned on dehumidifiers in basement and Joel’s office; emptying buckets is now a regular ritual (sometimes twice-a-day depending on weather until the fall) to avoid moisture and mold.

- † Responded to ongoing issues (replacing lights, ballasts, preparing B&G budget submission for 2016 for Budget and Finance Committee, etc.).
- † Prepared for visit from Church Mutual Insurance representative to review progress on addressing a number of recommendations to building and grounds problems made in 2011.
- † Finishing wood trim work for the shelf holding the projector in the Sanctuary; repairing water damage from ground water leak in basement bathroom.

We are a busy committee, actively engaged in the ministry of our building and grounds. If you are looking for greater involvement with the church and like hands-on projects that provide relatively immediate rewards upon completion, I would be happy to speak with you as would any member of the B&G committee. You do not have to join the committee (but we certainly welcome this); simply let us know the kinds of jobs you like to do and we will add you to our project worker list.

*Pete Beekman, Chair, Building and Grounds Committee*

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE UPDATE**

### *Help with Campus Kitchens*

We UUs provide space for the St. Lawrence University student group, Campus Kitchens, every Monday. We are regularly mentioned in the community at large, along with the Free Will Dinner and the Grace Church Friday soup/sandwich, as ways churches help to nourish those who appreciate a good cooked meal and companionship. However, our church doesn't do very much other than provide the space for Campus Kitchens. That's fine when students are on campus, but during the summer (and in January) the SLU Volunteer Coordinator could really use some help from us. Help could involve giving a couple of hours on Mondays between 2 and 4 p.m. in the SLU dining hall in Eben Holden. This is meal prep, such as cutting up things for salad or frosting a cake. All food and supplies are already there. Also, help is needed setting up and serving from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in our Social Room. Teenagers could really make a difference here!

### *Church and Community Program*

Thanks to our on-going assistance, in time and treasure, the C&CP continues to thrive - and grow. Please keep the thrift shop in mind for your good used clothing and jewelry. Better still, if you can volunteer in the shop - as little as three hours a month would ease the burden on our "regulars" - you would find this is a fun way to meet and socialize with members of our larger community.

### *American Red Cross Blood Drive*

The August Red Cross Blood Drive will be held in our Social Room on Tuesday, August 11, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Volunteers are needed and should sign up by July 26. If you can give two hours to help with registration or serving drinks/snacks, please be in touch with Pat Alden [socialaction@uucantonny.org](mailto:socialaction@uucantonny.org).

*Pat Alden, Co-Chair, Social Justice Committee*

## **FELLOWSHIP FUN - PICNIC, SWIM, AND PADDLE**

This year's Fellowship Committee summer outing will take us to Robert Moses State Park Beach, Barnhart Island, Massena. Bring lunch, something to share, a swimsuit, and optional canoe, kayak, or inflatable boat, musical instrument. Lifeguard on duty until 6 p.m.; park closes at 8:30.

Many amenities include wide sandy beach, picnic tables, toilets, bathhouse (with showers), volleyball net, ping-pong table, playground, ice cream and sodas for sale, splendid view of St. Lawrence River. You can borrow ping-pong equipment and/or a volleyball from the beachfront information building, or bring your own. (Another area of the park offers a Nature Center and woodsy, waterside hiking trails.) Free entrance, day use, and parking!

Meet on Sunday, August 16, after the coffee hour, to carpool, caravan, and get directions and map. For more information, see Lila Hunnewell.

### COOTS LIBRARY BOOK reMARKS

If you're looking for a relaxing or thought-provoking summer read, be sure to stop by the Coots Library before or after Sunday service. In addition to books on religion, spirituality, and social issues, we have many books in the literature and poetry categories. Our Young Adult Collection houses several popular novels chosen to entertain and engage. We even have a few mysteries that might make the perfect summer read. You can find *An Unholy Mission* and *A Deadly Mission*, both by Judith Campbell, in the Adult Collection. Two mysteries set in the Thousand Islands, *Taking the Gold* and *Taking Hart*, by M.A. Noble, can be found in our YA collection. Also keep an eye out for three new children's books in the "Poetry for Young People" series: Robert Frost, Edna St. Vincent Millay, and Emily Dickinson. These books are worth checking out, not just for the poetry but for the beautiful original watercolor illustrations (each volume is illustrated by a different artist) that accompany the work of each poet. We hope you'll find something to enjoy during long summer days!

*Lorraine Olendzenski, Chair, Library Committee*

### I JUST READ...

Like thousands of other children of the post WW-II baby boom generation, I am involved in helping my parents transition from independent living to assisted living. Cartoonist and author Roz Chast has chronicled this transition with her parents in a unique, idiosyncratic, humorous, and honest way in her wonderful book "Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?: A Memoir."

The book is a series of cartoon images, personal photos, and narrative that document the last chapters in her parents' lives. This style was much more effective than a normal prose account of the issues that elderly people and their offspring face as life draws to a close. I found it incredibly cathartic, funny, and poignant, all at the same time. Most of all I found it real, which is a high compliment because I recoil at spiritual platitudes, palliatives, and fairy tales when it comes to dealing with the big things in life and with death. The book was so good I sent a copy to my sister and she loved it just as much as I did. I am grateful that Lorraine Olendzenski recommended it to me.

*Jon R. Montan, Jr.*

If you would like to receive weekly electronic news updates,  
please email: [office@uucantonny.org](mailto:office@uucantonny.org)

This is the "Summer " newsletter, meaning there will be no newsletter in August.  
There will be a calendar published and distributed, along with an  
August "Month of Sundays"

The deadline for next regular newsletter:  
**Thursday, August 20**

## ON THE CALENDAR

### Wednesday, July 1

10:00 a.m., Library work day  
12:15 p.m., Staff Relations Committee meeting  
6:30 p.m., Church Council meeting

### Sunday, July 5

9:30 a.m., UShare meeting  
10:30 a.m., Worship and RE

### Monday, July 6

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

### Wednesday, July 8

10:00 a.m., Library work day

### Thursday, July 9

7:00 p.m., Worship Committee meeting

### Sunday, July 12

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

### Monday, July 13

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

### Wednesday, July 15

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

### Thursday, July 16

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

### Sunday, July 19

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

### Monday, July 20

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

### Wednesday, July 22

10:00 a.m., Library work day

### Sunday, July 26

10:30 a.m., Worship and RE

### Monday, July 27

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

### Tuesday, July 28

7:00 p.m., Stewardship Committee meeting



## 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

Summer office hours:

Monday and Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday 1 to 4:30 p.m.

(315) 386-2498

office@uucantonny.org

www.uucantonny.org