



News & Information from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton



June 2016

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

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

June 5

Salt in My Soul – Rev. Joel Miller, Interim Minister

Greeters: Charlie Bradt, Dick & Peggy Mooers

Council Welcomer: Ruth Baltus

Kitchen Cabinet Advisor: Lorraine Olendzenski

Social Hour: Randy Merrill, Kim Bouchard,

Judy DeGraaff

Worship Associate: Valerie Ingram

RE Ambassador: Anna Sorensen

Collection Counters: Ruth Baltus, David Doran

June 12

RE Sunday – Rev. Joel Miller, Interim Minister and

Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education

CHURCH PICNIC FOLLOWING SERVICE

Greeters: RE Committee, teachers, kids

Council Welcomer: David Nelson

Social Hour: Church Picnic

Worship Associate: Doug Rubio

RE Ambassador: Arthur Freeheart

Collection Counters: Pat Gengo, Tim Opdyke

June 19

Flower Communion – Rev. Joel Miller, Interim Minister

Greeters: Robin Collen, Dave Weissbard & Karen

Wells, Donna & Richard Kimball

Council Welcomer: Katherine Brown

Social Hour: Bob & Irene Gardner, Betsy Kepes &

Tom Van de Water

Worship Associate: Mark Berninghausen

RE Ambassador: Esther Katz

Collection Counters: Jon Montan, Lorraine Olendzenski

June 26

Pilgrimage: Walking on Ancient Stones While Searching

for Modern Meaning - Betsy Kepes & Tom Van de

Water, Pulpit Guests

In March, Tom Van de Water and Betsy Kepes walked for a month in Japan, following the Shikoku 88 Temple pilgrimage route. Through words and

photos, they will reflect on Buddhism today, on walking and on returning to the everyday world. Tom came to Buddhism through his mom, early UU influences in Canton, being in love with Betsy, college reading, poet Gary Snyder, a Watson Fellowship in Hokkaido, fire lookout in Idaho, Zen studies in Syracuse, and teaching high school science. Betsy is not a Buddhist but is a long-distance walker and runner, a piano teacher, a writer, and a lifelong UU with a pantheist slant.

Greeters: JoAnn & Lowell McAllister,

Janet McFarland, Mark Berninghausen

Council Welcomer: Julie Van Duyne

Social Hour: Bobbi Haldane, Deborah Kalicin,

Donna & Richard Kimball

Worship Associate: Doug Rubio

RE Ambassador: Maria Dickinson

Collection Counters: Lonie Bogett, Will Siegfried



The annual church picnic will be held on **Sunday, June 12**, immediately following church at the newly refurbished Bend in the River Park in Canton. Veggie burgers, hot dogs, hamburgers, and beverages will be provided. Please bring a salad (name begins with A-M) or dessert (name begins with N-Z) to share, as well as your potluck pack. Directions will be available...or follow the crowd. In case of inclement weather the picnic will be held in the Social Room.

FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

In case you have been away and out of touch, our search for a settled minister concluded successfully with a vote – 124 in favor and zero against! – by the membership on Sunday, May 15. Our new settled minister is the Reverend James T. Galasinski. He likes to be referred to as James. The Search Committee is thrilled with the overwhelming demonstration of support for him!

James, his wife Ulrike, and their son Miles currently reside in Albuquerque. Their plan is to attend General Assembly in Columbus, Ohio, which runs from June 22 to 26. Then they will continue on to Canton where they will leave their vehicle and travel to Germany to visit Ulrike's relatives. On or around July 25 they will return to Canton to move their belongings into their house. James' contract begins August 1, 2016.

The Search Committee's mission has been accomplished and therefore this will be the last newsletter column from us. As I said on April 10 when we announced our selection of James as our candidate, it has been an honor to serve this religious community. I want to add that it has been both an honor and an immense pleasure to serve with Erika Barthelmeß, Kim Bouchard, Rajiv Narula, Jenn Whittaker, Theresa Witmer and Peter Wyckoff. They made my job easy. They are simply magnificent.

I am feeling great optimism as I face each new moment in the life of our church. Having a new minister brings my optimism into sharp focus. Let us go, hand in hand, as we embrace change and shine our light in the world.

Jon Montan, Chair, Search Committee

IN THE INTERIM - REV. JOEL REPORTS

I am excited for you and James Galasinski as you embark on your shared ministry together. And congratulations on all the hard work you have done as a community to arrive at this new chapter in your long and significant ministry.

To arrive at this time, you've taken significant steps in developing a shared ministry that is true to your culture and your place in the North Country. You've been patient and courageous with the cultural shift in congregational life that shared ministry requires. You've been open to the necessary formalities and the extra steps to "check-in" with each other when making changes or beginning new ministries. You are generous with your financial support of your congregation's ministries. You have a thriving and respected Religious Education program, a strong justice presence in the community, beautiful music on Sundays, and the formal and informal ways you care for each other are remarkable and admirable.

I'm proud of the ministry we shared here these past three years. And I have quite fallen in love with you – you're such a joyful, respectful, gentle, deeply loyal, profoundly caring people. I am also so grateful for the love and care you've shown me and my family when we faced serious health challenges.

My last Sunday with you is June 19 (also the Flower Communion – bring flowers!). I will leave for General Assembly (the annual meeting of all the Unitarian Universalist Congregations in the U.S.) that evening. On July 1, I will become the Interim Senior Minister of the First Unitarian Church of Rochester, NY.

This is a time we knew was coming, and is, for me, as difficult as ever. But I would, to paraphrase Alfred Lord Tennyson, rather "have loved and lost than never to have loved at all." I wish for you and James blessings, satisfactions, and great successes in your coming years of ministry together.

With love and admiration, Rev. Joel, Interim Minister

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I'd like to say how grateful I am to the congregation, and especially the ministerial search committee, for the thoughtful consideration and concerted engagement shown during candidating week. We happily await the arrival in August of our new settled minister James Galasinski, his wife Ulrike, and son Miles.

As absorbed as we have been in this happy beginning of a new chapter for our church, we will also be saying two bittersweet goodbyes this month.

With the calling of a new settled minister, our time with Joel comes to an end. The inevitability of the end of this interim period does not make it any easier to say goodbye. Joel came to us at a moment of upheaval and uncertainty, and in his gentle but insistent way, he helped us see our best selves again. There is just no resisting that positive outlook. His deep appreciation of our congregation's place in UU history helped me rediscover the enduring strength and resolve of our church community.

As a problem solver, Joel is a model for us all. He showed us how to recognize disagreements, acknowledge our differences, and move forward with respect and dignity. It is not that you have problems, it is how you fix them.

It is a comfort to know that Joel will be close by, as he begins his new position as Senior Interim Minister at First Unitarian in Rochester. I know we all wish Joel success at this next congregation in need. Joel, we were lucky enough to have you for three years and you are special enough to be remembered here for much longer.

For over 25 years, there has been an abiding presence at our church. On any given Sunday, you could hear beautiful organ music, a transfixing handbell choir, or maybe an inventive holiday pageant. There were handbell introits played by some of our youngest congregants, thoughtful preludes and postludes linked to hymns and sermons, and even a wonderful sermon last November about the role of music in religious services. All the work of Nelly Maude Case.

As a third (!) generation church organist, Nelly has said it was a special moment when she first played at our church as she felt like she was spiritually "home." Her love of our historic organ is obvious to anyone who has listened to her play, and is matched by her fervent attention to its preservation and maintenance. And yet, her passion for our handbell choir might be greater. The atmospheric music that Nelly has conducted with the bell choir has been a special gift to all those lucky enough to be listening (and playing).

Thank you Nelly, for all the special musical moments. Think of us next winter while you are enjoying the moderate weather of New Mexico - we will be warming ourselves with our memories of you.

Barbara Beekman, Church Council President

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PONDERINGS

June finds the Religious Education program preparing for their upcoming worship service on June 12. During this service, the children and youth will be offering a glimpse of what they have been learning and experiencing downstairs this past year. We will also be wishing our graduating high school seniors well as they move onto their next journey in life. We hope you will join us for this meaningful and fun service.

As we transition to summer programming, beginning June 19, the children and youth will have an opportunity to attend Hogwart School of Magic and hear from some special guests. Keep an eye and ear out for more details!

Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education

What's Coming Up in June in Religious Education?

- Sunday, June 5 - RE Sunday Rehearsal
- Sunday, June 12 - RE Sunday Worship Service
- Tuesday, June 14 - Second Tuesday Chalice Circle Gathering
- Wednesday, June 15 - RE Committee Meeting
- Sunday, June 19 - Summer RE Programming Begins

THANK YOU THANK YOU...

- † Sarah Bentley-Garfinkel, Brook Stevenson, Miles Manchester, Wil Rivers, Esther Katz, Kate Boczarski, Leo Burger, David Bradford, and Arthur Freeheart for supporting the RE program during the ministerial candidating week.
- † Sue Powers for delivering coffee from Clarkson to the church for the past year.
- † Rajiv Narula, Reg and Ben Budelman, Caroline Pearson, Zach Barnes and Carol Gable for helping with the clean-up of Riverside Drive.

JOYS & SORROWS

- † We are saddened by the sudden and unexpected death of John Tyo on May 24. John's father Lawrence told Joel that John had a heart attack while on his customary morning run. If you would like to send a note to John's family, please send it to Lawrence Tyo, c/o Unitarian Universalist Church, 3 ½ East Main Street, Canton NY 13617.
- † Long-time member George L. Tait, 81, died May 11 in Virginia where he had lived to be near his sister, Alice Roddy. George is remembered for his abiding concern for improving public policy, notably his advocacy of rail transportation. In keeping with his commitment to human well-being, he donated his remains to medical research. He moved away from the Canton area about 10 years ago, but was a very faithful attendee during the years he was in the area. If you would like to send a note of sympathy to Alice, her address is: 380 Granny Smith Rd, Linden, VA 22642-6233

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

As we have for almost 20 years, we will be taking our UU values to downtown Canton on Saturday, June 4, for the Dairy Princess Festival.

Voter Registration: This year we are challenged to make sure that we help everyone prepare to exercise their rights as citizens of a democratic country by registering to vote. This year we are partnering with the local League of Women Voters to help folks at the Festival register to vote or to update their registration. To be most effective, we will need folks to sit at the table and/or circulate throughout the park, offering information about voter registration. If you are available that day between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. and could spare an hour or two, please email socialaction@uucantonny.org

Marching for Equality: Our church has a long and proud tradition of joining with others in the community by marching in the Dairy Princess Parade to visibly and vocally express our support for gay, bisexual, lesbian, and transgender rights. This year our visible support is especially welcome and needed as issues relating to our transgender friends and youth are in the headlines. Mark your calendars and plan to join

the PFLAG and PRISM marchers at 12:30 in the parking lot behind the Social Services Building on Judson Street. The parade steps off at 1 pm. Watch for more specific information in the eNews. Questions? Email socialaction@uucantonny.org

Voter Education: Finally, the Festival is a magnet for politicians, especially those who are running for election or re-election. As you spend time at the Festival with family and friends, you might look for opportunities to speak to candidates about the issues you are most concerned about. Never give them a reason to say they didn't know we cared about one issue or another. Then, be sure and educate yourself on those running and go to the polls in November ready to vote knowledgeably. Remember that it is very important that we pay attention to the "down ballot" races for Congress, state, and local offices. The Social Action Committee is hoping to host an event to "meet the candidates" for Congress and/or state offices in the fall. Watch for more information in August!

Social Action Shared Offering for June

During the past year, we have had several opportunities to think about choices at the end of life. In the fall, the Library Committee hosted a well-attended discussion on their Common Read selection, *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* by Atul Gawande. On May 8, a full house participated in the Coffee, Conversation & More session considering choices at the end of life, based on a recent *UU World* article. It is apparent that these issues concern many of us. It is also apparent that we are very fortunate to have a local resource to help us all when the time comes - Hospice and Palliative Care of St Lawrence Valley <http://seriousillness.net/stlawrence/>

On Sunday, June 5, we will receive a Shared Offering in support of the work of our local hospice organization and all they do to help so many in the most difficult times of life. If you will not be in church on June 5 and would like to donate, please consider sending a check to the church office, memoed "SASO-Hospice." Please also check the Social Action bulletin board for more information about the ways Hospice is there for all of us, and ways you can become part of this helping community.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Our church will host the next American Red Cross blood drive on Tuesday, June 14, from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Our April drive was unusually successful, going significantly over our target for blood units and with a number of new donors participating. We hope we can continue these trends in June. If you have a big heart and the ability to give blood, consider scheduling an appointment for this drive by calling 1-800-733-2767 or visit <http://www.redcrossblood.org>. Walk-ins are always welcome too. In addition, the Social Action Committee needs volunteers to help with registration and dispensing refreshments. Please contact Pat Alden in person or at socialaction@uucantonny.org if you can help with this.

Eileen Raymond, Co-Chair, Social Action Committee

Coffee, Conversation & More!

This spring, we have been trying an experiment, an adult education experiment. Twice a month, members and friends have been gathering over coffee before church to discuss a variety of topics of interest. The idea was that if we scheduled these conversations on Sunday when folks are already coming to Canton for worship, more of us would be able to participate. Our sessions this spring included:

January 24: Immigrants and Refugees: Is There a Difference?

February 7: International Year of the Pulse - Ethical Eating and Climate Change

February 28: Justice for North Country Farm Workers
March 13: Spirit in Practice: Models of Adult Spiritual Development
March 27: Wrestling with Easter: UU Perspectives of the Holiday
April 10: What Does Community Net Metering Mean to You and the Environment?
April 24: What Makes our Church a Welcoming Space?
May 8: Choices at the End of Life

The planning group met recently to review the experience thus far. Our discussion confirmed that the program seemed to be filling a need for adults in the congregation. Attendance varied from week to week, with 12 to 20+ on any given Sunday. Some folks came to each one, while others came for a particular topic. There was general agreement on the value of the offerings.

Based on this spring's experiment, it was decided that we should continue in the fall. Coffee, Conversation & More will begin again on Sunday, September 18, meeting regularly on the first and third Sundays each month at 9:15 a.m., concluding with the session on December 4. Childcare will be available upon request. We urge you to mark your calendars so you won't miss out.

Topics are still being selected for fall, and we need everyone's help. If you know of a topic that you would like to explore with a group of fellow UUs, please send us a note at <mailto:CCMore@uucantonny.org> or speak to any member of the planning group: Margaret Harloe (Coffee, Conversation & More coordinator for the fall), Helen Hutchinson, Esther Katz, Stevie Michaelson, Lorraine Olendzenski, Sue Powers, Eileen Raymond, Carol Zimmerman.

USHARE UPDATE

By now the both gardens have had their first plantings and are in need of steady tender loving care. Please consider adopting for a week or volunteering if you haven't yet. The scheduling link for Cecilie adoptions is tinyurl.com/CecilieGarden2016 and for Priest is tinyurl.com/PriestGarden2016.

One of the sermons in May was about Tai Chi and the Tao of Pooh. During the service I started to think that Winnie the Pooh's philosophy may have been shaped by his pursuit of honey. In order to gain honey without hurting the bees or being stung, Pooh would have to make slow and purposeful movements -- much like the Tai Chi demonstration by Sean Boutin. I know I feel a calming, being-in-the-moment when working the hives.

Angels evoke fear, wonder, and awe. They also give sweetness and light. It's odd that there is such a desire for angels when they're buzzing amongst us. If you'd like to learn a Tai Chi dance with nature there are 60,000 angelic masters at the Cecilie Garden.

John Tyo, Chair, UShare

Editor's note: This column was submitted by John before his sudden death on May 24. His presence and gentle nature will be felt among UShare gardeners for a very long time.

BUILDING & GROUNDS UPDATE

New Online Work Order System

The Building and Grounds Committee has new online feature for members and friends to bring maintenance problems to our attention. Please use this link below and click on the red work request button to navigate to the work request page. <http://www.uucantonny.org/committees/buildings-and-grounds/>
We encourage you to include as much information as possible to help us resolve the problem.

Summer Position Available

Building and Grounds Committee seeks a hard-working youth for various jobs during the summer months. The job requires on average five hours per week maintaining church grounds. If you would like to be considered for the position, please express your interest using this link:

<http://www.uucantonny.org/committees/buildings-and-grounds/help-wanted/>

Pete Beekman, Chair, Building & Grounds Committee

NEWS FROM THE WELCOMING COMMITTEE

We are pleased to welcome into church membership, the following people who signed the book since January 1, 2016:

Kate Whitehorne	Relani Prudhomme
Judi Cohen	Julia Freeheart
Anna Sorensen	Jerry Bregg
Desiree LeBoeuf-Davis	V. Carlos Garza
Margaret Mauch	Geetika Narula
David Doran	

Look for short bios and photos in the social room soon!

The Welcoming Committee values the importance of warm hospitality to Sunday morning visitors and new faces who express an interest in our church. We like to think that no one stands alone at social hour and that all of us at 3 ½ Main Street seek out new acquaintances. We appreciate comments and suggestions as to how we “walk the walk” of our objective to integrate folks new to our congregation.

Here are some tried and true ways to strike up a conversation with an unfamiliar person:

“I don’t believe we’ve met yet. I’m...”

“Your face is familiar, but I don’t know (remember) your name”

“Let me introduce myself, I’m...”

“Hi, my name is _____, and yours?”

The committee has been practicing introductions by agreeing to meet at least one new person each month and reporting back to the committee who they had met.

If you’d like to know more about us, please check out our page on the website:

<http://www.uucantonny.org/committees/welcoming/>

Stevie Michaelson, Chair, Welcoming Committee

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY PROGRAM NEWS

A new, improved website for the Church and Community Program is now live. You can find it at <http://www.ccpcanton.org>. The next issue of "Window on Main Street" will be appearing soon. Look for that and for the C&CP float in the Dairy Princess parade on June 4.

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

ON THE CALENDAR

Wednesday, June 1

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

Thursday, June 2

4:30 p.m., Social Action Committee meeting

Saturday, June 4

Dairy Princess Parade

Sunday, June 5

9:30 a.m., UShare meeting
10:30 a.m., Worship
10:45 a.m. RE Fun Day

Monday, June 6

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, June 7

12:00 p.m., Personnel Committee meeting
5:00 p.m., Welcoming Committee meeting

Wednesday, June 8

10:00 a.m., Library work day

Thursday, June 9

7:00 p.m., Worship Committee meeting

Friday, June 10

4:00 p.m., Music Committee meeting

Saturday, June 11

8:30 a.m., Multi-site Ministry meeting

Sunday, June 12

10:30 a.m., RE Sunday
Noon, Church Picnic

Monday, June 13

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, June 14

11:30 a.m., Blood Drive
5 p.m., Welcoming Committee meeting
7:00 p.m., Chalice Circle

Wednesday, June 15

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

Thursday, June 16

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

Sunday, June 19

10:30 a.m., Worship and RE

Monday, June 20

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Wednesday, June 22

10:00 a.m., Library work day
6:30 p.m., Newcomers Dinner

Sunday, June 26

10:30 a.m., Worship and RE

Monday, June 27

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Wednesday, June 29

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

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