



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



September 2016

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

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

September 4

Si, Se Puede! (Yes, you can!) – Bart Harloe, Pulpit Guest
This Labor Day sermon will examine the historic role of the United Farm Workers in California and the U.S., refracted through the prism of the actions of long-time labor activist and teacher Hub Segur. He will look at the UFW experience and explore ways in which this historic project informs labor issues looming on the near horizon of the 21st century. Music by John Danis and friends will enliven the service. And there will also be a Social Action Shared Offering for the Central New York Farm Workers group located in Syracuse.
Greeters: Dwight Stevenson, Cliff & Janice Westerling, David Doran
Kitchen Cabinet Advisor: Lorraine Olendzenski
Social Hour: Pat Gengo, Jean & Eric Williams-Bergen, Steve & Cara Coffin
Lay Leader: Robin Collen
RE Ambassador: Dave Bradford
Collection Counters: Will Siegfried, David Doran
Library Table: Lorraine Olendzenski

September 11

Ingathering: Practical Ways to Unity – The Rev. James Galasinski, Minister
In a world full of divisions, we need the tools and skills to promote unity in our everyday lives. The Rev. Galasinski's first sermon after being called as settled minister will take a look at the need for unity and how to have a lasting interfaith and intercultural dialogue with people that may disagree with us. This Sunday we will celebrate Water Communion. Please bring a small amount of water with you that is significant or symbolically meaningful to you.
Greeters: Jim Williams & Donna Dilworth, Carol Gable
Council Welcomer: Todd Moe
Social Hour: Karen Bage, Robert Best & Anita Figueras, Matilda Larson & John Rosales
Worship Associate: Mark Berninghausen
RE Ambassador: Jenn Whittaker
Collection Counters: Pat Gengo, Tim Opdyke
Library Table: Kate Whitehorne

September 18

The Seeds of Contemplative Prayer – The Rev. James Galasinski, Minister
As part of a series on spiritual practices, the Rev. Galasinski will explore the techniques of contemplative prayer that have been used by mystics for millennia. We normally think of prayer as recitation of words, but in contemplative prayer, words are not necessarily used, reason is set aside, and intuition takes over. The goal is contact, a union, or a silent love. It takes time in solitude and regular detachment to practice it.
Greeters: Rich Fennessey & Carmen Stuart-Fennessey, Brian & Claire Gardam
Social Hour: Pat Alden & Louis Tremaine
Worship Associate: Doug Rubio
RE Ambassador: Wil Rivers
Collection Counters: Jon Montan, Lorraine Olendzenski
Library Table: Lois Cutter

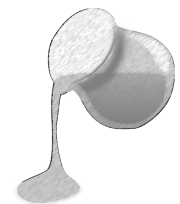
September 25

The Tao of Leadership – The Rev. James Galasinski, Minister
Leadership grounded in spirituality is needed more than ever in our community and in our world. Using Chapter 17 of the Tao Te Ching as a text and starting point, the Rev. Galasinski will look at leadership as a calling and how the Tao, or the Way, is counter to how leadership is thought of in our culture.
Greeters: Andrea Ferro, Kelly Johnson-Eilola, Emmy Stevenson, David Nelson & Rebecca Pickens
Social Hour: Charlie Bradt, Dick & Peggy Mooers, Valerie Ingram & Richard Grover
Worship Associate: Sarah Bentley-Garfinkel
RE Ambassador: Rhonda Rodriguez
Collection Counters: Lonie Bogett, Will Siegfried
Library Table: Judy Gibson

INGATHERING

Sunday, September 11

Water Communion - Please bring a small amount of water that is significant or symbolically meaningful to you.



ON THE CALENDAR

Please print and post!

Sunday, September 4

9:30 a.m., UShare meeting

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

Monday, September 5 (Labor Day)

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, September 6

1:30 p.m., Personnel Committee meeting

1:30 p.m., Communications Committee meeting

Wednesday, September 7

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

6:30 p.m., Church Council meeting

Thursday, September 8

7:00 p.m., Worship Committee meeting

Sunday, September 11

9:00 a.m., RE Family Focus Group

10:30 a.m., Ingathering Intergenerational Worship

Monday, September 12

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

1:00 p.m., Library Committee meeting

Tuesday, September 13

4:00 p.m., Welcoming Committee meeting

Thursday, September 15

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

Friday, September 16

5:30 p.m., Start-up Potluck

Saturday, September 17

8:45 a.m., Start-Up Workshop

Sunday, September 18

9:15 a.m., Coffee, Conversation & More

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

Noon, Environmental Action Committee meeting

Noon, Religious Education Volunteer Orientation

Monday, September 19

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Wednesday, September 20

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

Sunday, September 25

10:30 a.m., Worship and RE

Noon, Hunger 101

Monday, September 26

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, September 27

7:00 p.m., Stewardship Committee meeting



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton

Minister, The Rev. James Galasinski

Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education

Nelly Case, Music Director

Carol Strome, Choir Director

The Reverends Anne Marsh and Wade Wheelock, Ministers Emeritus

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FROM OUR MINISTER

In this refulgent summer, my family has traveled through 10 states and over 2,000 miles. Along the way, we saw great sand dunes, deep dark canyons, and some of the highest snow-capped mountains of the Rockies. I was also able to visit relatives in Europe and see medieval walled cities and the stunning new architecture of Berlin. However, after all that traveling, especially with a one year old, it is good to be here in Canton with its deep lush green colors, nearby waterfalls, Eastern-style full day rains (you don't see those things New Mexico), and with all of you. My family and I are enjoying more walking, more quiet, more family time, and the gentler pace of the North Country.

While in Europe, I read about police killing African American men, non-violent protests, and the ambush and assassination of police. More recently, my hometown, Milwaukee, has been in the news with another killing by police followed by riots. Black Lives Matter is a national movement and is here to stay. As I ponder what our country and police departments need to do be doing and how as a church we should respond, I am confronted with my own inner struggle with racism. I know white people, like myself, have a lot of soul work to do.

Along with those reflections, I have been developing some routines and processes here, learning the uniqueness of this church, leading parts of Sunday worship, and meeting with many of you. My first service in the pulpit will be September 11th. This service has been traditionally called, Homecoming, Ingathering, First Sunday, and/or Water Communion. For simplicity's sake, I am calling it Ingathering and during that service we will have water communion. It is a first Sunday and a homecoming in many ways, not only for me, but a new academic year, and a new church year with new members. We gather together in newness. In water communion, we may bring water from far or near but we empty our individual containers into a singular vessel. We are all a mysterious one. In a country full of division, may we, in our own small way, be a force for unity.

Blessed Be, The Rev. James Galasinski

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

So many of us are tuned in to the academic year and that sense of a new beginning September brings. Even if we are not a teacher, professor, or parent of school-aged children, we are swept along with the momentum of a new school year.

This year we can all honestly say we have a reason to perk our ears up at the beginning of September. Yes, it is the end of summer, but for us it is the beginning of something new, something exciting, something big.

We welcomed James Galasinski as our settled minister on August 1, and he has spent the last month getting acquainted with the vagaries of church life at 3½ East Main Street. He has been a welcome presence at our worship services, and for me, personally, a wonderful addition at many committee meetings. From getting acquainted with our visiting bat population to putting names and faces together each Sunday to exploring the long history of our church, James has been in discovery mode. I have really enjoyed our first month together.

An important part of launching a successful new ministry is getting off to a good start – setting goals and aligning expectations. Fortunately, the UUA has a program established to help congregations do this very thing. Referred to as “Start-Up Weekend,” this program begins with a congregation-wide event on Friday September 16, to explore our church history and talk about the future. James, Church Council, and other

church leaders continue this work during a workshop on Saturday. See details about our “Start-Up” below and look for more information in the Wednesday enews.

Many of us had the distinct pleasure of hearing Zach Barnes on Sundays this summer in his role as our interim music director. From his thoughtful musical choices to his own virtuosity, it was a wonderful musical experience for all in attendance. We thank Zach and wish him well as he ventures off to begin college at Brown University.

Our very able Music Committee has come up with a plan for worship services this fall that includes a monthly appearance by renowned organist Sondra Goldsmith Proctor, several appearances by the Bell Choir, and a variety of guest musicians. This plan gives us the opportunity to reimagine the role music plays in our worship services and how we can best meet those needs in the future.

As most of you know, our very capable Congregational Administrator Gwen Cunningham, has been asked to be the Interim Science Librarian at SLU. This is a wonderful opportunity for Gwen to utilize her MLS degree and we wish her well in her new position. Anyone who has experienced Gwen’s willingness to help, tenacious problem-solving skills, and great sense of humor knows how much we will miss her. Gwen is finishing up with us at the end of August, and has graciously agreed to do what she can to help train her replacement. Interviews with candidates for the Congregational Administrator have been completed and we hope to have a new person in place in the next two weeks.

To think that one year ago we were just beginning our search for a settled minister. Today we have a wonderful minister eager to explore the future with us. Please make every effort to attend the Start-Up potluck on Friday, September 16. This is the start of something big and you won’t want to miss it!

Barbara Beekman, Church Council President

START-UP POTLUCK

When: Friday, September 16, 5:30 - 8:00

What: An opportunity for all congregants to share a meal, engage in exploration of our past, and express their hopes for our future.

Please bring a dish to pass, based on the first letter of your last name

A - G: salad

H - R: main dish

S - Z: dessert

Don’t forget your potluck packs!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PONDERINGS

As we begin this new church year, I am excited for the changes that will be happening in the religious education program. This year will see us continuing Nursery for our three year old and younger children, Spirit Play for our PreK-1st graders, Coming of Age for our 8th-9th graders, and Youth Group for our 10th-12th graders. However for our 2nd-4th graders and 5th-7th graders we will be utilizing a workshop rotation model in the classroom. This model of programming will see us visiting a new topic every four to six weeks.

We will be following month-long theme based programming for the younger grades. Each month we will be sharing stories and activities related to the idea that our UU community is a precious gift. We will be honoring this gift of community and its role as a caretaker of our UU values. Some of the themes are Covenant, Healing, Identity, Risk, Zest and more.

Our 5th to 7th graders will be participating in a Makerspace program. Every four to six weeks, the children will be creating a new project that supports our UU values and their interests. They will be making bucket drums and learning to play them, they will be creating content for the church website, giving back to the natural world, and deciding on their own project.

As our children and youth start out this new church year with new programs designed to enhance creativity and deepen UU values, I would like to encourage our adults to think of ways to deepen their connection to our community. Whether that be joining a Chalice Circle Group, attending a Coffee, Conversation and More program, or becoming involved in a church committee. All of these opportunities have the potential to enrich and deepen your spiritual life. Looking forward to a deeply enriching year and seeing you all. May it be so.

Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education

RE FAMILY FOCUS GROUP

Parents of children in the RE program, as well as RE volunteers and others who are interested, are invited to participate in our RE Family Focus Group on Sunday, September 11. We will gather in the Social Room for pastries and coffee at 8:45 a.m. and then divide into small groups for a discussion to begin at 9:00 and continue until just before service begins. Childcare will be provided in the downstairs RE space. This year, the RE Committee is investigating ways to help families carry home and continue the activities and ideas that are explored every Sunday in RE. We need the help of all of our families to make the UU experience truly multigenerational and to keep faith flowing throughout the week! Please come join the discussion and share your ideas.

What's Coming Up in September in Religious Education?

September 4 - Fun Day

September 11 - RE Family Focus Group and Ingathering Worship Service

September 18 - Religious Education Program begins and Teacher Orientation

THANK YOU THANK YOU...

- † Jenn Wittaker, David Bradford, and Sally Hoose for acting as DRE over the summer
- † Anna Dickinson, Pat Glover, Janet McFarland, Arthur Freeheart, Wil Rivers, David Bradford, Maria Dickinson, Emily Dixon, and Linda Kenny for helping out downstairs during the summer months in the nursery and with the Summer at Hogwarts Program
- † Jenn Whittaker for organizing and overseeing the Sand Castle Building Contest during HUUTenanny
- † Bonnie Danis, Kate Whitehorne, Debs Kalacin, Linda Kenny, and Fred Glover for their help with the August blood drive

JOYS & SORROWS

- † Our condolences to Carol Strome and Theresa Witmer and their families following the passing of Carol's father in July.

- † Joyous wishes to Julia Grigel, whose marriage to Olivier Gohier was celebrated with family and friends in our church in August.
- † Our thoughts are with Betsy and Mike Bommer, following the death of Mike's brother.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE UPDATE

September SASO

A few times each year we collect a special Sunday offering, known as our Social Action Shared Offering. In the spring our SASO recognized the important work of the National Alliance on Mental Illness in NY and in June the work of Hospice of St. Lawrence Valley (also honoring with the Rachel Grant award recipient members of our congregation who have done important volunteer work for Hospice). Together, we collected \$1,285, and we acknowledge the generosity of our congregation.

The SASO for September will be received on behalf of the Workers Center of Central New York. This worker-based organization has been helping farmworkers for decades to recapture stolen wages, know their health and safety rights, demand safer working conditions, gain access to needed medical care and other services, and obtain protections under the NYS Labor Laws currently denied them. In a recent effort to win the right to collective bargaining enjoyed by all other workers in the state, the WCCNY (along with other organizations) helped a Lewis County farmworker file a lawsuit against NYS for unfair and unconstitutional labor laws. If won, this case could bring an end to the last remaining racist Jim Crow law in New York State that excludes farmworkers from the right to organize. For more information, see the Social Action Bulletin Board in the Social Room and go to www.workerscentercny.org.

September is Hunger Action Month

Gloria McAdam, executive director of Garden Share, gave a compelling pulpit talk on August 14 about food insecurity and how we can best address it by coming into fellowship with neighbors in need. The Social Action Committee (SAC) looks forward to building on these ideas with a "Hunger 101" workshop led by Gloria, to be held after church on Sunday, September 25. This is a highly interactive event that will pull you into the issues, so we urge you to come. Youth Group in particular is invited to participate. Light lunch will be provided.

On Sunday, September, 11, Garden Share hosts its Second Annual Fight Hunger 5K walkathon/fun run on the Remington Recreation Trail. For more information go to <http://www.gardenshare.org/content/fight-hunger-5k-0>.

UShare Update

Between drought, heat, and voles, it has been a challenging year for the UShare gardens, but we continue to harvest fresh produce for local food pantries thanks to the hard work of our committed volunteers. Spinach, carrots, kale, chard, red cabbage, radish, cucumbers, and parsley have all been harvested with peppers and tomatoes on the way. While the harvest has been smaller than past years, it is still much appreciated as is the work of all the adopters and volunteers who support UShare.

Voter Registration

Voter registration deadline is October 14. Urge people to register, especially newcomers and students.

Church and Community Program

Thanks to all who contributed to the August School Supplies initiative. More than 130 children received a

backpack and \$40 in school supplies (required by their teachers); they were also invited to opt for a free back-to-school haircut.

Warm thanks to those who, over the summer, have been contributing non-perishable goods to the CCP pantry. Donations can be left in the "Feed the Need" box in the Social Room. Can't remember what is needed? Pick up a wallet-sized yellow card with some shopping ideas outside the church office. This work, along with our Ushare gardens, is part of our shared ministry focused on addressing inequalities in the North Country

Pat Alden, Co-Chair, Social Action Committee

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The EAC continues to work to meet the expectations associated with our congregation's status as a Green Sanctuary (GS). This designation requires that we increase awareness of the role of the environment and environmental justice in the UU faith and that we reduce the environmental footprint of our operations. We are making a difference! As detailed in the [annual GS progress report](#) recently submitted to the UUA, the Green Sanctuary commitment is shared by many committees across our congregation. Efforts this past year ranged from replacing 100-W outdoor light bulbs with LEDs (B&G Committee), to making bird and bee houses (Religious Education Committee), to partnering with several area environmental groups to educate and advocate for change (Environmental Action and Social Action committees). Please help us establish and implement our next projects to maintain this congregational commitment. New EAC members and ideas from anyone are welcome. Join us at the next EAC meeting, Sunday, September 18, at noon in the Upstairs classroom. A light lunch will be served.

Sue Powers, Co-Chair, Environmental Action Committee

COFFEE, CONVERSATION & MORE IS BACK!

Coffee, Conversation & More will resume in September. We meet before church twice a month on the first and third Sundays to share conversations (and coffee!) on a wide variety of topics. All are welcome.

On September 18 at 9:15 a.m., the Welcoming Committee invites all to join an informal pre-church discussion to tackle a topic that will be all too real for us this fall. The media will try our patience until November as we face an onslaught of political ads, opinions, and pleas for support. The focus of our CC&M conversation will be on civil discourse and the use of empathy in our inevitable conversations over politics. Please visit <http://www.uuworld.org/articles/political-empathy> in the *UU World* to read an article we'll use as our starting point. Surely you have a friend or relative who challenges your patience and political empathy. Let's brainstorm some thoughts and use the article as our guide.

Stevie Michaelson, Chair, Welcoming Committee

CHALICE CIRCLE

Have you ever considered joining a Chalice Circle? Or are you wondering, what is a Chalice Circle? Once a month a small group (8 to 10 people) come together to share their thoughts and feelings around a specific topic like friendship, doubt, gratitude, balance. In preparing for these gatherings, you deeply connect to yourself and your spiritual beliefs. During the confidential conversations, you hear thoughts and stories from others that deepen your connection to our UU community. We will be beginning new sessions starting in October. If you are interested in joining our already existing second Tuesday of the month group or a new group meeting the third Monday of each month, please contact Carol Zimmerman at dre@uucantonny.org with your preference.

JOIN THE CHOIR!

The adult choir will begin rehearsing on Sunday, September 11, at 9:00 am in the choir room downstairs. Choir is for people who like to sing! We rehearse three times per month before church, and perform in worship services twice a month.

9/11 rehearse at 9:00 am, sing in church

9/18 rehearse at 9:00 am

9/25 rehearse at 9:00 am, sing in church

New members of all voice parts and abilities are welcome! Music reading ability is helpful but not necessary. We perform music of all styles, levels of difficulty, and time periods, sometimes in simple unison, often in four-part harmony, and sometimes in other languages. The more members we have, the more interesting music we can do and the better we sound! We think we are a very welcoming and congenial group so please consider joining us this year!

You do not need to commit for the whole year, but are welcome to stop in for a few times or a few months. If you are interested in participating in choir this year, contact choir director Carol Strome, or just show up at a rehearsal. We'll be glad to see you!

Carol Strome, Choir Director

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE NOTES

Building & Grounds has assumed responsibility for lost and found items. The location of lost and found continues to be the shelf above the coat rack next the congregational administrator's office. B&G will inventory items each month; anything not claimed after one month will be donated to the Church and Community Program.

A key is no longer required to operate the church's elevator. While the key holes remain, all keys have been removed. To call the elevator, push the call button. All other operations remain the same: close the wooden door; wait for the inner accordion to automatically close; and push button for desired floor. If the elevator does not come when called, check to ensure that all the wooden doors are properly closed.

Pete Beekman, Chair, Building & Grounds Committee

ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO KNOW!

A reminder from the Communications Committee that you will find all the church-related news and information you could possibly need or want on our fabulous website - www.uucantonny.org. News and calendar updates are available from the homepage, as is information for newcomers. If you have ideas or suggestions - or updated information - please send them to communications@uucantonny.org.

And don't forget that the church directory is available online as well; you can access it from both the Our Church and Get Involved tabs. This directory is updated at least once a month, so it includes the very latest contact information for everyone. If you don't know the password, ask a friend or call the church office - 386-2498 - to get the inside scoop!

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