



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



October 2016

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

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

October 2

Victim, Martyr, Survivor, Activist: What's the Right Way to Suffer? Paul Siskind, Pulpit Guest

When a person faces significant social injustice or a traumatic event in their life, that person (and the community around them) can have a variety of reactions to the situation. Because each person and each situation is different, it is often challenging for people and communities to understand and navigate through the complex dynamics, in order to allow the process of healing to begin. Paul Siskind works as a teacher, musician, biologist, landscape designer, and socio-political advocate and lobbyist. He and his husband Todd Moe have established an endowment at the church to fund a biennial Symposium for Social Justice, scheduled to begin in Fall 2017.

Greeters: Sally & Gary Hoose, Rhonda Rodriguez & Richard Cook

Lay Leader: Robin Collen

Acting DRE: David Bradford

RE Ambassador: Jenn Whittaker

Social Hour: Leo Burger, Heather & Jeff Rousell, Theresa Witmer

Kitchen Cabinet Advisor: Reg Budelmann

Collection Counters: David Doran, Ruth Baltus

October 9

Struggle: African American Humanism - The Rev. James Galasinski

This sermon will examine the unique contributions African Americans have made to humanism. While being an important corrective voice of scientific objectivity and voicing the underbelly of society, black humanists have created their own rich theological vocabulary.

Greeters: Robin Collen, Duncan & Lois Cutter, Paul Cutter

Worship Associate: Mark Berninghausen

Acting DRE: Jenn Whittaker

RE Ambassador: Arthur Freeheart

Social Hour: Sarah Bentley-Garfinkel & Ryan Hicks, Dan Kuelgen

Collection Counters: Pat Gengo, Tim Opdyke

October 16

Loosening the Generosity Stopper - The Rev. James Galasinski

It is in giving that we receive, but perhaps the opposite is true. Sometimes receiving is just as important as giving when cultivating generosity in others and ourselves.

Greeters: Linda Kenny, Pete & Kathy Wyckoff

Worship Associate: Valerie Ingram

RE Ambassador: Rhonda Rodriguez

Social Hour: Louise Bixby, Lonie Bogett,

Lorraine Olendzenski & Tim Nolan

Collection Counters: Jon Montan, Lorraine Olendzenski

October 23

Running in the Background - The Rev. James Galasinski

Though we may have only one window open, our computers are running applications and processing programs behind the scenes. Similarly, cultural and emotional apps are running in the background of our minds, influencing us without our knowledge.

Greeters: Janet Green, Jon & Kathy Montan

Worship Associate: Doug Rubio

RE Ambassador: Anna Sorenson

Social Hour: Kathy Curro, David Bradford

Collection Counters: Lonie Bogett, Will Siegfried

October 30

Slightly Haunted - The Rev. James Galasinski

Our deceased ancestors and loved ones never quite leave us. This multi-generational service will look at how Halloween, Dia de los Muertos, and Samheim intersect. Along the way, we will honor the ancestors of our faith and our congregation. Please bring to the service a picture or another artifact that reminds you of a deceased loved one.

Greeters: Pat Glover, Oscar Sarmiento &

Lillian Trevizan, Judy & Shaili Singh

Worship Associate: Robin Collen

RE Ambassador: Sally Hoose

Social Hour: Valerie Ingram & Richard Grover, Sally Vrooman

Collection Counters: Valerie Ingram, Lorraine Olendzenski

ON THE CALENDAR

Please print and post!



Sunday, October 2

9:00 a.m., Choir practice
9:15 a.m., Coffee, Conversation, and More
10:30 a.m., Worship and Children's RE
12 noon, Environmental Action Committee mtg.

Monday, October 3

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, October 4

12:15 p.m., Personnel Committee meeting
7:00 p.m., UU 101

Wednesday, October 5

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

Sunday, October 9

9:15 a.m., Coffee, Conversation, & More
10:30 a.m., Worship and Children's RE
3:00 p.m., Gibson-Nelson wedding

Monday, October 10

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation
7:00 p.m., Social Action Committee meeting

Tuesday, October 11

11:30 a.m. -5:00 p.m., p.m., Red Cross Blood Drive
1:30 p.m., Communications Committee meeting
4:00 p.m., Welcoming Committee meeting
7:00 p.m., Chalice Circle
7:00 p.m., UU 101

Thursday, October 13

7:00 p.m., Worship Committee meeting

Friday, October 14 -

Saturday, October 15

Our Whole Lives Retreat

Sunday, October 16

9:00 a.m., Choir practice
9:15 a.m., Coffee, Conversation & More
10:30 a.m., Worship & Children's RE
Afternoon, UShare at Cecilie Garden

Monday, October 17

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation
7:00 p.m., Chalice Circle

Tuesday, October 18

7:00 p.m., UU 101

Wednesday, October 19

6:30 p.m., Religious Education Committee meeting
7:30 p.m., Jazz Circle

Thursday, October 20

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

Sunday, October 23

9 a.m., Get-Acquainted Coffee
9 a.m., Choir practice
10:30 a.m., Worship and RE
11:30 a.m., Annual Meeting and Potluck

Monday, October 24

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, October 25

7:00 p.m., Stewardship Committee meeting

Thursday, October 27

6 p.m., Worship Committee planning retreat

Sunday, October 30

10:30 a.m., Intergenerational Worship Service

Monday, October 31

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton

Minister, The Rev. James Galasinski
Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education
Sara Trimm, Congregational Administrator
Carol Strome, Choir Director

The Reverends Anne Marsh and Wade Wheelock, Ministers Emeritus

Office hours: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
(315) 386-2498 ♦ office@uucantonny.org ♦ www.uucantonny.org

FROM OUR MINISTER

Thoughts on Worship

A UU minister once told me that when you lead worship, “Remember, someone there might be giving it their last chance.”

I asked for a clarification. “Do you mean religion or life?”

He said, “Both.”

I take worship very seriously. To me, worship is about celebrating and contemplating what is of worth and ultimate meaning in our lives. Out of all the things a minister does, I feel most called to leading and designing times to reflect and create sacred space like this. Many religious leaders claim worship to be the center of congregational life. While this might be true for many congregants, ministers and other religious leaders say this because that is what they spend the majority of time on. However, Sunday worship with a Protestant order of service does not work for everyone and we have many other ways to be connected to this community.

It is important to acknowledge that UU worship services are heavily aural, with lots of speaking and music. If we take into account we have a diversity of learning of styles among us, we should try to incorporate all learning styles into worship. I feel strongly that there has to be a kinesthetic element in worship.

You may have noticed I changed “Announcements” to “Next Steps” in the Sunday order of service. If the goal of Sunday morning is to meditate on what is of ultimate worth, I see worship as time that potentially changes lives. “Next steps” has more of an action orientation to it, a reaction to a life being changed in some way. Next steps should be short and to the point. For example, “If you were moved by last week’s sermon on social justice please attend the....”

Child Dedications

Child Dedications are rituals held during Sunday worship involving water and roses where babies and children are welcomed into this faith community and include:

- A blessing for the new life of the child
- An expression of the parent or parents’ hopes for the child
- A promise by the congregation to support and nurture the child

If you are interested in having your child dedicated in a Sunday morning worship service, please contact me.

Blessed Be, The Rev. James Galasinski

UU 101 This Fall

James will present UU 101, a five-part series on what Unitarian Universalism is and how our church works, on Tuesdays in October and November. Intended for people new to UUism, everyone is welcome for a “refresher course”!

The classes will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Romer Room, beginning Tuesday, October 4. The first session will focus on Worship and Theology. Other sessions will be: October 11 – History; October 18 – Living our Faith: Social Justice; November 1 – Growing in Faith (Lifespan Religious Education); November 15 – Meaning of Membership.

Childcare will be available. You may sign up at the Welcome Table after church or by emailing office@uucantonny.org.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I am most grateful to all those who participated in the "Start-Up" Potluck. More than 50 congregants enjoyed some delicious food and provided interesting, enlightening, and entertaining stories about our church community. UUA regional representative Joan Van Becelaere led the group through a series of questions about our notable past and how we view ourselves as a congregation.

One theme that kept repeating itself at the potluck was pride in our role as local leaders on social action issues. Several people gave examples of past leadership such as the calling of Canton's first woman minister in 1941, our role in the local anti-war movement in the '60s and '70s, and our decision to become a Welcoming Congregation in the mid '90s. Today, we continue these efforts in myriad ways, from blood drives to SASOs to demonstrating in support of Planned Parenthood.

Joan continued that conversation on Saturday with Church Council and James. Our transition years were a time of considerable introspection and Church Council was focused on some very specific objectives. Now it is a time to look outward, to see how we can streamline operations, and to direct more of our efforts to the meaningful work that is the core of our congregational identity. Church Council will be continuing this discussion with James throughout this year. We have a lot to talk about!

And now we begin. The challenges for our first year with James will be to open ourselves to the possibilities, to move ourselves forward, and to keep seeking out ways we can honor our history as North Country leaders.

Questions, comments or concerns: president@uucantonny.org.

Barbara Beekman, Church Council President

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, October 23, immediately after the service. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on the 2017 Church Council slate. Everyone is welcome, but only members may vote.

An all-church potluck will follow, to which *everyone* is invited!

Look for details from the Nominating Committee.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PONDERINGS

Blessings to you as we enter the fall season. May its abundance and beauty fill you. With the change of season, some are compelled to consider new goals or recommit to ones that might have been neglected. As the RE program begins its new year, we too have created a few new goals. For this year, we are looking to:

1. Enhance our formal and informal evaluation of the program;
2. Create resources and programs that support families and individuals in living their UU values throughout the week;
3. Create monthly inspirational and meaningful resources for our teachers.

To this end, we will be asking members, friends, and volunteers to complete satisfaction surveys about trainings, programming, classroom curriculum, and more. We will also be collecting information about how the Religious Education program can support you in living your UU values. Are you wishing we had more potlucks and game nights? Are you considering joining a Chalice Circle? Would you like to see the

Family Ministry weekly email expanded? Would you consider receiving a text midweek to alert you of some cool quotes and inspirational readings? Look for surveys to help us understand these wants and needs. Finally, our teachers give their time and talent five Sundays over the year. We want to show our appreciation not just on RE Sunday but throughout the year. We are looking to provide a monthly email with classroom management tips, spiritually fulfilling readings or quotes, and more.

We hope you will give us your feedback, share your ideas and be inspired by some new programs and resources. May you find inspiration in this time of year and deepen your spiritual connections. Blessed be.

Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education

What's Coming Up in October in Religious Education?

Sunday, October 2	Coffee, Conversation, & More at 9:15am
Sunday, October 16	Coffee, Conversation, & More at 9:15am
Wednesday, October 19	Religious Education Committee meeting at 6:30pm
Sunday, October 30	Multigenerational Worship Service

OWL UPDATE: ABBREVIATED SCHEDULE!

Because of scheduling issues that affect participation by the greatest number of high school youth, the Our Whole Lives calendar has been adjusted to *one* retreat from Friday evening, October 14, to Saturday evening, October 15. If this change means that you will now be able to participate, please let Carol Zimmerman or one of the OWL facilitators (listed below) know *as soon as possible*.



We want to emphasize that this is not a “sex ed” class. It is a program about friends, clothes, music, relationships, sex, responsibility, and independence. Through thoughtful and unhurried conversation, you will gain from others, and share your own, knowledge, life principles and skills you need to express your sexuality in life-enhancing ways. OWL puts sexuality into the context of values and personal responsibility, helping all of us to manage social pressure and advocate for equality. It provides an opportunity to bring values and integrity to the real-life issues while having a ton of fun!

Really, what you learn, think, and talk about during the OWL retreat will benefit you for your whole life!

If you want to learn more about the OWL high school curriculum, you can talk with us or we can put you in touch with OWL alumni, who really know the scoop.

Valerie Ingram, Jan DeWaters, Jim Williams, Richard Cook, Kelly Johnson-Eilola

OFFICE NEWS!

It was hard to say good-bye to Gwen, but it's equally exciting to welcome our new Congregational Administrator Sara Trimm! Sara may be familiar to many who have worked with or hosted international students at St. Lawrence University; she has most recently been the coordinator of international student services at SLU.

Originally from Minnesota, Sara studied German and Communications in college and later completed an M.A. in Intercultural Communications and European Studies at Fachhochschule Fulda in Germany. She moved to the North Country in 2002 to work at St. Lawrence. She took a break from working when her kids were born and then returned to SLU. She is delighted to start this next adventure in her life because it will allow her more time with her family. She loves to garden, to laugh, to be outdoors, and to spend time with her boys.

Be sure to stop in and say hi. Sara's office hours will be Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Email and phone remain the same - office@uucantonny.org and 386-2498.

THANK YOU THANK YOU...

- † Anna Sorensen, Arthur Freeheart, David Bradford, Esther Katz, Jenn Whittaker, Rhonda Rodriguez, Sally Hoose, and Wil Rivers for an amazing RE Committee retreat.
- † Wil Rivers and Relani Prudhomme for overseeing the Fun Day the last Sunday in August.
- † Anna Dickinson for being in the nursery every Sunday this summer.
- † Kelly Johnson-Eilola, Jan DeWaters, Valerie Ingram, Jim Williams, and Richard Cook for planning our senior high OWL program.
- † David Bradford, Laura Foster, Anna Dickinson, and Sharon Tavernier for overseeing the Fun Day on September 4.
- † Wil Rivers for his tireless support in preparing for teacher orientation.
- † All volunteers who attended the Religious Education teacher orientation.
- † Mark Berninghausen, and Roger Hutchinson for helping remove brush and stumps on the east side of church so grass can be planted in the spring.
- † Stefan Grimberg for replacing numerous lights throughout the church and for installing a new Knox box for the fire department.
- † Erik Whittaker for repairing loose floor tiles in the basement.
- † Pete Beekman for installing restroom signs and the Romer Room signs.
- † Bobbi Haldane for researching custom room-darkening blinds for the Romer Room to be installed in early November and for helping recycle and dispose of numerous items in the bell tower room.
- † Fred Glover for painting the side entrance hallway.

JOYS & SORROWS

- † We send birthday wishes across the miles to long-time member Marilyn Ross who will celebrate her 80th birthday at her new home in Selinsgrove, PA. If you would like to send Marilyn greetings, her address is in the directory on the website or contact the church office.
- † We are overjoyed to celebrate the marriage of Judy Gibson and David Nelson on Sunday, October 9 (see below). Congratulations and best wishes!

An Invitation! Please come!

Judy Clark Gibson and David Sprague Nelson joyfully request the pleasure of your company at their wedding, Sunday, October 9, at 3 p.m. at the church, and invite you to share cake and punch with them and their families in the Social Room following the ceremony. No response necessary, just come! No gifts, please.



SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The informing theme of our social action work has been to better understand and to address economic inequality in the North Country. That this is a national concern is evident in the current political campaigns; the Unitarian Universalist Association selected “Escalating Inequality” as the focus for Congregational Study and Action Issues between 2014 and 2018. Public Broadcasting (PBS) is recognizing this concern by having a 100-minute program on declining social mobility and increasing poverty, titled “Dream On,” airing Friday, October 7. We hope that many in the congregation will make time to watch this program. The Social Action Committee has purchased it for our library, and we plan to host further discussions that build on this film.

The next American Red Cross blood drive will be held Tuesday, October 11, from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Social Room. For more information, or to register in advance, go to www.redcrossblood.org. If you can assist with registering and dispensing refreshments at this event, please contact Pat Alden at socialaction@cantonny.org.

We continue to gather signatures for the petition to allow undocumented workers to obtain driver’s licenses. See the Social Action table at Social Hour. For more information or to sign the petition electronically, go to www.uucantonny.org/green-light-driving-together-new-york-campaign-petition/.

Pat Alden, Co-Chair, Social Action Committee

USHARE

Now in our tenth season, UShare, our church’s social action gardening project, has had an up and down year. We lost John Tyo, who was so committed to the program, and the weather and varmints didn’t cooperate. But now new energy is coming from SUNY Potsdam.

To learn more, help bring in the bumper winter squash harvest, or just to have a good time in fellowship, please save Sunday afternoon, October 16. Come out to the Cecilie Garden in Lehman Park, Potsdam for a potluck (with maybe a little bit of gardening). We’re right next to the river if you want to bring your canoe.

Look for more information and directions to follow or talk with Margaret Harloe or David Bradford, we’re friendly folk.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING SLATED

The [Environmental Action Council](#) (EAC) will meet Sunday, October 2, from 12 noon to 1 p.m. in the up-stairs classroom. The EAC works to maintain our congregation’s status as a [Green Sanctuary](#) – and we are looking for new members! Please come to learn about our accomplishment and help make plans for this year’s actions. Light lunch will be served.

Sue Powers, Co-Chair, Environmental Action Committee

MORE COFFEE, CONVERSATION & MORE!

This year’s inaugural meeting of CC&More was a rousing success with 25 folks sharing a productive conversation about political empathy and engaging in conversations with those who have differing views. Several excellent suggestions for empathetic engagement were made, including:

- † Listen with an open heart.
- † When at a loss for how to respond, use compassionate language such as: *I can understand how you might feel that way.*

- † When in disagreement, ask yourself: *Could I be even a little wrong in my thinking?*
- † Look for peace in yourself and project that peace outward.
- † Keep a sense of humor.
- † And a recommendation for a title that can be found in our library: *Cultivating Empathy: The Worth and Dignity of Every Person – Without Exception* by Nathan C. Walker.

Next, CC&More will offer a more environmental theme. The environmental action committee is hosting both October conversations:

Sunday, October 2: Mark Berninghausen will lead a discussion on the complex state of honeybees, beekeeping and beekeepers, and the unlikely alliances that are forming to make things better. More information on this topic can be found here at www.wired.com/2016/08/jerry-hayes-how-to-save-the-bees-monsanto/

Sunday, October 16: Jon Rosales will share his knowledge and experience of climate change on indigenous villages in the Arctic. Several short videos that illustrate the extent of the impact are available at www.aksik.org/documentaries

CC&More begins at 9:15 a.m. As always, childcare is available. We hope you can join us!

FROM B&G - SEEKING INPUT

For a number of years, a focus of the Building & Grounds Committee has been improving our landscape, with guidance from Richard Grover. We have worked hard to integrate new plantings with shrubs and trees that are approaching 80 to 100 years old. Over the last 15 years we have removed a few diseased or



declining plantings including the front yew hedge, which was removed four years ago for liability insurance reasons after it became overgrown and its root system disrupted sections of the old concrete sidewalk.

This summer we removed one of the cedar trees at the right front corner of the church. This cedar had grown too close to the church walls, and branches were resting on the church roof. Having spent \$120,000 a few years ago to replace the roof, we are trying to follow all the recommendations given by our roofing contractor to extend its life beyond 50 years. Now the B&G Committee believes the time has come to remove the four cedar trees at the left front corner of the church.

We have been monitoring the growth of our “front corners cedars” for a number of years. Two of the cedars on the left front corner frequently knock the rod off our sundial. We attempted to tie them off ¾ of the way up the trunks but the rod was again knocked off in high winds.

In this early photo of the church, these cedars were four to six feet in height. In hindsight, eastern white cedar may not have been the right choice to plant, especially so close to the church’s foundation. The cedars have reached a size where significant root systems are likely compromising the foundation. They are so large, they are out of scale with church architecture hiding the beautiful round turret housing the spiral

staircase leading up from the minister's office to the bell tower room. We feel it is important our landscape and building be in harmony so one does not diminish the other.

We are looking for input on how best to address this situation and would appreciate hearing alternatives you have on how to proceed. To facilitate our request, cross Main Street and look at the view of the church building from the Village park. A good portion of the building is hidden by various trees and shrubs. We are interested in hearing from you so please contact B&G at building@uucantonny.org or speak with a B&G committee member.

Pete Beekman; B&G Chair

CARING CIRCLE

If you are a newer member of our church, you may not yet be aware of the Caring Circle. The Caring Circle is a group who responds when our members experience special needs and challenges due to illness, birth/adoption, death, and other life changes. The impact of these challenges can be eased somewhat by our caring for one another, person to person, family to family.

How does it work? To join the Caring Circle, just complete the simple form on the Caring Circle's page on the church website (<http://www.uucantonny.org/get-involved/caring-circle>). On the form, indicate which caring actions you would be willing to provide when needs arise. This might be helping with transportation to a doctor's appointment, bringing a meal to a family, visiting a member in the hospital or nursing home, or helping with a memorial service reception. It can be as simple as sending a card to someone having a tough time. When a need arises, you will receive an email request. Please be assured that when you are contacted about a need, you are free to decline if the timing of the request is not good. We also try to match needs and carers on a geographical basis.

Finally, if at any time you or another church member has a "Caring-Circle-type" need, please contact our Caring Circle Coordinators, Esther Oey and Natalie Panshin (their contact information is in the church directory or email caringcircle@uucantonny.org). If you have a need that requires pastoral care, please contact our minister, James Galasinski (minister@uucantonny.org). By letting us know of the needs that are out there, you help us do the work for which our committee was designed, and help us create the type of caring environment that allows our church to live up to our UU values.

Natalie Panshin, Caring Circle Coordinator

STEWARDSHIP - DREAMING OF THE FUTURE

After a very successful canvass last year we would like to sustain the momentum as we move into James' first year of ministry with us. Through discussions with the Budget and Finance Committee, we have developed an approach to meeting our budget goal for 2017 that we believe is responsible, forward thinking, and achievable.

- ✦ First, to protect the church endowment, we propose following the UUA recommendation of lowering the amount of income we take from the endowment from 5 percent to 4 percent to avoid depleting the endowment, as recent returns are much lower than in past years;
- ✦ Second, our goal for the fall pledge campaign includes the entire amount of pledge income needed for the 2017 budget. Reaching this goal means that we would *not* need a separate fundraiser in the spring to meet the operating budget target for 2017; however, a separate appeal for our Fair Share contribution is still planned.

- † The Budget and Finance Committee projects that a 4 percent increase in the operating budget will be necessary to meet fixed cost increases. This goal does not include a cost-of-living increase (COLA), but rather that we will focus on creating a more sustainable budget that will serve as a foundation for our future.

How will we organize our canvass this year? The Stewardship Committee has decided to continue following a canvass model based on the “Appreciative Speed Pledging” sessions that we initiated last year. We will again use a hybrid approach and each person/family will be able to choose between joining an Appreciative Speed Pledging session (childcare will be available) or scheduling an individual canvass conversation. However, we have tweaked the model to allow for a more flexible approach and to make the process more transparent.

The biggest change is that we are not expecting attendees of Appreciative Speed Pledging sessions to also serve as canvassers. Rather, we have reached out to a wide swath of our community to expand our pool of canvassers. We hope to build a big enough cohort of canvassers so that once we complete the Appreciative Speed Pledging sessions, each canvasser will need to make only one visit. We hope these changes will help to telescope the annual pledge campaign to a brief yet engaging period with enough flexibility to work for everyone.

We have a new minister and it is time to begin thinking about our dreams for the future of our congregation. In his first Sunday service, James shared the powerful message of “Yes, and....” with us. In that same spirit, this year’s annual pledge campaign is focused on both the 2017 operating budget and looking deeper into the future. The Appreciative Speed Pledging sessions will be a chance to look forward and to share your most fervent and ambitious dreams for our beloved community. A definite “Yes, and...” moment! James will be here to listen and share and dream with us.

We look forward to hearing from you and we will be in touch with more information about the Appreciative Speed Pledging sessions this fall. We had great success last year and we want to build on that progress again this time around. Thanks very much for your past participation and your future involvement in this community!

Margaret Harloe, Stewardship 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.

UU MUSIC THIS YEAR

Organ. Saxophone. Voice. Guitar. Piano. Expect to hear many different instruments and styles of music as the Music Committee works with our minister and visiting speakers to create music for our Sunday services. We don’t have a Director of Music this year so we are improvising and so far it has been an exciting gig. The Music Committee appreciates your support as we negotiate this new terrain. Let us know if the

Sunday music moved you or made you smile or made you cry (real tears or tears of frustration). Thanks for your help.

Betsy Kepes, Music Committee Chair; Ann Csete, John Danis, Carol Gable,
Pat Glover, Rhonda Rodriguez, Carol Strome, Karen Wells

Choir Schedule

New choir members are always welcome. Contact Carol Strome for more information, or just show up at a rehearsal. We'll be glad to see you! The choir schedule for October is:

- 10/2 - Rehearse at 9:00 am in the choir room
- 10/9 - No rehearsal (Columbus Day weekend)
- 10/16 - Rehearse at 9:00 am, sing in church
- 10/23 - Rehearse at 9:00 am, sing in church

Carol Strome, Choir Director

Handbell Choir News

Greetings from the Handbell Choir Director! I am Ron Berry from Potsdam, and I am very excited to be selected as your *interim* handbell choir director as your search continues for an overall Music Director. I come to you with five years as a ringer for the Noteworthy Handbell Choir in Potsdam and as the Music Director for the New Horizons Band of Northern New York (five of the handbell choir are members in the New Horizons Band!). So, I am looking forward to leading the UU ringers to our first service with you in late October. Ring On!

Jazz Circle

The initial gathering of the Jazz Circle will be on Wednesday, October 19 at 7:30 p.m., in the sanctuary. We will meet monthly to play jazz standards, with the goal to play in Sunday services regularly. Please bring your instrument, lead sheets, and ideas for the future. Anyone with an interest in jazz is welcome. If you have questions, please contact Pat Glover or James Galasinski.

COOTS LIBRARY

Largely through the suggestions of our awesome acquisitions librarian, Judy Gibson (who has an eye for books!), the Coots Library continues to add to its collection. Newly available titles include: *Girls and Sex: Navigating the Complicated New Landscape* by Peggy Orenstein, *Teacher, Guide, Companion: Rediscovering Jesus in a Secular World* by Erik Walker Wikstrom, and *Bridging the Great God Gap: Finding Common Ground Among Believers, Atheists and Agnostics* by Roger C. Schriener. More new books are coming, so come by the library and take a peek.

Thanks to a donation by author Stephen Ledoux, we have his stunning self-published book *Beautiful Sights and Sensations: Small Collections of Native American and other Arts*, which is dedicated to his lovely wife Nelly Case. This is a great book to page through and relax with. It's also nice to have such a gorgeous reminder of two community members whose presence at church and in Canton is missed.

We continue to be grateful to all of the people who donate top quality books that match the library's mission. But please leave a note and let us know who you are so your book can be properly attributed. For example, we appreciate the recent donation of *The Heart of the Buddha's Teaching* by Thich Nhat Hahn. If

you are the anonymous donor who left this book in the library, please let someone on the Library Committee know!

Anyone who is interested may take a copy of the small blue pamphlet *The First 150 Years: A Sesquicentennial History of the UU Church, Canton NY 1826-1976*. James found a stack of these when he was cleaning out his new office at the church. A copy has been safely archived in the library and we have many extras, so help yourself!

Finally, the committee will likely be taking a break from regular library work days as two members of our committee prepare to celebrate their impending nuptials. Congratulations to David Nelson and Judy Gibson as they get ready for this next chapter in their lives together. We couldn't be happier for you!

Lorraine Olendzenski, Library Committee Chair

GETTING AND SHARING CHURCH NEWS: WHAT 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.

Church news is also shared in a weekly enews "blast" that is sent out Wednesday evenings. If you believe you are on the mailing list but aren't receiving the emails, contact the [Communications Committee](#).

You can learn more about church communications, including deadlines for getting information into the church newsletter, enews, or order of service, or distributed to outside media outlets, at www.uucantonny.org/committees/outreach/sharing-church-news.

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 of the website. 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.

For more information or to get help accessing any church news please feel free to contact any member of the Communications Committee - we make housecalls!

Carol Pynchon, Communications Committee Chair

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