



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



November 2016

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

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

November 6

How Can We Love the "Deplorables"? - The Rev. James Galasinski

I live in a liberal UU bubble. I don't know one Trump supporter. Who are they? This sermon will attempt to answer that question with insights from Jonathan Haidt's theory of morality.

Greeters: Jason Shirtz, Rajiv & Geetika Narula, Judy Gibson & David Nelson

Worship Associate: Valerie Ingram

RE Ambassador: Esther Katz

Social Hour: Bonnie & John Danis, Maggie Hockett, Eileen Raymond & Donna Smith-Raymond

Kitchen Cabinet Advisor: JoAnn McAllister

Collection Counters: David Doran, Ruth Baltus

November 13

Incivility in an Age of Entitlement - Kathy Montan, Pulpit Guest

The sermon will feature stories of everyday incivilities, where they stem from, and what their effect is on us as individuals and on society.

Greeters: Margaret & Bart Harloe, Relani Prudhomme

Lay Leader: Jon Montan

RE Ambassador: Arthur Freeheart

Social Hour: Susan Powers & Will Siegfried, Anna Sorenson & Desiree LeBoeuf

Collection Counters: Pat Gengo, Tim Opdyke

November 20

Why I Hate the Seven Principles (and Love the Six Sources) - The Rev. James Galasinski

There are songs written about them (to the tune of Do-Re-Mi). They are memorized and taught in various ways. Are the Seven Principles our version of a creed? Can I be a good UU and not believe in all seven?

Greeters: Ron & Sharon Tavernier, David Weissbard & Karen Wells

Worship Associate: Sarah Bentley-Garfinkel

RE Ambassador: Sally Hoose

Social Hour: Wil & Rebecca Rivers, Bill Kirchgasser, Mark Berninghausen

Collection Counters: Jon Montan, Lorraine Olendzenski

November 27

Home - The Rev. James Galasinski

Many of us call this congregation our spiritual home. But we may call many places home. The concept of home goes beyond where we live and it's more about where we find peace and contentment. Perhaps the only true home we have is that deep abode within.

Greeters: Emily & Ben Dixon, Bill Short, Margaret Mauch

Worship Associate: Jon Montan

Acting DRE: Jennifer Whitaker

RE Ambassador: Todd Moe

Social Hour: Sara Ricalton, Todd Moe & Paul Siskind, Becky Van de Water

Collection Counters: Lonie Bogett, Will Siegfried



News to Know

*Please submit any items for the weekly e-news
by noon on Tuesdays*

Announcements

*Announcements for the upcoming Sunday
order of service need to be submitted
by noon on Wednesdays*

ON THE CALENDAR

Please print and post!



Tuesday November 1

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

Wednesday, November 2

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

Thursday, November 3

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir practice
7:00 p.m., Leadership as a Spiritual Practice

Saturday November 5 - Sunday November 6

COA Overnight

Saturday November 5

6:00 p.m., Diwali Potluck

Sunday, November 6

9:00 a.m., Choir rehearsal
9:15 a.m., Coffee, Conversation, & More
9:30 a.m., UShare Meeting
10:30 a.m., Worship and Children's RE

Monday, November 7

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, November 8

1:00 p.m., Communications Committee meeting
4:00 p.m., Welcoming Committee meeting
7:00 p.m., Chalice Circle

Wednesday, November 9

7:00 p.m., Chalice Circle
7:30 p.m., Jazz Circle

Thursday, October 13

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir practice
7:00 p.m., Worship Committee meeting

Friday, November 11 - Saturday, November 12

8:30 a.m., Teens HELP training

Sunday, November 13

9:00 a.m., Choir Rehearsal
10:30 a.m., Worship & Children's RE

Monday, November 14

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

Tuesday, November 15

7:00 p.m., UU 101: Meaning of Membership

Wednesday, November 16

6:30 p.m., Religious Education Committee meeting
7:30 p.m., Defying the Nazis film screening

Thursday, November 17

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir practice
7:00 p.m., Budget & Finance Committee meeting
7:00 p.m., Chalice Circle

Saturday, November 19

8:30 a.m., Worship Committee Retreat

Sunday, November 20

9:00 a.m., Choir rehearsal
9:15 a.m., Coffee, Conversation, & More
10:30 a.m., Worship and RE

Monday, November 21

December newsletter deadline
Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, November 22

7:00 p.m., Stewardship Committee meeting

Sunday, November 27

10:30 a.m., Worship
10:45 a.m., Religious Education Fun Day

Monday, November 28

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.
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FROM OUR MINISTER

Prayers and Leaders

I believe healing happens when we pray together on Sundays. Not in some magical way but in a very practical way. Caring for someone helps heal. Praying together is a practice of love, concern, and hope for each other and the greater good. I encourage you to let me know via email, phone, or in person if you have a pastoral concern in general. But to also let me know if there are specific concerns you would like addressed in the prayer on Sundays.

I preached a sermon, *The Tao of Leadership*, a few weeks back. In that sermon I highlighted a leadership group I want to start. I am calling it, *Leadership as a Spiritual Practice*. The first meeting will be Thursday, November 3, from 7 to 8:30 pm in the Romer Room. This group will meet monthly and will discuss and learn about the different aspects of leadership.

We experience a deepening commitment to our faith and congregation as a calling and I think it is similar in leadership. We are in a time of rapid change in our world. Leaders need a broad range of skills, both technical and visionary. You are welcome to grow in spirit together November 3 if you are a leader in the church or in the community or if you are being led into leadership.

Blessed Be, The Rev. James Galasinski

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I found last Sunday's sermon on giving and our annual canvass quite refreshing. There we were, talking about money in a straightforward, authentic way. Not necessarily a common occurrence in our religious community, and I thought - why is that?

We all know that the lights are on, the bills are paid, and the doors are open every Sunday. It is not because someone is waving a magic wand or there are special, money-producing elves in the bell tower. Quite simply, it costs money to support our community and we are the ones who provide that money. If you have been letting yourself off the hook by imagining someone else will take care of this, spoiler alert - that someone is you.

I have often thought about how very essential volunteerism is to the success of a small town. After 27 years in Canton, I have seen many things that would not have happened without some dedicated volunteers. So many aspects of our civic life exist only because of the contributions of volunteers. Our church community continues to thrive for this very same reason.

Think of the canvass as a potluck dinner. We all bring something; we sit together and share the bounty, and pause to appreciate what we have done, together. We rely on ourselves to provide the nourishment that sustains our faith community.

The Stewardship Committee offered a number of Appreciative Speed Pledging sessions that allowed the canvass to embrace our communal ethos. These sessions offered a chance to be generous with your pledge as well as your dreams for our future. For those who did not attend one of these gatherings, please take the opportunity to share your thoughts and dreams when your individual canvassers call on you.

Barbara Beekman, Church Council President

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PONDERINGS

According to the [UUA's religious education family webpage](#), "religious education can help us grow in faith, at any age. Yet faith development happens outside of our faith communities, too...especially at home. Parents and caregivers are our children's primary religious educators, and not only because we give explanations and advice. Every day, we model attitudes toward faith, meaning, and purpose that children will notice and copy." Our RE program is looking to support all levels of faith formation, especially our families, in bringing our religious education curriculum home each week. We are also committed to creating programming and resources that support growing our UU values and living them everyday.

As part of this effort, each week on Sunday afternoon, the RE program sends an email that shares of the day's classes along with a table grace and activities and discussion topics to deepen the learning. If you are interested receiving a copy, please email Carol at dre@uucantonny.org. We are also interested in learning what programming and resources you would be interested in receiving to support you in living your UU values daily. We are creating an online and paper survey to help us identify where we should focus our efforts. Please look for that in the new year. The RE Committee will also be offering a Coffee, Conversation, & More program on Sunday, November 20, at 9:15 a.m. to help identify other ways to support adults in their faith formation. Join us to brainstorm how to best meet the needs and desires of our congregation for adult religious education.

Our religious education program is growing and we need your help and support to best serve you. We are excited by the new programming and possibilities. May we continue to grow together. Blessed be.

Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education

What's Coming Up in November in Religious Education?

Saturday, November 5, 2 p.m. – Sunday, November 6, noon: Coming of Age Retreat

Wednesday, November 9: Chalice Circle Gathering

Wednesday, November 16: Religious Education Committee Meeting

Sunday, November 27: Religious Education Fun Day

THANK YOU THANK YOU...

- † Kelly Johnson-Eilola, Jan DeWaters, Valerie Ingram, Jim Williams, and Richard Cook for providing our senior high OWL program.
- † Karen Bage for organizing the meals and snack food for the OWL retreat.
- † David Bradford and Jenn Whittaker for being Acting DRE in Carol's absence.
- † Wil Rivers, Jenn Whittaker, Sally Hoose, and Rhonda Rodriguez for their work as RE Networkers.
- † Bonnie Danis, Becky Van de Water, Joan Kepes, and Linda Kenny for their help with the October blood drive.
- † Carol Pynchon for helping while the Congregational Administrator transitioned.
- † Gwen Cunningham for being available to answer the questions Sara asks while learning the new job.

JOYS & SORROWS

- † Our thoughts are with Eileen Raymond, and her wife Donna Smith-Raymond, after the sudden death of Eileen's son, Warren, in a motorcycle accident. We are holding them both in our hearts at this difficult time.
- † Our condolences to Pete and Kathy Wyckoff, following the passing of Kathy's mother.

COFFEE, CONVERSATION & MORE!

CC&More continues in November, meeting in the Romer Room on the first and third Sundays at 9:15 a.m. This month's conversations are:

November 6: Whatcha' Been Reading? The Library Committee hosts a discussion of good books. What have you read lately? What would you recommend to others? Committee members will share their favorites from the Max Coots Library. Bring your suggestions and get ideas to add to the stack by your favorite reading chair!

November 20: Adult religious education is a priority for our congregation. During this CC& More workshop, the Religious Education Committee will share a few models other congregations utilize for adult RE and facilitate a brainstorming session on how to best meet the needs and desires of our congregation.

As always, child care will be available! We hope you can join us!

STEWARDSHIP

Dreaming of the Future

The annual canvass to support the church budget is underway! This year, the Stewardship Committee is focused on the journey we have begun with James and where we will travel together, which is why the canvass theme for this year is "Dreams for the Future." In October, over 60 church members and friends attended Appreciative Speed Pledging sessions during which we strengthened our web of connection and looked ahead by sharing dreams for our collective future. Where do we want to focus our energies with social justice? How big do we strive to be? How do we want to grow religious education to provide more meaningful opportunities for both children and adults? These are just a few examples of questions that sparked conversation.

If you did not attend an ASP session, we still want and need to hear from you! We know the dates offered did not work for everyone, and also that some may prefer an individual visit. We have recruited a team of canvassers who are in the process of reaching out to members and friends. Please be generous with your time by meeting with your canvasser. If you have not yet been contacted, please let us know by emailing stewardship@uucantonny.org.

The annual canvass nurtures our community by fostering fellowship and because we – the members and close friends of the UU Church of Canton – provide the most significant portion of funding for the budget through our annual pledges. With this year's canvass, we need to increase pledge income by about 4%; that increase is required for two key reasons. The proposed budget incorporates UUA guidelines for how much income should be taken from the endowment for annual operations. We have been taking more than recommended in recent years, and that combined with lower than expected returns on investments, impacts the endowment principal. This change will need to be offset by an increase in pledge income. The other big item to note is that we are aiming to complete all fundraising for 2017 with the annual canvass rather than with additional fundraisers throughout the year. To meet these two goals, the 4% increase in pledge income is needed.

Every single pledge helps us to reach this goal, and all pledges are generously and gratefully received. We ask everyone to consider what they value in our church community and to contribute how they can. If you are inspired and enriched by Sunday services, if your children participate in religious education, if you have been nurtured in a chalice circle or supported by the caring circle, we ask you give so this church can continue to give back. Each week we close the service by reflecting on the light of truth, warmth of community, and fire of commitment that our chalice symbolizes and we promise to keep the flame burning. Your annual pledge is an important part of that promise.

Bart Harloe, Chair, Stewardship Committee

FROM THE SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Our next meeting will be on Monday, November 14, at 7 p.m. Agenda includes preparing for a panel discussion on whether and how education is a path out of poverty in the North Country. Please join Bill Short and Shaili Singh and the committee to explore what we can do to support students' efforts.

In keeping with our attention to Black Lives Matter, we recommend an award-winning documentary, made by Ava Du Vernay, the director of "Selma." Named for the constitutional amendment that abolished slavery, "13th" explores the racial injustice of our penal system. You can stream the film on Netflix and get more information at http://www.democracynow.org/2016/10/3/from_slavery_to_mass_incarceration_ava.

The Social Action Shared Offering take on October 30 will assist Haitians after Hurricane Matthew. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee has a long history of responsible activity in Haiti, working with local partners. In the aftermath of the hurricane, help is urgently needed to combat cholera and provide temporary housing. UUSC help will focus especially on the "stateless" refugees deported from the Dominican Republic and stranded along the border with Haiti, vulnerable families in shelters, and other groups most likely to fall through the cracks of traditional rescue and relief efforts. Learn more at www.uusc.org/hurricane-matthew-relief/. If you missed the SASO, checks made out to the church and memoed Haiti SASO may be sent to the church office.

Did you ever wonder about just how much our church gives through our SASOs? Check out the Social Action bulletin board in the Social Room. (It's a lot!)

Also on the bulletin board, you can sign the petition on behalf of Green Light: Driving New York, an initiative on behalf of undocumented workers, and learn more about the links between our church and the Workers' Center of Central New York. For more information or to sign the petition electronically, go to www.uucantonny.org/green-light-driving-together-new-york-campaign-petition/.

Our church supports the Church and Community Program's food pantry through regular donations of non-perishable food. When you shop for yourself, remember the Feed the Need box in our Social Room. We will also participate in the Giving Tree program this holiday season, which provides toys and clothing to low-income families. Look for the tags later in November.

Could you give an hour a week or a couple of hours a month to help hand out food in the CCP's Food Pantry? We need volunteers; the work is easy, light, and incredibly rewarding. Please email socialaction@uucantonny.org if you can help.

Pat Alden, Co-Chair, Social Action Committee

Could this be the way for you to serve our church and community?

Our church is allowed three representatives on the board of the Church and Community Program. Currently, we have a vacancy and would like to have our full complement. If working on behalf of low-income families in our community sounds right to you, please speak with Pat Alden, Relani Prudhomme, or Janet McFarland (outgoing representative, current food pantry volunteer) or email socialaction@uucantonny.org. Learn more at the CCP website: <http://www.ccpanton.org/>

MUSIC NOTES

Choir Schedule

New members are always welcome in our adult choir. Music reading ability is helpful but not required. Contact me for more information or just show up at a rehearsal. We'll be glad to see you!

The choir schedule for November is:

- 11/6 rehearse at 9:00 am, sing in church
- 11/13 rehearse at 9:00 am
- 11/20 rehearse at 9:00 am, sing in church
- 11/27 no rehearsal

Carol Strome, Choir Director

Handbell Choir

The Handbell Choir is looking for a few additional ringers to join our ranks. It is helpful if you can read music (or can at least keep a steady count). We practice most Thursdays at the church from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. If you are interested in joining us, contact director Ron Berry (contact info available from the church office).

Jazz Circle

The next gathering of the Jazz Circle will be on Wednesday, November 9, at 7:30 p.m., in the sanctuary. We will meet monthly to play jazz standards, with the goal of playing 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

The Library Committee is working on scheduling several book-related events in the coming months. We hope you'll join us at the Coffee, Conversation, & More on November 6. We will share our favorites from the Coots Library collection. Come ready to talk about your favorites and give suggestions for additions to our library.

We're also planning our annual holiday Book Fair in early December. We'll have a selection of Beacon and Skinner press books from the UUA Bookstore, as well as a few others. All profits go to our church so you can feel good about supporting the church while buying a gift for yourself or someone else. In January, we'll also be hosting a Common Read. More details will be coming in the next newsletter.

If you are new to the church and haven't yet stopped by the Coots Library, please come browse! We're always getting new books and we have scores of thought-provoking older titles as well. Feel free to chat up any of the committee members you may see hanging around in there - we love to share our thoughts on book!

Lorraine Olendzenski, Library Committee Chair

Let's Celebrate!

Geetika and I would like to invite our North Country family and friends for celebrating Diwali (the Festival of Lights and Harvest) on Saturday, November 5. We will have a get together at our home for a brief, auspicious ceremony (Aarti) at 5 p.m. then assemble at the church at 6 for a celebratory potluck. We will plan the main course but side dishes are welcome (no meat, eggs, onion, or garlic, please; dairy fine). Please bring your potluck packs. In the spirit of being green and sustainable we have planned on not using disposable Styrofoam and plastic plates and cutlery.

Hope to see you all. Much Love, Light, and Peace! ~ Rajiv and Geetika

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