



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



January 2017

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

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

January 1

Looking Forward, Letting Go – Mark Berninghausen, Pulpit Guest, and Carol Zimmerman, DRE

As we come into a new year, we will contemplate in this multi-generational service what we are looking forward to in 2017 as well as reflect on what we want to leave behind.

Greeters: Rebecca & Tim Weld, JoAnn & Lowell McAllister

Lay Leader: Mark Berninghausen

RE Ambassador: Esther Katz

Social Hour: Jim & Stevie Michaelson, Ben and Regina Budelman

Kitchen Cabinet Advisors: Jim & Stevie Michaelson

Collection Counters: David Doran, Ruth Baltus

January 8

A Theology That Adapts – The Rev. James Galasinski
This sermon will be the first in series that examines the major tenets of liberal theology, of which Unitarian Universalism is rooted. Liberal Theology has always been willing to adapt, change, and bend to respond to the spiritual needs of the time. By embracing science and the modern world we have mediated a third way between secularism and traditional religion.

Greeters: Randy Merrill, Judy DeGraaff

Worship Associate: Jon Montan

RE Ambassador: Jenn Whittaker

Social Hour: Sally & Gary Hoose, Judi Cohen

Collection Counters: Pat Gengo, Tim Opdyke

January 15

What Happens to a Dream Deferred? - The Rev. James Galasinski

A lot of progress has been made since the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's. Some African Americans have broken glass ceilings and achieved things that could once only be dreamed about. In honor of Martin Luther King Day we will take a look at what has *not* happened in racial justice, the dreams that have been deferred.

Greeters: Bob & Irene Gardner, Betsy Kepes & Tom Van de Water

Worship Associate: Robin Collen

RE Ambassador: Rhonda Rodriguez

Social Hour: Pat Dunkelberg, Milner Grimsled, Julie Van Duyne

Collection Counters: Jon Montan, Lorraine Olendzenski

January 22

A Theology That Flows – The Rev. James Galasinski
The Earth and all its beings are interdependently connected. Things flow together in obvious and mysterious ways. Liberal Theology is grounded in an organic whole.

Greeters: Bobbi Haldane, Deborah Kalicin, Sally Vrooman

Worship Associate: Doug Rubio

RE Ambassador: Dave Bradford

Social Hour: Charlie & Lyla Hunnewell, Miles Manchester, Jacque Young, Sheila Cerwonka

Collection Counters: Lonie Bogett, Will Siegfried

January 29

The Liberty of the Human Spirit - The Rev. James Galasinski
Liberal theology has always emphasized autonomy and freedom. We are not damned to live a certain way but have a choice in the matter. In the words of activist and humanitarian the Rev. Waitsill Sharp, "God is to be interpreted by the liberty of the human spirit. So I do what I do without piety but to the greater glory and freedom of the human spirit."

Greeters: Kate Whitehorne, Kareena Stemples,

Janet MacFarland, Amy MacFarland

Worship Associate: Sarah Bentley-Garfinkel

RE Ambassador: Arthur Freeheart

Social Hour: Dwight Stevenson, Dave Doran, Cliff & Janice Westerling

Collection Counters: Lorraine Olendzenski, Valerie Ingram

HAPPY ★ NEW YEAR

ON THE CALENDAR

Please print and post!



Sunday, January 1

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

Monday, January 2

no office hours today

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, January 3

12:15 p.m., Personnel Committee meeting

Wednesday, January 4

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

6:30 p.m., Church Council meeting

Thursday, January 5

7:00 p.m., Worship Committee meeting

Sunday, January 8

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

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

Monday, January 9

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

7:00 p.m., Social Action Committee meeting

Tuesday, January 10

1:00 p.m., Communications Committee meeting

4:00 p.m., Welcoming Committee meeting

7:00 p.m., Chalice Circle

Wednesday, January 11

7:30 p.m., Jazz Circle

Thursday, January 12

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

7:00 p.m., Leadership as a Spiritual Practice

Sunday, January 15

9:00 a.m., Choir rehearsal

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

11:30 a.m., Racial Justice Discussion

Monday, January 16

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, January 17

January Newsletter Deadline

Thursday, January 19

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir Practice

Sunday, January 22

9:00 a.m., Choir Rehearsal

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

10:30 a.m., Multi-generational Worship

Monday, January 23

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday January 24

7:00 p.m., Stewardship Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 26

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir Practice

7:00 p.m., Leadership as Spiritual Practice

Sunday, January 29

9:00 a.m., Choir Rehearsal

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

Annual Budget Meeting

Monday, January 30

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

Welcome Betsy to Our Staff

Over the past 5 months I have been enjoying the tight-knit community of the Canton/Potsdam area, connecting with the chaplains at St. Lawrence, working out at Roos House Athletic Center, walking to church, going to Ottawa with my family, but most of all I have been impressed with this community of faith. You are people that care about each other and are active in the community. The more members I meet and get to know, the more I am impressed.

I also have been enjoying working with a dedicated and professional staff. I want you to welcome Betsy Kepes to our already great staff as the new Music Coordinator. She has a deep and long connection in this congregation and in the North Country. Betsy is a bit of a renaissance woman. You many know her as a wonderful pianist and teacher but she is also an activist, a writer, and in general a joyful person to be around. She will be in charge of scheduling music for all Sundays starting January 1, 2017. In addition to coordinating music on Sundays, Betsy will be our main accompanist for 10 months of the year.

The Music Director Search Committee (Doug Rubio, John Danis, and Carol Strome) all worked diligently to find the right person. Since that candidate never came forward, we took a new approach and decided to fulfil the 3 different roles separately. Sondra Goldsmith Proctor will continue to play organ once a month. Ron Berry will continue to be our interim handbells director. Betsy will be that much needed 3rd piece to bring everything together and add to our diverse approach to music. On the Sundays Sondra and the handbell choir are not performing we hope to have as many congregants playing music as we can. Please contact Betsy if you are interested in playing or have ideas about music for future Sundays.

May we continue to bless each other and the world with our care.

So It May Be, The Rev. James Galasinski

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

A major objective for 2017 is to rethink the role of Church Council and to chart a path that allows us to evolve into a more strategic body. To this end, we are reading *Governance and Ministry* (2nd edition) by Dan Hotchkiss. This book addresses the many ways that church governance presents itself and the pitfalls of various governance styles. Thankfully, it goes on to explore some alternatives. As the author states, it is easy to identify how your current structure doesn't work; not so easy to identify how it might change. We have been discussing one chapter at each Council meeting for the last 3 months, and plan a more extensive analysis at our Council retreat scheduled for early February.

One especially noteworthy concept Hotchkiss proposes is the shared empowerment of congregations and governance bodies – it doesn't have to be a zero-sum proposition. I think we have been moving in this direction (consciously or unconsciously) during our most recent transition, and that it is a worthy goal. We will keep reading and I will keep you posted on what we discover.

With the new year comes some changes to Church Council. We welcome the return of Jon Montan following his Search Committee sabbatical. Julie Van Duyne is continuing with a new, full term and Kathy Wyckoff is back on Council having previously served about 10 years ago. Gwen Cunningham will be joining the group as Treasurer.

We say goodbye to Carol Gable, Heather Rousell, and Gary Hoose.

Carol took on the challenge of being our Treasurer during this transitional period and she has done a great deal of work compiling and streamlining our financial procedures.

Heather has been a warm and welcome presence, bringing a we-can-do-it spirit to all our work. We will miss her and her willingness to take on whatever needs doing.

Gary has reached his term limit and it is hard to let him go. He has been the institutional memory of the last 8 years, and has brought an openness and thoughtfulness to all our discussions. His voice will be missed around the council table.

I think many of us feel 2017 will be challenging in ways we can't quite articulate. There is a lot of uncertainty in the wider world. What is not uncertain is how grateful I am for all those who are willing to do the work, whatever it is, to keep our church community moving forward and meeting the challenges.

Barbara Beekman, Church Council President

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PONDERINGS

"In this new year, let us be amazed.

Let us search for new life and hope in our midst.

Let us nurture creativity in every form.

Let us be reminded that new insights of the universe are always being made.

In this new year, let us be amazed."

By Aaron Stockwell

What will amaze you in 2017? Where will you look for hope? How will you nurture creativity in yourself and in others? What new insights are you searching for? The new year is a time to reflect on where you have been and where you want to go. It offers an opportunity to start a new. As you begin this new year, may you find the time and space to ponder what's important and may you find solace in your faith and our religious community. Let us be amazed. Blessed be.

Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education

What's Coming Up in December in Religious Education?

- January 1 Multigenerational Worship Service - No Religious Education Classes
- January 10 Second Tuesday Chalice Circle Gathering at 7pm
- January 18 RE Committee Meeting at 6:30pm
- January 28-29 Coming of Age Retreat

Chalice Circle Looks to Grow

The second Tuesday of the month Chalice Circle wishes to draw its radius larger. We currently have six members, but winter travel plans will temporarily reduce our number to four. We welcome new members into the circle. Our regular meeting time is 7:00 PM at the church.

Each time a Chalice Circle meets there is a theme that the participants explore. Themes can cover personal, societal, spiritual and ethical topics. There is a facilitator for each session and an opportunity for deep sharing in a safe space. Participants agree to respect confidentiality. It is time well spent.

If you have an interest or have questions, please contact Carol Zimmerman at 315-386-2498 or via e-mail at dre@uucantonny.org.

THANK YOU THANK YOU...

- † Jenn Whittaker and Todd Moe for overseeing decoration making during the November Fun Day.
- † Karen Bage and Helen Hutchinson for helping the Coming of Age class decorate the Church and Community Thrift Store for the holidays.
- † Julie VanDuyne and Helen Hutchinson for attending the SLU Gospel Service with the Coming of Age class.
- † Wil Rivers for gathering and organizing the holiday pageant props.
- † Claire Rousell for the technical support during the holiday pageant.
- † Wil Rivers, Sarah Rivers, Anna Sorensen, and Jenn Whittaker for jumping in to support the children during the holiday pageant.
- † Carol Strome for stepping in at the last moment to play all of the music for the holiday pageant.
- † Bill and Katherine Brown for providing the Christmas tree and setting it up
- † Judy Gibson & David Nelson, Pat & Albert Glover, Stevie Michaelson, Helen Hutchinson, and Linda Kenny for helping Becky Van de Water decorate the church
- † Becky Van de Water for decorating the church and leading the charge to beautify the sanctuary.
- † Sean & Gwen Cunningham for helping with some of the internet issues recently
- † Stefan Grimberg for installing the new dual flush low flow toilets
- † Phil Collins for installing a security cable for the Coots Library laptop and trouble shooting and resolving the slow water flow in the coffee maker.
- † Roger Hutchinson for re-configuring the screen to protect the furnace intake and exhaust pipes from snow and ice buildup
- † Miles Manchester for removing dead birds and guano from the bell tower
- † Pete Beekman for spending countless hours troubleshooting building issues and fixing all he can.

JOYS & SORROWS

- † Our heartfelt condolences to Karen Wells and her husband Dave Weissbard. Karen's mother, Rollene Wells passed away on November 28 at her home in Richmond, Virginia
- † We are keeping Barney Gage in our thoughts after the death of his father, Clarke Gage, who passed away at the age of 95

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!

Adult Choir schedule for December

1/15 Rehearse at 9:00 am

1/22 Rehearse at 9:00 am, sing in church

1/29 Rehearse at 9:00 am, sing in church

Jazz Circle

The next gathering of the Jazz Circle will be on Wednesday, January 11, 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.

WELCOMING COMMITTEE

Winter Potlucks begin in January:

Help chase winter's chill by attending potluck dinners in each other's homes. We are reaching out to potential hosts and attendees. Please visit the Welcome Table where hosts can sign up and indicate the number of guests welcome. Other info on the sheets will include any special requirements, such as "vegetarian only", or "children welcome" etc. For more information, see committee members or email welcome@uucantonny.org.

Stevie Michaelson, Welcoming Committee

B&G NEWS

Winter is here; it's a challenging season for the B&G Committee. Using programmable thermostats to maintain a comfortable temperature inside allows us to keep an eye on our energy consumption. It's a balancing act. So we are reasonably warm on Sunday mornings, we begin warming up the sanctuary from 58 to 62 degrees on Saturday night at 11:15; and at 6:00 am on Sunday push temperature from 62 to 68. An issue with lack of heat in the Upstairs Room has been fixed. Water was added to the system to increase pressure and the radiator is now working. That said, that room will always be chilly (it is controlled by thermostat in the social room) so dress warmly. The sidewalk from the side entrance down to the back entrance ices over regularly due to the freeze-thaw cycle of snow on the west side roof. It is getting treated daily but will continue to be a problem area. Coming soon - new door handles for the upstairs bathroom that will indicate when the bathrooms are vacant or occupied. A Reminder - if you discover a building problem or have a special request, please use the online work order request option at the B&G Committee site.

Pete Beekman, Building and Grounds Committee

COFFEE, CONVERSATION & MORE!

Sunday, January 8 at 9:15 a.m. we will introduce a water purification project in Uganda. Information about this important work can be found at www.ugandanwaterproject.com/alinitwe, but come to learn more. And on Sunday January 22 at 9:15 a.m., participate in a discussion about The Race Card Project, a simple yet challenging exercise to explore thoughts, experiences or observations about race. Learn more here <http://theracecardproject.com/>.

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

Social Action Committee will meet on Monday, January 9 at 7 p.m. to continue further planning for a February panel focused on "making Canton a welcoming and safe town for our students." Additional issues for the winter and spring will also be discussed. All interested people are welcome.

NC 350 will have their next meeting on January 18 at Community Room in the Potsdam Civic Center. Business meeting at 6:30 p.m. and at 7:30 p.m. we will be having a very informative presentation on electrical vehicles with Paul Dietershagen from Sierra Club.

Giving Tree was a wonderful experience for recipients and volunteers alike. From the Community Room at the Fire Station, this initiative of the Church and Community Program offered to 175 families (431 children) the following gifts: clothing (including 300 coats, thanks to radio station B99 in Potsdam), toys, books, and hand-knit winter hats, beautifully crafted by local knitters. See photo below.

Women's March -- Sponsored by the Social Action Committee and spearheaded by several church members, North Country participation in the January 21 Women's March in Washington, D.C. will be robust - over 150 participants expressing their determination to resist the potential rollback of women's and all peoples' rights in the next administration.

More ways to be involved in social justice efforts –Anyone in the church community is encouraged to nominate an organization (local, national, or international) for a Social Action Shared Offering. In November 2016 we collected \$1,147 to support Hurricane Relief in Haiti. This kind of support and awareness is an important dimension of our social justice work. You can find a nomination form on the church website [here](#).

The Church and Community Program needs your help. You can volunteer to help at the food pantry or in the thrift shop, or feed the need by bringing in non-perishable food items for the box here at church. You can find more information or view their newsletter by visiting their website: <http://www.ccpccanton.org/>.

Film strongly recommended -- Ava DuVernay's important and award-winning film, "**13th**," – about racial injustice in America -- is now streaming on Netflix. This is included in the "common read" for the new year, which includes several books on this issue.

Campus Kitchens Program needs your help in January! The organization that hosts the free will dinners here at our church every Monday night is in need of volunteers to help with food preparation, serving the meal, and clean up after while students are on break. Sign up for a shift or two or email adowning@stlawu.edu.



Pat Alden, Co-Chair, Social Action Committee

There will be a discussion about racial justice in the sanctuary following the January 15th service. Please join James and Barbara for a conversation about the various ways the church is advocating for racial justice, including the SURJ movement, Black Lives Matter, and other local initiatives.

COOTS LIBRARY

Thank you to everyone who stopped by the Annual Holiday Book Fair to browse or buy. We are always excited for the opportunity to share new books at this event and are grateful for your support. This event also allows us to acquire new books for the library, so look for many new additions in the coming weeks. Books that have become available in the Coots Library in recent months include two books by Tara Brach: [True Refuge: Finding Peace and Freedom in Your Own Awakened Heart](#) and [Radical Acceptance: Embracing Your Life with the Heart of the Buddha](#). A new title has been added to the Memorial Collection - [Breast Cancer Husband: How to Help Your Wife \(and Yourself\) during Diagnosis, Treatment and Beyond](#) by Marc Silver. We also have a copy of the new Skinner Press book [Cultivating Empathy: The Worth and Dignity of Every Person-Without Exception](#) by Nathan Walker. This book was picked by Publishers Weekly as 'One of the Top Six Books for a Post-Election Spiritual Detox'.

As we put the busy holiday season behind us and perhaps move into a more relaxed pace, please take some time to check out a copy of [The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement](#) by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II with Jonathan Wilson Hartgrove. The library has purchased five copies of this book. This book and some of our other titles related to racial justice (see last month's Library Column) will be the topic of upcoming discussions co-sponsored by the Library Committee and the Social Action Committee. A good way to join the conversation is to also watch the documentary '13th', available for streaming on Netflix.

Wishing you a peaceful transition to 2017 and the strength to sustain an open heart and an open mind,

Lorraine Olendzenski, Library Committee Chair

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