



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



JUNE 2017

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

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

June 4

Improvisation and the Meaning of Jazz – The Rev. James Galasinski

One of the common denominators of all the different styles of jazz is improvisation. This sermon will explore improvisation as a metaphor for religious community and doing theology together.

Greeters: Pat Alden & Louis Tremaine, Leo Burger

Worship Associate: Jon Montan

RE Ambassador: Esther Katz

May Kitchen Cabinet Advisors: Carol & Tim Opdyke

Social Hour: Randy Merrill, Jan DeWaters & Stefan Grimberg

Collection Counters: David Doran, Ruth Baltus

June 11

RE Sunday: We are the Future – Carol Zimmerman, DRE, & RE Children

Wisdom from our RE Program. Our children and youth have been engaged in deepening their UU values throughout this past year. We will share our highlights, our views for the future, and thoughts about how we have been transformed.

Greeters: RE Committee, teachers, and children

Lay Leader: Theresa Witmer

RE Ambassador: Sally Hoose

Social Hour: Church Picnic

Collection Counters: Pat Gengo, Tim Opdyke

June 18

Spiritually Nourishing Children is a Lot Like Basketball and Flower Communion - The Rev. James Galasinski

Getting kids to play basketball is a lot like getting kids to be spiritual. This multi-generational service will be about raising our children to be spiritual.

Everyone is invited to bring a flower for our annual flower communion.

Greeters: Charlie Bradt, Katherine & Bill Brown, Becky Van de Water

Worship Associate: Doug Rubio

RE Ambassador: Jenn Whittaker, Anna Sorensen

Social Hour: Betsy Kepes & Tom Van de Water

Collection Counters: Jon Montan, Lorraine Olendzenski

June 25

TBD – Mary Michalek, Pulpit Guest

Watch the website and e-news for information.

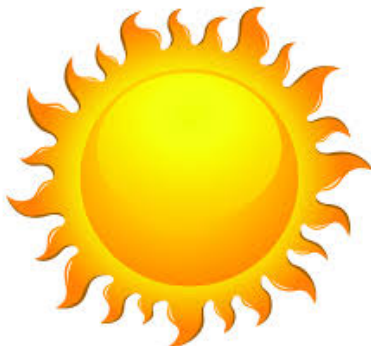
Greeters: Erik & Jennifer Whittaker, Robin Collen

Lay Leader: Robin Collen

RE Ambassador: Arthur Freeheart

Social Hour: Bobbi Haldane, Debs Kalicin

Collection Counters: Lonie Bogett, Will Siegfried



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

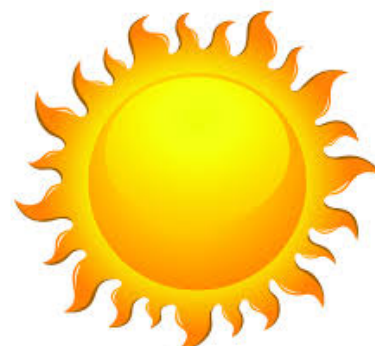
July and August office hours:

Tuesday to Thursday

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The office will be closed

June 30 to July 10



ON THE CALENDAR

Please print and post!



Thursday, June 1

Photo Sessions for Directory
4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir Practice

Friday, June 2

Photo Sessions for Directory

Saturday, June 3

Photo Sessions for Directory
Dairy Princess Parade

Sunday, June 4

9:15 a.m., Coffee, Conversation, & More
9:30 a.m., UShare Meeting
10:30 a.m., Worship and Children's RE
10:45 a.m., Religious Education Sunday Rehearsal

Monday, June 5

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, June 6

12:15 p.m., Personnel Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 7

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

Thursday, June 8

7:00 p.m., Worship Committee Meeting

Saturday, June 10

1:00 p.m., Richard Kimball Memorial Service
5:00 p.m., Chili Cookoff

Sunday, June 11

9:00 a.m., Choir Rehearsal
10:30 a.m., RE Sunday
12:00 p.m., Church Picnic

Monday, June 12

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

Tuesday, June 13

11:30 a.m., American Red Cross Blood Drive
1:00 p.m., Communications Committee Meeting
4:00 p.m., Welcoming Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m., Chalice Circle

Thursday, June 15

6:00 p.m., SURJ Meeting
7:00 p.m., Budget & Finance Committee Meeting

Saturday, June 17

10:00 a.m., Immigration Navigator Training

Sunday, June 18

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

Monday, June 19

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, June 20

Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, June 21

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

Sunday, June 25

9:15 a.m., Coffee, Conversation, & More
10:30 a.m., Worship & Children's RE

Monday, June 26

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Thursday, June 29

2:00 p.m., Office closed until July 11



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

Betsy Kepes, Music Coordinator

The Reverends Anne Marsh and Wade Wheelock, Ministers Emeriti

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

Installation Report

Many, many thanks to all the people who worked tirelessly to make James' installation such a meaningful event. Your efforts are very much appreciated and make us excited for the future of our congregation. The special collection raised a total of \$2,604.39, which was divided equally between the Living Tradition Fund and Meadville Lombard Theological School Tuition Aid.

FROM OUR MINISTER

The Upstairs/Downstairs Divide

The Rev. Evan Carmil-Ziemer, our congregational lead from the St. Lawrence District, was here for my installation. "Could I take picture of your kids' corner and write a blog about it?" she asked. I was a little surprised. "It's very innovative to have such a welcoming space for kids in your sanctuary. How long have you been doing it?" she asked. "Well, this is the first Sunday. We are trying it out because we wanted to have all ages present for the installation. It is an experiment. Let's hold off on the blog post for now," I replied.

After my installation, I decided to leave the beanbag chairs, the small table and chairs, the books, the crayons there for the time being. It was partly because I never liked the aesthetics of the cluttered nametag board, but mostly because I want children to feel welcome in the sanctuary.

A minister who grew up in a UU church told me that as a child he referred to the sanctuary as the "big house." For him, the sanctuary was for big people only, and it is no coincidence that "big house" is slang for prison. I don't think that is happening here to that extreme. Nonetheless, it speaks to the upstairs/downstairs divide we have. Carol Zimmerman is the Director of Religious Education and I am the Minister. It can easily be confused that I minister to adults and she educates the children and youth. However, that is not entirely true, I minister to children and youth and Carol educates adults. In addition, ministry and education are two sides of the same coin. Carol ministers and I educate as well.

I understand people might be very happy with the ways things are going; how the children and youth stay in the service for the first 10-15 minutes. Of course I understand age appropriate learning, that three-year-olds may not absorb much from a 20-minute sermon, and that some people want an hour of peace without distractions. But I also see the wisdom of the Rev. David Weissbard's words at my installation when he pointed out that so many churches would love having little voices disrupting things a bit. I think there is something beautiful when whole families go to church, or when children go to church with their grandparents. How many other spaces are in our culture mix the generations like we do?

My son stays in the sanctuary and does not go downstairs. I assume you know this because he talks, and coos, and likes to move around, like most two-year-olds do. My wife and I feel strongly that he should be in the sanctuary with us and not in the nursery. We feel this exposes him to experiencing a wider faith community and hopefully an experience of the sacred. Parents have different philosophies on whether to have their children in the sanctuary or not. I think both ways are valid. However, I am seeing a trend toward attachment parenting, the idea that kids should be with their parents most of the time. I like to think experimenting with the kids' corner will try to appeal to both sides and bridge the gap between the upstairs/downstairs divide. It would allow parents with different philosophies to choose what works best for them. In addition, Carol and I plan on having more multi-generational worship opportunities.

Some churches have bridged the gap between the upstairs/downstairs divide by having an all-ages RE time before or after worship. That means adult RE programming happens at the same time as children and youth programming. Coffee, Conversation, & More could work really well at the same time as children and youth RE. The churches that do this then intend every worship service to be multi-generational. This would also allow RE volunteers to attend worship.

Children pick up more than we realize. After the Mother's Day service, in which I must have said the word "peace" 20 or 30 times, my son kept saying "peace, peace, peace" the rest of the day. Maybe someday, the UUA will have an article on how welcoming our sanctuary is for all ages. But for the time being let's be open to improvisation and experimentation. Let's realize that children and youth pick up on a lot more than we give them credit for, and that they benefit from being around all ages, just as we do.

Blessed Be, The Rev. James Galasinski

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Sunday's service shined a light on white supremacy and sought to scrutinize our very own participation in this system. Maybe our unconscious participation, maybe our "reluctant" participation, but nonetheless, *our participation in a white supremacist system.*

Now I don't believe anyone in our congregation wakes up each morning and says "Hey what can I do today to perpetuate racial injustice in America?" But how many of us ignore the injustice in the system because it doesn't seem to affect us personally? It's invisible. It is just like that pile of clutter on my kitchen counter that never seems to go away. It's invisible to me, part of the landscape. Someone else (maybe even someone who lives in my house) might see it every single day, it might even pain them to look at it every single day, but it is invisible to me. I'd never intentionally hurt someone every single day, but I am.

One way white supremacy is alive in our world is the criminal justice system. In her book, *The New Jim Crow*, Michelle Alexander meticulously outlines the way the criminal system has replaced Jim Crow laws with a covert, racist, "injustice" system. It is horrifying. And it is happening with the approval - maybe even the support - of white people like you and me. This is not the column to explore the many ways the system has subverted justice for people of color, but suffice it to say, it was devastating to me to realize how culpable I am because I let it happen. And guess what, when the criminal justice system doesn't work for everyone, it is working for no one. Even more depressing, after some bipartisan progress on prison sentencing, the newly appointed Attorney General has decided to revisit the completely discredited "War on Drugs" rhetoric of the 1980s.

At the end of Sunday's service, James asked us to post suggested actions on sticky notes and place them on the doors to the social room. In looking at these responses, I can see that many involve listening *and* speaking up. Both are important. Can we listen to some hard truths about our role in perpetuating white supremacy? Of course we can. Can we speak up when that person thinks it's ok to slip a little racist innuendo into the conversation? Of course we can.

We can be visible in our support - both in one-on-one conversations and in the larger community. We can make ourselves visible to the outside world - we're the church with the banner! Come march in the Dairy Princess parade on June 3rd and let the wider community see who we are.

Let's get beyond good intentions, and get to the important actions.

Barbara Beekman, Church Council President

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PONDERINGS

June finds the religious education program preparing for the RE Sunday worship service on June 11. During this service, we will be wishing our graduating high school seniors well as they move onto their next journey in life. We hope you will join us for this beautiful and fun worship service.

Our religious education program is a deeply cherished ministry of the congregation. We are fortunate to have over 60 volunteers support our children and youth in their faith development. Many of my religious education colleagues are envious of this loving support. As the saying goes, "it takes a community."

This past year we have grown. Our nursery is seeing on average four to six children every Sunday. The classes have seen an increase in overall attendance too. As we prepare for this summer and next year, we are looking for help to meet this growth. This summer we will be offering an eight-week Jedi Academy and the nursery will be open every Sunday. Beginning this fall, we will offer Nursery, Spirit Play, Moral Tales, MakerSpace, Neighboring Faiths and Youth Group. Giving time and talent to our children and youth is a mutually rewarding experience. Both teacher and child grow in their Unitarian Universalist faith as well as develop meaningful relationships. We ask a commitment of five or six Sundays over the year for nursery and classes. Our Youth Group requires a deeper commitment of 10 to 12 Sundays along with potential overnights and field trips. If you are interested in helping over the summer, please [email](#) me. If you are interested in helping out for the upcoming year, please click [here](#) to complete the teacher registration form.

Seeking Jedi Masters!

During the summer we will be hosting a Jedi Academy for our children and youth. If you would be interested in leading or assisting this curriculum-based program, please contact Carol via [email](#).

Our religious education ministry provides an opportunity for all to grow in faith. May it be so. Blessed be.

Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education

Coming Up in June in Religious Education

- Sunday, June 4 RE Sunday Rehearsal during RE time
- Sunday, June 11 RE Sunday Rehearsal at 9:30 a.m., RE Sunday Worship Service
- Tuesday, June 13 Second Tuesday Chalice Circle
- Wednesday, June 21 Religious Education Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, June 25 Summer RE Programming begins

THANK YOU THANK YOU...

- † The MakerSpace RE class for delivering a check to the Church and Community Program
- † The RE Committee for hosting RE Sundae Sunday
- † The Coming of Age mentors and parents for help during the COA worship service
- † The Youth Group for welcoming the COA youth into their community
- † Glen Butler and Sally Hoose for helping out during RE Sunday rehearsal
- † David Bradford for acting as DRE for Memorial Day Weekend
- † The Rivers Family for providing use of their van for the Coming of Age trip to Boston
- † Rajiv Narula and Rhonda Rodriguez for chaperoning the Coming of Age trip
- † Kathy Curro and Kathy Wyckoff special support for the Coming of Age trip

JOYS AND SORROWS

- † Our deepest sympathies go to Donna Kimball on the death of her husband Richard Kimball on May 17. Dick's memorial service will be at the church at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 10.
- † Our heartfelt condolences to Mark Berninghausen whose older sister, Sally, passed away on May 9.
- † Thoughts and sympathies are with Shaili Singh and his family following the death of Shaili's father, Chanchal Singh, who passed away on May 12 at the age of 83.

COFFEE, CONVERSATION & MORE

Our last CC & More for the year is scheduled for Sunday, June 4, and 9:15 a.m., and you don't want to miss this one! Later this month, UUs from across the country will elect a new president for the UUA at the annual General Assembly. Based on the size of our membership, our congregation has four votes (three delegates in

addition to James). Join us for a discussion about the presidential candidates with our congregational delegates Mark Berninghausen, Judy Gibson and Margaret Harloe. Click [here](#) and [here](#) to learn more about the presidential candidates and bring your questions and comments with you!

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Our annual spring work day was a great success thanks to a great group of volunteers and a cool sunny morning. Much was accomplished with special kudos to Bobbi Haldane, Helen Hutchinson, Shelia Cerwonka, Pat Glover, Becky Van de Water, and Brian Gardham for washing windows. Kathy Wyckoff, Claire Gardham, Judy DeGraff, and Rajiv "Buckthorn" Narula took care of weeding, mulching, and planting annuals in our Memorial Garden. Pete Wyckoff, Pete Beekman, Roger Hutchinson, Sara Hutcheson, Katherine Brown, Linda Kenny, and Bill Hull spent the morning pruning shrubs and trees, edging weeding, mulching the front beds, thinning and replanting daffodils, and picking up trash. B&G is grateful for the help; committee members will finish the side and back beds in the coming weeks. Check out photos on our Facebook page and the [B&G page](#) of the church website.

Pete Beekman, Building and Grounds Committee Chair

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE Chili Cook-Off and Delicious Dessert Auction

It's not so chilly outside, so let's make it CHILI inside! And while we're at it, let's have dessert!! Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 10, at 6 p.m and get ready for good food and fun!

This year's chili/dessert fund raiser will support two goals: proceeds from the cook-off and dessert auction will be equally divided between the annual operating budget for the church and Big City Mountaineers*, a terrific organization that was brought to our attention by Ken Hebb.

Important Details

- Chili cooks can sign up here or during social hour on May 28 and June 4. Competitive categories will be: Carnivore's Delight, Vegetarian Vengeance, Most Spicy or Exotic, Tastes-Like-Chicken, and Young'uns (Master Chef must be 16 or younger but can have help). Winners will be democratically decided based on People's Choice.
- Dessert auctioneers can also sign up before and will bring a sample of the dessert for tasting. Silent auction winning bidders will receive a coupon for the dessert that can be redeemed at a future date.
- Entry fee for competitors is \$20. Admission of \$20 per person or \$30 for family includes an arm's length of tickets that will be used to vote for best chili.

Can't attend but want to support? A donation of \$20 will buy an arm's length of tickets that will be donated to those who can attend – buy a proxy vote.

Get cookin' and make it hot!

*Big City Mountaineers transforms the lives of under-resourced urban youth through wilderness mentoring expeditions that instill critical life skills. BCM partners with community-based youth organizations and caring adult volunteers who act as mentors in the field to help young people realize their potential. The BCM curriculum improves integrity, self-esteem, responsibility, decision-making abilities, and communication skills in nearly 1,000 youth annually. Later this summer, Ken Hebb will continue his work supporting BCM by participating in the *Summit for Someone* expedition to the Grand Tetons in Wyoming and is seeking sponsors. You can talk further with Ken at the cook-off!

Bart Harloe, Chair, Shared Ministry of Stewardship

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS & NOTES

Coming Up in June

Saturday, June 3	Canton Dairy Princess Parade
Monday, June 12	Social Action Committee meeting, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, June 13	American Red Cross Blood Drive
Thursday, June 15	Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) meeting, 6 p.m.
Friday, June 16	Immigrant Advocate Gathering, 1 p.m.
Saturday, June 17	All-day training workshop by New York Immigration Coalition
Sunday, June 18	Rachel Somers Grant Award presented

Social Action in the Community

Dairy Princess Parade: We will be marching in the parade on Saturday, June 3. All are welcome to join us as we carry our "Love is Love" signs along with our church banner. Meet us at 12:40 p.m. in the parking lot behind the Social Services building (on Judson Street).

American Red Cross Blood Drive: The next drive is Tuesday, June 13, from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Social Room. There is urgent need for Type O negative blood. If you can give, please make an appointment and find other information at <http://www.redcrossblood.org> or call 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767). If you can assist with registering and dispensing refreshments at this event, please contact Pat Alden.

Immigrant Advocate Gathering for those who serve immigrants across the North Country to meet one another and develop action plans to better assist immigrants. Friday, June 16, 1 to 4 p.m. in the Social Room, pre-register [here](#) by June 9 or contact Relani Prudhomme.

Immigration Navigator Training on Saturday, June 17, from 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., in the Social Room,. Whatever your level of service to the immigrant community, this training will help you better help others. Offered by the [New York Immigration Coalition](#) (NYIC), the training is completely free and includes all material. Breakfast and lunch are included. Pre-register by June 9 [here](#) or call Relani Prudhomme

Pat Alden, Co-Chair, Social Action Committee Chair

ALL THE NEWS...

Congratulations! You made it this far!! So you are an A+ newsletter reader!

The Communications Committee and church staff work hard to keep the congregation and community informed about what's happening in our church. We email this monthly newsletter, send weekly email news updates, have a thorough, attractive, and very user-friendly website, and we post current news and events in the weekly order of service and on bulletin boards in the social room.

So why do we still hear grumbling that "I didn't know about that" and "I never heard that was happening" and "I wish the newsletter was still printed on paper and delivered by mail"?

Things come up - and happen fast - so the newsletter isn't always the most up-to-date news, which is why we try to reach you in so many different ways. We also try to use our limited resources judiciously, and we want to honor our commitment to being a Green Sanctuary, saving on paper, energy and other resources required to produce printed communications.

So we ask you to do your part, by reading the emails you receive, checking out the bulletin boards and orders of service, and visiting the website - www.uucantonny.org - regularly. You might even see your picture there!

Speaking of pictures...don't forget photos will be taken for our new directory on Wednesday, May 31, and Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, June 1, 2, & 3. If you haven't signed up, do it [here](#) NOW!!

Carol Pynchon, Communications Committee Chair



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