



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



**JULY 2017**

**A MONTH OF SUNDAYS**

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

**July 2**

*The Real Me* – Jon Montan, Pulpit Guest  
Worship Committee member and recent graduate of the Rev. James Galasinski's sermon-writing class, Jon will explore the subject of how others see us and how we see ourselves. Who is the real you? Will the real Jon please stand up?

*Worship Associate:* Jon Montan  
*Acting DRE:* Esther Katz  
*Collection Counters:* David Doran, Ruth Baltus

**July 9**

*Returning* – Vee Abbitt, Pulpit Guest  
Sometimes we feel the urge to return to the places we have been. What is it about "returning" that has a pull for us? Does the past that we yearn for always live up to the memories that we have? Let us explore.

Vee Abbitt, who is a candidate for the Unitarian Universalist ministry, is a seminarian at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago. She is also a member of the board of directors at Unirondack, the UU camp in the forever wild region of the Adirondacks. Vee comes from upstate New York where she is a member of the UU Society of Schenectady. This fall, she will be a ministerial intern at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Greater Springfield in Massachusetts.

*Lay Leader:* Doug Rubio  
*Acting DRE:* Wil Rivers  
*Collection Counters:* Pat Gengo, Tim Opdyke



**July 16**

*Singing the Body Electric* – Sarah Harris, Pulpit Guest  
Our relationships with our bodies are usually complicated – especially when we face aging, sickness, and the nature of self. Sarah Harris will explore how we can make peace between the body and mind, no matter our circumstance or life stage.

*Lay Leader:* Valerie Ingram  
*Acting DRE:* Wil Rivers  
*Collection Counters:* Jon Montan, Lorraine Olendzenski

**July 23**

*Unexpected Joy* – Jan Hutslar, Pulpit Guest  
Guest minister, Jan Hutslar, will look at what it means to stay open to the unexpected as a source of connection to others, to the holy, and to joy.

Our former Director of Religious Education, Jan recently graduated from Starr King School for Ministry and completed an internship at First Parish in Concord, Massachusetts.

*Lay Leader:* Robin Collen  
*Collection Counters:* Lonie Bogett, Will Siegfried

**July 30**

*Faith Blending with the Light of Setting Suns* – The Rev. James Galasinski  
I regularly saw amazing sunsets living in New Mexico for two years. I would make sure to watch them change from orange to purple and back again. Once I pulled out my journal and contemplated what the theology of a sunset is. I think it is important to inspect the everyday ordinary – the things we forego and forget. There is abundant meaning in the setting of the sun.

*Collection Counters:* Valerie Ingram, Lorraine Olendzenski

**Men's Group**

Charlie Bradt, Mike Bommer and James Galasinski are attempting to bring together men who would be interested in establishing a UU men's group. The intention is to gather to share with one another the issues we encounter and share from the perspective of our common "maleness."

Anyone interested in joining or for more information please email Charlie (contact information available in the [church directory](#) or from the church office).

## ON THE CALENDAR

*Please print and post!*



### **Sunday, July 2**

9:30 a.m., UShare Meeting  
10:30 a.m., Worship and Children's RE

### **Monday, July 3**

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

### **Wednesday, July 5**

6:30 p.m., Church Council Meeting

### **Thursday, July 6**

7:00 p.m., Worship Committee Meeting

### **Friday, July 7**

5:00 p.m., HEOP Student Dinner

### **Sunday, July 9**

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

### **Monday, July 10**

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

### **Tuesday, July 11**

4:00 p.m., Welcoming Committee Meeting  
7:00 p.m., Chalice Circle

### **Sunday, July 16**

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

### **Monday, July 17**

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

### **Thursday, July 20**

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

### **Sunday, July 23**

10:30 a.m., Worship & Children's RE  
Noon, Environmental Action Committee Meeting

### **Monday, July 24**

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

### **Tuesday, July 25**

1:00 p.m., Communications Committee Meeting  
6:00 p.m., Meditation with Swami Kenanada

### **Sunday, July 30**

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

### **SUMMER OFFICE HOURS**

The office will be closed June 29 - July 10

In July and August (beginning after the 10<sup>th</sup>)  
office hours will be

Tuesday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

## **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.  
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## FROM OUR MINISTER

### Summer Reflections

Congratulations on making it to the summer! I know many of you will be at your camps, traveling, or maybe just staying put. Many of us are on the academic calendar and summer is time off. For me, the summer is an in between. The church year starts in September and goes up until General Assembly in June. We begin with Water Communion and end with Flower Communion. I will be taking the majority of my time off in July and August, with vacation and study leave. For most of July and August I will be around but will not be keeping regular office hours. If you need to reach me email is best.

Some of us endure the winter for the summer. Some of us find the summer too humid and too hot. However we feel about summer, it is a time to embrace and seize. For me the summer marks a time to reflect on what happened during the previous the church year: an Installation, weddings, memorials, hanging a Black Lives Matter banner, and Church Council thinking about new ways to structure itself.

It has been a year of change for me and my family, but also for you. A new minister, a new name tag holder, new staff members, new council members, and a new U.S. president. I did not see the latter coming at all. It left me shocked and disappointed but I wanted to wait until he actually became president and officially did something before I reacted. We joined protests on the ban on Muslims and for health care reform. I was so happy to see busses from Canton going to the Women's March in Washington D.C. and a well-attended Climate March in Potsdam organized by members of this church. I see the congregation dreaming big and acting big. I see care about the world and care about each other.

It has been a blessed and hopeful church year together. I look forward to many more together.

*Blessed Be, The Rev. James Galasinski*

## CHURCH COUNCIL COLUMN

### We Need New Math

There is an old joke in mathematics that goes something like this; "There are 10 kinds of people in this world ... those who understand binary numbers and those who don't." I have been pondering and musing over this remark for some time now and I think there is a metaphorical truth, relevant to our current civic and spiritual life revealed in this seemingly innocent aphorism. In short, I believe that we, as a society, are stuck and stalemated in the thinking of a binary, either/or world, that we have collectively created with our memes, soundbites, and 140-character tweets.

Even the most cursory glance at various social media platforms will reveal how this polarization plays out. Some examples: "Share if you agree that we should take care of our homeless veterans instead of refugees," or "Share if you think we need God back in our schools," or "Share if you think that healthcare is a right," "If guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have guns," and so on. These false, binary dichotomies and others like them, have divided our nation nearly equally at 50/50, (plus or minus 3%). Even worse, we all are more inclined to respond to this shorthand of tweets, memes, and headlines, reflexively and without reflection. In a nation with a 20 trillion dollar economy, isn't it just possible that we can take care of our homeless veterans *and* refugees? If you believe in a god that is all-powerful and omnipotent, can you also believe that the schools can refuse that god a visitor's pass?

As UUs, we pride ourselves in the practices of thoughtful inquiry and reasoned, evidence-based, respectful discourse when confronting polarizing issues. By nature we are creatures of consensus in our decision-making and governance practices and we seek an understanding of all points of view. The last several years, and in

particular, the past six months, have been a very difficult time in liberal politics and our engagement with those outside of our circle has changed ... and not for the better, I think. I have noticed in myself and in those around me a hardening of positions and a retreat into "like-mindedness" in our views and associations.

In all of this, I believe that UUs are ideally suited to shine a light on a less divisive path. To be sure, there is a time to confront when strategies of engagement have not succeeded. There is also a time to lean forward for consensus. Anyone who has worked in advocacy will attest that it is not an easy task. It requires a great deal of "schooling-up" on your topic and it requires a ready, fact-based knowledge of your mission that can be shared at every opportunity with people outside of your circle. It is outreach! We know that we can't change all minds and hearts, but maybe we can cause some or even many of those minds and hearts to pause, reflect, and see that maybe things are not as cut and dried as we all are lead to believe by those who profit and succeed from our binary divisions. Perhaps we can be the ones who change the world from 10 types of people – those who "do" or "don't," to 11 types of people, the "do's," "don't's," and the "others." It just may be, that "like-mindedness" is an impediment rather than an advantage in this endeavor.

*John Danis, Church Council Trustee*

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PONDERINGS**

### **Religious Education Ponderings**

Ahhh!!! Summer is here. Time for vacation, relaxation, and fun in the sun. Time away from jobs, home, commitments, and responsibilities – no matter whether it is a weekend or a week – offers an opportunity for renewal of bodies, minds, and souls. Vacations can be special times for individuals and families to vacation with faith. Have you ever considered packing a faith bag for your summer vacation trip? What might you bring? These come to mind - a chalice, a bookmark of our 7 principles, your Canton UU t-shirt, copies of [The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide](#), a rainbow scarf or beach towel. Or how about checking our website weekly faith development ideas or checking out [Alice the Chalice](#) on Facebook.

In the spirit of renewal of body, mind and soul, I will be away for all the Sundays in July and the last full week of July and the first Sunday of August. May you find renewal this summer. Blessed be.

*Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education*

**What's Coming up during July/August in Religious Education?**  
**Sundays, July 2- August 13 - Summer RE Program - Jedi Academy**  
**Saturday, August 19 - RE Committee Retreat**

*Blessed Be, Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education*

### **THANK YOU THANK YOU...**

- † Linda Kenny, Stevie Michaelson, Debs Kalicin, Joan Kepes, and Pete, Barbara and Christian Beekman for assisting with the June blood drive.
- † A belly-full of thanks to Louise Bixby, Joan Kepes, Mark Berninghausen, Natalie Panshin, Helen Hutchinson, Rebecca Rivers, Dave Weissbard, Heather Rousell, Linda Kenny, Relani Prudhomme, Pat Alden and Margaret Harloe for helping to feed attendees of the Immigration Navigator training and Regional Round Table.
- † David Bradford, Wil Rivers, and Glen Butler for supporting RE Sunday.
- † Jenn Whittaker for being Acting DRE.
- † Arianna Whittaker, Keenan LeBoeuf-Davis and Elise Tavernier for helping with the first Jedi Academy.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**North Country UU Gathering - Sunday, August 6**



Each summer, the three north country congregations – UU Fellowship of Plattsburgh, Adirondack UU Community and our church – gather for a day of fellowship and outdoor fun at Meacham Lake. This year’s gathering will be on Sunday, August 6, beginning with a 10:30 worship service followed by a potluck lunch and an afternoon of fun-at-the-lake. Canoeing, kayaking, swimming, and competitive sandcastle building are all possible and everyone is welcome!

Those who want to make a weekend of it can click [here](#) for more information about the Meacham Lake Campground. More information will be coming in the weekly e-news soon, but for now, mark your calendars for August 6!

**COOTS LIBRARY**

Thank you to all of you who were able to participate in the Common Read in May. It was a joy to spend time with people who are passionate about reading and who spent time exploring the many excellent resources we have available on racial issues. It was a very valuable discussion.

If you are looking for something new to read over the summer, the Max Coats Library has acquired several new titles. These are: *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance, *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America* by Michael Eric Dyson, and *The Laughing Cure* by Dr. Brian King. Two new titles that are good for Young Adult readers are *Remembering the Ladies: Amazing American Women* by Carol Simon Levin and *Out of the Dust*, by Karen Hesse.

We love it when people check out books from our UU Library. Our goal is to put good books that support our UU principles into the hands of avid readers in our congregation. To help the Library Committee in our record keeping, please be sure that the UU Office has your most recent contact information before signing out a book. If you are new to the congregation or a regular visitor, you can also include your phone number or email address on the book’s sign out card. We are open before and after the service. We look forward to seeing you in the library!

*Lorraine Olendzenski, Library Committee Chair*

**ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMITTEE**

The Environmental Action Committee will be meeting after church on Sunday, July 23, in the upstairs room. If you’re interested in learning more about the church’s environmental action commitment and efforts, you are welcome and encouraged to join us.

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

Thanks to all who cooked, baked, and attended the Chili Cook-off and Delicious Dessert Auction in June. We raised well over \$1000 that was shared between the church operating budget and Big City Mountaineers

**SOCIAL ACTION NEWS & NOTES**

**Social Action in the Community**

**Glue Sticks Needed:** The Church and Community Program organizes a “back-to-school” supplies program, so returning students in low-income families can have most or all of the supplies required by their classroom teachers. CCP serves Canton, Hermon-DeKalb, and Edwards-Knox schools. Our church has been asked to contribute white glue bottles and glue sticks, approximately 150 are needed. If everyone does a little, it helps a lot! You can leave glue items in our “Feed the Need” box in the social room, or take them to Church & Community Program, 7 Main Street. Drop-dead deadline is August 20.

**American Red Cross Blood Drive:** We exceeded our goal of 31 units at this blood drive, coming in at 49 units! Thanks to all who donated, and all who helped. The next drive will be on Tuesday, August 8.

**Immigration Navigator Training:** Last month, the Social Action Committee and the St. Lawrence Valley chapter of North Country NY SURJ (co-hosted a day-long immigration navigator training session offered by the New York Immigration Coalition. More than 35 participants traveled from across the North Country to learn more about the complex immigration legal system and to build connections and capacity for supporting immigrants in our community. Eleven members of our congregation were joined by UUs from Plattsburgh and Saranac Lake as well as community members from as far away as Adams and Ottawa. Those in attendance gained important knowledge about basic rights in the US regardless of immigration status and useful tools for helping immigrants assert their rights, prepare family safety plans, and gather important documentation in the event of immigration detention or arrest. Important boundaries for navigators to avoid unauthorized practice of law were also addressed.

The day before, a smaller group of regional stakeholders and non-profit service providers convened for a half-day round table discussion of challenges immigrants face in the North Country, including isolation, racial profiling, and living in a constant state of fear, and to begin a discussion of local strategies for collaboration. Both the round table and the navigator training strengthened connections and identified potential for community building. The reality of immigration in this country is a far cry from the words of Emma Lazarus’ poem on the Statue of Liberty, but this event was an important step toward building a safer and more welcoming North Country for all who live and work here. If you want to learn more or get involved, speak with any member of the Social Action Committee.

**MAY SASO:** Thanks to all who contributed to the shared offering SASO on behalf of Compassion and Choices. With a notably generous individual donor, we collected \$1377.

#### **Coming Up in July**

Friday, July 7

HEOP Student Dinner, 5 p.m.

Thursday, July 20

Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) meeting, 6 p.m.

*Pat Alden, Co-Chair, Social Action Committee Chair*

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#### **SUMMER OFFICE HOURS**

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The office will be closed June 29 – July 10

If you would like to receive weekly electronic news updates,  
please email: [office@uucantonny.org](mailto:office@uucantonny.org)  
Deadline for the next newsletter: **Sunday, August 20**