



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



SEPTEMBER 2017
A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

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

September 3

What Did I Do to Deserve This? – Cliff Westerling, Pulpit Guest

One thing we all struggle with at times, is that fluctuation between despair and hope. How do we deal with the feelings that can, at times, threaten to overwhelm us?

Lay Leader: Kimberley Bouchard

Greeters: Jim Williams & Donna Dilworth, Carol Gable, Sheila Cerwonka

Social Hour Host: Esther Oey, Jean Williams-Bergen, Steve & Cara Coffin

Collection Counters: David Doran, Tim Opdyke

September 10

Ingathering and Water Communion: The Water-Way – The Rev. James Galasinski

Taoism invites us to take the water-way that is quite the opposite of business, sports, and pop culture. Water often calmly seeps down into places where we frequently don't want to go. Please bring a small quantity of water to celebrate water communion.

Worship Associate: Robin Collen

RE Ambassador: Anna Sorenson

Greeters: Andrea Ferro, Kelly Johnson-Eilola, Kurt & Eden Terrell

Social Hour Host: Robert Best & Anita Figueras, Lorraine Olendzenski & Tim Nolan, Dave Doran

Collection Counters: Pat Gengo, Tim Opdyke

September 17

When Free Speech Becomes the Freedom to Hate – The Rev. James Galasinski

Our country has a very proud and lenient history of free speech. However, white nationalists and other hate groups have been parading themselves as champions of free speech. When should free speech become limited?

Worship Associate: Doug Rubio

RE Ambassador: Jeff Frank

Greeters: Sally & Gary Hoose, Sarah Oakley, Mary Michalek

Social Hour Host: Brian & Claire Gardam, Sue Powers & Wil Siegfried, Arthur Freeheart

Collection Counters: Jon Montan, Lorraine Olendzenski

September 24

Harvest Sunday: Artificial Needed – The Rev. James Galasinski

In our culture we do not emphasize the importance of finding one's life calling; we get jobs to buy stuff. We are ranked by what we have and buy. But I find hope in those who are not totally consumed and actually produce things themselves.

Everyone is invited to place something from your garden on the chancel and to take home someone's else's harvest.

Worship Associate: Valerie Ingram

RE Ambassador: Wil Rivers

Greeters: Duncan & Lois Cutter, Paul Cutter, Jim & Stevie Michaelson

Collection Counters: Lonie Bogett, Will Siegfried

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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ON THE CALENDAR

Please print and post!



Sunday, September 3

9:30 a.m., UShare Meeting

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

Monday, September 4

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, September 5

12:15 p.m., Personnel Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 6

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

6:30 p.m., Church Council Meeting

Sunday, September 10

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

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

Noon, RE Teacher Ministry Workshop

Monday, September 11

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, September 12

1:00 p.m., Communications Committee Meeting

4:00 p.m., Welcoming Committee Meeting

7:00 p.m., Second Tuesday Chalice Circle

Wednesday, September 13

7:00 p.m., UU Men's Group

Sunday, September 17

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

Religious Education Classes Begin

Monday, September 18

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

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

Wednesday, September 20

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

7:00 p.m., Third Wednesday Chalice Circle

Thursday, September 21

6:00 p.m., SURJ Meeting

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

Sunday, September 24

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

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

Monday, September 25

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, September 26

7:00 p.m., Stewardship Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 27

7:00 p.m., UU Men's Group

Saturday, September 30

Social Justice Initiative Conference

Spirit Play Training with Nita Penfold

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

UU 101: Tuesdays, October 10, from 7 to 9 p.m. and October 17 from 6 to 9 p.m.

This introductory course is intended for those who are thinking about becoming members or recently became members of the church. We will cover the theology and history of the UU movement and will also explore how our church functions. It will conclude with a dinner. Childcare is available upon request.

Let's Talk About Race: Tuesdays October 31, November 7 & 14 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Limited to 8 people, we will explore our own cultural background and how that influences our perception of others. We will learn about white privilege, implicit bias, systems of oppression, and intersectionality. However, the main component of this class is having open and honest dialogue about race. Willingness to share your personal stories and unpack our cluttered past is a must. Please bring your discomfort.

Please sign up in advance by emailing office@uucantonny.org

Be sure to read about our first Social Justice Initiative workshop on workplace harassment on page 8.

FROM OUR MINISTER

The Love People

It is hard to believe this will be our second church year together! In 2016-17, we put up two Black Lives Matters banners (the first one was not up to village code), we helped create a chapter of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), I facilitated a Let's Talk about Race workshop, we hosted a student-led panel discussion on how to make Canton more welcoming to people of color, we partnered with SLU to help welcome HEOP students, and we addressed diversity topics at Coffee, Conversation, & More before Sunday services. We hired a great Congregational Administrator and a wonderful Music Coordinator. Since late August of last year, we welcomed 16 new members and dozens of new visitors. RE attendance is up. Sunday Worship attendance is up. Nursery attendance is up. We even had a well-attended summer RE program. A sermon writing workshop was offered, we had a Winter Solstice service, and an Immigration Navigator training was held here. A Jazz Circle started and so did a men's group. We explored different ways of going solar and we sent a bunch of people to the Women's March on Washington. I officiated the weddings of Judy and David, Theresa and Carol, and Natalie and Erika. I know I am probably missing some other accomplishments but it is important to take the time to celebrate what we have done together.

Of course, not everything was great. We had a special evening service after the presidential election. We have also had to say goodbye to some very beloved members who moved. Longtime member Richard Kimball died.

It is also important to look ahead. This church year we will work on writing a mission statement and creating a butterfly garden in our front lawn. The biennial Social Justice Initiative will hold its first conference on September 30, which will be followed by many more.

We will continue to firmly be on the side of love. Our world needs our message more than ever. We must continue to be the love people, the welcoming people. June 2018 will mark for us 20 years of being an official Welcoming Congregation, which means we have been certified by the UUA that we embrace LBGTQ+.

Recently I married a same-sex couple who are not UUs and I proclaimed who we are in the ceremony. Among other things, I said:

We believe we create our own hells in this life when we do not love.

We believe we have to continually be open to letting truth and love unfold in our lives.

We also believe that if you are ever in doubt about something, err on the side of love.

We believe in a Universal love, that some call God, that compels us to work for love.

We are the love people!

I am looking forward to a great second year with all of you love people!

Blessed Be, The Rev. James Galasinski

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

When newsletter time rolls around, I am sometimes stumped for a topic to write about. Often I am spurred by the news of the world, and, in recent times, the American political scene. Yet this month I feel like I am standing in the middle of a tornado. As if the world doesn't seem turned upside down enough, we even had tornado watches here in the North Country!

Just think, at the beginning of August, we were waking up to a very real threat of military conflict with North Korea. And just when you thought you had begun to process that, a volcano of hate and violence spewed out of Charlottesville. It has definitely made waking up in the morning an adventure. All I know is most days I feel I am gripping the steering wheel of life very tightly with both hands, and yes, my knuckles are white.

And yet, on August 21st, the solar eclipse happened. All of a sudden, we looked skyward, entranced by an event long predicted, yet wondrous in its ability to draw people together – in curiosity, in community, and most notably in peace. It made us consider something larger, almost ineffable, that the grinding uncertainty

and turmoil these days of August seemed to provoke. Maybe we could loosen our grip on the steering wheel or even take one hand off for a minute.

This moment, long anticipated, thoroughly studied and discussed, had taken hold of millions of us and as much as said, "Look away from these trials and see the vastness of the universe and its power to bind us together in awe." I am reminded of the moment in our Sunday service when all the candles of joys and concerns are burning in the middle of the sanctuary and I think yes, there is our light, burning bright.

Keep paying attention to all the swirling winds out there, but every once in a while, make time for an eclipse moment, make time to see what's out there, beyond.

Barbara Beekman, Church Council President

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PONDERINGS

Hooray!!! It's the beginning of our church year. Here's what we have to look forward to in religious education.

We will begin a new ritual of carrying the chalice flame from upstairs to downstairs each Sunday. This flame will then light the chalice in each classroom.

- † In the nursery, we will begin an early childhood ministry program that will include a chalice lighting, body prayer, and story time.
- † We will continue with Spirit Play for our preschool to 1st graders, helping children find the religious language and story to live into their own answers to existential questions utilizing a Montessori approach.
- † For our 2nd-3rd graders we will be utilizing the UUA curriculum Moral Tales, which "attempts to provide children with the spiritual and ethical tools they will need to make choices and take actions reflective of their Unitarian Universalist beliefs and values."
- † MakerSpace will be offered again this year for our 4th-6th graders. They will make their UU principles come to life by looking at pollinators in their bee hotel, learning about democracy and the UUSC, and creating their own project.
- † Our 7th and 8th graders will be engaged in Our Wholes Lives for the first half of the year then transitioning to a Neighboring Faiths program, which introduces youth to the faith traditions and practices of other religious groups in our community.
- † Youth group will be engaged in the web of youth ministry by participating in social action projects, small group ministry discussions, and youth cons.

Also, look for our new traveling chalice program and keep an eye out for details on Coffee, Conversation & More. I am excited.

May we all find spiritually meaningful ways to engage our faith as we begin this new year. Blessed Be.

Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education

Coming Up in September in RE

- Sunday, September 10 - Teacher Ministry Workshop from 12:00-3:00pm
- Tuesday, September 12 - Second Tuesday Chalice Circle Gathering at 7pm
- Sunday, September 17 - Religious Education Classes Begin
- Wednesday, September 20 - Third Wednesday, Chalice Circle Gathering at 7pm



Reminder: Religious Education Registration

Please remember to register your child(ren) for religious education class by clicking [here](#) or stopping by the RE office during church for a registration form.

THANK YOU THANK YOU...

- † Todd Moe, Wil Rivers, Danny Thomas, Richard Cook, Ruth Baltus, Arthur Freeheart, David Bradford, Arianna Whittaker, and Keenan LeBoeuf-Davis for helping with Jedi Academy.
- † Erin Dickinson, Kevin Ball, Kate Whithorne, Katie Boczarski, Anna Dickinson, Rachel Sturges, Quinn Williams-Bergen, Jean Williams-Bergen, Mary Michalek, Arthur Freeheart, Sarah Bentley-Garfinkel, Reg Budelmann, Sharon Tavernier, and Elyse Tavernier for helping in the nursery over the summer.
- † Anna Sorensen, Jenn Whittaker, Rhonda Rodriguez, Wil Rivers and Sally Hoose for assisting with curriculum development for this coming year.
- † Wil Rivers and Jeff Frank for helping plan our September Teaching Ministry Workshop.
- † All who contributed to the “glue drive” for the back-to-school drive. We collected a lot of supplies, including a beautiful backpack.
- † Stefan Grimberg for painting the staircase and landing area up to the 2nd floor room
- † Pete Wyckoff, Miles Manchester, and Pete Beekman for installing the new Black Lives Banner on the bell tower.
- † Pete Beekman, Stefan Grimberg, and Keenan Leboeuf-Davis for installing porcelain socket extenders in the sanctuary ceiling lights
- † Roger Hutchinson for building a screen to prevent snow and ice from blocking the furnace intake and exhaust vents
- † Erik Whittaker for thinning daffodils and day lilies in the front of church

JOYS AND SORROWS

- † Our congratulations go out to Jeff and Kiley Frank and family. Perry Michael joined his two big sisters in early July. Welcome, Perry!
- † Our thoughts are with Jon and Kathy Montan following the death of Jon’s mother in mid-July. She passed away at the age of 90 from complications from Alzheimer’s disease.
- † Our deepest condolences go out to Stu Hills. His wife, Wilma, passed away in mid-August after a more than two-year battle with lung cancer. Wilma and Stu have been living in Sarasota, Florida. There will be a memorial service for Wilma at our church in the fall.
- † We send heartfelt sympathy to Suna Stone-McMasters and her daughter Molly following the death of Suna’s father in August.

If you would like to share your condolences, contact information can be found in the church directory.

CHALICE CIRCLES Starting In September

Are you looking to get to know other people, grow in your faith, and practice the skill of deep listening? We will be offering Chalice Circles, also known as "covenant groups" and "small group ministry," beginning in September.

Chalice Circles are a vital part of our congregation. Groups of 10 to 12 people meet regularly, usually monthly, to reflect on and discuss significant life topics. Whether the topic is “good and evil,” “mindful living,” or “letting go,” the conversation is respectful and caring and leads to greater understanding. In each session, all participants have opportunity to share their perspectives, tell their stories, and listen deeply. The time together is structured: Groups begin and end with centering readings and often include a time of silence before the sharing begins. James will be facilitating a group on the third Wednesdays at 7 p.m. starting September 20 and Carol will be facilitating a group on the second Tuesdays at 7 p.m. beginning September 12. If you are interest-

ed in joining one of these groups, please contact James at minister@uucantonny.org or Carol at dre@uucantonny.org.

COFFEE, CONVERSATION, & MORE

Coffee, Conversation & More is an opportunity for adult church participants to explore topics of shared interest together. The Religious Education Committee is now coordinating the CC&More schedule. R.E. Committee members Arthur Freeheart and Anna Sorenson are the new contact people.

CC&M sessions are scheduled for the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m., in the Romer Room.

On **Sunday, September 10**, the topic is "Spiritual Ingathering." We encourage participants to bring spiritual insights from the summer to share.

On **Sunday, September 24**, we will explore "Where to from Here?" We will discuss the feedback our committee gets about CC&M from other committees and our minister between now and then. We look forward to all participants' collaboration in this creative process (including yours). We look forward to seeing you there and hearing you.

WELCOMING COMMITTEE

Watch for new name tag board!! By the end of the month we're hoping to see a shiny new name tag board mounted on the social room wall. Hand-crafted by Bill Smithers of Heuvelton, this handsome piece of furniture, made of cherry and bird's-eye maple, will house all of our name tags, up to 300 of them.

Stevie Michaelson, Welcoming Committee Chair

EVERYTHING BUT THE KITCHEN SINK... Updates from the Kitchen Cabinet

As we begin the new church year, we want to take a moment to remind everyone that the Kitchen Cabinet is a group of friendly folks who believe the kitchen is the most important room in the home and want to help everyone feel "at home" in our shared church kitchen. Please read on for some useful updates about this central function of our church.

Social Hour

Social hour is an important Sunday ritual that allows us to strengthen our interconnected web by welcoming newcomers, making new connections, and visiting with old friends. Sharing the responsibilities for hosting social hour is a long-standing tradition of our church community. Each September, we publish a schedule of weekly hosts ([linked here](#)) who take charge of preparing light refreshments (coffee, tea, juice, light snacks). If you are a church member or regularly attending friend, your name is probably on the list, so please check. We have done our best to schedule a sufficient number each week so there is always plenty of help. In addition, the monthly Kitchen Cabinet advisors will be available to answer questions. Early each week, an email reminder will be sent directly to those scheduled and assignments will also be posted in the weekly *UU News to Know*. ***If you cannot host on the day you are scheduled, first - please try to switch with someone else on the list, then contact the Kitchen Cabinet advisor for your month.***

We encourage everyone to keep social hour welcoming yet simple. Please arrive before 10 a.m. to prepare coffee, tea water and other refreshments. The church provides coffee and tea, sugar, creamer, and a small variety of crackers and cookies. Hosts are asked to provide a container of half-and-half. Also welcome are small contributions of snacks that are friendly to most diets such as fruit and vegetables, cheese or hummus. Homemade baked goods are always appreciated but by no means expected. ***Please communicate with the other hosts to***

coordinate what each will contribute and please aim for simple and light refreshments. After social hour, hosts are responsible for general clean up, and, finally, don't forget to unplug the coffee machine!

Lost & Found

We often find items that do not belong to the church in the kitchen. Because space is at a premium, and also because we want lost items to find their way home, we have established a Lost & Found cart in the social room. Please look here for stuff you are missing. You might even find something you had forgotten you left at church! On a periodic basis, unclaimed items will be donated to the Canton Neighborhood Center or CORC store in Potsdam, so make a habit of checking regularly!

Margaret Harloe

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS & NOTES

Coming Up in September

Sunday, September 17 SASO for Southern Poverty Law Center
Monday, September 18 Social Action Committee Meeting*
Thursday, September 21 SURJ Meeting
Friday, September 22 *Never Give Up, Never Keep Silent* Film Screening at SLU
Saturday, September 23 Taina Asili la Banda Rebelde, Live Performance at
SLU Launderers Underground
Saturday, September 30 Social Justice Initiative Conference

Social Action in the Community

*Please note that the next SAC meeting will be a week later than usual, on Monday, September 18 at 7 p.m. You can check the [church website](#) (under Committees) to read the minutes of SAC meetings and access recommended resources.

The SAC is planning a series of films and videos about racial justice. Cinema 10 will show the highly recommended James Baldwin film, *I Am Not Your Negro* on Monday, October 16. We plan to show *Thirteenth*, *At the River I Stand*, and possibly other films through the fall at our church, with discussion following each viewing. Check the weekly e-news for updates.

September SASO

Southern Poverty Law Center

Our Social Action Shared Offering (SASO) for September will be received on September 17 in support of the work of the [Southern Poverty Law Center](#) (SPLC).

If you are new to our congregation, you may be asking, "What is a Social Action Shared Offering?" On designated days throughout the year, our Sunday collection (i.e., plate cash plus any checks with the memo "SASO") is allocated to a specific local, national or international organization outside the church. These shared offerings help us learn about current social justice issues *and* offer us ways to support a variety of social justice organizations.

In light of the recent events in our country, we are asking your support for the critical work of the SPLC. You can learn more about their important work [here](#). The Southern Poverty Law Center works tirelessly to make our country one that respects the inherent dignity of each person. In these troubled times, they need our support more than ever. We hope you will join us on September 17 with your contribution that will assure that the SPLC will be there in the future, continuing to fight hate and discrimination on our behalf. If you will not be in church that day, you may send a check to the Church Office, clearly memoed "SASO-SPLC."

Pat Alden, Co-Chair, Social Action Committee Chair

SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE Inaugural Conference Focuses on Workplace Harassment

The Social Action Committee and other members of the congregation have been working diligently over the past few months, organizing the first conference of the church's new [Social Justice Initiative](#) (SJI). The SJI intends to raise awareness within – and beyond – our congregation about important problems we face in our communities. Through the SJI, the church will present biennial conferences and other activities, to bring together people from across the region to share strategies and resources to address these issues.

We are pleased to announce our inaugural conference, titled *Working Together: Creating Bully-Free Workplaces*. The conference, to be held at the church on Saturday, September 30, from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., will address the problems of harassment and bullying that many people face in their jobs.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Maureen Duffy, a practicing therapist and consultant who has written a number of important books about workplace bullying. Other presenters will include educators, counselors, management consultants, and legal advocates from the North Country, Boston, Buffalo, and New York City. The conference also will feature an exhibit by photographer Torii Bottomley.

Workshop sessions will discuss aspects such as the legal issues involved and the harms done to workers' health and productivity. Particular focus will be given to work environments important to the North Country, including healthcare, education, agriculture, and corrections.

All conference activities are free and open to the public, so please help us spread the word. Pre-registration is requested [here](#).

Besides attending the conference, congregants are invited to help us organize the event during the next few weeks, and we will also need volunteers to help on the day of the conference. If you're interested in helping, please contact sji@uucantonny.org or the [Social Action Committee](#).

The biennial Social Justice Initiative is supported by a generous donation from Paul Siskind and Todd Moe.



Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton
Social Justice Initiative
Promoting justice, equity, and compassion in human relations

REPORT FROM THE BEACH

What could be more fun than a day at the lake? How about – a day at the lake while sharing a worship service full of music and story-telling, a potluck lunch, and a whole bunch of good conversation with other UUs from across the Northern Cluster. In August, between 10 and 15 members from each of the three congregations that comprise the Northern Cluster – Canton, Plattsburgh, and Saranac Lake – met at the Meacham Lake campground for the annual summer hUUtenuary. Despite the chilly breeze, we enjoyed one another's company and strengthened our connections. Many thanks are due the Plattsburgh congregation who hosted this year, especially DRE Kris Lutters who led the service and Jo El Miano who brought us together in song. Be sure to check out the photos on the website (check under News) and our Facebook page.

Next year Canton will again host. We look forward to more music, more fellowship, more fun and, of course, fantastic weather. Most of all, we hope you will join us! If you want more information or would like to be part of the planning effort, please let Margaret Harloe or Mark Berninghausen know.

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