



News & Information from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton

NOVEMBER 2017 A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

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

November 5

Rethinking Sin – The Rev. James Galasinski

UU's don't talk about sin much. We normally emphasize the goodness and worth of each person. Yet sin is more than just the internal wickedness of individuals. Sin is also the social systems that allow sexual harassment to perpetuate itself.

Worship Associate: Valerie Ingram

RE Ambassador: Jeff Frank

Greeters: Barbara & Pete Beekman, Relani Prudhomme, Rick Tomlinson & Julie Welch

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

Collection Counters: David Doran, Ruth Baltus

November 12

I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For –

The Rev. James Galasinski

Perhaps the world's greatest rock band, U2, released the album *Joshua Tree* 30 years ago. It has withstood the test of time with its sharp critique of American policies and its spiritual longing. The service will feature the music of U2.

Worship Associate: Theresa Witmer

RE Ambassador: Jenn Whittaker

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

Social Hour Host: Anna Sorensen & Desiree LeBoeuf, Jenelle Matthews, Kate Whitehorne.

Collection Counters: Pat Gengo, Tim Opdyke

November 19

Sabbath – The Rev. James Galasinski

The ancient Jewish practice of taking one day a week off to rest is still important to us today. Ritualized rest, appreciative time to reflect, connect, and unplug is needed now more than ever.

Worship Associate: Sarah Bentley-Garfinkel

RE Ambassador: Anna Sorensen

Greeters: Emily Dixon, Bill Short, Margaret Mauch, Debra Mitchell

Social Hour Host: Mark Berninghausen, Barney Gage, Esther Katz, Bill Kirchgasser

Collection Counters: Jon Montan, Lorraine Olendzenski

November 26

Curiosity, Creativity, and the Need to Fail – Peter Wyckoff, Pulpit Guest

We are all born with an innate sense of curiosity. This is how we learn who we are and how the world works. We also have the need to be creative, to try new things, and to learn from our failures. Creativity and failure go hand in hand, but sometimes it's difficult to see the spiritual benefit of experiencing both of these actions.

Lay Leader: Robin Collen

RE Ambassador: Esther Katz

Greeters: Tim & Carol Opdyke, Jerry Bregg, Devin Farkas & Marielle Matthews

Social Hour Hosts: Karen Bage, Rich Fennessey & Carmen Stuart-Fennessey, Jeff & Kiley Frank

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!



Wednesday, November 1

8:00 a.m., Building & Grounds Committee Meeting
4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir Practice
6:30 p.m., Church Council Meeting

Saturday, November 4

4:00 p.m., OWL Retreat

Sunday, November 5

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

Monday, November 6

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, November 7

7:00 p.m., Let's Talk About Race

Wednesday, November 8

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir Practice
7:00 p.m., UU Men's Group
7:00 p.m., Worship Committee Meeting

Sunday, November 12

9:00 a.m., Choir Rehearsal
10:30 a.m., Worship & Children's RE
4:00 p.m., SAC Film Series

Monday, November 13

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

Tuesday, November 14

1:00 p.m., Communications Committee Meeting
4:30 p.m., Welcoming Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m., Second Tuesday Chalice Circle
7:00 p.m., Let's Talk About Race

Wednesday, November 15

6:30 p.m., Religious Education Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m., Third Wednesday Chalice Circle

Thursday, November 16

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir Practice
6:00 p.m., SURJ Meeting

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

Friday, November 17

6:00 p.m. PRISM Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday, November 19

9:00 a.m., Choir Rehearsal
9:15 a.m., Coffee, Conversation, & More
10:30 a.m., Worship & Children's RE
11:30 a.m., Annual Meeting

Monday, November 20

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Wednesday, November 22

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

Thursday, November 23

Happy Thanksgiving!

Sunday, November 26

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

Monday, November 27

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Thursday, November 30

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir Practice

Coffee, Conversation, & More in November

Sunday, November 5 - Communications Committee will host a website tutorial and an overview of church communications and outreach.

Sunday, November 19 - The Mission Statement Committee will invite conversation about our mission.

CC&M sessions meet from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m., in the Romer Room.

FROM OUR MINISTER

Preparing for Winter

After the first frost, seeing the tomato plants withering, I pulled them out of the ground and banged the black soil off their roots. Then I placed their decaying bodies on the compost pile. After that, I stacked the tomato cages inside each other and stored them in the garage for next year. The ritual of preparing the garden for winter makes me reflect on the growing season: one tomato plant produced hundreds of tomatoes. One barely seemed to grow. Was it all worth it, with all the time and energy we put into the garden? Yet, the small broccoli crop tasted above and beyond any I have ever had. I concluded, it was good, it is good, and it will be good.

Our religious community is like a garden we prepare for winter. Our shared ministry of care makes us who we are, but it is also the mysterious life-giving sun that sustains and makes growth happen. It is us together that make us who we are, the opportunity to give and to be part of something larger, but there is something like the transcendent sun which creates abundant life within us.

We do have the shared values of this community that bind us and prepare us for winter. But I think it is the unprepared sun that sustains us, some unpredictable transcendent power always there, and just out of our grasp. My hope is that as we prepare for the winters of our lives and we ask ourselves, "Was it all worth it?" we will say with confidence, "It was good, it is good, and it will be good."

Blessed Be, The Rev. James Galasinski

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

It is canvass season. The Stewardship Committee is firing on all cylinders. Cottage meetings are well underway. Pledge cards are being distributed. We have heard several deeply personal stories of individual journeys to commitment.

Money *is* a deeply personal issue. How we get it, what we do with it, and even just what it represents to each of us. Our feelings about money are deep-seated, hard to explain, and diverse. And most of us DO NOT WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT!

It is a simple fact that has been stated over and over – it takes money to run the church. It is not glamorous, exciting, groundbreaking, or revolutionary. Salaries, heat, healthcare, electricity – it seems mundane.

But what do these mundane things embody? A spirit, a passion, a sense of belonging, good food, a beautiful space? Can we make a connection between the work-a-day aspects and break through to the embodiment of your pledge to the church? The word pledge itself – according to Merriam-Webster's online dictionary, it originally comes from an old High German word that means "to take care of." And so it does.

Why do we call them gifts to the church - not dues or the price of admission or even a tithe? All these imply something of the compulsory. But a gift?

A gift comes from your heart.

Barbara Beekman, Church Council President

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PONDERINGS

I was recently having a conversation with new members of our congregation. We were discussing our religious education program and the different curricula we utilize in our children's programs. It made me realize the wealth of resources the UUA provides for our religious education program and our Fair Share financial contributions that support them.

The UUA curriculum provides opportunities to learn about our seven principles, our six sources and grow our UU identity. Not only does the UUA provide [Tapestry of Faith](#) curriculum for Sunday religious education classes but they have a plethora of resources for families, scout leaders and more. For Cub Scouts, or Webelos, check out the new [Love and Help Activity Book](#), 2nd edition, by Gail Forsyth-Vail. The book offers a program

in UU identity for 7- to 11-year-olds, suitable for earning a Unitarian Universalist Cub Scout or Webelos religious emblem. [Click here](#) for all the resources provided for earning religious recognition awards for UU scouts.

Or how about The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO) "[UN Me](#)" curriculum to help teach children about the United Nations and international engagement? The curriculum is created for approximately 4th grade but can be adapted for any age group. There is also a curriculum for [Spirituality and Arts for Children](#), which uses the arts to give them the tools to make meaning in their lives. The UUA provides a wealth of resources to grow in our UU faith. May you find inspiration here to find meaning and religious exploration opportunities. Blessed be.

Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education

November: All Ages Faith Development

Mondays in November – Mindfulness Meditation with Charlie Bradt at 12pm
Saturday, November 4 – Junior High OWL Retreat
Sunday, November 5 – Coffee, Conversation & More at 9:15am
Tuesday, November 7 – Second of three Let's Talk about Race Program at 7pm
Wednesday, November 8 – UU Men's Group at 7pm
Sunday, November 12 – Social Action Committee Film Series at 3:30pm
Tuesday, November 14 – Second Tuesday Chalice Circle Gathering at 7pm
Tuesday, November 14 – Third of three Let's Talk about Race Program at 7pm
Wednesday, November 15 – Religious Education Committee Meeting at 6:30pm
Sunday, November 19 – Coffee, Conversation & More at 9:15am
Wednesday, November 15 - Third Wednesday Chalice Circle Gathering at 7pm
Wednesday, November 22 - UU Men's Group at 7pm
Sunday, November 26 – RE Fun Day

THANK YOU THANK YOU...

- † Jonathan Hoose for marking our underground electrical wires and S&L Electric for providing the device to locate the wires.
- † Gary Hoose and Pete Beekman for installing our new flat screen TV in the Romer Room.
- † Erik Whittaker for transplanting two rhododendrons being overwhelmed by junipers to the front of church and for patching and sanding walls in the RE main room.
- † Phil Collins for swapping screens for storm windows and storing fans.
- † Stefan Grimberg for replacing light bulbs throughout the church.
- † JJ Gray of Dream Werks Graffix for the vinyl lettering on our entrance doors.
- † Glen Butler, Tiffany Fuse, Tim Nolan and Judy Singh for chaperoning our OWL retreat.
- † Kelly Johnson-Eiola, Jan DeWaters and Jim Williams for their work on the weekend OWL retreat.
- † Ron Tavernier and Miles Manchester and the MakerSpace religious education class for their work on the pollinator garden.
- † All the volunteers who helped to make our October Blood Drive a success: Brian & Claire Gardam, Eden Terrell, Linda Kenny, Bonnie Danis, and Pete Beekman.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE Renewing Our Commitment

The annual canvass to support our budget is in full swing! The proposed budget for 2018 is \$275,000 and our canvass goal is \$245,000. The small group cottage meetings started in October and will continue running

through the first week of November. We hope that most of you will attend one of the cottage meetings. If you are unable to attend a meeting, please contact the Stewardship Committee at stewardship@uucantonny.org to set up an individual canvass.

At the cottage meetings, we will be discussing how we became a Welcoming Congregation and how we can celebrate our 20-year commitment to LGBTQ+ issues awareness. We are also thinking about how to be more inclusive, and what the church means to us and the community.

In the upcoming year we plan to celebrate being a Welcoming Congregation, expand Our Whole Lives into a lifespan ministry, establish a pollinator garden, and create a new mission statement. We also need to maintain our beautiful building, continue our Fair Share contribution to the UUA, support our growing Religious Education Program, and fairly compensate our minister and staff.

This year our budget is 8% higher than last year, in part because our Fair Share contribution will be a part of our annual budget and will be included in the total we are seeking through the canvass. We hope this makes the process simpler for all. In 2018, our total Fair Share contribution is \$18,490: \$11,940 to UUA; \$6,400 to our district, and \$100 to Unirondack. The first \$120 of each member's contribution will cover their portion of our Fair Share.

We continue to be astounded by the generosity and warmth of this loving community. All pledges are appreciated and necessary to continue to maintain and grow this church. Last year, the average annual pledge was \$2,054. Let's work together to continue raising this number!

Jenn Whittaker and Desiree LeBoeuf, Stewardship Committee

MISSION STATEMENT COMMITTEE

One of Church Council's highest priorities for this year is to initiate a congregational exploration to examine the question "What is the church's Mission?" This exploration will culminate in the creation of a new mission statement. While the existing statement is elegant and articulate, it is over two decades old and our objective is to re-vision the mission.

A mission statement is important to encapsulate and express who we are - for ourselves and for the larger community. The process of creating this statement is also important, and our objective is to be as inclusive as possible in the conversations around this topic. An ad hoc team has been created to guide the process, including Judi Cohen, Todd Moe, Danny Thomas and Kathy Wyckoff.

We are looking at a variety of interactive methods to collaborate on the developmental process. We'll be hosting some Coffee, Conversation, & More events, to discuss the church's mission, gather ideas, and record input. We'll be developing an on-line survey that will be a quick and easy way to participate. We're planning to work with DRE Carol Zimmerman to figure out ways to incorporate the youth perspective. And, finally, we'll organize a series of small-group gatherings to keep the conversation going and give everyone an opportunity to contribute their ideas.

We are eagerly seeking input from church members in this process, both about the mission and vision, but also about creative ways to involve the congregation in the development phase. We see ourselves as a steering committee overseeing the development of this new mission statement. Our goal is complete collaboration and investment of the congregation. We plan to keep the congregation updated of our progress in a variety of ways including the News to Know e-mails, orders of service, and newsletters.

Ultimately, we'll synthesize the entire process into a clearly worded, succinct statement that expresses the vision and goals of the UU Church of Canton.

Please join us for our first Coffee, Conversation & More on Sunday, November 19, at 9:15 a.m. in the Romer Room.

Judi Cohen, Todd Moe, Danny Thomas and Kathy Wyckoff

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS & NOTES

November SASO: We will hold a Social Action Shared Offering (SASO) for Hurricane Maria recovery efforts in Puerto Rico on Sunday, November 5. Proceeds will support the [Hurricane Maria Relief and Recovery Fund](#), established by the Center for Popular Democracy, which is working on the frontlines of the hardest hit Puerto Rican communities. Your donations will support both critical emergency relief efforts and grants to local organizations working to rebuild equitably. Both cash offerings and checks with the memo "Hurricane SASO" are welcome; if you can't be in church on November 5, you can send a donation directly to the church office.

Racial Injustice Film Series Continues: [At the River I Stand](#) will be shown on Sunday, November 12, at 4 p.m., at our church. This is a documentary about Martin Luther King's work in Memphis on behalf of striking sanitation workers. The strike led to unionization of the workers and the assassination of King. It is an early instance of the "fusion politics," combining racial justice with workers' rights. Dinner and discussion will follow the movie.

Good News! The UU Church of Canton was recently recognized in the Red Cross Sponsor Spotlight. We registered 40 donors (including 10 first-time donors) and collected 41 pints of blood, which helped reach over 100% of the blood drive goal! Thanks to all who donated!!!

Next Social Action Committee meeting: Monday, November 13, at 7:00 PM. All are welcome.

Social Action Events in the Community

November 9: [Dying to Talk: Conversations about Facing Death and Embracing Life](#) – a version of their previous "death cafes," which offer an informal, relaxed setting for talking about major life concerns. Co-hosted by the First Presbyterian Church and Hospice, Thursday, November 9, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, Park St., Canton.

GETTING THE WORD OUT

It's a challenge to share news and information with a congregation who receive their information in a wide variety of ways. Some love a hard-copy newsletter. Other read e-news – but only in the morning. Or only at night. Or only on their phone. Some folks check the church website, and others count on the Sunday order of service or announcements from the pulpit to feel caught up and connected.

However you get your church news, the Communications Committee has a way to reach you! Please join us for Coffee, Conversation & More on Sunday, November 5, for a guided tour of the church website and a conversation about how you get your church news and information and how we might better meet your needs.

In the meantime, take a spin around the website – www.uucantonny.org – and be sure the weekly Wednesday night News to Know isn't landing in your junk or spam folder. There's lots of great stuff going on and we don't want you to miss it!

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: **Monday, November 20**