



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

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## **JANUARY 2018** **A MONTH OF SUNDAYS**

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

### **January 7**

*Darkness: The Gateway To All Understanding*

The Rev. James Galasinski

It is important to remember this time of year that darkness is not bad. It is part of the cycle of life. Being in the dark is not negative but can point us to the quiet calmness of peace. We can and must understand the dark of our lives.

*Worship Associate:* Robin Collen

*RE Ambassador:* TBD

*Greeters:* Betsy Kepes & Tom Van de Water,  
Mark & Rachel Sturges

*Social Hour Host:* Jim & Stevie Michaelson,  
Ben & Reg Budelmann

*Collection Counters:* David Doran, Ruth Baltus

### **January 14**

*Transformation and MLK, Jr.*

The Rev. James Galasinski and Jan Hutslar

MLK transformed from an assimilationist to true anti-racist. Can we do the same? We must follow his lead and recognize the worth and dignity of everyone as we celebrate MLK day.

*Worship Associate:* Doug Rubio

*RE Ambassador:* Shelby Hunkins

*Greeters:* Bobbi Haldane, Sara Hutcheson, Deborah Kalicin,  
Valerie Ingram

*Social Hour Host:* Julie VanDuyne & Ken Hebb,  
Jen & Danny Thomas

*Collection Counters:* Pat Gengo, Tim Opdyke

### **January 21**

*TBD*

*TBD*

Be sure to watch the website as the time draws closer to see what we have in store for our worship service on Sunday, January 21.

*Lay Leader:* TBD

*RE Ambassador:* Jeff Frank

*Greeters:* Pat Alden & Louis Tremaine, Janet McFarland

*Social Hour Host:* Cliff & Janice Westerling,  
Sheila Cerwonka, Mark & Rachel Sturges

*Collection Counters:* Jon Montan, Lorraine Olendzenski

### **January 28**

*SBJ and Other Temptations* – Kathy Montan, Pulpit Guest  
A look at temptation from a religious perspective; the influence of childhood teachings and how that shapes our adult lives.

*Lay Leader:* Sarah Bentley-Garfinkel

*RE Ambassador:* Anna Sorensen

*Greeters:* Ron & Katie Boczarski, Eileen Wheeler,  
Arthur Freeheart, Jim Rudd

*Social Hour Host:* Jim Williams & Donna Dilworth, Miles  
Manchester

*Collection Counters:* Lonie Bogett, Will Siegfried

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

## ON THE CALENDAR

*Please print and post!*



### **Monday, January 1**

Office will be closed

### **Tuesday, January 2**

5:00 p.m., Campus Kitchens Meal

### **Wednesday, January 3**

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

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir Practice

6:30 p.m., Church Council Meeting

### **Sunday, January 7**

9:30 a.m., UShare Meeting

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

11:30 a.m., 2018 Budget Information Session

### **Monday, January 8**

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

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

### **Tuesday, January 9**

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., 2018 Budget Information Session

### **Wednesday, January 10**

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir Practice

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

### **Thursday, January 11**

7:00 p.m., Worship Committee Meeting

### **Sunday, January 14**

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

11:30 a.m., Annual Congregational Budget Meeting

### **Monday, January 15**

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

### **Wednesday, January 17**

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir Practice

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

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

### **Thursday, January 18**

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

### **Sunday, January 21**

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

### **Wednesday, January 24**

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir Practice

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

### **Sunday, January 28**

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

### **Wednesday, January 31**

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir Practice

## **The Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton**

The Rev. James Galasinski, Minister

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**  
**Pledge Drive and Ordination**

First off, I want to express my gratitude for the successful pledge drive. Thank you to everyone who pledged, who hosted and facilitated cottage meetings, and everyone who planned, canvassed, took notes, and dreamed. Since we exceeded our goal, we won't have to do any special fundraisers to meet our budget. I am so proud to be the minister of this congregation. It becomes apparent more and more how my ministry connects with all of you. Our shared ministry is moving forward together.

Speaking of ministry, Jan Hutslar, longtime member and former DRE here has passed the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (the national credentialing body that recognizes a candidate's accomplishments). She has requested that the UU Church of Canton ordain her. This is exciting news!

In our polity, our form of church governance, only a local congregation can set someone apart officially as a minister. The UUA provides a rigorous formation process for a candidate but they cannot do this. A congregational vote must be taken to ordain a new minister. In Unitarian Universalist ministry we call one of us, one of our own to rise up, to lead. We should be proud; we raised up a minister! I have no doubt Jan will go on to serve another congregation and our movement with wisdom and love. The ordination ceremony will be a grand celebration – for our congregation, for our community, and for our movement. Please attend our Congregational Meeting after Sunday service on January 14 to vote on our 2018 budget and to vote for Jan!

***PLEASE JOIN ME!***

**UU 101 Saturday, March 3, 2018, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

This is introductory course intended for those who are thinking about becoming members. We will cover the theology and history of the UU movement and will also explore how our church functions. We will conclude with a lunch. Childcare is available upon request. Please sign up by emailing [office@uucantonny.org](mailto:office@uucantonny.org)

**Sermon Writing Workshop, Tuesdays, March 6 and 27, 7:00 PM**

Back by popular demand! In the first session James will show you the tricks of trade. We will discuss the do's and don'ts of preaching. The assignment will be to write a 10-minute sermon (about 1,000 words). Then, when we meet again, to preach that sermon in a workshop format. The class will be your congregation and we will give you critical feedback. Please note we will meet a third time on a date convenient for participants if all sermons cannot fit comfortably into that second session.

*Blessed Be, The Rev. James Galasinski*

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Happy 2018! May this new year be a learning, spiritual journey!

I'm feeling particularly thankful and optimistic this season. I want to start out with a huge thank you to Barbara Beekman for her Church Council leadership over the last few years. She has been a mentor to many of us on Council, especially me, and I'm grateful for her service to our church community.

How about the fabulous results of the 2018 Canvass?!? We always head into the process with our fingers (and toes) crossed, and you all really came through for us. I'm so thankful for your generosity, and the work of the Canvass and Stewardship teams. We'll present more details of the church budget later this month during a congregational meeting, but for now, let's be proud of a successful canvass!

As we start out 2018 together, I also want to say how grateful I am for all those who are willing to do the work to keep our church community moving forward and meeting the challenges. And I'm honored to begin my journey as your president.

My favorite line from the Covenant between Church Council and James, which we recite at the start of every Council meeting, sums up my hopes for the new year: "We will have fun!"

*Todd Moe, Church Council President*

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PONDERINGS

Ahhh, the start of a new year! So many possibilities, so many ways to grow in your faith! Our children's religious education classes will resume, after a brief hiatus for the holidays, on January 7. To find out what is happening each week in children's religious education, check out the weekly website blog post, the weekly enews bulletin, and/or our Facebook page. For adult education, keep an eye out for details about our Coffee, Conversation & More program in the order of service announcements, weekly enews, and on our website. The RE committee will be hosting a few intergenerational events during the upcoming winter months. Do you like to play games, how about creating your own chalice or making a potluck pack? Look for these and other fun social events. Do you have any ideas you would like to suggest? If so, please contact Carol via email.

During the dark and cold of January, may you find ways to connect to your faith and our church community. Blessed be.

*Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education*

## Maker Space Update

Hi from Maker Space. Our fifth UU value says that we use democracy to decide things so everyone has a say in what happens. We voted to learn about and practice democracy by voting on what to do with \$300. Here were the options: give to Nature Up North, give to RE Nursery for learning books/toys, give to a organization that helps refugees, or give \$100 to each. We had a vote on 12/10/17 in the community room, and we are here to tell you what won!! Nature Up North got 5 votes, a refugee organization got 11 votes, RE nursery got 4 votes, and to give \$100 to each option got 13 votes. You can tell that giving \$100 to each won!! The classes from Spirit Play to Youth Group voted. We would like to thank Carol Zimmerman, the RE program, the SAC committee, and Keenan, from Youth Group, for their help.

*Submitted by Finley Thomas*

### THANK YOU THANK YOU...

- † Bill and Katherine Brown for providing the beautiful Christmas tree in the sanctuary.
- † Jim Michaelson and David Doran for setting up the tree and stringing the lights.
- † Helen and Roger Hutchinson, Pat Glover and Becky Van de Water for decorating the church.
- † Helen Hutchinson, Becky Van de Water, Stevie Michaelson, Bonnie Danis, Linda Kelly, Dotty Hall, and Pete and Christian Beekman for assisting with the December blood drive.
- † To Stefan Grimberg and Pete Beekman for installing 300 feet of higher R-Value insulation on the supply and return runs providing heat to James' office in advance of the installation of new high-panel radiators. Hopefully no more "three dog days" for James in his office!
- † Jan DeWaters, Kelly Johnson-Eilola, and Jim Williams for organizing the OWL celebration for parents and youth.
- † Shelby Hunkins and Coral Pondysh for helping with cast management during the Holiday Pageant.
- † All the cast and musicians who participated in the Holiday Pageant.

### JOYS AND SORROWS

- † Our thoughts are with Laura Foster following the death of her father, Bob Foster, on December 15. He passed away at home at the age of 87.
- † Our hearts are with Louise Tyo, whose brother, Steve, passed away on November 20, at the age of 58.
- † We extend healing thoughts to Mark Berninghausen who underwent gall bladder surgery on December 7 and spent several days in the hospital. He faces a six-week recovery period during which time he is under doctor' orders to take it easy.
- † It is with sadness that we share the news that longtime church member Frances Finch passed away.

If you would like to reach out to Laura, Louise, and Mark, their contact information can be found in the [church directory](#).

### A NOTE FROM JAN

*I first came to the UU Church of Canton in 1998 when I moved to the area. That first week I immediately felt at home and welcome.*

*In 2002, when I took the job as Director of Religious Education here, I did not know how much it would change my life. In my years here, I fell in love with Unitarian Universalism and the power, strength, and quiet resilience of congregational life. Our ministers and the congregation encouraged my leadership and taught me how to be a minister.*

*For many years, I had felt a yearning, a whisper from within me for something I could not name. It had to do with the work of my deepest soul and it took time, life experiences, and the movement of spirit for me to understand it as a call to ministry. It unfolded slowly, revealing itself in small glimpses, as a singing heart; as a deepest knowing; as call.*

*I resisted.*

*I did not want to leave my life here. I was home here. And the call was leading me somewhere else. I resisted for several years, trying to ignore it, until somehow, I came to realize that it wasn't going to go away and that it was stronger and bigger than my love for this home, this place, this congregation and this community. With the love and support of the people here, I followed my call to seminary at Starr King School for the Ministry.*

*I graduated in May, was granted fellowship as a UU minister on December first, and am now preparing to go into search for a church. Unitarian Universalist ministers are ordained not by the denomination, but by a congregation. This congregation, the UU Church of Canton, has encouraged me and loved me and grown me into ministry, I would be incredibly honored if you would consider ordaining me as the Reverend Jan Hutslar.*

Blessed Be, Jan Hutslar, Former DRE



Interested in learning more about the history of our stained glass windows? Check out "*Our Stained Glass Legacy*" booklet located in the center window ledge at the back of the sanctuary or check out the post on our website [here](#).

## 2018 CANVASS A RECORDING-BREAKING SUCCESS

THANK YOU for your incredible generosity, making possible the good work we will accomplish together in 2018. This year's canvass was our most successful ever with over \$250,000 committed, surpassing our \$245,000 goal. Our collective response affirms our future direction; it provides Church Council with the confidence to move forward with revising our mission statement, celebrating 20 years as a Welcoming Congregation, and renewing this commitment, and expanding Our Whole Lives into a lifespan ministry. Our generosity has funded our commitment to being a Fair Share Congregation in 2018, eliminating the need for a separate drive in the spring.

THANK YOU to church members who hosted a Cottage Meeting, who facilitated a Cottage Meeting, and who canvassed individually, and to the Stewardship Committee for their dedication and efforts.

We are pleased to announce a final total of \$250,467 from 128 units. Additional highlights:

- † 11% increase in commitments over last year
- † 55 individuals participated in Cottage Meetings
- † 8 family units who have moved from the North Country committed \$8,650
- † average gift = \$1,972
- † median gift = \$1,000
- † 17 family units made commitments for the very first time totaling \$8,228
- † 58 family units increased their commitments by \$24,383 over what they gave last year
- † new commitments, increased commitments, and commitments from family units that gave in prior years but not last year totaled \$30,933
- † 29 family units maintained last year's giving level, totaling \$50,150
- † 35 members volunteered to make this year's canvass a success

Why all the statistics? Because from one year to the next circumstances change. People move away from the church - geographically or spiritually, people pass away, people experience a change in financial or health circumstance, or people have kids now in college. Our canvass takes everyone doing their part; new commitments from first-time donors, donors increasing contributions, donors who were not able to participate last year reactivating their giving, and donors maintaining their giving all working in harmony to achieve success. Thank you again for your incredible generosity.

*Jenn Whittaker and Desiree LaBoeuf, 2018 Canvass Co-Chairs*





## HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE WELCOMING COMMITTEE!

It is time once again for Winter Potlucks! These are casual potluck gatherings during the months of January - March. Here's how they work: A host family sets a date and time to host a meal at their home. These gatherings can be held after church, on a weekend evening, or any time. Sometimes there might be a theme, like a book discussion or sledding activity; sometimes the gathering is for adults only and others are for families. Guests sign up to attend, and then communicate with the host to choose what to bring.

If you are interested in HOSTING, please contact Heather Roussell (contact info in [directory](#)) or look for a *Host* sign-ups in the Social Room. If you are interested in being a GUEST, look for *Potluck* sign-ups in the Social Room very soon. Please consider hosting AND being a guest. This is a wonderful way to get through the winter months together.

## LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Are you wondering if our Max Coots Library has a particular book that you are looking for? If you don't have time to browse the library before or after the service, you can always check the online catalogs for both our Children's and Adult collections from the comfort of your home or office. Links to both catalogs are on the [Max Coots Library page](#) of our UU Canton website. Both catalogs are searchable and our books are categorized with subject tags, making it possible to search by topic. If you are standing in the library, we have a laptop computer available for checking the online catalogs located on top of the analog card catalog along the back wall of the library. So spend a little time checking out the online catalog before you come to church, then come on in and check out any cool books you find. If you are having trouble, contact a Library Committee member for help. Hoping we all find time to read more books in 2018.

*Lorraine Olendzenski, Library Committee Chair*

## SOCIAL ACTION NEWS & NOTES

The next Social Action Committee meeting will be on Monday January 8, at 7 p.m. The Rev. Chuck Smith from Grace Episcopal Church will be there to discuss a potential women's halfway house on Main Street.

Our Social Action Shared Offering for early winter will be the Guest At Your Table program, organized annually by the UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) to support the work of UUSC grassroots partners across the globe. The theme for this intergenerational effort, sponsored by our Religious Education and Social Action committees, is "Small Change is Big Change." Click [here](#) for more information.

Of community interest: On Friday, January 19, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., there will be a Utility Consumers' Rights Training to educate interested people about the legal rights of utility consumers and providing information about assisting low-income utility consumers. The event will be held in the Community Room of the Potsdam Public Safety Building. See the poster in our social room for more information.

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

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