



News & Information from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton

FEBRUARY 2018 A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

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

February 4

Whitney Young: Not the Loudest But the Most Effective

The Rev. James Galasinski

Young was a UU African American civil rights leader who worked within the system to effect change. He was friends with the powerful but worked with the powerless. His strategy, which often took a moderating view, made enemies with extremists on both sides. His pragmatic leadership style is needed today more than ever. Discussion with the Rev. Galasinski to follow 10 minutes after the service in the Romer Room.

Music: Sondra Proctor, organ; Handbell Choir

Worship Associate: Kim Bouchard

RE Ambassador: Jeff Frank

Greeters: Pat Gengo, Kevin Ball & Ruth Baltus, Carol & Phil LaMarche

Social Hour Host: Leo Burger, Carol Gable, Relani Prudhomme

Collection Counters: David Doran, Ruth Baltus

February 11

What's a Church For?

The Rev. Christine Robinson, Pulpit Guest

James' supervising minister in Albuquerque will talk about the purpose of church--this one and, by extension, all religious congregations from Ashrams to Wiccan Covens.

Does it matter to our nation that affiliation with congregations is in a rapid decline?

Music: UU Choir, John Danis, solo; Betsy Kepes, piano

Lay Leader: The Rev. James Galasinski

RE Ambassador: Jenn Whittaker

Greeters: Esther Oey, Jean Williams-Bergen, Steve & Cara Coffin

Social Hour Host: Sara Ricalton, Todd Moe & Paul Siskind, Becky Van de Water

Collection Counters: Pat Gengo, Tim Opdyke

February 18

Resting in the Grace of the World

The Rev. James Galasinski

Can we rest there in the grace, knowing life itself is unjust and unfair and those that rule the world are unwise? Perhaps this is where a faith in humanity fades and a faith in something more deepens.

Music: UU Choir; Betsy Kepes, piano

Worship Associate: Theresa Witmer

RE Ambassador: Ashley Clover

Greeters: Robert Best & Anita Figueras,

Social Hour Host: Kelly Johnson-Eilola, Kurt & Eden Terrell

Collection Counters: Jon Montan, Lorraine Olendzenski

February 25

No Apologies: The Long and Deep History of Prejudice and Discrimination

Dr. John Youngblood, Pulpit Guest
Dr. Youngblood, Associate Professor of Communication at SUNY Potsdam, will share his spiritual and racial journey that has unfolded in these last decades. He will candidly speak to issues of race and racism as addressed in the Christian bible and as they coincide with the documented and real experiences and identities of people of color today.

Music: Betsy Kepes, piano

Lay Leader: Kim Bouchard

RE Ambassador: Esther Katz

Greeters: Sue Powers and Will Siegfried,

Social Hour Host: Sally & Gary Hoose, Sarah Oakley,

Mary Michalek

Collection Counters: Lonie Bogett, Will Siegfried



Sign up for a
Winter Potluck TODAY!

[Click here](#) for dates and hosts/locations

ON THE CALENDAR

Please print and post!



Sunday, February 4

9:30 a.m., Ushare Meeting
10:30 a.m., Worship and Children's RE
11:30 a.m., Chalice Making
11:45 a.m., Sermon discussion

Monday, February 5

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, February 6

11:00 a.m., American Red Cross Blood Drive

Wednesday, February 7

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

Thursday, February 8

7:00 p.m., Worship Committee Meeting

Friday, February 9

5:30 p.m., Mission Commission Workshop

Sunday, February 11

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

Monday, February 12

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

Tuesday, February 13

1:00 p.m., Communications Committee Meeting
4:30 p.m., Welcoming Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m., Second Tuesday Chalice Circle

Wednesday, February 14

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir Practice

Thursday, February 15

7:00 p.m., Canvass Committee Meeting

Sunday, February 18

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

Monday, February 19

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, February 20

Newsletter Deadline
1:00 p.m., Communications Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 21

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir Practice
6:30 p.m., Religious Education Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m., Third Wednesday Chalice Circle

Sunday, February 25

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

Monday, February 26

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Wednesday, February 28

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
Theresa Witmer, Handbell Choir Director

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

FROM OUR MINISTER The Power of Mission

“The sale of tobacco products is inconsistent with our purpose,” explained the CEO of CVS Pharmacy some four years ago. Their mission, after all, is “helping people on their path to better health.” CVS’s broad mission directly affected how they were going to run their business. They decided to really take their mission to heart over and above profits. Now it is becoming standard that pharmacies do not sell tobacco products. Since then, cigarette sales have gone down nationally and many people may have quit smoking because of CVS’s move. Having a mission and a vision for a group of people is powerful.

I believe we must do the same. Mission gives everyone a sense of who we are and what we are about. It can lead us to do powerful and innovative things. We must pay attention to our mission, which, of course, is a moving target at times. I think the process of rewriting ours will help clarify our vision and our next steps moving forward.

The important work of re-doing our 20-plus-year-old mission has already begun.

I cordially invite everyone to join us on Friday evening, February 9 at 5:30 for a fun way to participate in the process of developing our new mission. That evening’s [workshop](#) will be led by the Rev. Christine Robinson, my former ministerial supervisor, mentor, and all-around wise woman. Please join us!

COMING UP!

Chalice Circle Opportunity, February 21, 7 p.m., Coots Library

The 3rd Wednesday Chalice Circle Group would like to invite anyone who has ever wanted to try out a Chalice Circle and wondered if being part of one was right for them. This would be an ideal opportunity to drop in and see if this is for you, with no commitments. This small group ministry dives into the deeper questions of life and the process of meaning making while expressing and reflecting on our own experience. In addition, we learn from others and deepen our kinship with each other.

UU 101 Saturday, Saturday, March 3, 2018, 9 a.m to 1 p.m.

This introductory course is intended for those who are thinking about becoming members. We will cover the theology and history of the UU movement and 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.

Sermon Writing Workshop, Tuesdays, March 6 and 27, 7:00 p.m.

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 POST

Happy February! I hope all of you had a lovely and peaceful holiday season with those you love, despite the arctic blast. I'm one of those people who tries to embrace all four seasons here in the North Country. Yes, even late winter. We have a small woods filled with white pines behind our home, and I love walking the dogs or cross-country skiing in the late afternoon when the low sun just starts to set. It's magical, especially when it's clear and cold. Yeah, I can imagine some of you wincing at my idea of enjoying a winter day. To be fair, there's also nothing wrong with settling in next to the woodstove with a good book, right?

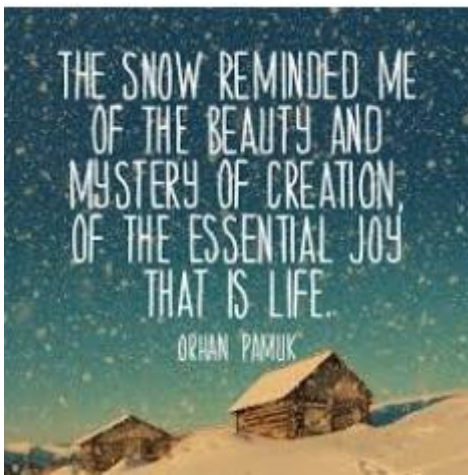
February is a month of Winterfests, Winterludes, and Ice Palaces here in the North Country. It's also a time to remember important people, events, and achievements as part of Black History Month. As a member of this congregation, I'm proud of the work we've done over the last few years to make this church a more welcoming place for people of color. James, the Social Action Committee, and others have led efforts to put up (and keep up!) our Black Lives Matter banner, create a Showing Up for Racial Justice chapter, and host workshops and discussions about race and making the wider community a more welcoming place for everyone. It's a work in progress that will continue this month and throughout the year.

As you've heard by now, we'll be writing a new Mission Statement this year, and I hope you'll take time to join us for a very special conversation this month with the Reverend Christine Robinson (see James' not above and the Mission Commission article on the next page). Reverend Robinson will also spend a day with Church Council at our annual retreat, and give the sermon on Sunday, February 11. We are so looking forward to welcoming her to Canton!

Todd Moe, Church Council President

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PONDERINGS

With all this snow, I have been enjoying lots of time cross-country skiing. The other day I was out at the St. Lawrence golf course. The fairways and the surrounding woods near the Little River had been totally flooded



by our recent 60-degree temperature but then froze solid after a couple of days of well-below-zero weather. The flooding and quick-freeze left ice rings about two to three feet up on tree trunks. To me it looked like huge mushrooms or a faery forest. It was beautiful. As stated in the quote pictured, our natural world covered in snow does remind me "of the beauty and mystery of creation, of the essential joy that is life." Our region has so many beautiful natural places to find the mystery. May this season of snowiness, cold, and beauty be an inspiration for your faith. Whether you find it while being out in it or snuggled up on the couch, your chair, with your favorites, and maybe in front of a fire.

You may also be in touch with your faith by joining us for a chalice-making program on Sunday, February 4 after worship. All are welcome to create their own home chalice. All supplies and materials will be provided. You may also find meaning by participating in the UUSC's Guest at Your Table program. Please pick up a box and stories that fit this year's program theme of Small Change is Big Change. This program will culminate on February 11. May the weather or our church ministries provide inspiration. May it be so. Blessed be.

Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education

THANK YOU THANK YOU...

- † Sarah Bentley-Garfinkel for helping out during the December 31 Multigenerational Worship Service.
- † Jenn Whittaker for participating in a Safer Congregation Training Webinar Series.

JOYS AND SORROWS

- † Our thoughts are with John and Anne Richey, and their son Benjamin, following the death of John's mother, Mary Richey, on December 29 at the age of 94.

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is the annual fundraising event for the [Unitarian Universalist Service Committee \(UUSC\)](#) and supports their work to promote human rights and advance social justice in the United States and around the world. The UUSC works with local grassroots organizations that are on the front lines of justice work in their communities. Projects this year range from coping with the effects of climate change in Papua New Guinea, to providing legal support to detained immigrant/refugee families from Central America, to advocating for the rights of queer immigrants both inside and outside of detention. By inviting the UUSC to be a guest at your table, you can support their work and that of our neighbors across the globe.



The Makerspace RE class is teaming up with the Social Action Committee to promote Guest at Your Table. The Makerspace class Skyped with a representative from the UUSC to learn about its work, and is encouraging everyone to take home a GAYT donation box for your kitchen table. The idea of the donation box is that each day, when you share a meal with your loved ones, you can add a few coins to share with the UUSC. This year's theme – small change makes big change – is a reminder that when we all give a little, we can accomplish a lot.

The GAYT collection will run until February 11 when boxes are to be returned. Also on that day, the Social Action Shared Offering will be taken for the UUSC. Cash gifts and checks memoed with SASO/GAYT will be combined with the change collected in the boxes to help the UUSC work for justice and human rights in the United States and around the world.

MISSION COMMISSION

"Cocktails," Conversation, & More!

Looking for something to do on a cold winter night? Join the Mission Commission – the new name for the group charged with helping the congregation develop a new mission statement for our church – on Friday, February 9, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. for an interactive and fun gathering to explore what we want to do together and how we want to be together.

Special guest the Reverend Christine Robinson will join us for this interactive and fun gathering, leading us through some informal exercises to elicit conversation and insight about the church's mission. Christine Robinson is the recently retired senior minister from the First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she was a mentor to James who interned in Albuquerque before coming to Canton. A well-respected and innovative minister and author, Christine will be coming for the weekend to lead this congregational gathering as well as Church Council's annual retreat on Saturday and worship on Sunday.

In addition to conversation, we'll have special non-alcoholic "mocktails" and hardy hors d'oeuvres. James is on for making mock margaritas! Childcare and pizza will be provided for the kids. Look for a sign-up sheet in the Social Room. We really want your input and hope to see you on Friday, February 9 at 5:30 p.m.

Kathy Wyckoff, Mission Commission Leader

WINTER POTLUCKS ARE HAPPENING!

Our Winter Potlucks are casual gatherings of folks to eat, talk, and get to know one another better. Potlucks are scheduled for January, February, and March. We have people willing to host, and now we need the guests! Please take a minute to look at the list on the [Potluck page](#) on our church website or at the table during Social

Hour. They are open to all, and the Welcoming Committee encourages everyone to sign up – maybe with people who are new to you! We hope you'll take this opportunity to get out and be together during these winter months.

Get-Acquainted Coffee: There will be a [Get-Acquainted Coffee](#) on Sunday, February 11, at 9:15 a.m. Child-care will be available. We look forward to seeing some new faces!

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS & NOTES

In November we had a Social Action Shared Offering to support relief efforts from Hurricane Maria. We told you then that these efforts would be ongoing and rebuilding would take a long time. Dan Kuelgen, local builder and friend of our church, is part of these efforts. Dan is currently in Puerto Rico thanks to his December GoFundMe drive. At the link below, you can see a photo of the family whose home he is rebuilding. Dan writes that with a modest amount of further donation he can install a small solar electric system to provide lights for two additional homes, in an area not likely to get power in 2018. If you'd like to contribute, please use this link: www.gofundme.com/575qz3-hurricane-relief-in-puerto-rico?

Red Cross Blood Drive: Tuesday, February 6, 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Red Cross has an urgent need for donors at this time. If you would like to give blood (O negative and B negative especially needed), we recommend that you schedule an appointment online or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800- 733-2767). If you'd like to help with registration and hosting, please contact Pat Alden (socialaction@uucantonny.org).

Social Action Meeting: February 12 at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Follow-up discussion about a local residence for women in chemical dependence recovery and development of a grant proposal to strengthen Our Whole Lives program.

[Diving into Our White Culture to Surface Racial Justice:](#) Racial justice is a spiritual practice. Experience this in a day of stories, dialogue, activities, and song so we can transform ourselves, our congregations, and the world. Saturday, February 24, 2018 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. in Buffalo, NY.

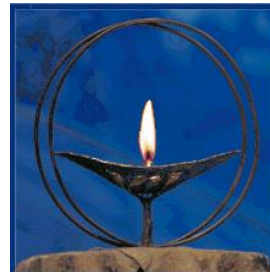
Church and Community Program: The food pantry and thrift shop need occasional volunteers in February, March, and April to help cover their snowbird regulars. If you could help out this winter, please contact Connie Jenkins at 315-386-3534. To learn more, read their latest [newsletter](#).

Pat Alden, Co-Chair, Social Action Committee

The chalice connects us all and is a sacred element
of our beloved community.

We hope you will join us on Sunday, February 4
after worship to make your own chalice.

All supplies will be provided.



If you would like to receive weekly electronic news updates,
please email: office@uucantonny.org

Deadline for the next newsletter: **Tuesday, February 20**