



News & Information from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton

MARCH 2018 **A MONTH OF SUNDAYS**

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

March 4

The Dance of Body and Spirit - *The Rev. James Galasinski*
Many faith traditions have utilized dance as a form of prayer to get in touch with the spiritual side of life. Historically, Western culture has contributed to a divide of body and spirit. This multigenerational service will explore dance and the meaning of bodies in movement.

Want to participate - by dancing?! Robin Collen would like to teach people of all ages a fun and easy Israeli folk dance. Teaching and rehearsal will be before the service at 9:30 a.m. in the downstairs area of the church.

Music: Sondra Proctor, organ

Worship Associate: Doug Rubio

RE Ambassador: Wil Rivers

Greeters: Cynthia Bansak, Gabrielle & Ashley Clover

Social Hour Host: RE Committee

Collection Counters: David Doran, Ruth Baltus

March 11

Devout Skeptic - *Betsy Kepes, Pulpit Guest*

Why would a strict atheist travel to southern Georgia to volunteer at a Christian community? Betsy Kepes will reflect on her journey toward religious tolerance and argue that all of us need to increase our engagement with those whose spiritual beliefs are different than ours.

Music: UU Choir; Gretchen Koehler, fiddle

Lay Leader: Robin Collen

RE Ambassador: Esther Katz

Greeters: Barney Gage, Heather & Jeff Rousell, Sara Ricalton

Social Hour Host: Robin Collen, Duncan & Lois Cutter,

Paul Cutter, Jim Rudd

Collection Counters: Pat Gengo, Tim Opdyke

March 18

Worship with Our Youth - *Youth Group, Pulpit Guests*
We are blessed to have vibrant youth as part of our congregation. Each year they choose a topic to explore as part of their youth group experience. Our youth will share their wisdom during this annual worship service.

Music: Youth Group; Betsy Kepes, piano

Lay Leader: Valerie Ingram

RE Ambassador: Shelby Hunkins

Greeters: Carol & Tom Pynchon, Jane Garland, Glen Butler

Social Hour Host: Linda Kenny, Pete & Kathy Wyckoff, Joan Kepes

Collection Counters: Jon Montan, Lorraine Olendzenski

March 25

Beyond the Binary - *The Rev. James Galasinski*

From debates on bathroom signage and bans on transgender people serving in the military, old ideas of gender identity are being challenged. Being truly welcoming means that we embrace all gender expression. What is good for computers is not good for the real world.

Music: UU Choir, UU Handbell Choir

Worship Associate: Sarah Bentley-Garfinkel

RE Ambassador: Shelby Hunkins

Greeters: Todd Moe & Paul Siskind, Caron & Phil Collins

Social Hour Host: Janet Green, Jon & Kathy Montan, Jane Garland

Collection Counters: Lonie Bogett, Will Siegfried

SAVE
The
DATE

Help us celebrate the [Ordination of Jan Hutslar](#)

Saturday, May 5, 2018 at 4 p.m.

Click on the link above for to learn more.

ON THE CALENDAR

Please print and post!



Saturday, March 3

9:00 a.m., UU 101

Sunday, March 4

9:30 a.m., Ushare Meeting

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

Monday, March 5

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, March 6

7:00 p.m., Sermon Writing Workshop

Wednesday, March 7

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

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir Practice

6:30 p.m., Church Council Meeting

Thursday, March 8

7:00 p.m., Worship Committee Meeting

Sunday, March 11

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

Monday, March 12

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

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

Tuesday, March 13

1:00 p.m., Communications Committee Meeting

4:30 p.m., Welcoming Committee Meeting

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

Wednesday, March 14

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir Practice

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

Thursday, March 15

7:00 p.m., Canvass Committee Meeting

Sunday, March 18

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

Monday, March 19

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, March 20

Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, March 21

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir Practice

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

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

Saturday, March 24

6:30 p.m., UU Dance Fling for Spring

Sunday, March 25

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

Monday, March 26

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, March 27

7:00 p.m., Sermon Writing Workshop

Wednesday, March 28

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir Practice

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

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 Claiming Universalism

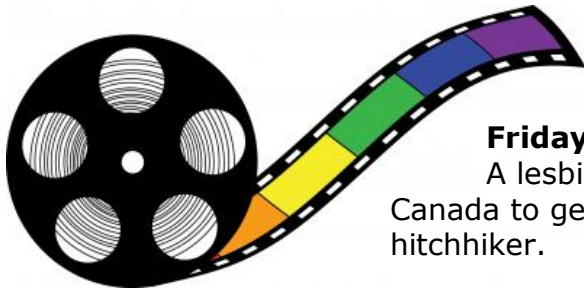
I have been a part of three other UU churches: First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, Unitarian Church North in Mequon, WI, and First Unitarian of Albuquerque, NM. All three are historically Unitarian churches and never fully embraced Universalist in their name. It was natural for me then to identify more with Unitarian side of things. I even once claimed that having Universalism in our name was bad for our brand--too many syllables. I experienced the Unitarian side of our faith to be a little more rationalistic, their buildings tend to have less color, and they shied away from religious language.

I am proud of serving this historic Universalist congregation and learning about the prominence of Universalism in New York State. Over the past year I have identified more with Universalism, which has led me to ponder, what is contemporary Universalism?

The 19th century version of Universalism could be summed up with statement, "God is Love." Universalism has changed over time to become even more, well, universal. Universalism informs our principles and sources most explicitly with the worth and dignity of every individual and embracing the wisdom of the world's religions. Universalism stresses the largest possible world outlook. But I think at the core of Universalism is love. There is a love that goes past division and difference.

There is a love that knows no boundaries. It is both mysterious and practical. It challenges us to think and be in new ways. Our Universalist heritage helps us see the other, the one that is different than us, with love. It is the highest of ideals. As we begin to think more about our commitment to being a Welcoming Congregation and our new mission statement, it important to recognize the Universalism that is in and around us.

In Peace, The Rev. James Galasinski



LGBTQ+ FRIDAY FILM SERIES

Co-sponsored with PRISM

Friday, March 23: [Cloudburst](#)

A lesbian couple escape from their nursing home and head up to Canada to get married. Along the way, they pick up a young, male hitchhiker.

Friday April 27: [Boy Meets Girl](#)

A funny, tender, sex positive romantic comedy that explores what it means to be a real man or woman, and how important it is to live a courageous life not letting fear stand in the way of going after your dreams.

Friday, May 18: [God's Own Country](#)

Young farmer Johnny Saxby numbs his daily frustrations with binge drinking and casual sex, until the arrival of a Romanian migrant worker for lambing season ignites an intense relationship that sets Johnny on a new path.

All films will be shown in the Romer Room, with potluck at 6 p.m. and movies at 7 p.m.

COMING UP!

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 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.

PRESIDENT'S POST

Okay, I've made an executive decision to officially proclaim 2018 the Year of the Church Volunteer! If you're an active committee/team member, give yourself a pat on the back. Take a look at the [Get Involved](#) section of the church website, if you're new to our congregation or looking for a way to help out. Enjoy books/reading? Working with numbers? Planning social events? Getting your hands dirty outside? Great - great - great! That's what it takes to keep this church community strong! It works well, if everyone pitches in from time to time.

Think back to the last time you were asked to serve on a committee, or be promoted to committee chair? Did it feel like:

- A. I thought you'd never ask.
- B. I was just going to ask you if I could do that.
- C. Ack! I need to shampoo my frog!

It may be too much to expect that we're overjoyed when asked to take on a congregational assignment, but it's really not the end of life as we know it.

You know the importance of our church in the community, that's why you're a member or a friend. We all need to play a vital part in its future. Remember the phrase, "shared ministry"? We're here to minister to and serve each other. Volunteering is a great way to put faith into action for the benefit of the church. Consider this month's column an official invitation into ministries of leadership and service.

If you want to talk more about volunteering and our many teams and committees, ask me or talk with Carol Pynchon, Nominating Committee Chair. We'd both love to hear from you. You can email me at president@uucantonny.org

And watch for upcoming 60-second "Minute Ministry Messages" during church services - congregant stories about sharing ministry.

Todd Moe, Church Council President

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PONDERINGS

Multigenerational Connections!?! According to UUA Multigenerational Ministry, "we need these multigenerational connections! The separation in our culture causes us to miss the insights, history, and perspectives of each generation. When contact with multiple generations decreases or is non-existent, we become less in touch with one another's physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs. And in turn we are diminished by the separation." Our church is blessed to offer many opportunities for multigenerational connections from our worship services, winter potlucks, and game nights, to social justice events and marches and teaching in religious education. Just to name a few. May you find the multigenerational experiences offered this month an opportunity to connect, learn, and grow in spirit. Blessed be.

Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education

THANK YOU THANK YOU...

- † To all who volunteered at our February blood drive: Bonnie Danis, Eileen Raymond, Linda Kenny, Dotty Hall, Joan Kepes, Becky Van de Water, Pete Beekman, Christian Beekman. Thanks also to all who gave blood!
- † Phil Collins for making repairs to the two pulpit chairs.
- † Roger Hutchinson for assembling the new kitchen play set in the nursery.
- † Christian Beekman for creating the audio file of Max Coots' *Leaning Against the Wind* sermons so they are available on the website.
- † Shelby Hunkins, Coral Pondysh, Jenn and Arianna Whittaker for helping with the chalice making event.
- † Arianna Whittaker, Keenan LeBoeuf-Davis, Lexi Hebb, and Claire Rousell for helping with the sledding party.
- † Carol Gable for donating toys to the nursery.
- † Julie VanDuyne and Jennifer Sorensen for chaperoning the Neighboring Faiths class visit to the SLU Gospel Service.
- † Pete Wyckoff and Miles Manchester for helping with the RE fun day.
- † Margaret Harloe and Pat Alden for speaking with our Moral Tales and MakerSpace RE classes about our Social Action Committee.

MISSION COMMISSION

Workshop Wrap-Up

In the process of creating a new mission statement for the church, we have been exploring different ways to elicit input from the congregation. To this end we had a mini workshop on Friday, February 9. The Reverend Christine Robinson lead close to 50 church members in a few interactive exercises to help us articulate what is precious and important about this church.

In small groups, each person answered the question "What would you miss if this church wasn't here?" These comments were condensed into statements and written on large post-it sheets. Then, armed with three dots per person, we placed our dots next to the statements that were the most meaningful to us (these sheets are hanging on the wall to the right of the fireplace in the social room).

Here are the statements that garnered the most dots:

Create a deeper sense of connection with each other and something greater than ourselves (10)

Energize ourselves to affect social change (10)

Foster free thinking for adults and children in the church and community (9)

Celebrate inclusivity in a multi-generational community (7)

We'll keep these sheets up for a while. Take a look when you're at church!

If you have questions or thoughts about creating a new mission statement feel free to contact one of the members of the Mission Commission: Kathy Wyckoff, Todd Moe, Danny Thomas, Judi Cohen, Carol Pynchon or Cliff Westerling.

Kathy Wyckoff, Mission Commission Leader

UU DANCE FLING for SPRING Saturday, March 24 at 6:30 p.m.



Adult dancing! Move to a variety of music in the UU social room. Fast and slow, freestyle, partnership, and line dancing, with popular music from big band to rock 'n roll and pop! Come with or without a partner; all adults welcome. (If you can't get a babysitter, no worries--childcare will be provided.) Foxtrot instruction to be included!



SOCIAL ACTION NEWS & NOTES

Thanks to Pat Glover for asking which congressional members take money from the NRA. The list is [here](#). Do not hesitate to call! A [list of federal and state representatives](#) is maintained on the [Social Justice page](#) of our web site.

Pat Alden, Co-Chair, Social Action Committee



SERMONS ON THE WEB

Did you miss church on Sunday and want to hear James' sermon? Did you love the sermon and need to hear it again? Or share it with a friend? Remember that you can listen to recorded sermons - by James and pulpit guests - on the [Sermons](#) page of our website. And thanks to church member Robert Best, you can catch a few of Max Coots' sermons from the [Leaning Against the Wind collection](#) there, too.

OLYMPIA BROWN SOCIETY

The Olympia Brown Society is a planned giving program that was established to help secure the future of our religious community. Olympia Brown was a forward-thinking feminist and UU activist who graduated from the St. Lawrence University Theological School in 1863. The Olympia Brown Society was created in her name to provide church members a means for financial legacy, whether it be in the form of formal bequest in a will, a living trust, or even an ongoing retirement account rollover.

On April 8, the Stewardship Committee will host a session after church to provide more information about the Olympia Brown Society and the many ways to participate. A light lunch will be served. Join us and get up to date on the latest options for long-lasting support of our beloved community.

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Want to get together with church friends?  
There are still a couple of winter potlucks on tap.  
Check them out [here!](#)



## SPREAD THE WORD ~ SHARE THE WORD!

A lot of great things are going on at our church these days! Don't miss out on church news AND share it with friends who might be interested. How can you do that? EASY!

- Check out our website...regularly. Why not make it a Bookmark in your browser? And know the URL by heart - [www.uucantonny.org](http://www.uucantonny.org). Tell your friends about our attractive and informative website - it tells our story!
- Like us on [Facebook](#)! OK, even if you don't like Facebook and aren't a regular user, you can still visit our page. That's where we're able to post the most up-to-date information and also share news, information, and links of interest.



And really awesome pictures! Did you miss this one?



You wouldn't have if you'd checked out our Facebook page!

- When you're on Facebook, like our posts. Share them. This increases traffic to our page and also ensures that our posts will show up in your feed.

This may all sound a little too new-fangled and "out there" for some, but we are hearing repeatedly from newcomers that they heard about our church and learned more about our story through our website and Facebook. Please help us share our story!

*Carol Pynchon, Communications Committee Chair*

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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: **Tuesday, March 20**