



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

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**JULY 2018**  
**A MONTH OF SUNDAYS**

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

## **July 1**

### **Compassionate Conflict: Restorative Justice at Work**

*The Rev. Kathleen Buckley, Pulpit Guest*

What happens when a person breaks off a romantic relationship in a text message? When a group tries to solve a conflict via email and snapchat? Are essential elements of connection lost? And, do the principles of restorative justice have anything to say about this growing phenomenon? Let's talk.

The Rev. Kathleen Buckley, ordained in the United Church of Christ, has been the University Chaplain at St. Lawrence University since 2001.

*Music: Bethany Cencer*

*Lay Leader: Valerie Ingram*

*RE Ambassador: Wil Rivers*

*Collection Counters: David Doran, Ruth Baltus*

## **July 8**

### **Making the Case for Faith Communities**

*Dorothy Latta, Pulpit Guest*

In today's world, public libraries are often seen as dinosaurs and are asked to justify their relevance to keep their doors open. What about faith communities? Can we make a case for our relevance?

Dorothy Latta moved to the North Country more than 30 years ago and has been a member of Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Plattsburgh for over 27 years. She has been active and involved in a variety of roles in the congregation and enjoys doing worship services.

*Music: Bethany Cencer*

*Lay Leader: Doug Rubio*

*RE Ambassador: Arthur Freeheart*

*Collection Counters: Pat Gengo, Tim Opdyke*

## **July 15**

### **Melting the Spaces Between Us: When *Them* Becomes *Us***

*Eileen Raymond, Pulpit Guest*

What happens when we talk about others as "them"? Why do we need to become more conscious of the ways that the "othering" of others harms us all?

Eileen Raymond was raised as a Unitarian in Massachusetts and has been a member of the UU Church of Canton since 1992. Her career prior to retirement focused on special and inclusive education, in both public schools and university teacher education programs in the US and in South Africa.

*Music: Max Howard*

*Lay Leader: Theresa Witmer*

*RE Ambassador & Acting DRE: Shelby Hunkins*

*Collection Counters: Jon Montan, Lorraine Olendzenski*

## **July 22**

### **TBA** – *The Rev. Joel Miller, Pulpit Guest*

The Rev. Joel Miller is interim senior minister of First Unitarian Church of Rochester NY. He served as interim minister here from 2014 until 2016.

*Music: Max Howard*

*Lay Leader: Robin Collen*

*RE Ambassador & Acting DRE: Arthur Freeheart*

*Collection Counters: Lonie Bogett, Will Siegfried*

## **July 29**

### **Ahimsa: Extreme Non-Violence**

*The Rev. James Galasinski*

Jainism has a term, *Ahimsa*, often translated as non-violence. This has crept into our vocabulary via people like King and Gandhi who advocated this principle in the realm of political and societal change. But in Jainism, non-violence is something even bigger.

*Music: Max Howard*

*Worship Associate: Theresa Witmer*

*RE Ambassador: Wil Rivers*

*Collection Counters: Valerie Ingram, Lorraine Olendzenski*

**Summer Office Hours for July and August:**

Tuesday through Thursday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

***The office will be closed July 2-10.***

## ON THE CALENDAR

*Please print and post!*



### **Sunday, July 1**

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

### **Monday, July 2**

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

### **Sunday, July 8**

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

### **Monday, July 9**

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

### **Wednesday, July 11**

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

### **Sunday, July 15**

10:30 a.m., Worship and Children's RE  
Fran Finch Memorial Gathering at Social Hour

### **Monday, July 16**

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

### **Thursday, June 19**

7:00 p.m., Canvass Committee Meeting  
Newsletter Deadline

### **Sunday, July 22**

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

### **Monday, July 23**

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

### **Wednesday, July 25**

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

### **Sunday, July 29**

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

### **Monday, July 30**

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation



**Summer with Seuss!** Our Religious Education ministry will be exploring eight stories by Dr. Seuss. With "So to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street" "I Can Lick 30 Tigers Today," "The Glunk that Got Thunk," "Bartholomew and the Oobleck" and more, we will explore and live our UU values. We hope to see you Sundays from July 1 – August 19! If you are interested in being part of the teaching team, contact Carol at [dre@uucantonny.org](mailto:dre@uucantonny.org).

## **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

Summer Office Hours: Tuesday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
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## FROM OUR MINISTER Warm Summer Nights

Well, it is summer. Before us are the complex intensities of the color green. We start to enjoy outdoor living again – as we swat bugs. We might already be harvesting early crops from our gardens. For many of us summer is time to slow down. There are many things to love about summer.

My favorite part of summer is going outside after the sun sets and noticing how the air is still warm. I like to water the garden and look up at the pink hues in the clouds and see the first stars appear. Life does not quite make sense to me if there are not these moments of slower pace, warm nights, and orange colors in the normally white clouds.

Christian mystics speak of the dark night of the soul. In their spiritual quests their wells run dry and the joys of prayer and contemplation escape them. After months or even years their joy returns and they realize God had never left them. They find their faith deepened. When we go out into the dark night of our souls, when joy leaves us, we can still be met with warmth like a summer night. The dark night does not have to be dreary and cold, for love never quite leaves us.

July and August I will be taking the majority of my study leave and vacation. I will be in the area and available by appointment only.

I will be leading worship on Sunday, August 5, at Meacham Lake as we explore what sacred spaces are. I hope to see you there.

Blessed Be,

  
*The Rev. James Galasinski*

## PRESIDENT'S POST



I'm writing this on the eve of summer and thinking about the words of author and philosopher Sam Keen: "Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability." For me, summer is a chance to recharge, refresh, and drink in as much daylight as possible. On my list this season are long evening walks, fresh veggies from the garden, visiting farmers markets, a stack of unread books, the backyard hammock, and exploring. (Did I mention weeding the garden?)

We'll continue to have meaningful Sunday worship this summer that nurtures the spiritual development of our church and works to strengthen our understanding and appreciation of our UU faith. Deep summer is still a busy time – Church Council will meet in July and August, the Worship Committee and RE volunteers are working hard to provide summer services and programs for our youth, renovation of the Memorial Garden continues, and the Stewardship and Canvass Committees are looking ahead to our fall giving campaign. The community we've created is much of the reason we come to church on Sundays – even during the summer months!

Summer in the North Country will (no doubt) fly by, so let's enjoy it. I hope you'll join us for the August 5 Huutenanny on Meacham Lake. In the meantime, my sincere thanks for all the things you do for our church, especially during summer. We are a blessed community because of you.

*Todd Moe, Church Council President*

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PONDERINGS

After celebrating our children and youth during RE Sunday worship in June, my heart was glowing with joy and gratitude. Now my heart is heavy as I continue to read the news reports of children being separated from their families/parents as they seek asylum in our country. Our Association's president is speaking out. "The policy of this administration to separate children from their parents at the border is immoral, inhumane and indefensible," says UUA president, the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray. "These families arrive desperate for safe-haven, seeking asylum having fled violence and disruption in their own homeland – and instead of safety, they are further traumatized, victimized and criminalized at the hands of the U.S. government." Our religious tradition calls us to seek justice. Check out the [Love Resists](#) campaign, an effort to help those seeking sanctuary and safety.



As we begin our summer, which for many of us means sporadic church attendance, may we find ways to connect to our values outside of Sunday morning. May we find the joys and relaxation that summer brings but also do the work needed to live a life of connection and love. Blessed be. May it be so.

*Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education*

### Thank You...

- † Eden Terrell, Linda Kenny, and Pete and Christian Beekman for help with the June Blood Drive.
- † Richard Mooers for refinishing the windowsills and trim in the sanctuary and painting the back stairs handrails. Dick is B&G volunteer of the month!
- † Karen Bage for organizing a presentation by the St. Lawrence County Emergency Preparedness office for our safety committee.
- † Esther Katz for purchasing the roses for our graduating high school seniors.
- † Wil Rivers and Arianna Whittaker for help during the RE Sunday Worship Service.
- † Shelby Hunkins for agreeing to assist with the Summer with Seuss program.

### JOYS & SORROWS

- † Our thoughts are with Jen & Danny Thomas and their girls, after the death of Jen's grandmother in early June.
- † We send healing thoughts to Gwen Cunningham who has been taking it easy after surgery in late May.
- † Congratulations to Rachel & Mark Sturges on the birth of their new baby boy. Nathaniel Reed was born on Thursday, June 21.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMITTEE

### Pollinator Garden: 20-minute approach to gardening

The new pollinator garden in front of the church is growing and attracting a range of interesting pollinators. We will continue to observe the garden throughout the summer to see what is growing well and to make sure that we have blooms continuously over time. Our work effort is minimal but important. Please consider arriving for church services 30 minutes early to join us for a quick weeding or plant care effort. We could spill over to the Memorial garden or Priest Field gardens if no work in the pollinator garden required. It does not take long to maintain gardens if we stay on top of the weeds!!

## WORSHIP NEWS

### August 5 Double Header

For the last several years, UUs from Plattsburgh, Saranac Lake, and Canton have gathered at Meacham Lake campground for the annual HUUttenanny, a family-friendly worship service followed by a potluck lunch and an afternoon of outdoor fun. Meacham Lake is a beautiful spot to canoe, kayak, or camp. You could make it a weekend event or just come for the day. Last time our church hosted, we held the first ever HUUttenanny Sand Castle Building Contest. Let's do it again and challenge the other congregations to a castle-off!

This year, the HUUttenanny is scheduled for Sunday, August 5, and James will lead the service. To give people a little more time, the service will begin at 10:30 a.m. Bring lawn chairs for the service, a dish to pass and place settings for the potluck, and don't forget canoes, kayaks, and beach toys! Most of all, bring yourself so we can strengthen the network of UUs across the north country. Note that there is a fee of \$8 per car to enter the campground - carpooling is encouraged. For questions or to connect with a carpool, contact Margaret Harloe or Jon Montan; to see more about Meacham Lake campground, visit [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/24481.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/24481.html)



## SOCIAL ACTION NEWS:

### Let's Roll Out the Welcome Mat Again!

Last summer, the Social Action Committee hosted a potluck picnic dinner and get-to-know-you event for the incoming first year students of the SLU Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP). We had such a good time that we're doing it again! Mark your calendar for Friday, July 13 at 5 p.m.

The HEOP program recruits students with demonstrated potential to succeed at St. Lawrence from across the state, particularly the urban centers. The incoming first-year students must attend a five-week summer program to help them adjust to the expectations of college, get to know their classmates, and begin settling in to their new rural upstate home. We want these kids to feel at home beyond campus and what better way to do that than to host them for dinner and some getting to know you games.

We are expecting 26 HEOP-ers (including upper-class mentors and program staff) and are hoping for a balancing number of UUs. Please bring a dish to share, place settings, and your appetite for food and fun! The SAC will provide the main entrée (both omnivorous and vegetarian options) and beverages. The rest of the meal will be potluck: last names beginning A - M bring a salad or side dish, N - Z bring a dessert (and we welcome potluck donations even if you cannot attend in person). If you have questions, contact Margaret Harloe.

### Social Action Committee Planning Retreat and Potluck

On Monday, August 13, the Social Action Committee will hold a planning retreat and potluck at the home of Margaret Harloe to prepare for the 2018-19 church year. This longer meeting will allow us to do some planning and would also be a great introduction to the work of the SAC for potential new members. We are an action-oriented group and have several irons still in the fire from last year as well as ideas for new efforts. If you are

called to social action and curious about the work of the SAC, please contact SAC co-chairs Margaret Harloe or Pat Alden for more information about this retreat.

## LONG-STANDING COMMITMENTS THAT STRENGTHEN SOCIAL JUSTICE

### **Church & Community Program**

Back in 1974, then minister Max Coots worked with other Canton clergy on a plan to provide coordinated help for local people in need. The Church and Community Program was born, and continues today, offering a food pantry, a thrift shop, and a fund to meet emergency needs. Our UU congregation has through the years offered steady support, as have other member churches in Canton, making this one of our strongest interfaith initiatives.

Support comes in several forms. Volunteers from our congregation serve on the board and help in the pantry and shop. We take up a collection every December at the Holiday Service, which amounts to about \$2,000. More significantly, we contribute as individuals to the CCP Annual Fund Drive, and this brings our financial support to about \$6,000. Contributions are received throughout the year and may be sent to: Church and Community Program, P. O. Box 55, Canton (envelopes available outside the church office).

We give in other ways as well, like through our “Feed the Need” box in the Social Room. Forming the habit of picking up an extra item when you shop is a good practice; this summer individual servings pleasing to children will help parents who rely on school lunches during the year, and it’s a nice way to involve your own children in giving. In July/August, we’ll be asking for contributions to the “Back to School – Supplies Program.” In December you’ll be invited to buy a gift for a child. And finally, but not least, please think of the thrift shop for items you no longer wear – including jewelry, purses, shoes, etc. The shop is at 7 Main Street. We thank everyone who finds a way to give to this important work of putting a safety net in place for the poorest in our area. To learn more about CCP, you can find our monthly newsletter by going to [www.cpcanton.org](http://www.cpcanton.org).

### **Council for Religious Concerns (C.O.R.C.)**

Our church also supports a thrift store in Potsdam, and our own Arthur Freeheart is on that Board. This was set up by an interfaith group called C.O.R.C. – Council for Religious Concerns – and you can learn more by going here: <http://corc-thrift-store.business.site/>

If you would like to receive weekly electronic news updates,  
please email [office@uucantonny.org](mailto:office@uucantonny.org)