



The Latest News

from the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton

MONTH OF SUNDAYS

October 2018

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

October 7

Hope and Transformation in the Midst of Crisis

Dave Nelson, Pulpit Guest

Finding strength through insight, an exploration of hope and growth in personal crisis, using Daniel Pinkwater's beloved Mr. Plumbean as a guide through Kazimiriez Dabrowski's Theory of Positive Disintegration.

Dave Nelson came to the North Country in 2005 with his wife Rebecca Pickens. He is dad to three boys - Elias, JoJo and Walden. Currently a therapist at Claxton-Hepburn Wellness Center in Ogdensburg, he also runs Insight Psychological Services, a private practice in Canton. He is a novice woodworker, a former draft horse teamster, and plays guitar whenever he can.

Music: UU Choir

Lay Leader: Valerie Ingram

RE Ambassador: Shelby Hunkins

Greeters: Sally & Gary Hoose, Sarah Oakley

Social Hour Hosts: Erika Barthelmess & Natalie Panshin, Gwen & Sean Cunningham

Collection Counters: David Doran, Ruth Baltus

October 14

What Do We Deserve? *The Rev. James Galasinski*

How much good in life do we really deserve? Do we deserve to own parts of the American dream with houses, health care, and happiness? Today we will kick off our 2019 Canvass.

Music: Betsy Kepes

Worship Associate: Robin Collen

RE Ambassador: Arthur Freeheart

Greeters: Mary Michalek, Bill Short

Social Hour Hosts: Cynthia Bansack, Lonie Bogett, Jon Rosales & Matilda Larson

Collection Counters: Pat Gengo, Tim Opdyke

October 21

Faith *The Rev. James Galasinski*

Faith is not the opposite of doubt or science. A liberal religious faith goes beyond beliefs. A liberal faith is based on the latest science. Ultimately, our faith is tied up with our greatest concerns.

Music: UU Choir

Worship Associate: Sarah Bentley-Garfinkel

RE Ambassador: Jim Williams

Greeters: Duncan & Lois Cutter, Paul Cutter, Jim Rudd

Social Hour Hosts: All-Church Potluck Luncheon

Collection Counters: Jon Montan, Lorraine Olendzenski

October 28

The Monarch Life Process *The Rev. James Galasinski and Carol Zimmerman, DRE*

Every October millions of monarch butterflies congregate on trees in the hills of Mexico. This migration happens about the same time people celebrate *Dia de los Muertos*, Halloween, and Samhain. Come as we explore how we are like butterflies and undergo metamorphoses in our lives. The whole congregation is invited.

Music: Bethany Cencer, Organ


Worship Associate: Jon Montan

RE Ambassador: Ron Tavernier

Greeters: Sheila Cerwonka, Janet Green, Pete & Kathy Wyckoff

Social Hour Host: Sarah Bentley-Garfinkel & Ryan Hicks, Morolake Odetoyinbo & Kara McLuckie

Collection Counters: Lonie Bogett, Will Siegfried



Wednesday, October 17, 5:15 p.m.
Community Vespers
The Rev. James Galasinski & DRE Carol Zimmerman

This service for all ages will explore black prophetic voices through music, prose, and works for justice.

A fellowship potluck will follow.

Hope to see you there!

ON THE CALENDAR

Please print and post!



Monday, October 1

5:00 p.m., Committee Chairs Meeting

Wednesday, October 3

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

6:30 p.m., Church Council Meeting

Thursday, October 4

7:00 p.m., Canvasser Training

Saturday, October 6

9:00 a.m., Canvasser Training

Sunday, October 7

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

Noon, Grace House Meeting

Monday, October 8

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

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

Tuesday, October 9

9:00 a.m., Sacred Texts and Coffee

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

Wednesday, October 10

1:00 p.m., Communications Committee Meeting

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

Sunday, October 14

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

Monday, October 15

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

4:00 p.m., Welcoming Committee Meeting

Tuesday, October 16

11:30 a.m., America Red Cross Blood Drive

Wednesday, October 17

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir Practice

5:15 p.m., Community Vespers Service

6:30 p.m., RE Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 18

7:00 p.m., Canvasser Committee Meeting

7:00 p.m., Worship Committee Meeting

Sunday, October 21

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

Annual Congregational Meeting & All-Church

Potluck Luncheon

Monday, October 22

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Wednesday, October 24

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir Practice

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

Sunday, October 28

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

Monday, October 29

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Wednesday, October 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

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.

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FROM OUR MINISTER Our Mission: A Bold Possibility

From the time I moved to Canton, my neighbors, other ministers, and even the people that cut my hair have expressed gratitude to me for all the justice work our congregation does. We are a socially active congregation. We have a legacy, a reputation, and a responsibility to move that forward.

We also have the legacy of a strong Religious Education (RE) program. While other area churches are struggling in this area – we are flourishing.

As we approach our 2019 Canvass, here is the good news: We are a very stable congregation with a great staff. Carol Zimmerman provides the right kind of leadership and authentic energy as our Director of Religious Education. Our Congregational Administrator, Sara Trimm, is a very organized and friendly soul who makes our beloved community hum along. Carol Strome leads a strong choir; Theresa Witmer is a very talented handbell director; Betsy Kepes plays wonderful music and works hard to pick a diversity of performers. We are blessed with a beautiful and well-kept building.

With this strong foundation, I believe our congregation can expand on the realization of our mission. There are a number of ways we can do that. We could begin to professionalize our justice work by hiring a part-time Social Action Coordinator. Think of the position as a community organizer who builds structures of justice able to withstand whomever is elected. The position would work with the entire congregation to build on what the Social Action Committee has been doing to create more meaningful volunteer opportunities and more justice.

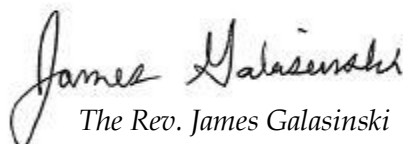
And

To expand our religious education offerings in areas related to Our Whole Lives, youth programming, and adult RE, we could use a part-time assistant to the DRE.

As UUA President, the Rev. Susan Frederick Gray, has voiced, “This is no time for a casual faith.” Unitarian Universalists values and principles are shockingly and openly disregarded. This is the time to be bold.

With our 2019 Canvass, we could raise the same amount of money we did last year and remain the stable congregation we are. But if we want to keep expanding our values in the community and grow the spirit of love within our walls, we need to be bold. This year’s canvass invites you to do that. Our goals are aspirational, and may take us the next one to three years to accomplish. While our mission is bold, it is, nonetheless, possible.

It is good to be together,


The Rev. James Galasinski



PRESIDENT'S POST

A number of months ago I donned a trench coat, dark glasses, and a fake moustache as part of the “roll out” of our new mission statement. All joking aside, we’ve had lots of discussions, suggestions, and re-writes. And, as the experts advised us, we’ve lived with our new mission statement for a while. Later this month, we’ll vote as a congregation to approve it. You can view our mission statement at [this link](#) to the church website.

Huge thanks to the folks who helped create the church’s original mission statement back in the 1990s. I want to make it clear that the reboot of the mission is not a criticism of the former, but a statement that reflects what’s happening in our church in 2018. Times have changed! We’ve turned a page, and we should have a mission statement that reflects who and where we are today.

Our mission statement is an important tool for Church Council, staff, volunteers, and all of us as we consider goals in the coming years. Is it permanent? Hardly. Nothing is set in stone, except the church foundation. I suspect that in another 10 years or so, this church will again take a hard look at our mission, congregational life and very likely craft a new statement.

Please join us on Sunday, October 21, to vote on a statement that helps define who we are as a congregation. Also, we’ll vote to approve the Church Council slate of officers and trustees - the body that’s going to lead us in living our new mission as a congregation!

**Justice, compassion, diversity, love, spiritual, nurture, connect, respect,
support, community, hope, peace, care, grow, equity**

Words suggested by our congregation for our new Mission Statement

Todd Moe, Church Council President

ANNUAL MEETING & LUNCH

The Annual Meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, October 21, immediately after the service. The agenda for the meeting includes voting on the new mission statement (see below) and the 2019 Church Council slate (see page 8). Everyone is welcome, but only members may vote.

Following the meeting, please join us for an all-church potluck luncheon - everyone is invited! Bring your potluck packs (plates, bowls, utensils) and a dish to pass: A-G - soup/salad, H-P - main dish, Q-Z - dessert.



MISSION COMMISSION

The new mission statement has been a work in progress for over a year and it’s exciting to finally be bringing it to the congregation for approval at the annual meeting on October 21. The Mission Commission - the team tasked with helping craft a new mission statement - worked to gather input and feedback from the

congregation as the process unfolded. For review of the process used to create the mission statement see the [June 2018 newsletter](#) or this [timeline](#) on our webpage.

We are already using the proposed mission statement as a foundation for our all-important 2019 annual pledge campaign, and Church Council will be using the statement as a point of reference as we make important decisions about our future.

The statement has undergone a few minor revisions since it was presented to the congregation on May 20. The mission statement that we will be voting on in October is:

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH IN CANTON, NEW YORK

Creating a welcoming, compassionate faith community,
committed to social justice and open to wonder.

Together we strive to:



Foster a spirit of inclusion and connection



Encourage exploration of truth and meaning



Nurture respect for all life and the environment



Live our values in the North Country and in the wider world

MISSION: POSSIBLE!

A new minister and new energy mean a new focus on what we are doing as a congregation. Over the last year we have worked through the process of developing a new mission statement, which is the prism through which we will make many decisions.

The 2019 Canvass will focus on what it takes to make our mission possible. The answer begins with you. Your time, your energy, and your money are what it will take to make our mission a reality.

The pledge drive in the fall of each year is how we ask you to support our church's annual operating budget. Church Council approves a budget based on the money we all pledge to contribute. Income from our pledges, and a few thousand dollars from our endowment interest, are the only sources available to fund plans for the coming year.

On Sunday, October 14, we will kick off this year's annual canvass. The Canvass Committee has decided to use a one-on-one canvass method this year, allowing volunteer canvassers to have personal conversations with church members and friends about the church and their financial commitment.

A member of the canvassing team will be phoning you shortly after October 14 to arrange for a visit. A successful canvass visit will be 90 percent about listening to what aspect of the new mission statement speaks to you. Only then will we be happy to receive your completed pledge in support of that aspiration.

Please be welcoming of this process and the visiting canvass volunteer when you are contacted. Help us make this year's canvass a success.

*Jennifer Whittaker and Peter Wyckoff
Canvass Committee Co-chairs*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PONDERINGS



This is my living faith, an active faith, a faith of verbs: to question, explore, experiment, experience, walk, run, dance, play, eat, love, learn, dare, taste, touch, smell, listen, argue, speak, write, read, draw, provoke, emote, scream, sin, repent, cry, kneel, pray, bow, rise, stand, look, laugh, cajole, create, confront, confound, walk back, walk forward, circle, hide, and seek. - Terry Tempest Williams

To live our UU faith, these verbs resonate with me. Our religious education ministry for children and youth offers many opportunities to actively live in faith. Our nursery and Spirit Play classes share stories, ask wondering questions, and provide free play time. Our Spirit of Adventure class looks to sports, medicine, science, and food to explore our UU faith and values. Creating is the central theme for our MakerSpace class, where they will be exploring elections, community service, winter ecology, and climate change. Our Coming of Age class and youth group will explore their UU identity through justice work, discussion and worship.

As our children and youth explore, experience, play, eat, create, laugh, and more during their religious education time, they find their faith. Maybe we can look to them and their actions as ways we can live our UU faith. Blessed be.

Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education

Planning a meeting at the church?

Don't forget to [email Sara](#) in the office to confirm the space you need.

THANK YOU...

- ⊕ Paul Siskind for his amazing work beautifying our Memorial Garden.
- ⊕ Wil Rivers, Jenn Whittaker, Jennifer Sorensen, Ron Tavernier, Arthur Freeheart, Eileen Raymond and Mark Berninghausen for helping with the Teaching Ministry Workshop.
- ⊕ Nelly Case, Bobbi Hart, Eileen Raymond, and Shirley Boeheim for generous donations for our Handbell Choir (see page 7).

JOYS & SORROWS

- ⊕ Our warmest wishes are with Donna Kimball as she recovers after open heart surgery at the end of August.
- ⊕ We hold Reg Budelmann in our hearts as she continues to fight against pancreatic cancer.
- ⊕ We send healing thoughts to Gary Hoose, who is at home recovering after being diagnosed with a leg clot.
- ⊕ Heartfelt congratulations to James, Ulrike, and Miles on the arrival of baby Oskar Jakob.
- ⊕ Welcome baby Meredith, who was born to Gabrielle and Ashley Clover, joining her big sister Geri.
- ⊕ Healing wishes go out to Kate Whitehorne, who was recently hospitalized with pneumonia.

HANDBELLS NEWS
All the Bells and Whistles!

Our Handbell Choir has had an exciting summer and fall! After 30 years of use, our entire three-octave set of handbells was sent back to the factory for a complete refurbishment. They were “in the shop” for several weeks and the process included the Schulmerich technicians disassembling all of the bells and giving them all new parts, including clappers and handles. They then polished all of the bells and vacuumed and cleaned the cases. Once the handbells were reassembled, the expert workers did the final work of optimizing the clapper tensions, voicing and blending the bells (to check for volume discrepancies), and performed a final tuning check.

The result? We’ve been practicing with them since the beginning of September and they play so much better and sound wonderful. We hope you’ll think so, too! It was an expensive endeavor, costing about \$4000. We appreciate generous donations, which helped to defray the cost of the project, from Nelly Case, Bobbi Hart, and Eileen Raymond, in memory of her son, Warren.

But wait, there’s more! This past spring, we used a borrowed set of handchimes to play one of our pieces, and lots of people were excited about the extra range of “color” those instruments added to our music. The Handbell Choir loved playing the handchimes, but we knew we weren’t in a position to buy our own anytime soon. Little did we know that would quickly change!

Our long-time member Shirley Boeheim, who now lives in Candler, North Carolina, decided to donate the entire cost of a new set of Schulmerich handchimes (top of the line!) to our church in honor of her father, the Rev. Dr. John E. Wood, and the Rev. Dr. Emerson H. Lalone. You can read more about Shirley’s gift and these two men [here](#).

We’ll have a special dedication of the new handchimes on November 11 and we’ll play them along with the newly-refurbished bells. We’ll finish the service with a special change-ringing “extravaganza,” using all of the bells and the handchimes!

Anyone interested in playing Handbells may contact [Theresa Witmer](#).

Theresa Witmer, Handbells Director



*Last one here after worship or a meeting?
Make sure the lights are off and the doors are locked –
even if staff members are working in their offices.
(It’s a safety thing, but also good for the environment and the light bill.)*



SOCIAL ACTION UPDATE

Church & Community Program held a Recognition Ceremony in September where they honored outstanding volunteer Doug Quick and the Ogdensburg Correctional Facility (OCF), whose garden produced wondrous amounts of fresh produce for the food pantry. You can read about the garden project at OCF [here](#).

Hear more about **New Hope Transformation House (aka Grace House)** and be part of the conversation by attending an “after social hour” chat in the Romer Room on Sunday, October 7.

[Make an appointment](#) to give blood at the **Red Cross Blood Drive** on Tuesday, October 16. The need is urgent and one donation can save up to three lives.

Our November SASO will be held for [Deep Root Center for Self-Directed Learning](#). Keep an eye out for more information in the next newsletter!

All are invited to join us for the next **Social Action Committee meeting** on Monday, October 8 at 7 p.m.

FAITHIFY

Crowdfunding Unitarian Universalism

FAITHIFY is a crowdfunding platform initiated by the UUA to connect passionate people to fund Unitarian Universalist ministries beyond our individual congregations. FAITHIFY envisions a Unitarian Universalism that is more connected, relevant, and vibrant. It is not a funding body; rather, it is a platform that allows projects to generate funders within our UU communities. Projects posted on FAITHIFY.org include everything from youth work to social justice, service, buildings, staff positions, and emerging ministries. These projects all seek our direct support as individual UUs to FAITHIFY their efforts.

Learn more [here](#) or check with Eileen Raymond for more information.

If you would like to receive weekly electronic news updates,
please email office@uucantonny.org
Submission Deadline for our next newsletter: Saturday, October 20.

2019 CHURCH COUNCIL SLATE

On Sunday, October 21, at the Annual Meeting, the members of the congregation will be asked to vote on officers and trustees for the 2019 Church Council. The Nominating Committee presents the following slate:

President (January 2019 – December 2020)

Todd Moe lives in Norwood. He and his husband, Paul Siskind, moved to the North Country from Minneapolis in the summer of 1998. Todd grew up in rural Minnesota in a Methodist household, went to a Lutheran college, but is most comfortable in the UU world. He joined the church in the fall of '98. He started singing in the choir within the first month of attending church, and has served on the Nominating Committee, RE Committee and teaches Spirit Play. Todd is the weekday morning host on North Country Public Radio and also enjoys cooking, gardening, and making paper. Paul teaches in the First Year Program at St. Lawrence University.

Treasurer (January 2019 – December 2020)

Gwen Cunningham is a relative newcomer to the North Country having arrived three and a half years ago after many years in New England. She spent 10 years working as a director for the Rhode Island Community Food Bank; prior to that, she was a professional stage manager at numerous theatres in Providence, New York City, and Boston. She is currently the Science Librarian at St. Lawrence University. She holds a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Rhode Island and a bachelor's degree from Mt. Holyoke College. In her free time, Gwen can be found rowing at Norwood Lake, hiking (or skiing) at Higley Flow, and tending her chickens and goats at home in Pierrepont with her husband and North Country native, Sean.

Trustee (January 2019 – December 2020)

Mary Michalek was drawn to Unitarian Universalism the fall following her college commencement and was a member of the UU Society of Burlington for almost ten years. While there, she was active in the choir and served on the music committee, including a few years as co-chair. When her husband, Arthur, was hired at Clarkson University as a mechanical engineering professor, they and their young son, Walter, relocated to Potsdam. After a couple years during which naptime and work obligations prevented regular church attendance, Mary became a member in the fall of 2016. She has promptly immersed herself in the church by singing with the choir, helping out in RE, speaking from the pulpit, and providing additional music. When not at church, she spends her time parenting Wally, working for the Adult Literacy program at the Potsdam Library, and as a doula and childbirth educator.

Trustee (January 2019 – December 2020)

Julie Van Duyne grew up in Norwood and has attended this church since before she could speak in sentences. Her parents, Andrew Van Duyne and Eileen Wheeler, are transplants - Crane graduates who settled in the area and both taught music in the Norwood-Norfolk Central School district. Julie resides on a quaint country estate amid the rolling hills of Russell, spending her summer days harvesting rocks (and occasionally vegetables) from the great gravel fields of the Sundance Knoll Home for Canine Convalescence, and her winters battling the frozen, beastly winds that bring icy driveways and frigid, barefoot-biting morning floors. She lives there with her cat Socrates, his puppy companion Ada, the Lady Fenway, Gustav the Magnificent Potato Bear, and the matron of the house, Heidi (an elegantly mature border collie). Heidi's family also resides there – Ken, Lexi, and Henry Hebb. Julie is working with the Youth Group this year and some day, if she's skillfully deft with time management, she hopes to join the choir.

Trustee (January 2019 – December 2020)

Kathy Wyckoff has been a member of the church since 1980, the year she and her husband Pete were married by Max Coats, and is nominated for a second term as Trustee. She was part of the Search Committee that brought Anne Marsh and Wade Wheelock to Canton and most recently chaired the "Mission Commission," which helped draft the church's new mission statement. Over the years she has been involved in many committees and groups, including Staff Relations Committee, Social Events Committee, Coming of Age and Youth Group. For the last five years she's been the chair of the Memorial Committee. Her children Cassidy and Elizabeth grew up in this church and now live in Austin, Texas, and Madison, Wisconsin.

Nominating Committee Chair (January 2019 – December 2019)

Carol Pynchon has been a member of the church since shortly after she and her husband Tom moved to Canton. She has served on Church Council as secretary and president, on the Staff Relations and Communications committees, and as chair of the 2009-10 Search Committee. Carol taught in RE for longer than she can remember and she and Tom raised their three children – Drew, David, and Lindy – in the UU church and RE program. When she's not at church, Carol serves on the board of GardenShare and is a Trustee for the Village of Canton.

As a reminder, the following are fulfilling terms on Church Council and will continue in 2019: Jenn Whittaker, Vice President; Jon Montan, Secretary; and Trustees John Danis, Anna Sorensen, and Bill Short.