



# The Latest News

from the  
*Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton*

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July 2020  
**A MONTH OF SUNDAYS**

While our church building is closed and we are all practicing social distancing, Sunday worship services will be held virtually on Zoom, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Instructions and the link to participate are [here](#); meeting ID# is 336 941 336. If you don't have internet access, you can also listen over the telephone. Simply dial 1-646-558-8656. When prompted, enter 336 941 336#. (Long distance fees may apply.)

**July 5**

## **The Universality of Gender Fluidity**

*The Rev. Marty Pelham, Pulpit Guest*

Some of us embrace *they* and *them* as gender pronouns while others choose from dozens now available. As our movement strives to widen the circle of concern, can our experience with religious/spiritual fluidity along with our first principle help us understand, embrace, and celebrate gender fluidity?

Marty is a Florida native who grew up beside their grandfather's strawberry farm near Plant City. After careers in social services and education, they left those tropical climes in 2015 to attend seminary in Massachusetts. Their journey led to Syracuse in 2018 for a ministerial internship and they have been the consulting minister at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Watertown since December. Marty is committed to interfaith engagement as a catalyst for spiritual growth and social justice.

**July 12**

## **To Be At Peace**

*The Rev. Dr. Lynn Ashley, Pulpit Guest*

What might peace mean, particularly through these turbulent times?

The Rev. Dr. Lynn Ashley is retired after having served as contract minister in Fredonia, Barneveld and Glens Falls. She lives with her husband, Lawrence Snyder, and their cat Puddle-of-fur — Puddles for short — in the Albany area.

**July 19**

**TBA** *Dr. Claudia J. Ford, Pulpit Guest*

Dr. Claudia J. Ford teaches in the Environmental Studies program at SUNY Potsdam. She had a career in women's health and international development spanning three decades and all continents. A lifelong UU, Dr. Ford is also a midwife, writer, and visual artist, and has shared the joys and adventures of her global travel with her four children.

**July 26**

## **Love and Teaching in the Time of Covid**

*Doug Rubio, Pulpit Guest*

Educators scrambled to move all their teaching online when the pandemic hit last March. It was a chaotic time full of both health anxiety and pedagogical stress. But is there anything to be learned from such an experience? Is there a way that we can use it to deepen our spirituality?

Doug Rubio is a member of the Worship Committee. He has been attending our church for over 25 years, and has held a number of leadership positions. In his non-church life he is a professor of classical guitar at SUNY Potsdam.

**SUMMER**

## ON THE CALENDAR

*Please print and post!*



### **Wednesday, July 1**

6:30 p.m., Church Council Meeting

5:00 p.m., Campus Kitchens Meal Distribution

7:00 p.m., Faith in Action Meeting

### **Sunday, July 5**

10:30 a.m., Worship

### **Sunday, July 19**

10:30 a.m., Worship

### **Monday, July 6**

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

5:00 p.m., Campus Kitchens Meal Distribution

### **Monday, July 20**

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

5:00 p.m., Campus Kitchens Meal Distribution

### **Thursday, July 9**

Noon, Budget & Finance Committee Meeting

### **Sunday, July 26**

10:30 a.m., Worship

### **Sunday, July 12**

10:30 a.m., Worship

### **Monday, July 27**

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

5:00 p.m., Campus Kitchens Meal Distribution

### **Monday, July 13**

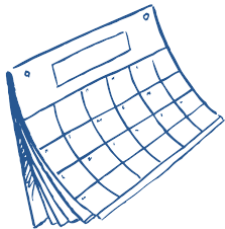
Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

*Most committee meetings are still happening virtually. If you are a committee member, watch for email invitations to join the Zoom meeting at your normally scheduled meeting time.*

## A NOTE ABOUT THE CALENDAR

FROM THE REV. JAMES GALASINSKI:

The majority of July and August I will be on vacation and study leave and not regularly checking my email. The Pastoral Care Team is a group of trained congregants that are here to practice the art of compassionate listening when I am away. Please contact the Pastoral Care Team leads:



July 1-5: Leo Burger  
July 6-12: Helen Hutchinson  
July 13-20: Leo Burger  
July 21-August 2: Valerie Ingram,  
August 3-25: Claire Gardam



## The Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton

The Rev. James Galasinski, Minister

Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education; Shelby Hunkins, Assistant Director of Religious Education

Sara Trimm, Congregational Administrator

Teresa Veramendi, Social Justice Coordinator

Betsy Kepes, Music Coordinator; Carol Strome, Choir Director; Theresa Witmer, Handbell Choir Director

The Reverends Anne Marsh and Wade Wheelock, Ministers Emeriti

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## JAMES' JOURNAL

### Covenant, Connection, and Community Creating

the buzz of depth  
the welcome of cloudy mornings  
the dryness of summer  
the hope of rain  
the life of looking

I long for highs and insights that come from taking part in religious life. I welcome the clouds that shield us from too much light and heat. For we are a dry people who need the nourishing well of each other. The life of looking is better when we are together, hearing each other's dryness, rain, and shielding clouds.

Our faith traces the final authority for even having a faith community to covenant. The earliest covenants were between the mystery of God and God's people. This evolved to being in relationship with each other. In other words we have a sacred social contract with each other. More so now than ever, we should defund individualism as the foundation of our faith. In this time of national discord, growing division, and inequality, we need to look at that invisible covenant we have with each other. We journey together in many ways as work for justice and worship together, and very specifically in small groups where we bond, connect, and create a deeper community. I think our future of creating community depends on the buzz of depth. May the relational quality of the holy create our community.

Blessed be,  
*The Rev. James Galasinski, Minister*



## PRESIDENT'S POST

Our Church does good work. From our support to Black Lives Matter, to our environmental work, to our commitment to being a Welcoming Congregation, I am proud to be part of this congregation.

The pandemic has changed the way we do this work. Much of it has moved online. When not online, we are often wearing masks and distancing ourselves physically, such as the Vigil for Black Lives held in the Canton park. Nonetheless, I don't see a decrease in our care and dedication. Our love for our greater community continues to shine.

There are many ways you can help with the work. The Social Justice page of our website (<https://www.uucantonny.org/social-justice/>) is a great place to start. The UUA website also provides many avenues for social justice work (<https://www.uua.org/justice>).

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns at [president@uucantonny.org](mailto:president@uucantonny.org).

*Jennifer Whittaker, Church Council President*

## FAITH ENGAGEMENT

This summer is off to a very hot, dry start. It feels like it's going to be a very different summer this year. Our summer faith engagement program will be different too.

Our “**Book and Cooks**” offering is for those young and young at heart who love to eat, love to cook and want to learn about different cultures through food. Using stories about food and cooking, we give everyone a “taste” of different cultures around the world. The 3rd UU principle encourages us to learn, grow, and to value and respect each other to build a more peaceful world. Additionally, the stories explore lessons about helping each other, being part of a community, being adventurous, being independent, sharing and the importance of family. Each week this summer, we will post a video story (read by our assistant DRE, Shelby Hunkins), a chalice lighting, recipe, table grace and additional activities on the church [Face-book event](#). These are for anyone to enjoy - not just children and youth. We have set this up so you can participate whenever it fits in your schedule. We will host (3) [Zoom gatherings](#) on June 28, July 26 and August 23 to share what we have been learning and creating. Check it out! If you are not connected to Facebook, please email me at [dre@uucantonny.org](mailto:dre@uucantonny.org) and we will make arrangements for you to have access to all the information.



Our youth will meet via [Zoom](#) bi-weekly beginning Sunday, July 5. We will look to explore some social justice issues, take hikes and more. Look for details in your email inbox.

Summer may be different; keeping connected with your values and faith community are small ways to stay present in this new normal. Blessed be.

*Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education*

### THANK YOU

- Maya Thomas for creating the Time for All Ages Video for the Youth Service.
- Finley Thomas for participating in the Religious Education Worship Service.
- Franny and Lena Frank for providing music for the Religious Education Worship Service.
- Sarah Oakley and Zoya Kocho-Williams for sharing why religious education is important in their lives for the Religious Education Worship Service.

### JOYS & SORROWS

- Our heartfelt sympathies are with the family and friends of longtime church member Noel de la Motte, who passed away in mid-May in the hospital in Riverhead, NY, due to complications of COVID-19. There will be no memorial service. Noel wants everyone who knew her to extend all the goodness in life to everyone you meet. Be kind, be caring, share music and laughter, take care of each other and Mother Earth.
- The Rev. George Briggs died on November 21, 2019, aged 89. Rev. Briggs was our interim minister between the Rev. Max Coots and the Rev.s Anne Marsh/Wade Wheelock.
- The Rev. James Galasinski has achieved full fellowship in the Unitarian Universalist Association. Congratulations, James! Well done.

### RACHEL SOMERS GRANT SOCIAL ACTION AWARD



[The Rachel Somers Grant Social Action Award](#) recognizes the contributions of outstanding individuals who have helped make the North Country a more human and progressive community.

The award this year recognizes the contributions of **Eileen Raymond**, a relentless champion for social justice throughout her life as a teacher, advocate, witness and helper. In her professional life, Eileen worked in the field of education and she currently serves on the Canton Central School Board. She has been a lifelong supporter of the League of



Women Voters and advocate for democratic government. In the mid-1990's she helped lead our church to become a Welcoming Congregation. Most recently she was the lead organizer for our Social Justice Initiative, a three-day symposium focused on criminal justice issues.

Click [here](#) to watch the presentation of the award.

Congratulations Eileen!

## A FAREWELL MESSAGE

*Dear friends,*

*As some of you already know, this month we will be moving out of Canton and away from the North Country. We are packing our proverbial wagon train and heading west to Boise, Idaho, to be closer to our families. While we don't presume that this is a news-worthy to all, we have dug deep roots in this congregation and are struggling to find ways to say good bye, at least for now. This letter is one such attempt.*

*We moved to Canton from Southern California in August, 1994, with our young children in tow. We were excited and ready to start a new chapter of our lives but definitely feeling the transplant shock that comes with such a transition. One of the first things we explored in our new community was a Sunday service at the UU Church of Canton. We were both familiar with UU-ism from our childhoods and from briefly attending the UU Congregation of Montclair, California before our move, but the warmth, welcome and connection we felt at 3 ½ E. Main was truly special. It quickly became clear that the UU Church of Canton was a place for us – a community that would nurture our spirits, challenge our minds and encourage us to deepen our commitment to engage, speak up, step up and get involved. Most importantly, this congregation was a huge support while raising our two children, who have grown into compassionate, curious, justice seeking, wonderful adults. There are too many to name, too many thank, too many to list as mentors, partners and friends. Perhaps we can best sum it up by paraphrasing a friend who once said of the church that she came for the kids but stayed for herself. The Religious Education program was certainly an initial attraction, and we will be forever grateful to the legions of volunteers who patiently and lovingly shared their time and spirits with our kids. But we are also grateful for the opportunity to grow our own spirits as we were invited to participate in different and deeper ways.*



*Sometimes it was hard to imagine how we could fit in another request or find time for another project, but invariably we would find a way. At times we were spread thin and the dishes in the sink went unwashed, but saying yes led us to a deeper love for this church community and a greater appreciation for the interconnected web of life throughout the world. We contributed what we could, but invariably found that we received more than we gave. This congregation was started by the vision of a few, but has persisted, even thrived, because of the participation of many. We expect that you who have read this far have, like us, found a home in this congregation, and hope that you will continue to seek out deeper commitment, connection and participation.*

*We are at a loss for words to describe how much we will miss this congregation, but suffice it to say this church, and all of you, are irreplaceable and will forever be held in a special corner of our hearts. We are sorry that current circumstances prevent more in person good-byes. To borrow from James, it was good to be together, and we look forward to someday, in a post-pandemic future, coming back for a visit and being together again.*

*With deep gratitude,  
Margaret and Bart Harloe*

## CAMPUS KITCHENS PROJECT

Campus Kitchens continues the good work of providing free take-out meals from our church parking lot. The process involves preparing meals in the kitchen at Eben Holden on the St. Lawrence University campus, then packaging those meals into the van for distribution at the parking lot. We could use your help. If you are willing to help prepare or distribute these meals, please [sign up online](#) for a shift that works with your schedule. If you have questions, please reach out to [office@uucantonny.org](mailto:office@uucantonny.org) for more information. If you know someone who could use a meal, please send them to the church parking lot at 5 p.m. on Monday evenings.



### Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton

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



If you would like to receive weekly electronic news updates,  
please email [office@uucantonny.org](mailto:office@uucantonny.org)  
Submission Deadline for our next newsletter: Monday, July 20.