



The Latest News

from the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton

August 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.)

August 2 **Desert Places**

The Revs. Anne Marsh and Wade Wheelock

Borrowing imagery from Robert Frost, we explore the loneliness and emptiness that are sometimes part of all our lives, especially in this time of covid-19. Most of us would like to wish away our 'desert places,' but the only way out is through.

The Revs. Anne Marsh and Wade Wheelock are the Ministers Emeriti of the UU Church of Canton. After serving our congregation for 16 years, they retired in 2009 and now live in the mountains of Los Alamos, New Mexico.

August 9 **The Paradox of Comfort and Community: The Soul of Belonging**

The Rev. Dr. Roger Jones, Pulpit Guest

These times of physical separation from one another provide many harsh and unsettling challenges, and a few surprising opportunities. There has never been a better time for us to create more deeply connected congregations. Of course, depth and authenticity are not always easy in community, online or in person. What helps us belong to one another through good times and bad?

Roger Jones has served the UU Society of Sacramento since 2008 and has served congregations in Sunnyvale, CA, Bloomington, MN, and southeastern New England. A native of Indianapolis, he has a BA in English and MBA from Indiana University, an M.Div. from Meadville Lombard Theological School, and a Doctor of Ministry from Pacific School of Religion.

August 16 **Resilience**

The Rev. Christine Robinson, Pulpit Guest

Resilience is a many dimensional human trait that we rarely think about until we need it..but after 5 months of COVID-19, we need it! Christine will talk about resilience and the things we can do to nurture it in ourselves.

The Rev. Christine Robinson was for nearly 30 years the Senior Minister of the First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and in that capacity supervised James' internship and residency year. She retired three years ago and works now as a church consultant and ministerial coach. She is married, has a grown young adult son, farms her micro-mini suburban farm and is enjoying remote preaching.

August 23 **The Mystery of Our Minds**

Ben Hunkins, Pulpit Guest

Ben Hunkins has been a member of the church since 2017 and joined the Worship Committee last year.

August 30 **Where's the Diego de Vargas Statue?**

The Revs. Wade Wheelock & Anne Marsh

In the Southwest of the United States, social justice protestors have targets in addition to Confederate monuments. This region's history of military and spiritual conquest of indigenous peoples prompts further reflection on what we should do about history. How far back can we go? The Revs. Wade Wheelock and Anne Marsh are the Ministers Emeriti of the UU Church of Canton. After serving our congregation for 16 years, they retired in 2009 and now live in the mountains of Los Alamos, New Mexico.

ON THE CALENDAR

Please print and post!



Sunday, August 2
10:30 a.m., Worship

Monday, August 3
Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, August 4
4:15 p.m., Welcoming Committee Meeting

Wednesday, August 5
6:30 p.m., Church Council Meeting

Sunday, August 9
10:30 a.m., Worship

Monday, August 10
Noon, Mindfulness Meditation
7:00 p.m., Faith in Action Meeting

Sunday, August 16

10:30 a.m., Worship

Monday, August 17
Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Sunday, August 23
10:30 a.m., Worship

Monday, August 24
Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Saturday, August 29
2:00 p.m., Memorial for Kelly Johnson-Eilola

Sunday, August 30
10:30 a.m., Worship

Monday, August 31
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.

BUILDING USE

As Covid continues to be a concern, it's important that we maintain our vigilance to keep everyone safe. Church council has approved a slow and soft re-opening of the church, which will allow you to visit the building, but we must make certain we take all precautions to keep the space clean and sanitized. If you hope or plan to be in the church, even if you have your own key, please send an email to Sara Trimm at office@uucantonny.org with the day and approximate time. If you make an unplanned stop there, please be sure to sign in on the clipboard at the entrance. (There is one in the front and back entrance.) This will help us properly gauge how much traffic has been in the building and where, which will dictate our cleaning procedures. Thank you so much for your cooperation, patience, and understanding. Teamwork makes the dream work!

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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PRESIDENT'S POST

As we head into August, I feel like summer is starting to wind down. While the weather is still generally warm and the gardens still producing heavily, the looming start of the college and school semester is before me and I start thinking fall thoughts.

No matter what happens, this fall will be vastly different than any other. Whether colleges and schools go back to in-person teaching or are held online, the changes will be both challenging and ground shifting. As many people in our congregation either work for, have students in, or know someone who works for a college or school, this fall most of us will be impacted by the anxiety and concerns that surround these challenges.

This will be a time that we need to support each other. This support can take many forms. It can be through participation in a Chalice Circle. It can also look like reaching out to other members to check-in and see how they're doing. Another option is to join the [Caring Circle](#).

If you need support, please know we continue to be here for you. You can contact Caring Circle Coordinators Natalie Panshin or Eden Terrell. You may also contact the church office by calling 315-386-2498 or by [email](#). Alternatively, you can also fill out [this form](#) to request help on our website.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns at president@uucantonny.org.

Jennifer Whittaker, Church Council President

FROM OUR SOCIAL JUSTICE COORDINATOR

In this time of great upheaval, there is so much we can do to create positive change, on both small and large scales. This month, I invite you to take a deeper look at [The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival](#) (PPC). The Unitarian Universalist Association "is an official endorser and faith partner of the Campaign because we align with the goals, strategies, and tactics that strengthen multi-faith and partner relationships and coalitions, deepen our own faith, and help build a transformative movement for justice."



On June 20, PPC held one of the largest digital justice gatherings in history, with over 2 million people tuning in to our Mass Poor People's Assembly & Moral March on Washington, with incredible testimony offered from around the country in [a well-curated and informative event still available for viewing online](#). I learned so much about how poverty intersects with race, gender, sexuality, immigration, health, education, climate change, militarism, voting rights... It was a very transformative and awakening offering! I implore you to watch it, even if you only watch a part of the whole.

As a result of this successful event, the campaign is growing all across the USA, including in the North Country! Check us out at facebook.com/groups/northcountryppc. I am on the leadership team as part of my work at our church and it has never been easier to get involved with the campaign. Every month we hold an organizing meeting on Zoom on the third Tuesday at 6-8pm. Our next meeting will be on August 18th. We have also been organizing monthly outdoor forums in response to Black Lives Matter around the North Country. Currently, we are writing letters to New York State officials to ask about COVID-19 precautions being taken in upstate prisons to protect public health, as well as preparing for our participation in St. Lawrence County's reforms of local police departments. Keep your eyes on the facebook page or on your weekly e-newsletter for more details!

Teresa Veramendi, Social Justice Coordinator

JOYS AND SORROWS

Our deepest sympathies are with Lila Hunnewell, after the death of her husband, Charlie, in mid-July.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

We will remember Kelly Johnson-Eilola during a memorial service on Saturday, August 29 at 2:00 p.m. Please mark your calendar now and watch for more details to come.

FAITH IN ACTION

The Faith in Action group will hold its next meeting by zoom on Monday, August 10, at 7 p.m. Since it's zoom, quite literally ALL ARE WELCOME! (Just ask for the link via the socialaction@uucantonny.org email or look for it in enews.) We will be considering what social justice issues people in our church want to become involved in. Racial justice, Cuomo's police reform mandate, and supporting the Poor People's Campaign and people in prison are on our agenda, but we want YOUR concerns and your energy to be reflected. We urge you to participate in this inaugural planning session for the fall.

Grace House is hosting a Garage Sale on August 24-30 to raise much needed funds. If you have items to donate, they will be welcome. You can drop them off at 11 E. Main Street, but it would be helpful to call their director, Christine Downton first. [Email Sara](mailto:Sara@gracehouse.org) in the office to get her contact information.



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
Submission Deadline for our next newsletter: Thursday, August 20.