

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

September 2020



THIS MONTH AND SUNDAYS

Tuesday, September 1

4:15 p.m., Welcoming Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 2

6:30 p.m., Church Council Meeting

Thursday, September 3

7:00 p.m., Stewardship Committee Meeting

Sunday, September 6

Wearing Masks for Each Other

The Rev. James Galasinski

In this pandemic we find ourselves less and less concerned with our individual freedom to wear a mask or not and more and more about our collective health. In the same way, our liberal faith is being renewed with a liberatory faith where nobody's free until everybody's free.

1:00 p.m., Teaching Ministry Workshop

Monday, September 7

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, September 8

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

Wednesday, September 7

7:00 p.m., Teaching Ministry Workshop

Thursday, September 10

7:00 p.m., Worship Committee Meeting

Saturday, September 12

9:00 a.m., Teaching Ministry Workshop

Sunday, September 13

Waters of Renewal: Ingathering

The Rev. James Galasinski

We come back together in the routine and ritual of Sunday Worship. Of course, things are much different this year: we come back together *online* to be renewed and

reconnected and celebrate water communion virtually. To participate share a picture of yourself and/or your family with a water source that holds meaning for and email it to [Carol Zimmerman](#).

Monday, September 14

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

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

Wednesday, September 16

12:30 p.m., Budget & Finance Committee Meeting

Friday, September 18

Stuffed Animal Sleepover begins

Sunday, September 20, 2020

John Murray: Hope Not Hell

The Rev. James Galasinski

In late September 250 years ago, John Murray preached the first Universalist sermon in North America. We will celebrate the past, present, and future of universal hope. Stuffed Animal Sleepover ends

Monday, September 21

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Deadline for October Newsletter Submissions

Sunday, September 27, 2020

Filling in the Cracks: A Reflection on Renewal

The Rev. Margaret Weis, Pulpit Guest

What do we do when something feels broken - literally or figuratively - in our lives or in the world? How do we move forward toward a sense of wholeness or healing? Together we will reflect on this idea along with the monthly theme of renewal.

Monday, September 28

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

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.)



JAMES' JOURNAL Renewing Our Web

There is a ball of crimson yarn in the middle of a circle of people. A person grasps one end in their fist and throws the ball to another person. This is repeated until everyone is holding part of the yarn. Then someone yanks. You are pulled by it and we all quickly realize how everyone is connected. This no doubt has been replicated in many UU retreats and classes to symbolize the interconnected web of all existence and our faith community in particular. When someone else aches, we are pulled empathically.

This pandemic is testing the strength of our web. We are being stretched and yanked to the limit. We will not let our web break and snap. Virtual worship helps keep us webbed together in community. But worship can't do this alone. This church year we will be experimenting with a monthly themed ministry that spans across worship, religious education, and small group ministry. There will be many opportunities to explore "renewal," our September theme, in small groups. In addition, please look for short videos from me that will give reflections on the theme.

May we all be renewed in our web of interconnection.

The Rev. James Galasinski

PRESIDENT'S POST

Last month Church Council hosted a Listening Session to hear what the congregation is thinking and feeling during these difficult times. One of the things I heard repeated over and over was the need to stay connected and engaged.



We are currently looking at ways that we can increase our ability to come together as a community. This fall there will be small, socially distanced group meetings and small group Zoom meetings. (To learn more, go to James' video [here](#).)

We'd love to hear additional ideas and thoughts from congregation members. Creative and fun ideas are definitely welcomed! If you missed the Listening Session and have something you'd like to share with Council, please email me at president@uucantonny.org.

Jennifer Whittaker, Church Council President

FAITH ENGAGEMENT



Take a moment to take a deep breath. Breathe in love, breathe out peace. Breathe in love, breathe out peace. Breathe in love, breathe out peace. Feel the love. Feel the peace. Imagine the love and peace surrounding you and all you care for. It takes mindfulness and intention to renew your spirit.

Mindfulness. We are mindful that our families are making tough decisions around educating their children. We are mindful that the pandemic is stretching on and wearing us down. We are mindful of the renewed urgency in addressing the trauma and harm of racism. We are mindful that our church is a place of renewal and support.

Intention. As we begin this new church year, our religious education ministry will be experimenting with new and different ways to help our church community deepen our relationships with each other even though we can't be together in

person. For September, we will be focusing on renewal. Renewing our connections with our church friends, renewing our commitment to anti-racism work, and renewing our sense of wonder.

May we all take a moment to breathe deep. Be mindful. Be intentional. Be renewed.

Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education



FROM OUR SOCIAL JUSTICE COORDINATOR

Dear fellow UUs, we have the power to make big change in the presidential election without even leaving our homes! This year, UU the Vote is focusing on encouraging voter participation in swing states, and I invite you to join us in sending postcards to eligible voters. UUs have already sent tens of thousands of postcards to voters from under-represented demographics. In just the past six weeks, UUs have called more than 150,000 voters to talk about values and to get out the vote. Now it is our congregation's turn to step up and put our energy where our passion is!

What many non-voters need to hear is that their participation matters. As noted in the report, [Unleashing the Power of Poor and Low-Income Americans](#), sponsored by the Poor People's Campaign, Kairos, and Reclaim the Breach: "if potential low-income voters participated in the 2016 election at a similar voting rate as those with higher incomes, then those additional low-income voters would match or exceed the presidential election margin in 15 states: Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, New Hampshire, Arizona, Minnesota, Maine, Florida, New Mexico, North Carolina, Nevada, Georgia, Texas, Mississippi, and Ohio." The time to act is now!

We are teaming up with the UU church in Plattsburgh to join the postcarding campaign formed by [Reclaim Our Vote](#) – an organization partnering with UU the Vote, and the only organization focusing on voters of color removed from voter rolls. Just in the month of August, Reclaim Our Vote has sent over four million cards! We are asking you: can you commit to sending 30 postcards, and (if you can) paying \$10.50 for postage? Whether or not you can pay for the postage, if you are interested in volunteering, [please sign up here](#).

Teresa Veramendi, Social Justice Coordinator

THANK UUs!

- ⊕ Danny and Claire Thomas for setting up the sidewalk chalk mural.
- ⊕ Ben Hunkins for delivering story materials.

JOYS AND SORROWS

- ⊕ Our thoughts are with Esther Katz as she recovers from a fall which resulted in some broken bones. We wish her a speedy recovery and send healing thoughts.
- ⊕ Congratulations to Drew Pynchon, who was married this summer in a small family ceremony. Best wishes, Drew and Christine!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

This year the Religious Education Program will be exploring new methods of ministry and we value your participation. Please join us for one of the three available workshops listed on the calendar and watch your inbox for more details.

FAITH IN ACTION

Faith in Action's next meeting will be held virtually on **Monday, September 14 at 7 p.m.** All are welcome to attend, [click here](#) for the Zoom invitation, or enter meeting ID 9525 253 1381.

The [BREATHE Act](#) seeks to reform federal laws and eliminate funding for federal programs that criminalize Black, Muslim, and immigrant communities, reinvesting resources in community solutions for education, health, and the environment. The UUSC has organized a series of webinars that deepen our alignment with the movement for Black Lives. There are three remaining webinars in the five-part series; we encourage you to attend. [Click here](#) to learn more.



Stuffed Animal Sleepover September 18-20

*Have you been dreaming of attending worship at the church?
Longing for the fun of a sleepover?*

We may not be able to do all of this in person, but that doesn't mean our stuffies can't! Here's how it works: You bring your favorite stuffed animal to the church on Friday, September 18 and drop them off. They will do all sorts of fun activities with Shelby at church. Shelby will take lots of photos and maybe some videos, so you can follow along on facebook. (Remember that you don't need a facebook account to see what is posted!) The sleepover will end on Sunday after worship and you can pick them up.



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



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

The Reverends Anne Marsh and Wade Wheelock, Ministers Emeriti

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