

Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton

NEWSLETTER

November 2021 - THIS MONTH AND SUNDAYS



Monday, November 1

6:30 p.m., First Monday Listening Circle

Tuesday, November 2

10:00 a.m., Open Sanctuary Hour

Wednesday, November 3

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

6:30 p.m., Church Council Meeting

**Sunday, November 7 - Daylight Saving Time Ends!
*Out of Many, One... Really?***

The Rev. James Galasinski

Our country is very divided and both sides use moral arguments for their positions. Anti-vaxers now use the slogan, "my body my choice," which was once reserved only for the pro-choice movement. Though they are the same slogans, different moral foundations are at the center of conservative and liberal stances.

Monday, November 8

7:00 p.m., Worship Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 9

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

10:00 a.m., Open Sanctuary Hour

Wednesday, November 10

1:00 p.m., Communications Committee Meeting

Sunday, November 14

Re-Enchanting the Universe

The Rev. James Galasinski

Society is experiencing a continued weakening of organized religion. The world is becoming less

enchanting even though new forms of spirituality seem to pop up all the time. Perhaps the way Unitarian Universalism combines many different spiritualities within one community can re-enchant the universe.

12 noon, Church History Circle Meeting

Tuesday, November 16

10:00 a.m., Sabbatical Team Meeting

10:00 a.m., Open Sanctuary Hour

6:30 a.m., Religious Education Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 17

7:00 p.m., Science Book Club

Sunday, November 21

What Really Happened at the First Thanksgiving

The Rev. James Galasinski

Other countries have harvest festivals when the actual harvest occurs. But not in the U.S. This sermon will look at the indigenous side of the Thanksgiving story and try to separate history from mythology.

Tuesday, November 23

10:00 a.m., Open Sanctuary Hour

7:00 p.m., 4th Tuesday Listening Circle

Sunday, November 28

A Max Coots Sermon

We're *HOLDING HISTORY* by reaching into the archives to share a sermon given by our long-time, beloved minister, the Rev. Max Coots.

Tuesday, November 30

10:00 a.m., Open Sanctuary Hour

Mindfulness Meditation, led by Charlie Bradt, is offered Thursdays at noon.

Contact Charlie or the [church office](#)) for more information.

Dual Platform Worship Services continue! A limited number of people are allowed to attend worship in person. Proof of vaccination is required for anyone 12 years and older. We continue to offer online worship, as well. Find detailed instructions about connecting via Zoom [here](#).

THE REV. JAMES' JOURNAL



“Rest and rejoicing belong to the task, and are its grace.” – Wendell Berry

In the Unitarian Universalist tradition, clergy are expected to take regular sabbaticals. Just as a field should lie fallow for a season every few years, and thus be replenished in nutrients, both the minister and congregation need sabbaticals so they might return restored and rejuvenated. A sabbatical is especially needed in the changing and high-anxiety environment of the current pandemic. Congregational experts recommend that sabbaticals occur on a regular basis. Ministers who take regular sabbaticals have longer and healthier ministries. When a minister is renewed in spirit they are able to minister more fully and compassionately. I view my sabbatical as a great privilege and I am very grateful to be able to have one.

The collective memory of our congregation may not even recall the last ministerial sabbatical. The Revs. Anne and Wade took a short one back in 2007.

While I am on sabbatical, I will not be involved in the church except in the most extraordinary circumstances. I will not preach, counsel, plan, supervise others, recruit, answer emails, make decisions, teach, or perform special services. I will, instead, be spending the time renewing my ministry and working on projects and skill development that cannot happen as well during the regular course of his leadership. The focus of my sabbatical will be to improve my writing and to write enough poetry and meditations to be able to submit to a publisher, Skinner House Press, for their inSpirit series.

In Peace,

The Rev. James Galasinski

FAITH ENGAGEMENT

The next few months will have many changes. COVID vaccines for children are on the horizon. Daylight hours are getting shorter and Daylight Saving Time will end. We will elect new representation in our local and state governments. The winter season with snow, cold, and ice is just around the corner. Our minister, Rev. James, will be taking a five-month sabbatical starting in January 2022. And there are the continued changes the pandemic continues to throw at us.

All this change is unsettling. When we experience change our brain often perceives it as a potential threat. We experience distress and often feel anxious and frustrated. The thoughts of “Why is this happening?” “I can’t do this,” or “This is too much” jump into our minds. Change is hard.



There are things we can do to help. We can look to our social networks for care and support. Our church community is here for you. We can look at these changes as new opportunities. What new opportunities will you have once our children can be vaccinated? What joys will you find in the darker season? Our faith invites us to be curious and open to new ways.

This quote from Alan Watts seems like good guidance for these upcoming months: “The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance.” As we move into yet more change, may we be open to the new opportunities it presents. May it be so. Blessed be.

Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



I am excited that Rev. James will be taking his sabbatical this January! This will be a great time for renewal and rejuvenation for him. It can also be a similar time of renewal for our congregation. It can be a time when we choose to invest more of ourselves in the church, to help in ways we may not have previously.

Because we have not gone through a sabbatical with Rev. James before, I also realize this can be a time of anxiety. There may be concerns about who will do what. Church Council, Rev. James, and the Sabbatical Team are working hard to make sure plans are created for his time away. We want to make sure it's clear to everyone in the congregation who they can contact if they need to talk to someone or have church-related questions. Sara Trimm, our Congregational Administrator, and I are working on a chart so it will be very clear whom to contact for what.

I'm also very excited by the worship services planned during the sabbatical. The Worship Team and Rev. James and have put together an amazing slate of guest speakers and virtual visits to other churches. I am not one to give away surprises, but I think we're going to have a wonderful time together in the coming months!

If you have any questions or would like to find out ways you can help during the sabbatical, please email me at president@uucantonny.org.

Jenn Whittaker, Church Council President

JOYS AND SORROWS

- ♥ Theresa Witmer's daughter, Julia Grigel and her husband, Olivier Gohier, welcomed new baby Luna Aster on September 23. She joins her big sister Madeleine Rose, age 4.
- ♥ We are holding Sue Cypert, former long-time member of our church, and her children, Mary and Todd Barthelme, in our hearts. Sue is under hospice care after suffering a stroke in mid-October at her home in Albany
- ♥ Our thoughts are with Melia, Cameron, and all of Jim Rudd's family as they mourn his death in late September.



OPEN SANCTUARY HOURS Tuesdays from 10 to 11a.m.

If you miss being in the sanctuary, come on by!
If you're seeking a moment of quiet and reflection, come on by!
If you miss this space, but you aren't ready to attend worship with lots of other people, come on by!
If the dark and dreary days of winter have you feeling trapped at home, come on by!

There will be no programming, no speakers, no set agenda. We simply want you to enjoy the beauty and peace of our sanctuary. As we begin to re-connect in new and old ways, we need to re-establish our connection with the building and its people. This is one way we can help that process.

For the month of November, we will dedicate the 10 o'clock hour on Tuesdays to sanctuary visits. If this becomes popular, and we need to increase the hours, we will. If you would enjoy the opportunity, but can't make it at 10 on Tuesdays, [email Sara](#) with times that would work best for you. The back entrance of the church will be open at these times for anyone who would like to visit.

**TOGETHER
WE WILL**

The Stewardship Committee has launched the annual appeal for your financial support of our church community.

Things are different this year. We aren't all together in the sanctuary, listening to "journeys to commitment," raising balloons and streamers to mark the launch, and lunching together to celebrate...being together.

Instead you received a letter in the mail describing all the ways **TOGETHER WE WILL** keep our relationships and church strong. And asking your help to make it be so. Please take a moment to read the appeal. If you've lost track of it or didn't receive it in the mail, click [here](#) to download your copy.

Then consider how you can help ensure our church is here for all of us – for **all** the days

[MAKE YOUR PLEDGE BY CLICKING HERE](#)

SCIENCE BOOK CLUB

The Science Book Club will meet again by Zoom on Wednesday, November 17, at 7pm. We will be discussing chapters 1 through 5 of Brian Greene's book *Until the End of Time*. Please contact Brian Gardam or the [church office](#) for more information.



HOLIDAY GIVING TREE

It's time again to take a Giving Tree tag and help the Church & Community Program make the holidays brighter for a child in need in our community! Just like last year, we're asking for donations to purchase vouchers for clothing, toys/gifts, and food for families who need your help, especially at this time of year. Last year for the first time, with your help, parents were able to shop for their own children.

In addition to the vouchers, each child will receive a new pair of PJs and a hand-knit hat made by local knitters. To make this happen, Giving Tree needs your donation – by cash, check, or online at our website (ccpcanton.org). Thank you in advance for responding generously once more this year. If you have questions, contact Sara at office@uucantonny.org.

JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP!

Do you belong to any Facebook groups? Do you know how they work? Now is the time to learn!

We have created a private Facebook group called UU Canton Members and Friends. This will be a space for us to share posts, pictures, and discussions with our church community on a social media platform that only our group members can see. It will allow us to share with each other, without having everything appear on the public church Facebook page. Join us today! (If you can't figure out how, [contact Sara](#) for an "invitation"!)



NOVEMBER: HOLDING HISTORY

The prophetic tasks of the church are to tell the truth in a society that lives in an illusion, grieve in a society that practices denial, and express hope in a society that lives in despair.

- Walter Brueggemann

Holding History means acknowledging mistakes from the past and learning from them. Here is an interesting article about the lessons we can learn from America's history: [21 Lessons from America's Worst Moments](#)

History also holds fond reminders and memories. What is your fondest memory in life so far?



OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays from 9a.m. until 2p.m.

Sara is in the office every Tuesday. If there is another time you would like to come to the church or connect with Sara, please email office@uucantonny.org to arrange a specific date and time.

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
Betsy Kepes, Music Coordinator
The Revs. Anne Marsh and Wade Wheelock, Ministers Emeriti

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