

# Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton

## NEWSLETTER

### February 2022 - THIS MONTH AND SUNDAYS

---



#### Tuesday, February 1

Noon, Open Sanctuary Hour

#### Wednesday, February 2

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

6:30 p.m., Church Council Meeting

#### Sunday, February 6

**TBA** *The Rev. Shaun Whitehead*

The Rev. Shaun Whitehead is the University Chaplain at St. Lawrence University and frequent pulpit guest.

1:00 p.m., Virtual Rainbow Party

#### Monday, February 7

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

#### Tuesday, February 8

9:30 a.m., [Sacred Texts and Coffee](#)

Noon, Open Sanctuary Hour

#### Wednesday, February 9

1:00 p.m., [Communications Committee Meeting](#)

#### Thursday, February 10

4:00 p.m., Welcoming Committee

#### Sunday, February 13

**Lost and Found** *The Rev. Christine Robinson*

I once "found" a young child who was lost on a lonely road, at which point I discovered that I didn't know where I was, either. That got me thinking about the experience of being lost...not only physically, but emotionally, socially, vocationally, or spiritually. And it's not only people who can get lost. So can nations, congregations, social movements. How do we cope when we've lost our way? How do we get "found?"

Rev. Christine Robinson is the minister emerita of the First Universalist Church of Albuquerque in New Mexico.

11:45 a.m., Church History Circle

#### Tuesday, February 15

10:00 a.m., Open Sanctuary Hour

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

#### Thursday, February 17

1:00 p.m., Budget & Finance Committee Meeting

#### Sunday, February 20

**Radical Respect**

*Dr. Laura Rediehs*

In our world in which we are reckoning with racial issues and other kinds of divisiveness, it might be helpful to reconsider what "respect" means, and what kinds of respect we owe each other. Plato said, "it is never just to harm anyone." Immanuel Kant said that we should always treat each other as ends and never merely as means. Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr., advocated pacifism. Are they right that radical respect is always morally required? And if so, why?

Laura Rediehs is an associate professor of philosophy and co-founder and current coordinator of peace studies at St. Lawrence University. She is also a member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).

#### Monday, February 21

7:00 p.m., Worship Committee Meeting

#### Tuesday, February 22

Noon, Open Sanctuary Hour

7:00 p.m., Fourth Tuesday Listening Circle

#### Sunday, February 27

**Does Time Heal All Wounds?**

*The Rev. Jo Von Rue*

Healing takes time, love, and action. Let us remind ourselves of the power we have within.

Rev. Jo VonRue is the settled Minister at May Memorial UU Society in Syracuse NY.

#### Monday, February 28

7:00 p.m., [Faith in Action Committee Meeting](#)

**Dual Platform Worship Services** continue! All in-person attendees are required to provide proof of vaccination and remain masked at all times. You can find our complete Covid Safety Plan [here](#). We continue to offer online worship, as well. Find detailed instructions about connecting via Zoom [here](#).

# FEBRUARY: WIDENING THE CIRCLE



*“When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would tell me ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people helping.’”*

- Mr. Rogers

Who are the helpers in your life? When have you been a helper? Do you know where to look when you need a helper? Could we widen our circle to help more people, especially now?

## FAITH ENGAGEMENT

I’ve been thinking about circles recently. The circle of life, the circle of seasons, and the circles of connection. Living with my parents has me constantly thinking about the circle of life. This winter season with its recent cold temperatures and longer daylight has me contemplating the circle of seasons. The ongoing pandemic has me pondering my circles of connection.

I feel truly blessed with my circles of connection. My family, my friends, my professional colleagues, this church community, and the natural world. These circles each provide me with love, care, knowledge, growth, beauty, and a sense of purpose and place. I can imagine there are many circles

I am not even thinking of and how they impact me. What I know is that these circles of connection are invaluable and deeply nourishing.

However, the pandemic has made it more challenging to embrace these circles. As we look to widen the circle this month, I am wondering how to do this safely, with meaning, and in a way that is nourishing not just for me but also for all those involved. It feels challenging and yet I know it is exactly what I need right now.

I am focusing energy on ways to be connected in our faith community.

I hope you are finding your circles of connection. Our church is a place to find nourishing connections. May it be so. Blessed be.



*Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education*

## FROM OUR (VICE) PRESIDENT

Best wishes to all as we move into 2022! In January I filled in for our President Jennifer Whittaker who has taken needed time for some health issues. January was one heck of a month as the Omicron variant barged in and started throwing its weight around. A medical doctor friend of mine some years ago quipped: “things that come on quickly tend to resolve quickly.” He was making a folksy distinction between acute and chronic health conditions. Let us hope his old adage holds true and Omicron makes a rapid departure, leaving no offspring variants behind. Church Council approved an amendment to our former Covid Safety Plan and I encourage you to read it [here](#).



Council also temporarily paused in-person worship in the sanctuary for Sunday, January 23 and 30, out of an abundance of caution regarding Covid transmission. Please watch the announcements for the notice when in-person worship services will be resuming.

The church is here for you. Every Sunday we light candles and share joys and sorrows. Some are transient and some are much longer-lived. It is my hope that together we can meet the needs of all through our shared compassion and love. As always, if you have a concern, suggestion or wish to become more involved in the life of this church, please contact me.

*Jon Montan, Church Council Vice President*



## NOTES FROM THE OFFICE A Peek Behind the Curtain

After five years working for you at the church, I can honestly say that this congregation is filled with incredible humans. There is so much talent, knowledge, and kindness packed into this church community! These last few years may have left you feeling disconnected, so I would like to share my perspective since I get to peek behind the curtain and see what’s happening when no one else is watching. Here is what I’ve seen:

Committees having heartfelt and sometimes tear-filled conversations about the struggle we face and how to help each other; debating how we balance mental and emotional needs while a physical threat to our health is running rampant. Council members volunteering to call our congregants just to check in on them. Congregants leading small group circles and interest groups. RE staff members arranging delivery routes for cookies, cupcakes, pumpkins, and more for all our families. Our minister delivering home-grown flowers and creating video messages. People spending hours in the sanctuary multiple times throughout the week to learn, test, and improve the technology and equipment we need to make sure Sunday worship services are smooth and organized. Caring Circle members willing to make meals and drive people to doctor appointments. An entire Pastoral Care Team working to make sure anyone who could use a listening ear has one. Council, committees, and staff creating surveys to better understand the situation of all our members. And it’s not just our leadership who have concerned themselves with your well-being. It’s also members and friends who have ideas or suggestions, so they reach out to offer assistance.

Not only are you amazing, but you also have great people who are working diligently to provide the care and connections we all need. Maybe it’s time to see the helpers. Maybe it’s time to be the helpers. Or maybe it’s time to reach out to the helpers. Whatever role is right for you at this moment, please embrace it. Let’s take small steps toward more connection each and every day.

*Sara Trimm, Congregational Administrator*

## JOYS AND SORROWS

- ♥ We send our best healing energy to our Church Council President, Jenn Whittaker, as she recovers from surgery and awaits her next procedure.
- ♥ We are grateful that Eileen Raymond is back at home in Canton after spending the last few weeks in Syracuse undergoing further cancer treatments.
- ♥ Many good wishes to Ron Tavernier as he recovers from a skiing accident. He expects to be in a wheelchair through the month of February, at least.
- ♥ We continue to hold Walden Nelson in our hearts as he contends with health issues.
- ♥ We hold Louise and Bob Bixby in our hearts as Bob deals with his recent diagnosis. They are at home enjoying their time together.
- ♥ A number of our families have had some (or all) members test positive for COVID. Our thoughts are with each of them for a speedy and complete recovery.

### **We will be looking for your thoughts about our Zoom services!**

The Worship Committee will be administering an online survey about our Zoom services and looking for your thoughts. The survey will be launched once we have returned to hybrid services (i.e., services in person and on Zoom). Look for more information in the weekly e-News for UU. Feel free to contact Jon Montan or Cathy Crosby at [worship@uucantonny.org](mailto:worship@uucantonny.org) about the survey.

A vibrant banner with a background of horizontal, wavy bands of rainbow colors (red, orange, yellow, green, cyan, blue, purple). The text is centered and reads:

**Virtual Rainbow Party**  
**Sunday, February 6 at 1pm**

**Everyone is invited!**  
**Check the church website for the Zoom link**

**Wear your favorite rainbow color, bring a rainbow-colored food item and be ready to share a rainbow story.**



## OPEN SANCTUARY ~ OPEN LIBRARY Tuesdays at Noon

Carve out time during the lunch hour on Tuesday to bring yourself back to center in the church sanctuary.

Need some reading material for winter months?  
The library will also be open, allowing you to check out books from our fabulous selection.

## PASTORAL CARE TEAM

### What it is:

Support when you need it. Someone with an open heart and listening ear who can provide you a confidential space to process your thoughts and feelings.

### What it is not:

Emergency and crisis management, licensed counseling, or therapy. While our Pastoral Care Team is trained and willing to help in any way they can, they are not equipped to handle emergency situations or urgent crises that require the knowledge of licensed professionals. They can guide you to resources that will be of help, though.

### How to obtain pastoral care:

You can call the church at 315-386-2498 or email [dre@uucantonny.org](mailto:dre@uucantonny.org). Carol Zimmerman, our Director of Religious Education, will then connect you with a member of our Pastoral Care Team. Or you are welcome to contact someone on the team directly. Please note: the telephone and email are monitored daily, but not every hour. It could take 24 to 48 hours for a response as we receive the message and find the right response for your situation. If you find yourself in an emergency situation, please contact Reachout at 315-265-2422 or dial 911.

### Why it's important, and what you can expect:

Pastoral care is fundamental to our congregational health and well being. It is one of our primary ministries. Our ability to care for one another has always been our strength, and that will continue. Perhaps it will even grow as we navigate our way through this pandemic.

### Our Pastoral Care Team Members:

Leo Burger - Bonnie Danis - Claire Gardam - Sara Hutcheson - Helen Hutchinson - Valerie Ingram - Pete Wyckoff



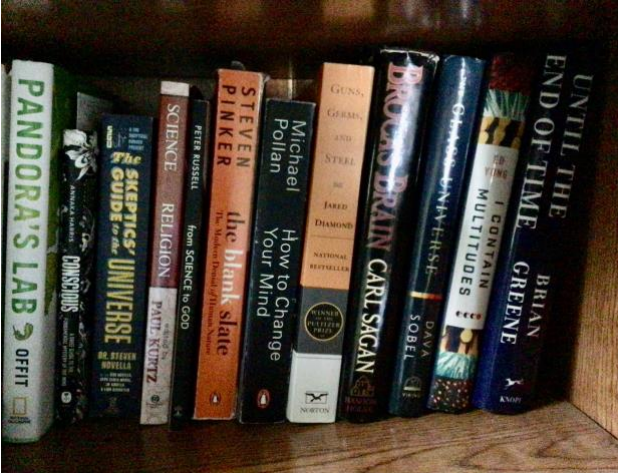
## CARING CIRCLE



Caring Circle is a group of church members and friends who respond when someone in our church community experiences needs and/or challenges due to illness, birth/adoption, death, or other life changes or special needs. The impact of these challenges can be eased by our caring for one another – person-to-person, family-to-family.

If you would like to request assistance or would like to become part of the Caring Circle, please email [caringcircle@uucantonny.org](mailto:caringcircle@uucantonny.org).

## SCIENCE BOOK CLUB



At the next meeting of the UU Science Book Club, we will be discussing "Pandora's Lab - Seven Stories of Science Gone Wrong" by Paul Offit. The meeting will be held [by Zoom](#) on Wednesday, February 16, at 7:00 p.m.

Here is a photo of all the books we have discussed over the past two years. The topics have ranged from the relationship between science and religion to the beginning and end of the universe – and lots in between. We have a lively group and anyone is welcome to join. Contact Brian Gardam or email [office@uucantonny.org](mailto:office@uucantonny.org) for more information.

## BUILDING USE PROTOCOLS TO KEEP US SAFE

As Covid cases continue to increase and the Omicron variant spreads this way, we appreciate all your efforts to keep the church building as safe as possible. As a reminder, please make sure you take the following steps each time you are in the church:

- Sign in when you arrive
- Always wear a mask properly - make sure it covers your mouth and your nose
- Maintain distance whenever possible
- Do not share food or drink
- Wash your hands, use sanitizer and wipes on surfaces as needed
- Be respectful of those around you



## **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  
Sara Trimm, Congregational Administrator  
Betsy Kepes, Music Coordinator  
The Revs. Anne Marsh and Wade Wheelock, Ministers Emeriti

(315) 386-2498 • [office@uucantonny.org](mailto:office@uucantonny.org) • [www.uucantonny.org](http://www.uucantonny.org)