

Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton

NEWSLETTER

March 2022 - THIS MONTH AND SUNDAYS



Tuesday, March 1

Noon, Open Sanctuary Hour

Wednesday, March 2

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

6:30 p.m., Church Council Meeting

Sunday, March 6

Women of Our Faith *Carol Zimmerman, DRE*

To celebrate International Women's Day, we will look to past, present, and future women of Unitarian Universalism and hear many women's voices from our congregation. They offer wisdom, nurturing, and justice for our time.

Monday, March 7

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

Tuesday, March 8

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

Noon, Open Sanctuary Hour

Wednesday, March 9

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

Thursday, March 10

4:00 p.m., Welcoming Committee

Sunday, March 13

Security, Serenity, and Peace of Mind

The Rev. Christine Robinson

I've been thinking about these three words and how they help us—or don't—lead happier, more effective lives. My conclusion: One is an illusion, one is a mixed blessing, and one is worth working for. I'll explain on the 13th!

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

11:45 a.m., Church History Circle

Monday, March 14

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

Tuesday, March 15

10:00 a.m., Open Sanctuary Hour

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

Thursday, March 17

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

Sunday, March 20

TBA

The Rev. Dr. Shaun Whitehead

The Rev. Dr. Shaun Whitehead is the University Chaplain at St. Lawrence University. As a preacher, teacher, writer, and singer, Shaun focuses her work on breaking down barriers and building relationships that are inclusive, reconciling, and affirming.

Monday, March 21

7:00 p.m., Worship Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 22

Noon, Open Sanctuary Hour

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

Sunday, March 27

TBA

The Rev. Shari Halliday-Quan

Rev. Shari Halliday-Quan is the Senior Minister at First Unitarian Church of Rochester.

Tuesday, March 29

Noon, Open Sanctuary

Worship services happen every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom at [this link](#). We hope to be back in the sanctuary soon!

Have you heard? There's a new email in town! Church Chatter is filled with news and announcements from our church family - it's almost like connecting in the social room! Just [click here to sign up for the emails](#). Got some news, stories, or fun stuff to share with us? [Fill out this simple form](#) to have your news included!

MARCH: RENEWING FAITH



Faith is a willingness to take the next step, to see the unknown as an adventure, to launch a journey.

[Sharon Salzberg](#)

What is your next adventure? Are you planning to launch a new journey?
Who do you plan to invite along on that journey?



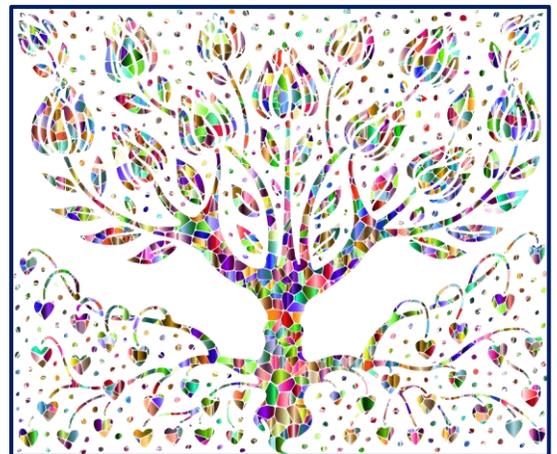
FAITH ENGAGEMENT

I find trees awe-inspiring. I recently watched the award-winning documentary, “Intelligent Trees.” Scientist Suzanne Simard from the University of British Columbia and German forester and author Peter Wohlleben have been investigating and observing the communication between trees over decades. Their studies have found that through their roots, trees can communicate with each other. The root system of a tree also performs many vital functions. In winter, the roots are a storehouse for essential food reserves needed by the tree to produce spring foliage. Roots absorb and transport water and minerals from the soil to the rest of the tree. Roots also anchor the portion of the tree above

ground. Roots grow two to four times the diameter of the tree crown. If the root system of a tree is damaged by soil compaction, lack of water, or a disturbance in the soil depth, the whole tree becomes stressed and is more susceptible to disease and insect infestation.

I’ve also been having conversations with members of our church community and pondering the idea of how relationships are the foundation or roots of our church. Like roots of a tree, these relationships give us strength, they offer us nourishment, and they anchor us. Our relationships are vital to the health and well-being of our church.

Over the last two years, our relationships have been altered. They have lacked the vital nutrient of being able to gather in person. This lack of connection has affected the health of our church. Beginning this month, there will be a focus on renewing our relationships, finding safe and meaningful ways to be together. Look for many opportunities to come together in person to make new friends or reconnect with old ones. Rooted in relationships we will find ways to renew our faith.



We need each other. We are the roots of our church. Like trees, let our roots intertwine so our connection is stronger, and we grow together. May it be so.

Blessed be.

Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education



FROM OUR (VICE) PRESIDENT

We all know that spring takes its sweet time arriving here in the North Country. But arrive it does, and, on the average, a little earlier than it used to. Our shifting climate, the pandemic, and so much else in the news reminds us that change is inevitable. We must learn to embrace it. This is easier said than done, but it is essential to our physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health.

Our church community is also constantly changing. Members and friends have come and gone, participation has waxed and waned, some have become frustrated, some more resolute in their commitment. Our religious community is definitely not alone amidst these changes. Yet, at our core, we have something priceless and that is our care for each other.

We show our caring by showing up, whether it be at a worship service, on a committee/team, delivering a meal, driving someone to their medical appointment, attending a special interest group, sharing our stories, phoning a member, or helping our young people navigate life.

*From you I receive,
to you I give.
Together we share
and from this we live. (Hymn 402)*

As always, if you have a concern, suggestion, or wish to become more engaged in the life of this church, please contact me.

Jon Montan, Church Council Vice-President

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Companion Planting

March brings the spring equinox, which means many of us are starting to think about our gardens. Every year after I have all my seeds, I refer back to my handy “companion planting” charts. After all, if Carrots Love Tomatoes, who am I to keep them apart?? It made me realize that companion planting might be the reason church is so special. “At its widest definition, companion planting is the growing of different plant species close together for expected benefits in productivity through pest control, pollination, boosting fertility, and creating optimum growing environments.” (wlgf.org)

If we really think about it, isn't a congregation a little bit like a garden, and all the different congregants as varied and interesting as plants? It's good for our souls to be close to people who are different than us, whether that difference is age, origin, interest, or personality type. Some of our best conversations come from learning about how other people think. How many interesting people have you met in the Social Room after worship? If you have volunteered for RE, you know our children and youth bring a delightful perspective to our lives. Let's seek out those companions in the coming months through activities, projects, and joint efforts to help optimize our church garden. After all, spring is the perfect time to plant.



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.
- ♥ Congratulations to Pete and Kathy Wyckoff as they welcome Gus, their newest grandchild, into the world.
- ♥ We surround Louise Bixby with love as she mourns the death of her husband Bob. His full obituary can be viewed [here](#).
- ♥ 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.

FROM THE WORSHIP TEAM

March 2022 marks the second year anniversary that we have weathered the pandemic.

Wow.

It's good to see the Omicron variant of Covid-19 apparently on the wane in St. Lawrence County. The Worship Team would like to thank you again, particularly those who prefer in-person worship services, for hanging in there when we needed to be "Zoom only" for half of January and the full month of February.

I hope you share my vision (dream) that the pandemic will subside and that we will be able to safely achieve something close to full in-person attendance in time for James' return from his sabbatical in June. Wouldn't it be great for him to return to a full church?

March services will highlight Carol Zimmerman for International Woman's Day, followed by the Revs. Christine Robinson, Shaun Whitehead, and Shari Halliday-Quan. A big thank you to Maggie Hockett, John and Bonnie Danis, and Caron Collins for helping the Worship Team with worship service staffing and music.

In closing, please expect a survey regarding the virtual worship experience once we return to the hybrid format. We were prepared to get this out sooner but during the in-person worship pause we decided to wait until we resumed hybrid worship.

As always, please convey your thoughts, comments, and suggestions to us as we continue our efforts to make our worship services meaningful.



Jon Montan, Worship Committee Chair



FAITH IN ACTION

For environmentalists, the climate-concerned, and those interested in making further connections between our UU Church and Akwesasne:

[North Country Rights of Nature Symposium](#)

On the March 22, 2022, beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom, a panel of traditional knowledge holders, legal experts, and community organizers will join virtually to discuss how to create an ECOCENTRIC governance system for the waterways of the Kaniatarowanéhne / St. Lawrence River Watershed, Haudenosaunee Territory. The conversation will cover topics ranging from the environmental threats facing the rivers and watersheds, the global "Rights of Nature" movement, indigenous stewardship practices, and how to reframe the relationship between people and the rivers. In the face of the climate crises, the programs will grapple with the moral implications of protecting the rivers of the North Country and will lay the groundwork for future legislative action. Learn more about the symposium by clicking on the link above. You need to register in advance using [this link](#).

Social Action Shared Offering

Want to help us select organizations for whom we receive our Social Action Shared Offering (or SASO) – without being on a permanent committee??!

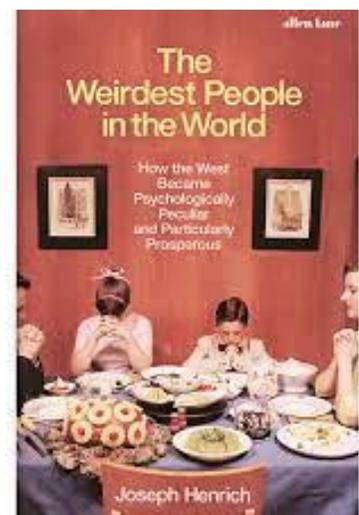
Faith in Action seeks a few people beyond our committee to participate in a one- or two-time zoom meeting to brainstorm ideas for future SASOs. Please contact Pat Alden if you are willing to help. Also, if you have a proposal for a SASO, please forward that information to Pat.

If you are interested in getting more involved with our social justice programs, you are invited to attend the next Faith in Action meeting on Monday, March 14 at 7p.m. [via Zoom](#).

SCIENCE BOOK CLUB

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 15, or, for the classically inclined, the Ides of March, at 7p.m.

We will discuss the first two sections (through page 283) of Joseph Henrich's book, "The Weirdest People in the World: How the West Became Psychologically Peculiar and Particularly Prosperous." The meeting will be held [by Zoom](#). We have a lively group and anyone is welcome to join. Contact Brian Gardam or email office@uucantonny.org for more information.



COMING TO THE CHURCH BUILDING?

We continue to proceed with caution and concern for safety at the church. Outside groups are allowed to meet in our building, the sanctuary and Coots Library are open every Tuesday, and Sara is in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you would like to spend time inside the church building, please make sure you take the following steps:

- 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

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