

Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton
NEWSLETTER
April 2022 - THIS MONTH AND SUNDAYS



Sunday, April 3

When Letting Go is the Answer

Kathy Montan

Exploring four ways to soften life's challenges through embracing change, radical acceptance, present moment awareness, and letting go.

Monday, April 4

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

Tuesday, April 5

Noon, Open Sanctuary Hour

Wednesday, April 6

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

6:30 p.m., Church Council Meeting

Sunday, April 10

TBA *The Rev. Christine Robinson, Pulpit Guest*

Rev. Christine Robinson is the minister emerita of the First Universalist Church of Albuquerque NM.

11:45 a.m., Church History Circle

Monday, April 11

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

Tuesday, April 12

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

Noon, Open Sanctuary Hour

Wednesday, April 13

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

Thursday, April 14

4:00 p.m., Welcoming Committee

Sunday, April 17

What Saves Us?

The Revs. Anne Marsh and Wade Wheelock

On Easter Sunday, most of our Christian neighbors celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, their Savior. But what about us? What might salvation mean for Unitarian Universalists?

Anne and Wade served as our co-ministers from 1993-2009 and are our Ministers Emeriti. They retired to New Mexico but will return to the North Country to be with us in person to lead worship on three Sundays.

Tuesday, April 19

10:00 a.m., Open Sanctuary Hour

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

Thursday, April 21

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

Sunday, April 24

Earth Day with Frog and Toad

*The Revs. Anne Marsh, Wade Wheelock,
and Carol Zimmerman, DRE*

We celebrate Earth Day with a multigenerational service in which our two favorite philosophers help us think about the interdependent web.

Monday, April 25

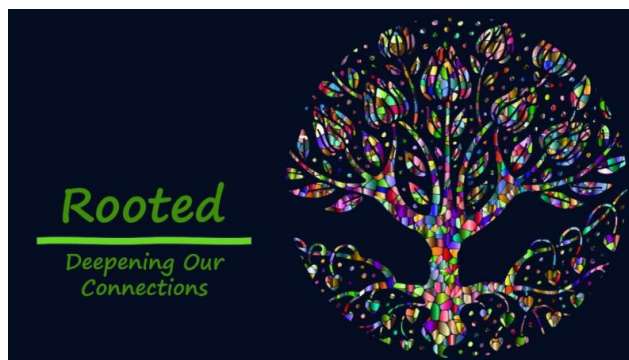
7:00 p.m., Worship Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 26

Noon, Open Sanctuary Hour

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

Worship services take place every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary and via Zoom at [this link](#). You are welcome to join us in person if you are vaccinated



How can you help deepen these connections? See page 7.

APRIL: AWAKENING

adjective

- 1 rousing; quickening:
an awakening interest in ballet.

noun

- 2 the act of awaking from sleep.
- 3 a revival of interest or attention.
- 4 a recognition, realization, or coming into awareness of something:
a rude awakening to the disagreeable facts.
- 5 a renewal of interest in religion, especially in a community; a revival.



FAITH ENGAGEMENT

When I was about 7 years old, my dad and I were riding around our small apple orchard on our large Allis Chalmers tractor. We were checking out how the apples were growing and just having fun. As we pulled back into the driveway, our neighbor pulled in. Dad got off the tractor, took the keys with him and went to visit with the neighbor. I stayed on the tractor and played at driving. Being an ever curious and imaginative child, I opened the toolbox next to the seat and found a large flat head screwdriver. I inserted the screwdriver into the ignition of the tractor and gave it a turn. To my and my dad's amazement, the tractor turned over, rumbling to a start and starting to move forward. I don't think I have ever seen my dad run so fast. Needless to say, I was immediately removed from the tractor seat and told never to do that again. I remember seeing fear in my dad's eyes and feeling shocked, scared, and a bit powerful. I had started the tractor all by myself!

This story has stuck with me. My curiosity awakened a new knowledge of what I could do if I put my mind to something. As Unitarian Universalist, we are invited to be curious. To question, to search for truth and meaning, and to be open minded. Being curious is crucial for continued growth. Curiosity awakens us and allows us to be open to new ideas, knowledge, experiences, interests, hobbies, adventures, and - most importantly - to other people. What piques your curiosity these days? Being curious has so many benefits. May you awaken your curiosity and find new ways of doing and being. Blessed be.

Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education

THANK YOU TO....

Stevie Michaelson, Margaret Mauch, Linda Kenny, and Helen and Roger Hutchinson for helping with the Rooted mailing.



FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The past few months have been very difficult for me and my family because of my health. My issues are ongoing, and I will be meeting with my doctor on April 5 to plan next steps in my care. I am so thankful to have the support and care of our church community during this time.

I'm also thankful for the understanding and compassion our church community has for Church Council and the challenges we've had governing during a pandemic. We continue to monitor and assess our safety protocols, with the help of the Covid Safety Task Force.

On a bright and exciting note, I'm really looking forward to the church Picnic this summer! It will be held on Sunday, June 12, after the worship service, at Bend in the River Park. If you'd like to join me, Jon, Ron, and Rebecca in planning it, please email me at president@uucantonny.org.

Jenn Whittaker, Church Council President

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Awakening

The Soul Matters theme for April is awakening. My initial reaction to that word is so bright and cheery. I envision the sun coming up or flowers popping out of the ground. This year it feels like a little more, though. It feels like we might be awakening from the pandemic and all the stress that came with it. I realize we're not out of the woods yet. Many people seem to be ready to "awaken" from what was. Others don't see the end yet and feel just as stressed now as they were at the beginning. A recent experience made me realize there is another side of awakening. It can be overwhelming or scary. What if we aren't sure we're ready to awaken? What if we're worried about the change that comes with it? Sometimes the thought of the unknown catches our breath. What then? How do we handle that? Now, more than ever, we can lean into each other.

If you're reading this, you have a great support system built into your life, filled with people who are rooted in the same ground as you. No matter how comfortable or uneasy you are with the coming changes, you are well-equipped to face them head on. You got this because we got you! Whether you love change or dread it, reach out to the others. Share your thoughts through Church Chatter or our Facebook group. Use the directory to connect on a personal level. Or consider organizing a small group event. It could be at your house, at the park, or in the church. Maybe it's a small gathering just to chat, or a group walk in nature to soothe your soul. "Do small things with great love." – Mother Teresa

Sara Trimm, Congregational Administrator

FROM THE WORSHIP TEAM

Please Complete the Online Services Survey by April 10

The Worship Committee is looking for your thoughts about our Zoom services. Click on [this link](#) to go to the survey. It takes about 10 to 20 minutes to complete, and your responses are anonymous and confidential. Please contact the [Worship Committee](#) with any questions about the survey. Thanks to all of you who have already completed it!

April is sometimes called “the cruelest month,” at least in the northern United States and Canada, because it teases us with warm weather, then pulls it back, then slowly releases it again. April forces us to deal with reality and develop resilience while patiently awaiting a kinder day.

Our guest speakers for this month will be the polar opposite of cruel:

April 3 *When Letting Go is the Answer*, Kathy Montan

April 10 Rev. Christine Robinson will join us virtually from Albuquerque

April 17 & 24 Revs. Anne Marsh & Wade Wheelock return to Canton **LIVE, IN PERSON!**

Services in the sanctuary will be mask-optional unless Church Council sends out a notice via the weekly *News for UU*.

See you in church!

Jon Montan, Worship Committee Chair

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Does the lighting in church seem brighter? The church took advantage of a program offered through National Grid to convert 77 existing fluorescent light fixtures in the Social Room, Romer Room, kitchen, Coots Library, office, nursery, youth group room, music room, RE classrooms, block room, furnace room, and basement restroom. National Grid contributed \$2,600 while the church's cost was \$1,536. The LED tubes are guaranteed for five years. If any burn out, National Grid will replace them at no charge.

This spring-summer Locke Design & Build will complete stone tuck-pointing of trouble spots on the west facing-side of church and install a channel drain at our back entrance.

May spring clean-up day TBA soon. We were not able to hold our annual spring clean-up work party in 2020 and 2021. It's time to get the work gloves on, grab shovels, rakes, brooms, weeding tools, and buckets for some overdue ground's work and cleaning of interior and exterior windows. Stay tuned for announcement of date, time, and details.

Pete Beekman, Building & Grounds Committee Chair



FAITH IN ACTION

Join in the planning for our next Social Justice Initiative

After a hiatus during the covid pandemic, the Faith in Action Committee is excited to begin planning our next Social Justice Initiative.

The Social Justice Initiative (SJI) is a biennial program to raise awareness about important problems we face in our communities, with particular focus on the UU Principles of “justice, equity, and compassion in human relations” and “a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.” Each SJI focuses on a specific social justice issue and brings together people from across our region to make connections, share information and resources, and develop strategies for addressing the issue. Previous SJIs have focused on systematized imprisonment in the North Country (2019) and harassment and bullying in workplaces (2017).

SJI activities center around us hosting a regional conference along with presenting workshops, educational activities, and arts events. These events bring together various facets from within our congregation and foster connections with the community beyond our congregation. The SJI is made possible by a gift from the family of Paul Siskind and Todd Moe, along with support from our UU Church and the larger UU community.

The FiA Committee will soon be sending out a survey to solicit ideas for the topic of our next SJI and to invite participation in the SJI planning process, so start thinking about issues that you would like us to consider, and keep your eyes open for more info in the near future.

North Country Sustainability Day and Green Living Fair April 23, 2022

The [Green Living Fair](#) is looking for volunteers to help with general chores, such as greeting and orienting visitors and handing out materials. GLF will be held this April 23 between 10a.m. and 3p.m. on the Saint Lawrence University campus at Leithead Fieldhouse. This is an opportunity for local food suppliers, renewable energy companies, and all involved in promoting sustainability to meet each other and the public. FiA will have a table, but we are also hoping that many in the congregation will turn out to assist more generally. If you can help out, please complete [this form](#).



UUA Common Read 2022: *Defund Fear* by Zach Norris

Each year the UUA suggests a book for anyone interested to read together - a "Common Read." *Defund Fear* by Zach Norris is the UUA's Common Read selection for 2022. [Click here](#) for more information.



As Canton area farmers gardeners plan their vegetable patches for spring planting, the Church and Community Program is asking them to consider planting an extra row to have fresh produce to share with the local food pantry.

"Each year, our local farmers and gardeners are generous with providing fresh



Gardeners asked to plant an extra row for food pantry

produce, which makes a world of difference,” says Church & Community Program Director Connie Jenkins. “This year there is a special need, as the large supply of vegetables that had come from Ogdensburg Correctional Facility’s garden will not be available, as the prison has closed.”

The food pantry has access to food basics from the regional food bank, local contributions, and other sources, but fresh vegetables and fruits are harder to come by. Pantry families are absolutely delighted when there is fresh produce, Jenkins noted.

Salad makings, including lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers, are welcome, along with vegetables that keep well, such as onions, carrots, and butternut and acorn squash.

When families go berry or fruit picking, picking an extra amount to bring to the pantry makes for a true treat. “Faces light up when we have strawberries or fresh fruit,” Jenkins said.

Donations are accepted during the normal business hours Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 30 Court Street, Canton. For more information, call 315-386-3534.

COVID SAFETY POLICY

Church Council has decided to follow the guidance of the CDC and their determination of [Covid risk level by county](#).

- When St. Lawrence County is deemed HIGH RISK by the CDC, masks will be required by all persons in the church and shared food and drink will be prohibited.
- When our county is at MEDIUM or LOW RISK, masks become optional and food and drink will be allowed.
- Proof of vaccination is required to attend Sunday worship.
- We ask that any group using the building respect the wishes of the most vulnerable in any group and determine mask protocols accordingly.

Thank you for your continued cooperation!

Our relationships are the root of our church.

Spending time together is a fun way to deepen our connections!



How can you help deepen these connections?

Meet Ups ~ Potlucks ~ Movie Nights ~ Game Nights

Discussion Groups ~ Your Idea

Be a Host ~ Be a Guest ~ Provide the Space ~ Choose a Location

Team Up with a Partner ~ Lead an Activity

Contact Carol Zimmerman to explore the possibilities

dre@uucantonny.org ~ 315-386-2498

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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