

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



Sunday, July 3 – ONLINE ONLY, NO SERVICE IN CANTON

[Woven in a Single Garment of Destiny](#)

We invite you to view this worship service from the UUA exploring and celebrating hallmarks of our Unitarian Universalist theology. There will be no worship service in the building here in Canton. You are invited to watch this service online at your convenience.

Wednesday, July 6

6:30 p.m., Church Council Meeting

Sunday, July 10

Pain of the World, Post-Pandemic Version

The Revs. Leonissa Ardizzone & James Galasinski

What do we do when we witness suffering? How can we keep going when the world seems to be overwhelmed with turmoil? What do we call upon to keep up our work of healing and justice?

Monday, July 11

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

Tuesday, July 12

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

Sunday, July 17

Conspiracy for Life: A Personal Defense of Reproductive Rights

The Revs. Dick Gilbert & James Galasinski

We meet in the wake of the Supreme Court decision on Roe v. Wade. Rev. Gilbert will reflect on this as one who counseled women as a member of the Clergy Consultation Service on Problem Pregnancies before both Roe v. Wade and New York State reformed abortion law. We are on the brink of a non-democratic disaster.

Sunday, July 24 – PARK ONLY, NO SERVICE IN CANTON

Worship in the Park Led by our incredible Worship Team

Join us for an outdoor worship service at Higley Flow State Park in Colton. There is a \$7 entrance fee, so carpooling might be useful. Pack a lunch, your beach gear, and spend the day at the park after worship.

Sunday, July 31

Out of Many, One: UU Suggestions for Bridging the American Chasm
A sermon by Betsy Burr

Sunday, August 7

TBA

Bryan Thompson, Pulpit Guest

Sunday, August 14

TBA

That's right! A Sunday in suspense - just to make sure you're looking forward to reading enews on Thursdays!

Sunday, August 21

Death Transforms the Living *The Rev. James Galasinski*

My cousin died rather suddenly and unexpectedly and much too young at the age of twenty one. Anyone that lost a loved one tragically knows the process of grief is a strange bumpy path. But if we can come to acceptance we can also come to gratitude.

Sunday, August 28

The River of the Universe Speaks

The Rev. James Galasinski

Pantheism is the belief that all is God. Pantheism says all the universe is divine, at least potentially. We will examine Mary Oliver's exquisite poem, "At the River Clarion" and see how this belief matches up with the environmental movement.

**Worship services happen every
Sunday at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom at [this link](#)
and in the sanctuary.**

**Don't miss our June photo gallery on the
last pages of the newsletter!**



JAMES' JOURNAL

The Power of Normal



On RE Sunday, shortly before worship I greeted Cathy Crosby as she came in the front door with a “good morning.”

She responded by saying, “This has been the most normal Sunday in two plus years.”

Normal and ordinary are good things, especially with what we have been through. History keeps rolling on with Ukraine, loss of reproductive rights for much of the country and more violence. June marked my return from sabbatical and in-person RE. The silent auction was fun and we raised more than \$6,700!

We also had a church picnic with venison, veggie, and beef burgers, chips, multiple kinds of potato salad, desserts, and all kinds of other good food. Kids were running around at Bend in the River Park. The sky waited to rain until after our picnic ended. There was a lot of laughter between old friends and new. Joy was in the air. Just being together, 100-125 of us, is just what the mental health professional ordered. It was the best turnout for a church picnic since you called me to be your minister. There is something about just gathering, just being, just congregating, in churchy language we would call this “fellowship.” It is there we notice being linked, connected, bonded together, and just talk and tell stories. It is good for the soul and gives me a lot of hope.

Then a storm brought down a tree and damaged the church building. We lost electric power for days. With a little help from our neighbors, we were able to have some electricity for our sound system and brewed some coffee. It wouldn't have been social hour without coffee? Even with those abnormalities, things still felt normal because even with the loss of electricity we had the electric power of being together.

The Rev. James Galasinski

FAITH ENGAGEMENT

Ahh, summer is upon us. As I write this, we are celebrating the longest day of the year. For July and August during religious education, we'll find the magic of gathering in person to have fun and help others using the three magic “S's.”

Service to Others - Helping others is a magic antidote

Silence and Mindfulness – Finding the magic of listening to our inner voice

Sunshine and Movement – Connecting with the magic of nature and our bodies



May this Magic Summer be a time to come back together after over two years of being apart and find how being together, helping others, being in touch with our inner voice, and embracing the natural world can be just the remedy we need.

Summer is also a wonderful time to rest, relax, and rejuvenate. I will be taking time to do just that from July 10 through August 7. May we all find the rest, relaxation and rejuvenation we need and may we connect with the magic of summer, too. Blessed be.

Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education

JOYS AND SORROWS

♥ We send our sympathies to those mourning the loss of [Phyllis Magnus](#), who passed away on May 27.

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

We'll have some great pulpit guests this summer! Below we share some more information about who they are:

On Sunday, July 10, we welcome the Rev. Dr. Leonisa Ardizzone, who serves as an affiliated community minister of the Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York. She holds degrees in biology (Ithaca College, BA), science education (Western Washington University, EdM), International Educational Development with a specialization in Peace Education (Columbia University, PhD), and inter-religious engagement (Union Theological Seminary, MDiv). Rev Leonisa served the UU Congregation of the Catskills from 2019-2021. Drawn to youth and young adult ministry, she is a member of the faculty at Vassar College and founder and director of the Peace Education Center of the Hudson Valley (launched fall 2021). Prior to ministry, Rev Leonisa taught in K-12 schools, ran a non-profit in NYC, owned her own business, and consulted with numerous organizations as a teacher educator and curriculum coach. She is also a writer and musician. Currently, she lives in Rosendale, NY, with her husband Michael and daughter Rafaella



On Sunday, July 17, we'll hear from the Rev. Dick Gilbert, who has been in the Unitarian Universalist ministry for over 60 years. A graduate of St. Lawrence University and Theological School, he has served congregations in Cleveland, Ithaca, and Rochester, the latter for 32 years. He is the author of several books, including "The Prophetic Imperative," "How Much Do We Deserve?" on social justice, "Thanks Be for These" and "In the Holy Quiet " on meditation, and "In the Middle of a Journey" and "Growing Up Absorbed" on faith development. Dick holds honorary degrees from St. Lawrence University, Meadville/Lombard Theological School, and Starr King School for the Ministry.

We're heading outdoors on Sunday, July 24, to worship in the park—Higley Flow State Park, that is. Enjoy the scenic drive out to Colton where we will hold worship in the Pavilion by the beach. The entire area is accessible and there are restrooms available on site. There is a \$7 fee per vehicle to enter the park, so carpooling is advised. Once worship ends, you are invited to stick around and enjoy the scenery, trails, beach and more. If you enjoy camping, it would be a great weekend to camp at the Flow.

AUCTION SUCCESS!



Thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of many donors and bidders, our first-ever online auction was a rousing success! We raised **\$6,708** and had a lot of fun doing it!

It was wonderful to be together and, as our minister emeritus Wade Wheelock said after our first auction years ago, raise important dollars "selling each other things we would have cheerfully given each other"!

Thank you to everyone who donated, bid, and joined the fun! If you have questions about connecting with your donor/recipient, [contact Sara](#) or a member of auction team (Barbara Beekman, Carol Pynchon, Kathy Wyckoff).

Summertime... and the livin' is easy



It has been a lovely June filled with fabulous fellowship and events and gatherings and (mostly) good weather. As we look to July and August, we want to maintain our momentum AND we want to honor the very real need for our summertime slow-down here at church. Our church staff will be taking the bulk of their vacation time and the ones who worked tirelessly behind the scenes need a break, too.

We will still have worship on Sundays, offering the chance to come together, and our children and youth will have Magic Summer experiences in RE. We will not, however, have coffee and snacks at social hour. Our committees will take a break from meetings if they can. There will be fewer expectations, but all the opportunities you can dream of, because YOU can make them happen! Missing someone from the before days? Use the directory to call them up and make plans. Just got a new canoe or kayak? Join the paddling group. Want to get outdoors and explore, but don't know where to start? How about the UUGeos? Informal and fun connections happen because YOU make them.

This is an opportunity to soak up the summer fun and start the next church year refreshed and ready to engage - it could be our best year yet. There is good energy surrounding our current members and friends, and our involvement in community efforts and organizations has proven that our church is a great fit for anyone seeking a spiritual home that is based in kindness and love for others and our earth.

As a reminder, here are the dates when our staff will be out of town:

Sara Trimm: July 1- July 12 and July 28 – August 4; Carol Zimmerman: July 10 – August 7;

Rev. James Galasinski: July 31- August 7

SUNDAY MORNING SUCCESS

What makes our Sundays so special? Fantastic sermons, welcoming smiles, good coffee, and a sense of shared community. How do we make that magic happen? By giving EVERYONE a chance to be part of the fun!

Now that we have a solid group of congregants coming to worship in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, it's time to start up the complementary components of our worship that keep us coming back for more.



We need **greeters** who can welcome us (and chat with newcomers), hand out Orders of Service and Announcements, collect our Joys and Sorrows, light the candles, and collect the cash offering.

We need **social hour hosts** who can make that amazing coffee and make sure there's creamer in the fridge. Could you take that on some Sunday in the fall?



We all know that it takes money to operate a church. If you're willing to stick around for a few minutes after worship to record and **count the collection**, it makes the deposit process more secure and a little faster.

If you have questions about any of these roles, or would like to discuss the options, please [email Sara](#) to learn more. If you know you want to help and you're ready to sign up, just [click here](#) to add your name next to the date you can help. (Make sure you click the tab at the bottom of the page to get to the right category - Greeter, Host, or Counter.)

Interested in helping with voter participation efforts?

Stay tuned for details coming soon about the ways you can help Get Out the Vote. Watch for announcements in enews, newsletters, and the website, or contact Sally Hoose.



ADVENTURES WITH THE UU GEOCHACHERS!

Our UUGeos geocaching group invites you to join them for two fun outings this summer.

On **Saturday, July 9, at 11:00 a.m.** we will discover a series of EarthCaches and then enjoy a lunch together in the village of Alexandria Bay. What are EarthCaches? These are interesting geological features to explore and learn their fascinating histories right under your own feet!

On **Saturday, August 6, at 11:00 a.m.** our

UUGeos group turns to our Adirondack waterways for finding geocaches accessible only by kayak or canoe! We will be paddling at Osgood Pond to seek some of these hidden gems. Bring your own kayak or canoe and pack a lunch too.

Contact Caron Collins for details of these events and where to meet us. Hope to see you there!



MUSIC COMMITTEE IS BACK!

Do you enjoy the variety of music we have during our Sunday services? Or wish that we had even MORE variety? If so, you may want to join our Music Committee. Soon we hope to resume rehearsals with our choir and bell choir, but before that we need to find choir directors. Be a part of a team that will work to make the music in our church more dynamic and accessible to many. Contact Sara Trimm (office@uucantonny.org) or Betsy Kepes if you are interested.



GOT NEWS?

Here's how to share it!



Church Chatter: Fill out [this form](#) by 9am on Tuesday

Enews: [Email Sara](#) by 9am Thursday

Newsletter: [Submit to the church office](#) by the 20th for the coming month

Last-minute events and announcements: Share on [Facebook](#), use the private discussion groups, send to [committee lists](#), reach out to church friends and ask them to help you spread the word.

Keep in mind that if you send information to the office after 2pm on Thursdays, it may not get seen until Monday morning. Please share in the ways listed above.

WHICH SERMON TOUCHED YOU?

We have heard so many wonderful sermons over the years from a wide variety of ministers and pulpit guests. Most of them have been recorded and stored online. This summer, we plan to compile a list (with links!) of some of our congregational favorites. If there is a sermon you still remember and think about, please share the title and speaker with us, along with a little description of what made it special for you. We will post the list online so we can all revisit some of our **GREATEST HITS**. Refresh your memory on our [Sermons webpage](#) (they go waaay back!).



New York State Convention of Universalists Annual Meeting ***Seeking Justice, Finding Joy*** October 21 and 22, 2022

The meeting will be held in person at First Universalist Church of Rochester, NY, with virtual participation available as well.

Our keynote speaker is Sheila Starkey Hahn, an immigration attorney who has been involved in justice work during her career. There will be workshops on many kinds of justice, and how we can more joyfully live our faith through social justice advocacy.

North Country Friends: *If you are interested in attending this meeting in Rochester, please reach out to Mark Berninghausen, who is planning to attend and would welcome carpool opportunities!*



Potsdam Interfaith Community's Annual Picnic **Tuesday, September 15, at 5:30 p.m.** Sandstoner Park in Potsdam

Watch for further details and contact the church office with questions.

Please plan to join in this fun and informal interfaith event!

June was bursting with activities and fun fellowship.

In case you missed it or didn't get to see some of the great photo documentation, here is a photo journal of June: The Dairy Days Pride Band, the return of Rev. James and RE, our church picnic, a March for Our Lives Rally, Juneteenth Celebration, Rachel Somers Grant Award Presentation, and more!

Dairy Days Pride Band!



RE is back!



Graduating seniors and Rev. James in the pulpit



Church Picnic V.2022





March for Our Lives





Rachel Somers Grant Award



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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