

Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton
NEWSLETTER
June 2023 - THIS MONTH AND SUNDAYS



Saturday, June 3

11:30 a.m., Marching Band Practice and Parade

Sunday, June 4

Everything's A Miracle *The Rev. James Galasinski*

Miracles are not necessarily events that defy science. Miracles still happen anytime something happens that points beyond. Like the mystery that there is anything here at all. Where aren't there miracles?

Rachel Somers Grant Social Action Award Presentation

12:15 p.m., First Sunday Listening Circle

Wednesday, June 7

6:30 p.m., Church Council Meeting

Thursday, June 8

7:00 p.m., Sermon Writing Workshop (3 of 3)

Sunday, June 11

9:00 a.m., History Circle Meeting

Faith Development for All *Carol Zimmerman, DRE*

As Unitarian Universalists, we are constantly growing into our faith. Finding ways to deepen our faith helps this growth. Join us to celebrate our religious education ministry.

Noon, Annual Church Picnic at Bend in the River Park

Tuesday, June 13

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

1:00 p.m., Communications Committee Meeting

Saturday, June 17

Church Council Retreat

Sunday, June 18

Fathers Matter *The Rev. James Galasinski*

Taking into account the Trans revolution, the spectrum of genders and how gender roles have changed, fathers still matter especially to boys, but really to everyone.

Monday, June 19

7:00 p.m., Worship Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 20

6:30 p.m., RE Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 22

7:00 p.m., Science Book Club

Saturday, June 24

10:30 a.m., Memorial Service for Sally Van de Water

Sunday, June 25

The Value of Interfaith Community

Sarah Bentley-Garfinkel and Pat Alden

Pat and Sarah currently serve as our congregation's co-liaisons to the Potsdam Interfaith Community (PIC).

They will share reflections on PIC's mission statement, and on the value - and delights - of participating in an interfaith effort.

Monday, June 26

7:00 p.m., UU Men's Group

Tuesday, June 27

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

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

Our 2023 Church Council:

Jon Montan, President

Sarah Bentley-Garfinkel,

Vice President

Mary Michalek, Secretary

Stefan Grimberg, Treasurer

Wil Rivers

Jim Williams

Rebecca Pickens

Ron Tavernier

Katie Boczarski

Eden Terrell



JAMES' JOURNAL

I love bicycling and I have gotten into it again this spring, especially with all the great weather. We live close to bucolic fields, rolling hills, and flowing rivers. I feel more attuned to the land on two wheels than I do on four wheels. That is for sure.

While biking up a low traffic road I saw a brown calf nonchalantly slip through the barbed wire fence to eat the longer grass on the other side. It stayed so docile looking at their friends on the other side not knowing what they had done. Now there was a stray animal in the middle of the road.

I biked up to the nearest house, shouting "hello" several times. An old man yelled back. I was a little surprised because from the looks of the house, I thought it might have been abandoned. He was sitting on a lawn chair inside his garage warming his legs in the sun.

"Are those your cattle?" I pointed as I asked.

"No, they are my son's. Is one of them loose?"

"Yes," I replied.

"I'll text him," he said. I guess everyone texts these days.

As I was coming out of the gravel driveway two young adults in a Subaru motioned for me to stop. The driver had pink highlights in her hair and asked me if I lived here.

"No," I told her. "But I just told the old man that a calf escaped."

Of course, the brown calf didn't really escape; they wandered through the dangling wires to get the greener grass. It meant no harm. We have many brown calves who transgress boundaries that put us in harm's way. Fortunately, there are many here among us who are looking out for each other and will let us know. This could be an opportunity to look at the big picture and see why the calf got loose. Has this happened repeatedly? Maybe it is time to mend the fence.

In peace,

The Rev. James Galasinski

FROM OUR PRESIDENT Your Church in June

I wanted to highlight three things that will be happening in June.

The first is the Church Picnic that will be held on June 11th at Canton's Bend-In-The-River Park Pavilion following our Religious Education and Flower Communion service. Come one, come all!

The second is that Church Council will be holding our annual retreat on June 17th to assess, focus, plan and have fun.

The third is that our Church will be represented at the General Assembly of the Unitarian-Universalist Association in Pittsburgh, PA from June 21-25 by our minister, the Rev. James Galasinski and our delegate, Mark Berninghausen. Please let our representatives know if you have any comments particularly concerning the proposed changes to Article II of the Bylaws.



My thanks to all who are making these things happen and to those who give their time and enthusiasm to bring joy and meaning to others. A special thanks to those who tackle the difficult problems. You know who you are.

Jon Montan, Church Council President



FAITH ENGAGEMENT

This past Sunday, as we were preparing for the morning classes, one of the teachers shared that while teaching about the serenity prayer a few Sundays ago, they realized that one of their family members might find these words very helpful right now. Our religious education curriculum often provides these meaningful moments and more – like the connection and relationships created with our children and youth, a deeper understanding of Unitarian Universalism, or maybe even a spiritual awakening. Plus, it’s just plain fun!

Religious Education is a cornerstone of our church, and it takes a whole bunch of people to make it happen. Before the pandemic, we had 67 volunteers in RE. This year, we had 27. We try to provide RE almost every Sunday, and to abide by our safe congregation policies, we need 2 adults in every space, regardless of how many children attend. There were 4 spaces this year: Nursery, Spirit Play, Faith Space, and Coming of Age/Youth group.

We all know that our children and youth are the future of Unitarian Universalism. We, as adults, have so much to offer them in their understanding of our faith, and they have so much to teach us as they navigate their own journeys to faith. Would you like to be part of this vital ministry? We provide curriculum plans and activities to make it easy and fun to participate. (Summer might be a great time to try it out!)

Please contact me with any questions, thoughts, ideas, or to volunteer. It takes a community.

Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education

THANK UU:

- To all who participated in the Earth Day Roadside Cleanup. We made a difference!

JOYS AND SORROWS

♥ Congratulations to our friend and former member, Carol Gable, on her new position as Congregational Life Budget Manager for the UUA. How lucky for our national organization to have her on their team (and ours!). Carol is currently also serving as President of her UU congregation in Utica.

♥ We are thrilled for Bida Clark-Bouchard, Max Wolckenhauer, and grandmom Kim Bouchard, who celebrated the birth of Cole Benson Wolckenhauer on Easter Sunday! Cole is, in a word, “awesome” (according to those in the know).

♥ We remember Dotty Hall, who died peacefully in her sleep on April 6th, 2023, after a battle with Alzheimer’s disease. A celebration of her and her husband John’s (who died February 8), will be held at 11 a.m. on June 30th at Gunnison Memorial Chapel, St. Lawrence University.

♥ We rejoice that Bonnie Danis is home and doing well after treatment in New York. We love seeing her and John in church again.

♥ Our thoughts are with Tom Van de Water as he recovers from his recent bicycle accident.

There will be a service to celebrate the life of long-time church member, Sally Van de Water, on Saturday, June 24, at 10:30a.m. Afterwards, we will dedicate a lilac tree on the church lawn in her memory. Sally passed away last year, during the height of lilac season, at the age of 107.

Want to join the Caring Circle email list? You'll get emails when someone needs a card or letter, a ride, or a meal. Help when you can, but there's no pressure to respond every time. If you'd like to be included, just complete [this form](#). Contact Eden Terrell or Valerie Ingram if you have any questions.

Summer Worship Series: Our Own Voices



The Worship Team, in collaboration with Church Council and Religious Education, is excited to bring you a special summer worship series. This series will feature different worship formats befitting the summer season. They will occur on the seven Sundays from July 2 through August 13.

Here is what you can look forward to:

- **Coffee and Conversation:** About every other week, you will have the opportunity to talk with other community members about topics important to our congregation. These conversations will take place in the Romer Room and will be facilitated by members of the Worship Team, Church Council, and other church groups. Individuals will be able to participate via Zoom. And of course, there will be coffee – and tea, juice, and goodies!
- **Informal Service:** On Sunday, July 16, Rev. James will lead a special service in the sanctuary appropriate for all ages. You will be able to join the service through Zoom like our regular Sunday services, and we hope to have the nursery open for the littlest ones.
- **Interactive Events:** A couple of times this summer, Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education, will lead us on a spiritual adventure appropriate for everyone from toddlers to elders.
- **Outdoor Service:** If members of the congregation indicate that they are interested, we will also plan a Sunday worship service at an outdoor location, such as the Waddington Beach Pavilion, with carpooling available. This service will be filled with readings, sermonettes by members of the congregation, and music, followed by fellowship over a potluck lunch.

Look for an email later this month with a finalized schedule and more details. In the meantime, if you have questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact the office. Also, if you would like to help in any way over the summer, please reach out to us. We welcome new voices and ideas always!



Donna Seymour Recognized with Social Action Award

Annually the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton recognizes a person in the wider North Country community with the **Rachel Somers Grant Social Action Award**. The award honors individuals who are advocates for social justice and who, as volunteers, have been actively involved in local groups working for a stronger community.

This year’s recipient is Donna Seymour of Potsdam. As one nominator wrote: “For 30 plus years, Donna has been tireless in her work for the rights of women and children. Anywhere childcare is discussed, Donna is in the middle of it.” Beginning with service on the Potsdam Central School PTA, over the past 30 years she has served as Board Chair of the

SLC Childcare Council; as representative on the Advisory Board of the Occupational Health Clinical Centers; and as regional representative for the Empire State Campaign for Child Care (ESCCC). All are organizations which work to improve access to quality child care options, to promote workplace safety, living wages for childcare and elder care providers, and to provide resources to families, providers, community members and employers to meet the early care and learning needs in the North Country.

Additionally, Donna is currently on the leadership team of the PowHer NY Coalition, a statewide network of individuals and organizations committed to accelerating economic equality for New York women and their families. She was active in the local chapter of the American Association of University Women and is currently on the Board of the League of Women Voters of SLC Chapter, which she helped to revive in 2009. She has worked as moderator for the educational “Conversations with Candidates” and regularly participates in “North Country Matters,” setting a standard for informed and balanced conversations about local issues.

This award is presented as part of a Sunday, June 4 service at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Canton (3 ½ Main Street) at 10:30 a.m. All well-wishers are welcome to attend; a reception follows the service.

Social Action Shared Offering (SASO) to benefit Potsdam Pride on Sunday, June 4, 2023

On Sunday, June 4, our collection will benefit Potsdam Pride so that they can continue the great work they are doing in our community. Rebecca Donnelly explains its history and mission here:



The Potsdam Pride committee came together with a vision to hold a community Pride celebration in June 2023. In the past year, we've held several fundraising events and social gatherings to prepare for Pride, and the response from the community, queer and otherwise, has been one of overwhelming support. It can be difficult to live openly and authentically as a member of the LGBTQ community in any part of the world, but living in a rural area has its own challenges. There is no gay neighborhood here, no gay bar, no gay bookstore or cafe where queer people can meet other queer people and develop that sense of belonging that everyone deserves. Simply creating a space where our community can gather and feel that they're not alone, even for the length of a drag show, has shown us how crucial it is to keep our efforts going.

We're excited to say that our first Pride Festival is happening June 8-10, but it won't be our last. Thanks to the contributions and support of everyone who has attended one of our events, become a corporate sponsor, volunteered with us, and with special thanks to our partnerships with Planned Parenthood of the North Country and SLC Arts, we're committed to keeping the spirit of Pride in the North Country going.



Sunday, June 11: Our Annual Church Picnic

Join us for our annual church picnic on **June 11** at the [Bend-in-the-River Park Picnic Shelter](#) located at **90 Lincoln Street** in Canton from **12:00 to 2:00p.m.** (In case of inclement weather, the picnic will be held in the Social Room.)

Here's how it works: The church will provide grilled meat and veggie burgers and drinks too. Bring your favorite potluck salad or dessert to share.

- If your last name starts with the letters A-M, you're invited to bring a salad or side dish to pass around.
- If your last name starts with the letters N-Z, please bring a dessert instead.

Anyone wishing to help with other picnic tasks can contact Jenn Whittaker at outreach@uucantonny.org.

Please bring your own silverware, plates, and cups. In case you forget, we'll have paper plates and plastic utensils on hand.

There will be outdoor games provided and restrooms are available on site. Plus, we'll be drawing the prizes for the Envelope Challenge.

We can't wait to see you there!

Be on the lookout for an exciting initiative beginning mid-June! **UUBay** (pronounced YouBay or YouYouBay or OOBay, if you prefer) is a goods and services exchange building community and supporting our budget. Exclusively available to members and friends of the UU Church of Canton, **UUBay** is a place to re-home (sell, give away) items, ask for or offer help or services, tap into the collective knowledge of the congregation, and help close our budget gap. Come to the church picnic on June 11 to learn more!

As you travel near and far this summer, don't forget to collect water from places that hold special meaning for you. We'll ask you to bring them to our Water Ceremony at the beginning of the church year.

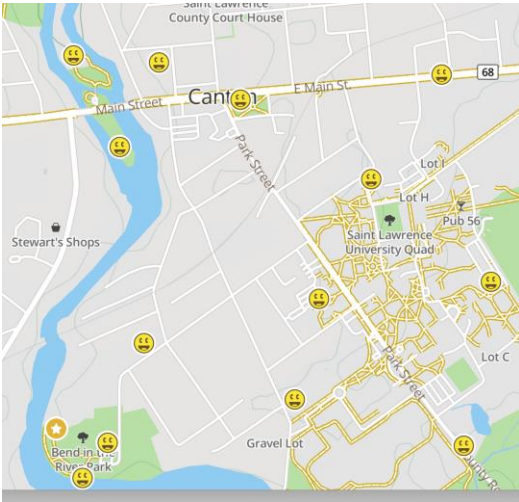


SACRED TEXTS AND COFFEE

This is a small group gathering to read and reflect together on sacred texts and drink coffee and tea in the Social Room. No preparation is necessary. We'll meet again on **Tuesday, June 13, at 9:30 a.m.** Everyone is welcome. If you can't make it in person, join us via ZOOM at [this link](#).

SCIENCE BOOK CLUB

June is Science Fiction Month at the Science Book Club. We will be discussing Octavia Butler's darkly visionary *Parable of the Sower*. Join us by Zoom on Thursday, June 15, at 7:00 pm. Email briangardam@gmail.com for the Zoom link.



The Favorite Geocaches Tour!

Sunday, June 18th the UUGeos will share their favorite geocaches around the Potsdam, Canton, or Colton area. Come search for our 5 selected geocaches to enjoy the variations of unique locations and clever cache hides. Meet us in our UU Church Parking Lot after church social hour at 12:30 for the tour. Carpooling is recommended and sturdy shoes are encouraged. Stay as long as you want for this afternoon tour.

To learn about geocaching, visit <https://www.geocaching.com>. Questions? Contact [Caron Collins](#) for more details.

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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