

# Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton

## NEWSLETTER

### Summer 2023 - THIS (& NEXT) MONTH AND SUNDAYS

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#### Sunday, July 2

##### **Circle of Trees**

*Carol Zimmerman, DRE*

Across many cultures, trees are recognized as a symbol for life and fundamental engines of life on earth. All ages will celebrate our connections with trees through story, meditation, craft and more.

#### Tuesday, July 4

The office will be closed

#### Sunday, July 9

9:00 a.m., History Circle Meeting

##### **Coffee and Conversation** *First Sunday Listening Circle*

This will be our first Coffee & Conversation style worship service of our new Summer Series. The First Sunday Listening Circle is a small group that has gathered once a month for many years now.

#### Tuesday, July 11

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

1:00 p.m., Communications Committee Meeting

#### Sunday, July 16

##### **The Water Way**

*The Rev. James Galasinski*

Taoism invites us to take the water-way that is quite the opposite of business, sports, and pop culture. Water often calmly seeps down into places that we often don't want to go.

#### Monday, July 17

7:00 p.m., Worship Committee Meeting

#### Tuesday, July 18

1:30 p.m., Membership and Outreach Meeting

6:30 p.m., RE Committee Meeting

#### Saturday, July 22

UUGeos Outing

#### Sunday, July 23

##### **Coffee & Conversation** *Sacred Texts and Coffee Group*

Rev. James offers an opportunity on the second Tuesday of every month to discuss a sacred text while sipping coffee or tea. The group varies each month, but some of the more regular attendees will lead our worship conversation this week.

#### Sunday, July 30

##### **The Power of Poetry**

*David Bradford, Worship Team*

This service will feature poems that are meaningful to you. So, bring a poem you would like to share with other members of the congregation! See the News for UU with more details before the service.

#### Wednesday, August 2

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

6:30 p.m., Church Council Meeting

#### Sunday, August 6

##### **Coffee & Conversation**

*Church History Circle*

Members of the History Learning Circle will be sharing how they learn about our history and asking about what you would like to know. They will also be talking with members of the community about our upcoming bicentennial year – 2025! Come learn and share your ideas.

#### Sunday, August 13

##### **Awe and Wonder**

*Carol Zimmerman, DRE*

The wonder and awe inside most of us could use a wake-up call. All ages will explore different ways we find wonder and awe in the world. We will use stories and hands-on activities to find out how we can create these every day.

#### Tuesday, August 15

1:30 p.m., Membership and Outreach Meeting

#### Saturday, August 19

UUGeos Outing

#### Sunday, August 20

##### **TBA**

*David Bradford*

The theme will be music and more details are coming soon! Read your emails, check our website, or just show up and enjoy the surprise of discovery when you get here.

#### Sunday, August 27

##### **TBA**

*The Rev. James Galasinski*

Rev. James will be back in the pulpit. Stay tuned to enews and our website to find out what his message might be on Sunday, August 27.



## JAMES' JOURNAL

Before us is the complex intense diversities of the color green. It is summer. We start to enjoy outdoor living again—as we swat bugs. A poet, a real professional one, looked out at my backyard while eating homemade pizza a few summers ago and said, “I could get a lot of good writing done here.”

“But there is no view,” I told the award-winning writer. “Doesn’t a poet need a better view? Some place on a hill or on a lake. At least a river. Perhaps on a bluff overlooking an old fishing village, so you could look out and see the ships ferrying men to islands.”

We all need new views from time to time: a city skyline, some mountains, some scorched earth.

So then we can see the honesty of the holy in front of us. I will be doing some traveling this summer to get some new views. I am going to Acadia National Park, Bay of Fundy, and Tadoussac. I hope to do some biking, attend a jazz festival or two and see the ocean, mountains, and whales.

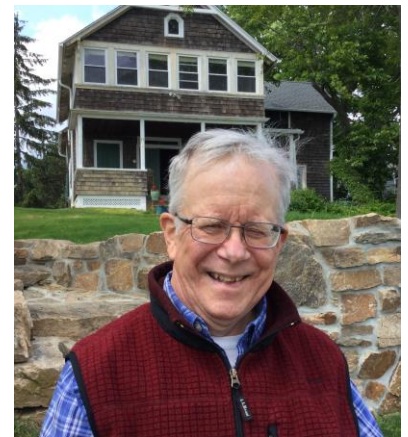
My favorite part of summer is to go outside after the sun sets and how the air is still warm. I like to look up at the pink hues in the clouds and see the first stars appear while I water the garden. Life does not quite make sense to me if there are not these moments of slower pace, warmer nights, and orange colors in the normally white clouds. May we all be blessed with a slower pace this summer. Then our spruce trees, so tall and ordinary, will be just fine to look upon once again.

In peace,

*The Rev. James Galasinski*

### **FROM OUR PRESIDENT Bell Tower Roof Project**

This summer you will notice work being done on the Church’s Bell Tower Roof.



At our June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, Church Council approved a contract with Bertrand’s Construction, Inc. of Ogdensburg, N.Y. The work will consist of replacing the existing slate shingles with a composite shingle that resembles slate. The new shingles have a 50-year rating. The copper flashing will also be restored to complete the job.

In recent years some of the approximately 130-year-old slate shingles were slowly detaching. Spot repairs were made until it became apparent that this was not a viable long-term maintenance plan. Replacing the entire roof with real slate shingles was prohibitively expensive, thus the choice of composite shingles. The composite shingles are architecturally compatible with our building’s designation in an historic district.

Work will begin the week of July 17. During construction, the contractor will use a high-lift boom to access the four roof faces. This is fairly straightforward for the south, west, and east faces, but is more complicated for the north face. The lift will need to be carefully positioned in the Memorial Garden area so as to not disturb the area where ashes are buried. Doing so will necessitate removal of some vegetation and the temporary dismantling of one of the pillars. This work will all be done with full consultation and coordination of Buildings and Grounds, the Memorial Committee, and the contractor. After the roof project has been completed, the Memorial Garden area will be restored and the vegetation will re-grow.

The accepted bid from Bertrand's Construction, Inc. was \$26,600. The project cost will be covered by a \$2000.00 grant from the Canton Community Fund, private donations, and a portion of our capital reserve fund. I want to sincerely thank all of those who stepped up to make this capital project possible. When we get the new roof on, I want to hear our bell ring!

Happy Summer,  
*Jon Montan, Church Council President*

### FAITH ENGAGEMENT

Prior to working at our church, I worked at the St. Lawrence County Health Initiative assisting local businesses in implementing worksite wellness programming. We utilized the [8 dimensions of Wellness](#) model to create meaningful programs. Part of this model includes spiritual wellness. "Spiritual wellness involves seeking and having a meaning and purpose in life, as well as participating in activities that are consistent with one's beliefs and values."



As Unitarian Universalists with no creed, we each need to individually find our beliefs and values. [Our principles and sources](#) can help guide us in finding meaning and purpose but we need to do the work of finding spiritual well-being. Summer is a great time to explore. What feeds your spirit? What gives you meaning and purpose? How do you live your beliefs and values?

I will be taking some vacation time in July and August and find ways to feed my spirit. Our religious education summer program will offer children and youth an opportunity to explore these questions. I invite you to do the same. Attending church, paddling on an Adirondack pond, walking on a well-known trail, or working might offer some insight into your spiritual wellness.

*Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education*

### THANK UU:

- Evelyn Boczarski, Sarah Bentley-Garfinkel, Toby Sturges, Sofiya Boczarski, Todd Moe, Miles Galasinski, Oskar Galasinski, Nate Sturges, Jim Williams, Harper Terrell, Claire Thomas, Franny Frank, Zoya Kocho-Williams, and Brianna Dixon for participating in the RE Sunday worship service.

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE



### 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. Thanks to everyone who completed the survey and provided feedback!

We are working out the details for some of the specific services, but the schedule of Sundays outlines the service format you can expect on each Sunday. Please note that we decided against organizing an outdoor service this summer.

Here are brief descriptions of the different summer worship formats:

1. **Coffee and Conversation:** On these Sundays, you will have the opportunity to talk with other community members about topics important to our congregation. Coffee and conversation will take place in the Romer and Community Rooms, but individuals will be able to participate via Zoom, too. And of course, there will be coffee – and tea, juice, and goodies!
2. **Informal Services:** These services will take place in the sanctuary, and you will be able to join the service through Zoom like our regular Sunday services. These services will have a bit less liturgy and a bit more interaction and music.
3. **Interactive Events:** For the first and last Sundays of the summer series, Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education, will lead us on a spiritual adventure appropriate for everyone from toddlers to elders.

### Back to School Drive: NOTEBOOK PAPER

Our church participates in the annual Church and Community Program's "School Supplies" program. Each member church is asked to focus on one type of supplies (e.g., pencils, notebook paper, markers). These are what teachers request individual students bring on the first day. Unsurprisingly, some parents can't afford to buy the whole list, and that is where our church congregations help out. We expect about 280 kids to be served by the program this year.



This year, UU Church members have been asked to provide **notebook filler paper** (both wide-ruled and college-ruled). To participate, you can buy one (or a few) packs of notebook paper and place them into the Church and Community food box in the social room at church. Deadline is July 31.

If you are unable to get to the store and buy notebook paper, you can make a monetary donation. Checks can be sent to Church and Community Program (memo: UU notebook paper), PO Box 55, Canton NY 13617. Or you can donate online at the Church and Community Program website [ccpcanton.org](http://ccpcanton.org) (be sure to add **UU Notebook Paper** in the note section).

Any way you can help would be greatly appreciated and will make a difference for the kids who served.

*Cliff Westerling, Church & Community Program Representative*

## Summer Staff Schedules:

**Carol Zimmerman, DRE** will be away June 26-July 1, July 9-15, and July 23-August 6.

**Sara Trimm** will be out of town August 10-21.

**The Rev. James Galasinski** will be on vacation and study leave July 1-8 and July 17-August 20.

During that time, he will not be checking email regularly. If you need pastoral care, the [Pastoral Care Team](#) is a group trained in the art of compassionate listening. Please contact a member of the team or reach out to the office via phone or email to request a response from one of our team members.



## Connect with Council:

*Would you like to feel more connected to your church community?  
Do you feel like you might have some time or skills to offer, but you're just not sure where or how you would fit in?*

Here's your chance to explore! Connect with one of our council members. You could grab a coffee (or other beverage), go for a walk, or arrange an informal meet up. Get to know a bit about them, tell them a bit about you, and then together you can chat about possible ways you might dip your toes into the work of our brilliant church community. You could meet one on one, with a friend, or as a small group. It's an informal social opportunity to get to know each other better and find more connections.



Our 2023 Church Council Members are: Jon Montan, President, Sarah Bentley-Garfinkel, Vice President, Mary Michalek, Secretary, Stefan Grimberg, Treasurer, Wil Rivers, Jim Williams, Rebecca Pickens, Ron Tavernier, Katie Boczarski, and Eden Terrell. You can read more about them on our website [here](#) and find their contact information in our [directory](#).

## Do you like adventures?



Join the UUGeos for two adventures seeking geocaches in the North Country. Geocaches can be large or very small containers that are hidden in unique locations in towns or forests all over the world. Some may be Earth Caches that bring you to interesting geological features or Virtual Caches where you must answer questions about the location. They can be Multi-caches that lead you from place to place, or Mystery and Puzzle caches that challenge your ingenuity.

Intrigued? Then join us this summer for two outings with the UUGeos on **Saturday, July 22** and **Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>**. All ages and abilities are welcomed. Contact Caron Collins at [bandtchr1@hotmail.com](mailto:bandtchr1@hotmail.com) for details.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMON READ

The library committee is coordinating a shared read of "When Time Is Short: Finding Our Way in The Anthropocene" by Timothy Beal as part of this year's Social Justice Initiative on Climate Justice.

We have pre-ordered copies of the paperback which will arrive in late August. (Electronic formats are currently available for personal purchase.) Timothy Beal is scheduled to lead a book discussion for us via Zoom on Sunday, October 7. The author will also be here in person to present during the Social Justice Initiative event on Saturday, October 13. Please join us in this book exploration, and email [sji@uucantonny.org](mailto:sji@uucantonny.org) with questions.



**Save the Date!** The Potsdam Interfaith Community (PIC) will hold its annual picnic on September 21st. Please look for details. Contact Pat Alden or Sarah Bentley-Garfinkel to learn more.

**The Annual Committee Fair** is coming this fall! This is an event for committees and teams to highlight their good work. It's also a chance for each of us to reaffirm or reassess how we'd like to jump in and help our congregation thrive. Please keep an eye out for the date and other details. Reach out to Sarah Bentley-Garfinkel with ideas or questions.

### 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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