



# News & Information from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton



April 2016

## A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

Worship services and religious education for children and youth begin at 10:30 a.m.

### April 3

*Soul Spaces: A Love-Shaped Absence* – Rev. Joel Miller,  
Interim Minister

*Greeters:* Bill Hull, David Bradford, Suna Stone-  
McMasters

*Council Welcomers:* Julie Van Duyne, Ruth Baltus

*Handbell Introit:* Paul Cutter, Helen Hutchinson

*Kitchen Cabinet Advisor:* Margaret Mauch

*Social Hour:* Fred Glover, Pat & Al Glover, Oscar  
Sarmiento & Lillian Trevizan

*Worship Associate:* Sarah Bentley-Garfinkel

*RE Ambassador & Acting DRE:* Dave Bradford

*Collection Counters:* Ruth Baltus, Valerie Ingram

*Library Table:* Janet Green

### April 10

*We are Our Brothers and Sisters Keepers* – Michele  
Whalen, Pulpit Guest

Michele Whalen was born and raised in the town of  
Morristown and worked at Corning Inc. for 37 years,  
retiring in 2010. She was the first openly gay officer  
elected to the American Flint Glass Workers Local  
1026 Executive Board, serving as president for over  
9 years. Appointed as the only female and one of  
only 4 local presidents that negotiated the merger  
between the “Flints” and the United Steelworkers in  
2003, she has also been the recording secretary of the  
Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence Counties Central  
Trades & Labor Council since August 2007. Michele  
works part time at the Frederic Remington Art Mu-  
seum in Ogdensburg and volunteers at the  
Morristown Public Library. She lives on the St. Law-  
rence River in Morristown with her wife Valerie  
Summer.

*Greeters:* Erika Barthelmess & Natalie Panshin

*Council Welcomers:* John Danis, Todd Moe

*Social Hour:* Jason Shirtz, Rajiv & Geetika Narula,

Judy Gibson & David Nelson

*Worship Associate:* Valerie Ingram

*RE Ambassador & Acting DRE:* Esther Katz

*Collection Counters:* Pat Gengo, Tim Opdyke

*Library Table:* Arthur Freeheart

### April 17

*Free Will or Friend Will* – Rev. Joel Miller, Interim  
Minister

*Greeters:* Bonnie & John Danis, Kevin Ball & Ruth  
Baltus

*Council Welcomers:* Katherine Brown, Heather Rousell

*Social Hour:* Pat Alden & Louis Tremaine, Relani

Prudhomme

*Worship Associate:* Doug Rubio

*RE Ambassador & Acting DRE:* Wil Rivers

*Collection Counters:* Jon Montan, Lorraine Olendzeski

*Library Table:* Katherine Brown

### April 24

*Kurt Weill and Freedom* – Rev. Joel Miller, Interim  
Minister (This may be rescheduled if it's the first  
Sunday of Candidating Week)

*Greeters:* Susan Powers & Will Siegfried, Anna  
Sorenson, Becky Van de Water

*Social Hour:* Ron & Sharon Tavernier,

David Weissbard & Karen Wells, Kim & Boris Jukic

*Worship Associate:* Robin Collen

*RE Ambassador:* Maria Dickinson

*Collection Counters:* Lonie Bogett, Will Siegfried



### Music in April!

April 10 – Adult Choir

April 17 – Handbell Choir

April 24 – Woodwind  
Quartet & Adult Choir

## IN THE INTERIM - REV. JOEL REPORTS

You as a congregation have expressed strong appreciation for music in Sunday services – and a great appreciation for Nelly Case’s beautiful music. It’s a significant transition for you as a community as she retires this Summer.

Looking ahead to next fall, Church Council made a few revisions to the current job description for a transition year with an Acting Music Director. The Music Staffing Team –Doug Rubio, Carol Strome, John Danis, and myself -- was charged with looking at applications and doing interviews, and then placed many advertisements for this position in area newspapers, websites, and the newsletters for North Country Music Teachers and the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists. There were no applicants.

In a literal sense, of course, Nelly cannot be replaced. But there are other ways you can continue the long tradition of outstanding music in your Sunday services. So I have been working with the Music Staffing Team, the Worship Committee, the Music Committee, the Personnel Committee, and with Church Council to explore a variety of ways that great music will continue to be part of Sunday worship services.

You are fortunate to be part of the North Country’s rich culture. It includes a lot of music and many excellent musical resources like the Crane School of Music. With this richness and with a creative and open spirit, you can look forward to future services with great music. If you have questions about our planning, please do give me a call (716-480-7064) or email me ([minister@uucantonny.org](mailto:minister@uucantonny.org)).

*Rev. Joel, Interim Minister*

## PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

The moment we have all been waiting for is almost here. After months of cottage conversations, surveys, BCT workshops. After a winter of certain Sundays when 7 certain people were all not in church. The end is in sight.

Should the Search Committee decide they have found the appropriate person, they will make an offer to a ministerial candidate on April 7<sup>th</sup> at noon EST. This is not a joke - all offers are to be made on that day at that time.

Should the Search Committee select a candidate and should the candidate be amenable to the selection, we will have a match. This result will be announced in church on Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup>, and then again via e-blast on Sunday afternoon. *(Note from Search Committee Chair Jon Montan: There is a protocol with this process and the committee will let you know the identity of this person and provide additional information as soon as the required background check has been completed, the agreement has been signed and the person has notified the church they currently serve. If one or more of these steps is not completed by April 10<sup>th</sup>, the announcement will have to wait!)*

Then the fun begins! We will be scheduling candidating week sometime between the end of April and the middle of May. What is “candidating” week you ask? This is typically an 8-day period (including 2 Sundays) for us to get to know our ministerial candidate and for them to get to know us. In addition to preaching on both Sundays, the candidate will participate in a wide variety of events especially planned to help facilitate this getting-to-know-you process.

It is our goal to have as many congregants meet the candidate as is possible. We plan to schedule a variety of events at different times of the day and at various venues to make it easy for people to attend. Please consider attending several events throughout the week. This is your chance to speak directly to the candidate, ask questions, and offer your thoughts about our congregation.

Some events will be potlucks or receptions; some will be meetings with specific committees or church council. Most will be open to all congregants. Your job will be to attend as many candidating week events as possible so you can acquaint yourself with our candidate.

On the final Sunday, there will be a congregational meeting to vote on ratifying the Search Committee's choice and extending the call to ministry to this candidate. As in any congregational meeting, there will need to be a quorum of members attending in order to hold the vote. This vote is a critical step in the search process as it demonstrates the congregation's commitment to the candidate, and why it is so crucial to spend time during candidating week getting to know the candidate.

There will also be a need for volunteers to coordinate and staff these events, which is another important way to participate in candidating week. Once an announcement has been made (April 10<sup>th</sup>, we hope) there will be a burst of activity to get this organized. There will be some intense planning going on, and it will require a committed effort by all of us to orchestrate so many events in a single week.

I must acknowledge how deeply appreciative I am of the work the members of the Search have put into this process. The time, thoughtfulness, creativity, and sheer effort they have put forth are a true gift to our church. It is now time for all of us to finish the job. This will be a frenetic but thrilling time as we take these final steps on our journey to a settled minister.

*Barbara Beekman, Church Council President*

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PONDERINGS**

Have you ever thought of doodling and coloring as a spiritual practice? Many studies have found that these practices produce similar brain results as meditation. I recently came across a 2014 article from UU World by Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum, minister of the Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty in Clarklake, Michigan and her spiritual practice of Zentangling. Over a year, she created 100 Zentangles with the UU chalice as it's central theme. She states "I find it remarkable that restricting the format – always a chalice, and always in a box or in a mandala . . . is a way of pulling in my thoughts, freeing me from getting distracted by what I want to do with the design, as I focus instead on the repetitive strokes that make up the individual patterns." Also by focusing on the chalice she was reminded of our UU values and principles and connected to her faith. Like journaling or meditation, doodling and coloring with intention can be a spiritual practice. Doodle on!



Learn more:

- <https://www.zentangle.com/>
- <http://www.uuworld.org/articles/zentangle>
- <http://www.uua.org/worship/words/image/doodles-and-zentangles>
- <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/arts-and-health/201401/doodling-your-way-more-mindful-life>

*Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education*

### *What's Coming Up in January in Religious Education?*

Wednesday, April 5 - UU101 with Reverend Joel Miller

Tuesday, April 12 - Second Tuesday Chalice Circle Gathering

Wednesday, April 20 - RE Committee Meeting

#### **THANK YOU THANK YOU...**

- † Todd Moe, David Bradford, Maria Dickinson and Wil Rivers for helping with the RE Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and Luau.
- † Wendy Bachhuber and Joel Miller for supporting the Youth Group in preparing for their worship service.
- † Sheila Cerwonka, Natalie Panshin, Pat Gengo, Becky Van de Water, Julie VanDuyne, Lexi Hebb, Lorraine Olendzenski, Brendan Nolan, Anna Sorensen, Wil Rivers, Ken Hebb, Eileen Raymond, Barbara Beekman, Stevie Michaelson, Carol Strome, Katherine Brown and Margaret Harloe for providing cakes for Everybody's Birthday Party.
- † Lorraine Olendzenski and Wendy Bachhuber for chaperoning at the Buffalo Youth Con.
- † David Bradford for assisting with the Coffee, Conversation and More program.
- † Wil Rivers for the RE committee display at the Committee Fair.
- † Bill Hull for helping with the big food bank delivery at Church and Community Program.

#### **JOYS & SORROWS**

- † Tom Opdyke is home and recovering well -- we hope to see him back in church by Easter!
- † We send heartfelt condolences to Margaret Harloe and her family on the death of Margaret's uncle.

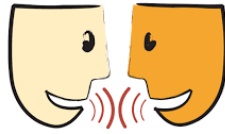
#### **SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE**

See this month's President's Column, above, for the latest news! You can contact the Search Committee at our church email address: [search@uucantonny.org](mailto:search@uucantonny.org)

*Jon Montan (chair), Erika Barthelmess, Kim Bouchard,  
Rajiv Narula, Jenn Whittaker, Theresa Witmer, Pete Wyckoff*



OUTREACH FROM THE **COMMUNICATIONS** COMMITTEE



Yes, you read that right – Communications Committee! With approval from Church Council, the committee formerly known as Outreach is now the Communications Committee.

Why the change? We have long sensed some confusion about the role of our committee, and responses to the Search Committee’s survey of the congregation supported our suspicions. According to our charge, as described on the church website, the committee is “the clearinghouse for church information and publicity, working with and supporting the minister, staff, Church Council, and committees in distributing appropriate news and information, internally and externally. “

So our bailiwick is communications - the monthly newsletter, weekly eNews, website, Facebook page, and local media – and not outreach, in the sense of reaching out to and securing potential new members – college students, newcomers to the area, etc. (Who does that – and how – is a whole different discussion!)

If you have skills that would be helpful in communicating our messages to our congregation and the community, please contact me or any member of the committee. We’d love to have you join the newly named Communications Committee!

*Carol Pynchon, Chair, Communications Committee*

**SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE NEWS & NOTES**

***Support SNAP Campaign***

Recently our local State Senators Ritchie and Griffo released press releases challenging the current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program, or SNAP, previously called Food Stamps. Sound-offs and letters to the editor indicated how little local citizens know about this valuable program. The Social Action Committee has posted information in the documents section of our website (<http://www.uucantonny.org/committees/social-action/>) to help dispel the myths about SNAP and to counter the assertions that Senators Ritchie and Griffo have been making. We encourage everyone to learn more about this program and then to write to our state and US legislators with support for this lifeline so vital to low-wage workers and their children, senior citizens, and people with disabilities.

***Planned Parenthood Baby Supply Drive (March 30)***

Our church is partnering with Planned Parenthood to host a Baby and Mom Supply Drive on Wednesday, March 30, 10 am-2 pm. Planned Parenthood is seeking donations of items needed by new or expectant mothers. See our website for a list of needed items: [http://www.uucantonny.org/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/Items\\_Needed\\_for\\_Baby\\_and\\_Mom\\_Supply\\_Drive\\_102.pdf](http://www.uucantonny.org/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/Items_Needed_for_Baby_and_Mom_Supply_Drive_102.pdf)

Donations may be brought to church on Wednesday, March 30, or you may bring donations to the church prior to the drive (leave them in the Feed the Need Box in the Social Room). Items should be new, although the clothing items may be gently used and in good and clean condition. If you would prefer to support this effort financially, you are invited to send a check to the church; include “PP Baby Supplies” in the memo of the check.



### ***Adirondack Health Initiative Health Access Forum (April 13)***

Partnering with the Adirondack Health Initiative <http://www.ahihealth.org/>, we will be hosting a discussion forum on April 13 at 7 pm on access to health care in the region, with particular focus on populations that may be encountering significant challenges in accessing health care (e.g., uninsured, and non- and low-utilizing Medicaid beneficiaries). AHI will do a short presentation on the topic and then open the meeting up for discussion and questions. The goal is to better understand what challenges are being unmet at this point. We hope you will mark your calendars and join us on April 13. We also appreciate the help of our members in getting the word out in the community. We hope that having a diverse audience will present fully the challenges faced by different folks in our area.

### ***Workers Memorial Day Film Tour: A Day's Work***

<http://www.tempfilm.com/main#film>

Work is often dangerous to your health and life, especially if you are a “temp” worker. As part of the recognition of Workers Memorial Day, our church is supporting the central and northern New York tour of the award-winning film, *A Day's Work*. The film tells the story of 21-year old Day Davis on his first day as a temp worker – 90 minutes later, his life ended. The film underscores the dangers faced by many temp workers and others every day at work. Join us at:

- April 30 – Massena High School
- May 5 – SUNY Potsdam, 104 Kellas Hall

### ***Red Cross Blood Drive***

One of our continuing local ministries is the hosting of American Red Cross blood drives. Our next drive is Tuesday, April 5, between 11:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. We encourage everyone who is able to do so to consider donating. Walk-ins are welcome, but you can register in advance by emailing the Red Cross <http://www.redcrossblood.org>. You may also volunteer to help with registration and hosting on the day of the drive by emailing the Social Action Committee [socialaction@uucantonny.org](mailto:socialaction@uucantonny.org). Drives like this ensure that when you or someone you love needs blood, it will be available.

### ***Social Action Shared Offerings (2015-2016)***

Periodically throughout the year, we dedicate the cash offering for support of a social justice organization in our area, the US or the world. Since last April our members have contributed a total of \$5,802.55 to support the following organizations:

- Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
- Garden Share
- International Rescue Committee
- Church and Community Program of Canton
- Raquette Valley Habitat for Humanity
- St. Lawrence Valley Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

You may wonder how we decide what organizations to support. The answer is simple—we solicit nominations from all of you. If you support a particular organization in your own philanthropy and think others might want to support it also, send us an email at [socialaction@uucantonny.org](mailto:socialaction@uucantonny.org) and tell us why you think others would be interested. More details on our Shared Offerings can be found on the church website (<http://uucanton.org/social-justice/shared-offering/>)

*Eileen Raymond, Co-Chair, Social Action Committee*

## COFFEE, CONVERSATION & MORE

Our new adult discussion program, Coffee, Conversation & More, is held on the second and fourth Sundays of each month from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the Romer Room. The topics vary each time, but the discussion is always lively, the coffee (and goodies) hot ... and childcare is available!

### *April 10: What does Community Net Metering mean to You and the Environment?*

Carol Gable will share information about Community Net Metering, the second phase of the Solarize Canton initiative, a collaboration of state and local communities that allows communities to simplify purchasing and obtain discounts for participants on solar projects. In the first phase of "Solarize Canton," residential and business customers partnered to conduct joint purchasing agreements that helped lower solar acquisition and consumer costs. Canton, as one of 26 communities in the state participating in the first phase, helped 37 homeowners install solar panels for their homes. In this second phase, Community Net Metering will help provide solar energy opportunities for renters and other consumers unable to install solar on their own roofs. These residents will agree to acquire their electricity from the community solar project for a specific amount of time. The credits for the electricity generated by the project are allocated to the individual electric bills of sponsoring community members so that more in the community receive the financial benefit of solar electricity. Come learn more and see how "Solarize Canton" can benefit you and the environment.

### *April 24: What makes our church a welcoming space?*

Stevie Michaelson and the Welcoming Committee will guide us in answering this question. A long standing issue in Unitarian Universalist Churches all over the country is how best to welcome visitors and newcomers to the life of the church. How much attention is too much? How little is not enough to seem inviting? We are interested in your experiences, both as a newcomer and as a "welcomer." Some perspectives from the UUA will be offered, but we are mainly interested in the words of folks who will share their thoughts on the most effective approach towards inclusion that we might both learn from and practice here in Canton. Newcomers and "old timers" alike have much to share on this topic as we look forward to the transitions ahead. Please join the conversation.

## COOTS LIBRARY BOOK *reMARKS*

Standing in our Coots Library after service recently, one of our youth walked in, took a look around and remarked, "Wow, the library is really tiny!" I had to agree. But then I thought, our library may be tiny, but our collection is mighty! If you are new to the congregation and have not yet seen our tiny gem, please be sure to stop by before or after service and take a peak. Children are welcome here. Books can be checked out by signing the blue cards in the back of each volume and leaving them in the cardholder on the library table. Just please write legibly!

And our mighty collection is constantly expanding. Recent acquisitions include the illustrated children's book *Four Feet, Two Sandals* by Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed. New books in the adult collection are: *The Illustrated Dictionary of Religions* by Philip Wilkinson, *Life Prayers: From Around the World : 365 Prayers, Blessings, and Affirmations to Celebrate the Human Journey* by Elizabeth Roberts and Eliza Amidon, and *The Seven Spiritual Laws of Success: A Practical Guide to the Fulfillment of Your Dreams* by Deepak Chopra. We hope you'll take some time to stop by and enjoy what your library has to offer.

*Lorraine Olendzenski, Chair, Library Committee*

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS:  
2016 RACHEL SOMERS GRANT  
SOCIAL ACTION AWARD**

Each year, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton recognizes a resident of St. Lawrence County who is making a difference in our community with an award established in 1990 in memory of Rachel Somers



Grant. The Rachel Somers Grant Social Action Award was established to honor the work of those who work, as Rachel did, to make ours a more humane and progressive community.

Nominees should exemplify the following characteristics Rachel showed in her life:

- promotion of local grassroots efforts as a means of achieving social change
- advocacy on behalf of social justice, especially for those who are marginalized in some way
- active involvement in a variety of local groups working for a better community
- leadership in promoting social justice and change
- history of organizing, involving, and supporting community members in pursuit of social justice

Nominations for the 2016 Rachel Somers Grant Award should explain how the nominee exemplifies the above criteria and be sent by April 25 by email to [socialaction@uucantonny.org](mailto:socialaction@uucantonny.org) or by mail to:

Social Action Committee  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton  
3½ East Main St.  
Canton NY 13617

**CHURCH AND COMMUNITY PROGRAM NEWS**

The Board of Representatives of the Church and Community Program announces the appointment of Connie Jenkins as Director. A North Country native, Connie is a graduate of Ogdensburg Free Academy and St. Lawrence University. In her experience as a writer, her work as a newspaper editor and her involvement with Habitat for Humanity in Malone, Connie has proven to be an advocate for those in need. She brings to the Church and Community Program energy and insight for its continuance. Connie will assume the director's duties on March 28th.

If you would like to receive weekly electronic news updates,  
please email: [office@uucantonny.org](mailto:office@uucantonny.org)  
Deadline for next newsletter:  
**Monday, April 18**



## ON THE CALENDAR

### **Sunday, April 3**

9:00 am Choir rehearsal  
9:30 a.m., UShare meeting  
10:30 a.m., Worship and Children's RE

### **Monday, April 4**

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

### **Tuesday, April 5**

11:30 a.m., Blood Drive  
12:15 p.m., Personnel Committee meeting  
1:30 p.m., Outreach Committee meeting  
7:00 p.m., UU 101

### **Wednesday, April 6**

8:00 a.m., Building & Grounds Committee meeting  
10:00 a.m., Library work day  
6:30 p.m., Church Council meeting

### **Thursday, April 7**

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir rehearsal

### **Sunday, April 10**

9:00 am Choir rehearsal  
9:15 a.m., Coffee, Conversation and More  
10:30 a.m., Worship and Children's RE

### **Monday, April 11**

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

### **Tuesday, April 12**

5:00 p.m., Welcoming Committee meeting  
7:00 p.m., Chalice Circle

### **Wednesday, April 13**

10:00 a.m., Library work day  
4:00 p.m., Interim Shared Ministry meeting

### **Thursday, April 14**

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir rehearsal  
7:00 p.m., Worship Committee meeting

### **Sunday, April 17**

10:30 a.m., Worship & Children's RE

### **Monday, April 18**

*NEWSLETTER DEADLINE*  
Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

### **Wednesday, April 20**

10:00 a.m., Library work day  
6:30 p.m., Religious Education Committee meeting  
7:30 p.m., Chalice Circle

### **Thursday, April 21**

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir rehearsal  
7:00 p.m., Budget & Finance Committee meeting

### **Sunday, April 24**

9:00 am Choir rehearsal  
9:15 a.m., Coffee, Conversation and More  
10:30 a.m., Worship and RE

### **Monday, April 25**

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

### **Tuesday, April 26**

7:00 p.m., Stewardship Committee meeting

### **Wednesday, April 27**

10:00 a.m., Library work day

### **Thursday, April 28**

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir rehearsal



## **The Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton**

Interim Minister, Rev. Joel Miller

Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education

Nelly Case, Music Director

Carol Strome, Choir Director

Gwen Cunningham, Congregational Administrator

The Reverends Anne Marsh and Wade Wheelock, Ministers Emeritus

Office hours: Monday - Friday, 1 to 4 p.m.

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