Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton

NEWSLETTER

June 2026

June 7, 10:30 am - Building a Better World: Religious Education Sunday
Carol Zimmerman

During religious education this year, our 3rd-6th graders have been creating a role playing world which supports our UU Values of Justice, Equity, Transformation, Pluralism, Interdependence and Generosity. Come hear what they decided would make the world a better place and determine what personal characteristics you bring to make the world we currently live in a better place. We will also honor all the teachers and assistants who served in the RE teaching ministry this year.

June 14, 10:30 am - The Inward and Outward Walk
The Rev. James Galasinski

The journey of life is hardly ever a straight path. We circle around certain themes and meanings. We meander and linger. We go inward and outward. Life is like a labyrinth.

June 21, 10:30 am - An Age of Moral Injury
The Rev. James Galasinski

When a legitimate leader does the opposite of what is morally right we may feel guilt, shame, and anger. The term “moral injury” is normally associated with military personnel but it is happening to us on an almost daily basis.

June 28, 10:30 am - A Good Goodbye
The Rev. James Galasinski

Leaving well with intentionality is good. Let’s celebrate, grieve, and acknowledge an end and a beginning. ‘Goodbye’ is really a contraction of ‘God be with you.’ This will be the last time Rev. James’ leads worship and will feature special music by 5 Dots. Potluck to follow.

James's Journal - Change Is Eternal, And So Is Love

I attended my last meeting of the St. Lawrence County Fair Housing Task Force. I am scheduling the last meetings with several committees. The reality of leaving is starting to sink in. I am preparing my house to sell. I am looking at places to rent in Bethesda, MD.

Nothing is permanent. Nothing stays the same. Change is inevitable and eternal. We know this intellectually but it is another thing to feel the truth of those statements. At some point, I will be the past for you and you will be the past for me.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve you. The search committee that brought me here was easy to love. The UU Church of Canton was easy to love. Unitarian Universalism has been good to me. This congregation has been good to me. The conversations and connections we have had will be with us forever. It is the people I will miss most. Meeting and coming together around shared values and spirit will do that. I am sure that we will both stay firm in our UU faith and keep expanding love out. Yet, it breaks my heart to have to say goodbye to so many people I care so deeply about. But, yet, we must.

Goodbye,

James Galasinski

The Rev. James Galasinski

Faith Development

June finds us wrapping up our religious education program for the 2025-2026 church year. We've had a great time seeing and hearing Spirit Play stories, creating a role-playing world, learning about healthy sexual relationships and exploring our UU values with guest speakers and theme-based activities.

On Sunday, June 7th, we will be celebrating our RE program during worship and honoring those who have served as part of the teaching team this year. On the Sundays of June 14 and 21, the children and youth will enjoy fun days through play and crafting. On Sunday, June 28 we will be honoring and celebrating the Rev. James Galasinski's ministry by participating in the multigenerational worship service.

As we reflect on the religious education program for this past church year and look forward to summer, may we all take a moment to consider what we have learned so far this year, what we would like to learn/do to live our UU values in the summer months and embrace all those possibilities. Blessed be.

In faith,
Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education

President's Message – June 2026

Time for Celebration

While we are saddened by the impending departure of our beloved minister, Rev. James, who will be moving to a new home and church in Maryland in July, his decade with us is something to celebrate!
So, please mark your calendars for the weekend of June 27-28: a weekend of celebrating Rev. James and his time with us! We will begin on Saturday with an informal worship service followed by an all-congregation hike. On Sunday morning, Rev. James will lead his last worship service at the UU Church of Canton. Following the service, we will all enjoy a potluck lunch and celebration. We will share details in the News for UU and announcements in church.

Update on Next Steps:
The question on many of our minds is what's next for our ministry? I noted in last month's newsletter that we might not match with an interim minister. Due to the high number of congregations seeking an interim minister and the small number of interim ministers available, we did not match. We have several options for transitional ministry—the period of discernment before searching for our next settled minister—and the search team will be working with the UUA transitions team to explore those options. I will keep you all informed as the process unfolds in the coming weeks, but if you have questions, please feel free to reach out to me at president@uucantonny.org or speak with me during social hour.

Take care,
Cathy, Church Council President

UU BIRTHDAYS

If you're inclined to send a birthday card, addresses can be found in the church directory online. If you'd like to support the Caring Circle, or to add any birthday names that are missing, email caringcircle@uucantonny.org.

June 4:	**Cara Coffin**
June 6:	**Liliana Trevizan**
June 7:	**Christian Beekman**
June 8:	**Anne Vinyard, Tera Siegfried, Ryan Hicks**
June 11:	**Valerie Ingram**
June 14:	**Mary Michalek**
June 15:	**Lila Hunnewell**
June 16:	**Susan Hayden**
June 18:	**Denise Mock**
June 19:	**Penny McKenna**
June 20:	**Dwight Tuinstra**
June 21:	**Sally Hoose, Nate Sturges, Leo Burger**
June 22:	**Jon Montan, Ron Tavernier**
June 23:	**Miles Manchester**
June 24:	**Suzannah Coffin**
June 28:	**Linda Kenny, Wil Rivers**

Exciting Events Coming Up In June

Annual Picnic - June 7

Join us for our annual church picnic on **June 7** at the **Bend-in-the-River Park Picnic Shelter** located at **90 Lincoln Street** in Canton! We'll ring in a fresh new season from **12:00 to 2:00 pm.**
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 dessert to share. If your last name starts with the letters N-Z, please bring a salad or side dish. **Please bring your own silverware, plates, and cups**. In case you forget, we'll have paper plates and plastic utensils on hand.

If you'd like to help out on the grill that day, or to help with other picnic tasks can contact Jenn Whittaker at outreach@uucantonny.org. There will be outdoor games provided and restrooms are available on site. We can't wait to see you there!

Radically Welcoming Workshop - June 10

Come one, come all. The Rev. James Galasinski will lead this workshop to explore how to create a culture of connection, that centers relationship building, inclusion, and avoiding interactions that cause harm. Creating a radically welcoming environment is the whole congregation's responsibility and yet we may unwittingly repel people, specifically those from marginalized groups. Learning these tips and tools can help us all become completely welcoming. Come on June 10 at 7:00-8:30 pm in the Romer Room.

Potsdam Pride Festival - June 13

Please stop by the UU Church of Canton table at the Potsdam Pride Festival on **Saturday, June 13 at 11:00 am at Ives Park in Potsdam**. This year we are the Gold Sponsor! For more information about the festival, go to https://potsdampride.org/

Walking the Labyrinth as a Spiritual Practice - June 14

On Sunday, June 14, join us in experiencing the ancient spiritual practice of meditative walking on a 7-circuit classical labyrinth designed after the Chartres Cathedral Labyrinth, in France. Labyrinths are 4,000-year-old symbolic, single-path tools for meditation and ritual, dating back to ancient Europe and North Africa. Evolving from prehistoric carvings to Roman mosaics and Medieval cathedral floors, they represent a spiritual journey to a center point.
Dr. Caron Collins, labyrinth facilitator and musician, will introduce the history and applications of labyrinth walking, prior to walking. Choose the session(s) you wish to attend:

Session 1: 12:30 pm to 1:15 pm with an introduction followed by labyrinth walking to live meditative music

Session 2: 1:15 pm to 2:00 pm with an introduction followed by silent labyrinth walking

This experience can also be enjoyed by those not interested in walking but would like to merely enjoy seated mediation to calm music or silence. To preserve the portable labyrinth, participants will be invited to walk it in socks. For those who can't remove their shoes, surgical booties will also be provided. Take home a complimentary meditation stone to remember the experience. All ages and abilities welcome! Registration is appreciated but not required. Visit the church website or click here to register.

Come Sing in the UU Choir for these Special Events! - June 14 & 21

Carol Strome and Paul Siskind invite new and returning singers to sing with our UU Church Choir for special themed services and events throughout the year. Along with being "in the choir" on a regular basis, we're also inviting new singers to join for individual services/events/themes which particularly interest you. The Choir generally rehearses at 9:00-10:00 am on the Sunday the week before the performance service, as well as 9:00-10:00 am on the day of the performance service.

Choir Send-Off for Rev. Galasinki

Join us as we honor Rev. James's time with us. We will sing some of his favorite "hits" from our repertoire, including the rousing Life Calls Us On, his new lyrics to the hymn The Web of All That Is, and the poignant Change Is Coming.

Schedule:

- Sunday 6/14 Rehearsal 9:00-10:10
- Sunday 6/21 Rehearsal 9:00-10:10; perform during the Service, 10:30-11:30

The History Circle - June 21

The History Circle will meet in the Coots Library on Sunday June 21 at 9:00 am.
Learn from the past. Think of the future.

Goodbye Circle - June 27

We will meditate, sing, be in silence, remember, give gratitude and say goodbye to Rev. James in a worship circle. Join the circle on June 27 at 10 am in the Social Room.

Remington Trail Walk with Rev. James - June 27

Meet at the parking lot on Sullivan Drive near the Partridge Run Golf Course for a leisurely saunter with Rev. James for conversation and remembrance. Stroll, parade, jaunt, meander, or skip along with Rev. James at 2 pm on Saturday June 27 on the Partridge Run Trail.

Goodbye Potluck - June 28

Immediately following the worship service on Sunday, June 28, there will be an all-church potluck. Yummy, yummy in your tummy!
Please bring dishes to share according to your last name:
A – G: Dessert
H – S: Salad
T – Z: Main Dish/Side Dish
And don't forget your potluck packs!

Frame Drumming Celebration! - June 30 - Happy Anniversary Frame Drummers!

Come celebrate the one-year anniversary of our monthly frame drumming group on **Tuesday, June 30 th from 6:30 to 8:00 pm**. We will enjoy drumming in the Social Room to familiar songs, original chants, and simple dances, in a festive atmosphere. Guest musicians are invited to share their favorite music while we provide accompaniment on Persian instruments such as the Tar, Daff, Riq, and Zills. At the conclusion of the musical session, we will celebrate with refreshments. All ages and abilities are welcome. Frame drums provided, or bring your own.
For more information, contact Caron Collins at bandtchr1@hotmail.com.

News from the Social Action Team - *Get Involved!*

***March in our Church's PRIDE Band in the Dairy Festival Parade* - June 6**

Each year, Jill Rubio puts together a marching band to march in the Dairy Festival Parade, to celebrate LGBT Pride and support visibility in the community for our Church. All instruments are welcome; and even if you don't play or own one, Jill will provide tambourines. She also has some marching lyres to hold music. We play *We Are Family;* listen to the music here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htp5_dkruuY

Saturday, 6/6
Rehearsal 11:00 am
Parade 1:00 pm

We will meet the day of the parade at 11:00 am in the Social Room to practice the music. If you prefer to just show up for the parade, we will line up for the parade between 12:15 and 12:30 in the back parking lot of the Canton Municipal Building on Judson Street, just steps away from downtown and adjacent to the UU Church. The parade steps off at 1:00 p.m.

Jill Rubio
jilliflute@icloud.com, jillrubio@gmail.com 315-212-1830

***Upcoming Social Action Team meetings* - June 9**

The Social Action Team invites all congregants to bring us your ideas for social justice issues, events, and projects that you think our congregation might be interested in engaging with. We will work with you to develop and implement your ideas. Please bring your ideas to the SA Team by e-mailing socialaction@uucantonny.org, or by attending our upcoming meeting (please let us know ahead of time if you want to add an item onto our agenda). The SA Team generally meets on the second Tuesday of each month (but check the Church Calendar and newsletters to confirm). We meet in person (in the Romer Room), with a hybrid/Zoom option available:

Social Action Meeting
Tuesday June 9, 7:00-8:30 pm
In the Romer Room, with Zoom option:
https://zoom.us/j/99736094441?pwd=3bpHAb6Rv1fCLVskAta2t5jxb5BtLJ.1
Meeting ID: 997 3609 4441
Passcode: 450380

***Free Legal Help - Renter/Landlord Issue* - June 24** (see below for other dates and locations)
Adam Martin from the Volunteer Lawyers Project of Central NY is hosting a series of clinics about renter/landlord issues, including leases, maintenance, evictions, etc. Come with questions, and bring relevant paperwork. Share this info with anyone who might be interested.

Wednesday 6/24, 5:00-7:00 pm, UU Church of Canton
Thursday 6/25, 2:00-4:00 pm, Massena Public Library
Thursday 6/25, 5:00-7:00 pm, Potsdam Public Library
Friday, 6/26, 11:00 am -1:00 pm, Saranac Lake Library
www.vlpcny.org
housing@vlpcny.org
(315) 807-0043

***Help us plan our next Social Justice Initiative!* - Fall dates TBA**
Our next SJI will focus on the topic of ***Overcoming Isolation,*** and will begin in Fall of 2026 and continue into Spring of 2027. We invite members of the congregation to be part of the planning team for this important event. Over the next few months, we will be selecting movies to screen during the SJI, as well as selecting speakers and organizing other events. If you're interested in being part of the planning team, please speak with or e-mail our SJI Coordinator, Alyse Millikan: sjcoordinator@uucantonny.org. The SJI planning team meets independently from the Social Action Team, to give flexibility for people with different schedules to participate.

What Can UUBay Do for U?

Do you have something that you no longer need, but it's too 'good' to throw away (and who wants to throw stuff away, anyway)? By utilizing UUBay, Jan and Peter offered up a gift certificate that they could not use. Pat and Louis had that very need that the gift certificate was for. The plan came together! UUBay saves the day!

From Pat:
Hi, Paula. Thanks for conveying the hotel voucher from Peter to Louis. Such a timely use of UUBay. If I could think of a way, I'd suggest nudging our congregation to "Consider UUBay" when you have an unusual potential white elephant. Jan DeWaters and Peter Brouwer got to take something that would have otherwise gone into their wastebasket - useless (expiration date was June 1). We got half price for our last two nights in town at the U. Inn. And the church will get $150 (which I'll leave as a check on your desk this morning). Talk about a win-win-win! Thanks to all!

Future Events

This Fall: Host a Gourmet Dining for a Great Cause Dinner!

One of the most enjoyable traditions at our church is returning this fall — *Gourmet Dining for a Great Cause!* We are looking for hosts to open their homes, share a meal, and help raise funds for the church in a fun and welcoming way.

Hosting is simple: choose a theme, plan a dinner or brunch, and invite fellow congregants to sign up by making a donation to the church. Past events have included everything from gourmet pizza dinners, international cuisine nights, and seasonal celebrations.

You do not need to be a professional chef to host. The heart of Gourmet Dining is hospitality, creativity, and community. Co-hosting with friends is also encouraged. Not enough space in your dining room? Reserve the church's Social Room for your dinner!

To volunteer as a host or ask questions, please contact Todd Moe, at toddamoe@gmail.com, or a member of the Stewardship team. We'll have more information and a schedule of dinners in our autumn newsletters. We hope to make this year's Gourmet Dining season our best yet!

The 2027 Canvass Small Groups Campaign

This fall's Canvass Campaign will offer an opportunity to connect with one another in meaningful conversation and community. The Canvass is our annual invitation to every member and friend of the church to make a financial pledge for the coming year. Instead of traditional one-on-one visits, we will be gathering in small groups both at church and in members' homes starting in October.

These gatherings will give us a chance to reflect together on the future of our church, share hopes and ideas, and support the mission and ministries of our congregation. Stewardship facilitators will guide each meeting, so hosts can simply focus on providing a welcoming space for conversation and fellowship.

We are currently looking for volunteers willing to serve as hosts. Hosting is easy — all you need to do is open your home to a small group of church members for an evening or afternoon gathering. Meetings will be modest in size, and light refreshments are more than enough

If you are interested in hosting a gathering or would like more information, please contact the Stewardship Committee or the church office.

Trash to Treasure to a Church Donation

Spring/summer cleaning? Too few items for a yard sale? Don't forget about UUBay — a creative way to turn unwanted items and services into support for our church! That clutter in your attic, extra garden produce, unused theater tickets, or even your skills and hobbies can become a donation to the church. Help transform "trash into treasure" for our congregation. Every contribution helps support our church while building community in fun and unexpected ways. Contact the church office to find out more about UUBay and sign up to receive email updates.

Staff Schedules for the Church Year:

The Rev. James Galasinski:
Available by email and by appointment **Monday – Thursday**

Carol Zimmerman, DRE:
Available by email **Sunday–Wednesday** and by appointment on **Tuesday & Wednesday.**

Paula Sturge, Congregational Administrator:
Available by email, office hours **Monday - Thursday 9 am - 3 pm**

You can always check the calendar on our website for details.

The 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

For online giving, please click HERE or scan the QR code below:

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton
3 1/2 East Main Street
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