



The Latest News

from the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

June 2019

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

June 2

Transitions in Faith and Gender

The Rev. James Galasinski and Quin Currie

Being transgender is not a foreign thing to be scared of, but a surprisingly common and normal part of many people's lives. However, transitioning genders can be an internal battle. Real existential questions can arise: is being a transgender instead of a cisgender woman a mistake from god or nature? We are all in transition in some way. We never arrive; we are always arriving into the station. Today, we celebrate the beginning of Pride Month by hearing from Quin Currie, a transgender rights activist, an intern at Planned Parenthood Outreach Center, and leader of Trans Youth United, a transgender support group hosted by our congregation.

Music: UU Choir

Worship Associate: Dave Nelson

RE Ambassador: Shelby Hunkins

Greeters: Helen & Roger Hutchinson, Esther Katz, Sally Vrooman

Social Hour Hosts: Pat Alden & Louis Tremaine, Kim Bouchard, Annie Chase

Collection Counters: David Doran, Ruth Baltus

June 9

Religious Education Sunday *Carol Zimmerman, DRE*

Unitarian Universalists have influenced the world in the past and continue to do so in present day. Our children and youth will share what they have learned this year about some famous UUs. We will also celebrate our graduating high school seniors, who just might become UU difference makers of the future.

Music: UU Choir

Worship Associate: Sarah Bentley-Garfinkel

RE Ambassador: Cara Coffin

Greeters: RE Committee, Teachers, and youth

Social Hour Hosts: Church Picnic at the Park

Collection Counters: Pat Gengo, Tim Opdyke

June 16

Consistently Pro-Life, Pro-Science, and Pro-Choice

The Rev. James Galasinski

Living in a rather progressive state like New York we have not had to deal with the barrage of abortion restriction laws at the state level. What is going on here? Is Roe v. Wade going to be challenged? How does our UU faith inform us?

Music: UU Choir, Jill & Doug Rubio

Worship Associate: Valerie Ingram

RE Ambassador: Esther Katz

Greeters: Jeff & Kiley Frank, Jim & Stevie Michaelson

Social Hour Hosts: Anna Sorensen & Desiree LeBoeuf, Carol & Phil LaMarche

Collection Counters: Jon Montan, Lorraine Olendzenski

June 23

What do you think happens when we die, Keanu Reeves?

Doug Rubio, Pulpit Guest

On a recent episode of *The Late Show*, host Stephen Colbert playfully asked his guest, actor Keanu Reeves, "What do you think happens when we die?" His answer, however, was anything but playful. It was profound in its simplicity and truth. This sermon will explore Reeves' answer, and also how different religions and cultures throughout time would answer the same question.

Doug Rubio is a member of the worship committee. He has been attending our church for 25 years and has held a number of leadership positions. In his non-church life he is a professor of classical guitar at SUNY Potsdam.

Music: Bethany Cencer

Lay Leader: Jon Montan

RE Ambassador: Arthur Freeheart

Greeters: Brian & Claire Gardam, Dotty Hall,

Donna Kimball

Social Hour Host: Judy DeGraaff, Valerie Ingram,

Janet McFarland

Collection Counters: Lonie Bogett, Will Siegfried

June 30

The Power of We: Reflections from General Assembly

The Rev. James Galasinski

The week before I will have been in Spokane, WA for General Assembly (GA), the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalism Association. It is 5 days full of workshops, business meetings, and worship services, all of which deepen our faith and relationships with each other. I will share what I have learned after getting the pulse of our national movement.

Music: Jill Rubio and Betsy Kepes

Worship Associate: Robin Collen

RE Ambassador: Jim Williams

Greeters: Katie & Ron Boczarski, Kurt & Eden Terrell

Social Hour Host: Jim & Pam Boyle, Sara Hutcheson, Ethel Slocum

Collection Counters: Lorraine Olendzenski, Valerie Ingram

ON THE CALENDAR

Please print and post!



Saturday June 1

Dairy Princess Parade – march with us!
2:00 p.m., Rainbow Sherbet on the lawn

Sunday, June 2

10:30 a.m., Worship & Children’s RE
Noon, CPR Training

Monday, June 3

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation
7:00 p.m., SJI Planning Committee

Wednesday, June 5

8:00 a.m., Building & Grounds Meeting
6:30 p.m., Church Council Meeting

Saturday, June 8

9:00 a.m., UU 101

Sunday, June 9

10:30 a.m., Worship & Children’s RE
Noon, Church Picnic
3:00 p.m., TAMS Concert and CCP Recycle Sale

Monday, June 10

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, June 11

9:00 a.m., Sacred Texts and Coffee
5:30 p.m., Safety Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m., Second Tuesday Chalice Circle

Wednesday, June 12

1:00 p.m., Communications Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m., UU Men’s Group

Thursday, June 13

7:00 p.m., Worship Committee Meeting

Friday, June 14

6:00 p.m., LGBTQ Film & Potluck

Saturday, June 15

2:00 p.m., Memorial Service for Bill Kirchgasser

Sunday, June 16

10:30 a.m., Worship & Children’s RE

Monday, June 17

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Wednesday, June 19

6:30 p.m., RE Committee Meeting

Sunday, June 23

10:30 a.m., Worship & Children’s RE

Monday, June 24

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, June 25

11:30 a.m., Red Cross Blood Drive

Wednesday, June 26

7:00 p.m., UU Men’s Group
7:00 p.m., Sermon Writing Workshop

Thursday, June 27

7:00 p.m., Canvass Committee Meeting

Friday, June 28

6:00 p.m., LGBTQ Film & Potluck

Saturday, June 29

10:30 a.m., Memorial Service for Reg Budelmann

Sunday, June 30

10:30 a.m., Worship & Children’s RE

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton

The Rev. James Galasinski, Minister

Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education; Shelby Hunkins, Assistant Director of Religious Education

Sara Trimm, Congregational Administrator

Teresa Veramendi, Social Justice Coordinator

Betsy Kepes, Music Coordinator; Carol Strome, Choir Director; Theresa Witmer, Handbell Choir Director

The Reverends Anne Marsh and Wade Wheelock, Ministers Emeriti

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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FROM OUR MINISTER Drive-thru Spirituality



It is rush hour and people stand next to a busy road with signs that read, "Turn Right For Prayer". The church driveway is open Monday through Friday 5 to 6 p.m. for prayer. This god-on-the-go ministry is being used by Lutherans, Methodists and Roman Catholics across the country. One church even bought an old bank with drive-thru lanes. In one lane, you can put your prayer request in the bank deposit tube and don't even have to speak to anyone.

Whether it is fast food, pharmacy, or faith, people are choosing drive-thrus. They are easy, accessible, quick, and available from the comfort of your own car. I don't fault churches for trying this, quite the opposite, it seems like a smart marketing tool to try to reach people in a less intimidating way. In a culture that treats everything like a transaction, even faith and religion become commodities. A church is treated like a vending machine that gives us our immediate spiritual desires. While it is important to meet people where they are comfortable, I don't think the drive-thru church will work for UUs.

We take our faith everywhere like sunlight. We are a sit-down slow-cooked from scratch kind of congregation and heal from the power of a whole community. There is something powerful when everyone comes together as a whole community once a week, even if for an hour, to remind ourselves of the things that are of ultimate worth in our lives.

The cornerstone of a faith community is relationality. Building authentic relationship can be stickier and more unclear than dead bugs smeared on a windshield after a long summer's drive. Yet, would we have it any other way? We build relationship across generations. Our typical worship service involves the whole congregation for the first 20 minutes. We have a children's corner, the only space in the sanctuary made for the younger (and smaller). Every year our children and youth help to lead worship during a youth group service, a holiday pageant, and a religious education service. Once every two years our brave Coming of Age youth tell us what they believe and we recognize their transition into to young adulthood.

You can't get that through a drive-thru.

In Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Galasinski". The signature is fluid and cursive.

The Rev. James Galasinski

PRESIDENT'S POST



Happy June! Happy Pride Month!

There's an opening line that's often read at the start of our worship services - "No matter who you are, how you identify, or who you love, you are welcome here." For me, personally, those words are powerful, and always leave a lump in my throat when I hear them. That statement is at the top of my list of strong UU values and moral teachings. I don't think we can proclaim it too many times.

2019 is an iconic and historic year for the LGBTQIA community as it marks the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising in New York City, known as the birth of the modern LGBTQIA movement. Wait, what do all those letters mean? Don't worry, I'm often confused, too,

and I'm gay! Lesbian (L), Gay (G), Bi-sexual (B), Transgender (T), Queer/Questioning (Q), Intersexual (I) and Allies (A). It's an evolving moniker. The shorthand version is probably just "LGBT". I prefer using "family" for all of the various communities under the LGBT umbrella. We are family, right?

So, I'm curious, what does Pride Month mean for you? What do the words, "*No matter who you are, how you identify, or who you love, you are welcome here,*" mean for you and your family? What about the 50th anniversary of Stonewall? Is it important for our congregation to remember? And what/where is Stonewall, anyway? Send me an email with comments/questions. I'd love to share your thoughts later this year: toddamoe@gmail.com

And, just for fun, I'll leave you with a bit of humor for this Pride Month, from singer/songwriter Ron Romonovsky:

*"Just try, try, try to open up your heart
This world is big enough for some of us to play a different part
It's not fair to persecute them for a simple twist of fate
Some of my best friends are straight!"*

Todd Moe, Church Council President



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PONDERINGS

June finds me preparing for Religious Education Sunday Worship and planning for summer religious education programming. It is incredibly inspiring to support our children and youth in preparing a worship service for the whole congregation. Their energy, enthusiasm and knowledge of our faith is contagious. They have lots to say and are excited to share their ideas with this community. While preparing, I recalled the lyrics of "The Greatest Love of All" written by Linda Creed and most notably performed by Whitney Houston. I feel the first few lines speak to how we should think of our children and youth. "I believe the children are our future. Teach them well and let them lead the way. Show them all the beauty they possess inside. Give them a sense of pride. . ." Our children and youth fill me with hope for the world.

As we look to summer, from June 23-August 25, we will be offering "Passport to Adventure." Each week we will host a guest who has traveled part of this world or travel as a group. We will learn about different cultures, how traveling enriches our faith and participate in social action. Look for more details on our website.

May we look to our children for inspiration and support them in leading the way. May it be so.

Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education



UPDATES FROM OUR SOCIAL JUSTICE COORDINATOR

After two lively workshops with 37 participants, where the community brainstormed how to continue Building Our Commitment to Social Justice, various projects were proposed. For example, one way to develop the ways our church addresses food instability in the North Country would be to offer fresh produce from our gardens in brown bags during Campus Kitchen nights. While a strong desire to renew our commitment to be a Welcoming Congregation was expressed at both workshops, an additional development was suggested -- moving into the public sphere with our values by organizing an LGBTQ+ Youth Mixer, inviting both college & high school students from the area to find community in our sanctuary.

Congregants also explored issues of systemic racism, desiring more programming around the topic of white privilege, and suggesting the church invite more speakers of color. Specifically, on the topic of immigration, it was suggested that our church join the New York Immigration Coalition, support the Green Light Campaign, and develop a linguistic and cultural exchange program with local immigrant dairy farmers. The Social Action Committee is excited by the new energy these workshops sparked, and I personally look forward to nurturing these beautiful seeds of social justice into fruition.

Many great ideas were developed, and many hands will be needed to bring these ideas into reality. Stay tuned, more to come in the fall!

Teresa Veramendi, Social Justice Coordinator

THANK YOU...

- ⊕ Linda Kenny, Dotty Hall, Eileen Raymond, Helen Hutchinson, Pete Beekman, and Christian Beekman for helping with the Red Cross Blood Drive
- ⊕ Shelby Hunkins for her support of the RE Program on “Building Our Commitment to Social Justice Workshop” and to Sara Hutcheson, Arianna Whittaker, and Arthur Freeheart for assisting Shelby. Thanks to Margaret Harloe, Relani Prudhomme, Helen Hutchinson, Pat Alden, and all others who provided snacks for these events.

JOYS & SORROWS

- ⊕ Our healing thoughts go to Ed Hildebrand as he recovers from a broken hip and arm.
- ⊕ We send our best wishes to Toby Sturges as he continues to heal after getting his appendix removed at the beginning of May.

UPCOMING MEMORIAL SERVICES

This summer we will honor these beloved members of our community with memorial services. Please join us in celebrating their lives.

Bill Kirchgasser: Saturday, June 15 at 2:00 p.m.

Reg Budelmann: Saturday, June 29 at 10:30 a.m.

Kate Whitehorne: Saturday, July 6 at 11:00 a.m.

Ice Cream Social Hour on the Front Lawn!



On Saturday, June 1, right after the Dairy Princess Parade, there will be FREE Rainbow Sherbet cones being served on our front lawn.

There will also be a live band playing music for your listening pleasure. “The Girls”, featuring our very own Maggie Hockett, will be performing classic rock tunes.

Also, don’t forget to cheer on and support our very own Marching Band during the parade! The band is under the very capable direction of Jill Rubio and led by our drum major, par excellence, the Rev. James Galasinski. *See you there!*



Sunday, June 2, 12-3 p.m.

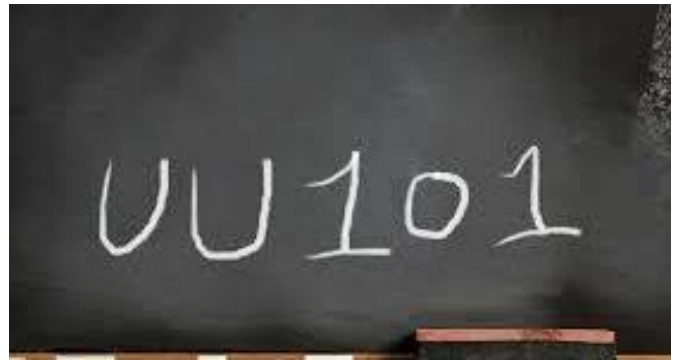
The Safety Committee is pleased to announce that we are offering a CPR class at our church on June 2, 2019 from noon until 3 p.m. Tracy L. Thomas, is the director of the Nicandri Nature Center in Massena, NY and is also a certified CPR - First Aid instructor with ten years of experience. There are limited seats available, so please [email](#) or call the church office by **Wednesday, May 29** to register at 315-386-2498. A light lunch will be provided.

Please consider taking the course at this first opportunity. The value of this program will offer great peace of mind within our congregation and will carry over into the larger communities that we live in.

UU 101

Saturday, June 8, 9a.m. - 1p.m.

Learn about the history and theology of Unitarian Universalism and how this church functions. This is a great opportunity for those who want to learn more, who might be considering membership, or even those who have recently joined the church. Childcare is provided and lunch will be served. Please register in advance by emailing office@uucantonny.org or calling 315-386-2498.



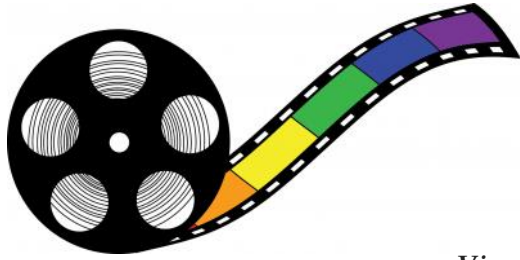
CHURCH PICNIC **Sunday, June 9 after worship**

Everyone is invited to Bend in the River Park to enjoy food, fellowship and fun during our annual church picnic. The church will provide hamburgers and hotdogs. Please bring a dish to pass and your potluck packs if you have them.

Music and Recycling!

The Any Music Singers (TAMS), led by our own Paul Siskind, will be performing a concert on **Sunday, June 9 at 3 p.m.** in our sanctuary. The concert will feature some of TAMS's favorite repertoire in a variety of styles. Along with the concert TAMS members are orchestrating a Recycling Rummage Sale in connection with the concert. Singers, members of the board of Church and Community Program, and any willing friends of our church are invited to donate clothing, household goods, and other quality items. Proceeds will benefit the Church and Community Program. The sale is from 2 to 5 p.m. (with a break for the concert at 3 p.m.) [Contact Pat Alden](#) for more information about donating.





LBGTQ+ Film Series Co-sponsored with PRISM

6:00 p.m. potluck, movie to follow

Viva Friday, June 14, 2019

Jesus is a young hairdresser working at a Havana nightclub that showcases drag performers, who dreams of being a performer himself. But when his father has different expectations, the men struggle to understand one another and reconcile as a family.

Kiss Me Friday, June 28, 2019

A young woman engaged to be married finds herself in an affair with her soon-to-be stepmother's lesbian daughter.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The Social Action Committee will not meet this month as we are working behind-the-scenes to wrap up our work from this year and begin preparing for the fall. If you have something to share with the committee, don't hesitate to talk with SAC co-chairs Margaret Harloe or Pat Alden.

Looking for Action?

Campus Kitchens summer volunteers needed: Campus Kitchens, a student-led effort to fight hunger and food waste, serves 30-50 people every Monday evening. During the school year, St. Lawrence students prepare and serve the meals, but our help is needed in the summer. Shifts are only two hours long and there is a variety of ways to help. No experience needed! Use this [link](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/122K3XiPIPl3sVyQhXLHynG6ruPswT56w1huYJNiUCg/edit#gid=0) to sign up. <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/122K3XiPIPl3sVyQhXLHynG6ruPswT56w1huYJNiUCg/edit#gid=0>

American Red Cross Blood Drive: Our next blood drive will be held Tuesday, June 25 from 11:30 a.m. -5 p.m. Due to changes in scheduling, appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are still welcome. You can sign up [online](#) or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS. There is urgent need for all blood types. Please give. If you can help with registration for a 90-minute shift, please see Pat Alden

Rachel Somers Grant Social Action Awards

The Rachel Somers Grant Social Action Award recognizes the contributions of outstanding individuals who have helped make the North Country a more humane and progressive community. The award this year recognizes the contributions of **Holly Chambers**. Additionally, the church is presenting for the first time a **Rachel Grant Youth Social Action Award** to recognize important activist work of young people; this year the award goes to **Alex Calk**. North Country friends and neighbors are warmly invited to join the UU congregation in celebrating the contributions of both women on Sunday, June 30, at 10:30 a.m.

Holly Chambers is being recognized for the leadership she has provided to Cinema 10 for 33 years. Cinema 10 has had a significant impact over this period, bringing in each year twenty important independent **and foreign** films to the North Country. Holly and **the Cinema 10** Board have worked to ensure that the films are socially relevant, politically provocative and expressive of the diversity of our larger world community. Often she has organized discussions following the films, sometimes with the film makers and sometimes with community representatives, reflecting on connections between issues raised in the films and our local context. Holly has

also provided leadership to such organizations as Seedcorn, Potsdam Food Coop, and the United University Professions as well as many other groups.

Alex Calk is a junior at Little River School. In her first year there, she has become an important activist and spokesperson around environmental issues, notably climate change. In November, 2018, she spoke at a rally for Our Children's Trust in the Canton Village Park. This year she organized the Green Club at Little River School and helped facilitate and publicize the Monthly Climate Vigil in that Park. She speaks at the vigils, provides interviews to the media, and recently was a featured guest on "North Country Matters." Alex has also spoken to: the Canton High School Green Club, Commons College (SLU), Resist SLU, Environmental Action Organization (SLU). Alex arrived in Canton in 2018 with a personal background in social justice work. She has participated in a ten-day mission trip to South Africa, working in an orphanage in Kwa Zulu Natal, in an urban summer program for disadvantaged students and in a service project providing meals for New York City children.



The Church and Community Program has a new website: <https://ccpcanton.org>. It has a donate button if you like to contribute that way; more importantly, we have a somewhat regular (but not TOO frequent!) digital news in brief. If you haven't received one in your email, please contact ccp74@centralny.twcbc.com or call 315-386-3534 to get on our mailing list. You will learn about two upcoming benefits: hotdogs at Coakley's on June 8 & 9, and the TAMS concert and rummage sale on Sunday, June 9 (concert at 3 pm.) You will

also be hearing about a new outreach to Heuvelton, and how the Dairy Princess Parade and Canton Chamber of Commerce are teaming up to provide milk for area food pantries.



Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton

Social Justice Initiative

Promoting justice, equity, and compassion in human relations

June Update - 2019 Social Justice Initiative

Last weekend, some of us Canton UUs traveled to Norwich, VT for the installation of Jan Hutslar to be the new minister at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Upper Valley. The weather was not hospitable, but the fellowship was. A high point in the service was the sermon by Rev. Shaun Whitehead, SLU Chaplain. Her words - and charge - speak directly to our social justice work here. Chaplain Shaun spoke of how we need "spiritual co-conspirators for such a time as this." It is in just such times that we find ourselves in today, times when we need to work together, strengthening each other, for the hard work ahead. Those of us working on the SJI Planning Committee need co-conspirators... Are you one?

Our SJI planning committee continues to work hard, developing the program for our Social Justice Initiative conference on October 19. A major task for the next month will be increasing our **media coverage** through our church website and Facebook page. You can follow our progress at our SJI page <http://www.uucantonny.org/social-justice/social-justice-initiative/>

We also have an opportunity for a very special person or two to join our team and manage our Facebook presence. We are searching for a **social media guru**. If you are that person, or know someone who might be, please email us at sgi@uucantonny.org and we'll follow up!

We also know that there are many ways to look at complicated issues like criminal justice, so we are including a special component in our SJI weekend in October - **our SJI Poetry Slam!** Over the next few months we will be soliciting poetry on key criminal justice topics from youth authors, community members, and currently incarcerated folks. If you find poetry a good way to capture complicated thoughts, or know someone else who does, please watch for the Call for Contributions later this month- and start writing!!

Want more information/background on criminal justice in NNY? Back in 2013-14, Brian Mann of NCPR devoted the year to looking at various aspects of our NYS prison system in a series of reports called *Prison Time*. This series looked particularly at the many issues associated with the 40 years of the Rockefeller Drug Laws that fueled the explosion of mass incarceration in the US ever since. You can log into the *Prison Time Media Project* website (www.prisontime.org) for more background on this problem that has affected all of our lives today.



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



If you would like to receive weekly electronic news updates,
please email office@uucantonny.org
Submission Deadline for our next newsletter: Thursday, June 20.