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Unitarian Universalist Church of Canandaigua Newsletter

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3024 Cooley Road | Canandaigua, NY 14424 | 585-396-1370 | <http://canandaiguauu.org>



**Unitarian Universalist Church of Canandaigua  
March 2017--- What Does It Mean to Be a Community of Risk**

**Sermon Schedule**

**March 5**

Rita Capezzi, "What Is Risk?"

**March 12**

Rita Capezzi, "What is Worth the Risk?"

**March 19**

Lay-led TBA

**March 26**

Rev. Lori Staubitz

**Coming up in April:**

**"What Does It Mean to Be a Community of Transformation?"**

**April 2, 2017**

Rev. Peggy Meeker

## ❖ On Risk ❖

### What Does It Mean to be a Community of Risk?



Rita Capezzi, Intern Minister

Since I was 20 years old or so, I have been afraid of breaking a hip. Wegman's warns us on icy days to "Walk Like a Penguin" –I invented that! Well, let's just say I have been doing that walk for a very long time. You could say I have been a little fearful, a little cautious, at least physically. No mountain climbing, no sky diving, no water skiing. Next week I am going to try walking while chewing gum, but just around the block, in my own neighborhood. With my body, I have been what you might call "risk-averse."

In other ways, maybe not so much. I risked becoming a "smart girl" at a time when being a pretty one would have been easier. I risked college where everyone was wealthier and better connected than I would ever be. I risked graduate school, where being a "smart girl" wasn't nearly enough. I risked marriage and children. I risked a career at a Catholic college where I rarely felt I fit in. I heeded the strange, disconcerting, and powerful call to ministry. Much of my trajectory might look like a "normal" path of "upward mobility," the so-called "American Dream." In many ways, it is just that. And at every turn, it was also full of risk.

There is a certain risk in simply crossing the street – Will I trip and fall half way across? Will the car apparently racing toward me at high speed stop in time? Will I look stupid? Living is a risk, so much that we can't control, if we do anticipate it. In the simplest things and in our deepest commitments, we are always taking risks. William Arthur Ward says:

To laugh is to risk appearing a fool,

To weep is to risk appearing sentimental.

To reach out to another is to risk involvement,

To expose feelings is to risk exposing your true self.

To place your ideas and dreams before a crowd is to risk their loss.

To love is to risk not being loved in return,

To live is to risk dying,

To hope is to risk despair,

To try is to risk failure.

From this perspective, all we do, when we are engaged in life and relationships beyond ourselves, is take risks.

Life is essentially and inevitably risky. So, rather than be fearful, rather than hide under a blanket, what will you do to embrace risk? And let us not be mistaken – risk is dangerous, as James Baldwin reminds us: "To act is to be committed, and to

## ***Intern Minister's Message cont'd***



be committed is to be in danger.” There is a lot at stake, there will be suffering. But there is always suffering. Shel Silverstein mocks our fears of risk when he tells the story of Barnabas Browning, so terrified of drowning that he would not go anywhere. So he sat in fear in his room, crying, and filling it with so many tears that – you got it – he drowned himself.

Now not all of us are safe to take risks – my confrontation of a police officer would probably end much differently than did Eric Garner’s or Michael Brown’s, regardless of what I might be doing “in the street.” But if your social location makes it safer to take risks than it would be for others, are you willing to take them? When you open yourself to risk, when you make commitments, there will be danger, and we can get hurt. Yet, as Bob Marley tells us, “The truth is, everyone is going to hurt you. You just got to find the ones worth suffering for.”

For whom, for what, will you risk your own suffering, inevitable suffering but suffering about which you can have some control? What new and uncomfortable relationship might you forge – with a person displaced by war, with a worker migrating across geopolitical barriers, with a person who grew up differently than you did, with one of your congregant-compadres? What uncomfortable ideas might you voice – at a rally, in the paper, at a meeting, at church? With whom will you stand in solidarity – city folks or rural folks experiencing poverty, unhoused persons, people re-entering society after incarceration, advocates of Black Lives Matter? What is the risk you will willingly take for love, for compassion, for embrace of the whole human family?

Let us not be reckless with each other’s hearts (Kurt Vonnegut), but let us all find the freedom (Janet Rand) in taking the risk to live, to love, to commit, and to act for peace and justice – as often as we can, whenever and wherever we can, for as long as we can.

. . . See you in church, RitaC



## ***Sunday Potluck***



### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Potluck March 12 2017**

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, following the service, UUs can enjoy delicious food and great conversation. Bring one of your favorite dishes to share.

*(Bring canned goods for Gleaners too!)*

## From the Board



Hi everyone,

As most of you know by now, UUCC congregational members who attended our special congregation meeting on Feb. 12 after potluck voted on two motions:

- to formally terminate our Partnering Agreement with First Unitarian Church of Rochester (originally for the services of Rev. Scott Tayler and later amended to be for the services of Rev. Kaaren Anderson as the lead minister)
- to undertake a process of congregation discernment, working with the interim intern minister (Rita Capezzi) and her supervisor, Rev. Joel Miller (senior interim minister), before deciding on a call for new professional ministry.

The exact wording and information about the vote and the minutes of the meeting are being made available on our website.

As your president, I was gratified that the two motions recommended by the board were accepted with much support, as we move ahead independent of First Unitarian in making our decisions.

It's going to take a lot of your input as congregational members to determine what we'll do next. We are not under policy governance; our UUCC bylaws and policies are our sole governance (as well as complying with UUA national and regional policies that affect our interactions with those organizations). We want to do a thorough review of our programs, policies and bylaws to see how they meet our current and anticipated needs, and what improvements and changes will benefit our goals as a congregation. Now is the time to engage yourself in the work of the church that speaks to your strengths and interests, so you are aware of all the different functions of the church and how well they are working. We'll be asking you!

Our building work is continuing with teams meeting to discuss the next phases: kitchen, flooring, lighting, entryway and sanctuary. We'll be reporting on those efforts as new ideas are ready to present. We still have a nice balance of funds to put to work on the building project, and we hope to do some important parts of it this summer.

If you have made a pledge to our working budget and/or to contribute to the capital campaign, please check your statements recently provided by treasurer Geof Gretton for information relevant to your tax filings. If you have questions, or wish to make a contribution, please contact [ggretton@rochester.rr.com](mailto:ggretton@rochester.rr.com).

. . . Regards, Dorothy Hoskins  
President, UUCC Board of Trustees  
[585 624-5349](tel:5856245349)

## ***Soul Matters***



We are a Soul Matters congregation, and we use the monthly theme in small group ministry and in sermons. All the quotations in my opening message above are from the March Soul Matters packet. You are invited to enter a deeper relationship with the monthly theme by getting a packet of materials for your own use. There are some hard copies on the dresser near the Trustees bulletin board. Email me to get a copy electronically ([capezzir@gmail.com](mailto:capezzir@gmail.com)).

... from Rita Capezzi  
Interim Intern Minister



## ***Building & Grounds***



There has been continuing work with pest control. We've been blocking access from the outside as we find problems. Unfortunately, with the deterioration of the building's exterior, pest access will be an on-going challenge. The new windows in the sanctuary look great and they are secure and operate smoothly. In the past, the old windows did not close tightly and the operating mechanisms were often balky.

This past Sunday the parking lot was a muddy quagmire. Scoby has arranged for gravel, a large pile of which can be seen out next to the shed. When conditions are right the gravel will be spread.

There will be a furnace and heating system inspection in March. Our new windows will help with interior climate control. Several months ago it was recommended that we upgrade the attic insulation, as well, and the Board has that for consideration.

... That's it for now from Kevin House



## ***Videos & YouTube***



During the church year Dan and his crew video tape UCC sermons and post them on YouTube. Here is a list of sermons most recently posted. Just click on the web address to view.

**December 11, 2016.**

Connie Barrett's sermon "What We Can Learn from a Russian Story".

<https://youtu.be/uBqnN0kSj7k>



## ***Be In The Know!***

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There are many ways to connect with UUCC to learn about our news and events:

**UUCC online:** Visit our website at [www.CanandaiguaUU.org](http://www.CanandaiguaUU.org)

**UUCC newsletter:** Send an email to [uucc@rochester.rr.com](mailto:uucc@rochester.rr.com) to be added to the mailing list, or read the newsletters online at <http://canandaiguauu.org/newsletter/>

**UUCC on Yahoo Groups:** Send an email to ([CanandaiguaUU@gmail.com](mailto:CanandaiguaUU@gmail.com)) and let us know you are interested in joining the group. You can also join by visiting [uucc\\_announcements\\_subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:uucc_announcements_subscribe@yahoo.com)

**UUCC on Facebook:** *Like* our page <http://www.facebook.com/canandaiguauu>

**UUCC Twitter**  
[@CanandaiguaUU](https://twitter.com/CanandaiguaUU)

**UUCC Google+**  
<https://plus.google.com/115313131260455061567?prsrc=5>



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The Chalice  
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