

ALL SOULS NEWS -February 2022

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church

1330 Gotham St.

Watertown, NY 13601



315-788-2742 www.allsoulsuu.org

allsoulsuuchurch@gmail.com



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www.facebook.com/AllSoulsUW WatertownNY

SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:30 A.M.

"All Souls—the church that puts its faith in you"

Snow!

In the event we need to cancel a service because of the weather, a notice will be posted on the opening page of our website www.allsoulsuu.org.



February 6 – **Catherine Burns: “Looking at Spiritual Growth.”** How is our spiritual growth coming along? Can we look at ourselves critically and honestly?

February 13 – **Rev. David Weissbard** returns.

February 20 –**Rev. JJ Flag** returns. The service will begin at 11:30.

February 27 –**Catherine Burns: “Black Women in Science.”** As Black History Month ends and Women’s History begins I thought it would be interesting to see how black women scientists were acknowledged, ignored or not given credit for their accomplishments.

From the President's Desk

Heather Winn

I am thinking about you all while I'm sitting here in FL. The universe wanted to make sure that my All Souls family was cared for while I was away. We almost made it through the first month of 2022 without major incident. Almost.. Here we go with the All Souls winter flood take two! I want to thank everyone who took care of calling all of the appropriate people and getting the repairs underway. Robert, Rebecca, Till, Eleanor, and Warren all acted quickly in order to get the ball rolling.



Thankfully we are already pros at zoom since we will be remaining virtual while our building once undergoes a facelift. Diego is already on the job so we're in great hands.

The policy review committee worked on policies surrounding the evaluations of employees of the church, The use of leadership training funds, adult religious education, the supervision of children, reporting abuse of children, childcare provided by all souls, and we created an accident prevention policy. Since I will be in Florida until February 19, we have decided to postpone policy review meetings until March 1. Our remaining policy review meetings will focus on creating a safe church policy to include how to deal with various disruptive behaviors and conflict resolution. Our next meetings are scheduled for March 1 and 15 via zoom. Everyone is invited to participate.

From the Historian's Files

Sarah O'Connell



Today's wayback machine takes us to February 2010. Harriet was doing our newsletter then too, and while we sent it out attached to our email list, we also printed copies on paper, and Harriet thanked Jo and Linda for their assistance.

Highlights of that issue included:

Mary Ann Sawyer was board president; Rosalind Cook was vice president; Pat Sunderland was secretary; Jo Reid was treasurer. Warren Allen was our collector, Richard Frost was our sexton, Amanda Medina-Necci was our childcare provider. There were two RE assistants every Sunday.

Richard was looking into repairing or replacing the lock on the sliding glass door leading out to the terrace but for now we were using a wooden dowel. ****By the way, the dowel abides still in February 2022!

We presented services on our principles, the first principle by Sarah O'Connell and Ellen Childs on February 7 and the second one about "Standing on the Side of Love" on February 14. Reverend David Weissbard was returning for another service on February 21 and then provided a workshop

after the service on how to plan and carry out a service. So, the February 28 service reflected the results!

Reverend David Weissbard was returning for another service on February 21.

Transition Team Report

Sarah O'Connell

While this church year continues with a mix of guest ministers and lay-led services, we wanted to let the congregation know that an Ad Hoc "Transition Team" appointed by the Board is continuing to look into ASUU's wants and needs for the future might be in terms of finding a minister for our church. This team consists of Harriet McMillan, Eleanor Allen, Frances Mercer and Sarah O'Connell but we certainly will involve all of you in this discussion.

For now, we have been searching for a workable framework for all that. We recently had a Zoom conversation with an interim minister who we may use as a consultant for the next several months, not to necessarily to lead services on a regular basis, but to provide us with some tools to carry out this discussion. We were very impressed with her grasp of the big questions we face looking forward as ASUU (and indeed, congregations of all faiths across the country) face in terms of "Where do we go from here?" in light of waning participation in traditional church, the effects of the pandemic and the concurrent development to remote services, etc. It's especially significant for us as we approach the bicentennial of the establishment of our church in Watertown in 2023.

In the Mailbag

The Cartier Family

Louisa sent a card with a family picture to us at Christmas time. It's hard to believe how much the kids have grown, especially Izzy. She's gone from a toddler to a little girl.

Around the Church:

Here We Go Again!!!!

This morning [Jan.23] Robert discovered the church was flooded, again. The source was the same as in December 2019; the water pipe above the church coat closet. Apparently, this pipe is still exposed to the cold temperatures through the soffit vents. When I got the call, I woke up Till and we drove through the deep snow in his 4X4 truck.

On the way we had contacted Diego Agular, the contractor that restored the building after the previous flood. Upon arrival, we contacted Sal Bonanza, the Public Adjuster that helped us settle with Church Mutual. We met with Diego and went through the building. Eleanor called Church

Mutual and left a message. I have been keeping our Church Board President apprised as things progress. Eleanor, Warren, Till and I are the ad hoc committee making quick decisions.

This flood went further than the last one. The water covered from the entry, greeting area, informal and LaMothe Lounges, coat closet, office, 1/3 of the sanctuary, the social hall, kitchen, the minister's office, behind the altar, and hallway to the RE wing. From there the water had flowed into all 3 bathrooms, the RE hallway, the storage room, the custodian's room, and the RE room.

I had contacted Service Masters, they called back 4 hours later. In the meantime, Diego said he could provide the cleaning services as well as the restoration. So, we told him to proceed.

About 3 PM Till and I came back to the church and saw that two of Diego's workers were there vacuuming up the water and dehumidifiers were placed around the church. AWESOME!!!

Things are now set in motion, and we will keep everyone updated with the progress.

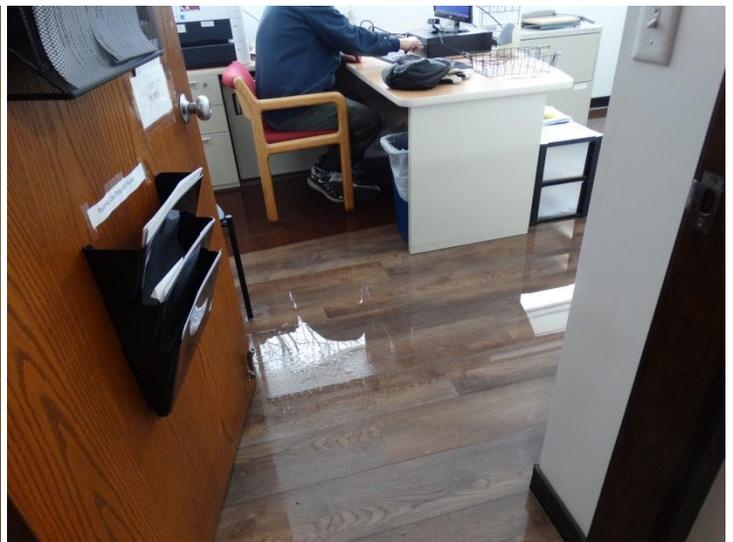
Rebecca Carr

Chair of Buildings and Grounds





Thanks to Till Fritzsching for the photos.



For the Time Being

Until we accomplish repairs to our building, we will Zoom our Sunday services. Check our website on Sunday AM for the link.

Generosity Project

Every year we choose two organizations to share half of our uncommitted plate collections. It works as follows: the collector tracks the uncommitted funds, and the congregation selects the organizations. At the end of the church year, we divide the uncommitted funds in half, retain one half, divide the remainder in half and send those monies to the chosen organizations. This year we chose Hospice and Planned Parenthood. Each organization receives 1/4 of the uncommitted funds for the year.

Find Us

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Custodian: John Crupi

Music: Toni Zygadlo

Childcare:

Religious Education: Frances Mercer

Board meetings are usually held the fourth Thursday at 9:30 AM via Zoom. Contact the office for the link. Meetings are open to all members of the congregation.

Newsletter Editor, Harriet McMillan,

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Office Administrator

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PLEASE SUBMIT ITEMS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER NO LATER THAN THE 15TH OF THE MONTH.
ITEMS ARE APPRECIATED AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church
1330 Gotham St.
Watertown, NY 13601
ALL SOULS NEWS November 2018

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



We affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

Our Principles

Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.
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Our Mission

- The mission of All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church is to create an environment in which personal and spiritual growth is encouraged; and where each of us is free to explore our individual beliefs and search for meaning.
- We strive to be a warm, supportive, nurturing and inclusive religious community where all people are respected and honored because of their uniqueness.
- We promote acceptance, diversity and social justice through our dealings with each other and our actions in the local and global community.

Visitors are welcome! If, as a visitor to our church community, you find yourself in agreement with Our Principles, please consider joining our church community. Just sign our membership book in the presence of two board members.