

ALL SOULS NEWS -February 2023

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church

1330 Gotham St.

Watertown, NY 13601



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Find us on

Facebook

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.



Phone Tree

The default method of notifying the congregation of cancellations is to put the information on the website and email it out. However, some people would like to also be called on the phone. Rather than trying to call absolutely everyone, we are putting together a list of just those who prefer to be notified by phone. If that's you, then either reply to this email or call 315-921-1162

February Services

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

The general theme for this month is love. Because of February 14th, Valentine's Day, there is a lot of focus on romantic love in the United States during this month. However, there are many kinds of love and many complicated relationships between love and spirituality. During the February services we will explore many perspectives.

February 5 – Frances Mercer: "Love, Commitment and Self Care as Important Elements of Spirituality. "

February 12 – Rev. David Weissbard: "The Day I Almost Stood up for Jesus."

February 19 – Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt (Zoom Service) We will once again hear from Rev. Hurt, our transitions consultant.

February 26 - Kathy Ashland: “Religious Exploration for Children and Youth.” Kathy is now providing the leadership for our Wondering Center. She will involve a number of the children and teenagers in this service.

Religious Exploration

At the recent board meeting, the board discussed the need to develop more RE volunteers. It's easy—but it is necessary to complete the training before helping.

Transition News

Our team met with Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt in January via Zoom. We have reached the point where we are ready to search for a contract minister and are looking for three volunteers to form a search committee.

-Harriet McMillan

From the Historian's Files

Sarah O'Connell

Courage and Endurance

In the February 2020 newsletter, Frances Mercer told us the theme for the month in the Wondering Center was "courage." Little did we know what the next month and years would bring that would require courage and endurance from us all here at All Souls. COVID, floods, politics. "That which does not kill us makes us stronger: - Friedrich Nietzsche



From the Mailbag

We Remember

From Karen West comes the news that David Ashley, the architect who designed our building, died on December 26.

People News

Sympathy goes out to the Yerdon family, Susie and Jim, on the death of Susie's oldest son, Tim Elmer.

Be sure to welcome our two newest members, Mimi Litsche (who is the first new member for 2023,) and Payton Winn.

Around the Church

The Nominations Committee is Coming!

Starting in March, a member of the nominating committee will be contacting each active voting member about nominations for church officers, trustees, and the nominating committee itself. We will ask you what you would be willing to do, but we also want your perspective about other people. So think about who you would like to see as President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Trustee or member of the Nominating Committee. We will be interviewing most voting members, but if you believe we should look farther afield or think outside the box, tell us when one of us contacts you.

The Membership and Activities committee has reduced the traditional "shared ministry" or "hospitality volunteers" jobs to just two:

Money Counter and Kitchen Cleanup. We are asking for just two volunteers every month because the volunteer for each job takes responsibility for it the entire month.

In January, Harriet McMillan was in charge of Kitchen Cleanup and Pat Sutherland was the Money Counter. In February, Francis Ashland has volunteered to be money counter and Kelly Sackheim will run kitchen cleanup. If you want to volunteer for these jobs in March and onward just reply to this email or notify the office. These are the new Job Descriptions.

MONEY COUNTER

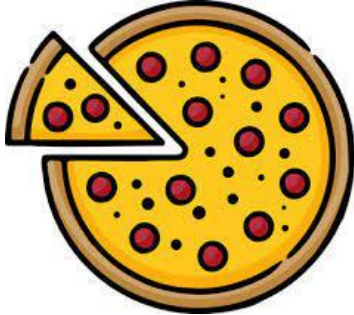
1. At the appropriate time during the service collect the offering
 - a. before the service get the plates out of the glass case and make sure the office is unlocked
 - b. recruit someone to help pass the second plate
 - c. after the offering, put the plates in the office and lock the door behind you
2. After the service, count the offering and record it on the Plate Collection Form
 - a. recruit someone to count with you and verify your count
 - b. get the office unlocked, work in there
 - c. get the office collection form with additional money and the plate collection form out of the collector's pigeonhole box (upper left)
 - d. one of you writes checks on section c, the other counts cash and writes the totals in b and a
 - e. add up the totals, repeating and checking calculations until you both agree, then sign the form
 - f. give the form and money to the collector or if the collector is gone place them in the pigeonhole and lock the office door as you leave

KITCHEN CLEANUP

1. After social hour collect all the dirty dishes and utensils and either put them in the dishwasher or rinse them and set them on the counter if the dishwasher is full
2. Once the dishwasher is full, start it operating.
 - a. put soap in the receptacle on the dishwasher door. Use cascade from under the sink.
 - b. press buttons on the edge of the dishwasher door: Normal Wash, Heated Dry, and Start.
 - c. once the light comes on for pressing Start, close the dishwasher door
3. Make sure all food is either taken home by the owner or else covered and placed in the refrigerator. There is cling wrap on top of the refrigerator.
4. Wipe off the tables and chairs and wipeable tablecloths.

5. Sweep the floor in the kitchen and social hall. There's a broom behind the kitchen door.
6. You don't have to put clean items away, but you have to make sure there is nothing out that would attract ants or mice. Take home dirty tablecloths made of fabric, wash them, and return next week.

Activities Changes



Because Game Night has not been very well attended, it has been moved to the third Friday of the month starting with February 17 at 5 pm. There will be pizza and please feel free to bring other junk food and/or games of your own.

At some point we may work on adding a movie night concurrently. Discussion Hour will move to 12 on Sundays. Kelly and other interested persons will try to get together and practice singing before services at 9:45.

Discussion Hour

Discussion Hour is an open meeting in the informal lounge every Sunday after Social Hour at 12:00 noon or so. This time has changed because there has been poor participation at the earlier time.

- The first Sunday of every month will be "Unitarian Universalism." If there are newcomers, this will be introductory level, and old hands are welcome to come help educate. If there are no newcomers, we can talk about the current events in the denomination generally.
- The second Sunday of every month will be a "common read" discussion. If there is no "common read" currently being discussed we'll just talk about what we've read lately.
- The remaining Sundays will be free ranging discussions on a variety of topics. Usually there's a video and then a prompt based discussion about it. On January 29th we will (hopefully be able to) discuss the question of the war in Ukraine: What do you think about the war in Ukraine? How much should the US support Ukraine, and in what form, if any? Why? What sort of realistic diplomatic settlement do you want?

So drift into the informal lounge after coffee hour when you hear the prompt video start up.

-Robert South

Before-Church Hymn Practice

Kelly Sackheim is putting together a pre-service song practice session for those who may be interested in showing up early to learn the songs for the day. At least somebody won't be lost. If available when the Weekly Post is published, this week's songs and links to You Tubes are included below. Anyone who would like to know which hymns will be sung at the following Sunday's service may request to be added to the email list (for receipt on Thursday or Friday, usually) by emailing kelly@gitgo.org. If Kelly has confirmed that someone plans to attend Sunday practice (email is unreliable unless sent by Thursday, text or call (916) 877-5947 for confirmation), Kelly will strive to get to church.



Building and Grounds

The coat racks in the coatroom have been lowered to enable those who are vertically challenged to hang up their coats.

Bicentennial Celebration

Harriet McMillan will chair the event, but she can't do it alone. If you want to participate, speak to Harriet.



Keep in Touch!

YouTube Channel Zoom services produced by our congregation are recorded and placed on our You Tube channel for two months. Copyrighted material for which we don't have permission is eliminated, as are elements of the services which may involve sharing of private information.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/ASUUCWatertown> Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/allsoulsuuwatertown/>

Every Month at All Souls

CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) Exciting news! After chatting for a while about how much we have missed our meetings...and each other...Chalice Circle CUUPS will start meeting again, once a month, on the third Wednesday of the month. Our first meeting will be on February 15 at 6:30 pm, in the Social Hall.

This will be an organizational meeting, so bring your ideas and suggestions!

And Every Week at All Souls

The baskets for your donations to the Urban Mission Food Pantry are always available for your donations. Also, Joanne Harter collects the orange bags in which our newspapers are delivered. She then delivers them to the SPCA to be used to keep the grounds clean.

We serve fair trade coffee during our pot luck coffee hours.

As always, Joanne Harter, our CDO (Chief Decorating Officer) appreciates help with the altar decorations.

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 NCPW and Syracuse Worker Center. Each organization receives 1/4 of the uncommitted funds for the year.



UUA Newsletter

Unitarian Universalist Association

Happy New Year! I am sending you care as we begin another year. This, 2023, is an important year for Unitarian Universalism.

We are currently in a multi-year process to consider changes to our UUA Principles and Purpose. This process began in 2020 when the UUA Board appointed an Article II Study Commission. This is a dry name for such important work. The reason is our Principles, Purpose, covenant and Sources are contained in Article II of the UUA Bylaws.

Our seven Principles and six Sources – which we know and love – were adopted in 1985. They offered a substantial (even radical) change from what preceded them. The changes came through years of effort by UU women, particularly the UU Women’s Federation, to push for greater gender equality in UUism, support for women in the ministry and to eliminate sexist language from our Bylaws, hymns, and yes, from the version of Article II passed in 1961 (at the time of consolidation).

But the changes didn’t just address gender, they made significant language changes that reflected the times. It removed language of God, man, and brotherhood and added the language of interdependence and the Sources reflecting the growing theological diversity of our tradition.

As a lifelong UU, coming of age after these changes, I am grateful. They changed our movement in ways that were important for the success of women leaders, ministers, and for me, as our first elected woman President. These changes, at the time, brought fierce dissent. But more, they inspired excitement and possibility.

Why do we need a review of the Principles and Purpose?

In the mid-2010’s, the ground began to shift again – much as it did in response to the women’s movement. The emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement, the election of Donald Trump with his racist and misogynist campaign, and the urgent calls to confront white supremacy culture in our own movement – all of these compelled UUs to ask questions about whether our Principles reflected fully who we are and who we need to be.

By the 2017 General Assembly, there were multiple grassroots efforts to change our Principles. The first was overwhelmingly adopted, to change “prophetic women and men” to “prophetic people” to move beyond gender binary. There was also a proposal to change the first Principle from “the inherent worth and dignity of all people” to the “inherent worth and dignity of all beings.” This proposal was ultimately tabled as delegates grappled with the reality that we still had a lot of work to do on living the first Principle *for people*. Discussions of the Eighth Principle were also happening and by 2020, hundreds of UU congregations had adopted it! The Eighth Principle recognized the need to go beyond

aspirational principles to commitments to dismantle systems of oppression – calling us from aspiration to action. It was within this context that your UUA Board appointed an Article II Study Commission to integrate these conversations and lead a discernment process for our whole Association about core values, covenant, and purpose. The Board gave the Commission [a broad charge](#) to review, change, or reimagine Article II to “enable our UUA, our member congregations, and our covenanted communities to be a relevant and powerful force for spiritual and moral growth, healing, and justice.”

After two and a half years of study and conversations with thousands of Unitarian Universalists, the Article II Study Commission submitted their report and proposal to the UUA Board of Trustees for its January 20th meeting.

This spring, congregation delegates and the Board can propose amendments to the proposal. The proposal and amendments will be considered at General Assembly this June and a majority vote is required to continue consideration at GA 2024. If any of the delegate amendments are accepted, and if the proposal receives majority approval, then the Article II Study Commission will make any necessary changes to create a final draft for consideration at GA 2024. The final proposal will require a two thirds majority vote at GA 2024 to be adopted.

Seven years ago, when I was beginning my campaign for UUA President, I approached the process with an intention to be open to the process while letting go of outcomes. My hope for us as Unitarian Universalists is that we approach discernment about Article II with similar openness. May we enter our conversations with a spirit of curiosity, holding off attachment to outcomes, and listen with our whole hearts and to the fullness and diversity of voices in our community. May the process itself deepen our understanding of and commitment to our faith.

Love, Susan Frederick-Gray

President: Heather Winn
Vice President: Amy Summerville-Loomis
Secretary: Sarah O'Connell
Treasurer: Eleanor Allen eleonora.asuuc@gmail.com
Trustee: Rebecca Carr rebeccac.asuuc@gmail.com
Trustee: Shannon Starkweather_Burke
Trustee: Catherine Burns catherineb.asuuc@gmail.com
Trustee: Joanne Harter

Sextons: John Crupi
Music: Toni Zygadlo
Childcare: Kim Davis:
Religious Education: Kathy Ashland
Kelly Sackheimr

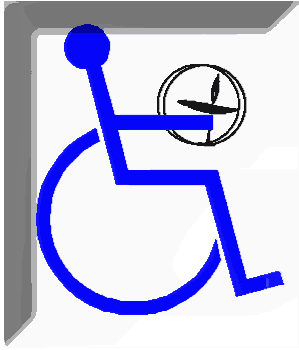
Board meetings are held the fourth Friday at 9:30 AM at the church. Meetings are open to all members of the congregation.

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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

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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.

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.