

We still need to pack up the interior of the church and then stash in storage pods. Plan to give a couple hours on Saturdays starting at 10. Many hands make light work.

ALL SOULS NEWS -March 2022

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church
1330 Gotham St.
Watertown, NY 13601



315-788-2742 www.allsoulsuu.org

allsoulsuuchurch@gmail.com



Find us on

Facebook www.facebook.com/AllSoulsUWatertownNY

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.



March 6 : Eleanor Allen - "On the Brink:" Between the pandemic, the loss of our part-time consulting minister, and the two floods, we've faced a series of challenges, which we've been meeting together as a congregation. Restoring everything to the way it was before is no longer an option for us. This is our opportunity to take a breathing space for reviewing our goals, assessing our programs, considering the quality of our life in common, and preparing for a new era.

March- 13: Rev. David Weissbard returns for another stimulating service. This is the start of Daylight Savings Time. Please be sure to set your clock forward so you don't miss Rev. Weissbard's service!

Please check the Weekly Post for the remaining two Sunday services in March.

Save the date: March 12, for our tailgate party. Rain date is March 19. See p. 3.

Collector

Warren Allen



Thanks for coming to our building, when we can meet there (remembering then to wear our pants and shoes), and thanks for joining the Zoom otherwise, and thanks for your dollars which helps to keep bills paid.

Thus far for this fiscal year 36 families pledged a total of \$38,702.24. As of February 22, the FY is 64% over. Pledge payments thus far are \$29,207, which is 76% of the amounts pledged. Some of us did not pledge for this year, so that we can donate when we are able. Donations thus far are \$760. Our ongoing Generosity Project takes the loose bills in the collection plates, plus any checks marked for this, and half of this helps with our needs while the other half is shared with the two other charities for which we voted for this year. Thus far this FY the Generosity Project has received \$438.44. And we generally get some rent donations to use parts of our building; thus far, during the times when others might feel safe to come in, rent donations were just \$1000. And then there were "misc" receipts, which are mostly the \$2000 per month which we are grabbing out of the interest of funds given to our church by others who cared for this congregation, and whose gifts thoughtfully specified that we now can only use that interest. Thanks for your help!

P.S. By the way, most of the rental donations which we received this year, and for many many prior years, was from Ann Halback, who teaches t'ai chi. I happened to notice recently that she has been giving us most of her income from these classes for all these years. Thanks!

P.S. While our building is not available, Ann continues teaching just the more-advanced t'ai chi exercises, over in the dungeon at Asbury Church. She says that she wants to come back when we are ready. At least one of us at ASUU thinks that, in the future, since getting her skills took a lot of time, it might be more fair if she just paid rent donations of one half of what she received.

From the President's Desk

Heather Winn

February sure has been an eventful month! I had a lovely time in Florida with my family and enjoyed the sunshine. I am happy to be home but already miss the warmth.

Given the fact that I have been in Florida for a month and because I flew I have been quarantining at home for the most part so I have not ventured over to the church building yet but I have seen pictures and kept apprised of the progress. Hopefully this will be the last time we are in this particular position.



The policy review meetings were put on hold for the month of February since I was out of state but will resume in March on the first and third Tuesday ok zoom. The next meeting is on Zoom on March 1 at 11:00am. There is also a worship committee meeting on zoom on March 3 at 9:30am. We would love to see new faces participating in committees. Fresh eyes and suggestions are always welcome.

Save the Date! Come One, Come All!

In mid-March we are proposing to have an All Souls Tailgate Party Saturday, March 12 at 11:00 a.m! We will postpone if the weather doesn't cooperate, we should be able to tell a couple of days in advance. We're not expecting it to be springlike (although that would be nice) but we'll postpone if it is snowy, sleety, rainy or exceptionally cold and/or windy. The snow date will be Saturday, March 19 at 11. If Mother Nature doesn't cooperate that day, we'll wait till warmer weather prevails.



We hope that we can gather as many people as possible to 'circle the wagons' in the parking lot to enjoy each other's company. While still being safely distanced, we can have some shared treats at this event. If you want to bring something, please be prepared to divvy up individual portions so that multiple people don't have to handle the serving utensils themselves. Bring a lawn chair for your tailgating pleasure.

We will be celebrating the continued downward trend of Omicron (we hope!), the arrival of Spring/Equinox, and the beginning of Daylight Savings Time, as well as holding a Healing Circle for our twice-flooded congregation and our poor soggy church building!

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Sarah O'Connell, CMO, (Chief Morale Officer, self-appointed) at doon45@aol.com.

#StayStrongASUU

People News

We Remember Gina Wells

Gina Wells, daughter of Ed and Joan Pflugheber, died on February 3 at 66.

The Pflughebers were very active at All Souls, Ed on the board, Joan as RE director, and owner/operator of the New Nursery School. All 5 of the Pflugheber daughters were raised in the church.

Adios Wendy

Wendy Wynn packed up her apartment into a trailer, and drove across country to live with and care for her mother, Anita Lee. All of her Watertown mothers will miss her.

Around the Church



Red Cross Blood Drive on Hold until the Church Reopens

The necessary repairs have put the Red Cross Blood Drives held at All Souls on hold until the church reopens. However, the needs are at crisis levels. We are all encouraged to find a drive and donate.

-Julie Jeffers

Update from Transition Team Frances Mercer



Sarah O'Connell made a brief report in the February Newsletter. She reported that the Board has created an ad hoc Transition Team and appointed four members to the team: Eleanor Allen, Harriet McMillan, Frances Mercer, and Sarah O'Connell. She

also let you know that the purpose/charge for the Transition Team is "continuing to look into ASUU's wants and needs for the future" and "searching for a workable framework for all that." The Team has now had several meetings, including further exploration of working with a paid consultant for the next several months. It is anticipated that such a consultant will be helpful in creating a workable framework for carrying out the needed congregation discussions and planning for and building commitment to whatever transitions may be identified as needed or wanted.

Our situation as a religious/spiritual community is not just how to *best get back to where we were before the pandemic or water pipe breaks or the loss of our half-time consulting minister*. Our concerns are far beyond and more existential than how to return to in-person or hybrid services or how to handle vaccinations, masking, social distancing, etc. or how to restore and prevent further damage to the building or even how to

find another minister. The world has changed physically, socially, economically, and politically. We have reached a point in our journey that requires in-depth examination of:

- 1) who are we now,
- 2) what do we like about our All Souls community,
- 3) to what degree do we have the resources and commitment to sustain that community,
- 4) are our buildings and grounds essential— are they both assets and liabilities,
- 5) do we need a minister,
- 6) what would we as individuals or as a group lose if there was no All Souls,
- 7) what would the community or world lose if there was no All Souls.

The Transition Team believes that consideration of all possibilities/transitions should be on the table. Our struggles for the past two years have been an awakening. We and our minister responded with remarkable creativity. However, we now must recognize, acknowledge, and act on the even more remarkable opportunity presented by those struggles—to reimagine our future. We are not alone. Many UU congregations are facing similar challenges. This is an opportunity to examine what is and to imagine with no limits what could be.

Through the newsletter, the Transition Team will continue to provide updates and relevant information and readings. Reimagining and committing to a new future is clearly and ultimately a congregational process and decision that should be done thoughtfully with

full participation of all who will be or could be part of that future. So this may be a long process—perhaps we will “celebrate” our 200th anniversary in the Spring of 2023 with a plan for and commitment to a new reimagined All Souls UU community.

by John Halstead, January 23, 2019
<https://praywithyourfeet.org/2019/01/23/why-we-arent-growing-an-open-letter-to-my-congregation/> (search under the site’s “uncategorized” listing of topics)

Suggested reading: *Why We Aren’t Growing: An Open Letter to My Unitarian Congregation*

From the Historian’s Files

Sarah O’Connell

As you can see by Frances's article from the Transition Team, over the next several months we are looking at a key turning point in our All Souls community. Of course, this isn't the first time we've faced a very difficult situation to sort out. (For example, I happened to be Board President during two difficult ministerial changes.)



As you know, we faced a major disaster when our Washington Street church burned in 1984. I wondered how some of the UU members dealt with that issue in light of our current troubles. Some of those same families are still an active part of today's congregation, including the McMillans, the Harters, the Summervilles and the Heaps.

After the fire, the community at large reached out to offer support, and we were able to use other spaces for our services - including the WWNY studios - while our new building was being constructed. Were it not for COVID and the need to hold Zoom services right now anyway, I'm sure that we could find another space right now to be holding in-person services elsewhere until our building is restored.

But what many don't realize now is that even before the fire occurred, All Souls was facing some serious decisions about the condition of the stone church and the expenses incurred with the energy and maintenance costs of a very large building. Even more so, we were totally unaware that the wooden beams next to the heat pipes made the fire almost inevitable.

So we studied, we planned, and we rose back up from the ashes like the phoenix. I have no doubt that as we face the transitions and the decisions that our church faces currently - not just about the building but about all the other considerations that all religions are facing today - that we WILL persevere. As the Kripalu Yoga Fellowship expressed to us in a letter at the time, "Yes, the church was lovely, truly a landmark and not easy to relinquish; yet more beautiful is your spirit of openness, kindness and utter dedication to seeking the truth. We know that this will sustain all of you, and that you will come through stronger than before."

-Frances Mercer



Ask Building and Grounds

What do you see are the problems we need to address at the church? HM

We will need estimates from a few contractors familiar with stonework and can do it without shifting the windows. Ask around, give me names so that the instructions for

each contractor will be consistent.

The problem under the northside sanctuary windows is that our original construction contractor did not place the water-resistant sheathing (Tyvek) on the exterior plywood. NONE!!! I am beyond appalled.

Water has been seeping through micro cracks in the concrete windowsills for years. There was a lot of mold.

Diego opened the inside wall 2 years ago; the exterior plywood was so deteriorated that it could be taken out in fistfuls from the inside. Diego encapsulated from the inside as best he could. He said that would work for a couple years but the right solution would be to take down the wall to be able to seal the studs from the outside.

The water seepage continues to enter the wall studs through the outside edge. They are rotting from the outside inward and eventually there will be catastrophic failure. Let's be preemptive here.

Repairs MUST be from the outside. The stonewall must be removed first.

This is sad, but necessary to save the building. RC

It was my understanding, from the Blessed Cliff Schneider, maybe 15 years ago, that the large Windows north of the sanctuary were recalled by the mfr because the gaskets leaked, and water could be and probably had leaked underneath these windows going behind the stonework, and that that was a Very Bad Thing. We had not gotten notice of the recall earlier. The Blessed Cliff waved his hand; the defective windows were replaced, together with a few exposed boards. The new Windows may not admit more moisture now. JH

Personally I'd prefer no stones there to rotted studs there. Maybe we have enough decorative rock? WA

The BCS (Cliff) also advised that the outside windowsills MUST be kept free of snow to minimize rotting of the wood around and adjacent to the windows. Another preemptive measure. From time to time, I have passed this wisdom on, with little to no lasting effect. Did the stone wall issue arise after the previous "flood"? If it could be documented that the water from that event was responsible, perhaps Church Mutual would cover that necessary repair! I would hate to interfere with the external aesthetic by removing the stones. JH

Rebecca has pointed out that we should take out the stones which are alongside the north side of the sanctuary, due to moisture inside the wall caused by the original contractor who didn't install weep holes so any moisture could seep out. I know a couple of carpenters back in Croghan who might do this. Shall I and others seek quotes?

Indoor plumbing seems to be different than installing maple sap tubing systems, but I wonder whether the freezing above the coat closet happened there because this is near the plastic vent pipe going up to the flat roof. That opening is letting warm air escape there, no? And isn't the need for venting due to the varying ambient air pressure? Couldn't we save the loss of warm air by having the vent pipe inside the building. How about a plastic pipe which attaches to the water line at its highest <above the microwave?> and goes up to the peak of the roof, using the space above the folding screen (between sanctuary and eatin' hall). WA

There will be a crew to pack and place everything in the storage container. Significant individuals maintaining some of our materials have been verbally included in this discussion. A storage container will be ordered, and our furniture and packed materials will be stowed by a moving crew. The books will be stored in the RE hallway.

This will be included in the proposed costs.

Every time I go into the church, I want to cry ...RC

Found some water leak coming from interior soffit I'm assuming is from ice dams or sky lights. Areas that seem affected are the minister's office, archive room and wondering area as of right now.

As of yesterday I did a moisture test and interiors were between 7-8 points while exteriors were reading 8-9.

Just wanted to let you aware of it and make sure ASUUC knows that we conducted our operation professionally and everything was dry and ready to go.

-Diego Aguilar (Contractor)

Feb. 7 Anything we can submit to Church Mutual re: the leaks in the RE Wing?

The quality of the metal roofing (ie good, better, best) will dictate how long the roof will last.

Is there a skylight in the men's room? JH

Feb 7—The water sensor that we got from Church Mutual was going off this evening. We (Till, Jesús and me) responded.

It was sitting on the windowsill in the nursery where water was dripping through the soffit.

Aguilar and crew had filled it with furniture. We had to move some of the furniture into the hallway to get it out.

The unit was moved to the bookkeeper's office to dry out (for 24 hours). We will reset it at that time.

All is well again; except, the soffits are leaking.

The leaks through the soffits cannot be solved with heat tape; can't be installed now anyway.

The roof is a mess and needs replacement. The insulation needs work too. The only real solution is another roof *without* the skylights. I know the skylights are really nice and we love them. But on the eastern end of Lake Ontario, in a high snow fall area that also gets very high velocity winds. I don't think the architect understood the windstorms we get here at all. It was very foolish to ever put them in the building design.

I can't see where they let in all that much light, maybe 5%, a\the vast majority of the light comes through the huge windows. Then there is the heat loss from them and the damaged insulation; it is soaking wet and useless. The damaged insulation is the reason for the ice block that is running the whole length of the south RE roof soffit. The wood under it may be rotting too.

A couple years ago Tibbles quoted about \$15K to replace with a metal roof without skylights; \$30K+ with them.

We will not stop having these very expensive and repetitive damage problems until the roof is constructed and functions properly for our climate.

However, the skylight in the ladies' room might be maintained. There is a different system of sky light that may work better than these onsite constructed skylights. One won't be too expensive, the cost for 12 will be prohibitive.

Obviously, we need to do something and make a decision within the next couple of weeks. Scheduling a roofer for this year will be difficult and will need to go out to bid. It won't be as difficult to replace it as the sanctuary/social hall roof; the length is shorter.

I know this is hard to take in, but I think we all know this is the only real solution. RC

Feb. 7 From what I understand, this is a maintenance thing.... insurance doesn't cover that. I'd recommend the same roof as the sanctuary.

No skylight in the men's room. That I remember. Don't try to hang out there. Till says no skylight in there. RC

Feb. 8 There IS a skylight in the men's room. I remember many times being in the stall using only the ambient light; one time Jim came into the room and flicked on the electric and I noticed that it became twice as light. I think that it is centered about three feet beyond the entrance, or above the paper towel dispenser. If the skylight in the women's room is above the first stall, it could be one skylight over all. [Wasn't that a phrase in the "Hobbit"?]WA

Feb. 8 I just spoke with Stan Tibbles. He will be by Friday morning and is going to give us an estimate. Any other roofers we should call for bids? ... Of course, Stan is one roofer that fully understands what is going on with our roofing systems. ... His crew will be by this spring to correct the leaking. Now is the month to set up for a replacement roof for this year. RC

Feb. 8 I await Ken Tibbles' estimate! We do have some money set aside for building expenses, but if we go over the amount set aside we risk dipping into the money we've saved for paying our next minister. WA

Feb. 12 About two years ago, Warren contacted someone in Lewis County about repairing a roof leak that had been causing water to seep into our house around the edge of the roof in our kitchen and downstairs bathroom. We'd had this water seepage for years and hadn't been able to figure out what was causing it. This guy came and painted something tan all over the edges of the roof where it was leaking and IT WORKED. We haven't had a leak since. EA

Feb. 12 There isn't a substance you can paint on that would help, it's the windage and precipitation under the shingles that introduces the moisture, in addition the soffits and poor insulation lead to just about all the problems we have had including the flood. The Rfp will cover all that. TF

Feb. 12 This isn't tarring. The substance is painted on — but it's not tar and it's not a form of caulk. Something totally different.EA

Feb. 12 The roof tarring has already been tried previously with poor result which led to the Sanctuary roof replacement. The same applies to the RE roof and skylights.TF

Feb 12 Maybe we should set up a temporary office in what's now the bookkeeping office tomorrow. Would it be possible to set up the printer and office computer there? Seems to me we'll need to be able to use the printer and copier occasionally over the next few months. We'll surly need them for the pledge drive in March. EA



Photos by Diego Aguilar.

And more photos: boxing up day February 26.

Photos by Sarah O'Connell.





Every Month at All Souls

CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans)

CUUPS will resume meetings when the building reopens.

And Every Week at All Souls

The basket 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 Hospice and Planned Parenthood. Each organization receives 1/4 of the uncommitted funds for the year.

Unitarian Universalist Association

General Assembly: The Unitarian Universalist Association's Annual Meeting



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MULTIPLATFORM / PORTLAND • 2022

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must [certify](#) annually to have voting delegates

Multi-Platform General Assembly

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. That remains true even when we cannot gather physically. In 2021, GA had more than 4,000 registered attendees participate from remote locations around the world. Although we give up the face-to-face interaction and hugs that are prevalent when we meet in-person, we retain our dedication to community and make our experience more accessible and more environmentally sustainable.

In 2022, we will have the option of meeting online or in-person! For those who enjoyed the convenience and accessibility of remote participation, General Assembly will continue to offer virtual attendance with robust programming and enhanced delegate discussion tools. For those who have been missing the physical experience, GA 2022 will also feature face-to-face interactions, hanging banners, a browsable exhibit hall, meals with friends old and new, local site attractions, and more! **Join us June 22 - 26, 2022 online or in-person in Portland, Oregon.**

All GA attendees and exhibitors are required to provide proof of Covid-19 Vaccination for in-person attendance at General Assembly. In addition, masking is required and physically distanced seating options will be reserved in our meeting spaces. Currently, free Covid-19 testing is available Monday to Saturday from 8 am - 3 pm, by appointment or walk-in, at a testing site in front of the Oregon Convention Center. Appointments may be [scheduled online](#).

Pastoral Message on the Invasion of Ukraine

By [Rev. Catie Scudera](#), Published on February 24, 2022

At the time of this writing, Russian airstrikes have impacted twelve major Ukrainian cities, and tens of thousands of Russian troops and tanks have invaded the borders of the smaller nation. Significant fighting and damage has been reported in Chernobyl, where radioactive waste could again poison the region. Surely already, many military personnel and civilians have been severely injured or killed.

Our Unitarian Universalist faith challenges us to affirm and promote justice, equity, and compassion in human relations (our Second Principle), the use of the democratic process in society at large (our Fifth Principle), and the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all (our Sixth Principle). Though we may not be able to have a direct impact or influence on the war Russia has begun, we are not powerless. We can actively call on our elected officials to protect Ukrainian civilians and work for a solution to this conflict that honors both peace and freedom. We can be careful to avoid believing and sharing disinformation and “fake news.” We can offer our care and support to Ukrainians in our local community, and resist assuming all Russians and Russian-Americans agree with the choices of the Russian government and military. And, we can root ourselves in our personal and communal spiritual practices to retain a peaceful presence in our day-to-day lives.

To read more, go to <https://uuneedham.org/pastoral-message-on-the-invasion-of-ukraine/>

All Souls UU Church Board of Trustees

President: Heather Winn
Vice President: Robert South Roberts.asuuc@gmail.com
Secretary: Pat Sutherland
Treasurer: Eleanor Allen eleanora.asuuc@gmail.com
Trustee: Rebecca Carr rebeccac.asuuc@gmail.com
Trustee: Shannon Starkweather-Burke
Trustee: Catherine Burns catherineb.asuuc@gmail.com
Trustee: Joanne Harter

Staff

Office Administrator: Volunteers
Custodian: John Crupi
Music: Toni Zygadlo
Childcare: Kim Davis
Religious Education: Frances Mercer

Board meetings are usually held the third 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, harrierm@allsoulsuu.org
Office Administrator M, W, F, 10-1
Phone (315) 788-2742
E-mail: allsoulsuuchurch@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.allsoulsuu.org>

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 March 2022

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.
- 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.