

ALL SOULS NEWS -September 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/AllSoulsUWWatertownNY

SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:30 A.M.

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

September 4: No service scheduled. Enjoy the Labor Day weekend!

September 11: Joanne Harter will lead our traditional ingathering **Water and Rock Service**, either entirely by zoom, or in the sanctuary, if it's ready.



September 18: Rev. David Weissbard returns with another informative service, either by zoom or in person.

September 25: Check the weekly post!

REFLECTIONS from Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt, Our Transition Consultant

I spent the last few weeks in the throes of relocation, surrounded by boxes, piles of things to keep, a too-small pile of things to discard (especially books: I resolve each time I move to downsize my library, I carefully go through all the books, and usually end up choosing to get rid of, at most, three of them. Sigh). Dust motes rise in the sunlight, evidence of my moving items I have probably not touched since the last time I relocated.

As I heard news, and saw photos, of your repairs ongoing in your building, I wondered if maybe you, as well, are going through a time of relocation, not picking up and moving to another place, but seeing your church home so undone and redone that it feels a bit like a relocation. It will look the same for the most part—but you have been unable to use it for so long, and the work will have changed some elements, so that it will also feel new, different.



Congregations often experience transitions in a similar fashion, as a time when traditions are upended, when some elements of church life get abandoned, as though a kind of downsizing was happening that can leave a congregation with a sense of being less, of having less. The whole place, all your ways of being together in community, can seem to be in disarray.

And because congregations are living entities, this process of sorting and discarding and overturning and raising the dust all around will bring new life and growth. As you reflect on the questions your Transition Team is sharing with you, may the dust stirred up not be so great that you are unable to see one another still on the journey with you, may you not be too hasty to insist on keeping or discarding elements that define who you are, and may you find hope in the new life that is already coming towards you.

Faithfully,
Kathy

The Following Are Questions Posed by Rev. Dr. Hurt

Please read the questions, answer them, then send your answers to the Transitions Team, Sarah O'Connell, Eleanor Allen, Harriet McMillan

QUESTIONS FOR CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS

1. Tell a story about a time you were proud of All Souls UU, proud to be part of this congregation.
2. Tell a story about a time you saw All Souls miss a key opportunity, a chance to make a difference in the lives of its members and/or in the larger community.
3. During the time of the building being closed for gathering, what have you missed most about church? What have you come to appreciate even more about church?
4. During the time the church has been without consistent ministerial leadership, what do you see has been missing that would likely have been present if a minister had been on staff?
5. What aspects of church life do you believe are working well and perhaps do not require the presence of a minister in order to be effective?
6. There is presently a shortage of ministers. What different arrangements for ministry would you be willing to consider (e.g., shared with another congregation, mostly remote ministry with occasional visits, less than fulltime, less than halftime)?



Collector

Warren Allen

Thanks for Your Support

Thanks to all for your support of our congregation, as we each try to reorganize after the stresses of Covid anxiety, plus the added tensions of our recovery from our flood.

Warren Allen

During our prior 2021-22 FY, we operated with pledges of \$38,702 from 35 families (including four who moved away last year, plus two others who had moved away in prior years, from our center of civilization). From those 35 pledgers, we received about 95% of those pledged dollars; some sent extra, some didn't achieve their own goal.

For this Fiscal Year starting in July, we got two new pledgers, but four living here plus all of those who moved away have not yet pledged, and the new total of now 25 pledges is \$34,165. Hopefully the content of our work and of our Sunday gatherings will bring in more of your friends and acquaintances. This FY is now 15% over, and we have brought in \$10,545 of those pledges, or 31% of the pledge card totals. Also, we have brought in \$315 of unpledged donations, plus \$1 towards our next purchase of fair-trade coffee. And we have gathered \$110 for our Generosity Project, which usually comes in cash, and which is divided half towards our own expenses, and the other half which we divide between this year's other two charities. Of course we haven't received any rent donations this FY. Our major renter has been Ann Halback who has enjoyed helping with t'ai chi here for years or decades. She and her friends have been exercising at Asbury and over in the Park. I noticed by accident that Ann has been passing on to us most of the donations which she received; my own suggestion would be that since her training had costs, when we welcome her back we do so at no more than half her donations (as Asbury did with her).

Feel free to ask me non-confidential questions. Let's bring our friends and acquaintances when the doors open. Thanks for your support!!



Historian

Sarah O'Connell

Ten years ago in September, We Welcomed Rev. Guy LaMothe to Our Church

The following comes from the newsletter at the time.

September 9: Our Ingathering Water and Rock Welcome Back Service will be led by **Joanne Harter and Connie Holberg**. Bring a rock or water sample from your summer travels to place in our common bowl. Meet our new minister,

Rev. Guy LaMothe. Enjoy a potluck luncheon.

September 16 – “Worship=Wonder+Wisdom.” Our common worship is the central activity of our community. At its most basic it involves “giving shape to worth.” For us it is the defining moment when we know most clearly that we are a religious community. Our worship is the occasion when we re-establish and define our community. Our worship is a public, ritual response to that which has cast us into being, sustains us in being, has the power to transform ourselves, and receives us back unto itself when life has used us up. Gather in blessed community as we explore our Unitarian Universalist understands of what it means to Worship.

People News

Sitting Up and Taking Nourishment

Till Fritzsching had an unplanned trip to the hospital over the weekend of the 22nd. He's home and doing well.

Around the Church

Buildings and Grounds

Progress in the re-restoration of the church continues. At least once a week there is an onsite "Walkabout" to document the progress and answer any questions the contractor has. The painting is nearly done. Then there is a lot of detail work, base boards, connect kitchen equipment, etc. And cleaning and cleaning. and moving boxes. ...

There was an issue with the expansion crack in the informal lounge floor. That floor will be re-epoxied before we can use the building. It is a high traffic area.

Work in the back three RE rooms is about to start. The RE classroom will serve as a staging area for all the things in them while work is performed (unless some items can be returned to the main area). The main area of the building will be fully accessible by the time that work begins.

We had some trouble with the lawnmower. It is about 14 years old and still runs (!!!), but pieces are starting to fall off. We will need to consider buying another for next year or hire a lawn service.

Kevin Burke very graciously met with us to analyze our security system. He advises the system is very old and should be replaced. He put together a schematic for an RPO to use during the bidding process.

The wish list has camera/TV surveillance, WIFI for cellphone apps, and different codes for each person with a key.

There was a leak in the social hall ceiling. Initially we thought it was from the upper roof vent, but this is most likely from the clerestory windows. The wood frame is deteriorated. There have been estimate requests of a couple contractors.

The RE roof needs to be replaced ASAP or be prepared for winter and replaced next year. During this reconstruction the ceilings in the minister's office, RE classroom and archive room have been repaired and painted. The south facing (window) inside walls were replaced and finished. This was due to water damage and mold. Roof replacement (metal) will avert re-damaging the ceiling and walls. A couple bids have come in.

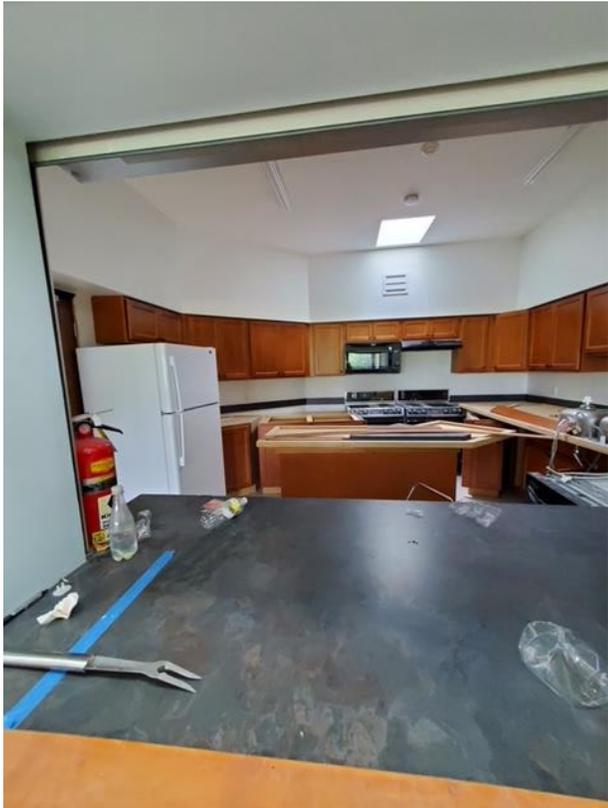
Thanks to Kevin Burke for evaluating our security system (very old, possibly the first and only) and helping with the search for a new one.

-Rebecca Carr

Sanctuary Atrium Windows



And Now a Walkabout the Repairs Courtesy of Rebecca Carr





Thanksgiving Dinner?

Should we have another Thanksgiving dinner at the church? What do you think? We're looking for your thoughts.

Changes!

Catherine Burns has been appointed chair of the Memorial Garden Committee, and is stepping aside from Outreach. Serving with her are Robert South, Sarah O'Connell and Paula Trainham. The Membership and Activities Committee is looking for members. Currently serving are Robert South, Kelly Sackheim and Harriet McMillan. Want to serve? Call Heather Winn.

Are You Looking for Covid Tests?

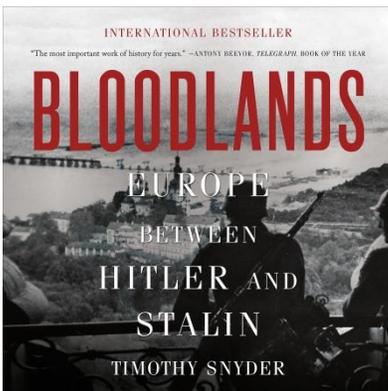
Covid tests are available at public health, in the lobby of the Church of the Nazarene on Thompson Boulevard, and through the United State Postal Service (go to the USPS website for easy directions.)

October Road Cleanup

All Souls semi-annual cleanup will be Saturday, October 15 at 9 am. Please come and help clean our adopted highway from the church out to Route 12. If you want to participate, sign up on the clipboard which will start being circulated in the Eaton Social Hall. Wear work clothes and sturdy footwear. We will provide vests, hard hats, and gloves. Bring a "picker-upper" if you want. With four groups of 2 people each, it takes just a little over an hour, and makes for a great photo op! Thanks - Sarah O.



Common Read for the Fall



In an effort to understand the war in Ukraine, I read *Bloodlands* by Dr. Timothy Snyder. Previously I had been aware of Hitler's abuse of Jews and assorted others, but did not realize that he actively persecuted Ukrainians. I was aware of the Great Famine inflicted on Ukrainians by Stalin. This book is an integrated history, which will us understand the current crisis.

Dr. Snyder is a history professor at Yale. He speaks 5 slavic languages, as well as others, so his research has been done in original languages.

The book may be difficult to obtain. I got mine through NCLS, which had to go out of the region to get it. I do know you can get it online. I

propose that we take the fall to read it, and discuss it in January. We can move the schedule around if need be.

-Harriet McMillan

Every Month at All Souls

CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans)

will resume when we can use our building again.

And Every Week at All Souls

The basket for your donations to the Urban Mission Food Pantry are always available for your donations.

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

Unitarian Universalist Association

UU the Vote: Squads

Sunday, August 28, 2022 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM ET, 3pm CT, 2pm MT, 1pm PT

If this time doesn't work for you, let us know of your interest on our [Squad Commitment Form](#)

Join us for our national volunteer huddle to join our work and build active teams across all of our issues. In this 2-hour volunteer activation, you will learn how we are organizing UUs across the country, have an opportunity to meet our volunteer team leaders, and sign up for volunteer shifts and trainings. Come grow your skills and take collective action to UU the Vote, Create Climate Justice, fight for abortion and gender justice with Uplift Action, and work towards decriminalization.

Community

Do you need help choosing a medical alert system? Go to assistedliving.org., then look for products, and find medical alert. This notice is not intended to be an endorsement of any products, rather to help you get information about a product you may need.

All Souls UU Church Board of Trustees

President: Heather Winn
Vice President: Amy Summerville-Loomis
Secretary: Sarah O'Connell
Treasurer: Eleanor Allen
Trustees: Joanne Harter
Trustee: Catherine Burns
Trustee: Janine LaClaire
Trustee: Shannon Starkweather-Burke

Staff

Office Administrator:
Sexton: John Krupi
Music: Toni Zygadlo
Childcare: Kim Davis
Religious Education: Frances Mercer

Board meetings are held the fourth Friday of the month at 9:00 AM via Zoom. Meetings are open to all members of the congregation. For the link, call the church office!

Newsletter Editor, Harriet McMillan, harriem@allsoulsuu.org
Office Administrator M, W, F, 10-1
Phone (315) 788-2742
E-mail: [allsoulsuuchurch@gmail](mailto: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 September 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.