

ALL SOULS NEWS -April 2022
All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church
1330 Gotham St.
Watertown, NY 13601



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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"

April 3- The theme from "Soul Matters" for April is "Awakening". April is a good time to wake up from our winter routine and explore ways to look at our lives and future through fresh eyes.

April 10 – Rev. David Weissbard: “With Liberty and Justice for Some?” In my March sermon on Ukraine, I digressed a bit to talk about Freedom House and its report about the direction in which Democracy is going, and encouraged members of the congregation to explore that organization’s work further . Since then, several social critics have also focused attention on the implications of that same intriguing report. In addition, I saw a film and experienced one of the most moving sermons I have ever heard, which also extended my attention on the impact of Freedom House’s report. So, for my April sermon, I am going to expand further on the state of democracy today and what it means for us.

April 17 – Easter Sunday Remember to wear your Easter bonnets as we look at the wonders of the season. April is more of an awakening to the promises of a north country spring than the vernal equinox in March!

April 24 – Topic to be announced.

What's Happening at the Wondering Center?

Frances Mercer



Again, sorry that we can't be together in the church because of the water damage and restoration work. However, I am excited that there was a planned March activity for everyone—tailgate party outside in the parking lot. Keep submitting those recipes of favorite winter or “Social Hour” recipes for an All Souls “Soul Feeding” Cookbook Originally, I suggested: Let's share our recipes for our favorite winter dishes. But I have expanded that suggestion to share your winter favorites and other favorites, especially the recipes for the foods you have taken to the Sunday social hour that were a big hit. You can also send a drawing. I'll put them all together in an All Souls “Soul Feeding” Cookbook. This is an activity for all ages — I would like to hear from children, youth and adults. Email me at my new email address (mercersarahfrances96@gmail.com) or write me at 179 Bishop Street, Watertown, NY 13601 or even call me at 315-788-4508

A Message from our Transitional Consultant

Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt

I dwell in possibility—Emily Dickinson

Greetings, members and friends of All Souls UU Church! I am delighted to be joining you as a transition consultant, stepping into your journey of discernment as you consider who you are and where you are going as a church. Transition work is a mix of creativity and anxiety, including times of loss and surprising gain, as it bring us , both whenever we are in a personal transition and whenever we are a community in transition to clarity about what matters most to us, and why.

Your board and Transition Team have invited me to spend a few days with you in mid-May so that we have the opportunity to meet one another, worship together, and have some initial conversations about where you stand presently in your transition from your last from settled ministry, and what you envision happening next. While I plan to come with questions to launch those conversations, I invite you to begin gathering your own questions to raise, what you want to ask about church priorities and direction for the future. And I hope we might step into these questions with curiosity more than apprehension, trusting that the community bonds you have with one another and your commitment to your church will help you develop good answers to those questions while deepening your connections.



By way of introduction, I can tell you that I am presently serving as interim minister for Unity Church—Unitarian in Saint Paul, Minnesota, in my fifth year of doing transitional ministry with congregations. Prior to embarking on interim work, I served many years as a settled minister with congregations in California, Ohio, and Michigan. That experience means I can offer you a variety of perspectives on how churches work generally, what seems productive and what is unhelpful, and the choices churches make during times of transition.

I look forward to meeting all of you in person in May, as we begin together a time of dwelling in possibility.

Blessings,
Kathy Hurt

Collector's Notes

Warren Allen

Thanks for being; and thanks for your financial support. On March 20 many of us zoomed in for a very moving sermon which was rebroadcast from a G,A. gathering. The next day I found no new checks in the envelope for deposit, so there was nothing new for the bank. Soon I will do the quarterly statements to all pledgers.



From the Historian's Files

The Ladies (and Gentleman) of All Souls

These lovely people were a very large part of our life at All Souls.
From the left is Frances Vorce, Louise Rhines, Avis Stoddard, Vera Thomas and Paul and Marge Lortie, Joanne Harter's parents.



People News

Farewell to the Huff Family

April and children, August and Vera, will be moving to Austin, Texas, where dad Ray will begin a new position for the army. The ride will take 4 days, with April, Vera and August as well as 2 cats and a dog in the SUV. Ray will follow them in about a month.

Around the Church

WANTED: General Assembly Delegates

The Governance of the Unitarian Universalist Association is based on an annual assembly of delegates from all the congregations. It's sort of like a convention. Larger congregations get more delegates as is fair. There are all kinds of activities like workshops and a couple of worship services every day (in different styles).

But the main event is the business meeting. At this meeting the delegates vote on important measures that the UUA bylaws reserve to the power of the General Assembly. It's kind of like our annual meeting. Among those items addressed are the budget (yawn), things called "Statements of Conscience" and Bylaw Revisions. Bylaw revisions are a multiyear process. Last year, the General Assembly voted to authorize a committee to propose a revision of Article Two of the bylaws. This year that revision, whatever is in it, will be up for a vote.

So what's in Article Two of the UUA bylaws? Here it is.

ARTICLE II Principles and Purposes Section C-2.1. Principles.

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to 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.

The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the

rhythms of nature.

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

Section C-2.2. Purposes.

The Unitarian Universalist Association shall devote its resources to and exercise its corporate powers for religious, educational and humanitarian purposes. The primary purpose of the Association is to serve the needs of its member congregations, organize new congregations, extend and strengthen Unitarian Universalist institutions and implement its principles.

So, not a big deal, just the principles and sources.

All Souls gets two delegates. They can either travel to Portland or participate online. So how do we select our

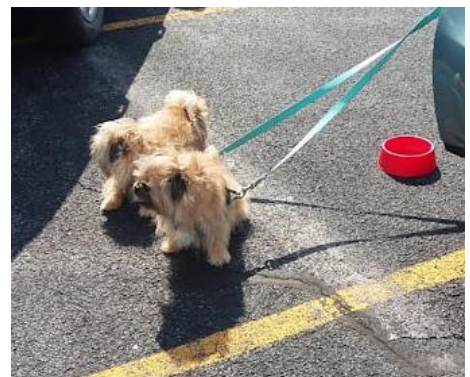
delegates? In the age before Zoom, it's often been whoever wanted to go, confirmed by the board. Recently we've tried formally designating our delegates at the Annual Meeting. You would think that would be appropriate, but here's the problem with that. GA is from June 22nd to June 26th. Our annual meeting is on June 12th. In the run-up to GA, they send out all kinds of materials and orientation packets and registration paperwork. Waiting until the annual meeting means waiting until after the last minute. The board will probably continue to appoint our GA representatives, but perhaps we we should do it more systematically. We should recruit from the congregation. In the past it's been pretty informal. "I heard so and so wanted to go," would be typical. So, please email the church office, allsoulsuuchurch@gmail.com, and enter yourself as a candidate to be one of our GA representatives this year.

-Robert South

Our First Ever TAILGATE PARTY



A break in the rain permitted All Soulers to gather in the parking lot for a tailgate party Saturday, March 19. It had to be postponed from the previous Saturday because of the snowy weather. Photos by Sarah O'Connell







The tailgate goodies.

Below is Netty Palladino's panoramic photo of the event.



Building and Grounds

Rebecca Carr and Till Fritzsching

1. There is progress settling with Church Mutual. There will be a partial check issued soon to pay for the demolition and begin the reconstruction of the walls.
2. Most of our materials have been boxed and stored in the sanctuary/social hall rooms. The remaining heavy furniture will be moved before reconstruction begins.
3. There are bids expected to come in for replacing the RE wing roof in the next couple of days.
4. Harriet McMillan, Joanne Harter and I will act as an ad hoc subcommittee for B&G to address any color or fixture changes that might need to be determined to meet the needs and expectations of our church community. We don't expect a lot of unusual changes; the room colors will be the same or white.

Coming Soon to a Lawn Near You

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church 1330 Gotham Watertown is having a Rummage Sale on the Lawn. Our building is closed for renovation, so everything will be outdoors. This means we will try for May 7th, but if it is raining the rain date will be May 14th. Rain means the weather channel gives greater than 50 percent chance of rain any time between 9am and 5pm Saturday as of Friday. Selling starts at 10 am.



Every Month at All Souls
CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans)
Will resume meeting when the building is open again.

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.

Find Us

You Tube - <https://www.youtube.com/c/ASUUCWatertown> for past services

Instagram- <https://www.instagram.com/allsoulsuwaterdown/>

Telephone - 315-788-2742

World Wide Web - www.allsoulsuu.org

Facebook - www.facebook.com/AllSoulsUUWatertownNY

Unitarian Universalist Association

It's hard to stomach the news from Eastern Europe—the devastation of Ukraine, the refugee crisis, and what appear to be war crimes happening in plain view.

The current crisis is one more iteration of recent mass migrations out of war zones, including families with young children desperate for the basic security of food and shelter. The images of crowded train platforms evoke the horrors of World War II when desperate families left their homes to flee coming onslaught.

I'm quoting [the UUA's recent statement](#) when I say that we are also mindful that the authoritarian, imperialistic ideology seeking to deny Ukrainians their rights to live free and independently, under the false, anti-Semitic guise of “denazification,” is directly tied to colonialist ideologies globally and here in the U.S. that endanger the health, well-being, and lives of BIPOC individuals, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and other marginalized populations.

There is so much that we can do. We at the UUA encourage Unitarian Universalists to contribute to relief efforts through the [Unitarian Universalist Service Committee \(UUSC\)](#). UUSC will be working with the **Hungarian Unitarian Church** and other partners in Eastern Europe to provide aid to those displaced by sudden war.

UUSC has a long history of refugee support work, stretching back to their earliest days when they helped Jewish refugees escape Nazi persecution. Through our attention and generosity, we can save lives and relieve suffering.

May our generosity assure those in harm's way that they are not alone in their trials.

May the ministry of our congregations and the lived faith of individual Unitarian Universalists contribute to a more just and peaceful world.

General Assembly Registration

General Assembly In-person Registration is required for all live GA events and programming taking place in Portland, Oregon. In-person registration includes access to virtual content available on the GA app, powered by Whova. In-person registration is the same process for delegates and non-delegates; delegates may register before or after determining their delegate status. General Assembly registration is required for all in-person participants, including in-person delegates. Register now! Full Virtual Registration is required for access to virtual GA programming, including workshops, worship services, the Ware Lecture, featured speakers, Opening and Closing celebrations, exhibits, entertainment, and networking. Virtual GA programming will be streamed on the GA app, powered by Whova. Delegates will use the GA Delegate Platform for discussion and voting during General Sessions. Virtual registration is the same process for delegates and non-delegates; delegates may register before or after determining their delegate status. Register starting March 1 Business-only Virtual Registration provides access to the GA Delegate Platform for discussion and voting during General Sessions. Payment is not required but a donation to offset production and platform costs is suggested. Business only registrants will access to delegate chat rooms but will not have access to GA programming, the GA app, networking opportunities, or the exhibit hall. GA delegates are strongly encouraged to register as Full Virtual Registrants. Register starting March 1

Arbor Day Plans in Watertown, Friday April 29

On Arbor Day, Friday April 29th, Tree Watertown will hold a short ceremony and plant a Ginkgo tree in front of the Flower Memorial Library on Washington Street. The next day, April 30th, we'll be planting 75 trees in several locations in Thompson Park and along Olmstead Drive. Everyone is invited to watch the tree planting in front of the Flower Memorial Library and to assist in planting the trees in Thompson Park. We usually get families, including children, from all over the area for the twice yearly tree plantings. The city prepares the planting sites in advance and there will be refreshments provided by the Rotary Club. Tree Watertown is Watertown's volunteer citizen advisory group. We meet monthly on the second Thursday at 4:40PM in the city council meeting room in City Hall. Watertown is a member of Tree City USA. This year we're also sponsoring the NYS Urban Forestry Conference at JCC July 22 - 23, 2022. More information, including exact times, will be in the weekly post. The picture is from the tree planting behind the fairgrounds last fall.

—Eleanor Allen



Senior Care Assisted Living Resources Available Online

What follows is a list of assisted living resources which you may find useful, sent to us by Charisse Marcella, Community Outreach, www.assistedliving.org.

- <https://www.assistedliving.org/new-york/>
- <https://www.assistedliving.org/assisted-living-near-me/>
- <https://www.assistedliving.org/cost-of-assisted-living/>
- <https://www.assistedliving.org/senior-housing/>
- <https://www.assistedliving.org/independent-living/>

All Souls UU Church Board of Trustees

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

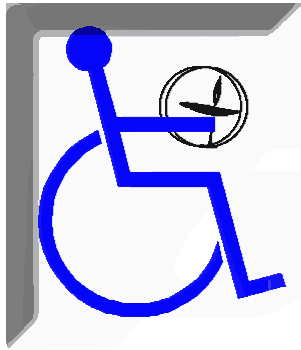
Board meetings are held the fourth Thursday at 9:30 AM via Zoom. Contact the office for the link. Meetings are open to all members of the congregation.

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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.