

ALL SOULS NEWS -July-August 2024

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/AllSoulsUW WatertownNY

SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:30 A.M.

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

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

Summer Services

July 7 - No Service

July 14 - Robert South will bring us up to date about the first principle.

July 21 - Kelly Sackheim: "Expressing Ourselves with Poetry"

Sarah's outdoor Haiku-writing service was such a hit that we want to give everyone an opportunity to write more Haiku. Before we start writing ourselves, we'll have selections from the recently published "101 Poems" read by the author, Connor Newcombe, a young poet with autism (planned to be in-person, but we'll pre-record a video as a back-up plan), who will be accompanied by his mentor, author Don Mesibov. After the service, folks can borrow Kelly's copy of the book, reviewed by a New York State retired English Literature teacher with "Some of Connor's poems are personal musings; many of them use allusions to history, literature, art, and popular culture. Some of them have a rhythm and flow that reveal Connor's ear for language. We should be very proud of his accomplishment, especially because it also reveals his pain and struggle with his neurodiversity."

July 28 –Lorraine Payette, on the difference between being “pro-life” and “anti-abortion.”

August – Stay Tuned

September 1 – No Service

Bicentennial Conclusion

Sarah O'Connell



We ended our Bicentennial celebration with a tour to some important Universalist locations around Jefferson County. After a lovely lunch provided by the Bicentennial committee chair (Harriet), assisted by Mimi, about 22 of us jumped in several vehicles and were off! First stop was the Henderson Historical Society, once a location of the First Universalist church of Henderson. We were treated to a presentation from Eric Anderson and Elaine Scott from the Society about the establishment of the church in the early 1800s. We also got to view some of the beautiful stained glass windows created by Harry Harwood of Ogdensburg.

Our next destination was the site of the first Universalist place of worship in the county, the Luff building in Sackets Harbor on Broad Avenue. Sadly, the heavy downpour prevented us from hearing more about this site but the building, now a residence, still stands. I doubt the current residents know about the historical significance of their abode!

Harriet McMillan gets a lesson in how to ring the church bell at the Henderson Historical Society during the first stop on the Bicentennial Caravan conclusion June 23, 2024.

Our final stop was at the First Universalist Church of Dexter which is now the Dexter Historical Society. Our visit happened to coincide with the dedication of the Last Station, a recent addition to the building that contains historical artifacts of the Dexter fire department. Several of us toured the church building itself, and the historian John Stano had placed items for us to look at.



A Harry Harwood stained glass window. The studio, in Ogdensburg, is still in operation.

President's Message

Robert South

The Coming Year

Straight to business. Here are the challenges I see facing the congregation at this time. All of them interact with and impact each other.

1. Charge from the Congregation to Develop Long Term Goals for the Church.
2. Respond to changed UUA article 2.
3. Another Bylaw review.
4. Minister Search.
5. Building Stabilization.
6. Participation Decline.
7. Children's Program.

I've shared more detail about my ideas on these topics with the board. But all this isn't my decision. The committees, the board and the congregation decide. I think my role is to ask the



questions, not to answer them. To inspire timely answers and decisions and plans, my opinions can be a starting point, not an end point.

We need to pick a direction and get moving and then adjust as we go if necessary. My process will be similar to the existing one. We have an order of business and we follow it. A certain formality of process can prevent meetings getting derailed, but needs a light hand to allow room for communication and hashing out of healthy disagreement.

I will be more up front about my opinions than a neutral moderator, and bring ideas or topics that need addressing, but I think that's a right of any board member and the president is a board member. The president is held responsible for what happens but has no power to match that responsibility if limited to being a neutral moderator. Yet the president shouldn't be a one man show or dictator.

Among other possible projects I'd like to hold a congregational conversation every month. These are sounding out sessions to get the opinion of the congregation on some topic without a formal meeting. Traditionally they are after social hour, and historically less well attended than even a worship service. Lack of data is itself data. My first one will be on July 14th following a service I will lead. The topic will be the long-term goals for the church. In general, I think long-term survival is an achievable principle to aim at in our more specific goals. We aren't going to become a megachurch. This is marathon.

Collectorland



Warren Allen

During our Annual Meeting held this June, the team of Jackson & Allen used many of its fingers and toes, and found that all of our votes which we marked down those weeks added up to the following: 26 votes for Citizens Advocates; 25 for Zoo New York; 17 for Workers Center of CNY; 12 for the Hospice up the street; 4 for NAMI; and 3 for Volunteer Lawyers. Following our tradition of many years, we will keep track of the loose currency and coins put into the collection plates, plus any checks marked "Generosity Project", and in about a year at the end of the next FY, those funds will be again divided one-half towards our own expenses, and one quarter each towards these top-two other charities for next year of Advocates and our Zoo.

So how much are we talking about? Eleven months ago, that FY's Generosity Project ended with \$2498.13 including a quarter for those other charities. And with two Sundays left in this FY, this fund has now \$2255.70.



Kelly Sackheim's home on Sandy Hollow Road burned on Sunday, June 23, the result of a lightning strike. Kelly lost the house and her two cats. The hydro plant was not affected.

Historian

Sarah O'Connell

We've had a long-standing history of having services or events centering around poetry. Sometimes it's a presentation, such as Rev. Guy's service on May Sarton, in August 2013. In 2010, Karen West was hosting a workshop on creating an on-the-spot poem. Winnie Dushkind was often a presenter of a summer service on poems, including favorites that people could bring in to share. Much of the readings in our hymnal are by poets like Mary Oliver. During the Covid/building construction years (July 2022), Sarah O'Connell hosted a safely-distanced gathering on the picnic tables for members and friends to share their own haikus. This summer, Kelly will be hosting a service featuring poetry - enjoy! Here's one of the 2022 haikus by Joanne that evokes late summer:

Milkweed growing tall,
Blossoms draw pollinators.
Monarch stops to drink.

Building and Grounds

Rebecca Carr

We are still looking for a new groundskeeper. Due to a gross misunderstanding, Jesús backed away from the position. Perhaps by the time this newsletter is issued, we will have hired someone.

We have three new picnic tables. Thanks to Mimi, Christian and John for their much needed and appreciated assistance during the construction process. The tables are ready to use but need some minor trimming to be completed.

There has been a lot of discussion about the siding on our building. Solutions and bids are being collected. Names of siding companies that do commercial work are requested at this time.

It was finally made know that the men's room needs a flush valve replaced. A plumber will be out to replace it.

If any church attendee finds anything around the church in disrepair, a mess or other reason that something needs special attention PLEASE let the Buildings and Grounds Committee know and the appropriate solution will be applied.

The committee includes **Warren Allen, Harriet McMillian, Joanne Harter and me, Rebecca Carr** (chair). Anyone else may transfer the information to this committee in a timely manner.

To whomever is leaving the hoses out in the yard, please roll them up and store them off of the grass when you are finished using them. Thank you.

Musicking

Kelly Sackheim

Northern New York Community Foundation (NNYCF) was approached about grant funding for a new Town Park Concert Series in Philadelphia before a decision was made about the SLC Arts re-grant program funding for our Musicking series. NNYCF has awarded funding for the 3-concert series in Philadelphia, and will consider funding the balance of the Musicking series based substantially on the success of this grant writer in demonstrating that we are reaching an audience beyond our own members. So, for the summer, everyone is encouraged to bring their friends to these other musical events. Keep an eye on the Weekly Post as well - this grant writer will also be submitting an application for an NNYCF grant for the North Country Connections Orchestra (on our original Musicking Experiences grant application) to perform a free concert at the music-themed Swingtime Mini Golf in Potsdam, with the additional attraction of \$2 off attendees' price of a round of mini golf before or after the concert!

Trinity Concerts

FREE Weekly Musical Entertainment starts THIS Thursday - Trinity Episcopal Church has had its Outdoor Summer Concerts for many years, that moves inside in the event of rain, and occasional other free concerts. Each week except the 4th of July will be outdoors at 6:30 p.m. Kelly will be playing with the Garland City Fiddlers on June.

Toni Zygadlo and Jordan Davidson to Perform Together this Summer

Tony Zygadlo and Jordan Davidson will be performing together 3 different times and locations over the summer. They will be performing at the following times:

July 18 Trinity Summer Concert Series 6:30 p.m. Trinity Church, **Watertown**

All concerts are FREE* and held outdoors on the south lawn (except for 6/13 which is inside the church).



- Concessions are FREE* of charge: hot dogs, hamburgers, fries, chips, nachos, popcorn, drinks.
- Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets.
- Parking is available in the city lot off Stone and Clinton streets or on Sherman Street. The 200 block of Sherman Street is closed at 6:15 pm, just prior to each concert.
- In the event of inclement weather, concerts are moved indoors.

July 24 **Adams** Revitalization Summer Concert Series 6:30 p.m.

- All concerts are FREE* and held outdoors in the pavilion behind the fire hall
- Concessions are available for purchase
- Bring your own lawn chairs
- Parking is available behind the fire hall
- In the event of inclement weather, concerts are moved to the Sixtown Meeting Hall down the street

July 28 Norwood Village Green Concert Series, **Norwood**, NY 7:00 p.m.

- All concerts are FREE* and held in the Liotta band Shell on the Village Green
- Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets

Town Park Concert Series in Philadelphia, New York!

*0.9 miles from the traffic light at Indian River HS (off Route 11 on County Road 29/Plank Road)



Food & Beverages for Sale
Bring your Lawn Chairs or
Picnic Blankets!

*Rain Location: Legion Pavilion in Village of Philadelphia

Tuesdays at 6:30 pm

July 9 – Fort Drum Jazz Ensemble

July 30 – Garland City String Orchestra

August 6 – Garland City Fiddlers

Bring the Whole Family!

**FREE
ADMISSION**



These concerts made possible by a generous donation from the



Northern New York
Community Foundation

About the Norwood Concerts

NORWOOD -- The 51st annual Norwood Village Green Concert Series presents Jordon Davidson, Toni Zyglado, Maria Tartaglia and Jeffrey Hinkle on Sunday, July 28 at 7 p.m. A vocal concert with music from Broadway to contemporary gems. The series is a 501-C3 organization and can take donations online through the web site (nvgcs.org) or directly by mail: Norwood Village Green Concert Series, 3 Bicknell St., Norwood, NY

13668. For further information about performers, the series, and donation opportunities peruse the series web site: nvgcs.org.

Unitarian Universalist Opinions

Two members of All Souls were our delegates (via Zoom) for the annual General Assembly this year. Each came away with different opinions about the proceedings.

Both voted against the amendment, as they had announced to the congregation they would.

Eleanor Allen

General Assembly Results

The revisions to Article II of the UUA Bylaws passed with about 80 percent of the vote.

There were three Articles of Immediate Witness:

World on Fire - passed with about 95% of the vote

Centering Love Amidst the Ongoing Impact of COVID-19 passed with about 86% of the vote.

Solidarity with Palestinians passed with about 73% of the vote.

And there was a resolution of support for the October 7th hostages which passed with about 77% of the vote.

More information can be found in this article in the online UU

World: <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/uua-article-ii-passes-general-assembly-result-unitarian-universalism-bylaws-vote-values-statement>

The full provisions of the new Article II of the UUA Bylaws will be posted on the bulletin board at church, and we'll have opportunity to discuss what it all means for us at All Souls over the next few months.

Robert South

General Assembly Results

The revisions to Article 2 of the UUA Bylaws passed with about 80 percent of the vote. The traditional form of the 7 principles and 6 sources is no longer part of the UUA bylaws. Also, there were three "Actions of Immediate Witness" adopted including one calling on President Biden to use the Stafford Act to deal with climate change, one packaging calls for an end to mass murder with calling for the "liberation of Palestine" (meaning presumably the entire region, not just the occupied territories), and one calling for congregations to continue to provide for people who are worried about COVID by doing things All Souls is already doing. These passed with 95, 73 and 86 percent respectively. Perhaps we will discuss all this at greater length, but this is a quick note just to share the basic results. Actions of Immediate Witness have no real power, but they are a declaration of the sentiment of General Assembly that delegates are expected to share with their congregations. There was also a responsive resolution expressing support for the hostages (77 percent). I'll post the text of these items on the bulletin board. The Article 2 changes in particular did get some slight changes of wording since the version that has been posted up there.

Every Month at All Souls

Game Night

Join us on the third Friday of the month from 5-7 to play games. There are many games available for us all to play. We provide pizza, and you can feel free to bring a treat.

And Every Week at All Souls

The basket for your donations to the Urban Mission Food Pantry is 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. This year we chose Hospice and the Zoo. Each organization receives 1/4 of the uncommitted funds for the year.

.All Souls UU Church Board of Trustees

President: Robert South
Vice President: Amy Summerville-Loomis
Secretary: Karen Hall
Treasurer: Eleanor Allen
Trustee: Janine LaClair
Trustee: Kelly Sackheim
Trustee: Alabama Dane
Trustee: Erica Gardner

Staff

Custodian: John Crupi
Music: Toni Zygadlo
Religious Exploration:

Board meetings are held the fourth Saturday of the month at 9:30 AM by Zoom. Meetings are open to all members of the congregation.

Newsletter Editor, Harriet McMillan, harrietm@allsoulsuu.org

Office Hours: Mon 9-11, Wed 11-1, Fri 1-3

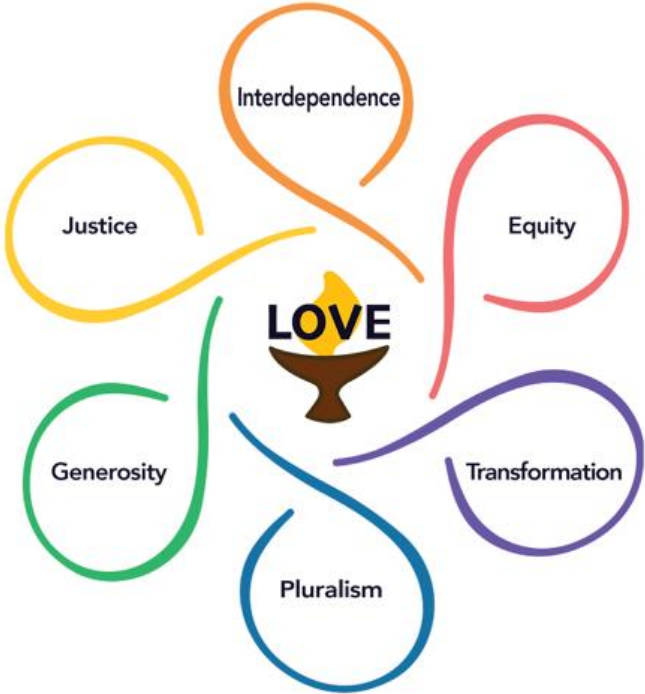
Phone (315) 788-2742

E-mail: [allsoulsuuchurch@gmail](mailto:allsoulsuuchurch@gmail.com)

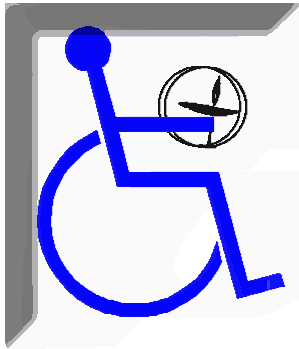
Website: <http://www.allsoulsuu.org>

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

The logo for this year's General Assembly.



All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church
1330 Gotham St.
Watertown, NY 13601
ALL SOULS NEWSLETTER July-August 2024
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.