

ALL SOULS NEWS -November 2024

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church

1330 Gotham St.

Watertown, NY 13601



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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"

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

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.



November Services

November 3 – November 3: Eleanor Allen - "May You Have Ease of Well-Being." As middle class Americans we like to think we're in charge of our lives. But here we are just a few days away from an extremely consequential election that's simply too close to call - with issues such as the right to an abortion; the direction of the war in Ukraine; the war in Gaza; the future direction of the Supreme Court - in the balance. And, on top of it all, we'll be adjusting to a new schedule with Daylight Savings Time ending at 2AM November 3rd. How to cope? For just a few moments this morning, let's try living in the present moment with a Buddhist meditation.

November 10 - Rev. David Weissbard – “Huddled Masses.”

November 17 - Julie Jeffers and Eleanor Allen: “What, if Anything, Can Our Small Congregation Do About Homelessness in Jefferson County?” This service will reflect on two contemporary stories about the intermingling of the sacred and the secular, inviting us to consider how we welcome mystery and wonder, within and beyond sanctuaries on Sunday morning. Rev. Heather Janules will deliver the sermon on screen, with the rest of the service led by Eleanor in person.

November 24 - Rev. Heather Janules, UUA Congregational Life Staff in the New England Region - Mystery’s Meetingplace. Unitarian Universalists often name the experience of “transcending mystery and wonder” as a foundational element of a spiritual life. This service will reflect on two contemporary stories about the intermingling of the sacred and the secular, inviting us to consider how we welcome mystery and wonder, within and beyond sanctuaries on Sunday morning. Rev. Heather Janules will deliver the sermon on screen, with the rest of the service led by Eleanor in person.

From the President’s Desk

October flew by and nothing much new is happening. Since the congregation accepted the board's proposed annual goals, the board hasn't had another meeting. We have just been focused on keeping the lights on, as it were. We have a snow plow contract for this winter. We have hired Bernier and Carr to do a formal building inspection with a written report, but the actual inspection hasn't started yet. They're waiting for cold weather because a thermal camera will be involved. Meanwhile, Diego Aguilar has promised to fix the ceilings, but was waiting for colder weather to focus on indoor work. Mostly lay led worship services are planned for the rest of the year, at least regarding title and leader. Worship attendance declined for a while, but has reached a new normal of about 20 rather than 30. I like to think of this as a flat spot at the bottom of a valley. It rises eventually on the other side. We do that by making the effort, with what we have, to be appealing and keep up the energy--even if withdrawing as we dwindle might be more comfortable. Participation in weeknight activities comes and goes. Craft night is particularly popular. Beyond the congregation, the building is seeing lots of use. Between our own activities, Tai Chi, SAGE, AA, and Little Theater something is going on almost every day. It's particularly good to see CUUPs starting back up. And I want to point out how we are taking care of each other and forming bonds in many informal and unnoticed ways. Those of us who remain huddle closer around the fire.



The Membership and Activities committee floated the idea of doing our traditional Gratitude Day dinner on Friday the 29th of Thanksgiving instead of the traditional **Thursday the 28th**. In informal polling, among those likely to participate, either day would be equally attended, but there was a sentiment that the traditional day might be better for newcomers, so we're going with Thursday. There will be a sign up clipboard, so tell us how many people you are bringing and what dish you are making.



Another important point to make is that even though we don't currently have any children attending regularly, we need volunteers to get certified for working with them. This involves going on a New York State website and taking a two hour course about abuse and neglect reporting. Please send your certificates to the office. Currently only Frances Mercer and I have done this. Here's the website again: <https://nysmandatedreporter.org/TrainingCourses.aspx>

-Robert South



Collectorland

Warren Allen

Thanks for coming; thanks for listening to others; thanks for working for good trouble; and thanks for your donations and pledges which help to cover our common bills. For those who have not pledged this year, during these past sixteen weeks the unpledged donation checks totaled \$1165. Also, have left some cash towards our Free Trade coffee amounting to \$58. Also, cash put anonymously into the plates has totaled \$714.96 for these weeks, and we still plan to divide that "Generosity Project" cash, half towards our bills, and a quarter each to the other charities for which we voted last summer, Zoo New York (across the road) and Citizens Advocates.

And 26 of our families set goals for pledges for this 2024-25 fiscal year. Twenty-five plan to bring in \$35,495, and one of us pledges part of our electric bills. As of Oct 20 this fiscal year is 30% used, and pledge receipts thus far total \$14,167 or 40%. If anyone else wants to pledge, we can handle it.

Thanks for your help. I mentioned earlier that for years we've been getting a modest monthly donation from a Megan O'Brien, who is now Megan O'Meara, but I don't know how to thank them in person. To paraphrase the 1940's radio comedian Jimmy Durante, good night, kind Megan, wherever you are.

Historian

Sarah O'Connell

This month's piece is from the November 1989 newsletter. Richard M. Woodman was the interim minister after Rev. Stewart Hild's retirement. I'm not sure who the newsletter editor was. Besides some services touching on Thanksgiving and the upcoming holiday season, it mentioned the Search Committee was meeting, some information on the history and programs of the Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library, a UU Women's Federation plans for a card party and luncheon in December, and a note on Why We Should Support the UU United Nations Office. Finally, this "shortest prayer of Thanksgiving": Lord, thou has given so much to us, give one more: a grateful heart. George Herbert



Around the Church

During the past summer, to remember our congregation's 200-year history here, we visited the former Universalist building in Dexter. If you'd like to see more there, c'mon over to the Dexter museum, at noon on Saturday Nov 9. The Dexter historian, John Stanno, will be talking to our area's genealogy group, and all are welcome.

New York Unitarian Universalist Justice Holding First Convocation Sat. Nov. 16

All Souls Follows Up with a Congregational Conversation November 17th

New York Unitarian Universalist Justice is a new organization that will be holding its first convocation in Albany on November 16th. In pursuit of one of our annual goals, the Board of Trustees will have a "watch party" to participate by Zoom. We will be unofficially meeting at All Souls on that Saturday. The next day, November 17th, we will share with the congregation, relating what opportunities we have learned about and soliciting feedback. Stay after the worship service and participate.

Thanks for UN Sunday Help



Many, many thanks for a wonderful United Nation Sunday service!

- To Frances for planning and carrying out the whole service.
 - To Robert for organizing the visual impact.
 - To Eleanor for the beautiful, delicious U.N. cake
 - To you all, with my love.
- Your very old "ex-Envoy" Sylvia (Heap)



All Souls Collects and Donates to the Northern New York Veterans Outreach Center

Northern New York Veterans Outreach Center is a non-profit organization, located at 210 Franklin St., based out of Utica. Their focus is assisting veterans and their families. Recently their focus expanded to local communities. They have a food-pantry, collect clothes and household donations and a giving center. We at All Souls donated four cart loads to the organization. The director was deeply thankful as he mentioned the difficulty in obtaining donations.

Thanks to Serena Soldano for making us aware of this opportunity for public service.

Wanted: Your Opinion (About More Church Activities)

The Membership and Activities committee is seeking additional engagement of our congregation by posing a "question-of-the-week" on a flip-chart for attendees to respond to before leaving coffee hour. The first query concluded that 9:30 a.m. on Sunday is the preferred time to discuss topics raised the prior Sunday during the service (if folks want to follow-up). This coming Sunday, October 27, we will be following up on the UN service.



Voter Registration

Several members and friends of All Souls UU made an effort to register people to vote before this November's election. This picture shows Bianca Ellis and Eleanor Allen with our registration forms. Catherine Burns also went out with Bianca, and Kelly Sackheim separately went out with registration forms in hand to register people she met.

The "Clean Up the Road Side" Tradition Continues



Thanks to our amazing Highway Cleanup Crew on October 19! Sarah in front, Paula, Kelly (I see what you're doing there, girl), Amy, Robert and Joanne. Fast-food and take-out containers were most of the trash we picked up. Selfie and write up by Sarah O'Connell

Calling All Crafters



Kat Hammond sent this picture of Kelly Sackheim searching for a hidden prize during October Craft Night.

November Craft Night will be held November 8th from 6-8pm. The focus is on Pop-up Christmas Cards.

Please note - no experience is necessary! Also note, all ages are welcome! Light snacks are provided, and there are usually door prizes. Please, feel free to bring your own snacks if you have dietary

restrictions. It is recommended that beverages have lids to reduce the chance of those pesky accidents that happen!

- Kat Hammond

CUUPS Reconstituted!

Three members of All Souls UU Church were present, which is a requirement to be



recognized as an official CUUPS group. For now, meetings will be held on the first Friday of the month, with gathering from 6:30-7 pm, and the meeting itself at 7

We will be holding a Samhain ritual on Friday, November 1, in the Social Hall, which is open to all. We will honor and remember our departed loved ones, including animal companions, during a ceremony which will allow time for writing of letters to the departed. They will be "delivered" by being burned in a cauldron.

Following this will be a Potluck/Dumb Feast; please bring foods the Departed enjoyed to share with them and other attendees.



More Activities

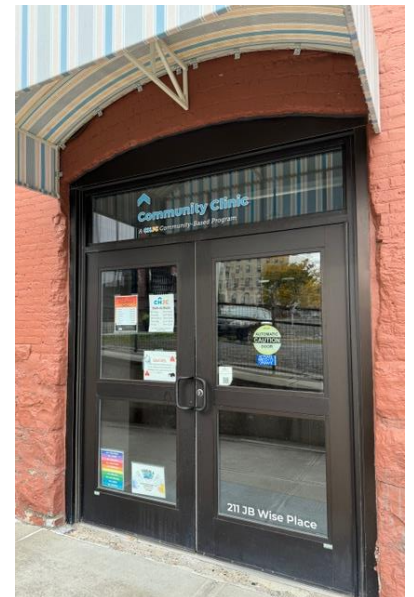
A group attended the Tuesday (senior discount day!) matinee showing of Beetlejuice at the Salmon Run Mall movie theater. More folks have expressed interest in going to see Wicked that will be released in November. Kelly submitted the above photos.

Kelly, Erica & Trisha previewed the haunted hayride after church this past Sunday and invite folks to join us for the after-dark version with 60 actors, departing from church after Craft Night on Friday!

Generosity Project 2023-2024 Concludes

Checks in the amount of \$600 were hand-delivered to each of the recipients of our 2024 Generosity Project. The two organizations chosen by the congregation at the Annual Meeting in 2023 were The Children's Home of Jefferson County and Planned Parenthood of the North Country NY. This year, as decided at our 2024 Annual Meeting, one half of the collection plate money, not designated for other purposes, will be donated in equal proportions next June to Citizens Advocates and Zoo New York. Thank you, everyone for your generosity!

-Eleanor Allen, Treasurer



Ed. Note: Our bookkeeper made out the checks to the two organizations, and Harriet McMillan had agreed to deliver them as well as take photos of the recipients with the checks. However, Harriet didn't get it done, so Eleanor and Warren Allen delivered the checks and took pictures of the entrances to the two organizations. Thank you both for your help.

Every Month at All Souls

CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans)

CUUPS will be meeting on the first Friday of each month. Gathering begins at 6:30 PM, the meeting begins at 7 PM.

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

The box for donations of clothing and household goods for the Northern New York Veterans Organization on Franklin St.

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 Citizens Advocates and Planned Parenthood. Each organization receives 1/4 of the uncommitted funds for the year.

Unitarian Universalist Association

Justice in Action, from the UU World Spring/Summer 2024, p.34

The Beacon Press offers the following suggestions for pushing back on book banning.

- Stay updated and share information with others
- Identify book-banning groups and censorship attempts near you.

- Report censorship
- BE LOUD! Contact school and library administrators, sign petitions, reach out to local media and attend your local school board meetings to speak out.
- Join a campaign against book banning.
- Organize in your community
- Expand your reading list.

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All Souls UU Church Board of Trustees

President: Robert South
 Vice President: Amy Summerville-Loomis
 Secretary: Karen Hall
 Treasurer: Eleanor Allen eleanora.asuuc@gmail.com
 Trustee: Janine LaClair
 Trustee: Kelly Sackheim
 Trustee: Alabama Dane

Staff

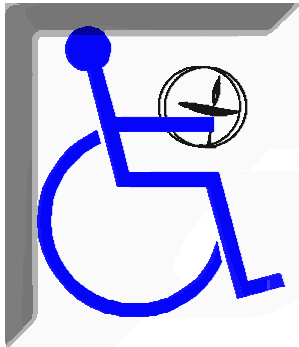
Custodian: John Crupi
 Music: Toni Zygadlo
 Religious Exploration:
 Office Volunteers: Robert South

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, harriem@allsoulsuu.org
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 Website: <http://www.allsoulsuu.org>

PLEASE SUBMIT ITEMS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER NO LATER THAN THE 20TH OF THE MONTH. ITEMS ARE APPRECIATED AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

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ALL SOULS NEWSLETTER November 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.