

Annual meeting: June 11, following the Sunday morning service.

ALL SOULS NEWS -June 2023

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



315-788-2742 www.allsoulsuu.org
allsoulsuuchurch@gmail.com



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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

SUNDAY SERVICES — 10:30 AM

The June services will be filled with opportunities for active intergenerational participation by each and all — indeed, "the church that puts its faith in you" will be fully present.

June 4 – Frances Mercer: "Music, Music Every Where" Every element of this service will be infused with music—singing and playing—all are invited to bring drums and any other musical instruments or sound makers they enjoy creating music with, including hands for clapping and voices for singing, humming, whistling. We will experience the deepening of spiritual wisdom and joy created by the combination of music and words in our UU hymns and other music created by individuals, small groups, and all of us during our Sunday gatherings.

June 11—Frances Mercer: “Celebrating Our Congregation with Flowers—Flower Communion Sunday” followed by the **Annual Congregational Meeting**. Flower Communion Services have been held at All Souls and other UU communities for many years. This is the Centennial of the first Flower Community created by Rev. Norbert Capek, who founded the Unitarian Church in Prague, Czechoslovakia. He introduced this special service to that church on June 4, 1923. The Flower Communion Service celebrates the strength and vitality of community derived from diversity—the coming together of individuals of all ages with unique talents, differences, and perspectives to create a warm, supportive, nurturing and inclusive spiritual community. **FOR THE FLOWER COMMUNION, EACH PERSON IS INVITED TO BRING A FLOWER FROM GARDEN OR YARD OR THE ROADSIDE OR EVEN A STORE.**

June 18 -- Frances Mercer “Being a Good Neighbor—Reaching Out” Why should we as All Souls be good neighbors and how might we as All Souls become the good neighbors we aspire to be. What is spiritual — meaningful and life engaging — about being good neighbors? Bring your stories and thoughts to share — when have you been a good neighbor or had a good neighbor, do you think All Souls is a good neighbor.

June 25 -- Joanne Harter: “Blessing of the Animals” followed by **Annual Potluck All Souls Picnic**. This service has become a tradition. It will be conducted outside around the Peace Pole. Participants are invited to bring pets that they wish to be blessed. If bringing your pet is not best, you can bring a picture (some had pictures on their phones) or some other symbol (stuffed animal/favorite toy) for the animal. There will also be cards you can write the pet’s name on. The service is to honor all animals, not just our pets, for their contributions and importance to the world.

Annual All Souls Potluck Picnic - June 25th after Sunday Service. Bring food to share. We’ll be outside, weather permitting. Bring your friends as well as family. On the grill will be hotdogs and burgers (plant based as well as meat based), buns and condiments. Also lemonade to drink, watermelon and cold treats from the freezer. Let’s make this the biggest and most fun one yet.

Religious Exploration in the Wondering Center

Kathy Ashland

As the church year winds down and we head into summer, the Religious Exploration Committee will be meeting to create a list of people who will volunteer to supervise children and youth during summer services. I expect these summer Sundays will involve more time outside with lawn games like bubbles, sidewalk chalk, Bocce ball, etc and more unstructured, creative time.

In June we will enjoy a couple more planned programs in the WonderingCenter. I hope you’ll join us.

June 4th Let’s celebrate the start of LGBTQ+ Pride Month! Paisley will lead us in creating a variety of Rainbow themed crafts. We’ll make keychains, bracelets, and decorations for our rooms.

June 11th Mythical Creatures! Are you intrigued by Unicorns, dragons, and all the many weird, wonderful, and scary imaginary creatures that humans have told stories about over the years? Let's explore where some of these legends began and why and maybe create a collage of our own imaginary animal.

Reminder to all the animal loving members of the Wondering Center that on June 25th Joanne Harter will be leading the Blessing of the Animals service. Hope to see you all there!

Reflections from the Transitions Consultant

Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt

Several times recently I have found myself in discussions about what some are calling the increase of incivility, discussions triggered by reports of another round of "cancel culture," where expression of an opinion is met with public shaming, intolerance, demands for preventing the person who had the opinion from ever being able to express that opinion again. Depending on what side one takes with regard to the expressed opinion, these incidents are either well-deserved shaming or appalling displays of intolerance. And of course such judgments flip whenever another incident is reported in which someone from the opposite side of the political spectrum is being hounded. We applaud, it seems, when the scoundrel is representing the opposition; we condemn the cancelling when the person holds views that match our own.

I can see in myself an energy that would love nothing better than to publicly shame someone whose political positions I believe are immoral and destructive (and, it goes without saying, nothing like the positions I personally believe are correct, fair, and right). Yet as momentarily satisfying as that might be, I have to wonder whether I have accomplished anything good if I

engaged in such actions: have I advanced the cause of justice and equity when I insist someone I disagree with has no right to voice what they believe? Will that individual, and others like him/her, now change their behavior as a result of my condemning them on social media and calling for them to be disgraced? Because if that is indeed the result of these new strategies we are inflicting on our enemies, then we should, by all means, do much more of it. Public shaming that turns the tide for justice would then be a good thing.

But I have yet to hear any account of a public shaming having this result; instead, each report of such an instance of incivility simply seems to gratify those who hated the person already and horrify those who agreed with the person already. We seem not to be accomplishing anything beyond deepening the divides that already exist between us.

In one of the conversations I had about an incident where a university professor was fired for views that a majority of students insisted were racist, the other person in the conversation wondered what might have resulted if, say, a speaker holding a disagreeable perspective was asked to tell about

themselves personally, trace how they came to hold such a perspective. That scenario strikes me as far more likely to have an impact than shouting them down or calling for them to be fired—because it invites the sort of process of change that has always taken us in the direction of greater justice and equality: we know and experience personally someone we held a bias against, and that personal encounter shows us the other is not the awful enemy we had believed them to be but is just a person, getting along as best they can.

I am hoping this trend of cancel culture and public shaming will prove short-lived. Both sides, the side I agree with and the side I disagree with, are only becoming more entrenched and more willing to regard the other as less than human. And our history has shown us repeatedly that when we forget the humanity of the other, much pain and destruction soon follows.

In faith, hope, and love,
Rev. Kathy

From the Office

Robert South

With the annual meeting coming up there are a few things in the works above and beyond the routine.

1. The generosity project sheet has been posted in the sanctuary. By the time this newsletter comes out, voting will have already started. People write up nominations for which of two local charities (that we didn't support last year) will get a quarter of our collection plate money next year. Then each of the last three Sundays leading up to the annual meeting the members who show up can draw two tick marks on the sheet. Put your two tick marks on the same charity, or split your vote. If you show up all three Sundays you get a total of 6 votes! I was there when this was being discussed, both at past annual meetings and in board meetings, and the feeling was that this sample size gets a feel for who comes and puts into the plate and that's proportional to who should determine where the money goes.

2. Annual Report

By the time this newsletter is published, the annual report will have been printed and put out on the entry table for members to pick up on the way in to worship. But those who haven't submitted reports can still send them in and they can be stapled to the back of the remaining copies, emailed out, and provided loose at the annual meeting to those who picked up early copies in person. So, if you're not late yet, it's never too late to be late.

3. Registrar's Report: The following are our active voting members according to a check of the member book vs information from the collector.

1. Allen Eleanor 2. Allen Warren 3. Ashland Francis 4. Ashland Paisley

5. Ashland Katherine 6. Burns Catherine 7. Carr Rebecca 8. Crowley Karen, 9. Crowley Kellan 10. Fritzsching Till 11. Gardner Erica 12. Hall Karen 13. Hammond Kathleen 14. Harter Joanne 15. Harter Jim, 16. Harter James C., 17. Hartman Veronica 18. Heap Sylvia 19. Jeffers Julie Anne 20. Jeffers Matt, 21. LaClair Janine, 22. Lance Eric, 23. Litsche Mimi, 24. McMillan Harriet, 25. Mercer Frances 26. O'Connell Sarah 27. O'Connell Dennis 28. Payette Lorraine 29. Reed Mary Lou 30. Reid Jo 31. Sackheim Kelly 32. Schneider Christine, 33. South Robert, 34. Spinelli Georgette, 35. Starkweather-Burke Shannon, 36. Stewart Ruth, 37. Summerville-Loomis Amy, 38. Sutherland Pat, 39. Trainham Paula, 40. Venable Doug, 41. Winn Heather

This gives us a quorum of 21. If any family members were included that the person actually donating didn't want included, and who aren't likely to attend the annual meeting (by Zoom or in person), please inform the collector so that our quorum can be smaller. Our quorum is now based on the number of active members, so it doesn't help us make quorum to count inactive members, it actually makes things harder.

If you gave, please come!

Around the Church

Memorial Garden

It seems like we have had a lot of cold spells lately. So Mother Nature has been tending the garden so far this season. She's filled the garden with so many forget-me-nots it's crazy! The perennials are popping and some (daffodils) may be at the near end of their all too short bloom period.



The little garden next to the social hall hasn't popped up a lot of flowers yet. I do think that the Russian Sage is growing. I may have to trim that a little bit, if anyone knows how please give me guidance!!

I'm writing this on the 18th of May, hopefully the last of the low 30's weather till fall. Then I can get out my bug spray, (for my body - hate mosquitoes & horseflies) my bag of garden tools & putter around garden. I have a coupon for a garden center that I may use for some annual flowers to fill in some of the gaps around the perennials. Any help is appreciated!!

Catherine Burns

Building and Grounds

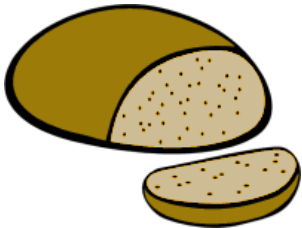
- The RE roof is under reconstruction, at last. It will be



completed as soon as the metal sheeting is received. Thank you Diego!

- The lawnmower has been maintained and returned to the church shed/garage. Thanks to Warren and Jesus for their kind and much appreciated assistance. Now to trim the meadow.
- John Crupi's grandmother has died. He has been to Canton to see her prior to his death, thus affecting some of his time here.
- B&G is planning an in-person meeting soon.
- Three contractors to seal and stripe have submitted estimates. Now to decide whom shall win the bid.
- We are looking for snowplowing contractors for next winter and furnace contractors for maintenance.

Gratefully submitted,
Rebecca



You are Invited to a Potluck Brunch at McMillans' on Lake Ontario

Join us July 8, 10:30 at our cottage on Lake Ontario for another delicious potluck brunch. I'll make a couple of hot dishes, you bring a dish to pass. In previous years I have specified women only, but this year, I'm inviting everyone, to 2364 Bruns Drive, Cape Vincent, 315-654-2756.

-Harriet McMillan

Keep in Touch!

YouTube Channel Zoom services produced by our congregation are recorded and placed on our You Tube channel for two months. Copyrighted material for which we don't have permission is eliminated, as are elements of the services which may involve sharing of private information.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/ASUUCWatertown> Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/allsoulsuuwatertown/>

Every Month at All Souls

CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans)

We now meet in the Social Hall on the third Wednesday of the month, gathering at 6:30 pm to chat, and getting around to the evening's agenda at 7 pm. Our next

meeting will be March 15. If you're interested in following a positive spiritual, nature-centered path, feel free to join us!

And Every Week at All Souls

The baskets 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 NCPR and Syracuse Worker Center. Each organization receives 1/4 of the uncommitted funds for the year.

To see the church calendar, go to allsoulsuu.org, and click on calendar.

Unitarian Universalist Association



Town Hall June 1, 2023 at 7 PM

Dear Unirondack Parents and Community Members,

As part of our commitment to fostering open communication and community engagement, we are excited to announce the details for our first virtual Unirondack Community Town Hall. We invite all members of our cam community to join us for this event.

Town Hall June 1, 2023 at 7 PM

Dear Unirondack Parents and Community Members,

As part of our commitment to fostering open communication and community engagement, we are excited to announce the details for our first virtual Unirondack Community Town Hall. We invite all members of our cam community to join us for this event.

Please mark your calendars and save the date for:

Unirondack Community Town Hall

Date: June 1

Time: 7-8:30 PM

During this virtual town hall, we will provide updates on the fast-approaching summer program as well as on ongoing projects. If you have particular topics you would like to hear about please submit them [here](#) to let us know! We will do our best to make sure we cover all submitted questions and topics in the time we have. We will also provide time for open discussion so please bring your questions and comments even if you don't submit them in advance. We would love to hear from you. We hope this will be a helpful opportunity for you to seek clarification, share your thoughts, and provide valuable input. Your active participation is vital in shaping the future of our camp community.

If you have any immediate questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to us directly by replying to this email, or emailing us at leaders@unirondack.org.

To register go to Unirondack.org

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day Saturday, June 3

For residents of Jefferson, Lewis County 8-AM-noon Saturday June 3, held at Jefferson County Highway Department Garage, 21897 County Route 190. Information, list of items accepted: www.northcountryrecycles.org.

All Souls UU Church Board of Trustees

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Sexton: John Crupi
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Religious Exploration:
Kathy Ashland
Office Volunteers:
Robert South,
Francis Ashland

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

Newsletter Editor, Harriet McMillan, harrieta@allsoulsuu.org

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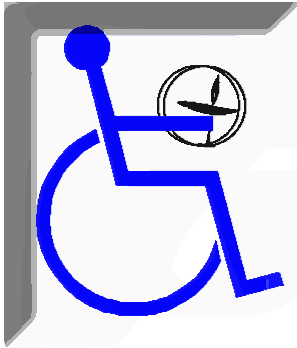
PLEASE SUBMIT ITEMS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER NO LATER THAN THE 15TH OF THE MONTH. ITEMS ARE APPRECIATED AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.



SAVE THE DATE!
SAT JUN 17 2023
The 10th Annual
WATERTOWN
JUNETEENTH!
COMMUNITY! MUSIC! FOOD! FUN!
Share your Talent! Audition Now!
Be a Vendor! Registration is Open!
APPLY TODAY! CALL 315-775-4065
EMAIL WATERTOWNJUNETEENTH@GMAIL.COM

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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.