

# ALL SOULS NEWS -September 2023

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church

1330 Gotham St.

Watertown, NY 13601

**Celebrating  
200 Years**



**1823-  
2023**

315-788-2742 [www.allsoulsuu.org](http://www.allsoulsuu.org)

[allsoulsuuchurch@gmail.com](mailto:allsoulsuuchurch@gmail.com)



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Facebook

[www.facebook.com/AllSoulsUUWatertownNY](https://www.facebook.com/AllSoulsUUWatertownNY)

**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



## **September 2023**

"All Souls—the church that puts its faith in you while celebrating 200 years!"

**September 3 Labor Day Weekend, No church**

**September 10 Joanne Harter** leads our traditional **Rock and Water Ingathering.**

**September 17 – Andre and Judy DeZanger: Happiness, Flourishing and Well-Being** led by Andre and Judy deZanger. We will be exploring how to live more Flourishing Life. Looking at Martin Seligman's book on *Flourishing* and his 5 pillars on how to live a more Flourishing Life.

**September 24 – Bicentennial Committee: Our 200 Year Heritage.**

## *From the President's Desk*

### **Heather Winn**

Summer is winding down. It is time for our summer services to end and the kids are going back to school. Autumn is my favorite time of year! The changing colors of the leaves, the weather is cooler (but not yet cold), and Halloween is my family's favorite holiday.

The church is pretty informal in the summer months and there has not been too much happening. We did get the roof done and the clerestory windows have been fixed. Since this work has been completed we have had NO LEAKS! Now we will start looking into getting the social hall ceiling repaired and the skylights closed up. This will be our next big project to focus on.

Another exciting event that happened this summer is that the Stoner family has signed the book and joined our ASUUC family!

This is my final year as president and I am looking forward to seeing what we can accomplish for the rest of my term!



## *Collectorland*

### **Warren Allen**

Thanks to all who have pledged or tithed or just donated when you can to help pay our bills. Here's an update on my report during our congregational meeting long ago in June, when we were younger. For the prior year (2022–23) 27 families had pledged a total of 34,365. As of the middle of August, six of those pledgers had not made their own goals, and sixteen had just made their own goals, and five had gone beyond their own goal, and we have received for that year a total of \$32,831.85 which equals 97.58% of the original totals.

And for our current FY 2023-25, twenty-nine families have pledged \$38,215, plus the hope that some others will donate when they can. Thank you all. -Warren Allen



## *From the Historian's Files*

Sarah O'Connell

### **The Wayback Machine**

Plans are afoot for celebrating our Bicentennial over the coming year, and the Bicentennial Ad Hoc group is planning hard! (Harriet is our planner-in-chief, ably assisted by Kelly & Sarah.) We are doing the service on September 24 to get you all excited, and then plan to have a short Bicentennial Word on the first Sunday of each month, highlighting some aspect of our church history. We're also trying to gauge your interest in a bus tour of important UU sites in Jefferson County in early October, so please respond during the first services in September. Welcome to the Wayback Machine!

## *People News*

Welcome into membership the Stoner family: Tim, Annabelle and Teddy.

## *Around the Church*

In response to a request from Unirondack for silverwear donations, Heather Winn purchased and delivered a donation from All Souls. We donated 144 forks, 108 spoons and 108 butter knives. We also donated a box of plastic forks and a box of plastic spoons.



Thanks to Heather Winn for this photo.

## New Roof Over the RE Wing!

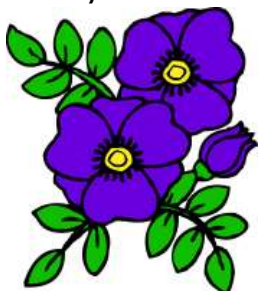


Thanks to Robert South for this photo of work in progress.

## Grounds Keeping

Catherine Burns

Some of the perennials that were planted a couple years ago are growing nicely. The lilacs are spreading a lot. I don't know if it would be worth the effort to dig them out and transplant them. Or just go out and dig them out and get rid of them. They are a bit hard to control. I have gone out to weed a couple times, and haven't been very consistent in getting out there. So there are wildflowers blooming - I cut a small bunch for the altar when I did service on Aug 13th. What I have been mostly pulling are grass like weeds and the sweet peas when they start to wrap around other flowers. I was going to try to keep them to see if they would climb the fence - they would not be tamed! Not sure if they are wild flowers, weeds, vegetables or what! I do know that they are a bit invasive, so they will have to go. Wish me luck!!



It seems the little garden next to the sliding door of the social hall is less intimidating to me than the memorial

garden. I like puttering around that one. I would like to thank Kat and our friend from Canton, David for helping me out after a Sunday service. They worked with me for about 20 - 30 minutes and the garden loved it!! The flowers loved the extra breathing room and grew and bloomed beautifully. And Kat also fixed the little meditating frog that adorns the garden, its little legs were broken. I am going to have to bring the non-organic parts of the garden inside for the winter so they don't get too worn or lost in the ground. I still wouldn't consider myself much of a gardener so anyone who has any knowledge, talent or time to help would be wonderful.

Next month I will probably tuck the garden in for the season of rest. Maybe put in some late bloomer plants if I can find some.

## **B&G**

### **Rebecca Carr**

Maintenance continues with normal routines.

We are waiting for the Board to vote on whomever will be doing the driveway and parking lot sealing and striping. There were more than three estimates. Waiting for the Board meeting for results.

I discussed the clerestory repair with Diego. He said he would get another look at them.

Thank you for your support.

## **Pastoral Care Program**

A congregation is not a congregation unless we care for each other. At All Souls the Membership and Activities committee is also the pastoral care committee when we don't have a minister. When members are going through life difficulties of various kinds, we want to be sure someone makes contact and asks what is needed. Once we know a member is going through something we function as a clearing house to call on what resources are available. Accordingly we also collect information on what kinds of assistance people are able and willing to provide. We can follow up on whatever is reported as Joys and Concerns, but we also need everyone to know we're here so they can come to us.



Robert South, Harriet McMillan, Kelly Sackheim, Francis Ashland, Warren Allen

## **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. 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. 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. (Catherine Burns is her able assistant. You can be, too!

## **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 the Children's Home of Jefferson County, and Planned Parenthood of Northern New York. Each organization receives 1/4 of the uncommitted funds for the year.

*To see the church calendar, go to [allsoulsuu.org](http://allsoulsuu.org), and click on calendar.*

## Unitarian Universalist Association



Dear Fellow UUers<

It is with great enthusiasm that the UUA welcomes the Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt as the tenth UUA President! We also note that this is not the first time the Rev. Dr. Betancourt has served as leader of the Association. She was appointed co-president for an interim period in 2017 and provided guidance and care during a significant moment in our history. This time, she will be in the presidential role for a six-year term and we are eagerly anticipating her leadership, working together to continue to advance Unitarian Universalism and live our values deeply in the coming years.

Her presidency comes with a number of historic firsts – she is the first openly queer person and first woman of color to be elected UUA president. She has served Unitarian Universalism for more than twenty years as a religious educator, minister, scholar, and member of the UUA national staff and many volunteer committees at the regional and denominational levels. She most recently served as Resident Scholar and Special Advisor on Justice and Equity at the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Rev. Dr. Betancourt holds a Ph.D. in Religious Ethics and African American Studies from Yale University as well as an M.Div. from Starr King School for the Ministry, where she also served on the faculty. She is the author of *[Ecowomanism at the Panamá Canal: Black Women, Labor, and Environmental Ethics](#)* (2022). You can learn more about her in [a new Q](#)

As significantly, she also brings to the role theological depth, a commitment to communal care, and a pledge to continue to organize for justice. She has also expressed an appreciation for the diverse voices and leaders in our community as well as for the hard work that UUA staff does every day. We know that Unitarian Universalists (UUs) across the country and UUA staff will all benefit from her experience, wisdom, and sense of care.

Carey McDonald, our Executive Vice President, expressed his keen anticipation in this way, “we are excited to have the Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt at the helm as UUA President to lead us in the next chapter of our faith’s journey. We are already inspired by her deep theology and commitments to community care and imagining the way forward together.”

We are entering an exciting time for both the UUA and Unitarian Universalism. Rev. Dr. Betancourt’s presidency and the General Assembly vote by delegates to continue consideration of changes to the Article II bylaws mark a key moment in our faith tradition. With her leadership, we are positioned to move forward in faithful community, in recognition of our shared values and the important work ahead.

President: Heather Winn  
Vice President: Amy Summerville-Loomis  
Secretary: Francis Ashland  
Treasurer: Eleanor Allen [eleanora.asuuc@gmail.com](mailto:eleanora.asuuc@gmail.com)  
Trustee: Janine LaClair  
Trustee: Catherine Burns [catherineb.asuuc@gmail.com](mailto:catherineb.asuuc@gmail.com)

Sexton: John Crape  
Music: Toni Zygadlo  
Religious Exploration:  
Kathy Ashland  
Office Volunteers:  
Robert South,  
Francis Ashland

Board meetings are held the last Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM  
By zoom. Meetings are open to all members of the congregation.

Newsletter Editor, Harriet McMillan, [harrieta@allsoulsuu.org](mailto:harrieta@allsoulsuu.org)  
Office Volunteer: M 9-11, W 11-1, F 1-3  
Phone (315) 788-2742  
E-mail: [allsoulsuuchurch@gmail.com](mailto:allsoulsuuchurch@gmail.com)  
Website: <http://www.allsoulsuu.org>

PLEASE SUBMIT ITEMS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER NO LATER THAN THE 15<sup>TH</sup> 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.