

ALL SOULS NEWS -April 2024
All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church
1330 Gotham St.
Watertown, NY 13601



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allsoulsuuchurch@gmail.com



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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

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.



April Services

April 7 – Rev. Eugene "Guy" LaMothe: "The Light Inside The Dark: Solar Eclipse 2024."

Throughout recorded history civilizations have regarded total solar eclipses with fear and dread, and viewed them as a disruption of the established order. A solar eclipse happens when the moon passes directly between the Earth and the Sun casting a 120 mile wide shadow upon the land. It's a rare and spectacular phenomenon, inspiring in all who witness a sense of wonderment and awe. The expression 'awe' is rooted in the Greek word 'achos' from which we get the word 'ache'. An awe-inspiring experience opens an ache in us to know more. As shared experiences of nature, they expand our perspective and pull out of us deeper meanings. Allowing us all, as we prepare for the upcoming solar eclipse, to glimpse a little of the light inside the dark.

April 14 - Rev. David Weissbard: "What's Next When Our "Fit's Over?" According to the internet, Charles Johnson [or Christopher Bullock] wrote "'tis impossible to be sure of anything but death and taxes" in his play "The Cobbler of Preston" in 1716. Daniel Defoe, in The Political History of the Devil, wrote in 1726: "Things as certain as death and taxes, can be more firmly believed." Benjamin Franklin wrote in a letter to Jean-Baptiste Leroy in 1789, "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

For something so universally acknowledged and so central to much religion, death is something most of us don't talk about much, although many people think a lot about it. On April 14th, we'll consider it.

April 21 - Robert South: "Newcomers Orientation." This service will be the planned orientation for new visitors and prospective members, except dressed up as a worship service with all the fixings. Bring a number two pencil.

April 28 - Natasha DeMercado and Julie Jeffers from the Watertown Behavioral Urgent Care Campus will share information on the vital mental care services that the organization provides to the community.

How to Transform a Cake Mix

During a service Frances Mercer shared a recipe with us to transform a cake mix and other ingredients to a delicious dessert.

- One can cherry pie filling, pour in 9 x 13 baking dish
- One 20 oz. can crushed pineapple, pour over the cherry pie filling
- Sprinkle one yellow cake mix over the filling
- Distribute whole pecans evenly over the cake mix
- Cut up 1 stick butter (into small pieces) and distribute over the whole mixture.

Bake 1 hour at 350°.



Collectorland

Warren Allen



Thanks for strengthening our congregation by being active physically with us, and thanks for helping to cover our group expenses with your financial donations and pledge checks. For our current 2023-24 fiscal year, one family pledged to cover some of our electric bill, and 29 families pledged \$38,215. Of that latter amount, checks have come in for \$26,722 (or 70%), as of the beginning of Spring on March 19. Also, donations towards this year's Generosity Project cash are \$1709, and donations for our fair trade coffee have been \$27. Some of us pledge our own year's goal, and others donate what we can afford to give when we are able; the latter unpledged donations for this fiscal year are thus far \$693. Thanks to you.

-Warren Allen, Collector

Historian

Sarah O'Connell

You won't want to miss the April services for a look back at some of the people important in the establishment of our UU church in Watertown. We are traveling back in time for interviews with people. The first interview took place on March 24, starring Tim Stoner and Sarah O'Connell. |

The next interview will feature Rev. Hosea Ballou on April 7, Marada Johnson on April 14, and the final interview will feature Clara Nott Owens.



People News

Kathy Ashland has been keeping us all informed about Kat Hammond's progress following surgery at the VA and then hospitalization at Upstate. Kat is currently a patient at the Rehab Center in Carthage.

Joanne Harter had an encounter with no less than four deer. She's fine but her car isn't.

Building and Grounds

Rebecca Carr

Heather [Winn] and I had the annual evaluation meeting with John Crupi. We will have another meet-up in a few weeks.

The tree that fell during a January storm has been cut up (I am told this was by fairies or gremlins or other creatures). The remains need to be moved off the lawn before it is lawnmowing season.

The lawnmower will be going in for the annual maintenance in the next couple of months.

The parking lot is scheduled for striping this year. This includes painting the curb with cautionary yellow.

Our Warren has performed the annual gypsum spreading under the front yard trees that are impacted by road salting.

There are plans to build some new picnic tables. The existing tables have gone beyond their useful life and need to be replaced. More on this later.

The building needs exterior maintenance. This includes the siding; much of this is allowing water penetration, falling off or peeling paint or all of them. The stone wall above the windows on the sanctuary exterior must be removed. It is allowing water to seep into the supporting studs. This was discovered during the reconstruction after the first flood. There were temporary repairs to buy time, but removal and proper finishing of the outside wall is the only appropriate answer. It will be sad to lose this lovely structure, but it has to go to prevent the wall from collapsing.

Around the Church

Musicking

FIRST of SIX Musicking Experiences (concert events) proposed for Sunday BEFORE April 8 Eclipse! The proposed/evolving calendar of Musicking Experiences includes:

- April 7 (day before Eclipse) - Sandro Ladu, Master's from CSU-Sacramento now a Violin Performance Doctoral Student in Hartford, CT - will do strings Master Class and performance. Performance tentatively scheduled for 7 p.m. on Sunday, April
- May 5 - Cinco de May Eco-Drumming
- 3 (TBD) North Country Connections Orchestra (NCCO) that rehearses in Canton/Potsdam and does concerts at Remington Museum in Ogdensburg will do Saint Saens Carnival of the Animals and Kathy Ashland will do an animalthemed Art Project (Dragon puppets, since this is the Chinese Year-of-the-Dragon, all year!)
- 4 late summer/early fall - Northern Blend Chorus
- 5 right after school resumes (before or after NBC) string trio of ONNY musicians - strings Master Class and performance
- final performance - Garland City Fiddlers **Another grant application is in-the-works, it may be possible to add further concerts to the schedule!



-Kelly Sackheim

Grants

All Souls UU is serving as Fiscal Sponsor for two grant applications due March 1 to the SLC Arts organization.

One of the grants will provide funds to pay performers for the Watertown Juneteenth Celebration that will take place at ASUU on Saturday, June 15 starting at noon.

The second grant will provide funds to pay performers for a Musicking Experiences series to take place at ASUU, with a Cinco de Mayo Eco-Drumming event already scheduled. A goal of the series is to welcome families to our ASUU community for an enriching, free activity. Entertainment the day before the Eclipse is a goal, although it isn't clear that either of the two other performing groups (a string trio and Northern Blend Chorus) who have agreed to perform sometime can make it, and I'm uncertain if we'll know for sure that we've gotten the grant award in time to plan around that.

- Kelly



Eclipse Update

Starting at 6 am on April 8th, the City of Watertown is closing Gotham Street from Spring Valley to Thompson. Members and some out of town UU guests intend to view the eclipse from the church on that date, so if you plan to participate plan on coming in early and staying all day.

-Robert South

A committee at the Canton church was hoping to try NCPR underwriting notices which would list the area villages where UUs met, if the various UU churches paid into a fund at Canton.

Then Eleanor Allen found that the NYS Universalists had sacks of money, saved from our and our Universalist ancestors' pledges, and they were offering grants. Then our board agreed that we could apply for a modest grant, to encourage NCPR listeners to visit the closest UU congregation. Then Eleanor helped send emails to all UU congregations within the NCPR broadcast area. Then a representative of the Canton church said good idea—we'll try that here, if we can get such a grant. Then there were no replies from the seasonal UU group at Saranac Lake, nor from the group near Glens Falls. Then Francis Ashland offered to write the grant application, for which he has way more recent experience than I, and he could add a request for another \$3k, so that we can pay fees to show ourselves in local street fairs on Public Square. Then spokespeople of the Plattsburgh Fellowship (not "church") made very friendly noises. Francis sent in the application to the Universalists a day early! Yay! Thanks!

So if the Universalists agree during March with our grant application, \$3k of this will go to NCPR for two notices each Friday sometime between 5 and 6 PM. Using words mostly suggested by a member at Plattsburgh, one message will be "underwritten by Watertown's All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, gathering as neighbors in spiritual community, reminding each other what matters most in life. Allsoulsuu.org; 315-788-2742." And the other message can say "Underwritten by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Plattsburgh, gathering as neighbors in spiritual community, reminding each other what matters most in life. UUplattsgurgh.org; 518-561-6920." And if other area congregations want to join equally, only two will be done per Friday, and in that case not each CONGREGATION EACH week. The reasoning is that if you hear something twice then it's memorable but if you hear it too many times then you'll want to yell at your radio. And if you have no interest in those infernal computer machines, you can know the number to telephone so that our friendly volunteers can call you back when they are in. And if you can work a cellphone but haven't extra time to research where those UUs hang out, you are given the website.

Late note: The Universalist decision was expected in March, on our application for \$6,000. On the evening of Saturday Feb 24, we have their decision to award \$3200! Will we resolve this allocation by manly contests of arm-wrestling?

-Warren Allen

Nominating Committee's Report

The annual congregational meeting will be held on June 9th. One of the purposes for this meeting is the election of our lay leadership (board—4 officers and 4 trustees) and the 3 members of the Nominating Committee. In past years the Committee has presented its report at the Annual Meeting. In addition to the slate of nominees recommended in the report, other candidates for the positions can be nominated from the floor at the meeting. Any active member of All Souls can be nominated. The members of this year's Nominating Committee are Robert South, Warren Allen and Frances Mercer.

The Nominating Committee's charge as stated in the By-laws is
"...recruiting a slate of nominees for the Board and Nominating Committee for the next year...Committee members shall be representative of the congregation and knowledgeable about the All Souls community...also charged with becoming knowledgeable about the requirements for

each of the elective positions so that they can properly recruit and explain those duties to prospective candidates.”

The slate of nominees that the Committee is nominating for next year (July 1, 2024—June 30, 2025) is:

One-Year Terms (7/1/2024—6/30/2025)
President: Robert South
Vice President: Amy Summerville-Loomis
Treasurer: Eleanor Allen
Secretary: Annabelle Stoner
Nominating Committee: Warren Allen
Nominating Committee: Joanne Harter
Nominating Committee: Heather Winn
Two-Year Terms (7/1/2024—6/30/2026)
Trustee: Erica Gardner
Trustee: Janine LaClair



Two trustees (Kelly Sackheim and Alabama Dane) are in the middle of ongoing terms that end June 30, 2025.

The first duty of the nominating committee is to ensure that there are nominees/candidates that are ready and able to fill each of the positions. But the congregation makes the final choices about the All Souls leadership through the democratic process of voting and electing each person. This year the Committee hopes to better promote the democratic ideas of competitive elections and informed voting—knowing more about who and what leadership you are electing. This year we are asking each nominee and encouraging anyone interested in being nominated from the floor to make a short speech to the congregation. We have set up times for these speeches during the time for Announcements after each Sunday service during April and May.

So that we can heard from everyone, the schedule is:

April 7th — Nominee & other Candidates for President
April 14th — Nominee & other Candidates for Vice President
April 21st — Nominee & other Candidates for Treasurer
April 28th — Nominee & other Candidates for Secretary
May 5th — Nominee & other Candidates for Trustee
May 12th — Nominee & other Candidates for Nominating Committee

If these are not good dates for specific individuals, there’s nothing to prevent candidates from speaking at other times.

Food for Thought

This was sent to my husband and me by a friend who is a minister in the south. Harriet McMillan

The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but the ability to keep your mouth shut in any language is priceless.

Be decisive. Right or wrong, make a decision. The road is paved with flat squirrels who couldn't make a decision.
When I get a headache, I take two aspirin and keep away from children. Just like the bottle says.
Just once, I want the prompt to username and password to say, close enough.
Becoming an adult is the dumbest thing I've ever done.
If you see me talking to myself, just move along. I'm self-employed. We're having a meeting.
Your call it very important to us. Please enjoy the 40 minute flute solo.
I hate it when I can't figure out how to operate the iPad and my tech support guy is asleep. He's 5, and it's past his bedtime.
Today's 3 year olds can switch on laptops and open their favorite apps. When I was 3, I ate mud.
Tips for a successful marriage. Don't ask your wife when dinner will be ready while she's mowing the lawn.
So, you drive across town to a gym to walk on a treadmill?
Old age is coming at a really bad time.
If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would have put them on my knees.
Last year, I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet.
Why do I have to press 1 for English, when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?
Now, I'm wondering, did I send this to you, did you send it to me? Or have I only sent it to myself?
You don't need anger management. You need people to stop irritating you.
Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.
On time is, when you get there.
Even duct tape can't fix stupid, but it sure does muffle the sound.
It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for 10 minutes, then come out and wrinkle free, and three sides of smaller.
Lately, you've noticed people your age are so much older than you.
One for the road means peeing before you leave the house.

Every Month at All Souls

CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans)

is on hiatus until spring.

Meditation

Look for Meditation to begin on the third Sunday of the month. Reservations are required. Call the church office.

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

Unitarian Universalist Association

General Assembly: The Unitarian Universalist Association's Annual Meeting



General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must [certify](#) annually to have voting delegates.

II Souls UU Church Board of Trustees

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

Staff

Custodian: John Crupi
Music: Toni Zygadlo
Religious Exploration:
Kathy Ashland
Office Volunteers:
Robert South,
Francis Ashland

Board meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM 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

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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.

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