

ALL SOULS NEWS SEPTEMBER 2024

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church

1330 Gotham St.

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SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:30 A.M.

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

September Services

The September Soul Matters worship theme is "Invitation." At our annual meeting in June, the congregation charged the board to call a congregational meeting in September to identify and discuss specific goals for the year 2024-25, and for the board to report on their progress. During several of the September services, members of the board, working with the worship committee, will introduce the goals the board will bring to the congregational meeting on September 29th.

September 8th *Ingathering Eleanor Allen* - This Ingathering Water and Rock Service is your invitation to imagine what we can do with the resources we have available at All Souls: our people, our building, and our finances. Please remember to bring a rock and some water from your summer travels. But if you forget, we will have extras on hand.

September 15th *Hope is Back Rev. David Weissbard*

For a month I had a sermon in mind for September, and then there were major changes that made it no longer befitting. I am fundamentally an optimist but pessimism had crept in. I'm delighted to switch to a more positive theme. I hope to see you!

September 22nd *What Kind of Social Action and Outreach Do We Want? Alabama Dane*

September 29th *Our Long-Term Home Kelly Sackheim*

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



President's Message

Robert South

At our July meeting, the Board realized that we had too many issues to address in the normal board meeting format, which is typically under an hour and mainly focused on what is going on and how to delegate handling it. So, rather than spread the work over several meetings with homework assignments in between, we decided to have a long "Board Retreat" like the ones we had been doing about every other year before COVID.

On August 24th the board spent about 4 hours alone in a room together physically and hashed everything out. The first issue was to address the mandate from the congregation to compose goals for the upcoming fiscal year. We agreed that the annual goals should be in line with the long-term plan, but decided our long-term plan just boils down to our Mission. Then we devised our three-item plan for the next fiscal year. We are calling a formal meeting of the congregation after the worship service on September 29th. We will present this with the exact wording, but here are the three main themes for the year:

1. Stabilizing the Building by addressing the current issues and what is needed for the future by hiring an inspector who will give us advice on what steps to take,
2. Searching for a Half Time Minister with a revised offer of \$36000, plus social security taxes, and up to \$5000 for moving expenses, and
3. Committing to Community Outreach and Social Action at the direction of the congregation.

We generally all agreed that what we mainly need from a minister is not so much sermons but the kind of counseling and ministerial services that require a certain amount of physical presence among us.

We dissolved the Building and Grounds committee. The consensus was that it has long not really functioned as a committee. As we often have operated in the past, the board will address building and grounds related matters directly, delegating individual issues and problems to appointed task forces and ad hoc committees. For instance, an ad hoc committee will be seeking estimates for our snow plowing contract. Robert South will be the point of contact for housekeeping issues inside the building, Kelly Sackheim will be the point of contact for groundskeeping issues outside the building.

We will also present a minor bylaw change at the September 29th Congregational Meeting. We are adding a provision that authorizes members who opt into it to be sent notice of Congregational Meetings by email. Currently the bylaws call for this to be done by postal mail, which is why the post cards you get every year.

Separately, the Religious Exploration Committee will be meeting on September 1st to set up the wondering center nicely and to prepare one off "lesson boxes" for volunteer teachers and assistants to use if children come to visit. We will also consider the idea of moving the actual lesson portion of RE to occur during social hour rather than during the service. We will offer formal RE only to children ages 4 to 12. During the service, children can engage in supervised play in an adjacent room or stay with their parents.

Covenant

The Board of Trustees adopted a covenant about 20 years ago, but it had fallen out of use by 2012. During the COVID era the board revived it and has been beginning every meeting with it. During our recent retreat, we revised our covenant and also agreed that the congregation should know about it. So here is our revised covenant:

Board of Trustees Covenant

In working together to serve All Souls UU Church we covenant:

- (1) We will work toward the mission of the church.
- (2) We will treat each other with respect by each practicing the following
 - (a) I will actively listen to the speaker who has the floor.
 - (b) I will minimize side comments.
 - (c) I will focus on issues and not personalities.
 - (d) I will maintain appropriate confidentiality.
 - (e) I will promptly respond to other Board member requests, whether face to face, voice mail, or email.
- (3) We will be honest and direct with each other in the following ways.
 - (a) I will speak out when something is of serious concern.
 - (b) When I have a suspicion, concern, or question, rather than make accusations, I will ask questions.
 - (c) I will work to resolve an issue directly with the involved person(s) and will support and encourage others to do the same.
- (4) We will be responsive to the congregation and encourage members and friends to communicate with the committees when appropriate.
- (5) We will speak with one voice on church policies and procedures.
- (6) We will focus on policy issues in compliance with our church bylaws and policies.
- (7) During Board meetings we will focus on the agenda.



Social Justice Survey

Alabama Dane

Social justice holds an important place at the heart of Unitarian Universalism. It aligns with the UUA principles and our own goals as individuals who want to live in a world where all people and all peoples can live peaceful and fulfilling lives without facing lack of resources or injustices.

The ASUU board would like to ask for input and direction from you - the members and friends of our congregation. We will explore social justice and how actively working to better our community can benefit our neighbors, ourselves, and our congregation in the September 22nd service.

Please be prepared to share your ideas regarding the needs and injustices our community faces, as well as actions we can take and/or groups we can partner with to accomplish these goals. Following the service, you can expect to see further requests for your input regarding potential social justice initiatives. Additional ideas will be collected, and final decisions will be made, by anonymous online surveys.



A Note from Our Treasurer

Eleanor Allen

We don't usually include financial statements in our monthly newsletter, mainly because by the time they get into the newsletter, they'd be several months old, but the June report shows the figures for the entire fiscal year, so I think it's appropriate to include it, especially this year when we'll be talking about our finances at the meeting on September 29th.

Since our fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30th, the June financial reports, which are prepared for the July board meeting, shows what we've received and spent during the entire fiscal year. This year's report shows that even though we didn't receive every penny promised in pledges, we received more than we had budgeted in donations, building use income, and interest income, so our total income exceeded the budgeted amount by 7% even though we held no fund raisers this past fiscal year. Our overall expenses for the year were considerably less than budgeted, mainly because all expenses for building repairs and maintenance came out of the insurance funds, as a pass through expense, instead of being taken from our regular budget.

The Balance Sheet shows our total assets as of June 30th, 2024. The money bequeathed to us by the Owens family is held at UBS in two separate accounts, the Capital Growth Fund and the Owens Fund, and currently totals \$530,740. We cannot spend that principal, but during the past fiscal year, used \$1,800 each month, from the income generated to help meet our expenses.

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07/26/24

Cash Basis

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church

Balance Sheet

As of June 30, 2024

	Jun 30, 24
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Memorial Garden	5,798.28
Money Market Savings	
Camp Unirondack Scholarship	550.00
Savings for Minister Salary	59,919.85
Social Justice / Hild Fund	2,903.54
Money Market Savings - Other	9,845.83
Total Money Market Savings	73,219.22
Org Prime Share Savings	1,092.06
Performance Checking	15,312.80
UBS Investments	
Board Fund - 04118	50,273.43
Capital Growth Fund - 04117	512,045.59
Owens Fund - 04119	18,694.64
UBS Savings	106,397.93
Total UBS Investments	687,411.59
Total Checking/Savings	782,833.95
Total Current Assets	782,833.95
TOTAL ASSETS	782,833.95
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	782,833.95
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	782,833.95

10:41 AM
07/26/24
Cash Basis

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church

Profit & Loss Budget Performance

June 2024

	Jun 24	Jul '23 - Jun 24	Annual Budget	% of Ann
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
22-23 Pledges	0.00	320.00		
23-24 Pledges	1,038.00	33,198.00	35,500.00	94%
24-25 Pledges	0.00	3,027.00		
Amazon Smile	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Building Use	85.00	1,165.00	1,000.00	117%
Earned Interest	0.17	2,812.75	2,000.00	141%
Fundraiser	0.00	14.40	1,500.00	1%
Memorial Garden Donation	40.00	685.00		
Pledges				
Current Year Pledges	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Pledges	0.00	0.00	0.00	
UBS Investment Income	1,800.00	21,600.00	21,600.00	100%
Unpledged Income	75.00	2,039.65	1,500.00	136%
Z				
Other Income				
Coffee Fund	0.00	21.00		
Generosity Project	341.00	2,397.98	0.00	
Total Other Income	341.00	2,418.98	0.00	
Total Z	341.00	2,418.98	0.00	
Total Income	3,379.17	67,280.78	63,100.00	107%
Expense				
Advertising and Promotion				
BiCentennial Celebration	0.00	79.51		
Advertising and Promotion - Other	0.00	300.00		
Total Advertising and Promotion	0.00	379.51		
Bank Service Charges	4.54	12.14	0.00	
Board Expense	0.00	0.00	200.00	0%
Bookkeeping/Accounting Service	500.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	100%
Building and Property Security	0.00	652.50	400.00	163%
Charitable Contributions	750.00	750.00	2,400.00	31%
Computer and Internet Expenses	0.00	0.00	200.00	0%
Guest Minister/Worship	250.00	3,797.68	3,000.00	127%
Insurance Expense	1,191.25	4,407.45	9,000.00	49%
Landscaping Expenses	0.00	24.66	1,000.00	2%
Membership Expenses	110.67	224.27	200.00	112%
Memorial Garden Expenses	0.00	68.50		
Office Supplies	0.00	159.56	235.00	68%
Organist	480.00	6,240.00	6,240.00	100%
Payroll Expenses				
Custodian	0.00	2,895.23	8,000.00	36%

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07/26/24
Cash Basis

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church

Profit & Loss Budget Performance

June 2024

	Jun 24	Jul '23 - Jun 24	Annual Budget	% of Annual
Minister	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Payroll Taxes	0.00	858.07	2,500.00	34%
Religious Education	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0%
Payroll Expenses - Other	798.67	1,900.83		
Total Payroll Expenses	798.67	5,654.13	11,500.00	49%
Postage and Delivery	0.00	0.00	550.00	0%
Printing and Reproduction	0.00	0.00	200.00	0%
Professional Fees	0.00	50.00	50.00	100%
Repairs and Maintenance	621.78	1,778.17	6,000.00	30%
Scholarship	400.00	400.00		
Snow Removal	0.00	4,749.98	3,000.00	158%
Social Action	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Trash Removal	52.00	208.00	200.00	104%
Utilities				
Gas & Electric	175.48	4,435.42	4,700.00	94%
Telephone Expense	179.98	2,141.67	2,150.00	100%
Water	0.00	472.38	450.00	105%
Total Utilities	355.46	7,049.47	7,300.00	97%
UUA Annual Program Fund	451.33	5,416.00	5,425.00	100%
ZZ				
Coffee Hour	0.00	107.49		
Generosity Project	1,200.00	1,200.00		
Total ZZ	1,200.00	1,307.49		
Total Expense	7,165.70	49,329.51	63,100.00	78%
Net Ordinary Income	-3,786.53	17,951.27	0.00	
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
Pass-Through Income				
UU-UNO-In	0.00	131.00		
Pass-Through Income - Other	90.00	3,916.00		
Total Pass-Through Income	90.00	4,047.00		
Total Other Income	90.00	4,047.00		
Other Expense				
Capital Improvements	0.00	43,500.00		
Pass-Through Expense				
Donations for other Organizatio	0.00	2,825.00		
UU-UNO_Out	0.00	399.51		
Pass-Through Expense - Other	90.00	190.00		
Total Pass-Through Expense	90.00	3,414.51		
Total Other Expense	90.00	46,914.51		
Net Other Income	0.00	-42,867.51		
Net Income	-3,786.53	-24,916.24	0.00	

Collectorland



Warren Allen

I keep forgetting to ask others about Megan O'Meara. She has been making a modest monthly PayPal donation to us each month for a few years. If we are not set up to grant her an indulgence, we should at least thank her. Does anyone know her address?? Many decades ago the comedian Jimmy Durante ended each radio broadcast by saying "and good night to Mrs Cala-bash wherever you are." Should we close each service by saying "goodnight to Megan O'Meara wherever you are"?

Here's an update on our congregation's income for this new fiscal year. Thus far 25 of us have pledged \$35,495, plus one of us has pledged funds towards our electric bill. Of that \$35,495, some have been able to cover theirs all at once, and as of August 30 towards this year's pledges we have received \$12,300. Also, loose coins and paper money put into the plates for our Generosity Project is \$321 already; and \$36.01 towards our free-trade coffee; and \$665 in donations for our own miscellaneous expenses; and \$85 in rent donations. Also, since July 1 we have received \$600 towards some pledges made for our prior fiscal year which ended last June. It all helps to cover our common bills, and thank you for your help.

Now my next chore is to work on the report on our good use of the grant from the NYS Universalists for \$3200, some of which was put to work in the underwriting of an "ad" on NCPR on Fridays between 5 and 6, for us and for the UU Fellowship in Plattsburgh. ~--Warren Allen



Historian

Sarah O'Connell

What a fun look backward 9 years to September 2015 - we shared photos of an ASUU excursion that several of us took to The Wild Center in August of that year!



Around the Church **Craft Night**

Craft Night, led by Kat Hammond at 5PM on second Fridays, is a booming success. Here are some photos.





Blessing of the Animals and Picnic









Special Congregational Meeting

As called for by the most recent Annual Congregational Meeting, the Board of Trustees has set a date for a Special Congregational Meeting in September to report our annual goals for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Related to these goals we will seek congregational approval for major spending and possible changes to the building, as well as an increased offer to hire a minister. In addition, we will take the opportunity to offer a minor bylaw amendment as follows: following the first sentence of Article 5 Section 2 insert the following sentence, “Members may choose to opt into email notifications instead of paper mail.”

Every Month at All Souls Craft Night

Join us on the second Friday of the month from 5-7 to take part in a craft project. There's usually a theme for each event and available materials will be focused on that.

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 Citizens Advocates and Zoo New York. 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: Erica Gardner
Trustee: Kelly Sackheim
Trustee: Alabama Dane

Staff

Custodian: John Crupi
Music: Toni Zygadlo

Office Volunteer: 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,

harrietm@allsoulsuu.org

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

Phone (315) 788-2742

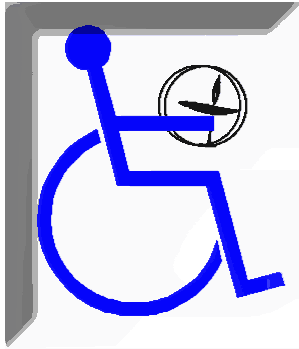
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Website: <http://www.allsoulsuu.org>

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

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ALL SOULS NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2024
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



We affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

Our Principles

Many 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.