

ALL SOULS NEWS -November 2023

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church

1330 Gotham St.

Watertown, NY 13601



200 years!
1823-2023

315-788-2742 www.allsoulsuu.org

allsoulsuuchurch@gmail.com



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 5 - Eleanor Allen, "Generosity:" The idea of generosity is something all religions have in common: do unto others as you would have others do unto you. The parable of the stranger is central to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Buddhism and Hinduism have similar concepts and stories. And Unitarian Universalism draws upon all of them. But isn't the impulse

towards generosity part of human nature? Do we even need formal religion in order to be generous towards others? Are religious people any more generous than non-religious people? Give this some thought and come share your ideas with the congregation. And, the Bi-Centennial committee will take a few minutes to tell us about some of the people who have been generous with All Souls over the years.

November 12 - David Weissbard returns with another stimulating presentation.

November 19 - Eleanor Allen: Guest at Your Table is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's annual intergenerational program to raise support for, and awareness about, key human rights issues. Join us for this year's Guest at Your Table program to learn what UUSC partners are doing to address immediate injustices in the world and their vision for a more just future.

November 26 - We look forward to hearing **Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt's** perspectives over zoom.

President's Message

Heather Winn

Here we are, so close to the end of 2023. I think I must have blinked and missed something because it really flew by for me. This year has been an eventful one for my family. I apologize if it seems like I have disappeared from time to time but I feel like I have spent a lot of time in crisis response mode and it can be overwhelming at times.

I would like to say thank you to everyone who donated to Rhian's fundraiser. This has been fully funded and a large part of that was from our All Souls family. I am eternally grateful for your contributions and also for the care and support that you give to my children. Your support over the years has meant more than you know. Rhian's puppy was born October 10th and we pick him up on December 2nd. Soon afterward his service dog training will begin. Rhian is beyond excited and has named her puppy Remi. She looks forward to introducing him to everyone!



Gratitude (Thanksgiving) Day 2023

Thanksgiving



Yes we're having a Gratitude (Thanksgiving) Day dinner at the Church on November 23rd. There will be a sign-up clipboard in the Social Hall every Sunday until then. Heather Winn has already promised to provide and cook a turkey. As usually we will gather throughout the day but actually sit down together around 2 PM.

Historian/Bicentennial

Sarah O'Connell

Historian

The major water main break for the city of Watertown during the month of October 2023 will be one for the history books in the future! It caused us to postpone our game night on October 20 as well as the highway cleanup on October 21, and we zoomed Sunday's service because of the Boil Water advisory in effect.



In Bicentennial news:

While I was aware that there were Universalist churches in Henderson and Dexter (both of which now are those villages' historical societies), I recently learned about several Universalist congregations that existed in many towns in Jefferson County in the past. I obtained the information from Karen Dau, who is the archivist for the New York State Convention of Universalists. Some were called "Union Societies." Many Universalist groups shared facilities with other faiths. Most were formed in the mid 1800's and existed for a few decades. I'm sure as roads were built and cars became more available, it made sense to have fewer locations with larger congregations to support them. Are you ready for the list? Plessis, Redwood, Brownville, Dexter, Perch River, Champion, Depauville, Clayton, Ellisburg, Henderson, Chaumont, Orleans, Pamela, Sterlingville, Felts Mills, Tylerville, Carthage, Natural Bridge and, of course, Watertown.

Opinion

Robert South

Decisions



The recent response to the water outage in Watertown made me think about decision making. On Thursday I heard about the issue when Pat Merz called me to ask about game night. I had to go clear out all the bottled water at Wal Mart, so I couldn't take action immediately, but I thought about it. I felt that it would be important to inform people in a timely manner about the church's response. So, when I got home from Wal Mart, I consulted Eleanor regarding whether we would be moving the worship service and Sarah regarding the Road Cleanup. I argued that we could adapt to conditions and proceed, but they both felt it was judicious to change the plan. I made the decision to do the same with game night because

that way everybody would be on the same sheet of music.

Two things can be said about this decision:

1. It turned out to be wrong. We could have gotten away with keeping these events.
2. But it was the right decision anyway.

Putting the plan out in a timely manner is always more important than getting the perfect plan. Given this, response plans will tend to be conservative. Better to miss out than to have a mishap. But what's to keep the plan from changing when conditions change? It's important

enough to stick to one plan that changing it should require strong circumstances. Above a certain threshold, of course you would change the plan back and make an even later announcement that reversed the revision. It just has to be worth it, and the disruption caused from confusion means it seldom is. Staying even an incorrect course can be the best plan.

Another consideration is that people in charge of things have to make snap decisions that will sometimes be wrong but which still have to be respected. We all love democracy, but Sarah, Eleanor and I didn't call anybody and ask permission; we just made gut calls because we all understood the need for early notice was more important than the need for a perfect decision, and consulting everyone properly falls under the area of perfection in a decision.

Membership & Activities

Kelly Sacheim

Membership & Activities

Friday Game Night has become a popular activity on the 3rd Friday of each month. Meditation (reservations requested) is starting up on the 3rd Sunday of each month after the service.

Individuals are encouraged to extend an invitation to events they are attending that may be of general interest -

Kelly has brought two opportunities of the Trinity Concert Series -

Saturday, November 11 at 3 pm a program entitled "Begotten, Not Made" features sections of masses with pieces setting texts from other faith traditions, including incorporation of "I believe..." statements solicited from the audience, AND (next month!) a FREE "Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols" on Saturday, December 16 at 4 pm. Perhaps attendees would be interested in dinner together afterwards?

*Kelly also noted in the Weekly Post (and will repeat): At **7 pm, November 11**, Kelly will be performing at Pickens Hall in Heuvelton with the orchestra of St. Lawrence University in Canton (and can give rides to 6 passengers leaving Watertown 5 pm-ish), and THAT concert will be repeated on SLU's campus, just a few miles from UU-Canton, on **Sunday, November 12** at 2 pm. Kelly plans to attend UU-Canton's 10:30 a.m. service that morning; we can arrange rides for folks who aren't on her way departing Philadelphia.

Plans for the April 2024 Eclipse are being developed slowly - anyone interested in working with the Committee to organize this activity should reach out to a Committee member. Post and heed announcements at services as plans are made.



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People News

We Remember

Long time active member Jim Harter died on September 29, following a long illness. Jim served on the board of trustees, the building committee (which developed the present building) and was the head of buildings and grounds for many years. Jim was a fount of information for the past 35+ years. He also was the grill master at many church picnics.

His caregiver, the last few years, was his wife Joanne, also a church member. His "Celebration of Life" service was held at the church and attended by his family and many friends.



Julie Jeffers

Julie Jeffers is home recovering from emergency surgery. She has to stay out of work for at least two weeks.

Doug Venable

Doug Venable has been in the Intensive Care Unit and now moved to a private room at Samaritan Medical Center. Doug first went to the hospital with Covid which morphed into pneumonia. Covid left him with damage to his lungs. He remains hospitalized while being treated for the damage. Talking is an effort, but should you decide to send a card, his room number is 4211.

Building and Grounds

Rebecca Carr

Everything is relatively calm with B&G.

We have discussed tree trimming near the building. This will be after the leaves fall. The pears out in front of the RE wing were falling off the tree and ready to pick. Don't know if that happened. I found one on the ground that was ok. It was delicious.

The ceiling in the entry was observed with an increasing stain. Diego was contacted to address the issue.

After Jim Harder's memorial service, John Crupi was contacted to spend more time cleaning the social hall and kitchen.

The snowplowing in the coming winter will be performed by the same company as last year, Cutting Edge.

Around the Church

Water Issues

Because the city lost water the week of October 20, church service on the following Sunday were changed to Zoom. Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt, our guest speaker, rolled with the punches and incorporated the water problem in her service.

October Blood Drive

There were 18 scheduled donors, 16 successful donations! ❤️. Over all a great drive!
Thanks to Julie Jeffers who gave her day to the event and reported the results.



Every Month at All Souls

CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans)

meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the church. Gathering and chatting begins at 6:30, 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.

Meditation

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

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

Statement from UUA President Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt Regarding the Conflict Between Israel and Hamas

Beloveds, I invite you to stop what you are doing if you can and sit with me in the depth of this tragedy. How to reconcile the cost of occupation and of war? How to nuance two very real histories of oppression and violence? I am holding close the words of U.N. Middle East peace envoy Tor Wennesland who said: "This is a dangerous precipice, and I appeal to all to pull back from the brink."

We as a people of faith can condemn violence against civilians while at the same time engaging the full legacies and histories of oppression that shape such devastating conflict. As a faith tradition, Unitarian Universalists have long worked for peace, and our principles and values call for the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. At the same time, we have not engaged the tangled issues surrounding Israel/Palestine in community since 2018, and our last engagement resulted in severed relationships, and deep pain.

I pray for the people of Israel and Palestine. I pray for leaders around the globe who must respond to this latest flare of violence and the untenable ethical considerations that abound. I pray for Muslim and Jewish UUs who experience the impact of this long strife acutely. I pray that those of us less likely to know the trauma of unending brutality and harm will not turn away from generational loss, from the devastating realities and their root causes, or from the relentless tragedy of war and occupation. Be gentle with yourselves when you need to be, but do not turn away unless you must. We are one global family living tenuously on the same human-impacted Earth. Let us center ourselves in justice as we call for peace.

All 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, harrieta@allsoulsuu.org

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

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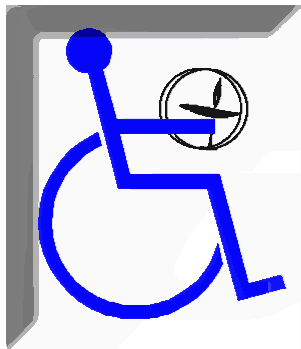
Website: <http://www.allsoulsuu.org>

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



Cake to celebrate Sylvia Heap's and Frances Mercer's presentation on UN Sunday. Thanks to Eleanor Allen for the photo.

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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.