

ALL SOULS NEWS -February 2024

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church

1330 Gotham St.

Watertown, NY 13601



315-788-2742 www.allsoulsuu.org

allsoulsuuchurch@gmail.com



Find us on

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.



February Services

February 4 - Eleanor Allen – “Max Coots on God: What Kind of God Allows Hatred, War, and Famine?” Max Coots, former minister of our sister church in Canton, had something to say about this in 1976. His words remain relevant today.

February 11 - Dave Weissbard will provide another informative and entertaining service.

February 18 - Eleanor Allen – “Susan B. Anthony and the Right of Women to Vote.”: Susan B. Anthony's birthday is February 15th. In this important election year, it seems appropriate to

think about her role in the fight to obtain the right to vote for women, and her complex relationship with racism.

February 25 Tim Stoner - stay tuned for more information in the weekly post.

Collectorland

Warren Allen



Thanks for helping the financial side of our worship together, to keep our building warm enough and other needs covered. We used to have a paid secretary, but Robert has been kind enough to do that, plus his doing some custodian tasks other times and computer work during our worship, with our thanks.

Some make donations when they can afford to. Others of us set our own financial goal each spring for the pledge towards which we'll aim during the coming fiscal year. For our year starting last July, 28 of us set targets totaling \$37,615, plus one pledger planned to cover a portion of our electric bills. So as of the end of last December, towards the \$37,615 goal we have brought in \$21,993, which is 58% of the total goals, and ten of us have been able to bring in all of their own pledge. Also, by the same date, we have put into the plates \$1331.22 in cash towards our Generosity Project, of which we keep towards our expenses one half, and split the other half with the other charities for which we voted, the Children's Home of Jefferson County, and Planned Parenthood of NNY.

And during that six months we received donation checks for our expenses amounting to \$626.42 (plus PayPal fees). And our account for upkeep of our lovely Memorial Garden received another \$600. And one kind friend has given us \$375 so that we can be listed among the local attractions on NewsJunky. And cash donations this year totaling \$131 went to now the UUSC, which is now coordinating our ongoing support of UU presence at the United Nations. And then we got some modest rent donations from AA, plus some from Ann Halback who prefers our handicapped-accessible building for her great t'ai chi classes which now are free of cost for UU members.

Historian

Sarah O'Connell



As mentioned in the Weekly Post and the newsletter, we collect items for the Urban Mission in a basket at the back of the sanctuary. They are always in need of food donations (non-perishable especially) as well as personal hygiene products. When our basket is full, someone delivers it to the pantry. It's a tradition that goes back over 150 years, judging by this brief notice in the Watertown Times Looking Backward column for December 22, 1873. (Notice brought in by Joanne Harter.) "A collection was taken up in the Universalist Church last evening for the purpose of giving the children of the orphan's home a supper on Christmas night."

People News

Welcome to the Stoner family: a baby boy! He arrived January 18, 9 lb. 1 oz., and 22 inches.

Till Fritszching died in Samaritan Medical Center on Jan. 22.



Building and Grounds

Rebecca Carr

The year started off quietly until last Tuesday's (1/9/2024) storm which uprooted a backyard pine tree, near the May pole. Arrangements are under consideration to remove it and fill in the root hole.

The two day power outage had little effect on the church building. The water was temporarily turned off.



Snow plowing and removal has begun.

During the cold snap a week ago, [January 18] there was a concern, then a kerfuffle in the RE wing. Tom Nixon (Nixon's Heating and Plumbing) was called in to verify. The RE furnace has finally "bit the dust." The circuit board is no longer sending information to the various systems to turn on the burner.

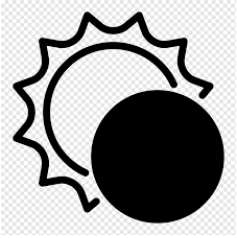
This month I went through the bidding process to replace my own furnace. The choice in furnace repair/replacement was obvious (\$).

In the meantime, passive heat from the hallway, open doors and space heaters are moderately maintaining the temperature in there.

We have a proposal that is waiting for board approval.

Around the Church (in the coming year)

Update



A total solar eclipse is scheduled for April 8th 2024. All Souls Watertown NY is offering to let UU's from other congregations attend the 24 hour eclipse watching parties we are holding in our building, directly in the path of totality, from the evening of the 7th to the morning of the 9th. Bring your sleeping bag. All we ask is a donation to our generosity project (this year the recipients are Planned Parenthood and of Northern New York and the Children's Home of Jefferson County and we suggest a minimum 50 dollar donation). Additionally, if there is interest some of our members may provide a full bed and breakfast experience if the donation is sufficiently impressive. We will also offer a tour of the maple syrup industry. To reserve your space, contact our office allsoulsuuchurch@gmail.com. Thanks to Warren Allen for pursuing the project.

Nominations for Board Positions

In preparation for the annual meeting June 9th, Robert South, Frances Mercer, and Warren Allen will soon begin interviewing members about being nominated as trustees, officers, and nominating committee members . Both Catherine Burns and Heather Winn are reaching term limits so they at will have to be replaced. Frances had the idea that we should pick nominees early so we can ask them to speak, one per Sunday, in the weeks leading up to June. Even those being nominated to return would be asked to make speeches. That would be speeches by all four officer nominees, two trustee nominees, and 3 members of the nominating committee. A total of 9 speeches means we have to start them at the first Sunday in April to be ready for the annual meeting..



Stewardship Campaign

As the annual stewardship campaign approaches, start thinking about how much you want to pledge for the next year, and the other ways you can participate and contribute. Stewardship is more than just giving money, it's also participating church governance and, maintenance and fun!. You can attend a committee meeting, a board meeting, Ask to join committees. Offer to lead a lay led service. Offer to help in the Wondering Center. And of course, keep us updated on your contact information.

-Robert South

Guest at Your Table

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Guest at Your Table fundraiser this year!



We collected a total of \$268.51, which will be sent to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, to support their important work furthering human rights through their grassroots partnerships in many countries around the world.

-Eleanor Allen

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.

General Assembly 2024

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles.

All Souls UU Church Board of Trustees

President: Heather Winn

Vice President: Amy Summerville-Loomis

Secretary: Francis Ashland

Treasurer: Eleanor Allen eleonora.asuuc@gmail.com

Trustee: Janine LaClair

Trustee: Catherine Burns catherineb.asuuc@gmail.com

Trustee: Alabama Dane

Trustee: Kelly Sackheim

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, harriem@allsoulsuu.org

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

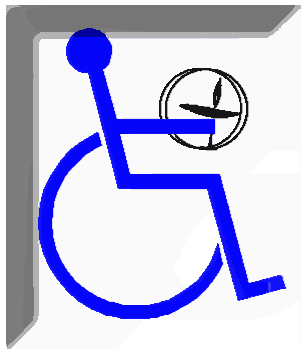
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Website: <http://www.allsoulsuu.org>

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

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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.