

ALL SOULS NEWS -January 2023

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/AllSoulsUUWatertownNY

SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:30 A.M.

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

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.



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

Let it snow, let it snow, and it did! So we zoomed on Christmas Eve.



January Services

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

January 1 Start the new year with an informal brunch. Bring a dish. Come share in what others have brought. Discuss plans for the new year and reminisce about the last one. Long may it be forgotten. The potluck will be in person only in the Eaton Social Hall at 1330 Gotham

January 8 – Rev. David Weissbard - "Searching for the Meaning of Life." A dozen years ago, I started the New Year with a sermon on "Searching for the Meaning of Life." I am sure you will not be surprised to know that I was not able to resolve that search at that time. I am sure you do not expect me to resolve it now. I do think, however, that it is worth looking at that challenge once again, so we will Sunday, January 8th. I hope you will join us. Rev. Dave

January 15 - Are You There God? It's Me, Eleanor (Allen:) The Soul Matters theme for January is 'Finding Our Center.' For me, that's UUism. And so, with a nod to Judy Blume, I'll talk about why I'm a UU, and what I personally find exciting in the work the UUA is doing to revise article II of the bylaws; how it relates to our own All Souls mission statement; and how all of this helps me, personally find balance in my own spiritual life.

January 22 – Harriet McMillan and Chris Schneider: Banned books- How Does that Happen? What Can We Do?" Although banned books week traditionally happens in September, it's never a bad time to look at the issue.

January 29 – Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt, our transition consultant.

Religious Exploration in the Wondering Center

Religious Exploration This Month: Miscellaneous Projects Join us in the Wondering Center this January 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th. January 8th- Service project: Come help us make no-sew fleece cat beds to donate to local shelters to keep kitties warm and snuggly while they wait to find their forever homes. January 15th- Let's imagine ourselves in Australia, where people are now enjoying summer! We'll learn about Aboriginal art forms and the meanings and symbols used as we try our hand at creating a tile decorated with Dot Painting or maybe you want to decorate a boomerang and learn about its many traditional uses? January 22nd- Service project: Come learn to make no-sew fleece scarves to donate to people in our area who could use a lovely warm scarf. January 29th -- Let's learn about Lunar New Year- it's meanings, decorations, and history. We'll each make a Dragon puppet, try brush calligraphy, and explore many other traditions of this colorful holiday.

From the President's Desk

Heather Winn

Hello,

I hope that you all had a happy and safe holiday! I spent this holiday in Tennessee with my family. I feel like this year has ended on a (mostly) high note. We are back in our building full time (or as much as North country winter weather will allow). We have had many in person hybrid services and been able to enjoy social hour. Our new normal is looking pretty good. I cannot believe that we are saying our goodbyes to 2022 but I, for one, cannot wait to see what 2023 has in store for All Souls. I look forward to the year of growth and discovery that we have ahead of us!



Collector

Warren Allen

It's a lot of fun shoveling snow, but let's take a break and roll around in the money in our vault.

Thanks for being a part of our congregation, and thanks for whatever pledges or donations which you can manage. The pledge cards, which were handed to me for our fiscal year beginning last July, total \$34,165. As of December 23 this FY is 48% over, and our families have brought in thus far \$19,990, which is 58% of our goal. Also, some of us find it better to donate irregularly as they can, and these unpledged donations are thus far \$3565.

And with us back in the building, we have some rent income. Shannon's employer has rented the former teen room for storage of books which are being sent out to families, so Shannon's Book Nook (!?) brings us income. Ann Halback has resumed her well-respected t'ai chi classes, including one for we who have physical challenges, and the non-ASUU students have brought us income. Rental income thus far this FY is \$350. (*But wait:* there's more: ASUU members get free classes while they improve muscle tone and balance).

And then there is our Generosity Project, being the loose coins and currency put into our collection plates, or else the personal checks marked for this. Thus far these dollars total \$950, and later when this FY is over we will keep a half of these dollars towards our own expenses, and we'll split the other half with the other two charities for which we voted last June — our local NCPR public radio, and the farm workers support group in Syracuse.

Plus our deposits into our credit union account continue to include monthly amounts taken out of our savings, from previous donations by those gone but not forgotten.

(It's only hell that UU's don't believe in.) Thanks for your help. After we finish shoveling outside, let's make snow angels, or maybe snow angles.

From the Historian's Files



I looked back at the January 2013 ASUU newsletter, and it reminded me that my mother-in-law, Bernetta O'Connell, passed away that December. What a sweetheart! We also had a book shower for Killian, Cara Venable-Mercer's baby. Joanne Harter made a cake in the shape of a book. And on a very sad note, December saw the horrific Sandy Hook school shootings.

DISCUSSION HOUR IS BACK

The discussion hour will be an open meeting in the informal lounge every

Sunday between 9:30 and 10:15.

Every month:

1st Sunday: UUism for newcomers

2nd Sunday: Common Read; book discussion

3rd, 4th, 5th Sundays: Random Topic



The "Introductory UUism" will feature Youtube videos on this topic, but will also include questions by the newcomers and answers by whatever UU members are present.

A favorite is "Unitarian Universalism on One Foot" by Christine

Robinson: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=girNb9xccsg>.

If there are no newcomers on a given month, maybe we can delve into other denomination and congregation related topics such as the history of All Souls or the UUA.

The common reads will be picked in advance by participant suggestion and consensus of those participating, then submitted for approval by the board. In January we will start discussing "Bloodlands" by Dr. Timothy Snyder. So in November and December we will just use this slot to discuss books we've each read recently, not all the same one.

The free ranging discussions won't be billed as education about UUism, just interesting discussions between intelligent adults on intriguing topics. The random topics would be taken from a list based on suggestions and leader research

Suggested topics:

January 8th *Bloodlands*
January 15th Nuclear War
January 22nd Climate Change
January 29th Ukraine
February 5th Unitarian Universalism
February 12th *Bloodlands*
February 19th Factory Farms
February 26th Flying Saucers
March 5th Unitarian Universalism
March 12th Book Talk
March 19th Spirits
March 26th Business Practices

From the Mailbag

Anita Lee and Wendy Wynn sent Christmas greetings to all of us.

Around the Church

Building and Grounds

All the wheels of operation are functioning at All Souls. We're back in the building with the exception to a couple major snowstorms (so far).

Our custodian, John Crupi, is back on the job keeping everything clean and orderly. Robert South is in the office three days a week and around the campus a few other days.

Cutting Edge won the snowplowing bid and is keeping the snow at bay in the driveway and parking lot. The last two storms had them working around the clock for three days each (!!) servicing their customers. They are heroes.

We will be commencing a new security and fire protection service in January 2023. This includes some needed service updates. Anyone with a key to the building will be notified upon startup. We have Sarah O'Connell and Amy Loomis Summerville to thank for donating their time and business experience for searching for a contractor, making arrangements for system evaluations and determining the appropriate servicer.

There are more major maintenance projects at the church. The RE roof, clerestory windows and wood siding need attention. Diego Aguilar has been hired to manage this work which will be beginning in the spring.

There are much lesser repairs and projects in the works. B&G will address these.

2023 is the 200th anniversary of our congregation. Other committees are making celebratory plans. B&G will ensure the building is prepared for any upcoming event.

Most of us had to hunker down for Christmas this year, but I hope you had a wonderful day, anyway, and that 2023 will be a great year for all of us.

-Rebecca Carr

Game Night

There have long been a bunch of board games in the RE Wing going to waste, so we're going to try to start a game night in the Eaton Social Hall. We'll try 5PM on Saturdays with an even numbered date. This month that's the 10th and the 24th. There will be pizza and please feel free to bring other junk food and/or games of your own. We currently have complete sets of: Settlers of Catan, Monopoly, Scrabble, Balderdash, Outburst, Speak Out and Touch Someone, and Snowstorm-A Cooperative Game. We also have card games: Uno, SkipBo, and 3 decks of regular playing cards. New acquisitions include Sushi Go, The Resistance, and Dominoes. We have tried this in prior years and only last a few sessions. Let's see if we can beat that.

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)

Will resume meetings at a future time. Once underway again, the group meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at the church. Gathering and chatting will begin at 6:30, the meeting at 7 PM.

And Every Week at All Souls

The baskets for your donations to the Urban Mission Food Pantry are always available for your donations. Also, Joanne Harter collects the orange bags in which our newspapers are delivered. She then delivers them to the SPCA to be used to keep the grounds clean.

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 2023](#)

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.

Join us June 21 - 25, 2023 online or in-person in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Most GA events will take place at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, 1000 Fort Duquesne Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA. [Google map](#)

[More about traveling to Pittsburgh](#)

[Registration](#) is open. Register early to secure the lowest rates. [Volunteer opportunities](#) and [financial support](#) are available.

President: Heather Winn
Vice President: Amy Summerville-Loomis
Secretary: Sarah O'Connell
Treasurer: Eleanor Allen eleonora.asuuc@gmail.com
Trustee: Rebecca Carr rebeccac.asuuc@gmail.com
Trustee: Shannon Starkweather Blurke
Trustee: Catherine Burns catherineb.asuuc@gmail.com
Trustee: Joanne Harter

Sextons: John Krupi
Music: Toni Zygadlo
Childcare: Kim Davis:
Religious Education: Kathy Ashland, Kelly Sackheimr

Board meetings are held the third Friday at 9:00 AM at the church in the conference room. Meetings are open to all members of the congregation.

Newsletter Editor, Harriet McMillan, harrierm@allsoulsuu.org
Office Administrator M, W, F, 10-1
Phone (315) 788-2742
E-mail: allsoulsuuchurch@gmail.com
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.

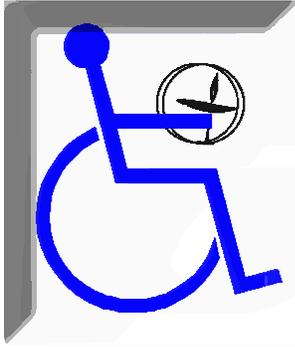
Our Christmas Tree with Urban Mission Donations



Thanks to Robert South for the photos this month.

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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.