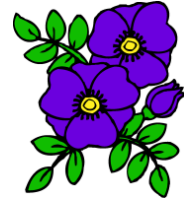


ALL SOULS NEWS May 2023

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"

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

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of All Souls Church will be Sunday, June 11 following the service, for the purpose of electing board officers, trustees and the nominating committee and approving the 2023-2024 budget.

May Services

May 7 – Joanne Harter Presents

May 14 – Rev. David Weissbard: "Drawing Larger Circles." I have mentioned more than once that I believe that religion, at its best but sadly not always, is about encouraging people to "draw larger circles." I will be going into more depth about that concept in my next sermon.

May 21 – Robert South: “Creativity: Our Secret Weapon.” It's impossible for extended joy or sorrow to come from normal life because people tend to adapt to circumstances. Unless circumstances maliciously adapt to prevent adaptation, life tends to be about as much good as bad, subjectively. But we have a secret weapon: creativity. Let me explain how that works.

May 28 – Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt, our transition consultant, returns with another service.

Easter Bonnets 2023



Religious Exploration in the Wondering Center

In the Wondering Center this month we will try to get outside at times and explore, weather permitting. It might be good to bring rubber boots and a jacket for your child/youth.

May 7th. The Invertebrates are coming! We'll have some guests in the Wondering center- pill bugs,snails, Madagascar hissing cockroaches,and maybe a few surprises! This is a chance to embrace our 7th principle while making friends with some small wonders!

May 14th Robert Spouth will be our guide as we explore the natural world outside the church- what wildlife might we see? Will we find animal tracks? What about scat? How many trees can we identify? Join us on this adventure!

May 21st Animal Art extravaganza- we'll have a chance to create mixed media art of some of our favorite animals.

May 28th Robert will lead us as we continue our exploration of the "wild" in the church's backyard.

Transition Consultant

Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt

REFLECTIONS FROM THE TRANSITION CONSULTANT

Whenever I have lived in a northern climate like that around all of you in upper New York, I have frequently seen a sequence unfold in early spring: we have a few mild days with more sunlight, and the first evidences of blooming appear all around. Then, as is usually the case at that point in the calendar, more winter weather comes. I worry, looking at the snow on those early bloomers, whether they will be hardy enough to withstand the shocks of cold and keep blooming.

My worries are the predictable response of someone who, for most of my life, has tended to be a late bloomer. I never understand the early bloomers, how they can be ready to leap full tilt into an undertaking, a fresh start, a wholly different path; I find them impetuous, maybe even foolish, though I have to admire their willingness to take a risk. My own style is to hold back, do more research, wait for God or the universe to give me a sign. And even

then I am likely to wait a while longer just to be sure. Most of the congregations I have known follow a similar pattern, seldom if ever taking risks, spending an amazing amount of time discussing and rediscussing a proposal, so that the term has developed about things moving “at the speed of church”—which is with glacial slowness.

I personally want a level of certainty that life seldom if ever brings, a certainty of being right, of success (or at least not failure) before I head out. Our culture talks about “a sure thing,” urges us to “have all your ducks in a row” and “cover all your bases,” implying that we can indeed be justified in expecting success in an endeavor, rightness in a choice or a cause, if we just take the time to consider everything. When we fall short of what we intended, we may hear the criticism that “you didn’t do your homework,” as though our preparation was inadequate—and again the implication that with adequate

preparation, we would surely have succeeded.

Yet such assurances carry the faulty assumption that it is possible at times to control all elements of ourselves, our lives, our surroundings. And though experience will show us repeatedly the falseness of this assumption as we see events unfold we never could have predicted, people behave in ways we have never seen before, reactions in ourselves we have not known were in us, still—the allure of total control remains.

Contrary to this image of control, spiritual traditions of all kinds insist that our capacity for control is quite limited and much of experience is outside human control, unfolding as mystery. That mystery, some say, can be trusted, that it may even hold our best interests

at heart. Yet we will not be able to manipulate it to suit our ends, ever—and in fact, the more intense our efforts to manipulate the mystery, the more it is likely to upend us.

Again and again, I have been relieved to see those early bloomers hang in there, a bit droopy but otherwise intact. I root for their survival and try to follow their example, to be more willing to plunge ahead even when I cannot say for sure that I see my way clearly. A late winter storm may yet prove my undoing. But waiting till all is assured means I am waiting forever, and waiting forever seems a waste of a good lifetime.

In faith, hope, and love,
Rev. Kathy

Collector

Warren Allen

Collectorland

Here's an update from Collectorland: For the Fiscal Year in which we are now, the totals pledged were \$34,365 from 27 families. As of April 23, twelve families have brought in at least the amount of their original pledge, plus seven families are only THIS far away from completion of their own goal.

For the new year starting in June, 22 families have by now pledged \$32,255, including three who did not pledge for the current year. Nine families who did pledge for the current year have not been able to figure out their next pledge -or just didn't get to it yet. If those nine not-yet-renewing families are able to pledge at the same level as they did for the current year, then the pledges for next year would be \$38,507, which is.... (lessee... carry the hypotenuse...) more than \$4,000 that we won't have to take out of our savings!

Thanks for your support.



From the Historian's Files

Sarah O'Connell

Hard to believe it's been THREE years since the Covid-19 pandemic shut everything down. In New York State, it happened in March 2020 with the beginning of a 2-week "pause" which extended a lot longer!



The official ending of the public health emergency will be May 11, 2023. According to our beloved Collector, we have had **118** Zoom services due to Covid and floods since 2020. HUGE thanks to Rev. Marty Pelham, Robert South, the Worship Committee and congregation members who helped make that pivot to using technology – or to planning safely-distanced events, like our parking lot party - to keep us connected virtually non-stop.

Our church Covid-19 policy will be suspended as of that date as well (and hopefully permanently). But we expect that, as always, our congregation will exercise all respectful and prudent care when deciding about attending church if ill or if exposed to contagious diseases. The Zoom option for observing every Sunday's service will be continued, as it has become an important part of reaching our members who may not be able to attend in person.

From the Mailbag

From Mary Lou Reed in Lowville: Hi Harriet! Past time to connect with you! I am not planning on church these days. My eyes are challenged and in general old age is moving in (as opposed to just visiting.)

Thank you and all the others who work hard to keep All Souls alive and well. The Unitarian Universalist Church must survive this chaotic world. Keep on UN-banning those books!.

Hope you and your family are well! Onward and upward!



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Building and Grounds

Rebecca Carr

We are getting ready for warmer weather work.

John has been asked to level the lumps of soil leftover from the snow plowing. Also, he has been trying out different materials to remove that unusual texture on the Sanctuary

and Social Hall floors. This may have been caused by scratches from the stored church property and heavy equipment being moved around.

Burrville Power Sport has begun maintaining lawnmowers. Ours will be there in the next few days. At this reading, it is most likely there already for the annual maintenance.

I heard that Diego has found a contractor that will replace the RE roof. More on this later.

The clerestory window casings will be replaced or repaired as needed; followed by the repair of the Social Hall ceiling.

The siding replacement is under discussion.

Currently, we are taking bids to have the church driveway and parking lot repaired (as needed), sealed and striped. This will include two more handicap parking spaces and the curb will be painted the safety color (yellow).

Furnace cleaning will be arranged in the next couple of months while there are good deals offered.

Around the Church

Solar Eclipse Coming on Monday April 8, 2024.

You may have seen the article in last Saturday's W. Times. For over three minutes, on that day, our sun will just disappear, and the sky will look as if it's an hour after sunset. And then, hopefully, the sun will return. We are in the narrow band of total eclipse, along with Rochester and other places from west Texas to northern Maine.



Committees in Henderson and Sackets Harbor are working to monetize this excitement, and in this City, Sarah Compo Pierce and others are doing the same, with a focus on Kite Hill in the Park across Gotham St. The head of the Thousand Islands Int'l Tourism Council says this will draw thousands and thousands of visitors to Jefferson County. And visitors leave trails of money behind, right??

And we've already heard that, on average, many Unitarian congregations are more wealthy than other congregations in the US and Canada, plus are kinder and probably smell nicer. Might families of UUs from other places like to come to our building on Sunday April 7, listen to whatever interesting sermon comes along, drink coffee, spread out their bedrolls in our building, and watch the eclipse in our yard the next day. Maybe stay the next night. We have a choice of toilets and sinks. Being fellow UUs, they won't steal our holy relics, will they? Might they want to donate say per person \$250 to us plus \$250 for our local Victims Assistance Center plus \$250 to the UUSC?

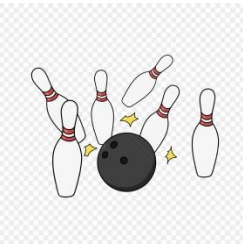
If you have thoughts on monetizing the sun, please speak with a Board member. - Warren

April Showers Bring May Flowers

And at the same time we are getting ready for our annual meeting in June. We need to have your annual report by the middle of May, in order to get the report ready and out before the end of May. You can do it!



Bowling Party (this week!) Friday, May 5! (And/or Thursday, May 4)



Kelly Sackheim is hosting a bowling party and invites members and friends of Watertown-ASUU and Canton-UU!

The bowling party may be a two-day event, if at least 2 people RSVP for two different days.

Please contact Kelly directly by calling or texting (916) 877-5947 or via Facebook messenger to Kelly Waser Sackheim or by email to kelly@git-go.org and Kelly will confirm which days/times she will

reserve (if possible) and pay for the first 1-hour of use of a lane (up to 6 people may bowl per lane, shoe rental is only \$2; rate is \$30/hour/lane)

at <http://www.3cbowl.com/> on Route 37 in Theresa. Friday, May 5, appears to be the date when most people could attend from not much before 6 pm to 9 pm (although the alley is open until midnight) - **Kelly proposes to reserve a lane for 7 pm!**

the website indicates for Fridays: SEAFOOD NIGHT & LIVE MUSIC! Several Seafood Specials and LIVE MUSIC every Friday Night!

May 4 - Thursdays there are Mexican food specials and the hours are 11 am to 10 pm.

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)

We now meet in the Social Hall on the third Wednesday of the month, gathering at 6:30 pm to chat, and getting around to the evening's agenda at 7 pm. Our next meeting will

be May 17.. If you're interested in following a positive spiritual, nature-centered path, feel free to join us!

And Every Week at All Souls

The baskets for your donations to the Urban Mission Food Pantry are 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 NCPA and Syracuse Worker Center. Each organization receives 1/4 of the uncommitted funds for the year.

To see the church calendar, go to allsoulsuu.org, and click on calendar.

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](#)

Juneteenth News

A poster for the Juneteenth Collaboration Exhibit. The background is yellow. On the right side, there are two overlapping circles with black horizontal stripes, and below them, a green and a red semi-circle. The text is in bold black font.

**JUNETEENTH
COLLABORATION
EXHIBIT**

**JUNE 17-18, 2023
AT JEFFERSON COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS**

- March 11th - Call For Art
- April 25th - Entry Deadline
- April 27th - Notification
- May 1st - Drop Off
- May 6th - Opening
- June 4th - Pick Up

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_Burke
Trustee: Catherine Burns catherineb.asuuc@gmail.com
Trustee: Joanne Harter

Sextons: John Crupi
Music: Toni Zygadlo
Childcare: Kim Davis:
Religious Education: Kathy Ashland

Board meetings are held the fourth
Friday at 9:30 AM at the church.
Meetings are open to all members
of the congregation.

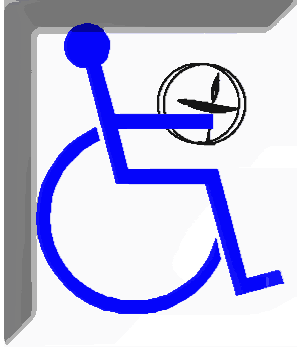
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Website: <http://www.allsoulsuu.org>

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 NEWS May 2023

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.