

ALL SOULS NEWS -July-August 2023

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church

1330 Gotham St.

Watertown, NY 13601



315-788-2742 www.allsoulsuu.org

allsoulsuuchurch@gmail.com



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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

Summer Services

Our summer services are more informal than our winter services. It's a unique opportunity for anyone who would like to lead a service, but has never done so before, to give it a try with help from the worship committee. We often gather in the picnic area outside the Eaton Social Hall instead of using the sanctuary. And the service can be as simple as asking everyone to bring and share their favorite poetry. Or, perhaps, another haiku sharing service. If interested, please contact any of these members of the worship committee and we will help you get started: Eleanor Allen, wezallen11@gmail.com; Frances Mercer, mercersarahfrances96@gmail.com; Robert South, tholish@verizon.net; Kelly Sackheim, kelly@git-go.org, or Sarah O'Connell, Doon45@aol.com.

Please check the weekly post for more information as it becomes available. There will be no service on July 2.

July 2 – No service

July 9 - Robert South: “How to Create A Worship Service.”

It's impossible to tell you how to have inspiration or something to share, but this service will focus on the other aspect of putting together a service: The process of planning the elements and assembling them in a way that is worshipful for everyone.

July 16 Eleanor Allen

July 23 – Harriet McMillan: Would you would like a little help writing your obituary? How do you want the world to remember you when you are no longer here? You can be serious or funny, it's up to you.

July 30-TBA

August 6-TBA

August 13 - TBA

August 20 - TBA

August 27 - TBA

September 3 – Labor Day, no service



Religious Exploration in the Wondering Center

Religious Exploration Volunteers Needed

The Wondering Center is looking for a couple of volunteers to help out over the summer. We have a number of people trained as leaders but we need helpers to join those leaders each week to interact with the children and youth. No special training or skills is required, we're really just asking a few adults (16 years or older) to help out 1 or 2 Sundays during the summer by joining the youth and their leader for some informal fun activities in the Wondering Center or perhaps outside on good weather days. If you can help out, please contact Kathy in person on Sundays or you can email me at henzandhoundz@gmail.com. PS I am told that I might not get any volunteers from this request but I believe there have to be a few of you who are curious about the Wondering Center and would like to join us so please prove me right! Thanks!

-Kathy Ashland

From the President's Desk

Heather Winn

President's Report

Can you believe that it is half way through 2023 already? I, for one, cannot. June has been a good month. The roof repairs are in full swing, flowers are blooming, and on the last day of June will be my 25th wedding anniversary. Also on the last day of June we mark our incoming and outgoing board members. Secretary, Sarah O'Connell will be stepping down. Trustees Shannon Starkweather Burke and Joanne Harter are also stepping down. We are welcoming Francis Ashland as Secretary as well as Alabama Dane and Kelly Sackheim as trustees.

During the Annual Meeting Frances Mercer requested that the board members take a moment to introduce themselves and talk a little about why we decided to accept our nominations and serve on the Board of Trustees. So here goes ...

I moved to Watertown in 2014. My husband is an Army Veteran. I have 4 children, 2 boys who are 26 and 2 girls who are 14 and 10. In addition my fourth grandchild was born a few days ago. My son, Matthew is in the army and he currently lives in Ft. Knox with his wife and children. Zakery Jr, Payton, and Rhian all live with me. I graduated from SUNY Oswego and have a BA in public justice with a minor in forensic science. I worked for about 7 years with developmentally disabled adults in residential and employment training settings, I was also a substitute teacher at Knickerbocker, where Rhian was attending, until the pandemic. After everything shut down we decided to homeschool the two youngest and we are still at it.

This will be my third year as president but my seventh year on the board. Before being president I was a trustee and then vice president. Being on the board has allowed me to get to know more of the members of the congregation. I feel like I get the opportunity to see what goes on behind the scenes and feel like I am more of a part of the All Souls family. When I started as president I did not have a clue what I was doing but there were plenty of seasoned members for me to lean on. I have enjoyed being president and look forward to this next year. I feel like it is an experience that we should all have.

From the Historian's Files

Sarah O'Connell

A Future Look at Historian Stuff!

We will be celebrating the Bicentennial of our church from September 2023 through June 2024 with a variety of events, adventures and presentations! Plans are afoot.

And From the Past (2010)

The BOT has requested estimates from 2 plumbing firms about replacing our 2 old water heaters with on demand water heaters. Our Capital Expense Fund was established to cover costs such as this. The BOT is concerned that the two existing hot water heaters may need to be replaced soon. One is located in the space above the storage closet in the social hall, which is a concern should it leak.

The BOT is looking into hiring someone to reseal the skylights and replace some of the boards on the building which have rotted out.

Jim Yerdon refreshed the handicapped parking marks in the parking lot.

Around the Church

Building and Grounds

The lawnmower was maintained and returned to the church. It's about 14 years old and still running!! Although a couple pieces of the body have fallen off... Our campus lawn is maintained again.

The Mexican Consulate came to All Souls and was a success. Everyone really liked our space. The flow of traffic was well coordinated because of the two main rooms and their passthrough. In one side and out the other. Lawyers from the Volunteer Lawyers Project of Syracuse were here to help with issues. And the Cornell Farmworkers Program staff were helping to fill out forms for USDA reimbursements for expenses incurred during COVID. Approximately 145 people received service.

Afterward our custodian came in to clean up the little bit of remaining debris. Looked good for Sunday.

The RE roof replacement is just about finished. There were a couple heavy rainstorms that affected the roofing project by resulting in water leaks. One came through the women's room ceiling; the other came through the ADA door mechanism in the front entrance. Diego Agular was notified, and the roofing contractor promptly returned to make repairs. Both ceilings will need to be repainted.

We are considering building new picnic tables as the existing ones are aging out.

A meeting of the Buildings and Grounds was planned but I became a bit sidetracked. Maybe next week. We will need to perform a walk through at the meeting.

The sanctuary has been filling up with a lot more people :). A fourth row of chairs was placed.

We are waiting for the Board to approve a contractor to seal and stripe the driveway and parking lot.

-Rebecca Carr

Mexican Consulate-on-Wheels was 2nd Event Hosted by ASUU
 (after mostly Guatemalans received assistance in filing for U.S. benefits at prior event)
in Support of Latin American Farm Workers

Cornell Farmworker Program arranged for ASUU to host 60-80 people (including volunteers)/day for 3 days with Mexican Consulate-on-Wheels processing paperwork and volunteers providing resources and legal advice. Robert & Rebecca helped get everything organized, and Warren did some driving for participants, while Kelly interpreted for intakes and actual legal consultations provided by U.S. immigration attorneys and law students. Asbury local volunteers also provided hospitality services from our kitchen. Most participants came to get their Mexican passports renewed and IDs issued by the Mexican government that would serve as proof-of-age accepted here. The sanctuary was staffed by a number of non-profits providing services, that the Mexicans could access while they waited. 139 people had checked in for services while the Cornell folks estimated 145 had actually been served.



-Kelly Sackheim

Adopt the Highway

This is our 18th year participating in our Adopt-a-Highway program. So much development has occurred on our road in that time, which has led to a marked decrease in the trash we have to pick up. Paper goods, cigarette butts and automotive debris top the list. But weirdest find this year, a plastic (like from a Barbie) doll leg.

Thanks to this spring's crew on a beautiful Saturday: Sarah, Robert, Amy, Warren, Eleanor, and a flock of Danes!



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/>

Asylum Seeker Donations Needed

Rebecca Carr brings to our attention that the Syracuse Immigrant and Refugee Defense Network is preparing for the arrival of asylum seekers who may be transferred from NYC. Rebecca could deliver to Syracuse. The donations requested include: socks, underwear, shaving supplies and/or toiletries for men, reusable bags – soap – toothbrushes – shampoo – shaving supplies – laundry detergents – cards – disinfectant dishwashing liquid – notepads and pens, pencils – magazines – gift cards for Walmart, Target, and more.

To donate these items, place them in the All Souls entry foyer or give directly to Rebecca.

People News

Congratulations to Loen Dane upon graduating from high school, and Monty Dane for another birthday!

Goodbye to the Starkweather-Burke family as they prepare to move away. We'll miss the family, having watched the girls grow up and having had the benefit of Shannon's input on the Board of Trustees.

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. 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 NCPR 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

The GA Business Session.

There were several "Actions of Immediate Witness" that passed, a Resolution for the UUA to Divest from Fossil Fuel related financial holdings and also pay some sort of reparations for the effects of fossil fuels. This was defeated. Finally, there were many amendments proposed to the proposed revision of Article II of the UUA Bylaws (where the principles and sources come from). All but a few were defeated, but those few did make some changes to the draft of the future form of Article II. The final version, incorporating those amendments, will be voted on at GA next year and it looks likely to pass. I've taken down the draft of the future revision from the bulletin board pending getting a new draft incorporating the amendments.

--Robert

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
Trustee: Alabama Dane
Trustee: Kelly Sackheim

Staff

Custodian: John Crupi
Music: Toni Zygadlo
Religious Exploration:
Kathy Ashland
Office Volunteers:
Robert South,
Francis Ashland

The next board meeting will be held the third Thursday at 7:00 PM by Zoom. Meetings are open to all members of the congregation.

Newsletter Editor, Harriet McMillan, harriem@allsoulsuu.org

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



Music Sunday stringed performance

Potluck Brunch
Saturday, July 8
McMillans' cottage
2364 Bruns Drive
Cape Vincent

1330 Gotham St.
Watertown, NY 13601
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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.