

ALL SOULS NEWS -November 2021

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church

1330 Gotham St.

Watertown, NY 13601



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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"

November 7th Austin Kenyon: "Americans and Nature." The history of the relationship between nature and the American people.

November 14th Rev David Weissbard returns for another enlightening service.

November 21st Robert South: "The Limits of Hospitality." Hospitality is a feature of most world cultures, and we try to practice it here at All Souls. But how does cultural duty relate to moral duty? What are the hidden assumptions and implications around its limits? Is it even a useful concept in modern America? Can it be differentiated from common courtesy? What happens, and has happened, when different expectations collide? How does our practice of hospitality at All Souls serve us, and does it need to change? Must a guest belch loudly after a good meal? How many dwarves are enough?

11:30 November 28th Rev JJ Flag—"When All Else Fails..." I'll be talking about language as a means of liberation throughout history.

The service will be held at 11:30 instead of the usual 10:30.

Wondering Center

Thanks to April Huff for sending the picture of the kids taken during the Pumpkin Painting Gathering on October 16.



Collector

Warren Allen



In these trying times, thanks for your financial support of our church and of our congregation's basic expenses. For the past months, as we tried to keep in two-dimensional contact through Zoom, we didn't have two volunteers writing down that Sunday's list of donations and pledge payments, so we used the Weekly Post to list the most recent receipts which I took over to our credit union.

Now, as of October 17, our current fiscal year is thirty-one percent gone. For this year, 35 households or families have pledged \$38,202. (This is three households and about \$1800 more than our prior fiscal year.) Of these pledges, we have received to date \$20,399, which is about 53 percent of the original pledges, including twelve of us who have already brought or sent in our entire pledge for this year. Some of the households are not pledging for this year, and these families have thus far brought in \$600. And some of us wanted More Stuff from the Amazon folks, and they cited ASUU as the charity they'd support with the "smile" rebate, which has gotten us just over \$72 income since last June.

Thanks!

Sunday Circle 5 PM October 31

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/837188811844>

The deZangers, Andre and Judy, introduced the Sunday Circle at the beginning of the pandemic. While they seldom participate now, the group is still meeting, led by Robert South. There are perhaps a half dozen regulars (from both upstate and downstate New York, Pennsylvania, Florida, and sometimes international locations) and several more occasional participants. The original idea was based on the old method of the early Methodists. They sat in a circle and shared the story of their spiritual growth. There was no feedback, no questioning and no advice giving—the gift was just being witnessed.

Unlike the seminarians who first tried it, this group doesn't have a theological perspective. The idea is to talk about what is important to you—your values, your spiritual experiences and in general what you are discovering and how you are growing. With this in mind, we will have prompts available to keep us focused. But if someone has something else they would like to share, please do so. Each of us will have 2 minutes to share and we will have at least two rounds of sharing. We still discourage cross talk as this too easily gets into advice giving, judgement and a two-way conversation that leaves everyone else out.

We are taking turns providing the prompts. Here are our prompts for this week:

- Many of us were encouraged to make a plan for academic and career success but not a plan for happiness. Was this true for you?
- Do you think everyone should be encouraged to make life plan for happiness? Could we develop a format to start planning now?
- Remember, "It's never too late to have a happy childhood and live life for the fun of it."

-Robert South

From the President's Desk

Heather Winn

October sure has been a busy month with lots of new and exciting things happening! Personally my youngest broke her foot and then turned 9. It's a bittersweet thing as it is my last ever single digit birthday celebration. The month of Halloween is always a busy time in the Winn house.

The policy review committee worked on communication, finance, and general building use policies. All souls saw it's first in person service in a long time and the hybrid service showed us just how far we have to go. We will get there together!

I ask you all to consider getting more involved. You are always welcome to try out different roles with no obligation. We invite you to sit in on a committee meeting or two, attend a board meeting, or look for other volunteer opportunities. We are always looking for new ideas!

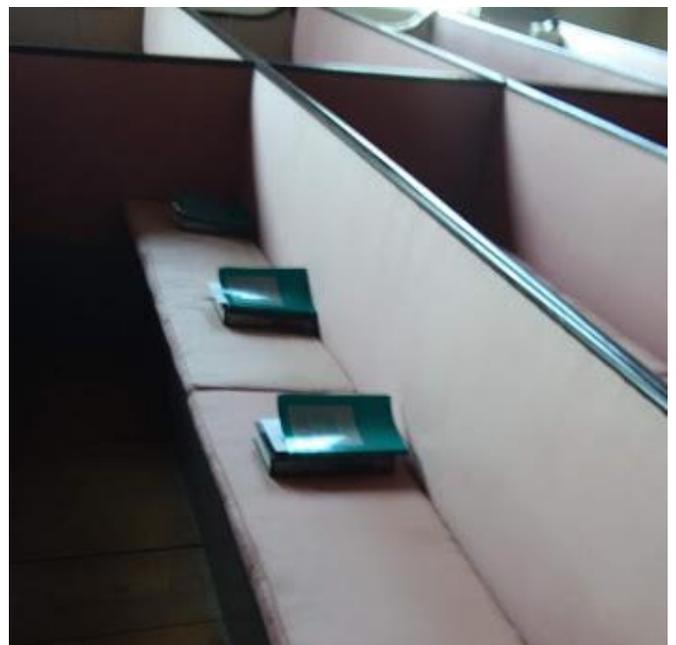
From the Historian's Files

Sarah O'Connell

I always enjoy it when our members travel and tell us about their visits to other UU churches. This month, it's my turn! In September I went to the island of Nantucket with my sister, her daughter and granddaughter. I had been really looking forward to visiting some of those places "you've gotta see" while visiting there - like Bartlett's Farm Market, the Rose and Crown restaurant, Jetties Beach, etc.

One of those sites was the Unitarian Meeting House. With its gold dome, it's one of the first landmarks you see when approaching the island by ferry. It was built in 1809 and its pews "sold to proprietors." A Universalist church was built nearby in 1825; only 9 years later, that building was sold and became The Atheneum (the library), another Nantucket landmark. There are many fascinating details about the history of the church, properly called the Second Congregational Meeting House Society, Unitarian Universalist, but most people call it the Unitarian Church. Check it out here: <https://www.unitarianchurchnantucket.org/history>

Pictures show: the meeting house is also serves as a meeting place for a synagogue and mosque. The chalice is made of rifle parts. The pews were purchased by the original "proprietors"; our familiar hymnals can be found there.



Around the Church

Brainstorming Church Bicentennial Meeting 10/17/21



This was an informal conversation brain storming about the upcoming bicentennial. A group was gathered to clean and took a break to talk about the bicentennial. It was not a formal committee; we will soon need an ad hoc team to move forward. It's about 20 months away.

The brainstormers were Sarah O'Connell, Paula Trainham, Harriet McMillan, Eleanor Allen, Robert South, Rebecca Carr and Veronica Hartman.

The church was formed in June 1823; the paperwork was filed in September of that year.

We will have a kick off event, maybe in June 2023. Harriet would like to see a big tent out front to make a very public event. Maybe it should include an ice cream social. .

For the second service in September, (because the first is our traditional rock and water service) we should invite the current (at that time) UUA president. We hope to have Clare Smith play the bagpipes.

Possible events/services for the year:

- Field /road trips to the other locations of the church around Watertown, on the Square and on Washington St.
- Involve worship committee to help put up displays
- Plan one bicentennial service per month; Rebecca suggested we announce the next monthly topic with a "cliffhanger." Worship should be involved.

Other thoughts: Services about

- Our building
- Involve RE
- List the weddings that have been held at All Souls
- History of our ministers
- Prepare the grounds, especially the Memorial Garden. And give a history of the Mem. Garden.
- Focus on our Social Justice: roadside cleanup, relationship with Urban Mission, Shared Plate, Women's March, Farm workers, UU-UNO

Displays, services around (involve Worship Committee):

Random suggestion – kids weekend here, sleepover, kids from around the district.

Anyone is welcome to be part of the bicentennial planning. We need everyone!

Thanks to Sarah for taking and writing up notes.

Review of our Building's Needs

For the time being, Rebecca Carr is filling in for Till Fritzsching as chair of Building and Grounds. She sent a list of concerns.

- Our new custodian is working out well.
- Snowplowing bids are being assessed.
- There are a couple of bids on a furnace (which needs to be replaced.)
- Tibbles Roofing has agreed to install a heat tape to prevent another ice dam about a window in the RE wing.
- Diego Aguilar (our contractor for the repairs) is aware of the tile that has fallen in the lobby. He will repair it.
- The mailbox has been lowered 6 inches, and a lockbox will be installed on the mailbox (as per request.)
- Odoriferous drain in the Eaton Social Hall needs to have some mineral oil poured into it to prevent the standing water from evaporating.

For the future:

- Brass plaques from the last church—where to locate them.
- Sanctuary stage needs to be resurfaced. Our custodian has the skills and will do it.
- Repaint the teen room.
- Rock wall in the front of the church needs repairs, as was discovered during the flood repairs.
- Kitchen grease trap needs to be cleaned out. It has never been cleaned out in all the years we have been in the building.
- The roof over the RE wing needs to be replaced.
- Some of the exterior cladding (siding) is in need of repairs. Some of the boards are popping off, need paint, or are twisting.

She asks for your help identifying areas of problems.

Urban Mission Needs Volunteer Help



The Urban Mission has volunteer opportunities in many areas of their operations for anyone who has time and a desire to help out for a few hours each week. If you're interested, please contact their volunteer coordinator, Kayla Tallon, at (315)782-8440, ext. 234.

The Next Blood Drive is December 3

Next blood drive is December 3rd from 12pm to 5 pm. Currently completely open, and if anybody would like to volunteer to run the desk as a greeter a volunteer either through the church or the Red Cross will be needed that day since I will not be able to be in attendance.

-Julie Jeffers



For the Second Year, A Turkey is Pardoned by All Souls

The Board of Trustees discussed continuing our traditional Thanksgiving Dinner at the church. It was decided that it would not be wise to continue in light of the pandemic.



Every Month at All Souls

CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans)

will resume meeting sometime soon on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at the church. Gathering and chatting begins at 6:30, the meeting begins at 7 PM.

And Every Week at All Souls

The basket 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 Victim's Assistance Center and Planned Parenthood. Each organization receives 1/4 of the uncommitted funds for the year.

Join us on You Tube and Instagram

Our services are recorded and available at <https://www.youtube.com/c/ASUUCWatertown>
And find us at Instagram <https://instagram.com/allsoulswatertown>

And look for us on Facebook www.Facebook.com/AllSoulsUUWatertownNY
You can find our website at www.allsoulsuu.org

Unitarian Universalist Association



2021 Spring Schedule

May 7 – 9: Opening Work Weekend
May 14-17: QSA Weekend
May 17-21: Retreat for Writers, Artists, & Composers
May 21-26: Adult Adirondack Paddling Week
May 21-23: Young Adult Weekend
May 28-31: Family & Friends Weekend
June 4-6: Mark Butt’s Gathering of Men
June 11-13: Women’s Weekend
[Register for Spring Events Here!](#)

June 27 – 3 BARTON (for ages 9-12)
June 27 – 3 FOX TRIP (for ages 12 – 14)
July 4 – 10 CHANNING I (for ages 12-14)
July 11 – 17 CHANNING II (for ages 12-14)
July 11 – 17 LOON TRIP (For ages 13 – 15)
July 18 – 24 PARKER I (for ages 14-16)
July 25 – 31 PARKER II (for ages 14-16)
July 25 – 31 MOOSE TRIP (For ages 13 – 15)
Aug 1 – 7 BALLOU I (for ages 16-18)
Aug 8 – 14 BALLOU II (for ages 16-18)
Aug 8 – 14 BEAVER TRIP (For ages 15 – 18)
Aug 15 – 21 FAMILY CAMP (For all ages)
Aug 22 – 27 Summer Camp for Adults

2021 Summer Schedule

June 16 – 18 Leadership Orientation
June 19 – 26 Staff Orientation

Registration opens November 1

Special Offering to Support the UU Office at the United Nations



UNITED NATIONS

You can still add to the special collection for the Unitarian Universalist Office at the United Nations (UU@UN), that was part of the United Nations Sunday (Oct. 24.) The UU@UN has held a prominent place at the UN since 1962, advocating for UU values on the global stage. The UU Office at the United Nations is one way that we are getting closer to the UU goal of a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

The UU@UN engages every day with Member States and agencies and speak out in defence of human rights and to protect our planet. Right now, the UU Office at the United Nations’s advocacy is focused on bringing the global community together to share solutions for demilitarizing local police forces and to amplify just and inclusive ways to keep communities safe. The UU@UN uses its affiliation with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to bring representatives of UUism to speak for our values at UN climate conferences. As nationalism, climate injustice, and racism continue to threaten our world community, having our

UU voice represented at the UN is critical, and the UU@UN relies on congregational and individual donations to continue its work.

To donate, you can send a check made out to All Souls, with UUUNO in the memo, and mail to the church. You can also put it in the collection plate, with a note designating it for the UUUNO.

Around Our Community

Trick or Treat
Drive Thru



@ Emmanuel Congregational Church, UCC

119 S. Hamilton Road, Watertown, NY

11 AM to 1 PM!

**Election Day
Lasagna Dinner**
At Emmanuel Congregational
Church

November 2, 4:30 - 8 PM
Or till sold out

\$10 full portion,
\$6 half portion

Curbside pickup or delivery
Call (315) 586-2456

Thanks to Janine LaClaire for forwarding this message from the Hawn Memorial Library in Clayton.

DONATIONS NEEDED



We are in need of NEW to GENTLY-USED items for our Tiny Tim Emporium. This program is a chance for children to shop for Christmas gifts for their parents, grandparents, caregivers at no cost. We especially need items that would be good gifts for men. We appreciate any items that you are able to donate for this cause.



All Souls UU Church Board of Trustees

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Trustee: Joanne Harter

Staff

Office Administrator: Volunteers
Custodian: John Crupi
Music: Toni Zygadlo
Childcare: Kim Davis
Religious Education: Frances Mercer

Board meetings are held the fourth Thursday at 9:30 AM via Zoom. Contact the office for the link. Meetings are open to all members of the congregation.

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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.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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.
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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.