

ALL SOULS NEWS -May 2025

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church

1330 Gotham St.

Watertown, NY 13601



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allsoulsuuchurch@gmail.com



Find us on

Facebook

www.facebook.com/AllSoulsUWWatertownNY

SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:30 A.M.

"All Souls—the church that puts its faith in

Remote participation generally available by Zoom via link on first page of www.allsoulsuu.org
Join our Email Mailing List at the bottom of the first page www.allsoulsuu.org and/or view our
WEEKLY POST (also sent by email) by clicking top Communications tab.

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

May Services

May 4 – Frances Mercer: "How might reflection and sharing in small groups enrich the Sunday morning experience at All Souls?" Sunday is the day we gather for an hour-long Sunday celebration in the sanctuary followed by another half to full hour of potluck eating and conversation. Sometimes on Sundays we also meet for congregational conversations or committee meetings. Sundays we interact with each other face to face. Sunday is a good day to be together for most of us. A day of pause, a day of reconnecting, a day of reflection and renewal, a day to appreciate our search for meaning. But for me, and maybe for others, I still feel something is missing. I still yearn for more ways to build supportive people connections within my spiritual community. One of those ways could be small groups for reflection and sharing or small group ministry. I will share my thoughts and research on the various ways this might be done at All Souls. Remote participation by Zoom will be available at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82315944436>

May 11 – Rev. David Weissbard: Stay Tuned

May 18 - Eleanor Allen. “When the Storm Comes, We Move Together.” There is so much change happening right now that it may feel as if the whole world is in a storm. How do we find the way to move with and through the storm? Not running for cover, but finding who we must become to ride it out and emerge triumphant. When the storm settles, as it must, how do we help to keep the house from blowing away? This sermon will be presented online by its author, **Rev. Summer Albayati**, UUA Congregational Life Staff, Pacific Western Region. Eleanor will coordinate the rest of the service.

May 25 – To be decided.



From the President's Desk

Robert South

The board is working on needed building work. As recommended by Bernier, Carr and Associates, we are prioritizing the siding and soffit on the south and west sides of the building. We have sent out a Request for Proposal to 8 or more contractors. At the next board meeting we will decide on a bid to recommend.

Then on June first the board is calling a special meeting of the congregation, just one week before the annual meeting to discuss just the budget and the building costs.

Robert will mow the lawn this upcoming year at no cost to the church. John Crupi is continuing as our custodian, or cleaner. Report issues to Robert or Amy.

We are promoting awareness of our church in the community in many ways. In addition to our regular building users, we have added "Stronger Together." This is a group concerned about recent momentous change in the country (and particularly its impacts on women) has begun meeting twice a month in the church, bringing in 80 or so people. They hosted a larger rally in our church on April 25th, and raised over 200 dollars in donations for the building.

Further, we are meeting the community through "tabling" at big events in town. The table (or booth) we set up at Earth Day was a success, and we have other "tabling" events planned to promote awareness of us in the community. We need volunteers to staff our booth at Juneteenth, however, because none of the people who staffed the Earth Day booth will be available. Robert and Kelly are going to General Assembly and Joanne has another engagement. On a trial basis, we are changing game night to 3rd SATURDAY next month because we know of church members who would attend then who cannot attend on Friday. Membership and Activities will continue to meet on the Friday before game night at 9:30.

The contract with our new minister, Rev Cindy Terlazzo, will be signed early in May when she will make the trip just to sign and look at the building. In August she will start being around and her first services will start in September. Soon the worship committee will have a lighter load of services to prepare.

We hope to have a rummage sale sometime this year, more to follow. This will be to raise additional funds for the building and get rid of our...treasures.

Collectorland

Warren Allen

Many of us seem busy with the new season, but some of us haven't yet brought in our pledge card for our next fiscal year. I hope to send out notes to those who may have filled them in and then left them on a pile at home. Let's relax ~~ that yellow card is not a sacred relic ~~ please write your annual pledge goal on the back of a recycled envelope; or on an (unused) Kleenex. Thanks!

Thus far, there are 18 pledges, totaling \$29,910. This figure includes nine pledgers who have already set goals of \$4,470 out of their larger pledges, specifically for our building repairs. Just before Easter we hosted a meeting of the Sackets Harbor group "Stronger Together," and they passed their hat and donated \$173.25 for this new fund of ours. Our neighbor the Zoo hosted an Earth Day event, during which the Halls offered to sell maple syrup with all profits split between our building fund and the Zoo's costs. That day brought lots of rain and really high winds (lacking only lightning bolts and sleet), and made \$15 for this building fund from attendees there who hadn't blown away. A friend of our congregation recently sent promise of \$50 for this fund. Thanks to one and all!

Fom the Historian's Files

Sarah O'Connell

The Unitarian Universalist Hysterical Society, a Facebook page, was founded by Liz James, a Canadian UU, a little over 10 years ago. It has since has grown to over 280,000 followers. These followers generate the majority of the daily content on the page, and it shows just how intelligent and witty and wonderful our UU people are! We were very fortunate to have Liz present a workshop and then a Sunday service at All Souls in January. During the Easter service last month, I shared a piece that she recently sent out to subscribers of her email list and I thought it was worth repeating here because our current events today will be our history in the future.

UUs are earnest people. We care about the world. And when things get serious, our reflex is to get serious as well.

I don't buy it. Serious times call for serious measures, but not *only* serious measures. Laughter and joy are not fancy china to be hauled out only for celebrations. They are for all of the times. In times like these, they are more important, not less.

In the words of Dan Savage: "During the darkest days of the AIDS crisis, we buried our friends in the morning, we protested in the afternoon, and we danced all night. The dance kept us in the fight, because it was the dance we were fighting for. It didn't look like we were going to win, and then we did. It doesn't feel like we're going to win now, but we could. Keep fighting. Keep dancing."

I would add, keep laughing.



Earth Day at the Park

Kelly Sackheim

Membership & Activities Committee kicked off the tabling season with Earth Day at the Zoo, weathering rain during set-up and high winds punctuating the event. Kelly Sackheim & Joanne Harter helped perhaps a dozen kids (including a few sibling pairs) make Sun-catchers, similar to those created during Kat Hammond's 2nd Friday Craft Night. Families were encouraged with a two-sided half-sheet flyer to engage with us during events at All Souls, starting with our first Family Night the following Saturday.



Thanks to Joanne Harter, Kelly Sackheim, and Robert South for the photos.



Craft Night

Kat Hammond

Craft Night continues to be successful! We had a large turnout and a wonderful time decorating Easter eggs in April. I am excited to celebrate one year of Craft Night with everyone! I am planning a small celebration for the occasion! Next Craft Night is May 9th from 6-8pm in the Social Hall.





From the Potluck Kitchen

Netty Palladino

Chocolate Pudding Pie

- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 pack of chocolate pudding
- 1 container whipped topping (Cool Whip)
- 1 graham cracker crust

Mix sweetened condensed milk and pudding (powder) together till blended

Fold in whip topping till blended

Pour into pie crust

Chill for at least 2 hours or can be placed in freezer (I did. It thaws pretty quickly).

Decorate appropriate to the day/time.

Enjoy!



Any flavor pudding.

I made a Kool-Aid (cherry) pie for CUUP's. Just use one packet of Kool-Aid instead of pudding. I'm going to make a lemonade one next.

Additional All Souls Activities

This past week in the typical line-up for weeknights at All Souls:

- **1st Friday and 3rd Wednesday: CUUPs**, gathering at 6:30 for program at 7:00 pm
- **2nd Friday: Kat's Craft Night 6-8 pm** (next session is April 11th)
- **3rd Friday: Game Night 5-7 pm**
- **4th Friday: Family Night**

All members and prospective members of All Souls are welcome.



Game Night

Lost! Please help me find...

I put 5 boxes of cards on the table in the minister's office. They contain a variety of cards which I choose from to send to members. I moved two of them into the Eaton Social Hall, but I can't locate the other 3. Please help me find them.

-Harriet McMillan

Around the Church

Road Cleanup

Sarah O'Connell

Semi-Annual Road Cleanup

The All Souls semi-annual cleanup will be Saturday, May 10 at 9 am. Please come and help clean our adopted highway from the church out to Route 12. If you want to participate, sign up on the clipboard which will start being circulated in the Eaton Social Hall. Wear work clothes and sturdy footwear. We will provide vests, hard hats, and gloves. Bring a "picker-upper" if you want. With four groups of 2 people each, it takes just a little over an hour, and makes for a great photo op!

Pick up trash, not our neighbor's flowers.



CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans)

meets the first Friday of each month and the third Wednesday of the month.. 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.

We collect clothing and household goods to donate to the North Country Veterans organization.

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

Well that Was Quick: the Razor's Edge of Congregational Health

Rev. Kimberle Debus

This was sent to me [Harriet] from the UUA

I've noticed a pattern.

Imagine if you will, a congregation that has gone through some sort of problem period perhaps it was misconduct, or a shared trauma, or something else that causes long-term members to remember with a wince how hard it was at that time.

Now that congregation has decided to turn toward health, and with the help of others – leaders, staff, maybe a minister – they have done a whole lot of work to address how they have been feeling, how they reacted as a result, and how they can do better with each other and for each other.

Leadership is on board, and committees are shifting their work toward health. The choir seems more joyous. Coffee hour is a time to be enjoyed, not dreaded. Meetings feel productive. And there is a general sense that everyone has made a turn from the things that were so hard.

But then something happens.

Maybe it's one change too many maybe it's someone coming back who didn't hasn't been part of the healing process. Maybe it's the one or two people who never liked anything that was happening and wished they'd go back to the way it was. Maybe the health has attracted more people and suddenly there are a lot of faces that are unfamiliar, or the board is continued considering going to two services

to accommodate growth. Maybe a project was taken on that somebody doesn't like.

It doesn't matter what the thing is that happens, but something happens.

And the people who fought most for a turn toward health find themselves the targets.

What seemed like health just a few months before is now such a rat's nest that it's a wonder anything good happened at all. And often, it is the change agent who finds their proverbial head on the chopping block.

Where has health gone? Why is it so hard to sustain? And how did it happen so fast?

Now I will pause here to say that there are probably dozens if not hundreds of readers in various denominations who think "this song is about you" - and you'd both be right and wrong. Wrong in that I am writing about a pattern, not a particular congregation. But right in that this has happened to you and the particulars look different, and the names are different, but it happens. And it's real.

Religious communities, these institutions that seem so solid and permanent, thrive on a razor's edge between health and disarray. Right relationship and healing doesn't just magically appear, especially after something has happened to destroy it. I often use a reading from parenting blogger [Kathleen Fleming](#) called "Broken Things" to talk about these moments.

In her piece, Fleming relates the story of her son who, in his anger, slammed the bathroom

door hard enough to dislodge the full-length mirror on the other side. In shock and surprise, Fleming observes what happened, secures the pets so they won't cut their feet, and then goes into the bathroom and sits with her son. After the tears and the hugs and the reassurances, Fleming and her son agree to clean up the broken glass, together. "It was careful work," she writes. "It was thoughtful work."

And then she reminds us:

"Sometimes things break. Sometimes we break them. It's not the breaking that matters, the how or why. What matters is how we choose to respond to the brokenness. Does it kill us? Does it throw us into a downward spiral of blame and punishment? Or does it help us remember how to love deepest? Does it push us towards compassion and over the hurdle of 'rightness' and 'wrongness' into LOVENESS?"

Congregational health – like any relationship – takes work. That razor's edge is a doozy, and it takes concentration and attention to stay balanced.

And I have seen too many congregations fail to maintain balance because there's

someone (or a group of someones) who are so unhappy that they simply speak a word and the air from their mouths tips the balance. I have no easy solutions here. It is hard work. It is careful work. It is thoughtful work. And it requires vigilance. Being vigil to ensure the work is going well, but also being vigil to ensure that the disgruntled or freaked out don't cause the whole thing to fall down. Systemic health is a long term project and a constant journey. You can do it – I know many congregations that have. These are the ones who put good practices and processes in place to include everyone to hear dissent, to emphasize relationship over rightness. They assess regularly, consider what's going well and what's at risk, and preference community, connection, and communication over anxiety, anger, and fear. It's hard work. It is careful work. It is thoughtful work.

But in the end, these are the congregations that genuinely like each other, enjoy each other's company, and support their leaders and staff.

And I promise you it's worth it.

General Assembly: The Unitarian Universalist Association's Premier Annual Gathering



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
BALTIMORE • JUNE 18 - 22, 2025

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), where participants gather to worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy decisions for the Association through a democratic process. While anyone can attend, congregations must certify annually to have voting delegates.

General Assembly 2025

From June 18–22, 2025, the 64th UUA General Assembly will be a multi-platform event, with the main stage hosted at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, Maryland and hundreds more joining on the Whova app.

Thursday, June 19, 2025



All Souls UU Church Board of Trustees

President: Robert South
Vice President: Amy Summerville-Loomis
Secretary: Karen Hall
Treasurer: Eleanor Allen
Trustee: Kelly Sackheim
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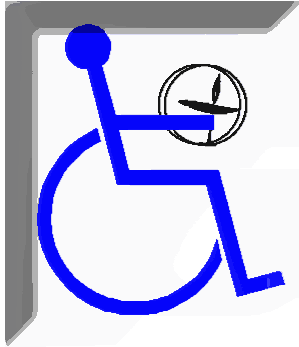
Custodian: John Crupi
Music: Toni Zygadlo
Religious Exploration: Kelly Sackheim
Office Volunteer: Robert South

Board meetings are held the fourth Saturday of the month at 9:30 AM by Zoom. The May 2025 meeting is a board only retreat. Meetings are usually 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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ALL SOULS NEWS February 2025
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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.
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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.