

## ALL SOULS NEWS -June 2025

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church

1330 Gotham St.

Watertown, NY 13601



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### 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

### June Services

#### June 1 - Rev. David Weissbard: "Continuing the Search for Wisdom."

Reverend David Weissbard has been coming to All Souls once a month for many, many years. And from time to time he's made himself available for special events, such as memorial services and mediations, as if he were our own minister. Let's celebrate him this Sunday with a special coffee hour between his service and the congregational meeting! The congregational meeting will help us all understand the anticipated budget for next year.



**June 8 - Eleanor Allen: “Our Traditional Flower Communion Service,”** followed by the Annual Meeting.

**June 15 - Sarah Carter: “Father’s Day.”** A look at the day from the perspectives of new dads, dads of adult children, and granddads.

**June 22 – “ UU General Assembly Closing Service:”** live streamed on our large screen TV. We’ll meet at our usual time, 10:30 for coffee and brunch. The live-streamed service will begin at 11AM and last until 12:30.

**June 29 – Joanne Harter: “Blessing of the Animals.”**

## *From the President’s Desk*

**Robert South**

### **President's Report**

This month a team has been working on the memorial garden and another team have been gathering bids for work on the building. Thanks to Kat, Amy, Janine, and Kelly. Contractors were uninterested in responding to the Request for Proposal, so we are getting traditional estimates, which turn into quotes (or bids if competitive), which become contracts when signed. Instead of (expensively) all meeting exact specifications as phrased by the architect, we are asking each contractor to tell us how they would solve our situation and how much it would cost--with options offered for different paths. We learn more that way. For instance, a contractor told me this morning that board and batten vinyl siding only comes in 10 foot lengths (at least off the shelf from Whites) so we would have horizontal "J channels" every 10 feet if we went that way instead of the traditional "dutch lap" siding you see on houses.



In my hat as office manager, I've almost got the annual report ready as of this writing. And in my hat as president, I enforce the bylaws and I'm telling you a plan of the nominating committee (to nominate someone to fill the remainder of a term of a trustee being promoted to officer) won't wash. The bylaws call for 2 trustees to be elected to two-year terms at every annual meeting. Empty seats are specified to be filled by decision of the board. Trustees can resign after one year if they don't want to do the full term, but can't be elected to one-year terms. The congregation itself can't change that without a bylaw amendment. The congregation can resolve an "interpretation" of the bylaws, but can't outright violate them.

## *Collectorland*

### **Warren Allen**



Thank you for your generous gifts of your time, and for your dollars which help to pay for our group's bills. For our current 2024-25 Fiscal Year, 27 pledgers set goals totaling \$35,497. Others of us donate what we can, without a pledge card. As of May 18, pledge payments received total \$31,972 or 90%, with six weeks left in this FY.

Also, during this year almost gone some of us have brought in (through May 18) unpledged donation checks totaling \$3,659. Also, we have brought to our collection plates loose cash thus far totaling \$2,252 for our Generosity Project, which we split with one half of this towards our own expenses, and one quarter to each of the other two charities for which we voted last June ~~ Citizens Advocates and Zoo New York.

Also, we have thus far received \$78 towards the Free Trade coffee which we use, plus rent donations of \$1148 from friends at the AA and the t'ai chi classes. (You may not know that our members can take these great t'ai chi classes here without charge!)

But wait: there's more. A few years ago, we had a building fund campaign, installing lovely cedar siding. But then some of those boards became loose on one or both edges. As far as I know, those carpenters used staples which were too short. Rebecca kindly covered one area with a tarp, and then Robert kindly installed a few screws in about every board on the outside of our building, and no more boards fell off. We are discussing plans for this now. Thus far, some of us have donated another \$520 for these building fixes, with much of this generously given by folks in two groups which are currently meeting in our building.

For the coming 2025-26 Fiscal Year, as of May 18, twenty-one of us have pledged \$35,920, plus an additional \$5,470 for the building fixes. Together, we can do so much. Thanks!



## *Historian*

### **Sarah O'Connell**

It's Throwback time! I found this article in the summer 2015 newsletter, and thought it was worth repeating!

Another tidbit from the Looking Backwards column in the Watertown Daily Times from 1890 spoke about the Demorest medal contest being "repeated" (by request) on Friday evening, May 2. This the Women's Christian Temperance Union, with the cheerful acquiescence of the seven contestants, has undertaken to do, that this branch of temperance effort may be more thoroughly understood and entered into in this city." Not being familiar with this particular event, I had to look up what the Demorest medal was. This, according to an article on the Harvard.edu website: "The Demorest prize was created by

philanthropist W. Jennings Demorest (1822-1895) in 1886 to encourage young people to recite speeches of temperance movement leaders. Its medals—silver, as here, gold, and even diamond—were presented in contests throughout the country through the early years of the 20th century." So, if you run across a silver medal on a ribbon in a drawer or jewelry box that says "Demorest Prohibition Prize," you'll know what it's for!



## Earth Day at Thompson Park

4 families with young children are now regular attendees on Sundays! After the Story for All Ages during the multigenerational service, the youngsters (with or without a parent) depart for the Wondering Center down the hall from our Sanctuary, and have created sun-catchers as did children at the Earth Day at the Zoo celebration and laminated placemats or name tags as part of our RE (Religious Exploration) program.

Our Earth Day presence in photos by Kelly .Sackheim.





## *Game Night*

Game night was rescheduled to the 4th Saturday of the month of May, from 6-8 pm and we had 10 people, ranging from age 7 to more than 80, so we will continue with that schedule! Photo by Kelly Sackheim.



## *Craft Night*

**Kat Hammond**

*Craft Night continues to inspire creativity, fun, and friendship to the people who join in! Mother's Day we made decoupaged vases and added flowers for a beautiful arrangement just for Mom! Father's Day is almost here and Craft Night will focus on Father's Day for our June 13th project. Come and join us on June 13th from 6-8pm in the church Social Hall*



### Additional All Souls Activities

This week in the typical line-up for recurring evening activities 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

**4th Saturday:** Game Night 6-8 pm **NEW DAY & TIME STARTING IN MAY**

**The Membership and Activities Committee** continues to meet on Zoom at 9:30 am the third Friday each month. We use the standard zoom link for worship services [https:// : CUUPs, gathering at 6:30 for program at 7:00 pm](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82315944436)

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82315944436>

## Chalice Circle CUUPS News



CUUPS (Coven of UU Pagans) made crowns for spring 🌻 and continues to meet twice monthly (gathering at 6:30 pm for 7 pm program) on the 1st Friday and 3rd Wednesday. No prior knowledge or experience necessary - come learn these traditions with us! Photo submitted by Kelly Sackheim

### Every Month at All Souls

#### **CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans)**

CUUPS will be meeting on the first Friday of each month and also the third Wednesday. Gathering begins at 6:30 PM, the meeting begins at 7 PM.

#### **Game Night**

Join us on the third Saturday of the month from 5-7 to play games. There are many games available for us all to play. We provide pizza, and you can feel free to bring a treat.

### And Every Week at All Souls

The basket for your donations to the Urban Mission Food Pantry is 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 Citizens Advocates and Planned Parenthood. Each organization receives 1/4 of the uncommitted funds for the year.

## *Unitarian Universalist Association*

### **A Guide to Annual Meetings**

**Rev. Kimberly DeBus, May 29<sup>8</sup>**

#### **Be Prepared, be Kind**

Many congregations are having annual meetings in the coming weeks.

Those meetings will include some 'state of the congregation' reports, some mission and vision celebrations, recognition of leaders and projects and maybe some transitions. Sometimes there will be policy changes or a bylaw amendment. Usually, there will be an election of officers. And, those meetings include budget approvals.

It's the budget I want to talk about.

Those budgets usually have been reviewed in open board meetings and sometimes special budget town halls. Sometimes more than one.

**WHY?**

Because those board meetings and town halls are when when discussion and explanation and reasoned debate can happen, in preparation for the annual meeting.

**WHY?**

Because annual meetings are already long and sometimes tedious, especially if there are questions about policy or bylaw changes, or if there's a lot of news to share (for example, if there's a building project or a major personnel shift). And honestly, most people do not care about the fiddly points of the budget, as long as the lights stay on, staff get paid fairly, and programs are supported.

- The Annual Meeting is NOT the time to renegotiate the minister's salary, or to suggest maybe we don't need a minister.
- The Annual Meeting is NOT the time to go through and decrease by nickels and dimes the programs you don't like in order to give a few hundred more to the one you do like.
- The Annual Meeting is NOT the time to bring your quibbles about how much (if anything) we give to the UUA's Annual Program Fund (formerly Fair Share), to support the work of the Association.
- The Annual Meeting is NOT the time to suddenly freak out about spending a dime on programs because you personally had a rough year.
- The Annual Meeting is NOT the one time of the year you should show up in the building or any of the events to make your displeasure with the congregation known.
- The Annual Meeting is NOT the time to complain about the budget if you are a non-pledging member.

**Instead...**

- The Annual Meeting IS the time to come having at least read the budget, and gone to the prep meetings if you cared about that (or not if you trust the people in the room).
- The Annual Meeting IS the time to come having read the other material, or at least have scanned it.
- The Annual Meeting IS the time to engage thoughtfully and respectfully - even if there is some disagreement.





- The Annual Meeting should be a time of good congregational work and great congregational celebration.

Please do your preparation, and please be kind to one another. It's been a *really long year* on top of a series *of really long years*, and, to quote a ten year old I know who chose to not engage in a fight with his older brother, 'I'm too tired.... it's just not worth it.'



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. Go to [UUA.org](http://UUA.org) for more information.

## *Resistance4Us*

On June 14, Trump—like the dictators he idolizes—is planning to throw himself a four-mile military parade in D.C. to celebrate his 79th . It's dangerous. And it's on *our* dime.



Instead of honoring a petty clown desperate for control, we're hosting grassroots street circuses nationwide—bold, creative actions that expose MAGA's chaos and reclaim the big tent for democracy.



# Pride and Patriotism Flag Day Rally

Reclaim the flag!

This country belongs to The People,  
NOT billionaires and tyrants!



**Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> 1:00 - 3:00**

**Public Square Watertown, NY**

Kindly consider bringing non perishable after-school snacks, new socks, underwear or basic shirts for donation to the Q-Center or consider a scholarship donation online to Camp Unirondack's Queer Youth Advocacy Retreat.



Donation details and other helpful links  
can be found by scanning the  
QR code above



### **All Souls UU Church Board of Trustees**

President: Robert South  
Vice President: Amy Summerville-Loomis  
Secretary: Karen Hall  
Treasurer: Eleanor Allen  
Trustee: Janine LaClair  
Trustee: Kelly Sackheim  
Trustee: Alabama Dane  
Trustee: Erica Gardner

### **Staff**

Custodian: John Crupi  
Music: Toni Zygadlo  
Religious Exploration:

Office Volunteers: Robert South

Board meetings are held the fourth  
Saturday of the month at 9:30 AM  
by Zoom. Meetings are open to all  
members of the congregation.

Newsletter Editor, Harriet McMillan

Office Hours: Mon 9-11, Wed 11-1, Fri 1-3

Phone (315) 788-2742

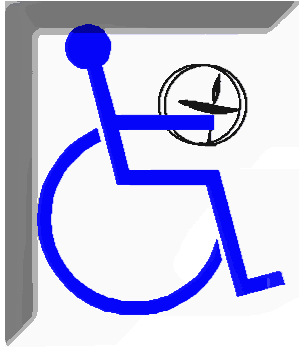
E-mail: [allsoulsuuchurch@gmail](mailto:allsoulsuuchurch@gmail.com)

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

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



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1330 Gotham St.  
Watertown, NY 13601  
ALL SOULS NEWSLETTER June 2025  
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.