

Greetings to the Members and Friends of All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church.

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YOUR PRESENCE MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE AT ALL SOULS

We miss you when you are away and
we feel enlivened by your return.

Sunday, 10:30 am: July 5th, 2020

No Service

KING LEAR

Which of you shall we say doth love us most?

GONERIL

Sir, I love you more than words can wield the matter.

CORDELIA

[Aside] What shall Cordelia do? Love, and be silent.

REGAN

I am alone felicitate in your dear highness' love.

KING LEAR

Although the last, not least; what can you say to draw
A third more opulent than your sisters? Speak.

CORDELIA

Nothing, my lord.

KING LEAR

Nothing!

CORDELIA

Nothing.



Summer Services

There will be no service on Sunday, July 5.

On July 12, three small congregations will be joining our zoomed service, "The Gift of Strawberries," led by Eleanor Allen, based on a chapter in the book, "Braiding Sweetgrass." by Robin Wall Kimmerer. It will be an informal service about how our lives would be different if we viewed the natural world as a gift to be treasured, rather than a commodity to be used.

On July 19, Robert South will lead a service, "What Does the Future Hold?" This will be a circle discussion. On each round we will each prognosticate about various aspects of the future, both short term (next few years) and long term (next few decades). What is in your future and that of the people closest to you? What is in the future for All Souls? What is in the future for Watertown and Northern New York? What is in the future for the country and the world?

On July 26, Harriet McMillan will read a memoir written by our former member Roz Cook about her experience as a teacher in a prison.

On August 2nd, the deZangers will lead a service about the Beauty of Celtic Philosophy and Spirituality. We will introduce John O'Donohue who was a poet, philosopher and ex-priest who immersed himself in Celtic Philosophy. His most popular book is Anam Cara. Anam Cara is a phrase that refers to the Celtic concept of the "soul friend" in religion and spirituality. The phrase is an anglicization of the Irish word anamchara, anam meaning "soul" and cara meaning "friend". By meeting everything in life in the spirit of friendship, we enter into the mystery and soulfulness of existence bringing ourselves back into more spontaneity. Through John's poetry prose, he explores the Celtic focus on the Beauty of the World, of Nature, of Friendship and of Ourselves.

We welcome volunteers to lead the remaining services in August. The services can be as simple as a poetry reading, or a short reading followed by a discussion. We love variety and encourage imagination! Members of the worship committee, and Marty, will be happy to help. And the UUA has developed resources to help with zoomed services: <http://www.uua.org/worship>. If interested, please contact Eleanor Allen wezallen11@gmail.com.

Spiritual Circle

The Circle is somewhat similar to Small Group Ministry but with major differences. 1. It is not about a Topic for discussion but about our personal Spiritual Journey. 2. *It is open to anyone at any time to join the group* and share their stories. 3. It is not Therapy but therapeutic in nature, so confidentiality would be a requirement. 4. Its purpose is to Grow, Self Actualize and Discover our true nature and beauty. The group works best with about 8 to 10 people. Each person has 2 to 3 minutes to share in each circling. **Meets on Zoom – Sunday at 5 pm** . Runs for about an Hour. Andre and Judy de Zanger are Facilitators - to make sure everyone has a chance to talk and follow the guidelines: 1. No "Cross-Talk" 2. No "Questions" 3. No "Advice Giving" 4. No "Problem-Solving" 5. No "Lecturing" 6. Speak with "I Statements" 7. "Speak from the Heart" 8. Just "Listen" 9. "Witness" 10. What is shared is "Confidential" 11. The Goal is to Acknowledge and Appreciate one's Essential, Authentic Self.

Robert South is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Topic: Spiritual Circle
Time: May 24, 2020 05:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81641140112>
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Weekday Zoom Meetings with our Pastor

After a hiatus to allow for participation in various conferences, Pastor Marty will again be available for zoom sessions twice a week:

Tuesday Tea: 4 PM

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/878777965>

and

Thursday Brunch: 10 AM

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97347721580>.

Office Hours

During the pandemic closure, our office has officially been closed. The phone messages and email got checked haphazardly only if Eleanor happened to be in the office doing the books, or if Robert came in to use the computer for some reason. The telephone message redirected callers to the personal phone numbers of Harriet and Eleanor. For the time being, the office will now have a live person answering the phone (315-788-2742) live, from 10 to 12 on Tuesdays and Fridays. The inner entry door will still be locked during those hours.

General Assembly

An additional email will be sent out about General Assembly. Only registered delegates can view the recordings available in the on demand library, but if there is a demand for it Robert South will zoom while watching them and share screen. Email tholish@verizon.net.



A Note from our Treasurer

Even though the church is closed to the public we still have our ordinary bills to pay. And your board has agreed to continue paying our employees during this crisis. If you'd like to send pledge money or a donation to All Souls, please mail your check, either to the church (1330 Gotham St., Watertown, NY 13601) or directly to our collector, Warren Allen, at 1404 State St., Watertown, NY 13601.

Church mail is being forwarded directly to Warren and Eleanor's address at 1404 State St. so that Eleanor can pay bills as they come in – and deposit checks. Alternatively, if you ordinarily pay your bills online, you can send money to All Souls just as if we're a utility bill or any other bill. Or, you can make a donation through [a secure link to PayPal on our website](#). And THANK YOU! Your pledges and donations keep us going!

Wondering Center News for July/August 2020

by Frances Mercer

(Frances asked that this be sent out in the Weekly Post because there were typographical errors in the newsletter version)

In prior years (before the coronavirus pandemic) we did not have planned Sunday activities for children during July and August, but we did have our RE assistant supervise the children during play activities in the Wondering Center or outside while the adults were participating in the Sunday services. The children were also welcome to attend the services. This year our Summer services will continue as online services through Zoom. Because of the pandemic, we have not had planned activities for children since March. This will continue during July and August. These activities will begin again when All Souls reopens for face to face services and activities.

However, with appropriate safety precautions—wearing masks and social distancing, families could visit the All Souls campus (outside the building, there will be no access to restrooms or water). While on the campus, you might play on the grounds, visit the Memorial Garden, play no-touch hide and seek, fly kites, roll down the hill in the back, quietly watch for deer, rabbits, birds, etc., put rocks around the Peace Pole, rebuild the elves village, or have a circle picnic. Use your imagination. What fun things could you do with others safely outdoors? All Souls is just across the road from Thompson Park, so you could visit the All Souls grounds and then go to Thompson Park.

Not only does the COVID-19 pandemic continue, but within the past few weeks we have also encountered a turning point moment in a centuries-long social justice issue and now movement—Black Lives Matter. These perspectives from a recent article by Professor Roy E. Finkenbine, “It’s Time for White Parents to Have the Talk with Their Children,” caught my attention:

The Talk is an essential part of African American parenting. The failure of whites to engage the subject of race with their own children makes this unavoidable. Chicago journalist Amy Sullivan recently wrote: “I can’t help thinking a big reason so many parents of color need to have The Talk with their children is because so many white parents won’t have a talk with our own.” A 2019 survey of six thousand parents by the University of Chicago and the Sesame Workshop found this to be the case. While nearly two-thirds of black parents talk to their children often or occasionally about race, only a quarter of white parents do so. A 2007 study of white parents demonstrated that they exhibited great discomfort in talking about race with their offspring and generally avoided the subject. As a result, many white children accept current racial inequalities as normal or fail to think about them at all.

Many white parents see race as an extraordinary topic and claim that they wait for the exact right moment to discuss race with their children, instead of integrating it into the normal flow of dialogue. Again, Sullivan suggests that “if parents stopped waiting for the perfect time to have a conversation about race . . . or privilege, they might recognize that there are organic opportunities that arise nearly every day – unless we shut them down.”

For me, the need for white parents to have The Talk with their children is more than a moral or a professional one. It is also intensely personal. I have two mixed-race grandchildren. Times like these cause me concern about what they will face in the future and how their white parents (or I) will prepare them for those encounters. When Crystal Fleming, the author of How to Be Less Stupid about Race, visited our campus last year, my wife sought her advice about this subject. Fleming responded that “if you’re talking with them about race, that’s half the battle.”

How might American race relations change if white parents began to have The Talk with their children?

There are two books parents may find helpful in discussing white supremacy/privilege, racism and anti-racism with children: first read White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism by Robin DiAngelo (available from the UUA Bookstore) and then, read Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children in a Racially Unjust America by Jennifer Harvey.

Hopefully, we will not only see each other but be with each other in the Fall or in early 2021. Be well. Be safe.

Do You Know Someone Who Might Enjoy Receiving This Email?
Feel Empowered To Share & Forward This Message

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The Weekly Post (formerly the Shepherd's Post) is sent out every Tuesday at noon. It serves as a reminder of shortly upcoming events rather than a general purpose Church Newsletter. Please submit items for the Weekly Post to the office, allsoulsuuchurch@gmail.com or to tholish@verizon.net.