

ALL SOULS NEWS – June 2019  
All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church  
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Watertown, NY 13601



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**SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:30 A.M.**

“All Souls—the church that puts its faith in you”

**June 2 – Harriet McMillan and Eleanor Allen: “Appreciation Sunday.”** Let’s honor our newest members and everyone who has made All Souls the community we love!

**June 9 – Frances Mercer: an Intergenerational Service “Flower Communion.”** A Flower Communion Service has been held at All Souls and other UU communities for many years. The Annual Congregational Meeting will follow the service. The Flower Communion Service celebrates the strength and vitality of community derived from diversity—the coming together of individuals with unique talents, differences, and perspectives to create a warm, supportive, nurturing and inclusive spiritual community. **FOR THE FLOWER COMMUNION, EACH PERSON IS INVITED TO BRING A FLOWER FROM GARDEN OR YARD OR THE ROADSIDE OR EVEN A STORE.**

A brief history of the Flower Communion by Reginald Zottoli: “The Flower communion service was created by Norbert Capek (1870-1942), who founded the Unitarian Church in Prague, Czechoslovakia. He introduced this special service to that church on June 4, 1923. As the minister of a new liberal religious church, he felt the need for some symbolic ritual that would bind people more closely together. So he turned to the native beauty of the countryside for elements of a communion, which would be genuine for them. For the first Flower Communion in Prague, people were asked to bring a flower from their own gardens/yards or from the field or roadside. When they arrived at church a large vase stood waiting in the vestibule, attended by two young members of the Church School. Each person was asked to place their own flower in the vase. This signified that it was by their own free will they joined with the others. The vase that contained all the flowers was a symbol of the united church fellowship. After the service, as people left the church, they went to the vase and each took a flower from the vase other than the one that they had brought. Thus, the significance of the flower communion was that as no two flowers are alike, so no two people are alike, yet each has a contribution to make. Together the different flowers form a beautiful bouquet. The bouquet would not be as beautiful without the unique addition of each individual flower, and thus it is with a church community, it would not be the same without the unique contributions and diversity of each and every one of its participants.”

**June 16 – David Weissbard: "How Little We Know."** We tend to focus more on our Seven UU Principles than on the sources upon which we declare they depend, the first of which is "direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures.. ." We will look more closely at that source on June 16th.

**June 23 – Rev. Marty Pelham:** "Walking Humbly With..." Can humility be a spiritual practice for individuals and communities committed to social justice? What role can it play in be fully engaged in right relationship with a complex world?

Marty Pelham is currently a ministerial intern at First Universalist Society of Syracuse. And he's also in the Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program at Upstate Hospital.

**June 30 – Joanne Harter: "Annual Blessing of the Animals service."** We will once again gather around the Peace Pole in appreciation of those animals who share our homes, as well as those which share our planet. Pets which are not in attendance for blessing may be represented by a photo, or by their name on a card.

The morning concludes with a potluck picnic and moves on to a Youth Pride Event at the church.

## *From the President's Desk*

### **Harriet McMillan**

We finally did it: got the Memory Book off in the mail to Rev. LaMothe. I contacted him in advance, waited for an answer and sent it off. He sent the following response. We all owe Veronica Hartman a thank you for her efforts.

Guy: just received the church's gift and I'm at a loss for words; letting my tears speak instead. Thank you for such a kind and creative commemoration. I think about, and am still processing, the many memories I carry with the congregation and the love everyone offered me. Truly inspiring. Please share my deepest gratitude with everyone involved. Much gratitude to you!

Harriet: I hope you realize that Veronica put it together. And did an outstanding job.

Guy: She certainly did! I will thank her. Seeing such a beautiful expression makes me doubly sad about the first attempt going astray; especially for any anguish or upset. I am really blown away by this blessing. Thank you All Souls. I've kept to a policy of keeping quiet for a year to a former congregation but I would like to write a letter of gratitude.

And while I'm thinking of good-bys, our sexton of many years retired in May. He announced his desire to leave and his willingness to stay until we found a replacement. We put an ad on Facebook and as a result of his reply, have hired Christopher Coughlin to be our sexton. Chris brings a variety of talents to the job. We are fortunate to have found him. Our child care provider, Kim Davis, has a new job requiring her to work on Saturday nights, so she has resigned. She'll be missed. And yes, we are looking for a replacement.

As an aside, I had the privilege of delivering a gift from the board to the Frosts. We had a delightful visit. We talked about the next chapter of their lives.

Our unsung hero this month is Robert South. The list of tasks Robert accomplishes on our behalf is too long to list here. He is always ready to help, to answer questions, and always with a smile.

## *From the Historian's Files*

### **Sarah O'Connell**

We always think of June as the month of weddings, so let's jump in the wayback machine and look at 40 years of June nuptials (in the years ending in "9") presided over by the Rev. John H. Stewart:

1849 (170 years ago): Gustavus Cadman of Brownville to Miss Betsey Horr of Hounsfield

1859: Obid Pierce to Miss Althea Babcock, both of Champion

1869: (we're now after the Civil War): George Jewett of LeRay to Miss Mary Horton of Black River; Edward Case to Miss Laura Weise, both of Watertown; Lewis Cotrell to Mrs. Sarah Bent, both of Copenhagen (she was presumably a widow?)

1879: Mryon (sic) Lewis to Miss Julia Anna Fulton, both of Wilna

1889: Not a good year for weddings, apparently, only one recorded that year and it was on January 2!



## *Collector*

### **Warren Allen**

During our fiscal year which ends soon, 30 pledgers have offered \$35,299. Of that amount, by May 19 \$33,268 has come in, and sixteen have found and brought in their full amount including seven who have brought extra dollars. Thanks to all who come, for bringing pots of food, hands to help clean the roadsides, and finds to keep our few wages paid.



And thanks to those who have pledged towards our coming FY2019-20 expenses. With one pledge not yet received from one long-time supporter, our new total will probably be over \$37,000.

Thanks for your help.

## People News

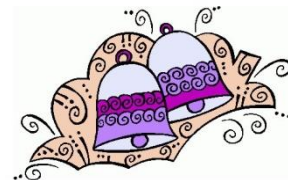


Katie Briggs, daughter of Janine LaClair and stepfather Tom LaClair, married Tyler Davenport on May 18.

The Rev. Andrea Abbott officiated at the wedding which was happily celebrated by family and friends!

Katie came to All Souls as a newborn, and we've all watched her grow up.

We all wish the newlyweds a happy life together.



## Around the Church

### A New Home for the Player Piano

Two years ago a team of members (men) went to Joe Cook's home and retrieved a player piano. He had assured us it worked. And the piano does play. However, the "player" needs extensive and expensive repairs. The records within the piano say that the player portion had been repaired as of 1978. Our research indicated that it would be too expensive for us to repair. Thanks to Heather Winn for advertising the piano on the Facebook auction page. And thanks for Carmen Wilbur for cataloging all the piano rolls. It went to a good home.



### Thanks to Sarah O'Connell

Sarah took this photo of poet Michael Czarnecki telling a story in poetry to our children. Look at those faces.



The Road Crew, Robert South, Sarah O'Connell and Bob Radke accomplished the springroad cleanup. It had to be postponed the previous week because of rain.



### **Ministerial Search Update**

The search continues for someone to fill our part-time minister position. The Search Committee recently had a phone conference with Evin Carvill-Ziemer to get introduced to the new Congregational Record program that will give prospective job seekers a chance to learn more about All Souls, the congregation and the larger community as well as what we are looking for in a candidate. We are currently migrating our information over from the previous platform, but hope to be getting some promising nibbles as the spring progresses.

Sarah O'Connell

### **Help Wanted**

The Memorial Garden needs some attention. Volunteers are needed.

### **The Roof (cont.)**

The steel for the roof will be delivered June 12, then the work begins the next day. Til Fritzsching reports. There will no 'boom's lifted to the flat lawn area behind the sanctuary. There will be no trucks or tractors on the lawn. Tibbles (Stan) will provide the dumpster for disposal to be placed in parking lot by sanctuary. Recyclables will where possible be separated .

### **The Anti-Bullying Class Saturday, May 15**

Saturday went well. We had a total of 7 kids. 5 were All Souls kids but 2 were strangers. I am not sure how they heard about it though. I didn't think to ask until they were gone. I also did not think to take pictures. The kids had fun though and Coach Brickey has offered to come again.

-Heather Winn

### **Panera Night**

Join us at Panera June 19 for dinner between 4-8 PM. It works like this: you pick up the Panera flyer at the church and take it with you to supper. If you prefer to do it electronically, download the flyer from either our website or Facebook page. When you place your order, be sure to show the flyer to the clerk at the counter. And enjoy your meal. Proceeds from the dinner will go toward the Capital Campaign.

### **Every Month at All Souls**

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

meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays at the church. Gathering and chatting begins at 6:30, the meeting begins at 7 PM. For a schedule of events, follow their Facebook page.

### **And Every Week at All Souls**

The baskets 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 Hospice and Planned Parenthood. Each organization receives 1/4 of the uncommitted funds for the year.

## **Unitarian Universalist Association**

From Beth Casebolt at the UUA

Several congregations have reported that their members are receiving scam emails that are requesting gift card donations for a charitable cause. At least one person has lost money to these scams. Religious groups and



congregations are becoming easy targets for these types of scams. The UUA recommends that congregations inform their members about this scam and educate their members on the official channels your congregation uses to accept donations.

The UUA has seen an increase in “phishing” attempts of all kinds. Phishing is a form of “social engineering,” whereby a hacker with bad intentions sends an email (or text or phone call) pretending to be someone the recipient trusts and asks the recipient to take an action which can have adverse effects. Sometimes, they request money. Other times, they invite the recipient to click a link or open an attachment that can trigger malicious code.

A good rule of thumb with emails you’re not expecting is to: (1) reach out to the sender through another channel (call, text, visit website) and (2) not click on a link (or send money, gift cards, etc.) without clarifying from the trusted source.

For more on this particular gift card scam, follow this link below:

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/scammers-posing-as-pastors-churches-nationwide-issue-urgent-warning.html>

To get a better sense of what to look for when receiving unsolicited emails, try this Google Phishing Quiz: <https://phishingquiz.withgoogle.com/>

Hackers are getting more sophisticated every day. The best defense is to encourage your employees, volunteers and congregation members to pause and look for warning signs before responding to any unsolicited email.

## **Monthly Tidings From the UUA**

Dear Congregation Members,  
The UUA’s annual congregational certification is in. Every year, congregations report their membership, religious education (RE) enrollment, budgetary figures, and much more. It’s a helpful snapshot of what’s happening in our congregations. And here’s this year’s headline: membership is steady, while religious education enrollment and average Sunday attendance continue to fall.

Adult membership is steady overall, coming in at 154,704, almost identical to last year. We have stabilized a downward trend in membership that had run 2010-2017, but beneath the headline we see substantial movement in membership figures in congregations. Last year 43% of congregations grew their adult membership and 30% grew their RE enrollment. Growth is coming largely from our smallest congregations—of the almost 400 members we added to brick and mortar UUA congregations last year, 70% were from congregations of under 150 members. Regionally there is also some variation. The Central East,



New England and Southern Regions grew this past year, and the Southern Region in particular has been a source of growth over the past 5 years.

So what do these numbers mean; what's going on here? First, it's important to note that Unitarian Universalists, like many faith communities, continue to be impacted by the tide moving away from religious involvement in the United States. We see this in the generational shifts in RE enrollment. And the fact that we are not losing members at the rate of some of our mainline Christian cousins attests to the relevance of Unitarian Universalism in our time, as we tread water against the current trends.

It's also important to acknowledge that the transition to the new formula for the Annual Program Fund, asking congregations to contribute to the UA based on their ability to pay rather than their members, means we are penalizing congregations for membership. The regions that grew this past year are the ones who have fully implemented the formula, and the remaining two regions—Pacific Western and MidAmerica—will complete their transition to the new formula next year.

Most importantly, what I see is that there is still a hunger for the values of justice, equity, compassion and liberation to which our faith aspires. Advancing these values matters far more than any simple statistics can capture. As we have engaged at a deeper level in the past two years in examining how systems of oppression have shaped our own UU institutions, we have not seen big changes in our membership, implying most folks are staying in the conversation. There is much more work to do to build "the power of we" in Unitarian Universalism, and I am glad to be on the journey

In faith,

Carey McDonald

UUA Executive Vice President

## Calendar

### June

\*Not open to public

Call the church office to get the name of the contact person for the T'ai Chi class you want.

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**Sunday, June 2,9,16,23**

Discussion Hour, 9:30, Informal Lounge

**Sunday, June 2,16**

Buddhist Sangha, 1:30 PM, Informal Lounge

**Sunday June 9**

Annual Meeting, Sanctuary, Noon

**June 30**

Youth Pride Day

**Monday June 3,10,17,24,**

NBC Chorus,



Eaton Social Hall, 6:30 PM

**Tuesday June 4, 11, 18, 25**

Q Center, Eaton Social Hall and Informal Lounge, 3 PM

**Tuesday June 4**

Women's Discussion Group

**Tuesday June 11, 25**

CUUPS, Eaton Social Hall, 6:30

**Wednesday June 5, 12, 19, 26**

T'ai Chi for Parkinsons patients, Eaton Social Hall, 1 PM

T'ai Chi, Eaton Social Hall, 5:30 PM

**Wednesday June 26**

Book Ends, LaMothe Lounge, 5:30

**Thursday June 6, 13, 20, 27**

Beginning and Intermediate T'ai Chi, Eaton Social Hall, 9 AM

\*Alcoholics Anonymous, Eaton Social Hall, 8 PM

**Friday June 7,**

First Friday Free Film, Eaton Social Hall, 7 PM

**Friday June 14**

Recital, Sanctuary 6 PM

**Friday, June 21**

North Country Allies, Meeting Room, 7 PM

**Friday, June 28**

Graduation party for Josh Rainbolt, Eaton Social Hall, 5 PM

General Farm Workers, Meeting Room, 6 PM

**Saturday**

**June 15 Recital,** Sanctuary, 6 PM

**June 29** Q center Free Film, Eaton Social Hall, 6 PM

Rev. Andrea Abbott reads a children's story during the service May 19.





Rev. David Weissbard reads to our children during the service May 12.

### All Souls UU Church Board of Trustees

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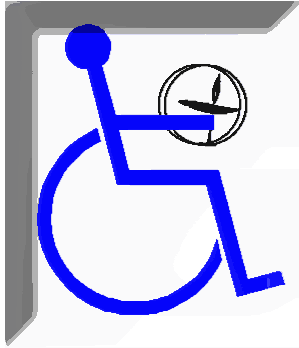
Board meetings are held the third Friday at 9:00 AM at the church in the conference room. Meetings are open to all members of the congregation.

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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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## 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.
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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.