

ALL SOULS NEWS -December 2020
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/AllSoulsUW WatertownNY

SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:30 A.M.

"All Souls—the church that puts its faith in you"

Snow!

In the event we need to cancel a service because of the weather, a notice will be posted on the opening page of our website www.allsoulsuu.org.



December 1 - Eleanor Allen: "Tis the Season." Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, children everywhere live in gleeful anticipation. Adults are more conflicted. There's all the preparation, most of it needing to be accomplished in miserable weather. There are memories of holidays spent with people no longer with us. Many of us feel rushed and anxious. And we feel guilty that we're not getting more done. Why not relax, savor our favorite holiday traditions, and forgive ourselves for not accomplishing everything on our extensive to-do lists? Several members of our congregation will speak briefly about their holiday traditions and their favorite holiday memories, and we'll all think about how we can enjoy a relaxed and joyful holiday season.

December 8 – Rev. David Weissbard: "Footprints of Windigo." Preaching is an opportunity, responsibility, and privilege which I have always taken seriously. In the last 56 years, I have only delivered sermons created by someone else on 2 or 3 occasions. On November 17th, The Rev. James Galasinski, minister of our Canton congregation, delivered a sermon, "**Footprints of Windigo**," that blew me away and I immediately felt had to be shared more widely. With James' permission, I will be sharing that sermon with you. You will not want to miss it!

December 15 – Rev . Marty Pelham: “Mystical Meals - a face-to-face Faith.” Shared meals can be an environment for establishing and building relationships, and relationships are key to our covenantal faith. Can we translate the mysterious alchemy of the dining experience into welcoming newcomers and caring even more for those who are already part of our community?

December 22 - Joanne Harter and Rev. Marty Pelham: “Winter Solstice Service.” Join us as we pause amid the holiday season turmoil and celebrate the deep and nourishing dark of the longest night of the year.

December 24 - Sarah O’Connell and Eleanor Allen: “Our Traditional Carols and Readings,” followed by pot luck reception in the social hall. The service begins at 7 PM.

December 29 - Frances Mercer - Intergenerational New Year’s Eve Gathering.”

Rev. Marty Pelham to be our New Minister

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Rev. Marty Pelham has accepted our invitation to serve as our half time consulting minister. He begins his work with/for us Dec. 1, and is planning to hold office hours twice a week. Hours have yet to be determined. Thank you to our search committee for “searching” for Marty.

-Harriet McMillan



From the President’s Desk

Harriet McMillan

Lessons Learned from the Rummage Sale

We did it. The Sweet Spot exercise showed we wanted to hold a rummage sale, and we did it.

1. Signing up ahead of time to work helped with knowing who would be available to help.
2. We saved ourselves LOTS of time by not pricing items, rather asking for donations. People named their price.
3. We did at least as well this rummage sale as we have in most past rummage sales.
4. There was much less rummage than in the past, almost no women’s clothing. Why? There should be, in my opinion, two newsletters before a rummage sale in order to get the word out.
5. Because I had been sick, I did not make the usual flyers placed around the church. That may have had an affect also.
6. There were lots of goodies in the bake sale, despite a slow start.

Thanks, everyone for your time and hard work. It paid off!

Unsung hero for Dec.: Sarah O’Connell for successfully chairing our search committee.

People News

Shut Ins



When preparing your Christmas cards this year, think about sending a card to each of our 'shut ins", those who can't be with us for services.

Jean Boldizar, 650 River Falls Ct., Roswell, GA 30076

Lois Creed and Lorraine Payette, POB 574, Dexter, NY 13634

Barbara Hanrahan-White, Carthage Care Center, 1045 West St., Carthage, NY 13619

Douglas Howland, Samaritan Summit Village, 22691 Campus Dr., Watertown, NY 13601

.Around the Church

2nd Annual Sock Xchange Dec. 17

Again this year we will have a sock exchange party. It will start with a potluck supper at 5, followed by the sock xchange and a left right game.

If you want to participate in the sock xchange, buy a pair of Christmas socks, the more outrageous the better, and stuff one of the socks into the other sock. The fill the sock with items anyone would like: tape, cocoa mix, a pretty cake of soap. The sky's the limit. Just have a good time with it.



Board Meeting Nov. 15 Summary

The board approved a contract to hire Rev. Marty Pelham to be our half time consulting minister. The executive committee had worked out the details with him the previously. Harriet McMillan sent a signed contract to him, for him to sign and return.

When our minister comes, we will look for his guidance with the Caring Tree. Julie Jeffers has some plans for the Caring Tree.

Harriet has contacted Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray to ask her to be part of our 200th anniversary in 2023.

Robert reported on his campaign to eliminate buckthorn from the church grounds.

The alarm code will be changed as of January 1.

Veronica reviewed what we need to do to qualify as a welcoming congregation.

Plans are going forward for the Thanksgiving Dinner at the church. Veronica is coordinating. She's warming up her dancing steps.

Website Photos

Robert South

I manage the church website now (allsoulsuu.org, not the Facebook page). A committee originally developed it with me but I'm pretty much doing it alone at this point. Harriet and I have developed a Website Protocol which will be presented to the board as a potential Board Policy once the website is compliant. It covers many aspects of what goes on the website and how it is changed, but one item of interest to all is the policy on privacy. The wording is as follows:

No contributor may post personal information about members, such as phone numbers or addresses. Photos of adult members or visitors may be posted on the website only with oral or

written permission of the depicted member or visitor. Photos of children may only be posted with written parental permission.

In the newsletter, Harriet also practices a policy of not naming children, which is in accordance with UUA standards. Many of the photos on the website were taken from the newsletter, but the newsletter is more internal and a stricter standard is more appropriate. So I'm trying to reform the photos that appear on the website.

It's important that we illustrate the site, with pictures of people, to present a vibrant social congregation. However, I need to get permissions (and more up to date photos--many in use are of people who seldom appear these days at church or, ahem, anywhere). A newcomer to the congregation, April Huff, is a skilled photographer and has volunteered to take pictures for us.

However, we still need to get permission to put these photos on the website to replace the older ones. Once we are done we will be compliant (and the quality will be better, incidentally) so we will make the policy official. For adults, I'm simply asking people and noting down that they have given permission. If anyone objects to any photo of them that appears on the website they can simply email me, tholish@verizon.net or the office at allsoulsuuchurch@gmail.com. Ask your likeness to be removed and it will be done. As for children, I'm collecting signed forms that look like this.

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Watertown New York has a policy of requiring verbal permission to display photos of adults on the allsoulsuu.org website or in the church newsletter and written parental permission to display photos of children. This form gives All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church permission to display photos of the named children.

CHILDREN _____
PARENT NAME _____
SIGNATURE _____

A Message from Pat Sutherland

Dear Harriet,

I am excited to share with you the results of "All Soul's Chorus" in our recent International Contest held in Sandusky, Ohio. Northern Blend and a Canadian chorus, "A Cappella Showcase," were the top scoring choruses this year. The choruses get scored in three areas: Music, Performance, and Singing. This year's top scoring total of the 3 categories was 83.7, and Northern Blend scored 83.3. We earned the highest scores in the categories of Music and Singing, while A Cappella Showcase outscored us in Performance. What is so exciting for both choruses is actually reaching an 83. I have checked my past records for the 12 years in which I have been singing with Northern Blend and while one other chorus won with 82.9 in 2009, and Northern Blend had a score of 81 in 2017 when we won, I do not find any chorus in our area of Harmony reaching 83 while I have been with Northern Blend!! We are beyond ecstatic this year. Thanks for all the support All Souls gives to us: we appreciate all you do for us!



Cards for Prisoners Again this Year



Last year we participated in a Church of the Larger Fellowship program to send stamped Christmas cards to imprisoned church members. There are strict guidelines for the program. We have cards at the church for you to include a message and a signature. We'll provide the stamps.

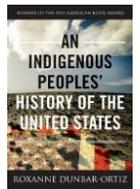
According to the CLF, the cards must be received by UUA headquarters by Dec. 6.

Moved

Ursula Mickle has moved south, to North Carolina. She's closer to her daughter there.

Common Read

Our next book will be *An Indigenous People's History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. We'll begin discussing the book second Sunday in January. This is the UUA's common read for this church year, and is available through the UUA bookstore.



No Time of the Year for Hunger

There's never a good time for hunger, but especially not this time of year. Please remember to bring contributions for the Urban Mission Food Pantry in this Christmas month. The Urban Mission can always use our contributions. Also, the Victim's Assistance Center on Washington St. needs diapers for 2-4 year olds.

Warm Clothing Tree

Again this year we will be collecting warm clothing to donate to the Watertown Urban Mission. We are looking for outerwear: jackets, snow pants, hats, mittens, boots. The tree will be located in the sanctuary this year.



Red Cross Blood Drive

On December 21, the Red Cross will be holding another blood drive at the church, starting at 10 AM-3 PM. Thanks to Julie Jeffers for making the arrangements.

From the Mailbox

A Thank You Note from UU-UNO

Thank you for your generosity to Unitarian Universalism. We received your gift of \$106 in support of the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office on November 7, 2019. On behalf of the Board, the staff and all Unitarian Universalists, we are grateful for your support!

Your gift will help the UU-UNO play a leading role at the United Nations on LGBT issues, sustainable development, climate change, human rights and social justice. Our voices are magnified by your loyal support advocacy, and encouragement.

-In faith, Bruce Knotts, Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office Director

Every Month at All Souls

CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans)

meets 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 three because of a tie vote: North Country Public Radio, Worker's Center of CNY, and Jefferson County Victims' Assistance Center. Each organization receives 1/6 of the uncommitted funds for the year.

Calendar

December 2019

*Not open to public

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

Sunday Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Open Discussion, Informal Lounge,
9:30 AM

Church Service, Sanctuary, 10:30 AM

Sunday, Dec. 1,

Dollar Dinner, Preparations begin at
2 PM

Sunday Dec. 1, 15

Buddhist Sanga, Informal Lounge,
1:30 PM

Monday Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Office Hours, 9-2

Northern Blend Chorus, Eaton Social
Hall, 6:30 PM

Tuesday Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

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

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 24

CUUPS, Eaton Social Hall, 6:30 PM

Wednesday Dec. 4, 11, 18,

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

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

Christmas Eve Service, 7 PM

Thursday Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26

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

***AA**, Eaton Social Hall, 6:30 PM

Friday Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27

Office hours 9-2

Friday, Dec. 20

North Country Allies Meeting, 7 PM

Friday Dec. 27

Workers Center of Central NY,
6-8:30

Saturday , 14

NBC rehearsal, Eaton Social Hall, 10
AM

NBC Concert and Reception 6 PM

Saturday Dec. 21

Red Cross Blood Drive, Eaton
Social Hall, 8:30 AM

Piano Recital, Janine Johnson,
Sanctuary, 5:30 PM



All Souls UU Church Board of Trustees

President: Harriet McMillan harriem@allsoulsuu.org
Vice President: Veronica Hartman veronicah.asuuc.@gmail.com
Secretary: Robert South roberts.asuuc@gmail.com
Treasurer: Eleanor Allen eleanora.asuuc@gmail.com
Trustee: Rebecca Carr rebeccac.asuuc@gmail.com
Trustee: Shannon Starkweather-Burke
Trustee: Catherine Burns catherineb.asuuc@gmail.com
Trustee: Heather Winn heatherw.asuuc@gmail.com

Staff

Office Administrator: Glenda Frost
Sextons: Chris Coughlin
Music: Toni Zygadlo
Childcare: Chris Coughlin
Religious Education: Frances Mercer
Sexton, Chris Coughlin

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. In December our board meeting will be Dec. 13, 9 AM.

Newsletter Editor, Harriet McMillan, harriem@allsoulsuu.org
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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.

Thanksgiving 2019





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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.