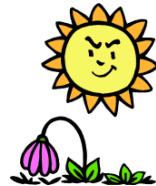


ALL SOULS NEWS – July-August 2019
All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church
1330 Gotham St.
Watertown, NY 13601



315-788-2742 www.allSoulsUU.org
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SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:30 A.M.

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

Summer Services

During the summer, all our services will be lay led and we'll follow the circle format we used so successfully last summer. Each service will be based upon a simple theme with a short presentation by a volunteer from the congregation and readings that highlight different interpretations of the theme. Then, each person who wishes, will be invited to share their understanding of the theme and how it affects them personally. If you're one of those who don't ordinarily attend in the summer you may want to try coming! People really enjoyed this format last summer. Of course, we will need volunteer presenters from the congregation for each week. The UUA Small Group Ministry website (<http://www.smallgroupministry.net>) has complete services on many intriguing topics that can be used to prepare the services, so a volunteer needs only to go to that website and pick a topic that appeals to him or her. Eleanor can provide more information, and any of the members of the worship committee will be happy to help, but the website has everything needed. It promises to be a great summer! Hurry and contact Eleanor Allen to reserve your Sunday soon. We only need 1 more volunteer to lead summer services. Anyone thinking about leading one needs to act fast!

July 7 – Robert South: “Learning from Failure”

July 14 - Warren and Eleanor Allen : “Thinking About Your Legacy” - Part One

July 21 - : Andre and Judy deZanger : “Higher Consciousness “

July 28 - Frances Mercer : “Religion for the 21st Century”

August 4 - Karen West and Eleanor Allen : Participatory Music filled service.

August 11 - OPEN

August 18 - Karen Hall : Stay Tuned!

August 25 - Andre and Judy deZanger : "The Four Agreements"

From the President's Desk

Harriet McMillan

Unbelievable! We've just completed another church year and begun the next. And I have been reelected to another term! There are so many things I would like to accomplish between now and the next annual meeting, I don't know where to start.

At our recent board meeting, I pointed out that we've had a complete change of employees in the past year, one position was filled twice.

As I've watched Toni Zygadlo (musician) through the year, I've wondered what goes through her mind as she sat through our services. She said that she thinks as a congregation we are very kind and appreciative. She also enjoys that we as a congregation actually sing the hymns. If you watch the congregation when she plays, heads are nodding in time, and she enjoys our appreciation—where else does the congregation clap at the end of a prelude/postlude.

From the Historian's Files

Sarah O'Connell

For this issue, I decided to look back at world historical events that happened in June. Something to ponder over the summer... How do these events relate to UU history and/or principles?

26 June AD 363: A Persian spear fells Rome's last pagan emperor

In the spring of 363, the Roman emperor Julian invaded Persia. Having ruled Rome for less than two years, he felt that he needed to prove himself to the troops on the empire's eastern frontier. And what better way than by taking on their age-old enemies? But then things began to go wrong. Harassed almost daily by Persian attacks, Julian ordered his army to retreat north, and at a minor engagement on 26 June, the worst happened. Julian had thrown himself into the fray, wrote Ammianus Marcellinus, a historian on the emperor's military staff, "when suddenly a cavalry spear, grazing the skin of his arm, pierced his side and fixed itself in the bottom of his liver". The wound did not at first seem serious; Julian's personal doctor washed it with wine, and then tried to stitch up the organs. But the bleeding continued, and it became obvious that the emperor was failing. As he lay dying, wrote Ammianus, Julian "entered into an intricate discussion with the philosophers Maximus and Priscus on the sublime nature of the soul". This seems a bit unlikely. It was inevitable that the last non-Christian emperor would get short shrift from Christian writers, so Ammianus, a fellow pagan, was probably gilding the lily. "At last," the historian went on, "the swelling of his veins began to choke his breath and, having drank some cold water, which he had asked for, he expired quietly about midnight, in the 31st year of his age."

18 June 1178: Monks witness an extraordinary lunar event

On 18 June 1178, Gervase of Canterbury heard an extraordinary story. Gervase, who had been ordained by Thomas Becket, spent much of his time compiling a detailed chronicle of English history. But nothing could have prepared him for the account reported to him that night by five fellow monks.

Some time after sunset, the monks had noticed something extraordinary in the sky. "Now," Gervase wrote, "there was a bright new moon... its horns were tilted toward the east; and suddenly the upper horn split in two. From the midpoint of the division a flaming torch sprang up, spewing out, over a considerable distance, fire, hot coals, and sparks. Meanwhile the body of the moon which was below writhed, as it were, in anxiety, and to put it in the words of those who reported it to me and saw it with their own eyes, the moon throbbed like a wounded snake." Today, many lunar experts believe the monks had been watching the formation of the moon's enormous Giordano Bruno crater, named after an Italian philosopher. It was probably created by the impact of an asteroid or comet, which would explain the burst of molten matter seen by the monks – though they, of course, had no way of understanding what it was they had witnessed.

4 June 1989: Hundreds die in Tiananmen Square

By the beginning of June 1989, Tiananmen Square, in the center of Beijing, was packed with demonstrators. After weeks of mounting protests, with students and dissidents at the forefront, the Chinese communist government had declared martial law and sent some 250,000 troops to the capital – but still the crowds refused to disperse. On 2 June party leaders, including the country's effective leader, Deng Xiaoping, agreed that it was time to crack down. What followed remains the single most controversial moment in China's recent history. In the early hours of 4 June, the army cleared the square by force. Government officials initially claimed the action resulted in no deaths – later revised to about 200; other estimates suggest that as many as 1,000 people lost their lives. Either way, the result was the same: the protesters had been defeated. One image, taken the next day, captured the terrible drama: a photograph of a lone man, holding two shopping bags, standing in front of a column of tanks. Who he was, and what he was doing, remains uncertain. At the time, there were rumors that he was arrested and dragged before a firing squad. We may well never know.

25 June 1978

In San Francisco, the artist Gilbert Baker designs a hippie-influenced rainbow flag with eight stripes, to be flown during the city's Gay Freedom Day Parade.

Becoming a Welcoming Congregation for the LGBTQ Community

The following is a report submitted by Catherine Burns that did not get into the annual meeting report.

There seems to be questions about All Soul being a welcoming congregation. We try our best to reach out to people when they first come to service and talk to people during coffee hour. We have wonderful, loving and compassionate people in our congregation. When I see someone that looks different from

me I sometimes get shy, I think that's a common phenomenon. That seems to be the crux of the matter.

According to the UUA website the Unitarian Universalist Association



established the Common Vision Planning Committee in 1987. This diverse group from around the North American continent was tasked with collecting information about how welcomed and accepted gay, lesbian and bisexual persons felt in their UU congregations.

Unfortunately, the record of support for rights and worth of LGB people that UUA had been noting since 1970 didn't agree with lived experience of those attending UU congregations. The committee published a report exposing many negative attitudes, deep prejudices and profound ignorance about bisexual, gay and lesbian people, resulting in exclusion. This painful reality was hard on many people, especially other minority groups who have had similar painful experiences within our society.

At the 1989 General Assembly it was voted to initiate the Welcoming Congregation Program recommended by the Common Vision Planning Committee, and our own principles of faith. By 1990 the first edition of the Welcoming Congregation developed by Rev. Scott W. Alexander and many diverse contributors; was released and 10 workshops and other resources to help congregations intentionally take steps to welcome people of all sexual orientations were brought together. New editions were released in 1995, 1999 and 2002 to keep the handbook updated, adding new workshops about racisms and homophobia/heterosexism, radical right and other identities.

Sad to say the Welcoming Congregation Handbook has not been updated since 2002 and it was discontinued in 2014. Much has changed in just a decade or so, the handbook is not in and of itself the Welcoming Congregation Program. There are many resources available from the UUA and elsewhere. The program can be designed by members of the congregation to take needs and situation into account as a unique entity. There is one for small congregations, another that might be good to make available is "Living the Welcoming Congregation."

Our own congregation seems to have a similar history. There have been 3 or 4 attempts to become a welcoming congregation, starting about 10-12 years ago. This current church survey has noted the broadest interesting in wanting to receive "the Welcoming Congregation Status" as suggested by UUA. This would be good as we are one of the few UU churches in this area that doesn't have this status.

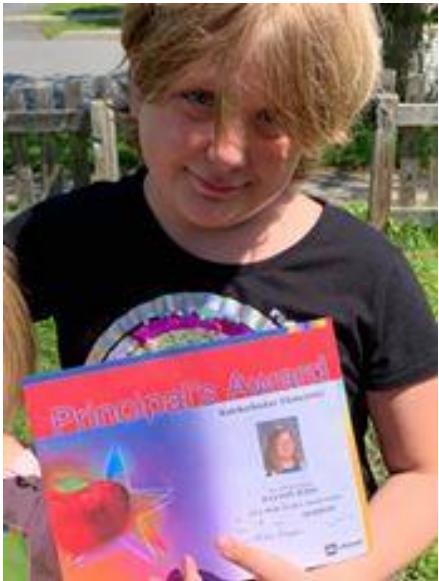
There are some wonderful programs that have our church for its venue; the Q-Center group has been holding its meetings and some events here for about 3-4 years. The "Cubed" group (its nickname as it was the 4th group formed from the ACR Health organization.) will be holding a Pride event at the end of the month that we are cooperating with as a venue and some volunteers. When the Sage group, a group of gay adults, was active, we were the building sponsor.

There have been services about LGBTQ community given by various people over the years, latest have been with the Regional Supervisor of ACR Health of Watertown, Cari Knight, and our own Evin Carvill-Ziemer. We haven't been totally blind to the needs of these sometimes misunderstood people. We need to continue and improve as best we are able.

One of the first steps is to have a congregational vote to see if we would like to be recognized by the UUA as a Welcoming Congregation. That's one of the questions on the congregational meeting agenda. [Ed. Note—the motion to work toward becoming a Welcoming Congregation did pass at the annual meeting.] Then we can get together all the details as needed by the UUA Guidelines and Action Steps. It is also suggested that this commitment is renew annually. First we need to get it done initially!

This is a great social action justice commitment to stay involved in; so many lives are involved and are sometimes ended way too soon. I think what we are doing so far is wonderful, which is why I think it should be recognized and encouraged.

People News



In keeping with our policy of not identifying children, the children in the photos will not be named. Their mother posted their photos because they both did extremely well in school this past year. Congratulations to the girls and their family.



Around the Church

The Roof (Again)

Work began on replacing the roof June 25. We had anticipated replacing 2 sheets of plywood, but because of extensive dry rot, 10 sheets had to be replaced.

The following is a progress report from Warren Allen, written on the first day.
First day roofers here. Some in audience weeping with excitement. Light rain at nine a.m. Many in audience have paid for a whole seat but are using only the front edge of it. By 10:30 all of the old shingles are off and the first photographer arrives. Photos will show one piece of plywood is curled upward at one corner very artistically with small area maybe two by two feet just east of that curl, which 2x2 area now has no plywood at this moment. Sky now blue in all directions as the crew goes on break.

To the right is progress on the first morning. The roof was stripped of old roofing, exposing the dry rot. In the next photo, on the next day, workers are getting ready to install the roofing.



From the Mailbox

We received a thank you note from Susan Favre for the delivery of the CD of Rev. LaMothe's sermons. She made a financial gift to the church, and was promised a CD, which was delivered to her.



Rev. Marty Pelham tells a story to our children on Sunday
June 23.

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

Unitarian Universalist Association A Message from the UUUNO Office

Some of the world's most tragic humanitarian situations have been ongoing for years and while the human costs continue, our media and attention have moved on. The Bangladesh camp for Rohingya refugees from Burma is now the largest in the world, with half a million children at risk of early marriage, child labor or being trafficked on the black market. Yemen was in the news a few weeks ago when the US Congress voted to end military assistance for the Saudi-led coalition in the Yemen war...which President Trump promptly vetoed. Now the UN reports that "nowhere is safe in Yemen" as the country's war rages on and more civilians are killed every day by either armed clashes or the advancing famine.

This is the work the United Nations agencies and programs spend their efforts on day in and day out. It is thankless and tragically underfunded work, and it needs all of the support Unitarian Universalists can give. Support includes following these issues when others have forgotten them and reminding others that there are serious global problems that the UN follows and does what it can to help.

The Larger Community A Dog for Edison

My name is Edison and I am 8 years old. I am very affectionate and active. I love playing with my brothers and my sister, building with Legos, and learning everything there is to know about dinosaurs! Having Autism and ADHD makes some day to day activities a bit more difficult. I've got amazing teachers and awesome supports in place helping me keep focus and make progress in school. Outside of school, a service dog would really help me fully enjoy simple things like going to the store or the park. Those places are so busy with so many colors, lights, and sounds that I'm never quite sure what to focus on! My mom and dad brought me to NEADS for an interview for a special service dog. As soon as I took the leash to practice with a dog in training, my whole demeanor changed. I had a clear focal point! I picked right up on the commands and I felt so confident! When the nice people at NEADS told me I was approved, I don't think I could've smiled any bigger! I can't wait to be matched with the perfect dog and see what doors will open for me. There are so many things I'd like to do and places I'd like to go. Having a special dog to focus on and help calm me when I start to get overwhelmed will be so wonderful! Working with him/her will also help reinforce my speech and build my sense of responsibility and independence.

Please help me support NEADS by making a donation through my page. The process is fast, easy and secure. Thanks so much for your support... and please don't forget to send this page to any friends you think might be interested in donating!



Edison Boots, from the website
<https://support.neads.org/fundraiser/2145550>

Heather Winn is a close family friend of Edison and the provider of the information.

Calendar

JULY

Sunday

7, 14, 21, 28 Discussion Group, Informal Lounge, 9:30 AM

7, 21 Buddhist Sangha, Informal Lounge, 1:30 PM

Monday

1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Northern Blend Chorus, Eaton Social Hall, 6:30 PM

Tuesday

2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Q Center, Sanctuary and Informal Lounge, 3 PM

9, 23 CUUPS, Eaton Social Hall, 6:30 PM

2, 16, 30 Women's Discussion Group, LaMothe Lounge, 6:30 PM

Wednesday

3, 10, 17, 24, 31 T'ai-Chi for Parkinsons Patients, Eaton Social Hall or

outside, 1 PM
T'ai Chi Advanced, Eaton Social Hall, 5:30 PM

Thursday

4, 11, 18, 25 T'ai Chi Beginning and Intermediate, Eaton Social Hall, 9 AM
AA, Eaton Social Hall, 8 PM

Friday

19 North Country Allies, Eaton Social Hall, 7 PM

26 General Farm Workers, Eaton Social Hall, 6 PM

AUGUST

Sunday

4, 11, 18, 25 Discussion Group, Informal Lounge, 9:30 AM

4, 18	Buddhist Sangha, Informal Lounge, 1:30 PM	5:30 PM
Monday		Thursday
5, 12, 19, 26	Northern Blend Chorus, Eaton Social Hall, 6:30 PM	1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 25 T'ai Chi Beginning and Intermediate, Eaton Social Hall, 9 AM AA, Eaton Social Hall, 8 PM
Tuesday		Friday
6, 13, 20, 27	Q Center, Sanctuary and Informal Lounge, 3 PM	16 North Country Allies, Eaton Social Hall, 7 PM
13, 27	CUUPS, Eaton Social Hall, 6:30 PM Women's Discussion Group, LaMothe Lounge, 6:30 PM	30 General Farm Workers, Eaton Social Hall, 6 PM
Wednesday		Q Center, Women's Discussion Group not open to the public.
7, 14, 21, 28	31 T'ai-Chi for Parkinsons Patients, Eaton Social Hall or outside, 1 PM	
	T'ai Chi Advanced, Eaton Social Hall,	

All Souls UU Church Board of Trustees

President: Harriet McMillan harriettm@allsoulsuu.org
 Vice President: Veronica Hartman veronicah.asuuc@gmail.com
 Secretary: Robert South roberts.asuuc@gmail.com
 Treasurer: Eleanor Allen eleonora.asuuc@gmail.com
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 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 Zygallo
 Childcare:
 Religious Education: Frances Mercer

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.

Newsletter Editor, Harriet McMillan, harriettm@allsoulsuu.org

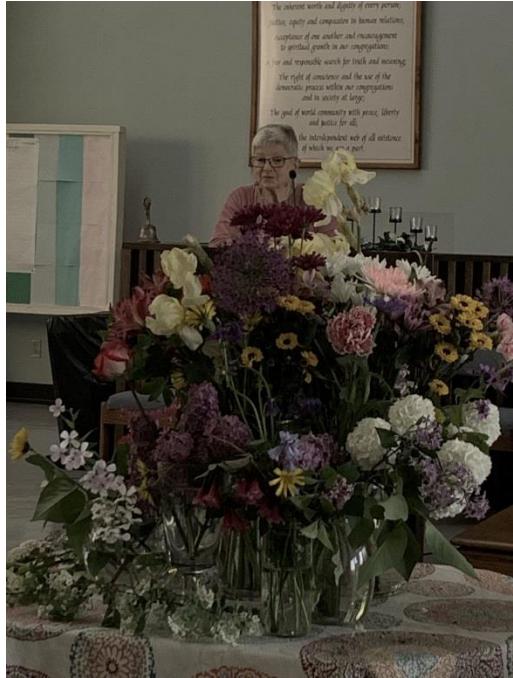
Office Administrator M, W, F, 10-1

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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.



Frances Mercer, while leading the Flower Communion service, looks out over the flowers. And to the right is another view of the flowers. Thanks to Heather Winn for the photos.



More flower communion photos

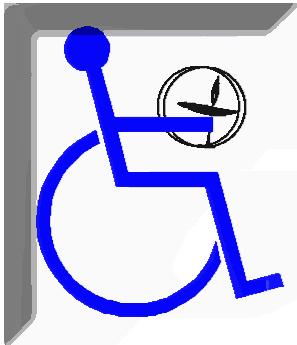




Scenes from the Pride flag raising at Watertown City Hall, Saturday, June 23.

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church
1330 Gotham St.
Watertown, NY 13601
ALL SOULS NEWS July-August 2019

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.
- 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.