

ALL SOULS NEWS -November 2019

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church

1330 Gotham St.

Watertown, NY 13601



315-788-2742 www.allsoulsuu.org

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.



November 3 - Rev. Marty Pelham, UU Ministerial Candidate: "Mending Walls." We will explore the role our history may play in our challenges we face today, the strength rooted in diversity, and the importance of maintaining and mending relationships within our faith. This is Rev. Pelham's second visit to All Souls.

November 10 - Rev. David Weissbard: "Driven by Fear.", as well as two child dedications.

November 17 - Jim D'Alosio, a member of First Universalist, Syracuse : "Evil Explorations." The ongoing threat of climate change has engendered a new type of behavior that benefits those in the here-and-now but endangers the status quo of the future. Whether this approach is naive, uninformed, or truly evil, it's pervasive and worth exploring. Let's.

November 24 - Robert South: "In Celebration of Graciousness," Mythological origins aside, Thanksgiving is a worthy holiday. Gratitude is good to both give and receive, and as Americans we set aside a day to ritually practice it every year. As Unitarian Universalists, we try to practice it on a daily basis. But what is the flip side? What do you do when others are being grateful? Well obviously, when someone says "thank you," you respond with "you're welcome," but what is the associated attitude? Let's gratefully appreciate graciousness and magnanimity.

Altar News

The Harvest/Thanksgiving theme on the altar continues for the month of November. There is always room to tuck in another gourd or some dried Indian corn, so if you're so inclined, let Catherine or Joanne know and we'll be happy to add your contribution to the display!

The December arrangement of poinsettias and greens is your opportunity to honor or memorialize someone special. For \$10.00, the names will appear in the Christmas Eve Order of Celebration and in the January newsletter. A sign-up sheet will be available throughout November and until December 22. See Catherine Burns or Joanne Harter to include your honoree. The funds help with purchase of altar decor.

From the President's Desk

Harriet McMillan

Yikes. Yesterday in the mail we received two solicitations for donation, along with a "gift" of return address labels. Today we received (only) one. We get at least one a day. There is no way I will ever send enough mail to use all the labels. Oh, and yesterday, my mother-in-law, who has not lived with us for four years, also received a solicitation letter with labels, for this address.

I've decided to follow Jackie Radke's decision to save solicitation letters for a year, just to see how many duplicates arrive. Then I may start sending out a letter like my sister's. She lists all the organizations she and her husband receive letters from, and then says they cannot possibly donate to every organization and please remove their name from their mailing lists. Should be interesting.

And speaking of my sister (remember, I'm the baby) a few years back she started saving all the catalogs that arrived at her house 3 months before Christmas. After New Year's she started notifying all the senders that she wished to be taken off their mailing list. I need to check with her and see if it worked.

Unsung hero for November: Heather Winn. I like to think that I know everyone who comes to All Souls, but there was a Sunday when I sat and talked with Heather and realized that I only thought I knew her. She has a positive attitude and is always willing to help.

Historian's Files

Sarah O'Connell

Did you know? Our beautiful Kawai piano is a little over 30 years old, as is the Rodgers organ. They were both installed in April of 1988 in the new church on Gotham Street after the former church on Washington Street burned in a fire in December 1984.

"Chris A. Hyde tries out the new Kawai piano as W. Robert Huey and Martha B. Jablonski enjoy the music. The three musicians, along with Meg M. Stecker-Runde, soprano, will perform a concert at 4 p.m. Sunday at All Souls Unitarian **Universalist** Church on Gotham Street Road. The concert will dedicate the piano, which was presented by the women of the church, and a new Rodgers organ, which was a gift of Mrs. W. Leonard Mahana in memory of her husband."

People News

Recovering and Bored

Harriet McMillan had a pacemaker installed while a patient recently at Samaritan Medical Center. Activities are limited, thankfully she is well stocked with books.

Around the Church

Rummage Sale November 16

We went through a discovery process to decide if we want to have a fall rummage sale, or not. And in the final analysis we decided to have a fall rummage sale.

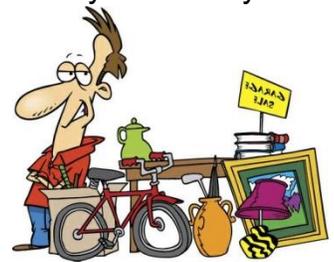
Joanne and I have "done" this rummage sale for years. I don't know exactly how many but it is many. To take some pressure off the two of us, we are looking to create 3 teams: 1 for set up on Friday, another for the sale itself, and finally one to take down and take the leftovers to the Impossible Dream.

A couple of years ago for the bake sale, we went to a donation per item, rather than setting a price. And voila! We found that we made more money than we did when everything was priced.

With that in mind, we are trying out a new strategy with this sale. Rather than pricing items, we will ask buyers what they think it's worth. Unless it's ridiculously low, we'll accept it. And of course if it is ridiculously high, we'll accept it, too.

One concern we always have is that sometimes things come into the sale that need to be cleaned up. Things that are clean sell better.

So Joanne and I will be around to sign you up to work. If we see you run away from us, we'll know you have read this.



-Harriet McMillan

CUUPS

As always, you are encouraged to bring a nonperishable food item or personal care item for the food pantry collection. A potluck meal follows. Join us!

-Questions...see Joanne Harter or Catherine Burns.

CARING TREE

The Caring Tree, our effort to establish a system of looking after each other, is being revitalized. Stay tuned.

BUCKTHORN PROJECT

Robert South has declared war on the buckthorn that seems to have taken over the church property. Read his report toward on page 10. And thanks, Robert.

Bi



Thanks as always for our fine band of adopt-a-highway workers - Robert South, Warren Allen, Bob Radke, Karen Hall, Paula Trainham, Joanne Harter and Sarah O'Connell - as well as the dedicated kitchen cleaners, Harriet McMillan and Jackie Radke (and Bob also jumped in on this) who improved our church and community environment on Saturday, October 12.



Invitation from Emmanuel Human Group to Hear Speaker about “Sanctuary”

Emmanuel Human Group would like to extend an invitation to you and your group to hear a guest speaker, Austin Kocher from the Syracuse area. Austin previously worked as an organizer for the Mennonite Church in Columbus, OH and will speak to that church’s experience with sanctuary, as well as some general information about the myths surrounding what it means to be “illegal”.

Austin Kocher will be speaking at Emmanuel Congregational Church on Sun. Nov. 10 @ 12:30. Please respond if you'd like to attend so we can plan accordingly.

In Peace,
Michelle, Kristin & Alice

Thanksgiving at All Souls

Again this year we will have another Thanksgiving Dinner at All Souls. There are sign up sheets in the Eaton Social Hall, where you can sign up and list your contribution.

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.

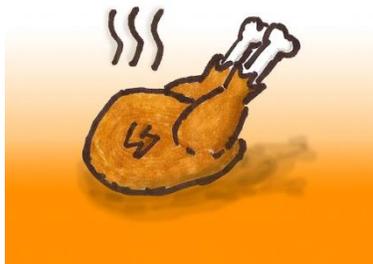
As always, Joanne Harter, our CDO (Chief Decorating Officer) and Catherine Burns appreciates help with the altar decorations.

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 November 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.



Hall, 6:30 PM

Sunday 11/3, 11/10, 11/17, 11/24

Discussion group, Informal Lounge, 9:30AM
Service at 10:30
Social Hour, 11:45

Sunday, 11/3 Board Meeting, La Mothe Lounge, 12:15

Sunday 11/10, 11/24

Buddhist Sanga, Informal Lounge, 1:30 PM

Monday 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25 Office

Hours, 9-2
Northern Blend Chorus
Eaton Social Hall, 6:30 PM
Informal lounge and Eaton Social Hall, 3 PM

Tuesday 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 11/26 Q Center, Informal lounge, and Eaton Social Hall, 3 PM

Tuesday 11/5, 11/19 *Women's Discussion Group, LaMothe Lounge, 6:05 PM

Tuesday, 11/12, 11/26 CUUPS, Eaton Social

Wednesday 11/6, 11/13, 11/20, 11/27 T'ai Chi for Parkinsons Patients, Eaton Social Hall, 1PM
Advanced T'ai Chi, Eaton Social Hall 5:30 PM

Wednesday 11/13, Smalls Making a Big Difference, Sanctuary 7 PM, Open to all

Wednesday, 11/20, *Bookends, LaMothe Lounge, 5 PM

Thursday 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28 Beginning & Intermediate T'ai Chi, Eaton Social Hall, 9 AM
***AA**, Eaton Social Hall, 6:30,

Thursday, 11/28 Thanksgiving at the Church

Friday, 11/1, 11/8, 11/15, 11/22, 11/29 Office Hours, 9-2 PM

Friday, 11/15 Rummage Sale Set up, Eaton Social Hall, noon

Saturday 11/2 Northern Blend Chorus, Eaton Social Hall, 7 PM

Saturday 11/16, Rummage Sale, Eaton Social Hall, 9 AM

Saturday, 11/30 Glenda's Birthday

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.org

Staff

Office Administrator: Glenda Frost
Sexton: Chris Coughlin
Music: Toni Zygadlo
Childcare: Chris Coughlin
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.

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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.

Photos from UN Sunday, courtesy of Sarah O'Connell and Heather Winn.





Our children, led by Frances Mercer, process around the church at the beginning of the service.



Northern Blend Chorus performs during the service.

Buckthorn Project



The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit.

--Nelson Henderson

Some of the more observant members of the congregation may have noticed the changes to the woods behind the church. Yeah, I cut all that stuff down. It was an invasive species called Buckthorn (*Rhamnus Cathartica*). Just a little bit left.

You all may be concerned about what comes next, and what the plan is. The plan is to raise a real woods much like the one across Gotham street, made up of trees like maple, oak, hickory, hawthorn, pine, and cottonwood. I am not clear cutting, I am only cutting buckthorn, but it looks like clear cutting because there is so little else able to survive in the presence of buckthorn. The soil is also pretty thin, and there are lots of deer. But trees can deal with the soil, obviously, and deer can be dealt with by protecting seedlings and saplings with the wire deer cages you may have seen. I've collected and planted lots of seeds and intend to plant seedlings from the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation district as well.

Leaving the fallen buckthorn on the ground also will protect next spring's seedlings from deer until I can spot and cage them in the process of removing the branches. I am putting them on my property next door and in a swampy area on the church property where they will rot quickly and turn back into soil. If we removed the brush and logs that would constitute removal of the soil's fertility which the buckthorn have taken up.

Leaving it there will return nutrients to the soil. However, the debris is ugly. Soon it will be winter and all that will be behind a wall of snow, and next year I will tidy up and make it look better. And over the next ten to twenty years a better kind of woods will grow in. In the meantime, the vista is pretty scenic in my opinion. I will have to keep cutting down buckthorn seedlings every year for five years until the bank of seeds in the soil wears out, but it will just get easier over time.

--Robert South

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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.