

ALL SOULS NEWS -April 2025
All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church
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Watertown, NY 13601



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www.facebook.com/AllSoulsUUWatertownNY

SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:30 A.M.

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

Phone Tree

The default method of notifying the congregation of cancellations is to put the information on the website and email it out. However, some people would like to also be called on the phone. Rather than trying to call absolutely everyone, we are putting together a list of just those who prefer to be notified by phone. If that's you, then either reply to this email or call 315-921-1162

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.



April Services

April 6 – Rev. Andrea Abbott-Hook - Sometimes We're the Israelites, Sometimes We're the Egyptians. A recent intersection (literally) with a person from another country has me thinking about my own reactions to vulnerable people, immigrants in particular, given our current political horror, but also others.

April 13 – Rev. David Weissbard – Sumbunall. Most ministers have favorite sermons. I know I do. One of them is about the magic word "Sumbunall." This word is an antidote to much of what is wrong in the world today. Actually, Sumbunall was the subject of the second sermon I delivered at All Souls. I think it is time to consider it again.



April 20 – Sarah O’Connell – Joy, and Bunnies, and the Easter Story. The Soul Matters theme for April is Joy, so I’ll be sharing my thoughts – and yours – for how this applies to this time of the year.

April 27 - Robert South - The Utility of Joy. Is joy the meaning of life, or is its value in service to something else? Is it perhaps win-win?

From the President’s Desk

Robert South

This month I'd like to talk about money. The church's income comes from interest on the endowment (we cannot spend the principal), plus pledges from the members. The church spends more than the pledges could cover, and even the endowment doesn't make up the difference.

We've all received pledge cards. This year, there's an added space provided for donating extra for needed work on the building. The building always needs work and we always need money for it. Putting an extra block on the pledge card is our way of having a capital campaign without having a capital campaign (because we just had a capital campaign in 2017, and Reverend Guy said they are supposed to be once-in-a-generation things). I recall my parents taking us out of the Methodist church because of the constant pestering about money for building improvements.

We have expenses coming up, including a minister and a bunch of more work on the building. We hired an architectural firm at a cost of 5,000 dollars to tell us we need new siding and should tear down the stone walls. We had a contract offer from Diego Aguilar to do that for about 80,000 dollars, but the architects said it would cost about a quarter million and wanted tens of thousands more to professionally supervise the project. We are going to have to do it the old-fashioned way: take the list from the architects and use it to request proposals from various contractors, select between apples and oranges, and then supervise the fulfillment of the contract ourselves. We plan to take the advice of the architects and prioritize the south and west sides of the building, which should allow us to also retain a half time minister if we are frugal.

Ministerial Search Team - Exciting News!!

At our March meeting, the board agreed with the search team’s recommendation that Cindy Terlazzo be hired as our half time contract minister, for an 11-month term, with option for renewal, starting in August 2025. (continued...)

You’ll remember that the board authorized a search team to put together an online application for a ½ time consulting minister in 2023. Our listing went live in May of 2023, but we had no applicants until the board authorized us to increase the salary and benefits last year. Besides Cindy, there were two other candidates who weren’t really viable choices.



Cindy received her Master of Divinity from Lancaster Theological Seminary and entered into Preliminary Fellowship with the UUA in 2020. She is currently a quarter time minister at the UU Society of Gettysburg, in Gettysburg PA. Prior to becoming a minister she worked in the mental health field and was an active member of the various UU churches where she was a member. She recently moved, with her husband, to Rochester, in order to be closer to her children and grandchildren. She doesn't plan on re-locating to the Watertown area, but is prepared to commute from Rochester and, when weather prevents this, to be available to us through electronic means. She will participate in board, and committee meetings over zoom, but will commute to Watertown to lead worship services and be in person as much as weather permits. She'll begin work officially in August with several trips to Watertown, to familiarize herself with us and our building, and meet with the board and as many others as wish to meet with her. She'll lead her first service in September, possibly at the Ingathering service. She's particularly interested in providing adult RE and has several ideas for interesting workshops, such as 'writing your own obituary,' or 'spiritual memoirs.'

She comes with enthusiastic recommendations. The board chair of the UU Society of Gettysburg, where she's currently 1/4 time minister said: "I've been a UU for about 40 years and have had at least 18 ministers during that time. I would count about 4 of them as MY ministers. Ministers who really spoke to me. Cindy is one of them. . . . In all honesty, you can't go wrong with her. She's the real deal and we will miss her tremendously." She pointed out that their small church grew, and went from having no children to having 15 in their RE program while Cindy was their 1/4 time minister. And another person, who has known Cindy for 20 years said, "Cindy has what I would call Quiet Power. One of my favorite services of all time was by Cindy on Love. She is warm, caring but also fierce when it comes to social justice and making sure people feel seen and heard." Here's a link to Cindy Terazzo's website <http://revcindyterlazzo.com/index.html>

~Karen Hall, Harriet McMillan, and Eleanor Allen

Collectorland

Warren Allen



Here's an update on our income. As of March 16, our fiscal year is 73% past. Our one pledge towards our electricity seems to be almost all received. Our money pledges for this year were \$35,497, and from pledgers we have received thus far \$27,962, or 79%. Of the 27 pledges for money, fourteen of us have already been able to bring in at least our original pledge. Separately, the cash put in the plates for our Generosity Project is thus far \$1900 (meaning at least \$475 for each of the other charities for which we voted last time). And \$69 brought in thus far for our fair trade coffee. And \$2940 kindly given thus far from those families who didn't pledge this year. Thank you!

About a month ago, some architects whom we'd hired, found that the earlier plans were not all followed, and we have some weaknesses in our lovely building. Two kind checks totaling \$150 have been brought in already towards this building fund. One member has already figured out their pledge for the next fiscal year, and already brought in that check. Thanks to all for your financial participation. ~W. Allen, Humble Collector

Historian Sarah O'Connell

We used to have a cadre of older women who ruled the church with their formidable presence. Now I'm part of the older women club, although I don't think we're quite as formidable. I found this card from Frances Vorce, one of those ladies, written to me at Easter time. I'm not sure of the year, sometime in the late 80's, I'd guess. "Dear Rick, Sarah and Dennis, This is as close as I can come to an Easter card- especially as nice as yours to me. I am so tired of not going out when I want to and not being independent. My daffodils bloomed so beautifully and brightened my life! I thank you so much for all your kindness (and the book, too). I'm glad my name is on the Caring Tree – and you find time to be so "caring" for me. Happy Easter to Rick, Dennis and Sarah! Gratefully, Frances." (She is on the left below. Joanne Harter's parents are on the right.)



Craft Night (tentatively 4/11)

Kat Hammond Re the March Craft night: "We had a ball! Our largest attendance so far." Some of the Celtic pendants are on display in the Social Hall.



Religious Exploration News

First, a quick thank you to Karen Hall and Crystal for providing a program on Sunday, March 16 when we had several children there as guests.

ASUU to Resume Focus on Families

We are seeking VOLUNTEERS to both consider supporting our RE program AND assisting before and while All Souls UU will have a table at Thompson Park Zoo's Earth Day Celebration from 11-3 on Saturday, April 19. Our monthly Craft Night leader, Kat, has indicated we should talk further about her developing a youth/family craft project (that perhaps could be organized as part of the regular April 11 Craft Night) as was so successful at Pride last year, and perhaps we could use the themed craft project as a foundation for a curriculum in the event we have kids drop in on Sunday (with subsequent tabling at Juneteenth in Thompson Park on Thursday, June 19th this year, and Pride presumably another opportunity for both tabling and another themed curriculum). Kathy Ashland will also be contributing her ideas.

Please plan to join us to begin organizing, shortly after our service and some refreshments and social time, on Sunday, April 6. Please reply to Kelly if you are interested and don't have an opportunity to confirm your interest with the person announcing after this Sunday's service (March 30).

Heather's Kitchen

One of the best parts of the weather getting warmer is cooking on the grill. Here is one of our favorites: **Black bean burgers**

Ingredients

- 2 cans (14.5 ounces each) black beans
- 1 cup seasoned bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup grated white onion
- 1 whole egg
- hot sauce (optional)
- 1/2 tsp. chili powder
- salt and pepper (and any other spices you like)
- 8 slices of your favorite cheese
- olive oil, for frying
- butter, for frying and grilling
- Whatever buns and / or toppings you like

Directions (next page)

Directions

Drain, but do not rinse, the black beans. Place them in a bowl and use a fork to mash them. Keep mashing until they're mostly broken up, but still have some whole beans visible. Add the breadcrumbs, onion, egg, chili powder, salt, pepper, and hot sauce. Stir until everything is combined, then let the mixture sit for 5 minutes.

Heat a tablespoon or two of olive oil with an equal amount of butter in a skillet (or on a flat top grill) over medium-low heat. Form the bean mixture into patties slightly larger than the buns you're using (the patties will not shrink when they cook.) Place the patties in the skillet and cook them about 5 minutes on the first side. Flip them to the other side, place 2 slices of cheese onto each patty, and continue cooking them for another 5 minutes, or until the burgers are heated through. (Place a lid on the skillet to help the cheese melt if needed.)

Grill the buns on a griddle with a little butter until golden, add the patty, top with your condiments and toppings of choice, and enjoy!

Chalice Circle CUUPS news

Joanne Harter

On April 6, we will be planning for an Earth Day ritual, to be held during our April 16 meeting. Ideas so far are to raise energy for the Earth in a healing circle. With the Board's permission, we may plant something in the Memorial Garden...bring ideas/suggestions!

Gathering begins at 6:30, with evening's program at 7 pm.

ASUU Outreach News

The Zoo is having an Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 19 from 11-3, and we will be hosting an All Souls table, to talk about things like our Highway Cleanup and other topics. We may also have some sort of a craft activity. If you would like to participate, please talk to Warren Allen.

Community Meals at Emmanuel Congregational Church are held Monday-Friday through April. They can always use volunteers and are specifically looking for help at the **April 3, 10, 24 and 25** meals. Prep starts at 3 p.m. and they serve the free meals from 5-7. For more information please feel free to reach out to Steph Russell at 315-408-5414

Around the Church

Semi-Annual Road Cleanup



The All Souls semi-annual cleanup will be Saturday, May 10 at 9 am. Please come and help clean our adopted highway from the church out to Route 12. If you want to participate, sign up on the clipboard which will start being circulated in the Eaton Social Hall. Wear work clothes and sturdy footwear. We will provide vests, hard hats, and gloves. Bring a "picker-upper" if you want. With four groups of 2 people each, it takes just a little over an hour, and makes for a great photo op!

Every Month at All Souls

CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans)

CUUPS will be meeting on the first Friday of each month and also the third Wednesday. Gathering begins at 6:30 PM, the meeting begins at 7 PM.

Game Night

Join us on the third Friday of the month from 5-7 to play games. There are many games available for us all to play. We provide pizza, and you can feel free to bring a treat.

And Every Week at All Souls

The basket for your donations to the Urban Mission Food Pantry is always available for your donations. 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 Citizens Advocates and Planned Parenthood. Each organization receives 1/4 of the uncommitted funds for the year.

Unitarian Universalist News

Especially relevant for April and Earth Day: Did you know about the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth (UUMFE)?



Visit their website here: <https://uumfe.org> for more news and action like this:
Earth Day Online Worship April 22, 2025 8:00 pm EDT - 9:00 pm EDT

All Souls UU Church Board of Trustees

President: Robert South
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Custodian: John Crupi
Music: Toni Zygadlo
Religious Exploration:

Office Volunteers: Robert South
Kelly Sackheim

Newsletter Editor, Harriet McMillan
Office Hours: Mon 9-11, Wed 11-1, Fri

Board meetings are held the fourth Saturday of the month at 9:30 AM by Zoom. Meetings are open to all members of the congregation.

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Phone (315) 788-2742
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Website: <http://www.allsoulsuu.org>

PLEASE SUBMIT ITEMS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER NO LATER THAN THE 15TH OF THE MONTH. ITEMS ARE APPRECIATED AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

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ALL SOULS NEWSLETTER April 2025
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.

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.