



WELCOMING CARING SEEKING

ALL SOULS NEW LONDON

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

19 Jay Street, New London, CT 06320

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Congregation is a liberal religious congregation that nurtures lifelong spiritual development. We covenant to create a welcoming, caring, justice-seeking community within and beyond these walls.

Words to live by: "Let there be no purpose for friendship save the deepening of the spirit."

Khalil Gibran

January Ministry Theme: Deepening

January 5: "Kicking Off the New Year"

Two Services: 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.

Worship Leader: Reverend Caitlin O'Brien

Guest Preacher: Dianne M. Daniels, Seminarian, Star King School for the Ministry

Dianne will encourage and exhort the congregation to throw off the chains of the old year and embrace the possibilities and new energy of 2020. Come prepared to clap, dance, sing and rejoice as we cast off old burdens and step into a year full of possibility, presence and power.

January 12: "Draw Us Close in Heartache"

Two Services: 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.

Worship Leader: Reverend Carolyn Patierno and Ann Kadlecek, Ministerial Intern

These are the lyrics to the anthem the choir will be offering us. In this month when we consider deepening, how might we deepen the way that we both offer and receive love?

January 19: MLK

Two Services: 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.

Worship Leader: Reverend Carolyn Patierno

There is a photograph of Rev. Dr. King that I keep close to me. He is sitting in front of multiple microphones but he is looking down and contemplative. What kind of strength must we draw on in order to do the work of justice? From what well did King himself draw and what may we learn from his example?

New London Food Pantry Offering: canned beans, (baked beans, kidney etc.)

January 26: Sacred Rest: A Unitarian Universalist Sabbath.

Two Services: 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.

Worship Leaders: Reverends Carolyn Patierno and Caitlin O'Brien

Preacher: Ann Kadlecek, Ministerial Intern

Mission Offering: To support All souls' operating budget, see page 13 for details.

The spiritual practice of Sabbath was so central to ancient Israelite religion that it was included as one of the Ten Commandments from God. Today, it might be hard to imagine incorporating a Sabbath into our demanding, high-tech lives. But what if we tried? What might Sabbath have to offer us today?

Black Lives Matter

PUBLIC WITNESS ON SUNDAYS
AFTER THE FIRST SERVICE

OFFICE

Monday-Friday
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Telephone: 860-443-0316

WEBSITE

www.allsoulsnewlondon.org

FACEBOOK

[www.facebook.com/
allsoulsnewlondon](https://www.facebook.com/allsoulsnewlondon)

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RE DIRECTOR EMERITA

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome all, to a new decade. 2020 is here.

Will it be an update of the "Roaring 20s?"

At All Souls it will not be the Boring 20s!

Our goal in re-designing and expanding our space is to have a functioning kitchen, community space, and efficient traffic flow to better create a sense of the sacred, an oasis for both contemplation and the work of social justice within and beyond our walls.

On December 15, 2019 we held a town hall meeting to share new information and gather ideas to make our congregational home a place more conducive to our mission. Opinions and ideas were expressed. Of course! We are UUs and democracy in action is sometimes boisterous, freewheeling, and most certainly not a list of simple bullet points especially when the process is a complex intersection of finance, design, commitment, and vision.

In the midst of said intersection are questions that include the following.

We are waiting for more details about a construction loan. Among other questions are these: Once the construction loan reverts to a mortgage, how much will the monthly mortgage payment be? What would be the impact on All Souls' annual budget?

Much discussion focused on the design of the narthex. "Narthex" What a word! I looked it up. From medieval Latin, rooted in Greek, it now connotes antechamber, a passage space for transitioning from the challenges of the day-to-day to a place where we consider and act on the reason we have all joined this group

of All Souls. Such a space is worth serious discussion.

Vision! What is our vision for the future of All Souls? We are more than a building. More than bricks and mortar. Yet our church should be a space that reflects who we are. We may be curmudgeonly New Englanders, sure, but in addition to our pragmatism we appreciate beauty and consider ourselves linked to each other with a commitment to making a better world.

This building project is a process, my friends. Not simple, not easy, but necessary.

I am so grateful we can congregate and share ideas.

I am proud to be a part of this journey with all of you.

Happy New Year!

Maggie

Attention All Souls

Do you have a good idea for fundraising events? Ways to connect to the larger community while also working to support All Souls' mission?

If you want to be part of the brainstorming mission to explore what we might do please contact Laurel Holmes at laurelghr@yahoo.com or 860-287-7756 or Maggie Clouet at maggieclouet@yahoo.com or 203-215-6227.

A MESSAGE FROM REVEREND CAROLYN

June 28.

What lies ahead, I wonder. As Maggie Clouet said in the president's column, at All Souls, it won't be the "boring 20s!"

We're already feeling the stress of what will surely be a difficult presidential campaign. At their winter retreat, your Board of Trustees, staff, and ministers will be considering how we might best support the congregation as well as animate our 6th principle that says, "We covenant to affirm and promote the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." Our Unitarian Universalist Association has put in place a program called "UU the Vote" with a goal to get out the vote. We'll be taking a look at what's planned and considering participating. You can take a look here: <https://www.uua.org/justice/vote2020>

That said, I'm reminding myself that taking a "news Sabbath" is good for one's spiritual and mental health. Take heed, dear Souls.

What else ...

Our building project is teaching us the wisdom of letting go of particular expectations. I know: how's that for donning rose colored glasses? But seriously, we're moving along and 2020 will bring with it our much-anticipated ground breaking and building. What a happy day that will be. We've gotten estimates of between 6 – 9 months to completion. We'll know more definitively once the design and construction contract is finalized.

More joyful yet ... come April ten of our youth will come of age in that poignant rite of passage that All Souls joyfully anticipates. Come June our UUA's General Assembly takes place in Providence bringing thousands of our siblings in faith to our neck of the woods. See page 19 for registration details and know that we will be chartering a bus for the Sunday morning worship service on

And there will be all the joy of your own lives, joy that so many of you so generously share with the Souls who join you in rejoicing. There will be sorrow, too no doubt. That is also shared in the embrace of our communion.

Here is what we all know: all of life is change and flow. Who knows what lies ahead in this New Year that is about to unfold? But what we can count on is the rhythm of our sacred community: there will be worship every Sunday, our glowing center; there will be pots of coffee brewing for coffee hour that follows; the "Black Lives Matter" banner will be carried out to the street in a public witness that is now in its fourth year; the congregation and the choir will sing; hands will be joined as we are sent off with "Go in peace. Return again with great joy."

Amen.

Happy New Year, dear Souls,

Carolyn



Faith Formation

Perry's Ponderings

What is your path to understanding the mysteries of life and the divine? Are you a Star Gazer, Mystic, Dreamer, Servant, Champion, Lover, or Child? These are the names of the seven paths for the "God Project" in Coming of Age. Each of the paths describes a way of relating to the sacred, religion, and the holiness of others. You can read the descriptions here: <http://bit.ly/2twpZYp>. Of course, these definitions are springboards to contemplation and discussion, helping us realize where our focus has been and potentially opening us up to other ways of thinking about the mysteries. The youth found that all of the paths contain an element of interconnectedness, which is at the heart of the meaning of religion.

We preface our Pre-K-Kindergarten curriculum, *Spirit Play*, by telling the children, "This is a place to talk and think about things like love, friendship and nature, as well as things we don't quite understand and have questions about, which is called Mystery. Our classroom is a place to feel the Spirit of Love and Mystery (that some people call God) in our hearts, and it's a place to talk to the Spirit, sometimes by singing, or doing art, or being quiet and just listening." In this way, we provide a space for children to explore with wonder the topic of the day, their connection to one another, and the divine. The "Spirit of Love and Mystery" is left to be answerable only in your own heart and through your experience, yet something that can be explored and further discovered. This is how we continue to define our faith and form more strands in the web of interconnection, no matter our age.

Adults have an opportunity to explore their faith and what it means to be Unitarian Universalist at Faith Friday on January 10 (see page 16 for details). Ann Kadlecek, our ministerial intern, will lead a program based on the adult faith formation curriculum, *Articulating Your UU Faith*. I will be doing a version of this with the children that evening. Our process will help us know better the core of our personal faith and allow us to explain with more precision the faith community that we share. We often struggle to put into words what we know in our hearts and minds about All Souls and Unitarian Universalism. By articulating that knowing, we increase its power in our lives and the effect it has on the world around us. Gathering for Faith Friday is one more way we build the interconnectedness that we recognize as holy, regardless of our individual paths.

Thank You

Families who took time to deliver holiday gift baskets to Souls in need of a little extra cheer this holiday season: the Davies-Smiths, Egos, Van Dyke-Heards, Mellos, Millers, Mocks, Richards, and Veltheims.

Lynette Gardner and Erin Tudisco for jumping in as substitute teachers with little notice.

Lillith Davies-Smith, Kylie Heard, Darly Horst-Loy, and Barbara Montrose who provided child-care during the December town hall meeting.

Faith Formation Happenings

Faith Formation Calendar:

January 5: 9:30 & 11:15 a.m. services: Faith Formation Classes, 9:30 a.m.; Youth Group, 11:15 a.m.; Coming of Age, 12:30-2 p.m.

January 12: 9:30 & 11:15 a.m. services: Faith Formation Classes, 9:30 a.m.; Youth Group, 11:15 a.m.; Coming of Age, 12:30-2 p.m.

January 19: 9:30 & 11:15 a.m. services: No Faith Formation classes or Youth Group; Special activity for children during first service; Coming of Age, 12:30-2 p.m.

January 26: 9:30 & 11:15 a.m. services: Faith Formation Classes, 9:30 a.m.; Youth Group, 11:15 a.m.; Coming of Age, 12:30-2 p.m.

Questions? Perry at dirfaithformation@allsouls.net or 860-514-2434

UUA Common Read Book Discussion

Justice on Earth:

People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment

This anthology presents a powerful and penetrating look at environmental justice from some of the key thinkers and activists in Unitarian Universalism today, revealing ways that capitalism, white supremacy, patriarchy, and other systems of oppression intersect with and contribute to ecological devastation. They also explore how spiritual practices, congregational organizing, and progressive theology can inform faith-based justice work in the twenty-first century.

Buy your discounted copy during coffee hour in December and January.

Discussion Groups:

Sunday, February 2, 12:30-2 p.m.

Thursday, February 6, 6:30-8 p.m.

Questions? Perry at dirfaithformation@allsouls.net or 860-514-2434

What I'm Learning

Ann Kadlecek, Ministerial Intern

"50 New Year's Resolution Ideas And How To Achieve Each Of Them"

This title showed up in my news feed the other day. I suddenly felt exhausted, and yet somehow compelled to click on it. What if I could keep 50 new year's resolutions? Or one?

I've had years when I determined, on January 1, to exercise more, be more organized, tend more (or differently) to relationships, start a new spiritual practice, or embark on some other self-improvement project that would nudge me toward the person I aspire to be. There have even been years when I was sure I was going to stick to it. But I can't remember ever doing so.

It turns out that my ability to make changes isn't linked to any particular calendar date. In fact, I seem to get nowhere when I try to exercise this kind of control over my own growth. Some of my biggest changes have been incremental, and I can't pinpoint a day when the turning took place. Others arrived unexpectedly, perhaps finally sticking after many attempts, on some completely random day without apparent cosmic significance. And others ... well, let's just say they're a work in progress.

It's good to periodically take stock of where we are. It's important to name what we want to do differently, and take that first concrete step toward the future we seek. If the timing and commitment of a new year's resolution inspire you to make a productive change, go for it. I'm rooting for you.

Me, I'm going to sit this one out. Not because I lack stuff to work on, but because I know that every day brings the possibility of a new beginning. For this new year, I'm going to let go of the timetable. You'll find me plugging away at the 'works in progress' with (as best I can) an openness to whatever the Universe has in mind.

In this new year, every day, may we remain open to new possibilities, and new healing for ourselves and the world.

With all good wishes for 2020.

Ann

intern@allsouls.net

I welcome the opportunity to meet with you, please email me to arrange a time to talk.

Support All Souls While You Shop

Did you know that you can support All Souls when you shop at Amazon?
It's very easy and doesn't cost YOU anything.

Here's how:

1. Instead of the regular amazon home page, go to smile.amazon.com
2. Sign into your existing account or create an account
3. From the dropdown menu at the top select All Souls Unitarian Universalist Congregation this allows you to select support All Souls!
4. Once you set this up, always access Amazon through the link above.

That's it! Amazon donates a percentage of your purchases to All Souls.

It adds up and it helps. Thank you!

A Message from Your Affiliate Minister

My spouse Alyson and I spent a delightful morning volunteering for the All Souls Holiday Craft Fair at the beginning of December. While we enjoyed making crafts, what we really loved is getting better acquainted with members of our new congregation. This experience reminded me again of the joy and satisfaction of living, learning, and growing in religious community. I'm a thorough-going church person.

I paused while making crafts, lifted my head, looked out the window, and thought about how, in my role as a community minister, I am also part of the larger community of New London and Norwich as a case manager at the Homeless Hospitality Center. I'm a thorough-going community person, too.

I see myself as a "minister at large," although my official title is "affiliate minister." In my ministry, I try to practice a religion, "which like sunshine, goes everywhere" in the words of Theodore Parker, the 19th-century American transcendentalist and reforming minister of the early Unitarian church. I'm not only a case manager, I'm a Unitarian Universalist case manager because my religious identity greatly informs my community ministry and because All Souls is my religious home port.

All of us live in circles of community, coming in to and going out of communities of family, friends, social media, workplace, marketplace, and city — even our nation and world — every day. These communities overlap, inform one another, depend on each other. We might call it the interdependent web of all communities of which we are a part, to recast our seventh Unitarian Universalist principle.

Perhaps we all should look out the window from time to time during our worship, learning, and social programs at All Souls to remind ourselves that our vision as Unitarian Universalists calls us into religious community not only within these walls but beyond these walls into the larger community. We all can be community ministers in our communities of family, work, learning, volunteering, and service.

Especially now, during a time of national discord and fear, let us recommit ourselves to self and society both, to our congregation and world, and to endless possibilities and hope.

Peace and blessings,
Reverend David M. Horst
Affiliate Minister

Questions? Rev. David Horst at davidhorst@gmail.com or 860-213-5863

If you arrive after the service begins on a Sunday morning

Our greeter team thanks you for waiting at the back of Unity Hall until a transition break in the service.

The greeter will let you know when you may enter the sanctuary. The last two rows will be reserved for late seating.

Caring Team

All Souls has a team of volunteers who offer meals, transportation, phone calls, check-in visits, and pastoral meetings with congregants – to extend the reach of our mission to one another as a “welcoming, caring, and justice seeking community.” Please contact Rev. Caitlin if you would appreciate this kind of support, or if you know a souls who would benefit.

Questions? Reverend Caitlin O'Brien at associate.minister@allsouls.net or 617-596-1853

Couples Enrichment workshop February 1, 2020

9:00am-5:00pm (childcare provided)

\$50 per couple fee includes materials, snacks and lunch

We are excited to host a couples enrichment workshop at All Souls on Saturday February 1, 2020! The Co-facilitators, Debbie and John Humphries, share a bit about their approach below:

The workshop emphasizes creating a safe and supportive community, learning concepts and skills, and giving couples the time and space to focus on each other. Some sharing is expected, but no one has to share on any particular topic. Much of the couples' work is done in private. The program is not confrontational, and the ground rules are designed to assure safety and comfort for all participants.

Couple Enrichment workshops are open to all couples in a committed relationship, regardless of sexual orientation, marital status, or religious affiliation. Virtually any couple that gives a good faith effort to a couple enrichment program can benefit.

Advance registration is required: bit.ly/FCE-NewLondon2020

Sanctuary Team Update

All Souls continues to support three asylum seekers one of whom is living at 25 Jay Street along with a caregiver. Jozelaine would enjoy visitors and we are hoping to make arrangements but alas, she's experienced a series of health troubles making her availability unpredictable. Rev. Carolyn is keeping a close watch.

A washer & dryer were recently installed in the house to make easier the care giver's life especially. The facilities team got an excellent deal from Habitat for Humanity's Re-store.

Jose is the asylum seeker All Souls is supporting in partnership with First Congregational Church of Old Lyme. Last month several Souls prepared lunch for Jose and welcomed him to our space so that he would have a sense of where and who we are as a community here to support him. Janet Marolda speaks Spanish making communication warm and welcoming. As well, several Souls are part of the team that is providing transportation for Jose back and forth from Old Lyme to New London. He continues to take English lessons at the New London Adult Education campus.

If you'd like to learn more or volunteer in this effort, contact Ann Kadlecek at: intern@allsouls.net or 860-443-0316.

Membership News

Welcome New members!

On Sunday December 8 we welcomed 12 new members: Peggy Flood, Janet and Susan Beebe, David and Cassandra Platt, Anna Sussler, Courtney Scruggs, Jesse Edwards, Emmy Franklin, Kellen Randall, Susan Bouregy, and Martha McKeegan. We are grateful that these folks have taken this step towards deepening their commitment to All Souls and Unitarian Universalism. If you haven't met some of these people yet, be sure to seek them out and introduce yourself.

Sign-the-Book-Sunday January 12

On Sunday, January 12 after the 9:30 a.m. service there will be another opportunity to become a member of All Souls by signing our historic membership book in the presence of Rev. Carolyn and the membership team.

We are reaching out to congregants for whom this would be a good opportunity! Is this you?

- Your search for a religious community has led you to All Souls and,
- You've been attending services at All Souls for a while now and you consider it your religious home and/or,
- Your children have been attending Faith Formation classes and they consider All Souls to be their religious home or,
- You have been a member of a Unitarian Universalist congregation elsewhere and have recently moved to the area or,
- You have intended on becoming a member but attending at our day-long workshop in the spring doesn't work in your schedule and/or,
- You attended the workshop previously and are now ready to become a member and/or,
- You are ready to deepen your commitment to this congregation and faith tradition.

Here's what you need to do. Show up on Sunday, December 8 or January 12 after the first service and you will be joyfully welcomed into membership as you sign the membership book in the presence of Rev. Carolyn and the membership team. You will also be given a folder of membership orientation materials.

For those who are newer and want a more in-depth experience, we will be offering our Considering Membership Workshop on Saturday, April 4. More about that in future newsletters.

All new members will be introduced and covenant with the congregation on New Member Sunday May 17 – and our annual meeting!

Questions? Contact Lynn Tavormina, Membership Chair bltavo@atlanticbb.net or 860-389-3859

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Board of Trustees Notes

The Board of Trustees met on Thursday, December 19, 2019. Highlights of the meeting include:

- A report from Neal Overstrom about the progress on our Building project. Design simplifications are being addressed.
- A report from Rev. Patierno regarding 25 Jay Street. A new caregiver has moved in.
- Jessica James-Carnes has asked to be ordained at All Souls.
- The winter Board retreat will be January 11.

For complete minutes go to www.allsoulsnewlondon.org. Click on "About Us", then "Board of Trustees and Governance".

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be Thursday, January 16 at 5:30 p.m. in the Vail Library. All meetings of the Board of Trustees are open to the congregation as observers, except in those cases when it goes into executive session.

David Burnside, Secretary

Questions? David Burnside, secretary at davidburnside1962@gmail.com or 860-984-9041

Treasurers Report

December 2019

Operating Account

For the period July - November, operating income of \$221,424 exceeded operating expenses of \$206,275, giving a net income on November 30 of \$15,149. Financial commitments for the annual budget and the generous response to our first mission offering were the major income sources. Heartfelt thanks to all who continue to front-load your financial commitment to the annual budget and capital campaign and also to those who donate through the Sunday offering!

Operating Account Budget

We are starting work on the new 2020-2021 Budget. Chances are that it will be similar to this year's budget, with a few tweaks. A draft will be ready for council review at the January meeting.

Capital Campaign

In November, Tom Lescoe and I met with loan officers from Dime Bank and Charter Oak Federal Credit Union to learn the nuts and bolts of taking a construction loan for the building project.

A huge thank you to those who are able to pay down your capital campaign donation. If possible, adding additional contributions will help us to reduce the eventual mortgage loan that we'll assume once the construction is fully paid. Your financial commitment is important as we begin a relationship with Charter Oak Federal Credit Union to obtain a loan.

Jay Street Ministries, LLC

Jozelaine and her caregiver continue to occupy both apartments. The community of care givers who are supporting Jozelaine are aware that All Souls anticipates moving administrative staff into 25 Jay Street once our capital project breaks ground.

Questions? Tina DuBosque, treasurer@allsouls.net or 860-705-3151



WE ARE BUILDING A NEW WAY

All Souls UU Congregation – New London, CT

There was a town hall meeting on December 15 and the following was shared:

Tina DuBosque and Tom Lescoe have been speaking with financial institutions about a construction loan. After the project is completed, the loan will revert to a mortgage. We are currently gathering the necessary documentation required by the bank for application. We'll likely have a final decision from the bank by mid-February.

Which means that there will not be a congregational meeting in January as originally thought. To remind, that meeting was to vote on the terms of the construction loan.

Stay tuned.

Also on the financial front, an additional \$175,000 has been raised for the campaign narrowing the gap between the project's cost (@\$1.8 million – with hopes of the price tag coming down after re-design. See below.) and what has been raised (@\$1.3 million) Good news! If you are in position to increase your capital campaign donation, please contact Clare Evento at clareevento@gmail.com or Joel Ackerman at joelackerman@comcast.net.

With the congregation's blessing, the building team has asked our architect, Dan Glynn, to simplify the entranceway design keeping the desire for natural light; energy efficiency and traffic flow at the center of consideration. We had been told that this feature's redesign could save up to \$100,000. The building team also tweaked a few details in the kitchen / storage area. We will have the new design in hand by January 8.

At that time, we will submit the drawings for an updated cost estimate.

The building team will be tabling on Sundays in January to share the design update and answer any questions you may have. Stop by!

Thank you for your continued hopefulness, enthusiasm, generosity, and commitment!

Tina's Two Cent\$

Some Reminders as 2019 draws to a close!

Many of you, having retired and arrived at the wise (not old ... anymore!) age of 70½, are in the position of needing to take a required minimum distribution from your 401(k) account, starting on April 1 of the year following the year in which you turn 70½.

My advice is to consult with your Investment banker/fund manager/tax accountant on how this works.

Several of you have asked me how to transfer funds from your retirement account to All Souls. Please consult with your fund manager, as it is often possible to make this type of funds transfer without incurring a tax liability.

Request that your fund manager send a check drawn on your account, in the amount of your choosing, payable to "All Souls Unitarian Universalist Congregation". The address is 19 Jay Street, New London, CT 06320.

If it is necessary that a person's name appear on the check, please use my name: "Tina DuBosque, Treasurer". Please indicate on the check memo line how your gift is to be used, i.e. annual fund, capital campaign, etc., so that the bookkeeper knows where to deposit your donation.

Thank you.

Questions? Tina DuBosque, Treasurer at treasurer@allsouls.net or 860-705-3151

Stewardship

Happy New Year! As always, the new year signals a time of reflection. The stewardship committee has been reflecting on the last year and all of the unimaginable things we accomplished as a congregation. It is true that last year was full of both wonderful and disheartening news. We raised over a million dollars with our capital campaign and then learned it was still not enough to accomplish our original plan. Let us not forget that raising such a sum seemed, at one time, completely out of the realm of possibility.

The beloved poet Mary Oliver once wrote, "Keep some room in your heart for the unimaginable." As we begin this new year, it is essential, not only that we keep room, but that we open our hearts and make room for the unimaginable. As we begin this period of transition and transformation, it may be uncomfortable at times as we stretch ourselves to reach new spaces, new commitments, and new goals. But we must never close our hearts to possibility.

The new year also signals a time to set goals. As this year's annual campaign comes near, the stewardship committee's goal is to raise the same amount or just a bit more as last year. Your continued support is essential to supporting our mission to be a "welcoming, caring, justice-seeking community within and beyond [our] walls". As a congregation, we have been tried and tested and have remained so unbelievably gracious and optimistic. Let us hold on to that optimism, that possibility, and let it shine in our hearts as we make the unimaginable a reality in this new and exciting decade.

Here are some dates to mark on your new 2020 calendars:

Sunday, February 9, 2020: Annual Campaign Kickoff Sunday!

Sunday, March 22, 2020: Celebration Sunday! celebrating the conclusion of the annual campaign.

Questions? Danny Spurr at bandanmansu@yahoo.com or 860-444-7445



Sharing Circles

As the Sharing Circle Team moves into planning for the new year, we consider the importance of small sharing circle groups in bringing people together in meaningful ways.

The Sharing Circle fall session was busy with three groups for those 60 years and over, as well as one regular group and a group for parents with youth participating in Coming of Age. Also, a special Sharing Circle group was offered on Christmas Day.

In January the Sharing Circle Team will be making plans for the upcoming spring session and coordinating plans with the Sharing Circle facilitators.

Questions? Susanne Colten-Carey at ssc-c@comcast.net or (860) 434-9999

Kathy Fleissner at kathyandbetty@comcast.net or (860) 381-5551

Carol Irwin at irbaldery@sbcglobal.net or (860) 889-6594

Carol Cassidy at calway@comcast.net or (860) 326-5863

Mission offering: Sunday, January 26

"All Souls Unitarian Universalist Congregation is a liberal religious congregation that nurtures lifelong spiritual development. We covenant to create a welcoming, caring, justice-seeking community within and beyond these walls."

Our All Souls congregation is courageous, living our mission and values in thought, word and deed. In recent history we have demonstrated courage in many ways. Purchase of our sanctuary at 19 Jay Street (2006), Capitol Campaign to renovate building (2006 - 09), purchase of 25 Jay Street as a house of hospitality (2016); a Capital Campaign to fund expansion at 19 Jay Street (2019), and finally, funding salaries for Reverend Caitlin O'Brien's new position and Director of Faith Formation Perry Montrose's increased hours and responsibilities (2018). Each of these decision points was difficult and consensus was not always immediate. Ultimately, our community courageously moved forward to financially support our mission in bold ways.

Part of this effort included pulling from our reserves over the course of three years to support the increased staffing described above. The idea was that by the end of the third year, the congregation would be able to financially support this increased staffing structure. However; we pulled more than we had planned for this current fiscal year. Enter: three mission offerings the first of which was last October and raised \$8000.

These three mission offerings were proposed as an experiment and so far, we're off to a good start. The October offering raised \$8000 to support All Souls' mission and operating budget. The mission offerings respond to hearing that congregants are hesitant to commit to a specific financial commitment to be given over the course of a year, that for some, it's easier to give on more of a short-term basis. We have additional proof of this phenomenon in our always generous Good Neighbor Offerings. As well, we know that a more focused ask is more inspiring. Therefore, we will be highlighting aspects of All Souls ministry that are directly impacted through All Souls' operating budget. This second mission offering will highlight the faith formation programming and Perry Montrose and Arlene Stoltz' ministry to and with All Souls.

Again, the second mission offering is on January 26. We will be focusing on faith formation in this offering, a ministry that touches every Soul in our community. Please consider a brave, courageous contribution.



Green Sanctuary

Come join us on January 14 at 7 p.m. as we move forward in the reaccreditation process and reserve the second Tuesday of each month from 7-8 p.m. to be a part of our re-commitment as a congregation to green sanctuary.

We need to apply green sanctuary themes to our new building expansion and become a continuing green sanctuary congregation. The specialty tasks are: worship and celebration, religious education, environmental justice, sustainable living, and solar grants.

This month we will be concentrating on the area of sustainable living, to look into where we are and what we need to do for the reaccrediting process.

Here's a green tip: When traveling away from home for a while, turn your thermostat to 50 if it is cold and 85 if it is warm.

Questions Jonathan S. Harger at hejeharger@atlanticbb.net or 860-739-4224.

A Message from Hospitality

Please check the lost and found box located in the coat closet area for items you may have left behind in kitchen! There are some nice things in there!! If not claimed they will be donated to the annual tag sale.

Questions? Contact Janet Marolda at jane1225@atlanticbb.net or 860-614-6446



Women's March – 2020

There will not be a march in Hartford this year instead the organizers are encouraging participation in nearby marches in Boston, Providence & NYC. All Souls will not be sponsoring buses this year.

Opportunity for Service: Community Meal

We continue our ministry to feed our neighbors at the New London Community Meal Center on Montauk Avenue in New London. Serving two meals in January.

Your help is needed!

Please consider signing up to work one of the following regular shifts:

Wednesday, January 8

Serve food from 4 to 6 p.m.

Saturday, January 18

Prepare the food from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Serve and clean up from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Questions? Carol Irwin at 860-822-3391 and leave a message or send an email to meals@allsouls.net to be put the list to receive the Doodle invitation. Or just show up and help! Youth 14 and older are welcome.

GRACE – January 23, 2020

5:30 – 6:00 p.m. – Soup supper

6:00 – Program

In honor of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we will consider his wisdom as we reflect on three issues of our time: climate fragility, voting rights, and what he called the "most segregated hour of the week" – Sunday morning at church. Passages from his speeches and writings will be used as springboards for discussion. Join in!

Questions? Nicolo Festa at

nicolofesta@outlook.com or 860-437-3373

GET CONNECTED

Elderjourney *Tuesday, January 14 at noon*

Join the group of All Souls' members and friends 65 and older for lunch and fellowship. Bag a lunch and join us at noon every second Tuesday of the month. Dessert and program is provided by monthly volunteers!

Questions? Tammy Barber, Office Administrator at office@allsouls.net or 860-443-0316

Book Club *Monday, January 20 at 1 p.m.*

This month the book club will discuss *Howards End* by E.M. Foster
All congregants are welcome .

Questions? Mary Rioux at maryrioux@icloudl.com or 860-271-1037 or Pat Abraham at plat915x@gmail.com or 860-434-5758

Meditation The meditation group meets twice a week every *Tuesday's at 7:15 a.m. at All Souls and every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at Harkness Chapel on the CT College Campus.*

Everyone is most welcome! Basic guidelines are offered to all newcomers and guided meditation is offered during some of the sessions. No experience necessary

Each session includes 30 minutes of silent sitting meditation, 10 minutes of walking meditation, and 15 minutes of dharma sharing, in which folks, if they choose, may share their meditation experiences.

Attendance is free but donations are gratefully accepted.

The Tuesday morning group, The New London Community of Mindfulness Meditation Group in the Thich Nhat Hanh's Plum Village Tradition, meets every Tuesday from 7:15 to 8:30 a.m.

This group is suitable for those both with and without experience in meditation. We practice sitting meditation, walking meditation, reading from Thich Nhat Hanh, and Dharma sharing.

Questions? Nick Evento at nickevento@gmail.com or 860-908-5906

The Wednesday evening group now meets at Harkness Chapel on the campus of Connecticut College, which is just inside the college west entrance, across from the Arboretum on Old Norwich Road. Parking is available along the entrance of the Arboretum.

Visit us on Facebook: New London Community of Mindfulness

Questions? Pamala Lewis at pamalalewis@comcast.net or Jean Jerbert at j.jerbert@yahoo.com or Sean Kane at sean.kane@conncoll.edu or (860) 442-6152

Craft Circle *Every Wednesday 7 p.m.*

Craft Circle meets every Wednesday, 7- 8:30 p.m. Do you knit, crochet, quilt, cross stitch, scrap-book, _____? (fill in the blank.) Bring your current projects to work on as we have a social gathering. We may have someone with the know-how if you are seeking a new craft or have questions for a current project.

[Please refrain from wearing scent. Some of us are highly sensitive/allergic.]

Questions? Carol Bunting at 860-460-3373 or cbeema@sbcglobal.net

**Faith Friday, Jan 10
5:30-7:30 pm**



Pizza Dinner 5:30 p.m.

Gluten-free pizza available upon request
(There will be a freewill offering to help with food costs)

Chalice Lighting, Song & Story 6:10 p.m.

Faith Formation Program 6:30 p.m.

“Articulating Your UU Faith”

Adult / Youth Program: facilitated by Ann Kadlecsek, Intern Minister
Children’s Program: led by Perry Montrose, Dir. of Faith Formation

RSVP to faithformation@allsouls.net

Friday Night Folk

Bringing Folk Music to New London since 1989



Friday Night Folk is still on Saturday!

Presents: Geoff Kaufman and Judy Gorman

Saturday, January 11, 2020

Doors open at 7p.m., show starts at 7:30 p.m.



Our own Geoff Kaufman and the talented and the inspiring Judy Gorman will perform at Friday Night Folk on Saturday, January 11, at All Souls. The music starts at 7:30 p.m. Geoff is known for his songs of the earth, the sea, the heart and the spirit. His music spurs us to care for the earth and each other.

Judy Gorman's music is inspired

by American gospel, jazz, folk, and blues. She has performed at the United Nations, across the US, and in ten other countries. Pete Seeger described her thus: "Shoots the arrow straight to the heart; a wonderful singer & musician."

Contact fridaynightfolk.org for more information. Tickets are \$17 advance, \$20 at the door, and \$10 for students and active military with ID. Call All Souls to reserve advanced tickets at 860-443-0316, or purchase tickets on [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).

Friday Night Folk's next musical performance will be our Pete Seeger Tribute concert on February 1, 2020. It will star local talent (including All Souls members and benefit the [Connecticut Immigrant Bail Fund](#))

The mission of Friday Night Folk at All Souls is to joyfully support social and environmental justice by bringing live traditional, contemporary and multicultural folk music to the larger community in a welcoming and accessible performance space.



ALL SOULS TAG SALE 2020!!!

We're holding the tag sale before we move!!!

Coming to Unity Hall, Rain or Shine, on Saturday, March 7, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Carefully read our exceptions as we don't anticipate putting any items outdoors.



Get an early start on Spring cleaning!!

Thin out those closets, peruse your attic and basement.

Your stuff is needed in GOOD & CLEAN condition for our annual fund-raiser.

ALL items will be gratefully received during the week before the sale.

Please remember clothing and shoes must be in gently worn condition.

EXCEPTIONS:

analog TVs, computers, VHS tapes, large appliances, mattresses, stuffed animals and
outside gear, plants, gardening supplies, sports equipment

Clothing exceptions: lingerie / pajamas, underwear, socks, any pieces that are torn or stained

Sunday, March 1: **SET UP** in Unity Hall after service.

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, March 2—March 4: 2 to 7 p.m., **Item drop off**

Thursday, March 5: 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., **Item drop off**

Friday, March 6: 9 a.m. to Noon, **final item drop off**

Friday, March 6: Noon to 5 p.m., **COMPLETE SET UP**

Friday, March 6 : 5 to 7 p.m., **RE-SALE** for All Souls family: all items sold at 1 ½ times sticker price.

Saturday, March 7: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. —**SHOP 'till you DROP!!**

****2-4 PM Unity Hall cleanup and reassembly****

We need:

HELPERS for our short but intense tag sale week.

FOLDING TABLES, TRUCKS/VANS for clean up.

CLEAN-UP CREW at 2 p.m.

Watch for the Signup Table in February!!

Questions? Tracey Dubee at traceydubee@yahoo.com or 860-917-9131

Sher Lofgren at sheryllynnlofgren@gmail.com or 203-848-7865

Carol Bunting at cbeema@sbcglobal.net or 860-460-3373



Early Registration Open!

**UUA General Assembly
In Providence, Rhode Island
On June 24-28, 2020**



Adult full-time registration is \$400 through March 15.

NEW! Registration Payment Plan: With a \$50 down-payment, the cost of registration can be paid over the course of several months. Final payment must be received by February 29, 2020. When your final registration is complete, special consideration for dormitory lodging bundles will become available:

- Financial aid at <https://www.uua.org/ga/registration/financialaid>
- Volunteer opportunities <https://www.uua.org/ga/registration/financialaid/volunteer>
- Register Now! at <https://www.uua.org/ga/registration>

(Other rate options are listed on the site)

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend.

NOW AVAILABLE for Information:

GA 2020 Housing Options <https://www.uua.org/ga/travel/general-assembly-hotels>, including descriptions and rates for all eight GA hotels, two GA dormitory options, and local home hospitality.

The GA Housing Reservation System will open on Monday, March 2, at 9 a.m. EST.

For more information go to: <https://www.uua.org/ga>

If you are an All Souls member interested in serving as Congregational Delegate to UU/GA 2020 please contact Bob Bunting, Chair of Denominational Affairs.

Questions? Bob Bunting at denominational-affairs@allsouls.net or 860-8892110






January 2020

Updates at: www.allsoulsnewlondon.org



<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
<u>12/29/2019</u> <u>10:00 AM</u> *Worship	<u>12/30/2019</u>	<u>12/31/2019</u> <u>7:15 AM</u> *Meditation <u>7 PM</u> NL LGBTQ AA	<u>1/1/2020</u> Office Closed  Happy New Year	<u>1/2/2020</u> <u>8:00 AM</u> *Building Team	<u>1/3/2020</u> <u>7:00 PM</u> *Alanon	<u>1/4/2020</u>
<u>1/5/2020</u> <u>9:30 AM</u> *Worship <u>11:15 AM</u> *Worship <u>12:30 PM</u> *COA	<u>1/6/2020</u>	<u>1/7/2020</u> <u>5:00 PM</u> *Ministerial Internship <u>5:30 PM</u> *Executive Committee <u>7 PM</u> NL LGBTQ AA	<u>1/8/2020</u> <u>4:00 PM</u> *NL Community Meal *Finance Meeting <u>5:30 PM</u> *Meditation-Harkness Chapel *Stewardship Committee <u>6:30 PM</u> *Choir <u>7:00 PM</u> Craft Circle	<u>1/9/2020</u> <u>8:00 AM</u> *Building Team	<u>1/10/2020</u> <u>5:30 PM</u> *Faith Friday <u>7:00 PM</u> *Alanon	<u>1/11/2020</u> <u>7:30 PM</u> *Friday Night Folk
<u>1/12/2020</u> <u>9:30 AM</u> *Worship <u>11:15 AM</u> *Worship <u>12:30 PM</u> *COA	<u>1/13/2020</u>	<u>1/14/2020</u> <u>7:15 a.m.</u> Meditation <u>12:00 PM</u> *Elderjourney <u>5:30 PM</u> Executive Committee Meeting <u>7 PM</u> NL LGBTQ AA	<u>1/15/2020</u> <u>12:00 PM</u> *Transgender Inclusion Course <u>4:00 PM</u> *Caring Team Meeting <u>5:30 PM</u> *Meditation-Harkness Chapel <u>6:30 PM</u> *Choir <u>7:00 PM</u> Craft Circle	<u>1/16/2020</u> <u>8:00 AM</u> *Building Team <u>5:30 PM</u> *Board Meeting <u>6:30 PM</u> *Covenant Learning Group	<u>1/17/2020</u> <u>7:00 PM</u> *Alanon	<u>1/18/2020</u> <u>9AM</u> Community Meal NL Facilities Work Party
<u>1/19/2020</u> <u>9:30 AM</u> *Worship <u>11:15 AM</u> *Worship	<u>1/20/2020</u> <u>1:00 PM</u> *Book Club	<u>1/21/2020</u> <u>7:15 a.m.</u> Meditation <u>7 PM</u> NL LGBTQ AA	<u>1/22/2020</u> <u>12:00 PM</u> *Transgender Inclusion Course <u>2:00 PM</u> *Pastoral Visitor Team Meeting <u>5:30 PM</u> *Meditation-Harkness Chapel <u>6:30 PM</u> *Choir <u>7:00 PM</u> Craft Circle	<u>1/23/2020</u> <u>8:00 AM</u> *Building Team <u>6 PM</u> *G.R.A.C.E	<u>1/24/2020</u> <u>7:00 PM</u> *Alanon	<u>1/25/2020</u>
<u>1/26/2020</u> <u>9:30 AM</u> *Worship <u>12:30 PM</u> *COA *Coming of Age Sharing Circle	<u>1/27/2020</u>	<u>1/28/2020</u> <u>7:15 a.m.</u> Meditation <u>7 PM</u> NL LGBTQ AA	<u>1/29/2020</u> <u>5:30 PM</u> *Meditation-Harkness Chapel <u>6:30 PM</u> *Choir <u>7:00 PM</u> Craft Circle	<u>1/30/2020</u> <u>8:00 AM</u> *Building Team	<u>1/31/2020</u> <u>7:00 PM</u> *Alanon	<u>2/1/2020</u> <u>8:45 AM</u> *Couples Enrichment Program <u>7:30 PM</u> *Friday Night Folk