



FLAME

July 2017

4501 Walnut St. KC, MO 64111
816-531-2131 www.allsoulskc.org

Like us on Facebook; open to all: All Souls Unitarian
Universalist Church, Kansas City, MO

You Made All Souls Resilient and Ready for the Future!

Our pledge campaign was a great success. From Chuck Downing:
"Thanks to the efforts of Diann Spencer, Jane Henderson, Becky
O'Connor, staff and many members' support, our pledges have
increased from \$288,600 to \$325,000, a **16.7%** increase! This is in
addition to our capital pledges ! (They said it couldn't be done.)
Thanks to all of you who hosted, attended and informed at cottage
meetings we are able to restore our budget without cutting staff hours or services."



A New Communications Policy

You are invited to review the communications policy, posted in the communication center and on the website, before our board of trustees votes on it during the July board meeting. President of the board, Margaret Drinkwine, welcomes all comments: board@allsoulskc.org.

Don't Let Your Special Water Get Away!

While you are making memories this summer, remember to save a few ounces of water from your special places to represent your favorite summer event. When we launch the All Souls program year Sept. 17, we will gather all these waters into our community fountain, and celebrate the new season. We won't drink it, but you can always freeze it, to keep the water from growing sludge.

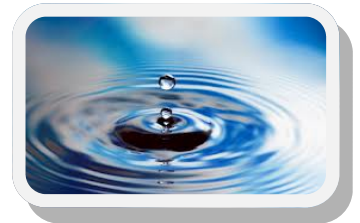


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For complete calendar:
<http://allsoulskc.org/happenings/calendar/>

Sunday Services

2

July

11:15 Service: "Freedom in the Web of Life"

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Civil Rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer once said: "Nobody's free until everybody's free." On this July 4th weekend, join the Rev. Molly Housh Gordon from the UU Church in Columbia, Missouri to explore how freedom and responsibility intertwine and what collective liberation has to do with the interconnected web of life.

9

July

11:15 Service: "Good Without God"

Rev. Kent McKusick

In a world full of unsettling challenges and questions, many people find answers through belief and faith in the divine and religion. It has been reported that half of the US population holds prejudice against non-believers. Living an ethical life as a good person is difficult with or without God. What might non-believers find in a search for commonality with others and something to believe in? How might a belief in life *before* death make a difference? Rev. Kent McKusick is beginning his sixth year serving as minister at the UU Fellowship of Ames, Iowa. Originally from Maine, he is a graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry and served as student minister at All Souls in 2009.

16

July

11:15 Service: "The Dance of Diversity"

Rev. Jim Eller

What a gift a diversity of culture and perspective can be. For many years Unitarian Universalism claimed "tolerance" as one of our highest values, but we found that people of "difference" wanted to be more than just tolerated. Now we have come to realize the value and depth that can be reached by true and creative interchange. Jim Eller is a retired Unitarian Universalist Minister and the clergy spouse of Rev. Jeannie Himes, the United Methodist minister at St. Stephens UMC in Norman, OK. Minister Emeritus of All Souls KC, Jim's ministry has involved justice seeking ministries, including Congregationally Based Community Organizing, environmental advocacy, and working with people living with AIDs.

23

July

11:15 Service: "The Power of Prayer (Yes! For Humanists, too)"

Keely Schneider

We consider how prayer can help us to connect with one another, unveil the Divine, and cultivate love and bravery within ourselves - two of the most powerful gifts we as Unitarian Universalists can bring to the world. Keely J. Schneider has been a member of All Souls UU Church since 2008 and currently serves on the Board of Trustees. She has been actively involved as a choir member, music committee member and a volunteer reader for services. Keely has been a regular guest speaker at All Souls services over the past several years addressing topics such as science and spirituality and uncertainty and change.

30

July

11:15 Service: "When Our Bleeding Hearts Won't Save Us: Problems, Accountability, and the Empathy Myth"

Rev. Jordinn Nelson Long

Summer Celebration of Our Rich Theological Diversity Summer Odysseys, 10 am, June—August, Bragg

Religious Odysseys is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the rich theological diversity of All Souls while our weekly Forum is on summer break. Each week a different person shares a life story and the path that led to All Souls, followed by an informal and respectful question and answer discussion. Presentations are recorded and later are available in the All Souls library for persons to check out in order to learn more about other All Souls persons.

Please contact Carolyn MacDonald if you are available to present an Odyssey this summer.

From Rev. Judith Cady, Religious Education Department



We are a covenanted community. One of our mission statements at All Souls is to build a respectful, caring community. It is through our covenants that we live this mission statement with one another and make it real in our lives. Can you imagine the difference we could make in our political and social media worlds if we all lived in covenant with each other? I can tell you the covenants are changing our world, starting with our children.

At the beginning of the new school year each September, our children and youth sit down with their teachers and make their own class covenants for the year, affirming their values of treating each other with kindness, compassion, respect and acceptance. At the beginning of their religious education classes every Sunday, each class lights the chalice and reads their covenants together. I am so impressed with the way our children and youth take their covenants seriously, understand them and live them out in their interactions with their peers and with adults.

Even our preschoolers get the meaning of our covenants. One of our mothers called me one day to tell me about an interaction with her boys. Her four year old got angry at his little brother and kicked him. She said, “Oh, we don’t kick in this house.” He looked up at her and said, “Is that a covenant?” One of the covenants in our preschool class is “Be kind.” One of our mothers has a four year old daughter who takes very seriously this principle. One day her father was correcting her about something. As all of us parents sometimes do, being human, he spoke to her in an irritable tone of voice. She looked up at him and said, “You’re breaking the covenant. You’re not being kind.” Even our four years olds understand what living a covenant means! It means that we treat each other with kindness and respect.

I am also impressed with the way our youth live out their covenants, both in their Sunday School classes and on their youth trips. On one of our Coming of Age trips to Boston, we visited one of the flagship UU churches. Their minister met with us before the church service and gave us a tour after we attended the church service. After our visit he said to me, “Lots of Coming of Age groups visit our church every year. Your Coming of Age group was one of the most respectful and cooperative groups that I have ever hosted here.” Even though we were in a strange city, in a different kind of church service, our youth followed their covenant of treating that minister and congregation with respect and cooperation.

Our covenants aren’t just words to our children and youth. To them, they are ways of being and expressing. I am so proud of all of our children and youth who live out these covenants with each other every Sunday morning. If you want to see our children and youth building respectful, caring communities through their covenants, come visit our Sunday School classes one morning. You’ll be inspired to witness our mission statement in action!

You can rest assured that you belong to a church dedicated to building a better world for all, beginning with the youngest of our community.

Children & Youth Education

Why I Love to Teach in our Religious Education Program

“For me, teaching the teen class has been a rewarding experience because I am always enlightened and amazed by our teens’ perspectives on the world around them. Each has a strong understanding of social justice issues that impact not only their own lives, but the lives of people all around the world. Their curiosity about the world is encouraging, and I have no doubt that each of them will make an impact to help other people. On a personal note, I also love talking to the teens about what is going on in their lives, as it constantly reminds me about how I felt at that age. Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to know these wonderful members of All Souls.” — Carrie Bader, teen teacher.

“After teaching preschool for several years, I had no idea what to expect with the teens. I’m happy to report that they are just as curious, funny and messy as the littler ones. They also have keen intellect and desire to improve the world, and it is a joy to witness and try to foster those, as well.” — Bill Raney, teen teacher.

“We get to watch our All Souls children grow and fire their creative engines. They start small, some of them shy, some precocious, and by the time they return from Coming of Age in Boston they’re the independent, courageous thinkers that make our community so special. It is a great pleasure to go along on the ride.” — Joe Robertson, 4th-5th grade teacher.

“My hope is that in some small way, I can demonstrate our seven principles; in turn they will share those principles with others. My reward is feeling I might make a small difference. Bottom line, they give me hope.” — Joyce Jonasson, 4th-5th grade teacher.

“Our youth are incredible. They are bright, energetic and eager learners. They are passionate about social justice, inclusion and getting involved in discussions and action for equality. Our youth's hope, commitment and intellect juxtaposed to hate, terrorism, discrimination, confusion and bigotry in our world, media, hometowns and day to day lives is inspirational, rejuvenating and the best part of being their teacher. It's a blessing to be one of their educators despite being underqualified and being the one in the class doing the most learning. They bring new perspectives and challenges that enrich all our lives. It's a humbling honor to mentor them in the principles of Unitarian Universalism, but they mentor me and the other teachers just as much, if not more, than we teachers mentor them. I am excited for them to move on from high school to continue doing great and just things for our communities and society at large.” — Michael Borchert, teen teacher.

More Parking, 9 am—2 pm, Sundays, KC Art Institute

KCAI has parking spaces for our use during construction. This lot is one-half block east of the church, on the north side of the street, 320 45th St., just west of the Nelson Art Gallery. Enter off Warwick and exit around the rear of the building and onto Oak St.

The Religious Education Board Meets Sun. July 2, 12:15, Library
Anyone is welcome to attend

Children & Youth Sunday Morning Schedule

- 10:00—12:15** Nursery service is provided for babies and toddlers.
- 10:00—11:00** A time of creativity, conversation, and community for all ages.
- 11:15—12:15** Sunday School classes for all ages to explore our Unitarian Universalist faith and principles through storytelling, discussion, creative experiences, and service projects.

Adult Education, Committees and Groups

Adult Education Classes

Keeping the Sabbath: Sundays, 12:30—1 pm, Bragg, All spiritual traditions honored through prayer and meditation. Facilitator: Rev. Diana Hughes

Women's Sacred Circle: 2nd and 4th Mondays, 4-5:30; women share in a safe and confidential environment. Facilitator: Carolyn Connor.

Yoga: Tues, Wed & Thurs, 5:30 – 6:30, Bragg, Contact Marilyn Carpenter, marilyn.carpenter49@yahoo.com.

Agnostics AA Meeting: Tues & Thurs, 7-8 pm, Lower Level; Fri & Sat, noon, Mtg. Rm

Gnawing for Knowledge: Wednesdays, noon: philosophical discussion.

All Souls Movie Group: Wed, July 5, 7 pm: Beatriz at Dinner • The Hero • The Lovers • My Cousin Rachel • Wonder Woman



UUA White Supremacy Teach-In Still Available

Did you know nearly 2/3 of congregations participated in the UUA's white supremacy Teach-In this past April and May? All Souls did not, but we can still do so! If interested in joining the Teach-In Task Force, contact Raegan Buatte, rbuatte@gmail.com.

4 Easy Ways to Get Involved at All Souls

- **Sunday Greeters:** Friendly faces and outgoing personalities at our front entrance set the stage for a welcoming experience for members and visitors alike. Just 30 minutes a month can make a real difference. See Sue Coy.
- **Sunday Lunches:** Delicious meals from various church chefs boost All Souls' coffers and create a casual environment for sharing and caring. Contact the Cassity sisters.
- **Building Security:** Enhance our campus safety on Sunday mornings by walking throughout the grounds and KCAI's parking lot. Contact Rev. Diana Hughes, office@allsoulskc.org.
- **Wear your Nametag!** Nametags help newer members feel part of our community because they can put names with faces – and prompt any of us who may have a "senior moment." Lost nametag? Email sherry@allsoulskc.org

"Fun"draising Organizing Mtg, Sun, July 2, 12:30

Join the 15 wonderful people who have already volunteered to help fill our coffers through fundraising events. Interest has been identified in these events:

- Trivia Night
- Bingo Night at Hamburger Mary's
- Wine and Cheese/Beer and snacks tasting
- Hire a kid (or adult) willing to donate (i.e., Build a shed)
- Progressive Dinner
- Talent Show
- Plus, continue these: Chili cook-off and the Auction (Encourage bring a friend)

If any of these sound like fun and you could help, please join us. Contact: Dori Bader or Richard Thompson.

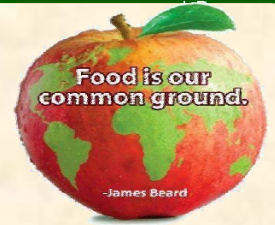
sofun!

Social and Fundraising Committee

Fellowship, Coffeehouse, NeedleHearts, Board Policy

Sunday Plus Lunches, 12:15 \$7 per person/\$20 per family

July 9, Benefits Church Operations Fund; Menu: Cookout with Kent!



NeedleHearts Sunday July 16, 12:30

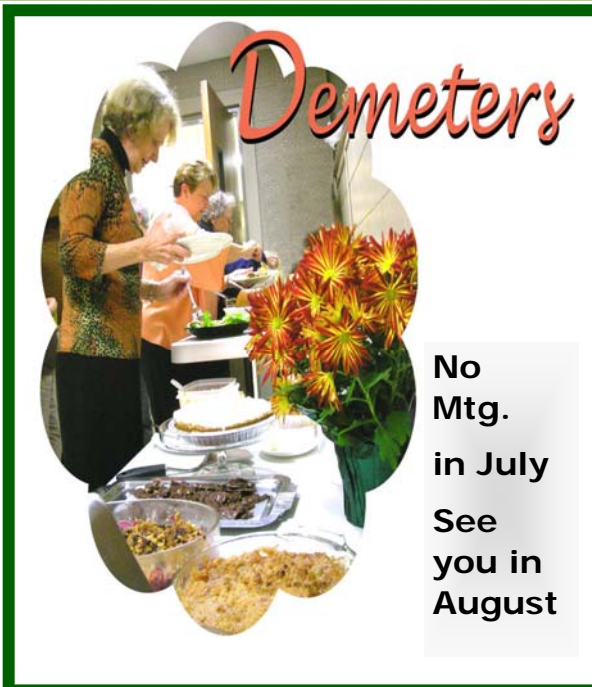


We will "show and tell" our latest efforts. Some of us are working on projects for friends and family; others are planning to donate; a few are just learning how to knit or crochet. Donations of yards are appreciated; how-to lessons are available. Contact Sue Coy or Sharon Cassity, needlehearts@allsoulskc.org.

Coffeehouse & Game Night, Friday July 28, 7:30 pm, Bragg

(Admission is free, but food donations for the Harvester's barrel are welcomed)

Music and spoken word, followed by an Open Mic. Table games are available, or bring your own. Pizza by the slice, cookies & drinks for a donation.



No
Mtg.
in July
See
you in
August

All Souls Men's Group Thursday, July 13, Conover

Hors D'oeuvres: 5:30 pm
Dinner 6:00, Discussion 7 - 8:15
\$8 donation for dinner
Vegetarian available on request

Reservations strongly recommended.
Don Dickey or Don Wakefield,
men@allsoulskc.org

All Men Welcome; Invite Your Friends!

All Souls 150th Anniversary

On Sept 10 All Souls will kick off a year-long celebration to mark our congregation's 150th anniversary. For more info, order a t-shirt and reserve a copy of the anniversary book, visit <http://allsoulskc.org/all-souls-history/150-years/>.



Financials, Attendance, Special Offerings

May 2017

Pledged Income is \$23,426—\$3,074 under budget (-11.6%).

Total Donation Income is \$38,622 - \$8,797 over budget (29.5%).

Total Income is \$47,625 - \$14,100 over budget (42.1%).

Total Expenses are \$44,367 - \$673 over budget (1.5%).

Total Income exceeds Total Expenses by \$3,257—\$13,427 over budget.

Year to Date:

Pledged Income is \$275,967 - \$15,533 under budget (-5.3%).

Total Income is \$492,131 - \$34,736 over budget (7.6%).

Total Expenses are \$500,811 - \$7,148 over budget (1.4%).

Total Expenses exceed Total Income by \$8,680 - \$27,588 under budget.

A complete report can be found in the Communications Center.

Attendance Figures for May 2017:

| | May 7 | May 14 | May 21 | May 28 |
|----------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| Service | 127 | 85 | 142 | 76 |
| Sunday Forum | 66 | 51 | 65 | 56 |
| Sunday School* | 51 | 49 | 46 | 36 |

* includes teachers

All Souls Affirms and Promotes the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

How? 2-3 Sundays a month, a designated cause will receive a special offering. All checks with the memo line "special offering" and one half of all undesignated cash will be forwarded to the service organization, demonstrating our values. **Please make checks to All Souls; note on the memo line "special offering."**

July 2, 9 and 16: More ²

Metro Organization for Racial and Economic Equity (MORE²), formed in 2004, focuses on racial and economic justice through metropolitan equity and social change.

May Special Offerings
The Giving Grove: \$650
Thank you!



A convenient way to contribute: To donate to All Souls please type allsoulskc.org/giving/ into your browser or use this QRC. (please note the purpose of the gift)



CONTACTS

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Custodians: Elsafi Ahmed,
 Miho Komatsu

Flame August 2017 submissions
 deadline: **9am July 10**

**Sunday Morning bulletins & Friday
 e-mail deadline: 9 a.m. Wednesdays**

**Send all submissions to Rev. Diana
 Hughes: office@allsoulskc.org**



QR for All
 Souls website



Directories

Any member or friend who has chosen to be in the directory may receive one, printed or electronic. Is yours out of date (older than a month)? Contact the church office and request your new copy.