Ingathering:

Water, sustain us.
Water, heal us.
Water, nourish our hope.

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Virtual Forum & Sunday Services...

11:15 Virtual Service: “Resilience in Challenging Times”  
Readers Coordinator Marli Murphy organizes our talented pool of lay readers to choose what they would like to share around the theme of Resilience. Join us to find encouragement and inspiration from their selections.

10:00 Virtual Forum: “Police Reform in Kansas City”  
Mr. Damon Daniel is the director of Ad Hoc Group Against Crime, a well known public safety advocate. With city police in the spotlight, he has been a leading voice on strengthening partnerships to reduce crime.

11:15 Virtual Service: “For the Long Haul; Ingathering”  
What does it mean to begin a new season of our All Souls community in this era of multiple, intersecting crises? Pandemic and social distancing, racial tension and political turmoil, climate change and weather disasters across the nation all demand our attention and immediate response. Can the values that call us to action also function as a still center to ground us in the midst of chaos? How can we hold each other so that we not only survive the moment, but together thrive for the long haul?

10:00 Virtual Forum: “Politics”  
The Forum Zoom will host Dave Helling as the presenter. Dave is a member of the editorial board of the Kansas City Star, and has followed local and national politics for many years. Dave will give us an update on what’s happening in Kansas and Missouri—and he might have comments on the national election as well.

There is no doubt among serious scholars of history and social organization that mass incarceration in the US is a function of racial privilege. While these roots go deep into the past, directly to the violence of slavery, the most recent dimensions of the current surge in imprisonment are surprisingly recent. Within the lifetime of most of us, the prison population was 20% of what it is presently, and was declining. How did we get to where we are today, and what can we do now?

11:15 Virtual Forum: “Religion and the Media”  
Dr. Seger will talk about a process and a method for finding our way through the difficult ethical decisions and dilemmas that confront us this election year. Dr. Seger looks at Scripture and theology, as well as our own experiences, as we try to decide the stance we might take toward important political issues.
Virtual Sunday Services cont, Virtual Adult Ed, Your VOTE Count...

11:15 Virtual Service: “Democracy and Justice”  Rev. Susan Frederick Gray, UUA President

In the past several years, UUs have been part of a groundswell of voting rights, electoral work, and democracy movements that have emerged and gained even more momentum since the 2016 US elections. In preparation for the upcoming November election, the UUA is supporting UU congregations, organizations, and individuals in a major effort for democracy and support of electoral justice. Learn more about the analysis, partners, and resources offered by our UU the Vote project.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT...

The August & September edition of the Flame for those who receive it by Email has been edited to use 'click here' buttons to connect with more information that is available on our website. The staff are wondering how well this works for our online readers. Please let the office know if you find the shorter format to be more accessible, or if you miss the more expansive version. Thanks...

All Souls has a wide range of adult classes. Many classes for August are cancelled. When classes are back in session please consider checking out one of the following classes:

CLICK HERE for full article:
( http://allsoulskc.org/all-posts/news/newsletter/virtual-adult-education-classes/ )

PLAN NOW TO MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT ON NOVEMBER 3rd

Everyone should plan now to prepare to vote in the November 3 General Election. Do not risk being told at the poll that you are not registered to vote—or that you do not have the correct identification—or, if you vote by mail, do not risk that your mailed ballot will arrive too late to be counted. Here are the critical steps to take to be sure your vote will be counted on November 3! For personal help, contact your Local Election Authority listed in the full article. The last day to register to vote in the November election is October 7, 2020.

CLICK HERE for the entire article with detailed information.
( http://allsoulskc.org/all-posts/news/newsletter/voting2020/ )
While the nation reels once again from the crippling assault of a black man, Jacob Blake, by white police officers, and the murder and maiming of peaceful protesters in Kenosha by a white teenager playing at being a cop, our Kansas City community has police problems closer to home. Last summer, KCK Chief Terry Zeigler was forced to retire after credible allegations of covering up sexual abuse of a female police cadet and female relatives of accused perpetrators, as well as financial improprieties. One of his deputies, Michael York, continues to serve as interim chief while the search for a new chief is conducted by the WYCOKC Unified Government.

Meanwhile, in KC MO, the mayor and Board of Police Commissioners are now under pressure to fire Chief Rick Smith as he enters the fourth year of his tenure. Community organizations such as MORE2, NAACP-KC Branch and Urban League of Greater Kansas City have criticized Smith’s commendation of police suppression of public protests earlier this summer, and police violence against peaceful demonstrators. They also object to his policy of quickly returning officers to active duty before investigations into killings of citizens have been completed. In June, more organizations, such as Ad Hoc Group Against Crime, SCCLC-KC, and Indian Mound Neighborhood Association signed on to support the demand that the Chief step down.

Since May, four police officers have been prosecuted for violence they committed on the job, including Sgt. Matthew Neal, who was indicted this month for an incident involving a teenager. The public learned that Chief Smith directed the Office of Citizen Complaints to reverse findings of wrongdoing by another officer, Sgt. Dylan Pifer when this fifteen-year-old passenger was assaulted by Sgt. Neal last November. Pifer placed the teen in handcuffs, and Neal forced him in a choke hold, gnashed his teeth out, and caused a gash in his head. The victim -- who was not charged with anything -- was treated at Children’s Mercy Hospital. At the time of this incident, Sgt. Pifer was already facing a civil suit and criminal charges for killing an unarmed man, Terrence Bridges, Jr. in May of 2019. In December, a Jackson County grand jury declined to charge him, but the man’s family has continuously taken the stance that Bridges did not pose a threat to the officer, was not armed when he was shot and was not involved in a carjacking as police said.

On June 18, a Jackson County grand jury indicted Kansas City police detective Eric J. DeValkenaere, 41, in the December 2019 killing of Cameron Lamb, 26, who was shot while sitting in his pickup truck in his own backyard.

Ryan Stokes, 24, was unarmed when he was shot in the back by Officer William Thompson on July 29, 2013, in the Power & Light District after the officer said he thought he saw a gun in Stokes’ hand. Years later, police acknowledged Stokes did not have a gun when he died. A jury declined to indict Thompson.

Three conclusions appear obvious from these facts. First, the fundamental issues around justice in policing are not a problem ‘somewhere else’; they are right here in our own city. Second, policing is a high-stress job that requires continuous training, professionalism, and public accountability. Third, neither justice nor accountability can occur when those in the highest levels of authority are invested in protecting officers from consequences when the citizens they are assigned to protect are killed or abused by law enforcement.

People who live in a culture of social privilege, like many All Souls members, may never have occasion to experience policing as dangerous or oppressive, but we have a responsibility to understand why it can be that way for marginalized people in our community. And to the extent that we have economic, political, or social power, we are called to leverage that power to maintain standards of accountability for our leaders. This is particularly true for those leaders with the authority to use force and violence on our behalf.

To learn more about the issues of policing in our city, and especially the petition to replace Chief Smith, check out the work of the interfaith Metro Organization for Racial and Economic Equity (MORE2) on their website. All Souls is a founding member of MORT², and we continue to be involved in their initiatives for greater justice on the local level. Without the support and involvement of congregations like ours, these efforts would not be possible.

Rev. Kendyl Gibbons

Sunday Sermons in lobby and online: CLICK HERE (http://allsoulskc.org/Category/read-sermons/)

Rev. Kendyl Gibbons
Connecting with our Children at All Souls

Dear Parents,

Some of your religious education teachers and I want to stay in touch with your children during this pandemic through sending cards to your children or by calling them on Facetime.

It is our hope that this will help your children to know that they are loved by their teachers and by all of us at All Souls.

I hope that you and your family are healthy and safe and finding some fun during this pandemic. Please let me know if there is anything that I or All Souls can do to support you.

In service,

Rev. Judith Cady
Minister of Religious Education

Continuing Connections for our All Souls Youth

As we begin a new virtual school year, we want to continue to make it possible for our youth to remain connected with their friends at All Souls. We will continue to meet on two Google groups set up for this purpose. “Google Hangout, All Souls KC Youth RE” meets with a video connection at 12:30 PM every Sunday. RE teen teachers facilitate the group to share joys and concerns and to discuss topics of interest. “Google Hangout D and D” meets for a game night at 6:30 PM every Sunday. All of our youth have been invited to join both groups. For information on joining the group email: Rev. Judith Cady at lrd@allsoulskc.org.

Embracing Diversity: Preschool and Elementary Classes

As we begin a new virtual school year our lessons for our religious education classes will embrace the diversity of our community and nation. This will include positive children’s stories celebrating our Black, Hispanic, Native American friends and others. A lesson with a story and fun creative experiences will be sent out every Saturday morning. If you are not on the list and want to receive the lessons contact Rev. Judith Cady at lrd@allsoulskc.org.
September 2, at 7:00 PM, is Labor Day and in honor of Labor Day the All Souls Movie Group suggest you check out or revisit 5 films about work life.  

CLICK HERE for full article: ( http://allsoulskc.org/all-posts/congregational/relational-groups/movie-group/ )

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**Adopt-A-Poll Foundation Program**

Can you help with the upcoming important elections and help All Souls with fund-raising at the same time? CLICK HERE for full article: ( http://allsoulskc.org/all-posts/news/newsletter/adoptapoll/ )

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**NeedleHearts**

Group meets Thursdays, September 10th and September 24th at 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

CLICK HERE for full article: ( http://allsoulskc.org/all-posts/congregational/relational-groups/needle-hearts/needleheartssept2020/ )

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**CHALICE TASK FORCE**

Some time ago the Chalice Task Force presented a proposal to add our name and chalice design on the west side of the church and our name on the north side of the church.

CLICK HERE for full article: ( http://allsoulskc.org/all-posts/news/newsletter/chalicetaskforce/ )

To contribute CLICK HERE then select Chalice Outdoor Signage ( https://gp.vancopayments.com/gpo/#/e0cc104f-2698-4b22-a0c7-c25cf37/ )

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**Scavenger Hunt for all ages on Saturday, September 5th**

Sign up at the link below to join in a scavenger hunt. You will be sent a list of items to find in your own neighborhood at 10am on Saturday, September 5th. Applications due by 8 PM on Friday, September 4th.

CLICK HERE for full article: ( http://allsoulskc.org/event/september-5th-all-souls-scavenger-hunt/ )

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**Notes from the Facilities Committee...**

There's something new in the old churchyard.

CLICK HERE for full article: ( http://allsoulskc.org/all-posts/news/newsletter/facilitiescommitteenotes/ )
Another Virtual Sunday Plus Success

Thanks to all who ordered meals for our 3rd Virtual Sunday Plus. We served 80 meals to All Souls members and friends. CLICK HERE for full article:

(http://allsoulskc.org/all-posts/news/newsletter/anothervspsuccess/)

September Virtual Sunday Plus is September 27th (BBQ Day)

Deadline for September lunch is Monday, September 21, 4 PM.

CLICK HERE for menu, to order, and more about our host Chef Paul Kirk. http://allsoulskc.org/sunday-mornings/sunday-plus-lunch/

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ANNOUNCEMENT

The All Souls Board of Trustees passed several resolutions amending the 2020-2021 church budget at their regular meeting on August 19th, 2020. In total, there was a $20,785 reduction to spending, taken from supplies, maintenance, programming, and payroll line items.

CLICK HERE for full article:

(http://allsoulskc.org/all-posts/congregational/boards/board-of-trustees/boardannouncement/)

LET’S GIVE A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Rick Kaplan

Virtual Attendance Figures for July 2020:

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Let's give a warm welcome to our new members.

Financials... CLICK HERE to view July Financials:


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)
FLAME OCTOBER 2020

Submissions deadline: 9 am, September 20

Sunday Morning bulletins & Friday

e-mail deadline: 9 a.m. Wednesdays

Send submissions:

Le Aûndra Salazar-Slaughter,

office@allsoulskc.org and

Sherry Anspach, sherry@allsoulskc.org

QRC for All Souls website

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