

All Souls News

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 9449 Ellerbe Road, Shreveport, LA 71106 | (318) 868-3313 | www.allsousshreveport.org

JANUARY SERVICES

Worship Service starts at 11 a.m.

Children and Youth are dismissed during the service for Religious Education. Nursery care is available during Adult RE (9:15 a.m.) and till the service ends.

January 1 — Welcome to the New Year. We will have our regular 11 a.m. service with all ages welcomed into the sanctuary. There will be no nursery or children's classes. **Rev. Barbara Jarrell** is in the pulpit. *Board Persons of the Day are Jocelyn Lanham and Substitute BPOD Susan Caldwell.*

January 8 — **Rev. Barbara Jarrell** is in the pulpit. *Board Persons of the Day are Eric First and Melissa Gibson.*

January 15 — Our annual celebration of the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Our guest speaker is **Clay Walker**, director of Juvenile Services for Caddo Parish. *Board Persons of the Day are John Allen and James Peck.*

January 22 — It's World Religion Day in Shreveport-Bossier, and in celebration of the day we welcome back to our pulpit Buddhist meditation teacher **Benjamin Riggs**. His appearance here is in conjunction with the recent release of his new book, *Finding God in the Body*. *Board Persons of the Day are Alice Normand and Nicki McLain.*

January 29 — Today we welcome **Katie Caldwell** to our pulpit. Katie is the president for the Shreveport-Bossier National Organization for Women. She will share her stories about her professional work in women's health and her advocacy work for women's rights. *Board Persons of the Day are James Peck and John Allen.*

'Share the Love' at the 2017 Fundraising Gala

All are invited to join All Souls for its biggest event of the year!

This year's Fundraising Gala is slated for February 4 from 6 to 10 p.m.

This year's theme is "Share the Love."

Entertainment includes a live and silent auction, heavy hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, raffle prizes, and more.

Tickets are on sale now and are \$25 in advance and \$35 at the door. If you are in need of onsite childcare, please email allsoulsgala@gmail.com.

If you have items to donate for the live or silent auction, please note that all donations must be received by Friday, January 27. Items and completed forms should be brought to the church. Members and friends are encouraged to seek donations from local businesses. Gift cards and services are always great auction items!

Want to help? We need volunteers for setup and decorations, auction item processing, sales and checkout, cleanup, and more.

To volunteer and/or for more information, please contact Fundraising Gala Chair Jocelyn Lanham at (318) 560-4880 or at allsoulsgala@gmail.com.

2017 Fundraising Gala February 4, 2017

OFFICE HOURS Tuesdays through Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
OFFICE EMAIL office@allsousshreveport.org
OFFICE PHONE (318) 868-3313



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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Tuesday, January 24 by 8 p.m.

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All Souls is a
Welcoming
Congregation.



FROM THE MINISTER

Speak Truth, Recognize Uncomfortable Differences

By Rev.

Barbara Jarrell



“Until there is peace between religions there can be no peace in the world.” -Thich Nhat Hanh

Though your head be spinning and anxious and your heart be aching and confused still we must maintain faith in the course of the moral universe that bends toward justice, faith in the course of evolution’s glacial unfolding, and in Love’s ultimately comprehensive capacity to reconcile and heal.

No one need feel impotent or hopeless. There will always be more and there is goodness as long as it lives within the human spirit. The shifts that can and will occur will come at such profound and unexpected levels that they will supersede the boxes and battles that currently surround us and seem to have always circled back upon human progress and endeavor.

We must continue to speak truth as we are given to see the truth but always from the unshakeable non-anxious ground of compassion. Strident voices carry less power than the strong clear voice of Truth. Dr. Martin King, Gandhi, Nelson Mandela each led with steady, robust visionary leadership free from frenetic influence of nervous reaction or defensive posturing.

We must continue to

bridge chasms that have before seemed insurmountable divisions. We must continue to learn how to listen deeper and hear what lies beneath the words and opinions—listen so that we may understand what is behind the motivations of those who see, feel, think, believe and act differently.

We cannot expect others to join our way of thinking or our perspective any more than they can reasonably expect us to join theirs. If we in any way think ourselves to have better grasp on matters then the proof is in our ability to hold the paradoxes and manage the stress of what would otherwise be conflict without breaking or resigning.

We must commit to grow in understanding so that we might speak in languages others can hear. We cannot demonize or dismiss even those who stand diametrically opposed to our most basic convictions. If we do, there is no hope of moving be-

yond the perpetual tug-of-war and pendulum swing that has thus far been religion, war and politics. It serves no productive use. Such responses (while perhaps providing temporary release or sense of relief) actually lead to once again chasing around the base of the same mountain. We can only gain a longer view—scale to elevate human coexistence when our view has grown to include more perspectives which is not the same as erasing or denying them.

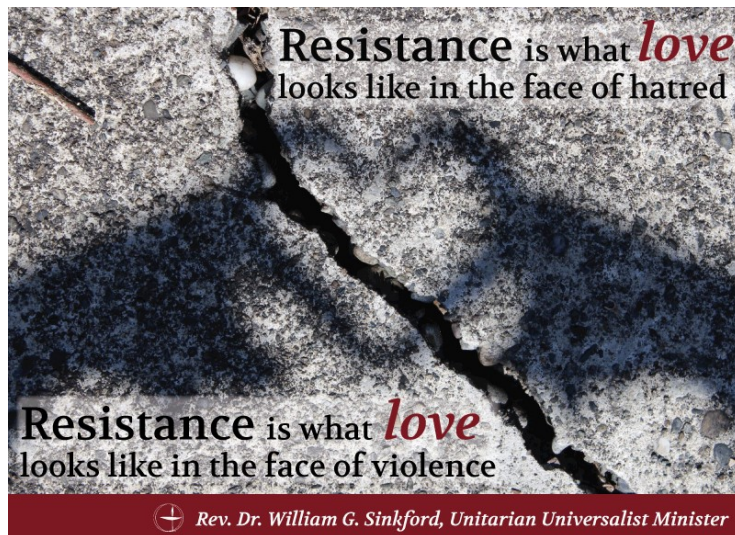
Peace cannot be one-sided. Peace comes not with dominance.

Peace comes through recognizing in the most uncomfortable of differences an undeniable sameness—the inherent worth and dignity of EVERY person.

*Love will guide us.
Peace has tried us. Hope
inside us will lead the way.*

Yours in ever-evolving faith,

Barbara



Corner Office with a View

Resources for Resistance: 2017 Edition



By Susan Caldwell,
Director of Lifespan Religious Education

As I write this, we're saying goodbye to a year that has been quite dismal in many ways. We lost too many of our most beloved artists, actors, and musicians, and we look ahead to a time in our nation when so many of our citizens could be facing the very real threat of losing many of the rights they, and we, have worked so hard to gain.

Every day, my Facebook feed seems to feature the faces of same sex couples having weddings earlier than planned, "while we still can." While women's reproductive rights seemingly received a reprieve when the Texas TRAP laws were declared unconstitutional, we now once again see a future where those rights might be sharply curtailed or even lost. We worry about our Muslim neighbors and our LGBT+ members and friends, resolving to stand with them at every opportunity.

We continue to work for reforms to our criminal justice system, which is still weighted heavily against people of color. The challenges can seem insurmountable, and yet, as I have told people for years, long before this year's events, "When you live in Louisiana, you wake up every day knowing there is something to do." Now, we just have to broaden that to, "When you live in the United States..."

With the rise of Islamophobia and an increased general fear of our differences, I can offer one very real part of the solution, an opportunity that comes along not only every year, but also every month right here in Shreveport. On January 22, members of various faith groups will gather once again for the celebration of World Religion Day. The event takes place that Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. at The Highland Center, 520 Olive St in Shreveport, a familiar place to many of us by now. It is an afternoon of readings, prayers, music and food from the various faith traditions represented in our area (as many as 18 some years), as well as table displays from each group, and panel discussions on questions important to us all. It is a chance not only to find common ground, but to celebrate rather than fear our differences as well.

Every second Tuesday of the month, you can hear a speaker on a different faith tradition on the Second Tuesday World Religions Speaker Series at Unity of Shreveport, 670 Stoner.

In our own Religious Education program, our children, youth, and adults will be entering our pillar on World Religions, the 3rd Source of Unitarian Universalism. We teach our children about the religions of the

world, not so much with the aim of letting them "grow up to choose," for we hope we are raising them to choose to be Unitarian Universalists, honoring this faith tradition as their own. We teach our children World Religions for many of the same reasons we celebrate World Religion Day ... to help them understand what we have in common with other faith traditions, to appreciate and respect the ways in which we differ, to look at ways in which the wisdom of other traditions might inform and enrich their own path as Unitarian Universalists, and the broaden their understanding of the world in general.

Now, more than ever, I need to remember the words of one of my heroes, the Catholic social activist Dorothy Day, who said, "People say, what is the sense of our small effort? They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time. A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all directions. Each one of our thoughts, words and deeds is like that. No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There is too much work to do."

SUSAN'S BIG NEWS

For the four or five people I haven't managed to tell yet, Steve, our daughter Delia, and I are off to South Korea on January 13 to visit our son, Charlie, who has been teaching English in Daejeon. This is his longest vacation of the school year, and we will spend that time traveling in Korea and Japan. "Excited" doesn't begin to cover it, and along with my excitement I feel deep gratitude to all the people that will be helping the RE program and World Religion Day come off without a hitch while I'm gone.

First of all, do be sure to say thanks to those folks who taught this past pillar, Jewish and Christian Heritage: Pamela Carlisle and Cherrie Groves Moussaoui in Pre-K/K-1, Nicki McLain and Sam Normand in 2nd-5th, and Noah Wagstaff and Susan Bettinger in Middle and High School. Teachers for this upcoming pillar are Pamela Carlisle and Leigh Anne Chambers in Pre-K/K-1, Nicki McLain and Sam Normand in 2nd-5th, and Noah Wagstaff and a very lucky teaching partner TBA in MSHS.

I'm urging YOU to get involved as a volunteer in World Religion Day! There are four ways you can do so, and you are by no means limited to one of the ways:

1. Help with setup at the Highland Center on Saturday, January 21 between noon and 4 p.m. (the "heavy lifting" is particularly needed in that first hour between 12 noon and 1 p.m.)

(Continued on Page 4: SUSAN)



ORGANIZE SHREVEPORT TO PROTECT WOMEN'S RIGHTS



THU, JANUARY 12, 2017

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM CST

LEARN

LEARN ABOUT THE STATE
OF REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS
IN LOUISIANA AND WHAT
CHALLENGES LAY AHEAD

ALL SOULS UNITARIAN CHURCH
9449 ELLERBE RD.
SHREVEPORT, LA 71106

SKILLS

BUILD SKILLS THAT
WILL ALLOW YOU TO
COMMUNICATE WITH
DECISION-MAKERS

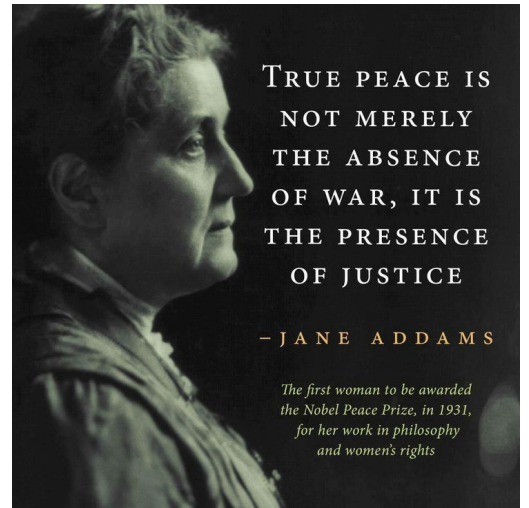


organizeshreveport4womenshealth.eventbrite.com



My faith is so important to me,
because it speaks of salvation in this life,
through knowing you are loved
just as you are,
and discovering who you are
and your place in the Universe
so you can live out your purpose in life.

- Katie Norris, Unitarian Universalist Minister



TRUE PEACE IS
NOT MERELY
THE ABSENCE
OF WAR, IT IS
THE PRESENCE
OF JUSTICE

- JANE ADDAMS

*The first woman to be awarded
the Nobel Peace Prize, in 1931,
for her work in philosophy
and women's rights*

World Religion Day

Sunday, January 22, 2017

1:00—5:00 p.m.

The Highland Center

520 Olive St., Shreveport

*Featuring table displays, panel discussions, music,
food, and fellowship showcasing the rich faith diver-
sity found right here in Shreveport and Bossier.*

*Check Susan's column for ways you can help, and
watch the foyer and the All Souls Shreveport Caring
Connection page on Facebook for sign-ups.*



Membership Matters

Newcomers Welcomed to Information Session

By Ron Thurston,
Membership Committee



Join us for this month's Newcomer Information Session on Sunday, January 8 at about 12:15 p.m.

Grab a cup of coffee after the service and join us in the middle/high school classroom—the one with the

couches.

The meeting is open to anyone interested in exploring more about Unitarian Universalism and membership at All Souls.

We will watch a short DVD from our Unitarian Universalist Association headquarters, spotlighting our principles, our history, and our ongoing mission in the world.

We will also share ongoing activ-

ities at All Souls, ways to get involved, and our membership process.

Staff and members will be present to answer questions, and we will share spiritual journeys, as you are comfortable.

If you have questions regarding membership or would like to join the Membership Committee, please see me before or after church or contact me at (318) 300-9509.

DENOMINATIONAL EVENTS January 2017 & Beyond

13-15 January 2017 Houston Area YRUU Youth Rally (Houston TX). For youth ages 14-19 in high school. For more details, contact the church office.

10-12 February 2017 Southwest UU Women's Conference (Magnolia Hotel Dallas Park Cities – Dallas TX). For women and teens ages 13 and older. Speakers, music, worship, workshops, vendors, fellowship and fun. Early registration \$190.00 before 1 Jan 2017 – \$225.00 from 1 Jan 2017 to 28 Jan 2017. Final registration deadline 28 January 2017. This conference will include a workshop led by our Board Treasurer and Newsletter Editor Melissa Gibson ("ERA: Unfinished Business"). For more information, go online to www.swuuw.org.

24-26 February 2017 Middle School CongrUUity Conference (First UU Church, Oklahoma City OK). Although this is a "cluster" event for Oklahoma UU congregations, groups from other churches are welcome to attend. For more information, contact the church office.

3-5 March 2017 Middle School CongrUUity Social Action Conference (First UU Church, San Antonio TX). Although this is a "cluster" event for "Heart of Texas" UU congregations, groups from other churches are welcome to attend. Description form even flier: "CongrUUity is an annual conference specifically for middle school youth. Gathering with other UU youth from around the region is empowering and gives youth a broader sense of our movement. An emphasis on spiritual as well as intellectual growth is expressed through a worship service, social action project or activities, connection circles and mini workshops throughout the event. And it is a lot of fun!" For more information, contact: Sheri Phillabaum, dlre@uusat.org, (210) 344- 2431.

Submitted by Steve Caldwell, Denominational Affairs

FOOD DRIVE

Benefiting the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana

**All Souls donated
129 Pounds of Food!**

**Thanks to all who made
the drive a success!**

Southwest UU Women's Conference



February 10-12 | Dallas, Texas

More information: www.swuuw.org

Our own **Melissa Gibson** will be presenting a workshop entitled "ERA: Unfinished Business." If you would like to discuss sharing transportation and/or hotel, please get in touch with Melissa!

Join Us on Thursdays for Yoga at All Souls

All are invited to join Valarie Loridans for yoga on Thursdays at 5:45 p.m. at All Souls. Bring a mat, if you have one, otherwise Valarie has a few loaners. Class fee is "by donation."

Valarie began her yoga journey in 2007 and is eager to share its benefits with others.

"Yoga has changed my life, strengthened my body and calmed my mind. I have a strong desire to share with others the heal-

ing benefits of yoga," Valarie said.

She has attended numerous workshops on yoga and completed a 200-hour Yoga Alliance teacher training with Ally Ford. She considers yoga a remarkable tool for building a sense of sharing and support among friends and family, and loves to watch others grow, finding strength and balance through yoga.

Valarie also teaches at Aspire Yoga.



Russell-Pecks Named Volunteers of the Month

All Souls is pleased to call **Jennifer Russell and James Peck** members and even more pleased to announce their family as January's Volunteers of the Month.

While Jennifer and James have been members for less than two years, their entire family has really jumped into the All Souls family.

Jennifer has shared her ongoing journey with Unitarian Universalism at a recent Member Reflections service. James does sound for services and serves as the Board Secretary. James also attends Building & Grounds Workday.

The couple serve as ushers one Sunday each month and have worked in the church nursery multiple times.

The excitement is contagious, as even their children, **Eva Kate** and **Jackson**, are enthusiastic regulars in Religious Education classes and in the nursery. Eva Kate has also created stunning chalice artwork for the church's use.

Please join us in thanking the Russell-Peck family for their many contributions to All Souls. Enjoy that extra-close parking space during this chilly month!



Building & Grounds Work Day



Saturday,
January 14

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

All ages and abilities
encouraged to
participate!

Highland Blessing Dinner

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church co-hosts the Highland Blessing Dinner on the first Thursday of every month. On months with five Thursdays, all sponsoring churches are asked to send volunteers.



The intent of the meals is to serve individuals and families who may "fall through the cracks" of social services. Currently, more than 120 meals are being served each Thursday.

Volunteers are needed to host tables, serve, and help in several other capacities—but the cooking is already done.

Sign up with Susan Caldwell or just show up at the Highland Center, 520 Olive Street, at 5 p.m.

Upcoming Meal(s): January 5 & February 2

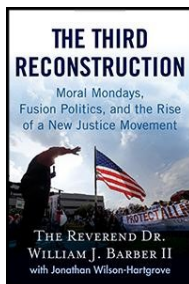
New UUA 'Common Read' Announced

Unitarian Universalists were electrified at General Assembly 2016 by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II's call for building and sustaining a movement for justice for all people.

The UUA Common Read selection committee believes that this is a moment for Unitarian Universalists to answer that call.

The Third Reconstruction offers helpful, practical guidance for engaging with justice movements born in response to local experiences of larger injustices. Drawing on the prophetic traditions of the Jewish and Christian scriptures, while making room for other sources of truth, the book challenges us to ground our justice work in moral dissent, even when there is no reasonable expectation of political success, and to do the hard work of coalition building in a society that is fractured and polarized.

Rev. Barber said recently during his speech at the Democratic National Convention, "Some issues are not left versus right, or liberal versus conservative, they are right versus wrong." Check out Rev. Barber's full speech from the DNC on YouTube.



Women's March Scheduled for Jan. 21 in Downtown Shreveport



On Saturday, January 21, the Shreveport-Bossier Chapter of the National Organization for Women will gather peacefully in solidarity with the Women's March in Washington D.C.

The gathering will begin on the north sidewalk of the Caddo Parish Courthouse at 3 p.m. with a reading of the Official Statement of Purpose from the Women's March in Washington D.C., and will end after participants march around the courthouse as a unified group.

The public is invited to attend this peaceful vigil. Signs are welcome, but sound amplification objects like megaphones and microphones are forbidden by law. This will be a family-friendly, community-inclusive gathering.

Direct questions to NOW Shreveport-Bossier Chapter President Katie Caldwell at shreveportbossiernow@gmail.com.

"We stand together in solidarity with our partners and children for the protection of our rights, our safety, our health, and our families - recognizing that our vibrant and diverse communities are the strength of our county."

*—from The Official Statement of Purpose
from the Women's March in Washington, D.C.*











SUSAN:

2. Work a shift at the All Souls table during the event itself, answering questions about Unitarian Universalism, and passing out literature and snacks.

3. Did I mention snacks? You can also bake or buy something to be distributed at our table. Groups tend to offer foods that represent the cultures of either their countries or their congregations. As UU's, we usually offer coffee, some of Richard Denton's legendary lavender cookies, and whatever else our members want to share.

4. Work a shift at the Welcome Table. We like to have at least two people welcoming people to the general event throughout the afternoon.

I've never missed 3 Sundays in a row before, and the only World Religion Day I have ever missed was the very first one in 1999, when our church was not yet participating. I have no doubt, however, that my All Souls and World Religion Day communities will rally to make this World Religions pillar and this World Religion Day celebration the best ever. Thanks in advance.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
JANUARY						
1 11AM Worship/RE	2 	3 7PM TED Talks Discussion Group	4 5:30PM Choir	5 5PM Support Group 5PM Highland Blessing Dinner (Page 3) 5:45 Yoga	6 7PM Game Night 	7 10:30AM Meditation 3PM ADF
8 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Worship/RE 12:15PM Newcomer Info Session (Page 5) 1:30PM LTA	9	10 7PM TED Talks Discussion Group	11 5:30PM Choir	12 5PM Support Group 5:45 Yoga 6PM Organize Shreveport to Protect Women's Rights (Page 4)	13 	14 9AM to 1PM Building & Grounds Work Day (Page 6) 10:30AM Meditation 3PM ADF 
15 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Worship / RE	16 	17 6PM Board & Council Meeting 7PM TED Talks Discussion Group	18 5:30PM Choir	19 5PM Support Group 5:45 Yoga	20 7PM Game Night 	21 10:30 AM Meditation 3PM ADF 3PM Women's March in Downtown Shreve- port (Page 7)
22 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Worship / RE 1 PM World Religion Day Celebration (Page 4) 	23 	24 6PM Board & Council Meeting 7PM TED Talks Discussion Group 8PM Newsletter Deadline	25 5:30 PM Choir	26 5PM Support Group 5:45 Yoga	27	28 10:30AM Meditation 3PM ADF 6:30 Christmas Eve Service
29 11AM Worship / RE	30 	31 7PM TED Talks Discussion Group	FEBRUARY 1 5:30 PM Choir	2 5PM Support Group 5:45 Yoga	3 7PM Game Night	4 10:30AM Meditation 3PM ADF 6-10PM All Souls Annual Gala & Silent Auction (Page1) 



Cleaning out for the new year?

All Souls WANTS your books, DVDs, vinyl records, board games, and puzzles for our upcoming Media Sale. We welcome items in good, complete condition.

Drop your items off in the church office.

Details about the sale will be advertised soon!