



All Souls News

A newsletter for the members and friends of All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Shreveport, Louisiana

9449 Ellerbe Road, Shreveport, Louisiana 71106 ♦ (318) 868-3313 ♦ www.allsoulsuushreveport.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 and till the service ends.

January 3—Rev. Barbara Jarrell is in the pulpit with “Grow into Harmony.” *Board Persons of the Day are Melissa Gibson and Jocelyn Lanham.*

January 10—Rev. Barbara Jarrell is in the pulpit. *Board Persons of the Day are Amanda Lawrence and Eric First.*

January 17—It is a Sunday of celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and we are honored to have as our guest speaker **Mrs. Maxine Sarpy**, a veteran of the Civil Rights movement right here in Shreveport. *Board Persons of the Day are Diane Bundy and Ken Peterson.*

January 22—A special Friday night service commemorating *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 landmark United States Supreme Court decision. Service begins at 6:30 p.m.

January 24—In honor of World Religion Day in Shreveport-Bossier, we will have our own multi-faith service featuring **Rev. John Henson** from Church for the Highlands (Cooperative Baptist); **Imam Orsen El Amin** from Masjid Al Taqwa (Islam); **Rabbi Jana De Benedetti** from B’nai Zion Congregation (Reform Judaism), and our own **Rev. Barbara Jarrell**. Do not miss this prelude to the afternoon’s celebration. No Adult RE today. *Board Persons of the Day are Ken Peterson and Kathy Osuch.*

January 31—We are delighted to welcome award-winning, internationally touring UU roots/folk singer-songwriter **Kiya Heartwood**, presenting a special service of her unique original music. Shop the All Souls Media Sale before and after the service. *Board Persons of the Day are Bob Jordan and Amanda Lawrence.*

World Religion Day Celebrated Jan. 24

Join us at the Highland Center, 520 Olive St. in Shreveport, for World Religion Day on Sunday, January 24 from 1 to 5 p.m.

World Religion Day is a celebration of the religious diversity of Shreveport-Bossier; a sharing of the rich faith diversity of our community without intent to proselytize or convert.

This year’s event features prayers, readings, music, food, and civil discussions of the big questions important to all of us.

Panel Discussion Presentations include:

- How does your faith tradition prepare its members to meet and accept death? Are there specific rituals and practices or is the practice more individualized for each family? How does your faith community support those who have suffered the loss of a loved one?
- Outside of this event, what more can we, as a multi-faith community, do to promote greater understanding among the various faiths and the community at large? How do we not succumb to fear and keep our houses of worship completely hospitable?
- How does the separation of church and state affect your religious tradition? How do we balance our cherished principle of religious freedom with our equally important principle of civil rights for all? What does your faith tradition teach about the role of the individual in relation to the government, such as the separation of church and state?

There were also be table displays available from participating groups, musical performances, food, and more.

All our invited; open to the public.

Submitted by Susan Caldwell, DLRE



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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Tuesday, January 26 by 8 p.m.

All Souls is a
Welcoming
Congregation.



FROM THE MINISTER

'Love is so much more than doctrine'

By Rev.

Barbara Jarrell



As I look at the year just past, I feel deep gratitude for all of you here at All Souls—most certainly the Board of Directors and the volunteers.

As I weathered a few challenges beyond my control so many of you demonstrated kindness with me and each other, patience with my absences and limits, generosity with your time and energy, courage with your choices, and fortitude with tackling all the unexpected additional responsibilities. As I have gradually reengaged I have been quite humbled by the way you have seamlessly filled what might have been holes where I had previously stood and yet graciously saved space for my returning.

Of course, our Director of Lifespan Religious Education **Susan Caldwell** has taken on even greater burdens over this time, as well. She is clearly a large part of the fabric of All Souls covering task upon task as staffing has been cut and outreach has expanded.

I hope you are all paying attention to the work going on to preserve her presence among us and doing what you can to facilitate that likelihood.

No doubt as 2016 unfolds we will move through changes and more unexpected circumstances. After all, change is life. And the changes we make will be the surest indication of our vitality and the Spirit among us.

The craft of community is discerning how to make changes together in healthy productive ways.

The craft of Beloved Community is bringing our threads of vision, faith, commitment, and compassion together to assemble ever-sturdier and more splendid fabric.

Tending the aging and worn tapestries is necessary and a noble undertaking but we mustn't let that keep us from weaving and constructing courageously new creations, too.

Over and over our friend **Lady Carlson**, the lead organizer for Northern and Central Louisiana Interfaith, reminds us of the Biblical passage "Where there is no vision the people perish" Proverbs 29:18.

I have a vision of one way in which I believe we could serve the broader community. I see it as a means of serving "human need to the end that all souls shall grow into harmony with the Sacred." I

believe we are uniquely positioned to fill this particular role—though admittedly it would/will require a great deal of inside work.

Perhaps you have a vision of your own that you would like to share. I'd love to tell you more about mine (and will be as

I have opportunity) and would be most grateful to hear yours.

By beginning with that sort of sharing, together we can

find or generate common threads and ground from which to begin interlacing the materials and building the framework for greater understanding, peace, and justice—those purposes worthy of the heart you have shown and that carry us further into spiritual maturity.

We have the capacity to become whatever we can imagine together and then act to bring to fruition.

The Life of the Spirit dwells wherever we are assembled in the name and for the magnifying of Love.

Love is so much more than a doctrine.

Yours in ever evolving faith,

Barbara

**"Where there is
no vision, the
people perish."**

Proverbs 29:18

CORNER OFFICE WITH A VIEW

We Learn World Religions to be Better Citizens



By Susan Caldwell,
Director of Lifespan Religious Education

I've been writing and rewriting this column for a couple of days, and I'm thankful for the newsletter editor's patient waiting.

I want to thank you, first of all, for the way so many of you have stepped up to increase your pledges in light of the possibility I might be unemployed within six months.

Moreover, I thank you, especially, for your generous support of the Liberal Religious Educators' Association Endowment Fund in our December Give Away the Plate collection. (We collected \$260.)

Although a few of you have expressed a rather negative impression of the ethical guidelines that would require me to step away from the church completely if my job were eliminated, I was happy for the chance to share with you all the positive benefits I receive from the Association and from my colleagues therein: not only in the trainings and workshops I've been able to take and to teach, but in the resources available to me and in the shared wisdom of colleagues who stay in close touch and continually remind me that I am not alone in this occasionally daunting but mostly uplifting and wonderful work.

Those guidelines requiring me to step away exist not

only for the benefit of those who would follow me in the work, whether paid or volunteer, but for my own benefit as well.

For those who have considered those guidelines to be hard on me, I thank you for your concern, expressed with great love, and ask you to consider, also, how hard it would be for me to stay in the church and NOT do the

work I love. Believe me, I am *much* happier to hear that it looks as if I will get to stay, but I am also at peace with staying in right relation with my congregation *and* with my LREDA colleagues.

At this writing, we are entering our pillar on World Religions with a full slate of teachers, I'm happy to say. When you see them in the hallway, please thank **Diane Bundy, Pam Carlisle, Jax Schmidt, Jocelyn Lanham, Noah Wagstaff, and Clyde Knox** for stepping up to teach.

While you're at it, be sure to thank **Megan Bennett, Cherrie Groves Moussaoui, Leigh Anne Chambers, Jocelyn, Noah, and Rodney Miller** for teaching this past pillar. You may have noticed some repeat names in there. Jocelyn, Jax and Noah are staying with their respective classes for the rest of year, or in Noah's case, the entire year. Diane has also signed up in the Pre-K/K-1 class for the rest of the year. I am so thankful for their willingness to provide continuity for our kids.

(Continued on Page 5: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.)

**"My goal is to raise
Unitarian Universalists."**

Building & Grounds Work Day



Saturday,
January 9

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): Jan. 7 & Feb. 4

2016 Unitarian Universalist Summer Camps

10-13 June 2015 Family Camp (U-Bar-U Camp – near Austin TX). For more information, go online -- <http://ubaru.org/home/familyCamp>

12-18 June 2015 Camp Murray Youth Camp (Lake Murray State Park – near Ardmore OK). This camp is for high school age youth. For more information, go online -- <http://ubaru.org/home/SummerCamp>

19-25 June 2015 Sojourner Camp (U-Bar-U Camp – near Austin TX). For children entering grades 3 through 5 in Fall 2016. For more information, go online -- <http://ubaru.org/home/SummerCamp>



26 June – 2 July 2016 Olympia Camp (U-Bar-U Camp – near Austin TX). For children entering grades 6 and 7 in Fall 2016. For more information, go online -- <http://ubaru.org/home/SummerCamp>

3-9 July 2016 Seeger Camp (U-Bar-U Camp – near Austin TX). For children entering grades 8 and 9 in Fall 2016. For more information, go online -- <http://ubaru.org/home/SummerCamp>

10-16 July 2016 Reeb Camp (U-Bar-U Camp – near Austin TX). For children entering grades 10 in Fall 2016 through 2016 high school graduates. For more information, go online -- <http://ubaru.org/home/SummerCamp>

24-29 July 2016 Southwest UU Summer Institute – SWUUSI (Western Hills Guest Ranch, Sequoyah State Park, Hulbert OK). For more information, contact the church office.

Submitted by Steve Caldwell, Denominational Affairs; Artwork from Clipart Panda.

DENOMINATIONAL EVENTS: January 2016 & Beyond

15-17 January 2016 Gulf Coast YRUU Youth Rally Bay Area UU Church (Houston TX area). For high school youth ages 14 to 19. The theme for this year's event is "Dr. Seus." For online registration, go online -- <http://houstonrally.ddns.net/>

26-28 February 2016 SW UU Women's Conference (Lawton OK). Keynote speaker is Lauren Zuniga – an internationally touring poet, activist, and teaching artist. She is the author of two poetry collections -- *The Nickel Tour* (Penmanship Books, 2009) and *The Smell of Good Mud* (Write Bloody, 2012) – and a finalist for the Oklahoma Book Award. Her work has been featured on Upworthy, MoveOn.org, BoingBoing, Autostraddle, and Everyday Feminism. She is a three time national slam finalist and one of the top ranked female slam poets in the world. Conference musicians include SJ Tucker and Emma's Revolution. Conference flyers and registration information

can be found on the SWUW web site (www.swuuw.org).

29 April – 1 May 2016 North Texas YRUU Youth Rally (Community UU Church – Plano TX). For high school youth ages 14 to 19. For more information, contact the church office.

27-29 May 2016 Louisiana Cluster YRUU Youth Rally (TBD – UU Church of Baton Rouge will probably host this event). For high school youth ages 14 to 19. For more information, contact the church office.

22-26 June 2016 UUA General Assembly (Columbus OH). For more information, go online -- <http://www.uua.org/ga>

Submitted by Steve Caldwell, Denominational Affairs

Membership Matters

Visitors Welcomed to January 10 Info Session

By Ron Thurston,
Membership Committee



This month's Newcomer Information Session is scheduled for January 10, following the worship service.

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 UUA headquarters, spotlighting our principles, our history, and our ongoing mission in the world. We

will also share ongoing activities 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, please see me before or after church or contact me at (318) 300-9509.

Our 5th Annual MONSTER COOKIE DRIVE raised \$220!



**Thanks to all
our bakers and
cookie monsters!**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: As many of you know, Wisdom of the World's Religions is the third of our Six Sources of Unitarian Universalism.

We teach our children about the world's great religions not only to make them better citizens of the planet, but also to broaden their access to spiritual wisdom that can guide them on their own Unitarian Universalist paths.

However, in the past, I have heard parents say, "We want our children to learn about all the world's religions so that they can choose a path when they are older." While I don't discount that as a noble goal of parenthood, it's not my goal as your DRE. My goal is to raise Unitarian Universalists...people who understand what our faith represents and want to live a life solidly grounded in that tradition. It is a tradition of openness to those of many faiths and none, and a willingness to learn from all, and it is a tradition in its own right, steeped in a proud and brave history that merits celebrating and passing on to our children. Thus, every lesson in our World Religions pillar, as in all the others, finds its way back to our Unitarian Universalist Principles and values.

Amanda Lawrence Named January's Volunteer of the Month

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce Viking Queen of Spam **Amanda Lawrence** as January's Volunteer of the Month.

More than a decade ago, Queen Amanda joined the ranks of All Souls, rearing her young, and carrying the light of Unitarian Universalism in her can of pork shoulder byproduct.

Most recently, Amanda has headed numerous pot-lucks as the head of the Food Folks & Fun Committee. She also served as the chair for the 2016 Pledge Drive and held a lock-in for the youth at All Souls in October, accompanied by Corsair **John Allen**.

Following in their mother's footsteps, her children, **Eleanora Lawrence** and **Andrew Lawrence** are regular Bearers of Light and Tradition and eager volunteers dur-

ing Story for All Souls.

Amanda has served in various capacities on the Board and is currently the vice president. She has also taught Religious Education on numerous occasions, gotten her hands dirty on Building & Grounds Work Day, headed up the Monster Cookie Drive, and assisted at several Annual Galas.

Thank you for all your do, Amanda! Neyðin kennir naktri konu að spinna and linur bartskeri gjörir fúin sár.
Submitted by Melissa Gibson, Newsletter Editor



Reproductive Justice: UUA 2015 Statement of Conscious

We commit to putting our values into action, striving for equality and justice and honoring the rights, needs and choices of everyone. Affirming the interconnected web of life with justice for all people, we commit to undertake actions that could include the following.

As individuals we can

- Study reproductive justice issues, including sexuality, gender identity, classism, ableism, sexual violence, immigration, and racism.
- Seek to understand and take responsibility for our personal biases.
- Risk telling our own stories, and be willing to truly hear and trust the stories of others.
- Work to accept one's own body, sexuality, and abilities.
- Adopt spiritual practices that contribute to self-care.

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In our relationships we can

- Respect all people and their decisions regarding reproduction, even those with whom we disagree.
- Minister to one another around reproductive health and reproductive justice issues.
- Be sensitive to others' stories, respecting their life experiences and lived realities.
- Accept people of all abilities, identities, orientations, and generations as sexual beings.
- Accompany anyone wanting support (e.g., while seeking government assistance, in making decisions for their families about pregnancy and adoption, during abortions, and during childbirth).

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In our congregations we can

- Form a reproductive justice group, task force, committee, or interfaith coalition.
- Invite and consult with reproductive justice advocates and groups to share their understanding and expertise, and/or conduct reproductive justice trainings.
- Connect religious professionals and lay leaders with organizations and networks that promote reproductive and economic justice and human rights.
- Encourage religious professionals and lay leaders to participate in reproductive justice-related education and training.

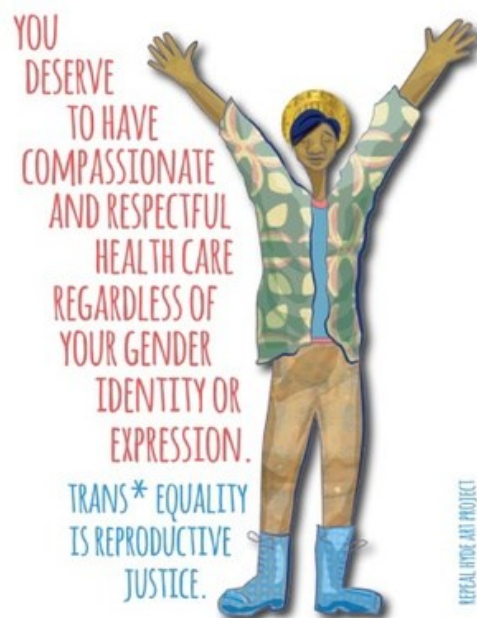
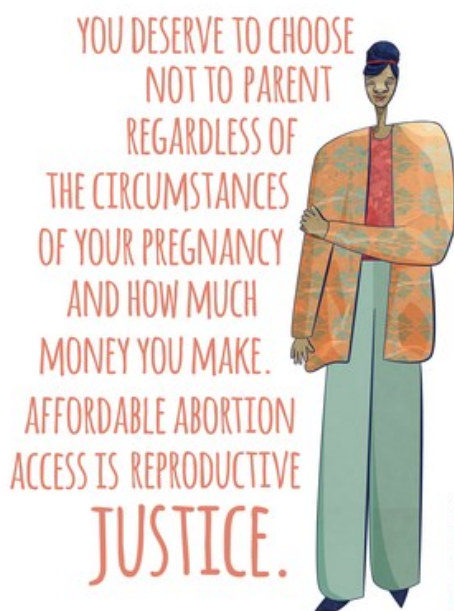
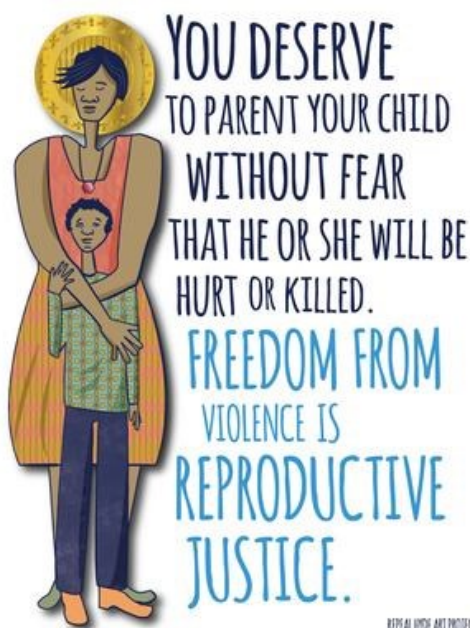
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As an Association we can

- Publicly witness and advocate for sexual and reproductive justice in the US and around the world.
- Advocate for just legislation and policies and the rights of families and individuals at the state and federal levels.
- Advocate for comprehensive reproductive health services, including contraception, prenatal care, abortion, and infertility treatment.
- Advocate for the right to access comprehensive and medically accurate reproductive health information.
- Support UU state legislative ministry organizations in their work that supports reproductive justice.

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This is an excerpt. For the complete statement visit <http://www.uua.org/statements/reproductive-justice>.



Images from the Repeal Hyde Art Project. The Repeal Hyde Art Project raises awareness and creates dialogue about the Hyde Amendment, which blocks people from using Medicaid to pay for abortions. The Project accomplishes its mission through collaborative arts and shareable graphic content. It is a colorful, optimistic, and interactive response to Hyde that reflects the self-determination of the people who have overcome barriers and the hope for change. We also recognize that the Hyde Amendment has a disproportionate impact on women of color and exists within an multi-layered, oppressive environment. We strive to create intersectional dialogue that links abortion access to other related issues: a dialogue which reflects the complex realities of our lives. We are strong and we fly together. The more we share the birds and the message, the more we raise awareness, and the more we can push for change.

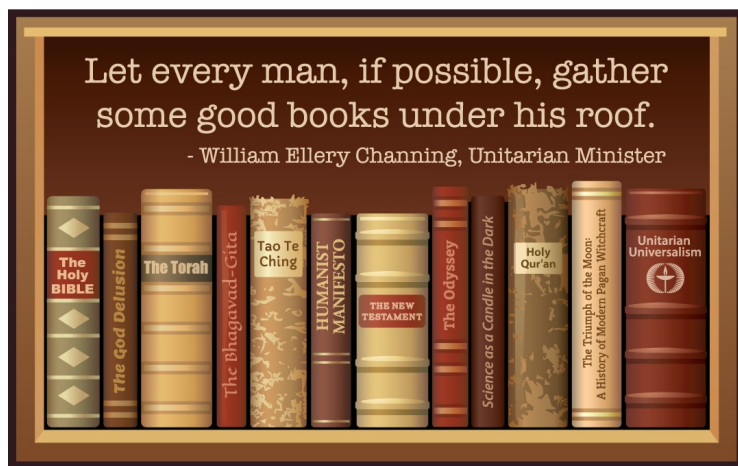
Volunteers Needed in Small Souls Nursery

Volunteers are needed in the Small Souls Nursery. Shifts are from 9 to 10:30 a.m. and from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (when the service ends).

Volunteers must be members or regular visitors for six months or longer.

If you are able to help, please see **Susan Caldwell**. You should also have received an email to the nursery volunteer SignUpGenius site and can sign up there as well.

It takes a
BIG HEART
to shape a
SMALL SOUL



We pray that like Dr. King, we may have the courage to live our convictions even in the face of overwhelming opposition. That we may live a life dedicated to justice, equality, and peace.

- Unitarian Universalist Prayer by Paul S. Sawyer

Meditation for a New Year

My friends, we have arrived.

We are here, in this new year.

We have crossed the boundary of time, into the next year, with all its resolutions and plans and schedules ahead of us.



Let us pause, for just this moment, before we move boldly onward.



Let us pause to hear the breathing of those around us, to feel their presence in this room. To know their presence in our lives.

Let us pause to consider the trees, their branches stripped bare, their elegant architecture on display.

Let us pause to feel the spirit of life and love that ties us to each other, that winds its way through our very bones and settles in our hearts.

Before we march forward, armed with resolutions that will shortly be forgotten in the day-to-day of living, let us notice what it is that remains every year, every day. What exists beyond schedules and months, beyond time. It welcomes us to life, not just at the start of the year, but every day. And let us answer . . . Amen.

—Rev. Amanda Poppei

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri 1 New Year's Day | Sat 2 |
|---|---|--|----------------------------|--|--|---|
| JANUARY | | | | | | 10:30 AM Meditation 3 PM ADF |
| 3 9:15 AM Adult RE 11 AM Worship / RE 1:30 PM LTA | 4 5:45 PM Yoga 7 PM TED Talks Discussion Group | 5 | 6 5:30 PM Choir | 7 5 PM Support Group 5 PM Highland Blessing Dinner  | 8 | 9 9AM to 1 PM Building & Grounds Workday 10:30 AM Meditation 3 PM ADF |
| 10 9:15 AM Adult RE 11 AM Worship / RE 12ish Newcomer Information Session | 11 5:45 PM Yoga 7 PM TED Talks Discussion Group | 12 | 13 5:30 PM Choir | 14 5 PM Support Group | 15 7 PM Family Game Night | 16 10:30 AM Meditation 3PM ADF TBA Seale Wedding |
| 17 9:15 AM Adult RE 11 AM Worship | 18 5:45 PM Yoga 7 PM TED Talks Discussion Group | 19 6 PM Board & Council Meeting | 20 5:30 PM Choir | 21 5 PM Support Group 7 PM Interfaith Leaders Meeting | 22 6:30 PM Reproductive Justice Special Service | 23 10:30 AM Meditation 3 PM ADF |
| 24 No Adult RE 11 AM Worship / RE 1 PM World Religion Day  | 25 5:45 PM Yoga 7 PM TED Talks Discussion Group | 26 8 PM Newsletter Deadline | 27 5:30 PM Choir | 28 5 PM Support Group | 29 | 30 10:30 AM Meditation 11 AM to 3 PM "Together Louisiana" Statewide Meeting in Alexandria 3 PM ADF |
| 31 9:15 AM Adult RE 11 AM Worship/RE Media Sale | FEBRUARY 1 5:45 PM Yoga 7 PM TED Talks Discussion Group | 2 | 3 5:30 PM Choir | 4 5 PM Support Group 5 PM Highland Blessing Dinner | 5 7 PM Family Game Night | 6 10:30 AM Meditation 3 PM ADF |

Shop the All Souls Media Sale; Donate Your Stuff

Once again, we are holding the All Souls Media Sale. We need your unwanted books, DVDs, vinyl, CDs, and small entertainment electronics (such as DVD players, iPods, video game systems). Complete board games and puzzles are also welcomed at the sale. Please, no cassette tapes of any kind, VHS tapes, or related storage items; no broken or non-working items.

Please drop your items in the social hall or make arrangements with **Melissa Gibson** via call/text at (318) 550-1296 or via email at melissainkdesigns@gmail.com

All items must be received no later than Sunday, January 24.

The Media Sale will operate in the All Souls Social Hall on Friday, January 29 and Saturday, January 30 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. It will be open before and after Sunday's service as well.

If you are able to help setup, assist during the event, or help cleanup, please contact Melissa.

This sale is open to the public! Invite your friends and see you there!

Leftover items will be sold, circulated through the local Little Free Library system, or donated to the Centenary Book Sale.

Submitted by Melissa Gibson, Newsletter Editor

