



Sunday Mornings at All Souls - 10:30 AM

Sunday mornings are the place to be for worship and religious education! Below is a listing of all the sermons and descriptions for May and June 2022. Each one of these services will feature a message, music, stories and readings to inspire you for the week ahead. Enjoy!

May: Endurance

May 1

Let the Children Speak!

Rev. Kathleen Rolenz

Children and youth have played an important role in various civil rights movements all over the world. From the Birmingham Children's Crusade to the March for Our Lives, to Climate Justice, children have much to teach us about courage, resilience, and endurance in the face of overwhelming opposition. This service will feature the voices from our children's and junior choir as well as a Story for All Ages.

May 8

Holy Mothers, Holy Rage

Ebony C. Peace

Each culture has its own expectations on what constitutes a "good mother". Our faith tradition calls us to act on the inherent worth and dignity of every person and affirm justice, equity, and compassion in human relations – yet in practice, many mothers of color experience disparate treatment. Regardless of which culture they identify with, history is clear that when mothers get angry, things change. This sermon will reflect on the pressures and cultural construction of motherhood and how a mother's rage is often the catalyst for social, political, and meaningful change.

MAY 15

A Petition for Persistence

Rev. Bill Sinkford

"The prayer of our hearts is a petition for persistence." W.E.B. DuBois understood the role of endurance. He called for "deed on deed, and thought on thought," for staying the course. Does liberation call us simply to be long suffering or could change "go viral" in our lives?

MAY 22

Coming of Age Sunday

James Ploeser

Join us as we enjoy the homilies from our youth during our "Coming of Age Class of 2020" (yes, it's 2020, because that's when we started the program!) celebration.

MAY 29

What Keeps You Going? The Power of Rest Rev. Louise Green

How might we step off the relentless production demand so present in our culture, and into cyclical renewal with intentional actions? Reclaiming rest is an important way to maintain endurance. A sermon about the spiritual practice of rest, and the wisdom of taking time out.

June: Joy

JUNE 5

Joy and Woe Are Woven Fine
(Or From the Book of Job to Joy)

Rev. Bill Sinkford

Joy does not save us from the inevitability of hardship. As Archbishop Tutu is quoted as saying: "In fact we may cry more easily, but we will laugh more easily, too. Perhaps we are just more alive." Our culture encourages denial. Our faith calls for wholeness.

JUNE 12

Parting Glances

Rev. Kathleen Rolenz

In August 2020, I came to you as your Interim Senior Minister with the belief that our Covid lockdown would end in 2021 and we'd be back to "normal." Much has changed since then - and yet there is much that will continue. I'll share my State of the Union remarks, we'll recognize the internship of the A. Powell Davies Intern Ebony Peace, and - dedicate children! It will be a full service of music, song, reflection and JOY! Afterwards, join All Souls members and friends for an All Church picnic at Rock Creek Park.

JUNE 19

TBA

Rev. Rob Keithan

JUNE 26

General Assembly Sunday

Programs, Classes & Connections

Information about all classes, including the zoom links and/or if the class is held in person, can be found on the church's website, and in the e-bulletin and/or will be announced on Sunday morning. Please check those sites for the most recent and up-to-date information.

MAY 2022

SACReD Gathering

Register Now for New Curriculum on Faith Support for Reproductive Freedom

May 5, 12, 19, 26; June 2, 9, 16 | 7:00 – 8:30 PM



SACReD
gathering

Faith Communities Reclaiming
Reproductive Dignity and Autonomy

All Souls Church is one of the founding sponsors of a new national organization called SACReD, the Spiritual Alliance of Communities for Reproductive Dignity (<http://www.sacreddignity.org/>).

The mission of SACReD is to empower congregations to become loving, justice-seeking faith communities that fully support the fulfillment of reproductive moral agency and flourishing for all. SACReD has developed a curriculum to help participants deepen their understanding of the connection between faith, racism, and reproductive ethics, and to identify strategies and actions for liberation within religious communities and the larger world. Given that the *Roe v. Wade* decision hangs in the balance—and that many people have never had meaningful access to reproductive healthcare—it is a critical time to learn and to act. We will have participants from All Souls as well as other faith communities in DC, and we hope you'll join in!

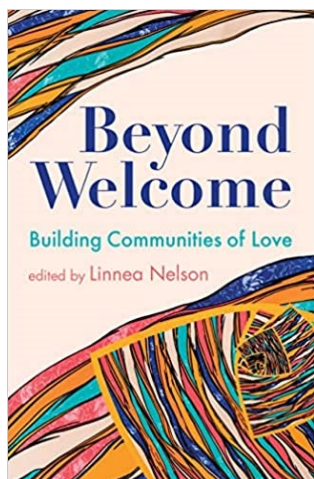
Participants are required to attend at least 5 of the 7 sessions including the first one. There is no charge, but space is limited. Seven sessions all on Zoom, Thursdays.

Please visit the church website calendar to register.

Beyond Welcome

Tuesday, May 10 | 7:30 – 9:00 PM

Rev. Kathleen C. Rolenz, Interim Senior Minister



How do we go beyond welcome to build compassionate, authentic, and equitable communities? In *Beyond Welcome: Building Communities of Love*, editor Linnea Nelson and contributors dream of a future Unitarian Universalism that upholds abundant love and universal justice within every community.

Through personal and collective reflections, these heartfelt essays tell stories of how it feels to be in Beloved Community while prompting readers to imagine what it will take to get us there. The lived experiences of these hopeful Unitarian Universalists—ministers, religious professionals, and laypeople alike—illuminate the relevancy of liberation in each and every one of our communities.

Examining both the joys of community and the responsibilities we have to one another, *Beyond Welcome* provides clarity about current structures and behaviors that create barriers to equity in our faith communities as a passageway to building foundational structures of love and liberation. With questions designed for both personal reflection and group discussion, *Beyond Welcome* is a powerful and necessary resource for all looking to live into the essence of community. This book features articles from TWO All Souls members, Paula Cole Jones and Jenice View.

John Law:

An Asian American Unitarian in the 1820s

Thursday, May 12 | 7:00-8:30pm

Learn the amazing story of John Law, one of founders and original donors at All Souls Church Unitarian in Washington, DC. Born in India of Indian and British heritage, John Law was among the first Asian Americans to settle in the nation's new capital. He became a Harvard-educated attorney, the highest elected legislator in Washington, DC, and a defender of enslaved Black people seeking freedom through the courts.

Professor Rosemarie Zagarri, a distinguished scholar and Professor of History at George Mason University will be in conversation with Shige Sakurai, All Souls Church member and diversity expert. Join us as we celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and the 200 Year Anniversary of All Souls Church with this fascinating historical conversation.

Please register in advance on the church website calendar.

Focused Conversation with Minister-in-Residence Rev. Bill Sinkford

Thursday, May 12 | 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Saturday, May 14 | 10:00 – 11:30 AM



Rev. Dr. Bill Sinkford is both our Minister-in-Residence for the 2021-2022 church year but has also agreed to serve as the Interim Lead Minister for 2022-2023. Rev. Bill brings insight and wisdom to his role as Minister-in-Residence. In his monthly “Focused Conversations” he explores one aspect of church life and invites reflection and conversation on the topic. The topic for this conversation will be announced in the e-bulletin a week ahead of the scheduled date. Rev. Bill is tailoring the topics to the needs of All Souls. Stay tuned!

Kwanza Inspired Reflection: Honoring Our Ancestors, Holding the Future

Sunday, May 30th | 7:00 – 8:30 PM

In honor of Kwanzaa, an African American celebration of cultural reaffirmation that affirms family, community, self-development, and culture, we will reflect together on our ancestors and on our future generations. What beauty did they leave for us? What did we inherit? What is it we will pass on? We will consider these questions in our own lives and as a faith community.

Though Kwanza is celebrated December 26 – January 1st, its seven principles are meant to be practiced year-round. Join us as we explore the past and the future the context of the seven principles of Kwanza: *Umoja* (Unity), *Kujichagulia* (Self-Determination), *Ujima* (Collective Work and Responsibility), *Ujamaa* (Cooperative Economics), *Nia* (Purpose), *Kuumba* (Creativity), and *Imani* (Faith). All are welcome. Facilitator Ebony C. Peace.

JUNE 2022

Parting Glances

June 8 | 7:30– 8:30 PM

Rev. Kathleen C. Rolenz, Interim Senior Minister

I began as your interim in August 2020, just five months after the start of the pandemic, three months after the departure of your minister of 19 years. It's been an interim like no other! I'll share with you my insights, thoughts, wishes for the future of All Souls as I look forward to concluding my interim ministry with you. Let's hear about YOUR hopes and dreams for the future.

Living into the 8th Principle: Reconsidering Land Acknowledgement

June 15 | 7:00 – 8:30 PM



Do we say the same rote, land acknowledgement at every gathering? Does doing so serve the native people on whose land we use or are we engaging in a performance with meaningless words? Adopting the 8th Principle of Unitarian Universalism means we do not carry on the same way as before. It means we look at what we do from a new lens – a new perspective. In this session we will explore land acknowledgement from the lens of beloved community, anti-oppression, and healing. We will use a case study on The Piscataway Conoy Tribal Community to find meaning regarding land acknowledgements and leverage the discussion in a way that can be transferable to discerning land acknowledgement regardless of whose tribal lands we live. Facilitator Ebony C. Peace.

JULY 2022

Defund Fear a UUA Congregational Read Part I: A Conversation with Author Zach Norris

July & August | On your own/ asynchronous

As part of the Common Read, four UU religious professionals talk with Zach Norris about why the call to achieve community safety and security for everyone matters to people of faith in our Unitarian Universalist movement. Join a one-hour-and-ten-minute conversation moderated by *UU World* executive editor Roger Santodomingo.

Watch and listen to this conversation in preparation for an upcoming offering on the book *Defund Fear: Safety Without Policing, Prisons, and Punishment* by Zach Norris (Beacon Press, 2021).

Visit this link to watch the conversation: <https://vimeo.com/671250319>

To learn more about the Common Read, go to this link: <https://www.uua.org/read>

Participating in Part II is recommended, and not required. Reading the book is also recommended, and not required.

AUGUST 2022

Anniversary of Hiroshima

August | TBA

August 6th marks the 77th Anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. Join us in a collaborative partnership with a UU Minister in Japan/International Society of Religious Freedom in remembrance of the anniversary of Hiroshima. Details forthcoming.

Defund Fear: UUA Congregational Read Part II

Fall | TBA

Come join us on a powerful faith journey as we explore—each of us, and together—what it means to be human and accountable in a pain-filled world. We will explore *Defund Fear: Safety Without Policing, Prisons, and Punishment* by Zach Norris (Beacon Press, 2021) as the current Common Read.

Link to book: <https://www.uuabookstore.org/Defund-Fear-P18793.aspx>

The UU Common Read builds community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared platform for reflection and a shared focus for action. Author Zach Norris shifts the conversation about public safety away from fear and punishment and toward growth and support systems for our families and communities. In *Defund Fear*, Norris explores what has gone wrong, and why, and who has been most impacted by repressive and racist policing systems. He offers a new blueprint for public safety that holds people accountable while still holding them in community.

To learn more about the Common Read: <https://www.uua.org/read>

Participating in Part I is recommended, and not required. Reading the book is also recommended, not required.