

All Souls is a welcoming spiritual community. We seek truth, practice love, and celebrate life.

December Worship Schedule

Theme: Light

December 6
10:00am

A Blue Christmas with Debbie Reid

This All Souls tradition help us prepare for the season of Light by acknowledging many of us are also confronting the reality that darkness is also part of the month. Debbie will share stories and song during this special time. There will caroling and an opportunity to participate in decorating a tree with blue and silver balls.

Speaker: Debbie Reid

Coordinator: Chris Provance

Musician: Debbie Reid

Sharing the Dream Guatemala: All Souls will also host this special time during coffee on December 6. Many unique, handcrafted items will be for sale that day. All proceeds go directly to benefit women in Guatemala. The sale of these items have helped schools to be built, a senior center opened for elders and a workshop created for others to craft their beautiful items.

December 13
10:00am

Waiting for the Light

This is a season of anticipation: in earth-centered traditions, the impending darkest day of the year, or in Christian tradition, the coming birth of a baby. Each holds out the promise of new life. But for now, we are in a state of waiting. How can we be patient? How can we find hope?

Minister: Rev. David Kraemer

Coordinator: Sue Ann Lang

Musician: Debbie Reid

December 20
10:00am
(9:00am Choir)

Winter Tales

Join us as the children help us tell stories of winter to brighten these long nights. This will be a multi-generational service, with singing, storytelling and sharing.

Minister: Rev. David Kraemer

Coordinator: Julia Tibbetts

Musician: Kristi Holler

December 27
10:00am

White Elephant Potluck

Please come and join us for this time of fellowship. There will be a meal and white elephant exchange of gifts. They may be gifts you have just received or items you would like to well... share with another. Please bring a dish to pass, your own service and beverage. Coffee will be available. The doors will open at 10:00am.

Hosted by Scott and Janet Kunze



From the Minister David Kraemer

Christmas and Chalice

Christmas decorations started going up in Sioux Falls the second week in November. I saw the boom trucks out at Falls Park and downtown one day driving around. "It's not even Thanksgiving, yet," I thought. "That's pushing the season."

But then I reconsidered. Why not get them up? It was warm enough to do the work without frozen fingers. Many years I have been the one on the rooftop in blowing wind and sleet, wishing I had done like my neighbors and put the lights up the weekend before when it was nice.

And quit being such a grump, I said to myself. What harm is an extra few weeks of cheer? This time of year is heavy with stress – the falling light and growing cold have sparked religious ceremonies across the globe and over the ages as people struggled to find meaning in the world around them. Candles and bonfires, not surprisingly, are featured parts of the ceremonies – Hanukah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, Solstice, Jul. We shine a light in the

darkness to remind us we are not alone.

Unitarian Universalists in 2005 began a new tradition called "Chalica" from a wish to have a holiday organized around our principles. Chalica begins on the first Monday in December (Dec. 7 this year) and runs seven days. Each day a chalice is lit in celebration of one of the seven principles. Participants may reflect on the principle that day or find some good things to do to honor it.

Chalica is not universally observed by UUs, but you might consider adding this ceremony to your own festivities. Our worship theme for December is "Light." This observance might add a little light to your own lives. "Light upon the earth, and peace upon the seas," goes a line from a favorite old folksong. As we gather for the holidays, may peace and light surround you.



David's schedule in Sioux Falls is Dec. 7–20, 2015.

Office hours: by appointment. (515) 231-2536
or email suurev@gmail.com



From the President Paul Thompson

December 2015

Joy and I often have Chinese take-out from that center of Chinese culinary excellence, the local Hy-Vee grocery store. This is especially true when she works as a substitute teacher. It's fast and easy.

Tonight, my fortune read, "Keep your face to the light." This is excellent advice, especially in a SD December. In this December, it is doubly appropriate because our monthly theme is "Light."

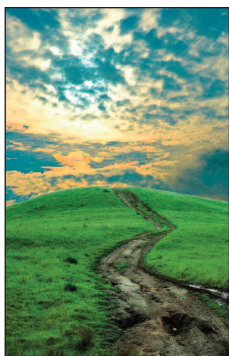
It is the darkest time of the year, and we are working our way to the longest night of the year, December 21, the Winter Solstice. On the night of December 21, we will have a full 15.04 hours of darkness. In "The Hound of the Baskervilles," Arthur Conan Doyle wrote, "Beware the moor in those dark hours when evil is exalted." Somehow, the hours of darkness are difficult for all of us. This is a memory, I sometimes think, deep in our genes of the long millennia when darkness really was a more dangerous time due to the absence of artificial light. The sun sets early. It's the start of the cold season, too. Everything seems a little glum with all that darkness; it's a bit depressing. In South Dakota, it's also very dark on the big prairie.

In compensation for the dark, we now have the lights and festivities of Christmas, the "mass" of Christ. Of course,

before Christmas (which we participate in for cultural reasons), there were other, older traditions. The Romans had the feast of Saturnalia. This began on December 17 and continued through December 23 for a full 7 days of feasting, celebration, and defiance against the darkness. During this time, masters and slaves would change roles, so masters would do the cooking and washing up, while the slaves lolled around like contemporary husbands. People would greet one another with the salutation, "Io, Saturnalia." An obscure Roman senator, Billus Oreilius, would often stand on the Senate floor, decrying the laxity of the Romans and the war on Saturnalia. Times never change.

In our household, we do our best to keep the lights on. We don't do a real tree, but we do have a number of ceramic trees with little lights. Ceramic trees are less likely to tip over or catch fire, all positive features. Late in the year, on that shortest day of December 21, it is pleasant to see the little lights of our little trees. Joy and I engage in tests of strength after erecting our Festivus pole and attempt to keep the airing of grievances to a minimum.

Keeping the artificial lights on helps keep our spirits bright. I take comfort in knowing that even as our days are now getting shorter, they will soon be getting longer. We will soon have more natural light. The long hours of darkness are only temporary. This reminds me that the light is always there, even when it is hidden from us for especially long periods. So, my holiday wish for you is to go forward, and even in this time of much darkness, "Keep your face to the light."



Path To Faith Classes

Path to Faith is for anyone seeking to deepen knowledge and connection to All Souls Church and to Unitarian Universalism. These classes prepare people to be ingathered as members of All Souls, though membership is optional. Classes will cover what UUs believe, including time for sharing individual journeys; where we come from, our history as a movement as a church; and who we are in the world--our social justice focus and our connection to the larger movement.

We welcome you to join us. If you are interested, please contact Mark Sanderson, Rev. David Kraemer, or Holly Thompson, our office administrator.



All Souls welcomed these new members at the ingathering service on November 15:

(Left to right) Gary Pabst, Linda Whittington, and Dan Davis. Standing with them in the back row are Rev. David Kraemer and Mark Sanderson, membership chair.



Family Fun Night Caroling, Cookies & Crafts!

Note the date: December 16! All ages are encouraged to attend our December Family Fun Night, 5:30 to 7pm in the community room of the residence of Robert Vrchota, 900 E. 14th St. in Sioux Falls (near S. Cliff & 14th). After a light dinner of pizza and salad, we will have fun making ornaments, decorating cookies/trees, and singing Christmas carols. December's Family Fun Night is sponsored by the All Souls Singers.

Help us spread the light of holiday cheer. Come and be merry, one and all!



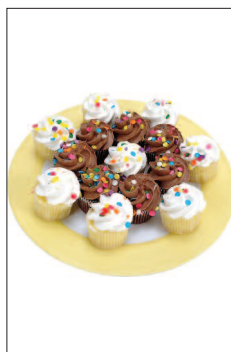
Above: The first Family Fun Night in October was well attended and enjoyed by many members, young and old, from All Souls.



January 1 Banquet Serving

All Souls and Spirit of Peace will again serve at the Banquet on Friday, January 1, 2016 – yes, New Year's Day. We are the prime sponsor this time, so mark your calendars and look for the famous green clipboard on Sunday morning, Dec. 13, and sign up, help cook 2-5pm and/or serve 5-8pm.

Sign up directly by contacting Mark Sanderson at marksanderson@sio.midco.net or 334-0726 (leave a message if I'm out and about). The process: not just a hand-out, but a hand-up. Please help make it happen.



Bake & Buy Holiday Treats! December 13 & 20

Watch for the annual Christmas Bake Sale on Dec. 13 and again on Dec. 20 following the service. You are encouraged to bake festive holiday goodies to contribute to this fundraiser. A baked goods sign-up sheet will be available several Sundays in advance of the sale. This is another major fundraiser for our operating budget, so please your tummy and help the church.



Theology on Tap

All Souls invites you to a Wednesday night social event: Theology on Tap. Come for snacks and beverages of your choice and imbibe in a little theological discussion. Enjoy a good time together, good conversation on a worthy topic, with a little enjoyment, as well.

Theology on Tap will run from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month. This month it will be on December 9. Please, bring your own beverage of choice.

THE SEVEN UU PRINCIPLES

- 1- The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- 2- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
- 3- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth
- 4- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- 5- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process
- 6- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
- 7- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part



"Harvest the Power" Leadership Series

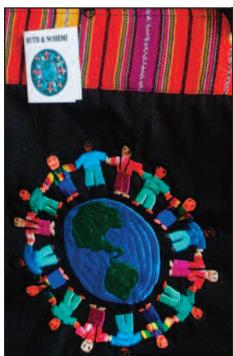
The "Harvest the Power" leadership series, which started with a weekend retreat in November, will continue with the next workshop at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17, at All Souls. The 2-hour workshop is open to all, whether you attended the opening

workshop or not.

This session focuses on "Integrity." Drawing on the work of Edwin H. Friedman, the activities explore a deeper understanding of the chronically anxious society that surrounds and invades our congregational life. Participants name and embrace that which sustains and grounds them and learn how this self-knowledge can help them lead from a place of creativity and imagination, rather than reactivity.

Come join us as we seek to grow.

Love the giver more than the gift.
~ Brigham Young



"Sharing The Dream Guatemala" Shop on December 6, 11:00am

This mission work is made possible by the sale of handcrafted items that will be for sale after the service on December 6, 11am. Representatives from the Sharing The Dream will host the sale and will be able to share even more updates during coffee time.

Your chance to do early holiday shopping and provide a living for indigenous women and families. Bring your wallets. Cash and checks only. No credit cards.

Visit their website at www.sharingthedream.org for more information.

Blessed is the season
which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.
~ Hamilton Wright Mabie

UNFORTUNATELY... THE HOUSE ELVES
ARE BUSY THIS MONTH AND WON'T BE
AVAILABLE TO CLEAN THE CHURCH.

**Volunteer
Elves are
Needed!**

**Dec. 5 & 19
at 10:00am
Church Cleaning**



Where can you find us?

www.sfuu.org • twitter.com/AllSoulsUU • www.facebook.com

www.facebook.com/pages/All-Souls-Unitarian-Universalist-Sioux-Falls/177302048964724

Our private member Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/66794055861/>





"Christmas Dinner at the Parsonage" Fundraiser

Rev. (and Chef) David Kraemer will host "Christmas Dinner at the Parsonage" Saturday, Dec. 12, at 6pm. Tickets will be \$30 per person. Menu includes: pumpkin soup, lasagna with a vegetarian option, tossed salad, and apple pie. Beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages will be served. Sign-up is underway. Getting together for this event should be a great way to generate the UU holiday spirit.

Also note, on Saturday, Jan. 16 those who are invigorated by the crispness of winter will be able to hike, ski or snowshoe at Good Earth State Park, meeting at the home of Joy Hembel and Paul Thompson afterward for a warm meal and cold-defying beverages. Cost will be \$25 per person. More details to come.

Many thanks to everyone who has agreed to host a fundraising social and to all who have attended them, thereby contributing to the operating budget of All Souls.



December 27 Potluck Fellowship with White Elephant Gift Exchange

Please come and join us for this time of fellowship hosted by Scott and Janet Kunze. There will be a potluck meal and white elephant exchange of gifts. They may be gifts you have just received or items you would like to well... share with another. Please bring a dish to pass, your own service and beverage. Coffee will be available. The doors will open at 10 am.

NOTICE:

For security reasons, the basement door will be locked on Sundays from 10:00-11:00am. Please plan to use the front door if you will arrive during that time. Thank you!

Light¹ [lahyt]

noun

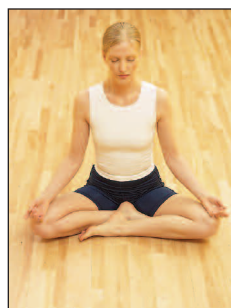
1. something that makes things visible or affords illumination:

All colors depend on light.

verb

1. to give light to; furnish with light or illumination:

The room is lighted by two large chandeliers.



Meditation Group to Meet in Parsonage

An established meditation group, the Lay Buddhist Meditation Community, meets at 6pm on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, in the parsonage just north of the church.

All Souls members are welcome to join them. The fee is a free-will offering, so it is hoped our members take advantage of the opportunity. Here is a link to their Facebook page if you'd like to check them out or "like" them:

www.facebook.com/LayBuddhistMeditationCommunity

**"I drink to
the general joy
o' the whole table."**

**~ William Shakespeare,
*Macbeth***



Men's Un-Group
5:00p.m., Wed., December 16
Monk's House of Ale Repute,
420 E 8th St, Sioux Falls



December 10 Human Rights Day

Human Rights week was created by the UN to emphasize the importance of protecting human liberties throughout the world. The UN General Assembly began the program in

December of 1993 and still over 20 years later, December 10th is celebrated as Human Rights Day.

During Human Rights Week, all nations are encouraged to continue working towards freedom, peace, and security through the respect for human rights.



Camp UniStar Positions Open for Summer 2016

What is Camp UniStar? Think rustic beauty and simplicity.

It is a camp for Unitarian Universalist individuals and families and other like-minded people, nestled in Chippewa National Forest on Star Island, surrounded by clear waters of Cass Lake in northern Minnesota. The lake encourages water activities; the forest trail attracts hikers; sunrises and sunsets invite meditation.

Each summer UniStar welcome campers of all ages to this place out of time where the beauty of nature is rich, life is simple and community is cherished. Camp UniStar offers a week filled with new and old friends, thought-provoking programs, and memorable experiences. Each week has a theme centered around a two-hour daily program on topics such as spirituality, science, sailing, social justice, self-reflection or the arts.

Camp UniStar has a seasonal staff of 14 people. It recruits for a number of positions such as director, food service director, waterfront director, children's program, youth program and generalist.

More details including an application are available at www.campunistar.org

Contact Lynda Borjesson for details on staffing at 612-483-3169.

*May your walls know joy, may every room hold laughter,
and every window open to great possibility.*

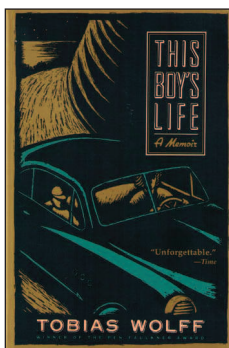
~Mary Anne Radmacher

Happy Holidays!
Merry Christmas!
Happy Hanukkah!
Season's Greetings!
HAPPY KWANZAA!
Solstice Greetings!
Happy New Year!

**WHATEVER YOUR CUP OF CHEER,
WE WISH YOU
A JOYFUL HOLIDAY SEASON.**

**MAY YOU ENJOY THE WARMTH AND
COMPANIONSHIP OF THOSE YOU HOLD DEAR**

**MAY YOU BE FILLED WITH HAPPINESS, JOY
AND CONTENTMENT THROUGHOUT THIS
HOLIDAY SEASON.**



Book Club

Book Club will meet at 7pm, Monday, December 28, to discuss *This Boy's Life* by Tobias Wolff (a memoir). Discussion leader is Bob Vrchota. This is also the bookclub's holiday pot luck.

The January 26 selection will be *Ordinary Grace* By William Kent Krueger (fiction), leader is Tom Houle. This book is this year's One Book SD Selection.

Meetings are the fourth Monday of the month at 7 pm.

Questions or comments can be directed to Barb Peterson, at barbpeterson@sio.midco.net.



Women's Group Holiday Gathering

Instead of the regular monthly Tuesday night gathering, the Women's Group meeting will be held 6:30 pm on Friday, December 11th at Lisa's house, 4004 E. Brookline Dr., Sioux Falls. Please bring appetizer dish to share, and an empty wine bottle for a liqueur to take home as we will be making our own concoction together, and your favorite drink of choice. I will have coffee and hot tea also.

Please call me, Lisa, 605-390-0578 and leave a message if unavailable or text for any questions. Or email is lm_gal@yahoo.com

It will be a fun time!!

Ladies' Supper Club Forming Friends, Food, Conversation

Submitted by Claudia Dail

Would you like to dine out at some of Sioux Fall's wonderful restaurants with church friends? Join us for a monthly adventure of good food and conversation. Details of when and where are in the formative stages, so share your thoughts. Contacts are Marcy Reisetter, 351-8496 and Claudia Dail, 271-2904.



As long as we know in our hearts
what Christmas ought to be,
Christmas is.
~Eric Sevareid



Endowment Fund News Leaving a Legacy

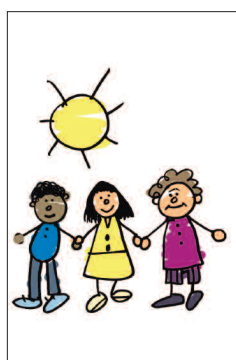
Through the All Souls Church Endowment Fund, you have a way to support the long-term financial stability of the church. Gift opportunities include planned gifts and outright gifts of current assets (stocks, cash, etc.). The Endowment Fund principal is invested according to approved guidelines set forth by the committee. A return of investment of up to 5% may be expended annually for operating support or special needs of All Souls, as determined in the budget approval process. Whatever your gift and whatever the amount, your support of the Endowment Fund leaves a legacy for the future. If you have questions please email Cheryl Squires at Csqi55@aol.com.



Children's RE

December Happenings

All Sundays in December will be used for preparing for December 20th Services. Kids will be practicing songs, poems and creating projects during that time.



Dec. 6 - Prepare for Dec. 20th program

Dec. 13 - Prepare for Dec. 20th program

Dec. 20 - **Winter Tales.** Special children's program and multigenerational service.

You can register your child at any time throughout the year. The children's RE director is Aundrea Jorgensen, email her at reajorgensen@gmail.com.

Women's Group Holiday Gathering



All Souls Women's Group

Friday, December 11 at 6:30pm

Lisa's House, 4004 E Brookline Dr., Sioux Falls

GET INVOLVED! Make the most of your experience at All Souls.

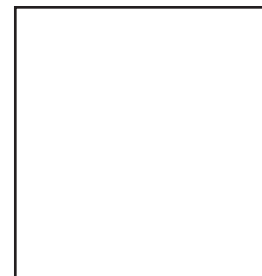
Get involved in the many groups and committees here. There is something for everyone.



PO Box 400
Sioux Falls, SD 57101
605.338.8652|sfuu.org
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Dated material:
Please Deliver Promptly

Submissions, comments or questions
about the newsletter?
allsoulsnews@gmail.com



All Souls Calendar

December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 7:30 pm Facilities	3	4	5 10:00 am Cleaning Morn
6 10:00 am Blue Christmas with Debbie Reid 11:00 am Sharing the Dream Sale	7 6:00 pm Finance 7:00 pm COC	8 6:00 pm Meditation	9 4:00 pm LDC 5:30 pm Theology on Tap Adult RE	10 7:00 pm Board	11 6:30 pm Women's Group Holiday Gathering	12 9:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Holiday Dinner Fundraiser
Rev. Kraemer in Sioux Falls from December 7-20						
13 10:00 am "Waiting for the Light" with Rev. David Kraemer 11:00 am Bake Sale	14	15 7:00 pm Adult Parent Group	16 5:00 pm Men's UnGroup @ Monk's 5:30 pm Family Fun Night	17 7:00 pm Harvest the Power	18	19 10:00 am Cleaning Morn
Rev. Kraemer in Sioux Falls from December 7-20						
20 9:00 am Choir 10:00 am Winter Tales with Rev. Kraemer and Children's RE. 11:00 am Bake Sale	21	22 6:00 pm Meditation	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26
27 10:00 am White Elephant Potluck	28 7:00 pm Book Club	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	1 2-5pm Banquet (cooking) 5-7pm Banquet (serving)	