

Cultivating
Religious Freedom, Diversity,
Inquiry, and Community



The Weekly Expression

Newsletter

October 29, 2009

Upcoming Services:

November 1: The All Souls Search Committee Presents “Searching All Souls”

November 8: “Not God's Team but Ours”
Dr. Brent Smith

November 15: emma's revolution

November 22: THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL Dr. Brent Smith

November 29: “What is Coming?” Dr. Brent Smith

emma's revolution

On November 15, the musical group emma's revolution will be with us in our worship service. The Board of Trustees has agreed that, in conjunction with this performance, we will donate the plate collection to the LGC Network *PLUS program. A description of this program is given below. Be aware that any checks or money that are designated (in an envelope or on the "memo" of your check) as going toward your PLEDGE on November 15 will, in fact, be applied to your pledge. All checks and monies collected that are not designated toward your pledge will be part of our donation to this fine cause. We look forward to seeing you on November 15 for a wonderful service and support of this part of our West Michigan community.

**PLUS- People Like US:*

A safe place for youth to socialize, discuss issues, make friends, and find support to embrace their true selves...Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Straight, Transgender, or Questioning.

The PLUS Group is for teens and young adults, ages 14-23, and meets weekly at the Atlas Avenue Community Center in Eastown.

The goals are to provide a safe environment for youth to feel comfortable asking questions, accessing information, linking to resources, experience being "out" with a sense of pride, and promoting healthy relationships.

The mission statement of the LGC Network: "To serve the LGBT community of West Michigan through networking, referrals, and resources."

Halloween Party for Religious Education!

This Sunday, November 1st, Religious Education (RE) is holding a Halloween Party! Please encourage your child to wear their costume (or bring it to change into if desired). We are looking for volunteers to bring some Halloween treats for the kids, so if you can do this, THANK YOU!

The adult choir is 'taking over' RE this week, so they'll be in on the fun too!

Also, the preschool class will be painting their pottery piece for the auction. Parents, you may want to bring the costume, and dress your preschooler in clothes that can get paint on them.



GIFTS - 2010 Annual Budget Drive

Annual Budget Drive Update

There is still time to make a pledge commitment to the 2010 budget drive to help operate our church. As of Thursday, 10/29, we have 62 commitments for almost \$107,000. We are grateful for each gift but we are still quite short of our goal of \$135,000, which is necessary to run a balanced budget. This amount was based on meeting our current budget (after our reductions in July) and not having to borrow from the investment account. Most everything that can be reduced has been and the programs are doing an excellent job continuing to offer wonderful programs on very small budgets. Our minister continues to inspire and challenge us. If you have any room in your family budget to increase your commitment or make a one-time contribution toward the budget, please contact Meribeth Nudelman who would be happy to provide you with a new pledge form or answer any questions.

Meribeth Nudelman – 915-4757 – fieldsnmer@aol.com

All Souls Community Church Communication:

Please also visit the website at www.allsoulscommunity.org and specifically the new calendar at <http://www.allsoulscommunity.org/Calendar/Calendar.htm> for this weekend's as well as important upcoming events. We also have a page on Face Book. Check it out!

Annual Seder Dinner

Call for Volunteers! The Annual Seder Dinner is on and planning for this event is underway. The evening of Sunday, November 22 is fast approaching and we need volunteers to get all the merriment moving! If you can help with ticket sales, set-up and/or clean-up, please email Shelli Caswell at scaswell@nvps.net to be contacted by our Seder committee.

Reserve the date! The annual Seder dinner will be again served and celebrated at the Social Hall at Ahavas Israel on Sunday evening, November 22. As is our custom, there will be noisemakers, numerous toasts and a delicious dinner for your friends and family complete with the celebration of the bonds of affection we all have in walking together. This family event will require advance reservation on November 8 and 15 (look for our Seder table) to put together a special meal prepared by our own Dan and Cindy Schneider. Call family and friends to fill your tables on this special night to celebrate our history and our community.

Newsletter Guidelines

The Board of Trustees has adopted a policy which addresses what content is suitable for inclusion in our newsletter, the Weekly Expression. In order to keep all our members informed of our existing policies, the board voted to publish this information for everyone to see. If you have questions regarding this (or any Board-adopted) policy, please feel free to contact any of the members of the Board of Trustees with your question or comment. All meetings of the Board of trustees are open to all members of the congregation (with the exception of any discussions regarding personnel issues, which are closed meetings), so you are welcome to attend meetings of the Board of Trustees. We recently discussed some concerns expressed by one of our congregation members over a politically charged issue which appeared in the Weekly Expression. We listened (as best we know how) to those concerns and evaluated our existing policy regarding items in the Weekly Expression. Walking together may sometimes involve hearing or reading opinions with which one may not agree. The board agreed that the existing policy seems to still make sense, and that it allows free expression of a VARIETY of viewpoints in our congregational newsletter without coercing or forcing anyone to agree or disagree with a particular viewpoint.

That policy reads,

"Criteria for Items in the Weekly Expression"

All Souls Community Church (ASCC) welcomes news and information for its weekly newsletter.

- Items may be submitted electronically to weeklynews@allsoulscommunity.org (Currently at Danikristine80@yahoo.com) for consideration.
 - Submissions should be written exactly as intended for publication and submitted by Wednesday noon for the current week's distribution.
 - Brevity is appreciated; submissions are subject to editing.
 - Items submitted for publication must not involve fund-raisers or other activities that do not directly relate to ASCC.
 - General items will be published no more than three times. The submitter should indicate which week(s) the piece should run.
 - Personal e-mail addresses, telephone numbers and mailing addresses should be included only with that person's consent.
 - Requests for "Addendum" mailings will be considered only when critical church activities are put at risk by the lack or delay of announcement. It is critical that items be submitted by the posted deadlines. Overuse of church e-mail can be considered SPAM and may result in people wanting to be removed from our mailing list.
 - The item must not promote ideas opposing the affirmations of the Unitarian Universalist Association (<http://www.uua.org/aboutuua/principles.html>)
- Approved by the Board of Trustees on June 1, 2004

New board member and president of the Board of Trustees

At the October 22nd meeting of the Board of Trustees, two very important additions were made to our board line-up.

First, Mr. Daniel Stegink was appointed Interim President of the Board of Trustees, and you will have the opportunity to confirm this appointment at our December Congregational meeting. As you may recall, we did not have a candidate for this position at the time of our last Congregational Meeting. Dan has agreed to serve in this role for the remainder of the term (until July 1, 2010), if you confirm his appointment. Thank you, Dan, for accepting this challenge!

Second, Ms. Shelli Caswell was appointed to the board to fill a vacancy created by a resignation this summer. Shelli will serve the remainder of the term to which Cathie Benoit was originally elected, if confirmed at the December Congregational Meeting. Thank you, Shelli, for bringing your energy and enthusiasm to the Board of Trustees!

Adult Education Presents Ethical Consumerism Community Forum

November 1: CSA - presented by Trillium CSA Farm

A local Community Supported Agriculture organization, Trillium Farm has become the destination for those seeking fresh, local, chemical-free produce. Farmers Michael VanderBrug & Anja Mast will discuss the many benefits of this exciting trend in food production.

November 8: Buying Local - presented by Local First

Local First is an organization that encourages a vibrant, sustainable West Michigan economy. Elissa Hillary from Local First will speak about environmental and other ethical aspects of purchasing locally.

November 15: Conscious Commerce - presented by Clothing Matters

Since 1996, Clothing Matters has cultivated a world-class collection of responsibly manufactured apparel, in partnership with people committed to fair labor practices and policies that prevent pollution, conserve resources and promote social justice. Hear owner Marta Swain discuss how we can be more aware of the impacts of our purchasing decisions. All presentations are 10:00am to 10:45am. For further information, please contact Bob Stone: (616) 889-7012 / bbstone@aol.com.

6th Annual All Souls Community Church Silent Auction

The silent auction, with a portion of proceeds benefitting the **Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce Institute for Healing Racism**, will once again be held at **San Chez Bistro** located at 38 W. Fulton, Grand Rapids, Mi. 49503 on **December 3rd, 2009**.

The event will take place in the third floor ball room from **6:00pm to 9:00pm**. **San Chez Bistro** has graciously donated the space and will also provide a delectable assortment of appetizers. There will also be a cash bar for your enjoyment.

Tickets are \$25 per person and are available at ascc.auction@yahoo.com or call **616 460-2983**

Items for the auction are still needed, as well.

From ASCC Stewardship and Adult Education:

FINANCIAL PLANNING WORKSHOP

Sunday, November 8 12:30 pm to 1:30pm

Location: Ahavas Meeting Room (Meeting room with small kitchen off hallway from foyer)

Agenda

- Life Stages:
- Young Families
- Mid Life
- Retirement
- Retirement Planning:
- Estate Planning
- Retirement Distributions
- Safety
- Gifting

The presenter is a **financial advisor / registered investment advisor** with **23 years of experience** who works for a well-known brokerage and investment advisory firm in Fenton, Michigan.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, please contact

Mary Blackwell: at mblackwell1938@mac.com / 616-891-1171

emma's revolution leading worship on Nov 15!

All Souls welcomes musical guests emma's revolution to Grand Rapids to participate in the morning worship service. Check out their website at www.emmasrevolution.com for more information, clips, other dates in Lansing (10/23) and Traverse City (11/13) and cool 'peace wear'!

"Emma's Revolution stands out among those voices that deliver a nudge to our conscience and our sense of who we could be."



All Souls Community Church
of West Michigan
P.O. Box 150081
Grand Rapids MI 49515-0081
We meet at:
2727 Michigan Ave. NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan

general email:
info@allsoulscommunity.org

newsletter email:
Danikristine80@yahoo.com

Dr. Brent A. Smith, Minister:
(616) 954-1673
basmith525@aol.com



Visit Us Online!
www.allsoulscommunity.org

All Souls Community Church is a church dedicated to religion, but not to a creed. It is a liberal religious community of free individuals of all ages walking together in relationship to one another, to our larger community and to the transcending mystery of the universe. Our community is based on open communication, democratic process and a belief in the capacity for goodness in all people. Our spiritual health and our growth as a church community are intimately connected with the spiritual growth and development of our children. We pledge to develop our church community with this always in mind. This church aims at celebrating and cultivating community, a sense of inquiry, moral character and insight, religious freedom, and helpfulness to humanity. That is, it aims at liberating and cultivating the human spirit.

Upcoming Events

(ALL EVENTS HELD AT AHAVAS ISRAEL AT 2727 MICHIGAN AVE. NE, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

November Calendar

- 1** 9:45 am: Children's Choir rehearsal, 10:00 am: Adult Education Community Affairs Forum: Ethical Consumerism Meeting Room, 11 am: **WORSHIP AND CHILDREN'S RE** – Search Committee Presentation and Children's Halloween Party 6 to 8 pm ROOTS class for newcomers and visitors
- 3** 7 pm: Adult Education Board meeting, Walburn home,
- 5** 7 - 9 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal at Ahavas
- 8** 9:45 am: Children's Choir rehearsal, 10:00 am: Adult Education Community Affairs Forum: Ethical Consumerism Meeting Room, 11 am: **WORSHIP AND CHILDREN'S RE** – Dr. Brent Smith and RE Celebration Circle with PT Barnum 12:15: Newcomers Program Board meeting, Classroom 7 12:30: Financial Planning Workshop, Meeting Room 6 to 8 pm: ROOTS class for newcomers and visitors
- 10** 7 pm: Covenant Board meeting 7 pm: Stewardship Committee Meeting
- 11** Veteran's Day
- 12** 7 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm: Executive Board of Trustees meeting
- 14 to 15** Youth Roots (9th grade) Chicago trip
- 15** 9:45 am: Children's Choir rehearsal, 10:00 am: Adult Education Community Affairs Forum: Ethical Consumerism Meeting Room, 11 am: **WORSHIP AND CHILDREN'S RE** – emma's revolution 6 to 8 pm ROOTS class for newcomers and visitors
- 19** 6:30 pm: Board of Trustees meeting 7 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 22** 9:15 am: Program Council meeting 9:45 am: Children's Choir rehearsal 11 am: **WORSHIP AND CHILDREN'S RE** - Dr. Brent A. Smith, **Thanksgiving Festival (all ages in Sanctuary)** 6 pm: **Thanksgiving Seder Dinner**, Ahavas Social Hall
- 24** 7 pm: Humanist Covenant Group
- 26** Thanksgiving Day
- 29** 11 am: **WORSHIP (no Children's RE):** Dr. Brent Smith
- Wednesday, December 2**
7 pm: Community Life Dinner Out
- Thursday, December 3** 6 pm: All Souls Community Church Silent Auction, San Chez, third floor 7 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal