

Dear Seeker of Faith,

Our warmest welcome and sincerest thanks for giving us the opportunity to share our worship service with you this morning. It is our goal to make you feel comfortable and at home in our religious community. We hope you find some time to review the contents of this information packet

On behalf of the congregation of All Souls Community Church of West Michigan, I warmly welcome you into our faith community. All Souls is a Unitarian Universalist congregation founded in 2001. We are an inclusive religious community that encourages people to think for themselves, to discuss their views respectfully and – most importantly – to journey together in relationship with one another in support of freedom of thought and religious diversity. All Souls is a warm and caring church community. You will see a truly multi-generational congregation that embraces both the young and old alike.

In March of 2020 we were a thriving, vibrant, and growing congregation. During the last two years we have we have remained steady, stable, and connected as a faith community. As we return to in-person church services, we are also in a time of rebuilding both our music department and religious education classes.

We love a music rich worship service. Justin Colwell, MM, NCTM is our Music Director. We are incredibly blessed to have such a kind, and gifted individual leading this important part of our church. We value religious education for our children and right now we find ourselves in a time of rebuilding. Fawn Rost is our new Coordinator of Religious Education for Children. We will be using Soul Matters curriculum, which is a monthly theme-based lesson plan. For our youngest children we have a staffed nursery to provide childcare.

Both our single adults and families take part in congregational events beyond Sunday mornings. As Unitarian Universalists we take seriously the hard work of social justice and yet we also enjoy hearty meals and some good fun together

Lastly, I sincerely invite you contact me directly at I would be happy to speak with you about this terrific congregation I serve, or any pastoral care concerns you may have. My email is revcolleensquires@allsoulscommunity.org Please know you are welcome here exactly as you are.

Heartfelt Blessings,





More about Music

The music department at All Souls Community Church is filled with joy and centered on community. Music at All Souls serves to lift the spirit and enhance worship. From the youngest child to older adults, from instrumentalists to singers, there is a welcome place for everyone. We enjoy sharing a wide variety of music in our service—everything from Bach to the Beatles.

Our Music Department consists of the Adult Choir, the Instrumental Ensemble, and the Young Souls Choir for children. The Adult Choir is open to all singers high-school-age and older and is directed by Justin Colwell. We rehearse Thursday evenings from 7 to 8:30 PM from mid-August through early June and perform in Sunday worship twice per month during the same period.

The Instrumental Ensemble, directed by Vicki MacConnell, is open to all, performs twice per month in Sunday worship, and rehearses prior to the service. We hope to resume the Young Souls Choir for children in fall 2022. Our musical ensembles join forces for the Christmas Cantata, Christmas Eve worship, and other special Sundays throughout the year. There are also opportunities for soloists and small ensembles to perform Special Music pieces during Sunday worship.

If you'd like to learn more about any of our musical offerings, please contact Music Director Justin Colwell at music@allsoulscommunity.org.



SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE - All Souls Community Church of West Michigan is a faith community that gathers together to nurture our spirits. We are diverse in faith, ethnicity, history, and spirituality, but aligned in our desire to make a difference in the world. We have a track record of showing up on the side of love, justice, and peace. We think for ourselves and recognize that life experience influences our beliefs more than anything.

We are a congregation that welcomes everyone exactly as they are. Each year during our local **PRIDE** event members of All Souls form a **Yellow Wall of LOVE**. Our goal is to joyfully welcome Pride goers, be one example of a supportive faith community, and to form a barrier to block out hate that often frequents Pride festivals.



At the core of our faith is the belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We also recognize that racism is an institutionalized pattern reaching far beyond any single incident or person. Since August 2015 we have held year-round monthly **Black Lives Matter Vigils** – a public witness at Rosa Parks Statue in downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan. Our goal is to support the Black Lives Matter Movement, building partnerships in the community with others who are seeking racial justice and equality. We have been joined by Fountain Street Church, and Plymouth United Church of Christ. All Souls has handed out over 120 yard signs, 450 wristbands and 175 BLM buttons.



We have a very active Environmental Justice Ministry. We believe strongly that our environmental justice must also be grounded in racial justice.

ADOPT A HIGHWAY - We participate in the Michigan Adopt A Highway program. Three times a year we clean up the trash at the Park & Ride near our building. It is one of the many ways we

care for our environment.

Sacred Grounds Native Pollinator Garden at Ahavas Israel and All Souls



In March 2020, All Souls and Congregation Ahavas Israel successfully applied for the National Wildlife Federation's *Sacred Grounds* project in Grand Rapids. *Sacred Grounds* facilitates the development of native plant areas on the grounds of houses of worship. In July 2020, we turned the back patio area into a native pollinator garden and have been adding to it and tending it since. Please check out this lovely video.

<https://vimeo.com/691700576>