

OCTOBER 2026



BOARD'S EYE VIEW

Welcome to Autumn! The season began just over a week ago, and it's off to an exciting start. The nor'easter is still raging out in the ocean as I type this, and over 150,000 homes are without power. We have really been lucky with this storm! The nights are getting cooler, which means the colors will begin arriving within the next couple of weeks. I'm really looking forward to walks under the colors.

The UU theme for October is Courage. Courage is something we value very highly. The people who exhibit courage are very special, and we celebrate them. There are the obvious kinds of courage, like walking into danger, instead of avoiding it. Some people risk their own lives in order to save the lives of others – we call these people heroes.

There are other kinds of courage – the more subtle kinds, that stay within the person. Admitting you are wrong. Having a difficult conversation. Making a decision that will mean a big change for your future. Striking out on your own. Facing your inner demons. Facing those demons in a way that can be observed by others, like coming out, or beginning the long journey to sobriety.

Standing up for the truth, no matter what consequences you may face is another form of courage. Oppressed people across the planet have to live with this last kind of decision every single day. It is exhausting, and often affects their health. They have no personal peace, and the environment they live in can be violent. These people live in various places all over the planet. Any place with political unrest has these possibilities. The people of Ukraine are one such people. The people of Palestine live like this too. They've been doing it for way too long. They need our help.

One thing you can do is to be informed. Read, listen to podcasts, talk to folks, and go to talks/lectures. Luckily, we have a lecture coming up soon, on **November 19, 2026, from 7:00 -9:00 p.m.** It will be about life in modern Palestine, focusing on a new book called Wired to Steal: Zionism and the Shaping of the Western Mind by Yoav Litvin with Ilan Pappé. It can be easy to see the news and think of Israel oppressing Palestine. It is critical, therefore, to remember that, just as in the US, the actions of the government of a nation is not always representative of the will of its people. There are many people in Israel who are against the decisions and actions of their government, and who

actually strongly support the Palestinian people. Please come and hear what these scholars have to say to us.

In peace,
Cassie Walker, Board Member

OCTOBER SERVICES AT 10:30 A.M.

October 4, 2026: Reverend Doug McCusker, Worship Leader;
Topic: “Radical Hope: Courage or Folly?”; Musicians: Laura
Josephs Lemm and Souls Choir, Musicians; Rehearsal at 9:00
a.m. Potluck Lunch and Ice Cream Social to Follow

October 11, 2026: Speaker: Kaia Jackson; Topic: “Dreaming
Courage”; Musician: Julia Bady; Host: Kate Mason

October 18, 2026: Reverend Barbara Threet; Topic: “Hope
Courage”; Musician: Marcy Gregoire; Host: Maria
Tramontozzi

October 25, 2026: Speaker and Musician: Claudia Schmidt;
Host: Rob Peck



of
and

OCTOBER MEETINGS

Board of Trustees: Friday, October 2, 2026, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., goals planning program

Worship Committee, Monday, October 5, 2026, 7:00 p.m., *via* Zoom

Property Committee, Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 7:00 p.m., Minister's Study

Social Justice Committee, Sunday, October 11, 2026, following Fellowship Time

Board of Trustees, Sunday, October 18, 2026, 12:30 p.m., Minister's Study

Congregational Meeting, Sunday, October 25, 2026, Congregation Meeting

FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Property Committee oversees the care of the All Souls Church building and the green spaces around it. We meet once a month to discuss what needs attention and how we're going to do it, and you don't have to be on the committee to attend. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 7 at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Please join us if you're curious about we're doing, or if you've got some ideas about how you could help, even if it's just once in a while! Contact Russ Pirkot at rmpirkot@hotmail.com, or at (413) 772-9610 if you have any questions.

FROM THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Social Justice will have its first meeting on **Sunday, October 11, 2026**, following fellowship, and every second Sunday thereafter. On the Agenda will be looking at the UUA guidelines for becoming an accredited Open and Affirming Congregation.

Also, Susanae will give us an update on FCCPR (Continuing The Political Revolution) and The All Souls Resistance Chorus, Singing for Love and Justice. The chorus meets on most Thursdays in the sanctuary from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Drop In! All are welcome, no singing experience needed. It's a fun group!

Susanae will also be hosting the TrapRock book release on **October 19, 2026**; more info to follow.

We will also share an update from Pam Kelly, who has been working with UUA churches in Maine and New Hampshire in a postcard and canvassing effort to get the vote out in November.

We welcome and encourage any Social Justice issues and concerns you may want to share. You are not alone in feeling the pressing concerns of these times. We need each other more than ever. Your thoughts and concerns are welcome. All are welcome.

SINGING FOR LOVE AND JUSTICE

Singing for Love and Justice has met periodically during the summer. We are meeting weekly again now on **Thursdays, in the sanctuary, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.**. Come when you can, leave when you must. We create a space for people to sing songs of resistance and empowerment during these dark times, and build community. Some of us bring these songs out into the wider community. No commitment needed, all voices are welcome! Email Susanae for more info: hapkitty2@gmail.com

GARDEN REPORT

Welcome to October! We are past the long hot summer and can now enjoy the cooler days and bright colors. We aren't seeing many changes here in the yard yet, but they'll come soon. Meanwhile, we are welcoming plenty of pollinators. It's a critical time of year for them. They need to stock up as much food as possible before the flowers are all gone. I was very happy to find a plant covered in small white flowers that was enjoyed by various kinds of bees, as well as wasps and moths. I thought it was a weed, but then Russ saw it resembled a plant found in the pollinator garden in front of the Senior Center, and pointed it out to me. I'm so glad he did. I was going to treat it like a weed! I'm asking anyone else with knowledge and insights into this yard to please share them with me. I didn't get this position because of my vast expertise, but rather because I was available and willing to do the work.

The big activity now is cleanup. Getting the weeds pulled, trimming the bushes back, and tucking in the beds for the winter. Mulch for everyone! I will be working on these things **Thursday mornings for the next few weeks, 10:30-noon**, though I can be flexible with the schedule if that suits you better.

Please come by – you can help for a bit or just say hi. Ask questions. Do you have a favorite native plant you'd like to see? Let us know. I can be reached at (413) 230-6395, or cassandraw76@gmail.com

Have a great month!
Cassie Walker

HELP WANTED: DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Job Description
Digital Communications Coordinator
All Souls Church
3-4 hrs/week, flexible

Goal: To expand reach of the All Souls community

- 1) Collaborate with the Administrator and Board liaison.
- 2) Website - Maintain and update information and Calendar.

Promote special events

- 3) Concert and Event Promotion- social media, posters, newspapers,
- 4) Social Media- Facebook and Instagram

Please respond with Letter of Interest or Resume to [**HR@UUGreenfield.org**](mailto:HR@UUGreenfield.org)

FOLK LEGEND CLAUDIA SCHMIDT LIVE: SATURDAY, OCT. 24, 2026, 7:00 PM.

Join us in the sanctuary for an incredible evening of acoustic music and storytelling with *A Prairie Home Companion* favorite Claudia Schmidt. Experience her powerful vocals, 12-string guitar, and mountain dulcimer as she blends folk, jazz, and traditional roots music into a tapestry of song and spoken word. Admission is \$20 at the door; no one turned away for lack of funds. Doors open at 6:30 P.M.

