

SEPTEMBER 2026



All Souls Church, 399 Main Street, Greenfield, Massachusetts

BOARD'S EYE VIEW

Let me begin by greeting you with love and affection!

The All Souls Board of Trustees has met over the summer, and we are excited to kick off our church year with "Bright Beginnings!"

The beginning of our church year starts us fresh from other places, mindsets, and ideas. We may find ourselves rising slowly to engage in the ritual returning or maybe racing to rejoin. It matters not... yet, I encourage us all to consider how the cycles of a day, a season, a year... all have a beginning. Learning a new skill has a starting point, beginners bring fresh eyes, new mornings bring renewed energy, September certainly brings opportunity to refresh our spirit, minds, and love as we gather to join our All Souls community.

On September 13, we meet for our first Sunday. At this we have a yearly Water Communion, symbolically joining our summers by mingling water from our days in the sun, by the sea, in the garden, paddling, hiking, relaxing, and sweating! (Bring a sample to join or borrow from the pitcher.)

Behind the scenes, over our summer break, the Board and Committees have worked and thought about our coming year. Crafting a strong beginning and gaining momentum. Beginning anew.

We will meet in many ways. Luncheon for our first Sunday (September 13, 2026 and actual first Sundays of the month thereafter), Four Seasonal Congregational meetings with discussions, "course setting", and votes, celebrations and vigils, Social Action commitments, Fun, Membership, Hospitality, Learning opportunities, and plans for Caring for our community.

Find a committee that you like? Join it as a member or a one-time helper. Interested in the Board? come sit in! We commit to ignite our minds, spirit, and lives, taking on our church year with vigor. We will be offering questions to ponder, acknowledge the difficult world conditions, and together stand witness, forge action, and provide solace amongst ourselves and to our community.

We invite and challenge ourselves to articulate personal beliefs, get to know each other better, and celebrate how we fit together in this beautiful mosaic of UU. We bring with us to church full and

partial "other" faith traditions, we acknowledge and bring forward, and sometimes sharing those practices that resonate and nourish us and the songs and words that speak to our hearts.

We are a non-credal faith, requiring no adherence to professions of belief. We have values centered by love. We value science and synergy. We adore our planet. We respect humanity and fairness, we work to undo racism and other oppressions. We stand on the side of LOVE.

Let us together... begin, live, and end with LOVE.

May our new year begin brightly and may love find us all,
Christine K. Bates
Board Chair

SEPTEMBER SERVICES AT 10:30 A.M.

September 13, 2026: Water Ceremony; Reverend Doug McCusker, Worship Leader; Topic: "Beginning Again Together Mid-Stream"; Musicians: Laura Josephs Lemm and Souls Choir, Musicians; Rehearsal at 9:00 a.m. Potluck Lunch to Follow

September 20, 2026: Rabbi Jim Levinson, Worship Leader and Musician; Topic: "The Power of Intention"; Host: Rob Peck

September 27, 2026: Taylor Ortiz, Worship Leader

SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

Worship Committee, Monday, September 7, 2026, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom

Property Committee, Wednesday, September 16, 2026, 7:00 p.m., Minister's Study

AND: Thursday, September 10, 2026 - Franklin County Fair Parade: 4:30 p.m.: Line up on Sanderson Street. The Golf Cart will be decorated with flags and banners. Join us!

FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The new sidewalk, retaining wall, stairs down to the pantry door, and storm drain work on the Hope Street side of the building are nearly completed, and will be done before our first service on September 13. Cassie Walker has spearheaded planting and trimming in front of the building, and in our side yard, over the course of the Summer, with some assistance from Russ Pirkot. There's still more to be done before the winter weather approaches, and Cassie would welcome anymore assistance. We have gardening tools at the building, but folks are welcome to bring their own. Cassie can be reached at **(413) 230-6395**.

The Property Committee will meet next on **Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.**, (just three days after our first service), right at the building. There's just four of us now, (David Levitt, Rocky Perham, Cassie and Russ), so newcomers are very welcome to join us. We take care of our grand old building, and the grounds where it sits. Please, come to a meeting, lend a hand or two, or



in

at least share your interest with a question or comment. Reach the committee at property@uugreenfield.org.

Editor's Note: The yellow lines on the front steps look great!

FOR THE LIFE OF ALL SOULS CHURCH WE ARE A STRONG COMMUNITY

Our Mighty Faith of principles, values, and practices have, for centuries, held us to our caring views and our assertive ability to be future-thinking and openness. In our Summer Sunday experience, we can review the Eight Spheres of Spirituality which is a UU curriculum where our Faith emanates from... whether we are intentional or we intuitively understanding our groundings.

Looking at uua.org and search 'curriculum spirituality practices' you will find a gold mine of UU faith practices. Specifically, to our work in how we identify our authority as horizontal in faith and action, we have very powerful spiritual management upon which to rely and to offer to others. This church season we can offer an after Sunday focus group on building our personal Credo sharing our faith groundings and exploring how this church community has, in itself, a grounding and importance in our lives. We can hold these focus groups on the fourth Sunday of each month.

- Kay Judd

NAVIGATING AI: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Navigating AI: Where Do We Go from Here? Join **Dr. Jeffrey C. Dixon**, Professor at the **College of the Holy Cross**, on **Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., at Our Lady of Peace, Turners Falls, MA**, for a timely, non-technical look at how AI is changing our lives and how we can embrace technology while keeping human connection and the common good at the center.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.. **Enjoy the presentation with the newly upgraded AV equipment!**