



**Update From
Director of Religious Education
Dr. Chris Rogutsky**

**News about the All Souls NYC
Religious Education Program
Friday, September 2, 2022**



Hello,

The arrival of fall is nearly upon us. This weekend offers one last burst of summer to celebrate the season. I hope you have some wonderful events planned with your family and enjoy a BBQ or family picnic. For all those children starting school next week, may the new year provides a chance to reconnect with old friends, make some new ones and ignite a passion for learning.



The All Souls RE website is up and running at <https://www.allsoulskidsnyc.org/>

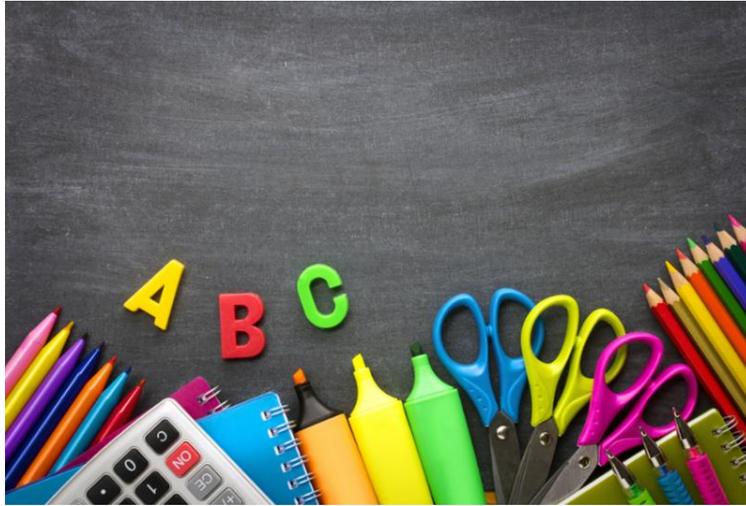
There you can find information about family meetups planned for the rest of the calendar year: <https://www.allsoulskidsnyc.org/family-meetups.html>

Read about special events: <https://www.allsoulskidsnyc.org/special-events.html>

Guest artists: <https://www.allsoulskidsnyc.org/artistic-residencies.html>, archived newsletters and so much more.

I will be adding to it daily, so please check back regularly as I expand the content of the site.

I look forward to seeing everyone on September 11th for our Welcome Back reception and picnic. Please do not hesitate **to email me with any questions.** ~ Wishing you peace, Chris



Calling All Artists!

Do you like the above art? Dr. Chris created it, but she would love to have some UU-focused art to feature in that space for the newsletter. Please have

your child/youth **send their submissions to Chris.**

Sign Up Your Child For RE Classes!

We will be offering classes from K-12, including a high school group. **Please take a moment to register your child using this link.**

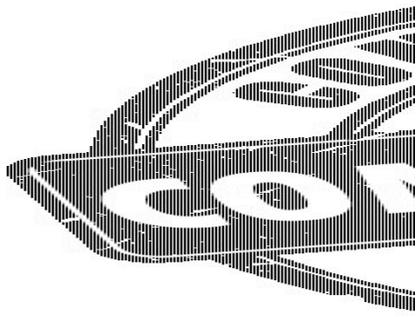
Volunteers Needed to Teach RE Classes!

We need you to help teach RE classes this year. If you can help teach, **please contact Chris Rogutsky** as soon as you can.

Save the Dates!

We will host an RE picnic on Sept. 11 after the 11:15 am service.

During the 10 am hour, we will gather on the roof as a community to discuss the upcoming



year and reconnect. RE classes will begin on September 18.

Share Your Joys in Community

Does your child or youth have an accomplishment, success story or milestone that you would like to share with our All Souls family?

Let us know and we will post them here.

RE SPECIAL EVENTS AT ALL SOULS

SEPTEMBER 2022

11 MEET & GREET - 10:15 AM

SUN

18 BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

SUN During 11:15 Service (For Parents)

25 BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

SUN During 11:15 Service (For Parents)

Parents of children enrolled in the RE program are asked to attend this multi-week session drawing inspiration and conversation from the book, *Art of Community*, by Charles Vogel. This work will be facilitated by Marjorie Jean-Paul who is a senior independent school administrator in charge of Community Engagement, including Philanthropic programs, Parent and Alumni Relations and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives. She brings with her 25 years of experience working with groups of people to design programs around effective community engagement.



Marjorie Jean-Paul

Unitarian Church of All Souls
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“With all these lovely tokens of September days are here, with summers best of weather and the autumns best of cheer.”

Helen Hunt Jackson

Nature Project

Nature Tables

A nature table is a place in the home



where you can follow the natural cycle of the year. The figures and items on the table depict the essence of what is happening in nature. The important aspect of a nature table as it relates to children is that the child is able to connect with the objects and the scene depicted on the table.

The nature table is also a great way

to highlight and celebrate seasonal festivals. I am moving towards incorporating festivals from all over the globe. I think that this is a magical way to expose children to cultures not as familiar to their family. Constantly improving and adapting the table to new treasures or changing seasons is a lot of fun both for parent and child.

Step 1 – Find a Space

I encourage families to “start small.” I recommend placing a little table in the corner of a room, or securing a floating shelf to the wall. Some families create nature scenes as centerpieces on their dining tables, instead of using separate tables.

Step 2 – Observe the Natural World

Think about the colors you love in the current season, make note of them, and plan to use them for your table. Color can be added to the table in many different ways. Many people use fabric to decorate their tables. If adding fabric to your table isn’t possible, think about gathering objects that add color – leaves or flowers for example. Another way to add color is by decorating a bare branch (supported in a vase) with felt or paper leaves or other objects.

Step 4 – Find Treasured Natural Objects

Now it’s time to get your children involved! Take a walk, and notice the beauty around you. If you see a lovely stone, flower, or other treasure, take it home and add it to your table. These objects will need to be refreshed from time to time. If you like, you can incorporate this process into your weekly or monthly rhythm.

Step 5 – Add Story

Nature tables can also be used to tell stories. Think about what stories are important to you and your family right now. You could also create a simple story, such as a harvest scene. If a meaningful story comes to mind, find a way to include it on your table.

Step 6 – Add Wonder

While this may sound like a lofty goal, it can be as easy as placing a candle on your table. Of course, make sure children are well-supervised once the candle is lit.

Step 7 – Refresh

Nature tables are dynamic. Refresh and update your table as you feel fit. This shouldn't be a chore, though. Your children will naturally find new objects, and the seasons will change. Let the changes flow, and don't overthink them.

The nature table is an invitation for creativity and connection. There aren't any prescriptions. It's how you live into your connection with the natural world, and the images you can bring. It's a wonderful activity.

Walking with Dr. Chris on the High Line!

Monday
September 26th

11:00 am
(Schools Closed)

HIGH LINE

*Meet at the entrance on Gansevoort Street and Washington Street
(Northwest corner)*

The High Line is a public park built on a historic freight rail line elevated above the streets on Manhattan's West Side. The High Line opened in 2009 as a hybrid public space where visitors experience nature, art, and design. It is free to walk the High Line.

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High Line Web site link
Scan the QR Code with your cell phone camera



All Souls NYC | 1157 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10075

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