



All Souls



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DIRECTOR
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EDUCATION

News about the All Souls NYC Religious Education Program

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Garden of Light
In a Winter Garden,
Dark the Earth below,
Earth is waiting, waiting, waiting
For her seeds to grow



Dear Families,

During the month of December, there is a celebration called the Winter Garden, or Advent Garden. The term "advent," means "coming towards" in



Latin. In Christian traditions the term refers to the four weeks leading up to the festival of Christmas and the birth of the Christ Child. However, this seasonal observance has been kept by people around the world from all paths and beliefs.

The Winter Garden spiral is one of my most treasured traditions and I am so happy to share it with the All Souls community on Sunday. We will be celebrating from 10 am - 12 pm with several activities. I am overjoyed that my friend, Dr. Dale Stuckenbruck will play music during the spiral walk. This will be followed by holiday stories read to us by the talented thespians, Miles Chapin and Emily Bergl, and a paper crane origami craft activity led by the venerable Neal Sofge. We will conclude the festivities with a potluck celebration with families.

This will be a time to look around and to look within, to experience as fully as possible the action of "coming towards."

The Winter Garden Spiral: What to expect...

From approximately 10:05-10:30 children and community members will have an opportunity to walk the evergreen spiral. All should come to Reidy Friendship Hall, where there will be a spiral of evergreens dotted with small treasures from nature. Please enter quietly and with reverence. I will have chairs around the spiral for everyone to be seated at. One by one individuals will be invited to go to the start of the spiral where they will receive an apple with a candle. They will then walk the spiral and find a place to set the apple down. Each participant will have a turn as the room will be silent aside from the music playing. By the end of the ceremony, the spiral will be bright with light, illuminated with all the candles.

This experience creates a powerful picture of one's candle contributing to the great light with others in the dark world, and a reminder of the reliable turning of the sun from

weakness to strength each year at the Winter Solstice.

Join us! All are welcome!

a look into the classroom



Holiday Pageant

Thank you for giving, so willingly and joyfully, your time and attention to this year's Holiday Pageant. As we enter our cold dark season, it is wonderfully warming to see such varied ages and generations gathered together in celebration of many holiday traditions from around the world. Much appreciation to all the families for being a part of the RE program, the RE teachers and volunteers, Vashti Theatre Dance and the All Souls Music team. A special note of gratitude to Rev. Audette in her work in authoring the youth readings and helping to coordinate such a special event.

upcoming dates to note

Friday December 16 at 6 pm



Religious Education Committee
Meeting on Zoom
Meeting ID: 377 932 7856
Passcode: Wk7ep0

Sunday, December 18 at 10 am-12 pm
Spiral Walk, Story and Craft

Children will have an opportunity to walk the evergreen spiral. This will be followed by story, craft and snack. Kindly bring a potluck holiday favorite and simple handmade gift.

Saturday, December 24 at 4 pm Family Service

mark your calendars



All Souls NYC
A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Christmas Eve Family Service

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 24TH
4:00 PM
(IN THE SANCTUARY)**

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