

OPENING WORDS

Emily Petrie

Sunday, October 8, 2017

Good morning, and welcome to All Souls. My name is Emily Petrie, and I have been a member here since 2013. I came to All Souls in search of community, and am infinitely grateful for this place I can call home.

This is a space where we show up for each other as much as ourselves, and where we can find support for answering big questions along with the challenges of everyday life. This has been the community that has supported me through six jobs, three bouts of unemployment, two apartments and endless questions about what comes next – so far.

The Young Adults community has given me many of my closest friends in New York, who never cease to amaze me with their brilliance and compassion. My time on the leadership team of the young adults has pushed me to think about how genuinely to welcome people and how to build the community so many of us seek when we walk through these doors.

Small Group Ministry has given me a space to connect deeply and grow with other church members, in a way I didn't recognize was missing from my life for years. On the Tuesdays we didn't meet, I missed having a space where each of us could bring our joys and sorrows.

While I don't know what the next five years will bring, I am excited that All Souls will be a part of that journey.

Now, please rise as you are able and join me in reciting our bond of union.