We welcome everyone. Our Unitarian Universalist community seeks truth and deeper meaning, pursues justice through inspired action, and cultivates compassion and love for all connected by the web of life.

Mission statement, adopted May 18, 2014

Accessibility- Large print and braille hymnals are available, as are hearing assistance devices. Please see an usher if you need either of these.

Chalice- The flaming chalice symbolizes the light that guides us in our spiritual and humanitarian path. During World War II it became a symbol of risk, service and freedom that has been widely adopted by many UU congregations.

Introducing Guests and Visitors- We would like to get to know you, and suggest that you take the opportunity to introduce yourself. An usher will bring you the microphone.

Joys and Sorrows- You are welcome to share your life's milestones with the congregation, even if this is your first visit. One way we do this is to place a stone in the bowl, symbolizing giving your joy or sorrow to the congregation to hold with you. If you choose, you may also speak it at the microphone. We have Pastoral Care Associates on duty who are trained in compassionate listening if there is a sorrow or a trauma in your life that you wish to talk about today. You may also email listeners@albanyuu.org or phone (518-463-7135).

Children Your children are welcome to stay with you in service, or be with a group of children around their own age under the supervision of screened adult volunteers (two per group). Childcare is available in Room 22 for children three and under during most services. See the easel sign in the lobby or inquire at the Sunday Morning Office Window or Welcome Desk for more information. Most weeks, children and youth go to their groups after the Wisdom Story in service, and someone will be available in the hallway at that time to assist you and your family.

You are welcome to participate in any of the classes, programs and activities offered by our congregation. Please fill out a guest card at the Welcome Table in the lobby to learn more.

Albany Unitarian Universalist

Rev. Linda Hoddy, Interim Co– Minister Rev. Dr. Lynn Ashley, Interim Co-Minister Elizabeth Baldes, Director of Programs for Children and Youth Olga Martinez, Director of Music Ministry Amy Lent, Administrator

405 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York · AlbanyUU.org

Contact us: 518.463.7135 · admin@albanyuu.org

A Very Caring Christmas Pageant

Rev. Dr. Lynn Ashley



Albany Unitarian Universalist Sunday, December 17th, 2023 10:00 AM

A Very Caring Christmas Pageant December 17th, 2023

Gathering Music

Olga Martinez

Ringing of the Chime

Prelude

AUU Jazz Singers

O Christmas Tree

Chalice Lighting

Rev. Dr. Lynn Ashley and Ireta London

Welcoming all free seekers of truth and meaning,

we gather to excite the human spirit, to inspire its growth and development,

to respond morally and ethically to a troubled world,

and to sustain a vital and nurturing religious community.

Welcome

Rev. Ashley

Joys and Sorrows

Laura Paris

A Time for Meditation

Alison Hart and Lee Newberg

and Reflection

The Pageant

Why Do We Celebrate Christmas?

Rev. Ashley

Hymn

Congregation

#248 O We Believe in Christmas (verses 1 & 4)

Pageant: Part 1

Choral Interlude

Albany UU Choir and Olga Martinez

Peace Come Now

Pageant: Part 2

Choral Interlude

Albany UU Choir

Little Drummer Boy

Pageant: Part 3

Choral Interlude

Albany UU Choir

In the Lonely Midnight

Pageant: Part 4

Hymn

Congregation

#231 Angels We Have Heard On High

Pageant: Part 5

Offering and Offertory Hymn

Ireta London

#259 We Three Kings Congregation

Pageant: Part 6

Hymn Congregation

#235 Deck the Halls

Extinguishing of the Chalice

Ireta London and Rev. Ashley

We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth The warmth of community, or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.

Announcements, Coffee Hour Connections, and Invitations

Rev. Ashley

and Bob Franklin

Pageant Roles:

Narrator 1 **Natalie Plamondon** Narrator 2 **Flora Schlesinger**

Narrator 3 **Zora Miller**

Caesar Adrian Cattell

Innkeeper **Griffin Kullas** Head Angel **Deedee Quail**

Mary Miquela Torres

Joseph Theo Stanwicks

Drummer **Charlotte Baldes**Shepherds **Leo Wheeler**, **Griffin**

Kullas, Adrian Cattell

Angels Octavia Hart, Ruby Wheeler,

Patsy Schaeffing

Star Bearer Anna Baldes (understudy

Liz Richards Hart)

Wise people Veronica Allen, Charlotte

Baldes, Eli Stanwicks

Production Team:

Stage Crew **Micah Torres**Pageant Helper **Anna Baldes**Coordinator **Elizabeth Baldes**

Coffee Hour has been provided today by the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Flowers arranged by Barb Manning and donated by Chuck and Barb Manning in memory of Chuck's dad, Clarence Manning, whose favorite color was red.

Next Sunday's service, on Christmas Eve, is at 5pm. There will be no morning service on 12/24.

It is with gratitude and humility that we acknowledge that we are learning, speaking and gathering on the ancestral homelands of the Mohican people*, who are the indigenous peoples of this land. Despite tremendous hardship in being forced from here, today their community resides in Wisconsin and is known as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. We pay honor and respect to their ancestors past and present as we commit to building a more inclusive and equitable space for all.