



Albany Unitarian Universalist

WINDOWS WEEKLY January 26, 2024

Join us this Sunday!

COVID cases increasing: masks recommended.

8:30-9:20 AM.....Mindfulness Meditation

Online: <https://tinyurl.com/AlbanyUU-Meditation-4>

--Meeting ID: 518 463 1429 **--Password:** 1842415

By telephone: 1-929-205-6099

9:45.....Nursery/Toddler Room open for childcare

Room 23

10:00-11:00 AM.....

In Person: Community Hall

Online: <https://tinyurl.com/AlbanyUU-SundayService>

--Meeting ID: 299 018 7785 **--Password:** 0000

Order of service:

<https://albanyuu.org/about-sunday-services/upcoming-worship-services/>

Sunday Offering: <http://tinyurl.com/AlbanyUU-Contribute>

By telephone: 1-929-436-2866

11:00 AM-12:00.....Coffee Hour

In Person: Channing Hall, hosted by Dawn Dana with the Religious Services Committee.

Online: Join a breakout room on Zoom after the service!

In the pulpit

Sunday, January 28

"Many and One," Rev. Linda Hoddy

"The Spirit overseeing all, Eternal Love, remains." Those words by John Greenleaf Whittier appear in our hymnal as "Immortal Love" (#10). How can we access that love? Is that Love the source of all? Dare we call it God? As we work through conflicts, whether here or at home or at work or school, can we stay anchored in that love? Can it guide us in our interactions? Can we open our hearts enough to experience it? Can it renew our life together?

Sunday, February 4

"In Trust," Rev. Linda Hoddy

We are suffering from a lack of trust in our society. For often good reasons, we don't trust our major institutions: Government, law enforcement, education, politics, financiers, the workplace, religion.... Where is there lack of trust in your life? In your family? In our congregation? Richard Rohr wrote "If we are not trained in a trust of mystery and some degree of tolerance for ambiguity and suffering, we will not proceed very far on the spiritual

journey." How can we repair trust?

- **Need to Talk? Albany UU Pastoral Care Associates are here to listen!** [Learn about our Pastoral Care program.](#)
- **Submit Joys and Sorrows ahead of time** at this new link, <http://tinyurl.com/JoysAndSorrows>
- **Windows Weekly:** Send newsletter submissions to windows@albanyuu.org
- **Sign-up for Sunday Volunteering** on this [spreadsheet](#)
- **Board of Trustees meeting and contact information**
- **Ministry and Operations Team meets** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 5:30PM via zoom only; submit agenda items using this [NEW LINK](#)

Programs for Children and Youth

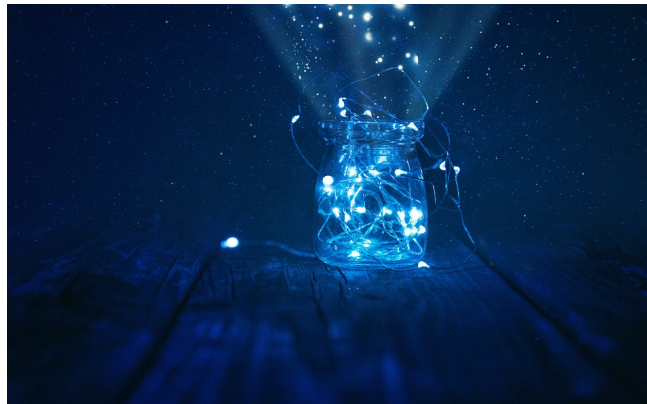


Image by Joshua Woroniecki from Pixabay

Programs for Children and Youth

Sunday, January 28- Please note that the two upstairs groups are combined this week.

- Three & Under Nursery/Toddler Room 22 opens at 9:45 for drop-off
- PreK-Grade 3 starts in Community Hall for service at 10AM, then meets in Room 24/25 until 11:15AM
- Grade 4-7 starts in Community Hall for service at 10AM, then meets in Room 24/25 with the PreK-Grade 3 group until 11:15AM
- Junior High Our Whole Lives starts in Room B3/B4 at 10AM until 11:30AM
- High School Youth Group starts in Room B8 at 10AM until 11:15AM

Transition Updates

Board calls for two more years of Interim Ministry Settled Search to begin in 2025

In spring 2023 we engaged with the UUA to help us conduct a search for a two-year Interim Minister to begin August 2023. That particular matching process did not yield an Interim Minister, but we were fortunate that our current Interim Minister Team (Reverends Linda Hoddy, Lynn Ashley and Margret O'Neill) became aware of our needs, and proposed to lead us through the first year of our interim process, each signing a one-year contract. Reverends Linda and Lynn, our on-site ministers--having made a decision not to extend their ministry with us into a second year--will be with us through July 2024.

Being halfway through this first interim year, we are planning our next steps. The Board of Trustees has been meeting with the Interim Minister Team and Keith Kron, UUA Director of Transitions. We are also engaging on a regular basis with our Albany UU Transition Team, led by Rev. Margret. This collaboration has resulted in a decision to hire one Interim Minister who will support us going forward starting August of 2024. Keith Kron shared his optimism about

conducting our next search for an Interim Minister. He also reported that the success of congregations making a match with a settled Called Minister is exponentially higher for congregations that have a two- or three-year interim period versus a one-year interim period. The Albany UU Transition Team supports this recommendation to extend our interim ministry for another two years. The Board believes that our readiness factor for a called minister will be much enhanced by engaging a two-year Interim Minister to help us with a successful transition process that will result in attracting a strong Called Minister.

At the January 25, 2024 Board meeting, the decision was made to conduct another Interim Minister search process this spring, seeking a two-year Interim Minister to lead us from August 2024 through July of 2026. On the basis of extensive observations about our congregational health and our overall vision, we are resolved that our congregation needs this additional year to work on structure, decision-making, policies, and right relations, and to do more discernment around our needs. We plan to conduct a Called Minister Search beginning in the spring of 2025, and meanwhile hope to be successful in finding a good match for an Interim Minister to take us through our next two years.

There is much work to do, we are committed to doing that work with you, and we look forward to hearing from the congregation during the Listening Circles hosted by the Transition Team.

Board of Trustees - *Molly Daniels, President; Jan McCracken, Vice President; Maria Phillips, Treasurer; Laura Churchill, Secretary; Chuck Manning; Randy Rosette; Mike Myers; Dawn Dana*

A TLC invitation from the Albany UU Transition Team

The Albany UU Transition Team is scheduling small group sessions (Transition Listening Circles) to hear from the Albany UU community. This is your invitation to participate in a Transition Listening Circle (TLC).

TLCs are groups of 10 or so people, led by a facilitator. The structured 90 minute process allows for each person to share their thoughts on Albany UU - What do you like? What do you worry about? And what do you hope for the future of Albany UU?

These TLCs will provide invaluable input for the congregation to consider in our interim period, as well as during the search for, and transition to, a new minister. Participants will gain a better understanding of, and appreciation for, each other's perspectives. The input gathered in these TLCs will be combined with the results from the October Transition Startup Workshop. Even if you participated in that workshop, you are encouraged to take part in a TLC.

There are a number of session dates and times available, both in person at Albany UU and on Zoom. Registration for each session is limited, so please register promptly to ensure that you can get into the session that works best for you. Child care will be available for the in person TLCs.

Please register for the following times/dates using this link. You will receive an email confirmation. <https://fuusa.breezechms.com/form/a10f658942>

If you have questions about the Transition Listening Circles, please reach out to Betsey Miller (bmiller15@nycap.rr.com). For questions about registration or, if you need to change your registration, please contact the Albany UU office (518-463-7135) or (office@albanyUU.org)

Thank you from the Albany UU Transition Team - *Ireta London, Betsey Miller, Jon Newell, Lea N'ko Ryman, Pascelle Saint Laurent, Stephanie Saunders, Peggy Sherman, Todd Thomas*

Announcements and Upcoming Events

KUDOS

...to our cleaning crew, Jim and Tony, for handling last Sunday's set-up as well as many interesting messes from last weekend.

...to Ilene and Tim Kane for being reliable and level-headed Building Hosts.

...to Al De Salvo for quickly responding to a leak!

Joys and Many Concerns

The Religious Services Committee has had ongoing concerns about our Joys & Sorrows ritual. The practice of offering an open microphone for sharing has often provided poignancy and intimacy in support of our bonds of caring community. But the open mic has sometimes been misused, causing harm and creating dissonance with the spirit of our services. In this time of transition, the committee decided to experiment, for a limited time, with a different approach to the sharing of joys and sorrows, and to gather congregational feedback during a time of discernment. ([READ THE REST HERE.](#))

Celebrations of Life

A memorial service for **Earl Zimmerman** will be held in Community Hall at **2:00 PM**, Saturday, Feb. 10, followed by a reception. Folks many also join via zoom using the link <https://tinyurl.com/AlbanyUU-Memorial>. Contributions of finger food will be appreciated for the reception. Friends of Earl are invited to serve as ushers: If you'd like to sign up as an usher please call Amy Lent at the AUU office (518-463-7135).

We have lost another beloved longtime member of Albany UU. With sadness, we share news that **Lois Thomson** died peacefully Tuesday, January 10. Plans for a memorial service will be announced in the spring. Condolences to the larger family can be sent to Alan Thomson, 67 Academy Rd, Albany NY 12208.

Fellowship and Food Potluck

Our next congregational potluck will be in Channing Hall on **Friday, Jan 26** from 5:30PM to 7:30PM.

Friends and family are welcome! There will be a craft table for youth. If you are interested in helping out or have questions, please contact sharonbabala@gmail.com.

Those planning on attending can RSVP at [this form link](#) or contact Sharon.



Family Circle Dinner

Saturday, January 27 at 5pm.

Note that Channing Hall has another event that night, so the Family Potluck will be hosted in Community Hall and in upstairs classrooms. Please just come as you are able, the event does not require an RSVP.

Please bring a dish to share, if you are able. Group play to follow food!

Winter Sound Journey

Carols of the Heart Presents: A Winter Sound Journey: Honor the Darkness promises to transport you through a world of enchanting and soothing sounds. Withdraw from the world of overstimulation and enter into a mini-hibernation protected in a cave of healing sounds. Experience deep peace and profound rest that Winter invites.

Nicholee Froese, who preformed during last Sunday, January 14, during service, will be the musician.

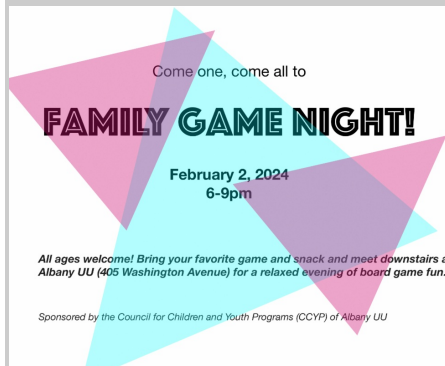
Date: 01/31/2024

-Time: 6:30 pm

-Location: Refuge Event Space

5th Avenue, Troy, NY, USA

-More Information



Family Game Night

On **Friday, Feb 2**, Council for Children & Youth Programs is hosting a Family Game Night downstairs at Albany UU **from 6PM-9PM**. All ages are welcome. Bring your favorite game and snack for a relaxed evening of board game fun!



Sending Out HUUGs

(Hearty UU Greetings)

to our Fledgling Young Adults

Whether they are in college, volunteering, in the military, having a gap year, or working, our fledgling young adults- those who have left our high school youth group - so appreciate a package with notes and goodies from us at Albany UU!

Let's show them some love!

Please place your donation in the lobby near the Programs for Children & Youth easel sign.

Suggested donations include individually packaged items like the ones listed below. We'll need enough for around 18 people:

- packets of soup or noodles
- dried fruit
- tea, coffee, and hot chocolate
- candy or gum
- a note with your good wishes
- microwave popcorn
- granola bars
- lip balm

***Donations needed by 10:00 am Sunday, Feb 2,
when Youth Group will pack the boxes.***

Art Show opening Friday, Feb. 2

Come see the new art show in Channing Hall and meet the artist! Our guest artist for February is Susan Whiteley Fuller. Susan's father was an award-winning photographer who was never seen without a camera around his neck. She spent time with her father in the darkroom at home

learning about developing and printing photos, but she attributes her “eye” to the influence of her mother’s artistic abilities. Mainly self-taught, she had taken photography classes in the United State and abroad. She enjoys learning more about photography through engaging in the process. Her photographs have been hung in several shows and she sells her work in galleries, privately and in local shops.

Multigenerational Multicongregational Online Trivia Night!

Gather with UUs from around the region on **Friday, Feb 2, from 7-8:30 pm** for a multigenerational, multicongregational trivia night! As in past years, there will be multiple rounds of questions covering a variety of topics, including a few questions about UU history, plus the ever popular “name that UU hymn,” music round.

We’ll make teams randomly at the start of the game, but if you have a particular set of people you’d like to play with, please log onto the Zoom by 6:45 so we can get the team set up. All are welcome and encouraged to hop onto the Zoom at least a few minutes before 7 so that we can begin the game right at 7.

Join in here on Friday night: <https://bit.ly/UUOnlineTrivia2024>. Questions? Contact UU Society of Schenectady Congregational Life Coordinator Kristin Cleveland at clc@uuschenectady.org.

Forum on Youth Mental Health Following Feb 4 Service

The Social Justice Team is excited to present its first forum since the pandemic: we hope you will join us to hear Jon Romano on **Sunday Feb 4 at 11:30 in Community Hall**. He will be speaking, from his own experiences, of the importance of providing mental health services for youth.

Essays Needed for February 18 Service on Racial Healing

Systemic racism presents in many forms.
It presents to all people in many different ways.

The BIPOC Racial Healing Group, in cooperation with the Religious Services Committee and the Council for Children and Youth Programs, are asking for your assistance!

We are inviting all the congregants of Albany UU to submit at least one essay on how the race and/or ethnicity of others have intersected with your life. We are looking for essays of love, joy, discovery, understanding, epiphany, difficulty, distress and anger.
The essay can be totally anonymous or not. That is up to you.

The BIPOC Racial Healing Group is going to lead a service in February using these essays as its foundation. Please understand that due to the confines of our service time not all essays will be used, and some may be edited. However, we would also like to create a companion booklet that could contain the entire congregation's essays and response to this subject. Please submit your essay to nellsonmoore@gmail.com. If you would like to participate but anonymously then there will be a basket in the coat room to leave your essay. Thank you for your assistance, and we look forward to a transformative service. **The deadline for submissions is Sunday Feb 4.**

Do You Eat Alone a Lot?

OPPORTUNITY TO EAT WITH OTHERS: Potluck at Carol Butt’s home in Delmar Monday, **February 5** from 6PM to 9PM, especially for those who eat alone more than they like. Bring some food and join other UUs who would like your company for food and a good chat. Call or e-mail Carol at catzen1944@gmail.com or (518) 275-7497 to let her know you are interested in coming to the potluck.

Meeting Information

Board of Trustees

The next BOT meeting is 6:30PM on Thursday, Jan. 25 in Channing Hall and via Zoom.
Zoom link here: <https://tinyurl.com/AlbanyUU-BoardOfTrustess>

Ministry and Operations Team

The next MOT meeting is Wed. Feb 7 at 5:30PM.
Online only: <https://tinyurl.com/Ministry-and-Operations>
Meeting ID: 860 5594 7976 Password: 0000

By phone: 1-929-436-2866

Use this (new link) [Ministry & Operations Communication Form](#) to get on the agenda at the next meeting.

Calendar and Building Use Update

Please help us keep track and share church events and meetings within our new calendar. To reserve a room, a zoom room, and get your event on our church calendar, please use the form here: <http://tinyurl.com/CalendarReservation>

Please see our calendar at <https://albanyuu.org/resources/calendar/>

Committee leaders: Please take a few moments to see if your previously scheduled meetings/events are in the calendar. If they are not, please contact the church office at adminassistant@albanyuu.org.

Ways to Connect



Walker Book Group

Join the Walker Book Group online on Sunday, February 11, 6:15 for time to socialize and a discussion of *Tyranny of the Minority: Why American Democracy Reached the Breaking Point* by Daniel Ziblatt and Steven Levitsky beginning at 6:30. Learn more at <https://albanyuu.org/walker-book-group/>.

Online: 6:15 for the book discussion. Use this link to join: <https://tinyurl.com/WalkerBookGroup>
By phone: 1-929-436-2866
Meeting ID: 871 5139 8632
Passcode: 0000

Philosophy Group

At 10:15 AM every Tuesday, the Albany UU Philosophy Group will meet via zoom to discuss the topic of the day. To find out the topic, email AdminAssistant@albanyuu.org to get put on the Philosophy group email list!

Online: <https://tinyurl.com/AlbanyUU->

Social Justice Team

meets on the **4th Tuesday each month at 6:45pm** on Zoom. **All** are welcome to join. *(Please note this is a change from our previous 3rd Tuesday of the month).*

Online:
<https://tinyurl.com/SocialJusticeTeam>
By phone: 1-929-436-2866
Meeting ID: 894 5821 4256
Passcode: 0000

☐☐ LGBTQ+ GROUP

The LGBTQ Group at UU Schenectady would like to invite all LGBTQ-identified UU Albany members to our monthly meeting at UUSS.

Albany UU Music Ministry offers many opportunities for you to participate in music during Sunday Services. Our offerings include:
--Albany UU Choir - an adult community choir, singing a variety of choral music during Sunday services. (Rehearsals Required)
--Solos and Small Ensembles : You can share your musical talents

Philosophy

By phone: 1-929-436-2866
Meeting ID: 987 7102 4708
Password: 0000

Bridge Group

For information about the 1:00 PM, Tuesday Bridge Group, check with the church office. All levels welcome.

Ps and Qs

At 10:00 AM on Wednesdays, Projects and Quilts (Ps and Qs) meets in Room B-8. Bring a project you're working on, or just your lunch!

during Sunday services as a soloist or small ensemble.

Choir Rehearsal: Wednesday nights at 7:00pm, Masking optional. For more information please contact **For more information** email Olga Martinez, Director of Music Ministry, omartinez@albanyuu.org



Social Justice and Inclusivity

The Underground Railroad Education Center presents: FreedomCon 2024: Agents of Change, Voices of Freedom

Join us for a full schedule of amazing presentation workshops, **to be held the 4th Saturday of every month from January to October, via Zoom, from 2pm-3pm.** Presenters will cover a wide range of topics including, CRT and the Battle Over Curriculum, the Rapp Road Community - Flight to Freedom, redlining and urban renewal, racist conservation, the Adirondacks, reparations and more.

For more information and to register: <https://undergroundrailroadhistory.org/freedomcon-2024/>

Raise Your Voice for End of Life Choice

Do you believe that mentally capable, terminally ill adults have the right to a peaceful death? If you do, join our campaign to pass New York's Medical Aid in Dying Act in 2024! We are closer than ever to success and every voice helps.

- **Come to Advocacy Days on Tuesdays.** Register [here](#) for the Tuesdays when you can be at the Capitol to meet with lawmakers, hold up signs, and more. New dates will be added, so go to the registration site more than once.
- **Send a handwritten note to the district office of your New York State Assembly Member and Senator urging them to co-sponsor the Medical Aid in Dying Act.** (Or thank Phil Steck for being a steadfast co-sponsor.) Use your own words and experience to tell them why the bill is important to you. Assembly contact information is [here](#); Senate information is [here](#).
- **Send a handwritten note to the Assembly Speaker, Senate Majority Leader, and the Governor urging them to bring the Medical Aid in Dying Act to the floor for a vote.** Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie is at 1446 East Gun Hill Road, Bronx, NY 10469. Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins is at 28 Well Avenue, Building #3, 5th Floor, Yonkers, NY 10701. Governor Kathy Hochul is at the State Capitol Building, Albany, NY 12224.

--Nancy Willie-Schiff, representing the Albany UU End of Life Choice Task Force

The Albany UU Social Justice Team (SJT) recommends an antiracism vigil in Troy:

When: Saturdays, 10:30-11:15 am. The vigil will automatically be canceled for severe weather conditions, including when the temperature or wind chill is below 25.

Where: Troy, corner of River Street at the intersection of Fulton and Third Streets, 12180

How: signs only, no chanting (except for meditative religious practice)

The purpose of the vigil is two-fold: to express that Black Lives Matter and to inspire passersby to act against racism.

Black Lives Matter Vigil in Delmar

Join us on Saturdays as we stand at the Four Corners from 9:30AM to 10AM. Residents of Delmar, Albany or everywhere are welcome!

CONNECTIONS

Quick Links

[Publication Schedule](#)
[Albany UU Website](#)
[Regular Events and Meeting Schedule](#)
[Building Schedule](#)
[Sermon Archive](#)
[Make a Calendar Reservation](#)

Denominational Affairs Links

[Unitarian Universalist Association](#)
[UUA Worship Web App](#)
[UUA Leader Lab](#)
[UUA Book Store](#)
[UU World](#)
[Young Adults Revival Network](#)
[Unitarian Universalist Service Committee](#)
[UUA Central Region East](#)
[Hudson-Mohawk UU](#)

Governance & Leadership

Staff

Mission, Vision, Congregational Covenant

Volunteer for Sunday

Publication deadlines

This is an important reminder that the news and article deadline for Windows Weekly is **9:00 AM on Monday**. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sign up for an Albany UU class or event

- Send an email to:
registration@albanyuu.org

Albany Unitarian Universalist

Parking:

Parking is available on the street. On Sundays (and for some special events) Albany UU has permission to use the University at Albany's Hawley Parking Lot on Robin Street at Washington Avenue.

Office hours:

9:00-3:00 Monday-Friday

Our Website:

General: www.AlbanyUU.org

Resources: <http://albanyuu.org/albany-uu-resources/>

Zoom use:

To reserve Zoom for an Albany UU meeting, contact the church office (518.463.7135 or adminassistant@albanyuu.org).

Building use

To **reserve a room** for an Albany UU activity or to **rent a hall or classroom space**, for a personal or non-Albany UU activity, contact our Administrative Assistant (518.463.7135 or adminassistant@albanyuu.org) or use this form link: <http://tinyurl.com/CalendarReservation>

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.



First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany | 518.463.7135 | 518.463.1429
Admin@AlbanyUU.org | AlbanyUU.org

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First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany | 405 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12206

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