

**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.

**We Welcome 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 share it by completing a blue card available from an Usher or submitting at <http://tinyurl.com/JoysAndSorrows>. Pastoral Care Associates, trained in compassionate listening, are available if there is a sorrow or a trauma in your life that you wish to talk about today.

**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.

### **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

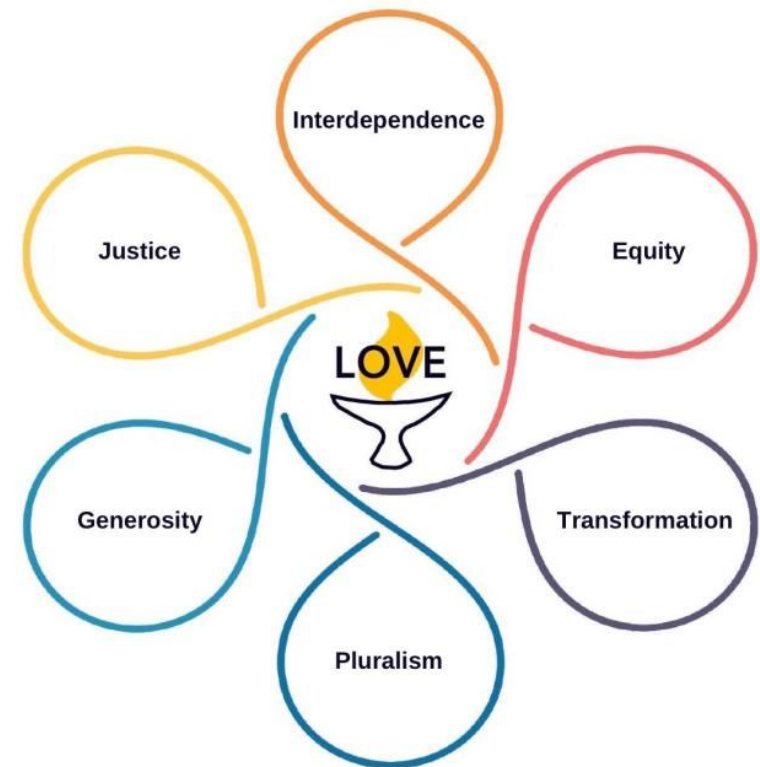
Xanthe Plymale, Assistant Administrator

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# Stretching for a New Way

Rev. Linda Hoddy



*Proposed 8th Principle*

**Albany Unitarian Universalist**

**Sunday, March 3, 2024**

**10:00 AM**

# Stretching for a New Way

March 3, 2024

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*Even after all this time, the Sun never says to the Earth, "You Owe me."  
Look what happens with a love like that:  
It lights the whole sky.* —Hafiz

**Gathering Music** Olga Martinez

**Ringing of the Chime**

**Welcome** Rev. Linda Hoddy

**Prelude** Albany UU Choir

*A New Way*

**Call to Community (Unison)** Congregation

*Come into this place of peace  
And let its silence heal your spirit;  
Come into this place of memory  
And let its history warm your soul;  
Come into this place of prophecy and power  
And let its vision change your heart.* —William F. Schulz

**Chalice Lighting (Responsively)** Al De Salvo

We light this chalice  
to affirm that new light is ever waiting to break through to enlighten our ways:  
That new truth is ever waiting to break through  
to illumine our minds:  
And that new love is ever waiting to break through  
to warm our hearts.  
May we be open to this light,  
and to the rich possibilities that it brings us. — Charles Howe

**Hymn** Congregation

#404 *What Gift Can We Bring?*

**A Sharing of Joy and Vision** Stephanie Saunders, Kevin and Eleanor Yeh

**Song** Led by Lois Bailey and Rich Baldes

*Magic Penny (See Insert)*

*Children Recess*

*Please pick up children & youth in Grades 7 & under from their rooms at 11:15.*

**Ancient and Modern Testimony**

*Mark 12:41-44 The Widow's Gift* Rev. Hoddy

*Sacred Giving, Sacred Receiving* by Ben Keesey Al De Salvo

**Hymn** Congregation

#300 *With Heart and Mind*

**Sermon** A Sweet Spot Rev. Hoddy

**A Time for Prayer and Meditation**

**In Silence**

**In Words**

**In Music** Albany UU Choir

*Simple Gifts*

**Offering** Al De Salvo

**Offertory Music** Albany UU Choir

#402 *From You I Receive*

**Personal Joys and Sorrows** Erik vonHausen

**Closing Hymn** Congregation

#131 *Love Will Guide Us*

**Benediction** Rev. Hoddy

Words of Don Southworth

**Stewardship Invitation** Chuck Manning

**Song** Congregation

*Building a New Way (See Insert), adapted by Bob Franklin*

**Invitations and Announcements** Al De Salvo

**Coffee Hour Connection** The Caring Network

**Extinguishing of the Chalice** Al De Salvo and Rev. Hoddy

*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.*

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Coffee Hour is hosted this week by the Caring Network.

Flowers for this service were donated by Sandy Stone. "As we accept the changes of the seasons, let's accept the changes of the reasons."

*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.*