

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

Programs for Children and Youth

Programs for Children and Youth **today, 11/23**

Child Care (Nursery/Toddler) opens for dropoff at 9:45 today in Room 22. Other groups will not be meeting so all can attend the multigenerational service of thanksgiving led by Rev. Ann and Elizabeth Baldes, Director of Programs for Children & Youth here in Community Hall at 10AM.

If you are interested in helping out, or you would like to ask about our programs, please email the Director of Programs for Children & Youth at dre@albanyuu.org.

Worship Theme for November: Belonging

Albany Unitarian Universalist

Rev. Ann Kadlecek, Interim Minister
Elizabeth Baldes, Director of Programs for Children and Youth
Olga Martinez, Director of Music Ministry
Sophia Garder, Administrator
Ben Warner, Tech Support

405 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York • AlbanyUU.org
Contact us: 518.463.7135 • office@albanyuu.org



Thank You, Everything

Rev. Ann Kadlecek
& Elizabeth Baldes

Alison Hart,
Worship Associate

Albany Unitarian Universalist

Sunday, November 23, 2025

10:00 AM

Thank You, Everything

November 23, 2025

Gathering Music Olga Martinez, Director of Music Ministry

Announcements Alison Hart, Worship Associate

Coffee Hour Connection Green Sanctuary Team

Ringling of the Chime

Welcome Alison Hart

Congregational Greeting

Thank You, Everything Part 1 Elizabeth Baldes,
Director of Programs for Children & Youth
by Icinori, translated from French by Emilie Robert Wong

Opening Hymn #1010 We Give Thanks

Call to Community & Chalice Lighting Rev. Ann Kadlecek

We light this chalice
with thanks
For beauty
For love
And for life.

For the Beauty of the Earth Albany UU Choir
music by Lia Davis,
words by Folliott Sanford Pierpoint (adapted)

Thank You, Everything Part 2

Reflection Rev. Ann Kadlecek

New Member Welcome Rev. Ann Kadlecek

Thank You, Everything Part 3

Joys and Sorrows Debbie Rodrigues & Jim Chicoine

Sung Response #123 Spirit of Life

Thank You, Everything Part 4

Activity Elizabeth Baldes

Offering Alison Hart

Offertory

Thank You, Everything Part 5

Reflection Rev. Ann Kadlecek

Music *El Dorado* Albany UU Choir
music by Stephen Murray,
words adapted from Robert Lewis Stevenson

Benediction Rev. Ann Kadlecek

Closing Song *Thank You Life* by Juliana Murphy

Chalice Extinguishing

*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.*

Flowers are given by Frank Otto.
~ In Memory of his wife, Sheila Otto. ~

Thank you to our accompanist, Chris Whittaker.

Musicians and other service leaders are grateful for your appreciation.
However, we ask that you refrain from audible applause during the service.
Thank you!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Ella McGrail

Ella is originally from New Hampshire, but thanks to a series of happy accidents she now lives in the Pine Hills neighborhood of Albany, not far from Albany UU. She works as an environmental advocate for the non-profit Save the Sound, which means she has achieved her dream of yelling at oil companies for a living. If you had told Ella's younger self that she would be 26 and still not a published novelist she would have gone ballistic, but 26-year-old Ella still harbors ambitions of publishing some of the many children's books she has written for her niece and one day publishing fantasy novels. Ella was raised in a UU church and looked for one in Albany not long after moving here, but it was not until finishing grad school and moving from three jobs to one job that she finally summoned the vitality to regularly get up before ten on Sundays. Now a member of Albany UU's Democracy Crisis Response Steering Committee and the Suddenly Adults Swarming group, she feels grateful to have found this loving community and doesn't even miss those lazy Sunday mornings. Usually.

Carole Nemore (She/her)

Carole was born and raised in a Jewish secular family in Philadelphia. Her spiritual aperture expanded at Boston University when she studied world religions, where a lifelong affinity to Buddhism was nurtured. In time, Carole found her "personal religion" in an ever-deepening connection to nature, working professionally in environmental careers and in personal pastimes. She is an avid kayaker, hiker, biker and world traveler in search of natural wonders. She lives in Delmar with her poodle partner, Beau, and on any given beautiful day, they are sure to be enjoying the great outdoors together.

Chase Novello (they/them)

Chase Novello (they/them) moved to the Capital District in the spring of 2025 to work as a scientist in the NYSDEC Division of Water. They enjoy contra dancing, cross country skiing, reading, fiber arts, and going on evening walks with their partner Sam and cat Momo. They have felt welcomed at Albany UU and look forward to joining this vibrant, intergenerational religious community.

Sam Schick (they/them)

Sam Schick spends most of their time programming, or thinking about programming, but he also loves singing and cooking. They are always looking for book suggestions and are happy to share some in return.

Annabelle Taylor

Annabelle Taylor is always eager for a conversation buddy while she chases Arthur around. She loves musical theatre and has a lot of feelings about Stephen Sondheim.

Arthur Taylor-Schick

Arthur Taylor-Schick likes cars and trucks and things that go. He can take some time to warm up to new people, but he always loves being read to.

Alexis Sanborn

Alexis is originally from California and has been on the East Coast since 2011. Moving to the Albany area means she can also be closer to her sister and parents, who also moved to Oneonta. Alexis' background is in Japanese studies, and she is currently writing a book about 24 Japanese seasons. She works in development at a youth development nonprofit. Most of the time, her interests are closer to home -- she loves gardening and is excited to have her first-ever yard in Albany. (She welcomes any plant dividings and seedlings any UUs may want to share!) She also enjoys cooking and painting. Alexis was drawn to AlbanyUU for its welcoming community built around spiritual and personal growth and exploration. She also likes the social aspect, too, and is excited for potlucks and pies!

Chris Whittaker (He/him)

Chris and his wife, Alexis, recently moved to Albany from their longtime community of Washington Heights in New York City. Chris is an environmental lawyer working on New York climate law--which is a recent career change from his past life where he was a composer, orchestral conductor, and pianist. Jumping right in, Chris and Alexis began singing in the choir, and Chris has stepped up to help with our A/V needs as "Interim Lead Tech Volunteer." Chris and Alexis have two cats, Tetsu and Kuro, and they enjoy walking them on leashes in their new--and novel--backyard! Chris is grateful for Albany UU as a place where he and Alexis can bring their whole selves and embrace the colorful uncertainties of life and faith, as well as make new friends in Albany.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, NOV. 23rd:

From the Congregational Life Team:

Celebrate Thanksgiving with your AUU friends! On Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 27th, our annual potluck dinner will be held in Channing Hall. The roasted turkey will be waiting for you. Help with setting up at 12:00 noon, appetizers served at 1:00 PM, potluck dinner begins at 2:00 PM and clean up after dinner. Sign up using the QR code below or just show up. Bring a dish to share and a smile on your face.



From the Congregational Life Team:

Go to Channing Hall TODAY after the service to purchase delicious Soups and Pies. Various tasty treats are available at this popular fall fundraiser, and all items are lovingly made by your fellow congregants. Thank you for participating!

From the Community Breakfast Team:

At the December 13 Community Breakfast, we hope to give each guest a new pair of warm socks and warm gloves. We expect 60-70 guests. The Community Breakfast budget supports food for our guests, but not extras like this. Can you donate socks or gloves? There is a clearly marked collection box in the coat room at Albany UU.

From Programs for Children & Youth and the Social Justice Team:

Programs for Children & Youth and the Social Justice Team thank you for your generous donations to the soap and washcloth drive to benefit Grassroot Givers. If you are still intending to bring something in, the drive runs through next Sunday, November 30. Collection box and more info are in the lobby.



Share the Plate with the Sheridan Preparatory Academy in November

This month, Albany UU will share half of the collection plate with Sheridan Preparatory Academy, which predominantly serves children of color from low-income families.

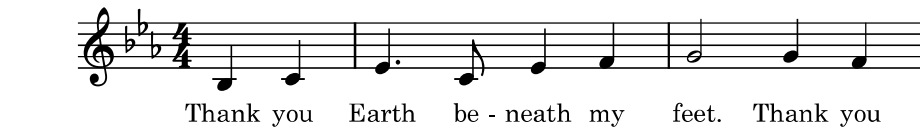
Our goal, through our 13-year relationship, has been to give these children some of the experiences that more affluent children take for granted. We have volunteered our time: working in the classroom, building a playground, and helping with school projects. We have provided funds individually and from our operational budget and endowment trust for playground equipment, new lots, and field trips. Through this work, UUs build our own community.

We are sharing the plate today to help meet the school's many needs: paying for children's author Eric Litwin's presentation; sensory materials for over stimulated children; and, with the loss of SNAP, additional food and supplies for its food pantry. Sheridan Prep would also like to better meet the culturally specific food needs of immigrant families.

Your contribution made by cash, text, online or by check made out to Albany UU will be split between Albany UU and Sheridan Prep, unless you tell us otherwise. If you want your entire check to go towards your annual pledge, write "pledge" on the memo line. If you want your entire check to go to Sheridan Prep, write "all to SPA" on the memo line.

Thank You Life

Words and music by Juliana Murphy



Thank You Life

Words and music by Juliana Murphy

