

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, 12/14.**

Childcare (Nursery/Toddler) opens at 9:45 upstairs in Room 22. Children and youth start out in service and then go to their age-based groups following the story.

If you are new or visiting, and your child isn't registered, please accompany them to their room to sign them in. If you aren't sure where to go, there is someone to ask at the "RE" Office Window in the lobby. **Groups run until 11:15**, at which time parents and guardians pick up their children and youth up to and including 8th grade. High school youth are released on their own.

Pageant Rehearsal is in Community Hall at 11:20ish (kids and parents should grab a snack or bathroom break as needed after pickup then come to Community Hall). If your child wasn't here on 12/7 for role selection but wants to join in the fun, stop by rehearsal. Pageant is presented at the 10AM service on Sunday, 12/21.

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 December: Light

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



Our Light on a Stand

Rev. Ann Kadlecek

**Debbie Brown,
Worship Associate**

Albany Unitarian Universalist

Sunday, December 14, 2025

10:00 AM

Our Light on a Stand

December 14, 2025

Gathering Music Olga Martinez, Director of Music Ministry
& Chris Milkins, Musician

Announcements Debbie Brown, Worship Associate

Coffee Hour Connection Board of Trustees

Ringling of the Chime

Welcome Debbie Brown

Congregational Greeting

Opening Hymn #221 *Light One Candle*

Call to Community & Chalice Lighting Rev. Ann Kadlecsek

We light this chalice for all who are here,
and all who are not;
For all who have ever walked through our doors,
for those who may yet find this spiritual home,
and for those we can't even yet imagine.
For each of us and for us all,
may this flame burn warm and bright.
- Erik Walker Wikstrom

Every Voice Shall Sing Small Ensemble
by Helen Yeomans

Story Elizabeth Baldes, Dir. of Prog. for Children & Youth
& Friends

John Murray Comes to America, adapted from
"The Wind of Change" by Janeen K. Grohsmeyer

Singing the Children Out *As You Leave This Friendly Place*

Joys and Sorrows

Frank Traynor & Sharon Babala

Sung Response #123 *Spirit of Life*

Worship Associate Reflection

Debbie Brown

First Reading *Luke 8:16-17*

Rev. Ann Kadlecsek

Second Reading by Hafiz

Sermon

Rev. Ann Kadlecsek

Music *Pass On the Light* by Clif Hardin

Offering

Debbie Brown

Closing Song *Let Us Go Out* by Pam Blevins Hinkle

Benediction

Rev. Ann Kadlecsek

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 Deborah Vogel.
~ On this first night of Hanukkah, may you find the light and joy in this
Festival of Lights – and feel peace. ~

Special thanks to our guest story readers: Sarah Stanwicks
and Adrian Cattell, Lead Youth Group Advisor.

Special thanks to our guest musician, Amanda Chapin

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

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14th:

Christmas Eve Services:

This year, there are two Christmas Eve services in the Sanctuary: one at 5:15 and the other at 7pm, with cookies in between. All are welcome - please join us at whichever time works best for you!

From Tech Support:

We need you! Help make our worship services even more beautiful and accessible! You're invited to participate in a reimagined and re-vamped tech team! We're delighted that Chris Whittaker, a new member with deep experience leading church A/V teams, has stepped up as our Interim Volunteer Tech Coordinator. He is going to be providing many opportunities for robust training on new roles that aim to make it easier and more accessible for our congregation to serve on the Sunday morning tech team. We want to invite you to consider serving in whatever way interests you, and we'll teach you all you need to know! Use the QR code below to learn more OR see Chris in Channing Hall after today's service.



From the Congregational Life Team:

Pies for Christmas? We've got you covered! Buy your homemade pies Sunday, Dec 14th. All you have to do is follow the included instructions for baking! We have Apple-Cranberry, Apple & Pumpkin pies for sale. \$18 each! Cash or Check only.

From Music Ministry:

Join us for community caroling TODAY! We'll meet in

the lobby at 12:45 PM and head out at 1:00 PM to share music, laughter, and holiday spirit to members of our community in their homes. Help make the season brighter for everyone around us!

From the Administrator Office:

This is a busy time of year so this is a friendly reminder that if you are planning any meetings, events, rehearsals, etc. please let Sophia know so that it can be added to the Breeze calendar. If you are a committee or staff leader for any meeting/event/etc., please plan to have someone in the lobby to get folks in the door, (and communicate the plan in advance). If someone is running late, please arrange for someone to wait in the lobby to let them in or have them text you when they arrive. This is especially important for events that are happening in Community Hall because you can't hear the doorbell in that part of the building.

From Music Ministry:

The annual Albany UU Holiday Music Jam will take place on Sunday, Dec. 21 during coffee hour! We play Chanukah and Christmas music from the books Festive Strings and More Festive Strings, by Joanne Martin. Music will be available in treble, alto, and bass clefs. The event is multi-generational, multi-level, and multi-instrumental. Bring your music stand! If the instrument you play needs chord notation (guitar, accordion, etc.), if you need Bb/Eb/F notation, or if you would like more information, please contact Anne Marie Haber.

From the Administrator Office:

We have a new Breeze Directory! This directory allows anyone who chooses to **OPT-IN** to see the name, email address, and phone number of anyone else who chooses to **OPT-IN**. If you would like to join the Breeze Directory, and are already a user in Breeze, please fill out **OPT-IN form** using the **QR code below**. If you are not a user in Breeze and would like to opt-in to the directory, please contact Sophia Garder, Church Administrator, at sgarder@albanyuu.org.



Share the Plate with IPH in December

This month, Albany UU will share half of the collection plate with **IPH (formerly known as Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless)**. IPH serves unhoused and at-risk individuals and families, many of whom have complex mental health, substance use, and other health challenges. Its programs benefit more than 2,000 individuals and families each year, primarily in the city of Albany.

At locations on Sheridan Avenue, IPH offers:

- **Emergency Shelter**, providing a safe place to stay as well as housing-focused case management.
- **Community Connections**, with food and meals, clothing, laundry, showers, lockers, mailboxes, case management, health-related referrals, and housing assistance offered during the day.
- **Permanent, supportive housing** to individuals and families experiencing homelessness.



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

Learn more about IPH at <https://www.iphny.org>.