

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, 12/21.**

Childcare (Nursery/Toddler) opens at 9:45 upstairs in Room 22. Many of our children and youth are participating in today's pageant, and if your child would like to join in, there is room for them to be a woodland creature. Please go see Willa and Micah at the back to choose a pair of animal ears and an item to carry. During Part 2 of the pageant, there will be verbal instructions about what to do/when to come up.

On 12/28 Programs for Children and Youth are on holiday and age-based activities (including childcare) are on pause. Young ones are invited to attend service with their grownups, and the usual activities for children and youth will resume on 1/4. Thank you for your patience as we give our wonderful volunteers and staff this well-deserved break.

On 1/4 please join us for **Family Chapel**, presented in the **Sanctuary** at **9:30AM**. Family Chapel is a short, full service designed for our youngest folks that is usually led by the Director of Programs for Children and Youth and the Director of Music Ministry on the first Sunday of the month from October-May. When Family Chapel is over, the children and youth go to their age-based small groups, which begin at 10AM on Family Chapel Sundays. Groups will use the extra time to enjoy a snack together.

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

Nicholee Froese, Congregational Life Coordinator

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

Contact us: 518.463.7135 • office@albanyuu.org



The Snow Tree

Elizabeth Baldes,

Dir. Programs for Children & Youth,

& Rev. Ann Kadlecek

Alison Hart, Worship Associate

Albany Unitarian Universalist

Sunday, December 21, 2025

10:00 AM

The Snow Tree

December 21, 2025

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

Announcements Alison Hart, Worship Associate

Coffee Hour Connection Karen Strong,
Programs for Children & Youth Council

Ringling of the Chime

Welcome Alison Hart

Congregational Greeting

Opening Song *Carol of the Field Mice* music by Donald & Heidi
Patriquin, words by Kenneth Grahame

Call to Community & Chalice Lighting Rev. Ann Kadleccek
Chalice lit by the Wilson Family

*We light this chalice for the web of life which sustains us,
For the sacred circle of life in which we have our being,
For the Earth, the Sky, Above and Below, and
For our Mother Earth, and for the Mystery.*
- Paul Sprecher

Solstice Song Albany UU Choir
by Jan Garrett, arr. by Larry Nickel

Pageant Introduction Elizabeth Baldes
Director of Programs for Children & Youth

Pageant Part 1 *The Snow Tree* based on Carolyn Repchuk's
story, adapted from a script by Jenni Papp

Song *Sharing Carol* Albany UU Choir
music by Eva Kendrick, poem by John Kornet
from Kendrick's choral series *Hymns for People*

Winter Blessings Rev. Ann Kadleccek

Song *May I Be Light* by Mykal Slack

Pageant Part 2

Song *Green* by Peter Mayer

Offering Alison Hart

Hymn #235 *Deck the Halls*

Benediction Rev. Ann Kadleccek

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 Ilene Kane.
~ In honor of my 60th birthday. ~

Thanks to our guest musician, Alison Jansen.

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 21st:

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! Both services are in person only.

From Music Ministry:

The annual Albany UU Holiday Music Jam will take place today in Channing Hall! Come enjoy Chanukah and Christmas music during coffee hour. All musicians and listeners are welcome. Sheet music and percussion instruments will be available. If you prefer a quieter setting, the Sanctuary will be open.

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:

Last call for pies for Christmas! We've got you covered! Buy your homemade pies after today's service. 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 The Octavia Butler Book Group:

The Octavia Butler Book Group will be starting discussions of Parable of the Talents, by Octavia E. Butler, in late January. Until then, we'll be reading stories from Octavia's Brood: Science fiction stories from social justice movements, edited by adrienne maree brown and Walidah Imarisha. Each story is stand alone and participants can easily attend a single session without feeling like they are missing out on the discussion of a longer work. The collection is entirely visionary fiction, a subcategory of science fiction. Visionary fiction strives to conceive of a better world (a world without sexism, racism, ableism, and other oppressions) so that if we can imagine it, we can make it so. You don't have to have read any prior work(s) by Butler to engage in the discussions of this book. The group meets weekly, on Sunday nights at 7 pm, via Zoom, to have an in-depth discussion. Facilitation is shared. For more information or to get on the email list, contact Anne Marie Haber or Karen Strong.

From the Religious Services Team:

Do you have an idea for a sermon, but aren't sure what to do with it? We can help! The Religious Services Team, Rev. Ann, and a Worship Associate can help you turn your idea into an Albany UU Sunday service. We'd love to hear from you. Please reach out to Debbie Brown (Religious Services Team co-chair) or Rev. Ann at revann@albanyuu.org.

From The Congregational Life Team:

Save the date: March 13, 2026, is the date for our Third Annual Talent Show. Start rehearsing if you are going to perform! The program is open to everyone, youth and adults alike. More information about registering for the show will be out in early January.

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 The Social Justice Team:

We did it! In the past ten years, this congregation, along with our UU and other partners, advocated for New York's Medical Aid in Dying Act, known as MAID. Our campaign concluded this week when the Governor announced that she would sign MAID into law in 2026. Our congregation was pivotal in the campaign to pass MAID. If you were involved in the campaign in any way – even if you only posed in the photo we sent to the Governor in September – please celebrate our work well done!

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.



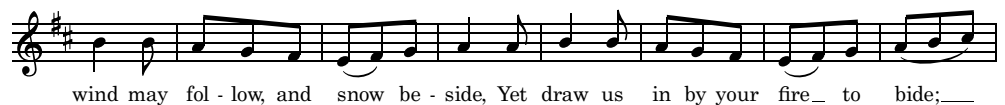
Your contribution made by cash, text, online or check made out to Albany UU will be split between Albany UU and IPH, unless you tell us otherwise. If you want your entire contribution to go towards your annual pledge, write “pledge” on the memo line of your check. If you want your entire contribution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

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

Carol of the Field Mice

Words by Kenneth Grahame

Music by Donald and Heidi Patriquin

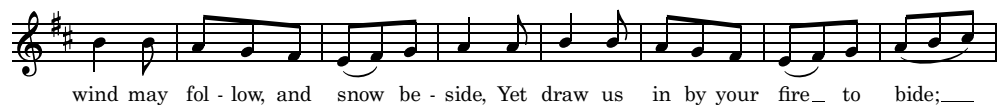


1992 earthsongs

Carol of the Field Mice

Words by Kenneth Grahame

Music by Donald and Heidi Patriquin



1992 earthsongs

May I Be Light

Harmony by Adam Podd

Words and music by Mykal Slack

1
May I be Light in You, may you be Light in Me. In - to our

4
hearts, in - to our souls, let Love a - bide

6
May I be Love in You, may you be Love in Me. From this

9
place, out to the world, for___ all time.

May I Be Light

Harmony by Adam Podd

Words and music by Mykal Slack

1
May I be Light in You, may you be Light in Me. In - to our

4
hearts, in - to our souls, let Love a - bide

6
May I be Love in You, may you be Love in Me. From this

9
place, out to the world, for___ all time.

Green

Words by Peter Mayer
Arr. Peter Mayer and Adam Podd

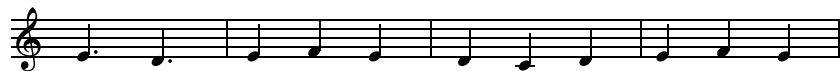
Music Traditional French Carol



When win - ter's gray is on the__sky, rust u - pon the
Wav - ing de - fi - ant pine tree boughs, ce - dar need - les,
So keep it in your win - ter__store, hang its gar - land



leaves__ that lie, red on the last few ber - ries
stub - born and proud, hid - ing in - side the seeds of
'round__ the door, grant to your heart its hope - ful



cling - ing,__brown on the branch where the bit - ter wind's
sum - mer,__deep in the root where it sleeps un - der
prom - ise,__fash - ion a wreath for its bles - sing up -



sing - ing.__E - ven when white ob - scures the scene,__
cov - er.__Pa - tient - ly wait - ing there un - seen,__
-on us.__Win - ter brings browns and grays in - deed;__



_____ still, in win - ter, there__ is green.
_____ in the win - ter, there__ is green.
___ but when it comes, re - mem - ber green.

Green

Words by Peter Mayer
Arr. Peter Mayer and Adam Podd

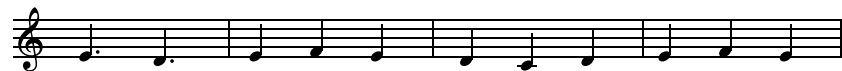
Music Traditional French Carol



When win - ter's gray is on the__sky, rust u - pon the
Wav - ing de - fi - ant pine tree boughs, ce - dar need - les,
So keep it in your win - ter__store, hang its gar - land



leaves__ that lie, red on the last few ber - ries
stub - born and proud, hid - ing in - side the seeds of
'round__ the door, grant to your heart its hope - ful



cling - ing,__brown on the branch where the bit - ter wind's
sum - mer,__deep in the root where it sleeps un - der
prom - ise,__fash - ion a wreath for its bles - sing up -



sing - ing.__E - ven when white ob - scures the scene,__
cov - er.__Pa - tient - ly wait - ing there un - seen,__
-on us.__Win - ter brings browns and grays in - deed;__



_____ still, in win - ter, there__ is green.
_____ in the win - ter, there__ is green.
___ but when it comes, re - mem - ber green.

#235 Deck the Halls

Words: Traditional Welsh

Music: Old Welsh carol

1. Deck the hall with boughs of holly,
fa la la la la, la la la la.

‘Tis the season to be jolly,
fa la la la la, la la la la.

Don we now our gay apparel,
fa la la la la la, la la la.

Troll the ancient Yuletide carol,
fa la la la la, la la la la.

2. See the blazing Yule before us,
fa la la la la, la la la la.

Strike the harp and join the chorus,
fa la la la la, la la la la.

Follow me in merry measure,
fa la la la la la, la la la.

While I tell of Yuletide treasure,
fa la la la la, la la la la.