

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, 2/1.**

Family Chapel is today! On the first Sunday of the month from October-May, Family Chapel is presented in the Sanctuary at 9:30AM and lasts for around 25 minutes. **Sunday morning groups begin at 10AM** on Family Chapel Sundays, and the groups use the extra time to enjoy a snack together. Childcare (Nursery/Toddler) opens at the usual time of 9:45 upstairs in Room 22.

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.

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 February: Love

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

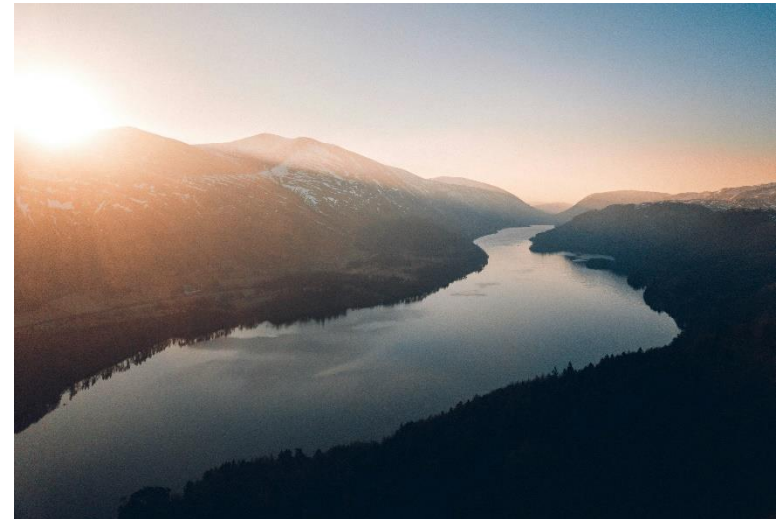


Image by Jack Anstey

Love Is

Rev. Ann Kadlecek

Sharon Babala,

Worship Associate

Albany Unitarian Universalist

Sunday, February 1, 2026

10:00 AM

Love Is

February 1, 2026

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

Announcements Sharon Babala, Worship Associate

Moment with the February Share-the-Plate Recipient
John Cutro, West Hills Refugee Welcome Center

Coffee Hour Connection Green Sanctuary Team

Ringling of the Chime

Welcome Sharon Babala

Congregational Greeting

Prelude *The Gift I'll Leave You* Albany UU Choir
by Kim André Arnesen, lyrics from a poem by Euan Tait

Call to Community & Chalice Lighting Rev. Ann Kadlecek

Your task is not to seek love,
but merely to seek and
find all the barriers within yourself
that you have built against it.

- Jalāl ad-Dīn Mohammad Rūmī,
as interpreted by Coleman Barks

Banquet of Love by Ana Hernandez

Story *Love* by Matt De La Peña Elizabeth Baldes,
Director of Programs for Children & Youth

Joys and Sorrows Randy Rosette & Frank Traynor

Sung Response #123 *Spirit of Life*

Reading *1 Corinthians 13: 1-8, 13* Rev. Ann Kadlecek

Sermon Rev. Ann Kadlecek

Music *Now Eternal* by Moira Smiley Albany UU Choir

Offering Sharon Babala

Closing Song #131 *Love Will Guide Us*

Benediction & Chalice Extinguishing Rev. Ann Kadlecek

*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 Barb & Chuck Manning.
~ *In memory of Barb's mom, Dorothy Eastman Crossett.* ~

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST:

From the Board of Trustees:

Notice of Congregational Meeting - Sunday, February 15th. The Board of Trustees has called a Congregational Meeting for 11:30 AM on Sunday, February 15, to consider amending the bylaws concerning how we search for a settled minister. It has been nearly 30 years since we're done that, and the search process and Albany UU have changed in the interim. More detailed information will be available soon, so please plan to be part of the quorum on that Sunday. The meeting will be held both in person and on zoom. There will also be two Congregational Conversations where you can learn more about the proposed bylaw amendment:

Sunday, February 8th at 11:30 AM in Community Hall - in person only. Thursday, February 12th at 7:00 PM - Zoom only. Zoom link can be found in the newsletter.

From The Stewardship Committee:

Pledges paid by members and friends of Albany UU provide 83% of our annual budget. Each year during our Stewardship Campaign we ask members and friends to be as generous as they can while making a pledge. The Annual Stewardship Campaign will start at the end of this month. The Stewardship Committee cannot do this important work alone, so we are reaching out to the congregation NOW for your help. Please let us know how you would be willing to help by filling out the form using the QR code below:



From the Congregational Life Team:

Join the Albany UU Talent Show — March 13! Our last two all-church talent shows were a big hit, and we're excited to make this one even better. Performers of **all ages** are encouraged to sign up and share their talents — or simply come and enjoy the fun! **Time:** 7:00–9:00 PM. Questions? Please contact Peter Brown or Sharon Babala. Whether you're taking the stage or cheering from the audience, we hope you'll be part of this joyful night together! Register using the QR code:



From Democracy Crisis Response Steering Committee:

Ranked Choice Voting in Albany

There is a non-partisan effort afoot to bring ranked-choice voting (RCV) to Albany city elections. Come learn about RCV **after the service today at 11:30 AM in Room B-3/4**. Ranked-choice voting is a method where you indicate not only your first-choice candidate, but also your second and subsequent choices. If your first choice doesn't get enough votes your vote is automatically transferred to your second choice, and so on. With RCV, you can vote for whom you want rather than worry about vote splitting. For example, "if I vote for X, what if that lets Y beat Z?" -- a common problem with single-candidate voting -- is not an issue because if candidate X doesn't get enough votes, your vote automatically transfers to Z. We hope to see YOU there.



Share the Plate with the Refugee Welcome Center in February

This month, Albany UU will share half of the collection plate with the **West Hill Refugee Welcome Center**. West Hill has more than three times the average rate of abandoned and vacant buildings in Albany. At the same time, Albany is a major resettlement area for refugees due to its lower cost of living compared to larger cities. The nonprofit Refugee Welcome Corporation (RWC) was formed to bring together increasingly vacant housing with increasing numbers of essentially globally homeless people.

Today, with 28 residential units, RWC houses 150 people, mostly single mother-led households. RWC offers services to the neighborhood including English language classes, student homework help, and public health lessons at its Refugee Welcome Center on Ontario Street. RWC operates on very low overhead, with 97% of its spending going towards program. [Learn more at rwcwesthill.com](http://rwcwesthill.com)

Your contribution made by cash, text, online or by check made out to Albany UU will be split between Albany UU and the Refugee Welcome Center, 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 the Refugee Welcome Center, write “all to RWC” on the memo line.

IPH Collection

IPH (Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless) received \$2,917 from Albany UU’s December collections. Thank you for your generosity!

Banquet of Love

By Ana Hernandez



We come to join in the ban - quet of love. Let it



o - pen our hearts and break down the fears that



keep us from lov - ing each oth - er.

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ana@anahernandez.org
Look for The Big Chants Project:
anahernandez.org/big-chants-project-new-from-ana/

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