

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, 2/15.**

Childcare (Nursery/Toddler) opens at 9:45 upstairs in Room 22. Our service today is multigenerational, meaning children and youth stay for the full service instead of going to their usual groups. Those will resume next Sunday, on 2/22.

There are bags available from the ushers with items related to today's service for children to use during our service, and keep if they would like.

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 Rich Baldes

A Seed, A Worm, and an Egg

Rev. Ann Kadlecek
& Elizabeth Baldes

Debbie Brown,
Worship Associate

Albany Unitarian Universalist

Sunday, February 15, 2026

10:00 AM

A Seed, A Worm, and an Egg

February 15, 2026

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

Announcements Debbie Brown, Worship Associate

Ringing of the Chime

Welcome Debbie Brown

Congregational Greeting

Opening Hymn #361 *Enter, Rejoice, and Come In*

Call to Community & Chalice Lighting The Castleman
Rogers Family

For every time we make a mistake
and we decide to start again:

We light this chalice.

For every time we are lonely
and we let someone be our friend:

We light this chalice.

For every time we are disappointed
and we choose to hope:

We light this chalice

- Maureen Killoran

May I Be Light by Mykal Slack

Story Part 1: *The Seed*

Reflection Elizabeth Baldes,
Director of Programs for Children & Youth

Story Part 2: *The Worm*

Music *Breath by Breath* by Juliana Murphy

Reflection & Prayer Rev. Ann Kadlecek

Joys and Sorrows Ruth Samuels & Jim Chicoine

Sung Response #123 *Spirit of Life*

Story Part 3: *The Egg*

Reflection Rev. Ann Kadlecek

Music *Ordinary Magic* by Lea Morris

Offering Debbie Brown

Closing Hymn #346 *Come, Sing a Song with Me (adapted)*

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 the Castleman-Rogers Family.
~ *In memory of Laura's father, Randal Castleman. Sixteen years
gone, loved and missed every day.* ~

Today's story is an adaptation of "Pig and Crow" by Kay Choraio,
initially adapted by Jeanette Ruyle

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 15th:

From the Board of Trustees:

Notice of Congregational Meeting – today, Sunday, February 15th. The Board of Trustees has called a Congregational Meeting for 11:30 AM after today's service to consider amending the bylaws concerning how we search for a settled minister. Please join us!

From the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee welcomes interest in candidates for the following positions to be elected at the next annual meeting: Board of Trustees - President, Vice President, Assistant Treasurer; also, Endowment Trust Board Member and Nominating Committee Member. **The deadline for expressions of interest is Sunday, April 5, 2026;** the elections at the Annual Meeting will be May 17, 2026.

From Democracy Crisis Response Team:

This coming Wednesday, February 18th at 7pm the Democracy Crisis Response team is hosting a Zoom presentation on recognizing and responding to ICE in the Capital Region. Kelley Gourley, Director of Operations at Refugee and Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus, will present on what our rights are when it comes to ICE, how you can look out for ICE and protect our community, and how you can support families who have lost a family member to detention. To ensure the security of the event we are asking everyone who wants to attend to register in advance and to display your full name on your Zoom profile during the event. A QR code to register is on the Social Justice team bulletin board in Channing Hall. Feel free to reach out to Ella McGrail with any questions.

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 Circle Dinners:

Circle Dinners are an easy and fun way to make new friends at Albany UU. Albany UU members host collaborative dinners. Guests bring part of the meal - make your favorite dish or pick up your contribution at your favorite grocery store. The individual hosts coordinate each guest's contribution. Sign up now for the Circle Dinner on Saturday, February 28th from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. Contact John Sherman to sign up and/or be a host. The deadline to sign up is Sunday February 22nd.



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

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!



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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.

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