

**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, 3/8.**

Childcare (Nursery/Toddler) opens at 9:45 upstairs in Room 22. All other 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.

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](mailto:dre@albanyuu.org).

## **Worship Theme for March: Compassion**

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### **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](http://AlbanyUU.org)

**Contact us:** 518.463.7135 • [office@albanyuu.org](mailto:office@albanyuu.org)



*Image by tubagus-andri-maulana*

# **Choosing Trust**

**Rev. Ann Kadlecek**

**Dick Dana, Worship Associate**

**Albany Unitarian Universalist**

**Sunday, March 8, 2026**

**10:00 AM**

## Choosing Trust

March 8, 2026

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

**Announcements** Dick Dana, Worship Associate

**Coffee Hour Connection** Meditation Group

**Ringing of the Chime**

**Welcome** Dick Dana

**Congregational Greeting**

**Opening Hymn #194 Faith is a Forest (verses 1 & 2)**

**Call to Community & Chalice Lighting** Rev. Ann Kadlecek

With faith to face our challenges,  
With love that casts out fear,  
With hope to trust tomorrow,  
We accept this day as the gift it is—  
A reason to rejoice.

-by Gary Kowalski

*A Great and Sacred Trust* by Lia Davis  
Olga Martinez & Chris Milkins

**Story** *The Faith of Thomas Potter* Elizabeth Baldes,  
Director of Programs for Children & Youth  
with Adrian Cattell, Lead Youth Group Advisor

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

**Joys and Sorrows** Frank Traynor & Ruth Samuels

**Sung Response #123 Spirit of Life**

**Stewardship Testimonial** Peter Brown

**Worship Associate Reflection** Dick Dana

**Reading** *First Lesson* by Philip Booth Rev. Ann Kadlecek

**Sermon**

**Music** *Holding My Heart* by Coco Love Alcorn

**Offering** Dick Dana

**Closing Song** *Lead the Way* by Lea Morris

**Benediction & 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 Carolyn Stetson & Bob Franklin  
~ In honor of their children and grandchildren. ~

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, MARCH 8<sup>th</sup>:

### From The Nominating Committee:

Albany UU Ministerial Search Committee--Request for Nominations. The process of selecting a settled minister is one of the most significant actions in the life of a congregation. Achieving a synergistic minister-congregation partnership can strengthen our community as well as help move positively into the future. While the Nominating Committee takes the lead on this process, YOU are an integral part. By giving thoughtful nominations, you can bring forward the names of fellow Albany UU members who you think will best serve in the role of Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) member. You can also nominate yourself.

Please remember that all MSC members must be willing to invest significant time and effort in the search process for a full year starting July 2026. We encourage you to read more about this in the Windows Weekly newsletter.

**Nominations must be received by April 5th, 2026.** If you have questions about this process, please contact Zoe Hutchins, Nellson Moore, or Vida Wehren

at: [nomcommsc@albanyuu.org](mailto:nomcommsc@albanyuu.org). **How do you nominate?**

Paper ballots are available in the church office, or in Channing Hall on Sundays. If you need a ballot mailed to you, please contact the AUU office at 518-463-7135. You can use the link in the newsletter or use the QR code below:



### From Programs for Children & Youth:

Starting today, Room 24/25 will be open from 11:30-12 for families looking for an alternative to Channing Hall.

Parents/guardians are responsible for supervising their children and should not leave them unattended. Please enjoy the space and leave it as you found it!

### From The Stewardship Team:

#### **Shaping Our Shared Future: Stewardship Season**

Our 2026–2027 stewardship campaign is off to an energetic start—thank you to everyone who has already returned a commitment form! Your early generosity helps shape the future of Albany UU. Pledges make up 85% of our income, so it is vital to know where we stand as the Board and Finance Committee develop the budget.

Proposed budget increases for the next church year are to:

- Support the dedication and skill of our staff;
- Celebrate our excellent services, music program, and growing children's programming;
- Maintain our historic building, including installing new boilers to keep us warm; and
- Prepare us for the ministerial search that will lead to an exciting new chapter in our shared journey.

Returning your pledge is an act of care that helps our leadership plan the good work of the congregation for the coming year. Thank you! If you have not received a pledge packet, contact Amie Jamieson or Sophia Garder at [sgarder@albanyuu.org](mailto:sgarder@albanyuu.org). Please drop off your commitment form in the box at the Stewardship table in Channing Hall on Sunday mornings or in Sophia's office or mail it back. You can also pledge using this QR code:



### From The Green Sanctuary Team:

The Green Sanctuary Team will be meeting today in room B-7 and on zoom. We will be discussing the NYS legislative session and numerous opportunities available for environmental action including one on March 10th. All are welcome! The zoom link can be found in the newsletter.

### From the Congregational Life Team:

A reminder that Picture Day is coming up on Sunday, March 15. We'll be having a professional photoshoot with our very own Shannon Simpson as our photographer. Photos will be used for our website, social media, and other church communications and publicity. If you prefer not to appear in photos, an opt-out sheet will be available, and we will review the photos afterward to remove any images that include those who have chosen to opt out. Thank you for helping us capture the life of our community with care and intention.

### From The Arts & Aesthetics Team:

AUU's Arts & Aesthetics Team invites you to the Opening Celebration of our first Native American art exhibit: "Footprints in the Homelands: Celebrating the Cultures of the First Peoples". Sunday, March 22, 12:00-2:00 PM. Art: The Art Wall will display art and poetry by Indigenous artists, primarily from NYS (Mohican, Haudenosaunee, and Abenaki). You will even be able to listen to one of the poems set to music by the author! Music: Shawn Stevens, Mohican musician/storyteller and Tribal Elder, will share his music and his traditional culture, history and prophecy. He will be traveling all the way from Wisconsin to be with us! Steven Mole, from Pittsfield, MA, will perform an original song inspired by one of the paintings that will be in the exhibit, *The Lost Children of Ukraine: The Next 7 Generations*, by Mohican artist Rebecca Burr. Food: There will be Native American inspired foods to share with all. Please plan on joining us on this special day! This event is free and open to all, so please invite others to join us. If you have questions or would like to help out on the day of the event, please contact Vida Wehren or Ilene Kane.

### From Rev. Ann and the Membership Committee:

Curious about Unitarian Universalism? Want to learn more about Albany UU, membership, or ways to get involved? Join us for *Getting to Know UU*, a two-session gathering where you'll meet Albany UU members and others who are also seeking a spiritual home. **Saturdays, March 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00–11:30 AM.** Coffee, tea, fruit, and muffins will be provided. Sign up at the Welcome Table on Sunday mornings, contact the Albany UU Office at **518-463-7135**, reach out to **Barb Manning**, or use the QR code below:



### From the Social Justice Team:

The Social Justice Team invites you to nominate a nonprofit to be a future Share the Plate recipient. A form has been developed for members of the congregation to submit suggestions for future Share the Plate organizations. The link to the form will live permanently in the "Useful Links" section of the newsletter. There is a preference for organizations which a congregation member has some personal knowledge of, or experience with. SJT will seek to create a balance between the types of justice-based services selected. While SJT expects that most programs will be from the Capital District, especially our home city, Albany, statewide, national or international organizations could qualify, as will justice-focused UUA initiatives. More information can be found in the newsletter. If you are interested in recommending an organization, please use the QR code below:



## Share the Plate with UUSC in March



This month, Albany UU will share half of the collection plate with the **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)**.

For 85 years, UUSC has worked to challenge injustice and advance human rights, starting with aid to European refugees in World War II. UUSC addresses the core causes of injustice by partnering with local communities, amplifying their voices, and advocating for institutional and systemic change. UUSC works with grassroots organizations in over 20 nations, from Papua New Guinea to Poland to the United States.

In Sudan, UUSC funds grassroots mutual aid networks providing food, medical care, and safe evacuation routes. Across the Pacific, UUSC supports Indigenous partners as they face climate-forced displacement. In Mexico, UUSC partners provide lifesaving aid, legal accompaniment, and protection. In the US, UUSC's Community Accompaniment Program with Asylum-Seekers (CAPAS) assists congregations in offering long-term, community-based support to asylum-seekers.



Your contribution made by cash, text, online or check made out to Albany UU will be split between Albany UU and UUSC, 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 UUSC, write "all to UUSC" on the memo line.

Learn more about UUSC at [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org).

# Lead the Way

by Lea Morris



Love, would you guide my heart? Love, would you light my path?



Love, lead the way. Love, would you fill my needs?



Love, would you do the math? Love, lead the way. Lead the way.



Lead the way. And I will move with trust to-



-day. In all I do In all I say



I will fol - low. Love, lead the way.

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# Holding My Heart

By Coco Love Alcorn

## Part 1

Hold - ing\_ my heart o - pen\_ for you I'm

Hold - ing\_ my heart o - pen.\_\_\_\_\_

## Part 2

Hold - ing my heart

Hold - ing it o - pen\_\_\_\_\_

## Part 3

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