

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, 4/12.**

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.

Next week, 4/19, is the annual joint service of five local UU congregations, taking place at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady at 10:30 AM. There will be no service or programming for children & youth at Albany UU.

Worship Theme for April: Courage

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
Michael Washington, Tech Support Staff

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Connected at Heart: Interdependence and Generosity

Rev. Lyn Cox

Dawn Dana,

Worship Associate

Albany Unitarian Universalist

Sunday, April 12, 2026

10:00 AM

Connected at Heart: Interdependence and Generosity

April 12, 2026

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

Announcements Dawn Dana, Worship Associate

Coffee Hour Connection Endowment Trust

Ringing of the Chime

Welcome Dawn Dana

Congregational Greeting

Opening Hymn *We're All Connected* by Wendy Luella Perkins

Call to Community & Chalice Lighting Dawn Dana

Leader: All that we are, together and individually, is part of the abundance of the universe.

People: We are made of stars. We are made of earth.

Leader: All that we have comes from earth, from the labor of those in our communities

People: ...from the cities, farms, and oceans that enliven us. The world, and those who live in it.

Leader: We are surrounded by blessing, by grace, and by possibilities.

People: We are reflected in every other human being.

Leader: We respect and honor one another's differences.

People: We celebrate our interbeing with abundance and the practice of generosity.

Everyone: Come, let us worship together.

By Rev. Julián Jamaica Soto

As We Enjoy These Shady Trees by Dean Groves

Story *Something, Someday* by Amanda Gorman

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

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

Joys and Sorrows Randy Rosette & Sharon Babala

Sung Response #123 *Spirit of Life*

Reading Dawn Dana
Our Shared Value of Generosity by Rev. Tandi Rogers

Sermon Rev. Lyn Cox
Connected at Heart: Interdependence and Generosity

Music *We Will Carry Each Other* by Soren Austenfeld

Offering Dawn Dana

Closing Song *Take the Fire* by Rev. Dr. Ron Parks,
arr. by Julia Fair Keefer

Benediction & Chalice Extinguishing Rev. Lyn Cox

*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 Jon Newell.
~ In memory of my mentor, Samuel Powers, MD. ~

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, APRIL 12th:

From the Building Connections Auction Team:

Our Building Connections Auction is now accepting donations! It's our biggest fundraiser and a wonderful way to connect with others. Do you have a dinner to host, a skill to share, or a fun outing to offer? New donors are especially welcome! Donations end April 29. Preview donations online from April 30–May 2. Buy from May 3–17. Whether you donate, browse, or purchase, everyone can participate! To get ideas and to donate, scan the QR code below.



From The Green Sanctuary Team:

The Green Sanctuary Team will be meeting after today's service in B-3/4 and on Zoom. We will be discussing the NYS legislative session and numerous opportunities available for environmental action including one on April 18. All are welcome! The Zoom link can be found in the newsletter. Please reach out to Chuck Manning with any questions.

From The Stewardship Team:

Shaping Our Shared Future: Stewardship Update

Final push! The generosity of those who have already pledged have brought us more than **93 percent** of the way to our stewardship goal—**wow!** A huge thank you to those who have pledged....and a gentle nudge for members of our community who haven't to help us cross the finish line. The Board meets April 17 to finalize next year's proposed budget that will come to a Congregational vote at our Annual Meeting on May 17. Knowing whether we have reached our stewardship goal is critical to that work, so please get your pledge in before then. Church members will be reaching out personally to those who haven't yet pledged. We hope you'll welcome that conversation! And if you're ready to act now, we've made it easy. Visit the stewardship table during coffee hour, or pledge online—scan the QR code below. **Please get your pledge in before April 17.** We're so close, and you can help get us there.



New Staff Announcement:

We are thrilled to welcome Michael Washington as our new Tech Support Staff, bringing over 10 years of experience in audio-visual production and technical support. He has worked with companies such as Encore, Inspire, and SmartSource, developing a strong background in delivering high-quality sound and visual experiences for a wide range of events. Michael has also served in church environments, including Community United Methodist Church in DeBary, FL; First United Methodist Church of Orlando; and New Creation Family Church in Saint Petersburg, FL. His experience in ministry settings allows him to support worship services and special events with professionalism and care.

From the Administrator's Office:

The Hudson Mohawk Cluster Service is on April 19, 2026, at **10:30 AM** at UU Schenectady & Zoom. We are hoping to recruit volunteers from Albany UU. If you are interested in helping at the Welcome Table, as an Usher, or as Security, please reach out to Olga Martinez, Director of Music Ministry at omartinez@albanyuu.org.

From Circle Dinners:

The April 25 Circle Dinner is your last chance this year and we have a child-friendly option! Circle Dinners are an easy and fun way to make new friends at Albany UU. Albany UU members host collaborative dinners at their homes. 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. Attending a Circle Dinner is a great way to connect with people! Share and enjoy more evenings and great food with Albany UU friends! Sign up now for the Circle Dinner on Saturday, April 25th from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. Circle Dinners are hosted by Albany UU members for 6 to 10 people, typically adults only, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. We need to hear from you before April 19. Use this QR code to sign up and/or be a host. Please tell us if you will be bringing children.

Memorial Service Information:

The Memorial Service for Rudy Johnson is being held at Albany UU in Community Hall and Zoom on Monday, April 13th at 4:00 PM. See the newsletter for the Zoom link and obituary.

Share the Plate with the FOCUS Food Pantry in April

This month, Albany UU will share half of the collection plate with the FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry.

Last year, **the FOCUS Food Pantry served more than 3,700 households, including more than 2,900 children** from its



site at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 275 State Street. The Food Pantry is open Monday through Friday mornings as well as the last Saturday of the month.

FOCUS is supported by six “covenant congregations” as well as 9 affiliates. As an affiliate,

Albany UU has supported the FOCUS Food Pantry since at least 1977. We are sharing the plate with FOCUS during three different months every year.

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



Learn more about the FOCUS Food Pantry at
www.focuschurches.net/food-pantry.