

**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 **today, 5/31**

Childcare (Nursery/Toddler) opens at 9:45 upstairs and other groups will be meeting as usual after the story in service. If you are new or visiting, and your child isn't registered, please accompany them to their room to sign them in. If you are not sure where to go, the welcomers in the lobby can help.

### **Evacuation Drill Today**

At the end of the service today, we will be holding an evacuation drill. For this exercise, we will sound the alarm and everyone in the building will be directed to the nearest exit. Children and youth will be in their groups when the alarm is sounded.

It is very important that you **do not** remove your child from their class group during the evacuation. The staff and volunteer guides have been trained to get your child safely out of the building in the case of an emergency. If your child is not with their designated group, that could cause delays, or require a first responder to be sent into the building to search for the missing child.

Once each group is safely outside and the guide has confirmed everyone in their charge is accounted for, children can be picked up from their guides.

If you have questions about our programs, or are interested in helping out, please email the Director of Programs for Children & Youth at [dre@albanyuu.org](mailto:dre@albanyuu.org).

### **Worship Theme for May: Possibility**

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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

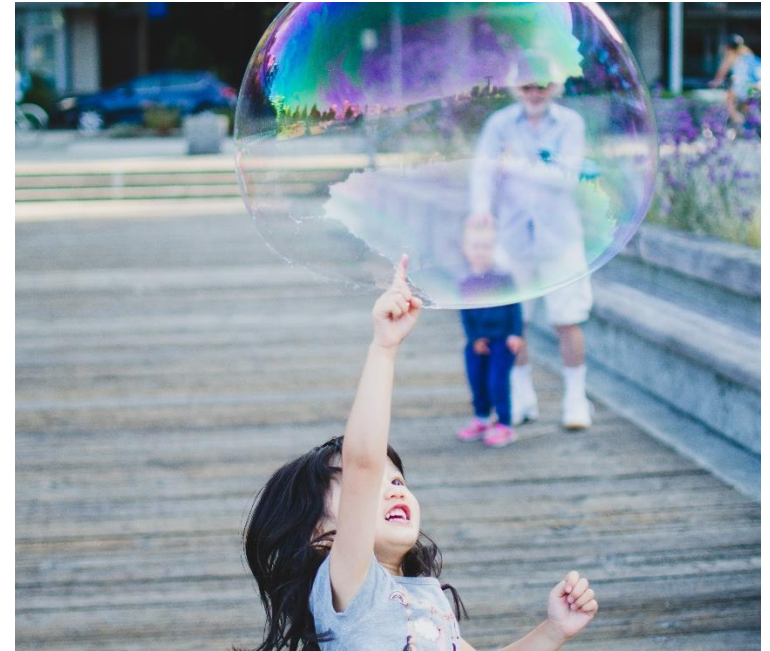
Sophia Garder, Administrator

Nicholee Froese, Congregational Life Coordinator

Michael Washington, Tech Support Staff

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



*Image by Jacky Zhao*

# **Let Us Play**

**Rev. Ann Kadlecek**

**Peggy Sherman,  
Worship Associate**

**Albany Unitarian Universalist**

**Sunday, May 31, 2026**

**10:00 AM**

Let Us Play  
May 31, 2026

**Gathering Music** Chris Milkins, Musician

**Announcements** Peggy Sherman, Worship Associate

**Coffee Hour Connection** Sunday Morning Safety Team

**Ringing of the Chime**

**Welcome** Peggy Sherman

**Congregational Greeting**

**Opening Hymn #6** *Just as Long as I Have Breath (verses 1 & 3)*

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

May this flame rekindle  
The “yes” in our hearts  
to the gift of play  
in our lives.

**Story** Elizabeth Baldes, Dir. of Prog. for Children & Youth  
*I Can Be...Me!* by Lesléa Newman

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

**Joys and Sorrows** Randy Rosette & Sharon Babala,  
Pastoral Care Associates

**Sung Response #123** *Spirit of Life*

**Worship Associate Reflection** Peggy Sherman

**Reading** *God Says Yes To Me*  
by Kaylin Haught Rev. Ann Kadlecek

**Video** from Peter Sharp and the Liberators

**Sermon** Rev. Ann Kadlecek

**Offering** Peggy Sherman

**Closing Song** *Keep on Saying Yes* by Lea Morris

**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.*

Thanks to Cathy DeMille for music planning, production  
and song leading

Flowers are given by Debbie Brown.  
~ *In celebration of the possibilities of gardens and the joy of  
playing in the dirt to tend them.* ~

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

## Evacuation Drill Today

- Knowing where to go and what to do in an emergency is important for us to practice as a community. **At the end of the service today, we will be holding an evacuation drill.** For this exercise, we will sound the alarm and everyone in the building will be directed to the nearest exit.
- **Once outside, it is important to move away from the exits.** If you exit near the Lobby, you may proceed to the grass triangle in front of the exterior entrance to the Sanctuary. If you exit the building from the Community Hall area onto West Street, turn left and proceed to the sidewalk near the parking lot with the wrought iron fence.
- The Albany Fire Department will be on site to support this important process. Afterwards, they will be happy to show their fire truck and equipment to kids (of all ages) and answer any questions that people might have.
- **Parents: It is very important that you do not remove your child from their class group during the evacuation.** The staff and volunteer guides have been trained to get your child safely out of the building in case of an emergency. If your child is not with their designated group, that could cause delays or require a first responder to be sent into the building to search for the missing child.
- Once each group is safely outside and the guide has confirmed everyone in their charge is accounted for, children can be picked up from their guides.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, MAY 31<sup>st</sup>:

### From the Religious Services Team:

Our Sunday services bring us together and nourish our spirits every week, as a congregation. In collaboration with our minister, the Religious Services Team oversees all aspects of these services. Would you like to help? We are eager to add a few new members. If you might be interested, and would like more information, contact Rev. Ann, Debbie or Peter Brown, Peter Meixner or Dawn Dana.

### From the Arts & Aesthetics Team:

The Arts & Aesthetics Team invites congregants of all ages to participate in our upcoming **Congregational Art Show**, opening Sunday, June 7! Whether you paint, draw, photograph, sculpt, stitch, collage, or create in another medium, we would love to celebrate the creativity within our community. Each person may submit **one original artwork** for display. **Art Show Opening:** Sunday, June 7 • 12–2 PM. **Artwork Drop-Off:** Saturday, June 6 • 10 AM–12 PM. This is an all-ages, family-friendly event, and artwork should be appropriate for audiences of all ages. All submissions will be reviewed in advance for appropriateness. Submission does not guarantee placement on the Art Wall. For more information, contact Art Wall Coordinator Ilene Kane or call the church office. We can't wait to see what our community creates!

### From the Social Justice, PCY, Inclusivity & Congregational Life Team:

Gearing up for Pride. Capital Pride will take place on Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup> and Albany UU will be there! You are invited to join us for fun and festivities. If you would like to join us but could use a little assistance with all the walking, please contact Jaye Holly.

## Share the Plate with Mediation Matters in May



This month, Albany UU will share half of the collection plate with **Mediation Matters**, which serves the greater Capital Region by offering **skills and processes that help people handle conflict in a constructive way**. Mediation Matters provides

a wide range of community members with the opportunity to be heard, to better understand one another and to work collaboratively toward solutions.

Core programs include:

- **Community Mediation**: Helping individuals and families resolve specific disputes (not originating in a court setting) in a constructive, confidential setting;
- **Restorative Justice**: Working with youth, schools, and community partners to address harm, build accountability, and strengthen relationships; and
- **Training & Education**: Capacity-building support to new communities, organizations, and individuals to help them prepare for and navigate difficult conversations in the future.

In 2025-26, Mediation Matters served 2,231 individuals through 809 cases across six counties, including Albany.

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

Learn more about Mediation Matters at [mediationmatters.org](https://mediationmatters.org).

# Keep on Saying Yes

By Lea Morris

Don't give up, don't turn a - round. Keep on say - ing yes.  
Don't give up, don't turn a - round Keep on say - ing yes.  
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4  
— Keep your feet on  
— Keep your feet on  
— Keep your feet on

8  
sa - cred ground. Keep on say - ing yes. — Your  
sa - cred ground. Keep on say - ing yes. — Keep  
9 sa - cred ground. Keep on say - ing yes. — Your

heart cries out there's work for you —  
show - ing up and give my best. —  
heart cries out there's love for you.

Keep on say - ing yes. — I hear you fear got  
Keep on say - ing yes. — Give the best on - ly  
14 Keep on say - ing yes. — Love's got some - thing that's

to let you go  
I can give. —  
just for you. —

Keep on say - ing yes. —

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