

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, 5/17

Childcare (Nursery/Toddler) opens at 9:45. If you are not sure where to go, the welcoming in the lobby can help.

Our service today is multigenerational, meaning children and youth stay for the full service instead of going to their usual groups. There are interactive orders of service and crayons available from the ushers for children to use during our service.

After the service, as a way of showing appreciation for our caring and dedicated Programs for Children & Youth guide team volunteers, the Programs for Children & Youth Council will be hosting the annual "Sundae Sunday" Coffee Hour with ice cream and other frozen treats to enjoy! Many thanks to **all** our volunteers for everything they do.

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.

Worship Theme for May: Possibility

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



A Celebration of Community

Elizabeth Baldes and
Rev. Ann Kadlecek

Peggy Sherman,
Worship Associate

Albany Unitarian Universalist

Sunday, May 17, 2026

10:00 AM

A Celebration of Community

May 17, 2026

Gathering Music Chris Milkins, Musician

Announcements Peggy Sherman, Worship Associate

Coffee Connection Prog. for Children & Youth Council

Ringing of the Chime

Welcome Peggy Sherman

Congregational Greeting

Opening Hymn #188 *Come, Come, Whoever You Are*

Call to Community & Chalice Lighting Rev. Ann Kadlecek

Each Sunday we light the chalice of our religious heritage.

We do this for our ancestors, who taught us through their religious traditions and their actions for justice and hope.

We do this for our children, who are learning the traditions we teach and who learn more from our actions than our words.

We do this for ourselves, so that we are inspired to remember our beginnings; reflect on who we are now; and spread our wings as we understand who we seek to become.

by Jennifer "Jaye" Brooks

Story Elizabeth Baldes, Dir. of Prog. for Children & Youth
We're All in the Same Boat by Barney Saltzberg

Joys and Sorrows

Jim Chicoine and Randy Rosette,
Pastoral Care Associates

Sung Response #123 *Spirit of Life*

Reflection Elizabeth Baldes

Recognizing PCY Volunteers Elizabeth Baldes

Song *What We Need is Here*
music by Amy McCreath; words by Wendell Berry

New Member Celebration Rev. Ann Kadlecek & Jon Newell

Reflection Rev. Ann Kadlecek

Offering Peggy Sherman

Closing Song *This Boat*, by Laura Zucker

Benediction Rev. Ann Kadlecek

**Please enjoy refreshments after the service and return in
15 minutes for our annual Congregational Meeting!**

Special thanks to our hymn leader, Cathy DeMille.

~ *Flowers are given by the Flower Committee,
welcoming new members to Albany UU.* ~

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, MAY 17th:

From the Board of Trustees: Notice of 2026 Annual Meeting of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany The congregation's Annual Meeting will be today at 11:30 following the service. The meeting can also be accessed online on Zoom. Childcare and a light lunch will be provided in Community Hall for people attending the meeting.

From the Building Connections Auction Team:

Now is the time to buy! Buying ends May 24. The auction is our biggest fundraiser and a wonderful way to connect with others. Many great items, some very affordable, are still available. Today is raffle day! At coffee hour, everyone who is registered with 32auctions this year for the first time will be entered in a raffle. The winner will have their choice of two places at one of three dinners. All raffle participants will receive a small consolation prize. No need to be present to win. You can see what items are available on our 32auctions site. Scan the QR code below to get a link to that site and more information about the raffle.



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 14th and Albany UU will be there! You are invited to join us for fun and festivities. This year, we will have Albany UU Pride t-shirts! If you would like to buy a t-shirt, please see Jaye Holly in Channing Hall during coffee hour to place your order. They are \$15 (cash or check only, please). They come in adult and youth sizes, so everyone in the family can join the fun!

From the Congregational Life Team:

Congregational Celebration Picnic is May 30th from 11am - 2pm at Thatcher Park. And YOU have a special invitation to join in the fun! We'll have delicious potluck food, games, drinks, snacks, desserts and relaxing. Sign-ups in Channing after service and online (see windows weekly). Any questions see Sharon Babala or Mary Ann Jabalonski.

From The Social Justice Team:

Join us for a MoonBee!

Did you know that many girls in under-resourced communities around the world miss school when they are having their periods because they lack menstrual supplies? When girls fall too far behind in school, they often drop out. Since 2011, the Schenectady based MoonCatcher Project (MCP) has been making reusable, sustainable period management kits. Last year MCP distributed over 21,000 kits to girls around the world. Each kit helps to keep one menstruating girl in school, and education can change her life. Join us for a MoonBee on Wednesday May 27th from 10 am to 12 noon. This community sewing event brings volunteers together to create MoonCatcher Kits. The MCP provides the materials, equipment and expertise. We will gather to cut, sew, iron and assemble the kits. There are jobs for everyone, including those without sewing skills. Please contact Donna Meixner or Deborah Vogel for more information. To register, use the QR Code below or contact Donna or Deborah. We encourage you to invite a friend.



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.