

**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's service is multigenerational, which means children and youth remain for the entire service. To help support attendance, activity bags and fidget objects are available near the entrance of Community Hall.

For those three and under who are not inclined to stay in service, the Nursery/Toddler Room 22 is open. Families can drop their little ones off or choose to stay with them. There is also a family seating area upstairs near the balcony where service can be heard through a speaker and viewed through a window.

Next Sunday is the start of our age-based Sunday morning groups. After service and groups are over will be our annual meetup in Washington Park hosted by the Programs for Children & Youth Council. We'll have a bite to eat, enjoy some play time, and get to know each other a bit better.

If you have any Programs for Children & Youth related questions on Sunday morning before service, please stop by the "RE Office Window" in the lobby. If you are interested in helping out and would like to talk about our programs, please email the Director of Programs for Children & Youth at [dre@albanyuu.org](mailto:dre@albanyuu.org).

We are so glad you are here!

### **Worship Theme for September: Beginnings**

#### **Albany Unitarian Universalist**

Rev. Ann Kadlecek & Rev. Sarah Richards, Interim Co-Ministers  
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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# **Be the Water**

**Rev. Ann Kadlecek  
& Rev. Sarah Richards**

**Albany Unitarian Universalist**

**Sunday, September 13, 2026**

**10:00 AM**

Be the Water  
September 13, 2026

**Gathering Music** Amanda Chapin, Musician

**Announcements** Rev. Ann Kadlecek

**Ring of the Chime**

**Welcome**

**Congregational Greeting**

**Opening Hymn** *Coming Home* by Carolyn McDade

**Call to Community & Chalice Lighting**

*We light this chalice in reunion,  
as we share the flow of our hearts,  
celebrate our fountains of joy,  
hold each other through storms of grief,  
guide one another through rapids of transformation  
and rest together on ponds of stillness.  
May we embody the spirit of water,  
its many forms, and its life-giving essence.*  
by Katie Sivani Gelfand(adapted)

**Hymn #100** *I've Got Peace Like a River*

**Offering** Rev. Sarah Richards

**Reading** Rev. Ann Kadlecek & Rev. Sarah Richards  
adapted from Jamila Batchelder & Molly Housh Gordon

**Water Ceremony Part 1: Receiving the Waters**

**Music** *The Water Remembers* by Jason Shelton Albany UU Choir

**Story** Elizabeth Baldes, Director of Programs for Children & Youth  
*The Water Bearer's* Garden by Betsey Hill Williams

**Joys and Sorrows** Rev. Sarah Richards

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

**Sharing** Rev. Sarah Richards, Rev. Ann Kadlecek & Elizabeth Baldes

**Reading** from *The Rainmaker* Rev. Sarah Richards  
by Clarissa Pinkola Estés

**Reflection** Rev. Ann Kadlecek

**Water Ceremony Part 2: Blessing the Waters**

**Closing Song** *Falling Water* by Rollo Dillworth

**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 Sandy & Dave Stone.  
~ Welcome home! ~

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

## Share the Plate with Wizard's Wardrobe in September



This month, Albany UU will share the plate with Wizard's Wardrobe—helping children in the South End of Albany discover confidence and possibility through reading.

Wizard's Wardrobe provides free, high-quality, one-on-one after-school literacy tutoring for elementary students reading below grade level. Since 2017, caring

volunteer tutors have given each child individualized instruction and steady encouragement—helping students strengthen reading and writing skills, build confidence, and experience the joy of books.

Learning reaches beyond tutoring sessions through field trips, guest readers, STEM challenges, and an annual anthology in which every student becomes a published author.



Your contribution made by cash, text, online or check made out to Albany UU will be split between Albany UU and Wizard's Wardrobe, unless you tell us otherwise on the memo line of your check. Write "pledge" on the memo line of your check. If you want your entire contribution to go to Wizard's Wardrobe, write "all to Wizard's Wardrobe" on the memo line.

Your gift helps a child turn the page toward a brighter future. Learn more at [wizardswardrobe.org](http://wizardswardrobe.org) or ask volunteers Lee or Heidi Newberg. You can also change a child's story by becoming a volunteer tutor. To learn how, visit [wizardswardrobe.org/training-schedule](http://wizardswardrobe.org/training-schedule). The next tutor training sessions are September 19 and 26 (Saturdays), or October 12 and 23 (Monday and Friday). Those interested in tutoring at Sheridan Prep are also invited to this training.

## Announcements for Sunday, September 13:

**In our water communion ritual today, everyone will be invited to share a little water that represents a place with meaning for you. As part of that ritual, please use the paper you received this morning to write a few words or draw a picture that conveys something about that meaning. The papers will be collected partway through the service, and a few will be shared out loud.**

### From the Ministerial Search Committee:

#### **We Want to Hear From You: Congregational Survey Now Open**

The Ministerial Search Committee invites all members and friends to complete the congregational survey. Your responses will deepen our understanding of our congregation and help shape the search for Albany UU's next settled minister. The survey will be open until Monday, 9/28. Scan the QR code to take the Survey:



### From the Endowment Trust Board:

#### **Leave a Lasting Legacy: SAVE THE DATE**

The Endowment Trust Board and the Stewardship Committee invite you to join us next Sunday, September 20 at 11:30 in Community Hall, or on Zoom, to learn about an exciting initiative to strengthen Albany UU's capacity to achieve its mission far into the future, the **Leave a Lasting Legacy** campaign. See the newsletter for the Zoom link.

**From the Receptions Team:**

Thanks to all the teams, committees and individuals who contributed to today's "Welcome Back" coffee hour luncheon, coordinated and managed by the Receptions Team. We're always welcoming new members to our group. There are no meetings or regularly scheduled expectations. When there is a reception after a memorial service or a special occasion like Christmas Eve cookies or a luncheon like today's Ingathering Social Hour, members of our team volunteer to work on contributing food items, (either purchased or homemade), setting up and plating food, replenishing the buffet and cleaning up afterwards. Team members volunteer for whatever time slots fit their schedules or just drop off their food contributions. The Receptions Team is a great way to get to know other members of the congregation better and the commitment is sporadic so if you are on the team and there is an event you can choose whether you can participate. If you'd like to join our happy group, please let Maryann Jablonowski or Barb Manning know and we will add you to the list. We'd love to have you!

**From the Democracy Crisis Response Team:**

Please plan on picking up your signs on Sept. 20th. There will be a table in the lobby. We were able to get a discount on the signs because we ordered so many. If you pre-paid, you will be getting a refund that you can keep, put in the collection plate, or let us know that you want it contributed to the general fund. We also have a few extra signs, if you want to purchase one for \$10. Thanks for your support. from the Democracy Crisis Response Team.

**From Sheridan Prep Volunteers:****Volunteer Tutor Training for Wizards Wardrobe and Sheridan Prep**

Interested in tutoring reading to Albany elementary school students at Wizard's Wardrobe, this month's share-the-plate recipient? Their two-part training for volunteer tutors is this Saturday and next Saturday, September 19 and 26. It is also available October 12 and 23 (Monday and Friday). Those interested in tutoring at Sheridan Prep are also invited to this training. Visit [wizardswardrobe.org/training-schedule](http://wizardswardrobe.org/training-schedule) for details.

**From Programs for Children & Youth:**

Next Sunday, September 20th Programs for Children and Youth kicks off with our first small, age-based group sessions of the church year. All families from nursery care through Youth Group are strongly encouraged to register ahead of time, as this helps our staff plan the safest and best possible experience for you and your child. After service and groups are over on the 20th, we will meet up in Washington Park to celebrate the start of the program year. Kids, parents and caregivers, volunteers and other members of the Programs for Children & Youth community are invited to come eat, play, and socialize at this fun annual event hosted by the Programs for Children and Youth Council.

# Coming Home

Carolyn McDade

Refrain



We're com - ing home to the spi - rit in our

3



soul \_\_\_\_\_ We're com-ing home \_\_\_\_\_ and the heal-ing makes us

7



whole \_\_\_\_\_ Like ri - vers run-ning to the sea \_\_\_\_\_

12



\_\_\_\_\_ we're com-ing home, we're com - ing home \_\_\_\_\_

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