

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

Childcare in the Nursery/Toddler Room opens at 9:45 for dropoff.

Today we'll have the first meetings of our age-based groups, which take place 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. Staff and volunteers are available to direct you. **Groups run until 11:15**, at which time parents and guardians pick up their children, except for high school youth who are dismissed on their own. 7/8 Our Whole Lives ends at 11:30 and also dismisses on their own.

Today is also the **annual meetup near the playground in Washington Park** hosted by the Programs for Children & Youth Council. There will be some snacks and drinks to share, and you are invited to bring your own lunch and water bottle. We'll have some outdoor games to play and it's a nice chance to get to know one another. See the sign in the lobby next to the "RE" Office Window for more info.

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.

We are so glad you are here!

Worship Theme for September: Beginnings

Albany Unitarian Universalist

Rev. Ann Kadlecsek & 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

405 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York • AlbanyUU.org
Contact us: 518.463.7135 • office@albanyuu.org



Beginning After the End

**Rev. Sarah Richards
Peggy Sherman,
Worship Associate**

Albany Unitarian Universalist

Sunday, September 20, 2026

10:00 AM

Beginning After the End

September 20, 2026

Gathering Music

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

Announcements

Peggy Sherman, Worship Associate

Coffee Hour Connection

Endowment Trust

Ringling of the Chime

Welcome

Congregational Greeting

Call to Community

Rev. Sarah Richards

Opening Hymn #1011 Return Again

Chalice Lighting *The End is the Beginning* by Katie Sivani Gelfand

Leader: *We call forth the life of our faith
By igniting our chalice.*

Congregation: *This spark of new beginnings
invites us into a sacred space to reflect
where we have been and where we are going.*

Leader: *Even knowing that this particular flame
will intentionally end with our ritual extinguishing,
we fear not its end...*

Congregation: *For we know, with brave hearts,
that from every ending of our lives,*

All: *We are sent forth to make a new beginning.*

Music *Begin It* by Venice Manley

Story Elizabeth Baldes, Director of Programs for Children & Youth
With Paula Brewer & Adrian Cattell
The Tale of the Sands by Idries Shah

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

Joys and Sorrows

Sharon Babala & Frank Traynor

Sung Response #123 Spirit of Life

Reading

Peggy Sherman
excerpt from *The Beginning Comes After the End*
by Rebecca Solnit

Worship Associate Reflection

Peggy Sherman

Message

Rev. Sarah Richards

Music *Do Not Be Daunted* by Lynn Harrison

Offering

Peggy Sherman

Closing Song *Change is Coming* by Molly Bajgot

Benediction by Rev. S.P. Dennison

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 Cindee Herrick.
~ *Flowers to mark the equinox.* ~

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 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. 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 20:

From the Ministerial Search Committee:

The Ministerial Search Committee was elected to lead the search for Albany UU's next settled minister. This summer, the committee has been preparing for the search with support from the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Board of Trustees, and Rev. Ann Kadlecsek. This fall, the Ministerial Search Committee is gathering input from members and friends to better understand our congregation and the qualities we hope to find in our next settled minister.

1. Complete the Anonymous Congregational Survey by September 28. Thank you to the members and friends who have already completed the survey. We hope to hear from many more people before the survey closes. If you haven't completed it yet, we hope you'll take about 20 minutes to share your thoughts. Scan the QR code below to take the survey.



2. Join Us for a Friday Night Potluck and Conversation on October 2. Join the Search Committee and Transition Team on October 2 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Albany UU for a potluck dinner and small-group conversations about our congregation's future. All ages are welcome. Childcare will be available. Thank you. The search committee welcomes your questions, comments, and reflections throughout the search process. Please reach out at msc@albanyuu.org.

The Albany UU Ministerial Search Committee: *Jonathan Bick (Co-Chair), Karen Strong (Co-Chair), Lisa Baranik, Michele DesRosiers, Jaye Holly, Heidi Newberg, and Stephanie Saunders.*

From the Endowment Trust Board:

You are invited to attend an information session today at 11:30 in Community Hall and on Zoom to learn about Albany UU's first ever **Leave a Lasting Legacy** campaign. The campaign's goal is to inspire and document planned giving to the Endowment Trust. The trust will support Albany UU far into the future, leaving a generous legacy for UUs we will never meet, just like the legacy past generations left for us. See the newsletter for the Zoom link.

From Programs for Children & Youth:

Programs for Children and Youth kicks off today with the first small, age-based group sessions of the church year, which will begin after the story in service. All families from nursery care through Youth Group are encouraged to register if they have not done so already, as this helps our staff plan the safest and best possible experience for you and your child.

Groups will run until 11:15, when kids and their families, along with program volunteers, are invited to our annual Washington Park meetup to celebrate the start of the program year. We'll gather by the playground for food, friends, and fun, hosted by the Programs for Children & Youth Council. We hope to see you there!

From the Community Breakfast Team:

On Sunday, September 27, the Community Breakfast team will be holding a bake sale in Channing Hall during Coffee hour. Proceeds from the sale will be used to shore up the Community Breakfast Designated Fund, which supplements the money budgeted annually by AUU. Come satisfy your sweet tooth, while you learn about and support the Community Breakfast!

From the Democracy Crisis Response Team:

Please plan on picking up your signs today. 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 the Social Justice Team:

Food insecurity is increasing. Albany UU does much to help with food insecurity in our neighborhoods. If you want to do more, a local food pantry would welcome your help. The Social Justice Team suggests two volunteer opportunities: Food Pantries for the Capital Region and the food pantry at the Capital District Latino Center. For further information, please see the announcement in Windows Weekly.

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 for details.

Begin It

Attributed to poet John Anster's
interpretation of Goethe quote

By Venice Manley

Part 1

What - ev - er you can do or dream you can be - gin it just be - gin it

Part 2

Bold - ness has gen - ius pow - er and ma - gic in it

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Do Not Be Daunted

Lyrics based on the Pirke Avot,
often attributed to "The Talmud"

By Lynn Harris

Do not be daunt - ed by the e - norm - i - ty__ of the world's grief.

5 Do just - ly now, love mer - cy now, go hum - bly now.

11 You need not com - plete the work, but you must not a - ban - don it.__

15 Do just - ly now, love mer - cy now, go hum - bly now.

21 Do not be daunt - ed by the e - norm - i - ty__ of the world's grief.

Sing Out Love UUA Expiration 2028
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Change is Coming

Words inspired from adrienne maree,
Emergent Strategy

Song Composed by Molly Bajgot



Change is com - ing, what do we need to i - ma - gine?



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