

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.

Age-based groups will meet 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 begins at 10 and ends at 11:30, they also dismiss on their own.

Today is the rescheduled date for 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 Kadlecak & 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



Covenant at Our Core

Rev. Sarah Richards

Dawn Dana,

Worship Associate

Albany Unitarian Universalist

Sunday, September 27, 2026

10:00 AM

Covenant at Our Core
September 27, 2026

Gathering Music Amanda Chapin, Musician
& Olga Martinez, Director of Music Ministry

Announcements Dawn Dana, Worship Associate

Coffee Hour Connection Community Breakfast

Ringling of the Chime

Welcome

Congregational Greeting

Opening Hymn #347 *Gather the Spirit*

Call to Community *We Hold Hope Close* Rev. Sarah Richards
by Rev. Julián Jamaica Soto

Chalice Lighting by Rev. Cynthia Landrum

*As we kindle this flame,
May it spark in each of us
Connection and commitment
To this living tradition
And to each other.*

Music *Keeping the Faith* Albany UU Choir
by Gitika Partington, Val Regan, Andrew McCrorie-Shand

Story *A Weekend with Wendell* by Kevin Henkes Rev. Sarah Richards

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

Joys and Sorrows Randy Rosette & Jim Chicoine
Sung Response #123 *Spirit of Life*

Reading *Why Covenant?* By Kate McGowan Dawn Dana

Worship Associate Reflection Dawn Dana

Music *What Wondrous Love is This* tune: trad English, Pre-1700,
original lyrics: anon, adapted lyrics: Connie Campbell Hart

Message Rev. Sarah Richards

Moment of Silence

Offering Dawn Dana

Closing Hymn *Answering the Call of Love* by Jason Shelton

Benediction by David Blanchard, adapted

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 Alison Hart.
~ In celebration of my dad's 84th birthday. ~

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.

Covenant

As a congregation with respect for our past
and commitment to the future,
we draw from the depth and power of our
hearts and minds,
guided by our Unitarian Universalist
principles, to serve our mission and vision.
We celebrate the diversity of our identities
and experiences,
and foster a culture of appreciation,
inspiration, and kindness.

We honor both the strength of the
collective and uniqueness of the individual,
willing to support and challenge each other
with love and compassion.

We entrust ourselves to each other in
beloved community,
to embolden personal and congregational
growth and transformation.

-adopted November 22, 2020 by the First Unitarian Universalist Society of
Albany congregation.

Announcements for Sunday, September 27:

From Rev. Sarah Richards:

You're invited to help the congregation start thinking about the meanings and possibilities for personal and collective courage. Rev. Sarah invites AUU folks to describe in a few words an instance of your own courage, which may be included in her 10/4 message. Please email your responses to revsarah@albanyuu.org by Tuesday, September 29.

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.

From the Ministerial Search Committee:

Be Part of the Ministerial Search Process.

The Ministerial Search Committee was elected to lead the search for Albany UU's next settled minister. Since 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 Committee wants to hear about your experiences, hopes, and perspectives about Albany UU's future as part of this process.

1. Last Chance to Complete the Congregational Survey.

The congregational survey closes tomorrow. 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 Ministerial Search Committee and Transition Team on October 2 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for a potluck dinner and small-group conversations about our congregation's future. Please bring a dish, dessert, or beverage to share if you'd like. Food will also be provided. After we eat, we'll break into small groups to talk about your vision for the congregation, the role of the minister in reaching that vision, and the minister characteristics that would help us get there. All ages are welcome. Older youth are encouraged to participate. Childcare will be provided.

Thank you. We welcome your questions, comments, and reflections throughout the search process. Please reach out to us 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.

Answering the Call of Love

Music and words by Jason Shelton

Refrain

We are an-swer-ing the call of love:___

4

hands joined to-geth - er___ as hearts beat as one. Em - bold-ened by faith, we dare

7

___ to pro - claim we are an-swer-ing the call of love. ___

Verse

10

The prom - ise of the Spir - it:___
Some - times we build a bar - rier___
A bright new day is dawn - ing___

12

faith, hope, and love a - bide. ___ And
to keep love tight - ly bound. ___ Cor -
when love will not di - vide. ___ Re -

14

so ev - 'ry soul___ is blessed and made whole;___ the
-rupt - ed by fear,___ un - will - ing to hear,___ de -
-flec - tions of grace___ in ev - 'ry em - brace,___ ful -

16

D.C.

truth in our hearts is our guide. ___
-ny - ing the beau - ty we've found. ___
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