

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.

Grade 7/8 Our Whole Lives meets from 10-11:15ish. This is a closed group.

At 11:15, when groups are done, the children and youth (and their families) are invited to put on their **Halloween costumes** before coming down or up stairs to **walk the red carpet** and make a **grand entrance** into Coffee Hour in Channing Hall. Once there, the Programs for Children & Youth Council and Suddenly Adults Swarming, our young adults group, will be co-hosting a special **Halloween Coffee Hour** with activities and treats for all.

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 dpcy@albanyuu.org.

We are so glad you are here!

Worship Theme for October: Courage

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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Contact us: 518.463.7135 • office@albanyuu.org



Average Heroes

Rev. Sarah Richards

Dave Munro,

Worship Associate

Albany Unitarian Universalist

Sunday, October 25, 2026

10:00 AM

Average Heroes

October 25, 2026

Gathering Music Olga Martinez, Director of Music Ministry

Announcements Dave Munro, Worship Associate

Coffee Hour Connection PCY Council & SAS

Ringling of the Chime

Welcome Dave Munro, Worship Associate

Congregational Greeting

Opening Hymn #396 *I Know This Rose Will Open*

Call to Community Rev. Sarah Richards

Chalice Lighting by Bets Wienecke

*May this flame, symbol of transformation
since time began, fire our curiosity,
strengthen our wills, and sustain our courage
as we seek what is good within and around us.*

I Hear Your Story by Andrea Sorum

Story *Knight Owl* by Christopher Denise Elizabeth Baldes,
Director of Programs for Children & Youth

Singing the Children Out *Reeb Benediction* by Ian W. Riddell

Worship Associate Reflection Dave Munro

Joys and Sorrows

Jon Newell & Sharon Babala

Sung Response #123 *Spirit of Life*

Reading *The Courage of Patience* Dave Munro
by Richard Gilbert

Message Rev. Sarah Richards

Offering Dave Munro

Benediction by Eric Williams Rev. Sarah Richards

Closing Hymn *I Know I Can* music by Jeannie Gagne, words by
Dennis Hamilton, arr. by Mark Freundt

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 Albany UU Flower Team.
~ *Welcome to Fall! If you would like to donate flowers, use the
link in the weekly newsletter.* ~

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 the Underground Railroad Education Center in October

This month, Albany UU will share half of the collection plate with the Underground Railroad Education Center, dedicated to researching and preserving the history of this first civil rights movement and its relationship with us today. The Center maintains the historic Stephen and Harriet Myers Residence, a headquarters for Underground Railroad activity in the Capital Region in the mid 1850's.

The Underground Railroad Education Center offers tours and programs for adults and youth, including the Young Abolitionist Leadership Institute Summer Program. With relevant programming, affiliations and collaborations, the Center has become a significant community anchor for Arbor Hill, an Albany neighborhood impacted by the legacy of the institution of slavery, redlining, disinvestment and urban renewal.



Your contribution made by cash, text, online or check made out to Albany UU will be split between Albany UU and the Center, 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 the Underground Railroad Education Center, write "all to UREC on the memo line."

Learn more about them at undergroundrailroadhistory.org.

Announcements for Sunday, October 25:

From Programs for Children & Youth:

Don't miss the Halloween Parade after the service! Watch for the grand entrance 11:15 during coffee hour in Channing Hall and prepare to be spooked and/or charmed by costumed children and youth.

From Rev. Sarah:

Reminder: All are invited to bring photos and/or small mementos to next Sunday's We Remember service, and to place them on the table at the front of the Community Hall before/at the beginning of the service. Paper and pens will be provided to write names of those you'd like to remember to add to the table. Folks on Zoom will be invited to share photos and type names in the chat.

From the Congregational Life Team:

This Friday Oct. 30th is the first Family Fun Night potluck of the year! Come and enjoy some great food and relaxed social time with fellow UU's. We'll have some activities for children and youth. And we can always use a little help with setup and cleanup. Contact Sharon Babala for more information.

From the Ministerial Search Committee:

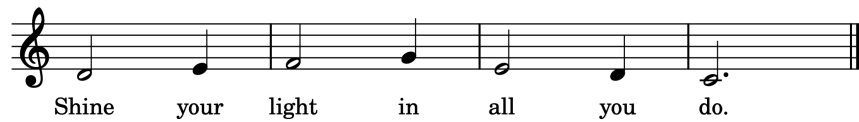
At the Albany UU annual meeting in May, a Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) was democratically selected by the congregation to manage the process of choosing a new settled minister. The seven elected members of the MSC are Karen Strong(co-chair), Jonathan Bick (co-chair), Heidi Newberg, Michele Desrosiers, Stephanie Saunders, Lisa Baranik and Jaye Holly. They have been hard at work in the search process, which will take about a year to complete. In addition to the administrative side of the process, the MSC has also been working to gather input from the congregation on what skills and attributes are most desired in our next settled minister. Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey (we had 147 responses!) and in the focus groups (more than 50 people joined in!). Soon there will be a "Break Barriers, Build Beliefs" retreat, so please watch for the announcement on how you can take part in that in the coming weeks. Together, we are building what's next for Albany UU. You can learn more about the MSC, as well as the timeline for the ministerial search process by visiting AlbanyUU.org/settled-ministerial-search/. You can also reach out to the MSC by emailing msc@albanyuu.org

From the Social Justice Team & NYUUI:

All are invited to the Justice Convocation to be held here at Albany UU on Saturday, November 7, from 10 AM to 4 PM. This annual event is sponsored by New York UU Justice and our social justice team. See Peggy Sherman at coffee hour to sign up, get more information, or volunteer to help with the day.

Reeb Children's Benediction

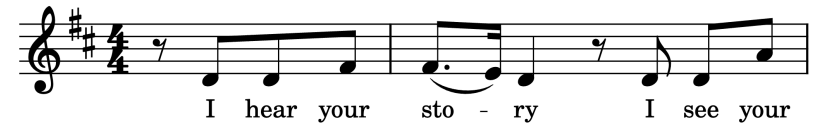
Words & Music by Ian W. Riddell



The Reeb Children's Benediction was named in honor of Reverend James Reeb, a UU minister, who was lost his life at the hands of white supremacists in Selma, Alabama, in April 1965.

I Hear Your Story

Music and words by Andrea Sorum



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2021