

2021 GARDENING INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOLUNTEERS

Sign up to garden

- Click here: <https://signup.com/go/owmnjFp> to open the Gardening 2021 online sign-up at SignUp.com.
- After you log in, you will see a calendar. Click on any week(s) during the summer that you can help. The week begins on Sunday - you can come in any day/time that week to garden. (You can come back often and sign up for additional weeks!)
- The calendar has room for three volunteers (2 is our goal, but more are always welcome and you can bring friends/family to help you). We have found that two volunteers per week keep the gardens in good shape.
- On the Volunteer page, you will be able to see how many slots are open over the course of the summer. Where slots are filled, you can see the name of the volunteer(s) who have signed up, and if your schedule changes you can use the "swap" option to see if someone can trade dates with you. Seeing the name of anyone signed up for the week you select gives you the opportunity to coordinate the day/time you will be coming in.
- Garden instructions are also shown on the sign up page, including the combination to the padlock on the shed on West Street.

Garden instructions

There are 5 gardens: 1) West Street Garden 2) Peace Pole 3) Bike Rack area 4) Heron Garden on Washington Ave (behind ramp) and 5) Memorial Garden in the triangle area (between Washington Ave and West St)

Duties:

- Your duties consist of tidying up the 5 gardens (or focusing on 1 or 2 if there is a lot to do). Pull weeds, pick up trash, and deadhead flowers. If you are not certain if something is a weed, it is ok to leave it for the next gardener to ponder.
- On occasion, you may need to water an area (especially needing water: if you face the Heron Garden, because of the building overhang, the far-right corner often does not get sufficient water even if it has rained). You can set up a sprinkler on one side of the building while gardening on the other side.
- Bring your gardening gloves, trowel, clippers, kneeling pad, and old plastic bags for trash.
- After you have finished your work in the garden, please send an email to Gardeners@egroups.churchdb.com and note the work you accomplished, along with areas watered, plus any suggestions for chores needing attention, so the next volunteer knows what has been recently "tackled."

Supplies:

- There are gardening supplies at Albany UU, most of which are kept in the storage shed on West Street (hoses, rakes, clippers, shovel, pitchfork, broom, sprinklers, trowels, brown garden waste bags, etc.). There is a garden cart that should make moving things from Washington Ave. to West Street much easier! A copy of these instructions will also be in the big Ziploc bag in the shed.

- The garden shed is secured with a padlock. The lock combination is 1842. To **unlock**, dial the numbers along the side column, then pull to open. To **close the lock**, push the lock arm into the base and dial to different numbers so the code is not left in place.

Watering/Hose usage:

- Washington Avenue side: There is a faucet below the air conditioner/office window in the Heron Garden - the garden along the front of the building, behind the ramp. You will need to use the sprinkler or a hand wand to get water to the terraced area. This year, we are experimenting with leaving the handle on the faucet (instead of stored in the shed). Please remember to tighten the handle when you are finished, to avoid water leaking into the basement!!
- West Street: If you stand at the back entrance to the building, look past the wheel chair ramp, a little way down the sidewalk - there is a faucet along the side of the building, near the cement platform that is covered by wood. If the handle is not on the faucet, it will be in the storage shed with the other gardening supplies. This faucet can be used to connect hoses to water the Memorial garden and the West Street garden. The hose reel cart and sprinkler in the shed will make this task easier.
- The Peace Pole garden and the garden behind and to the right of the bike rack are best watered with a sprinkler (also in the shed), which can be connected to the Heron faucet. There is a relatively new azalea that needs to be kept watered (looking at the Channing Hall large window, the azalea is in the far-right corner). If you are spot watering the azalea, there is a watering can in the shed.

Disposal of weeds or trash:

- Place weeds in a brown recycling/organics bag (large brown paper bags are usually kept in the storage shed). The bags can be left on the West Street curb, just past the garden on the border of our building and the first apartment. There is a large tree along the sidewalk - put the bags by the tree, near the curb. The city picks them up regularly.
- Trash bags can be deposited in the large trash bins behind our building on the West Street side.

These garden instructions can also be found on the Albany UU website here:

<http://members.albanyuu.org/wp/>. From the Table of Contents, which runs along the left side of the home page, click on "Church Office" then select "File Cabinet." Instructions can be found under the heading "Volunteering at Albany UU."

Note: *The building is closed so you will not have access to bathroom facilities.* Please bring the combination to the padlock on the West Street shed. Also remember to bring water in order to stay hydrated.

Questions: contact Donna Meixner at dmeix@aol.com