

# First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

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## *A Welcoming Congregation*

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### **FUUSA at a Glance**

- The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany (FUUSA) is a liberal religious congregation affirming the inherent sanctity of every person's free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
- The Society's 355 members live in the greater Capital region, with the majority from the City of Albany and adjacent towns.
- Rev. Samuel A. Trumbore has served as minister since 1999.
- Founded in 1842, the congregation built its present church at the corner of Washington Avenue and Robin Street in Albany in 1925. A religious education and administrative wing was added in 1962 and a new community room wing in 2007.
- FUUSA is one of more than 1,000 independent congregations joined as members of the Unitarian Universalist Association to support and strengthen each other and give voice to Unitarian Universalist principles.
- The Society is governed by a 12-member Board of Trustees led by David Munro, president of the congregation.
- In 1998 FUUSA voted to become a Welcoming Congregation, affirming its commitment to inclusiveness for bisexual, gay, lesbian and transgender members.
- About 150 children are registered for religious education classes, led by trained volunteers under the oversight and direction of the Religious Education Council and Director of Religious Education Leah Purcell.
- An active Social Responsibilities Council oversees projects ranging from a partner church in Transylvania, to refugee resettlement, and to support of the FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry and ARISE, A Regional Initiative Supporting Empowerment.
- In a 2004 capital campaign, FUUSA raised \$1.5 million for an expansion and renovation project estimated to cost approximately \$3 million. Designed by the architectural firm of Mesick, Cohen, Wilson, Baker, Architects LLP, the addition replaced four properties to the west of the religious education and administrative wing which was added in 1962. A large community room named Emerson Community Room (4,100 sq. ft. including a balcony) now provides about 75% more space than the current sanctuary. The addition also provides about 1,100 sq. ft. of new classroom space.
- Services are open to all and held on Sundays at 10:00 from September through the second Sunday in June. Religious education classes are held Sundays with the youth beginning their Sunday morning by attending the first part of the service at 10 AM. Nursery care is also provided during services.
- Parking is available on the surrounding streets or, on Sundays only, in the State University lot on the corner of Robin Street and Washington Avenue.