

**“Welcoming all free seekers of truth and meaning, we gather to excite the human spirit, to inspire its growth and development, to respond morally and ethically to a troubled world, and to sustain a vital and nurturing religious community.”**

*A poetic rendition of our mission statement used in the chalice lighting ceremony.*



**Welcoming all free seekers of truth and meaning**

## **First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany**

### **Sunday**

- 9:00 Service: *Sanctuary***
- 10:00 Coffee Hour: *Channing Hall*** Information Table; fellowship; activity sign-ups
- 10:30 Service: *Sanctuary***  
**Religious Education: *RE wing*** Nursery open both services, classes for children and youth during second service  
**Forum: *Stott Lounge*** Talks on social action issues

*Services are held starting in September on the Sunday after Labor Day through the Sunday before Father's Day in June.*

**Parking:** Anytime on the street; and on Sundays only in the University at Albany's Hawley lot (Robin St.) and Thurlow Terrace lot (Western Ave.)

**Wheelchair entrance:** West Street; ring bell for admission

**Summer services:** Call church office for schedule

**Office Hours:** Mon.-Fri., 9:00 – 4:00, Sept.- June; Mon.-Thurs., 9:00-4:00, July –August.

**Office phone:** 518-463-7135

**Office email:** administrator@fuusalbany.org

**Website:** www.fuusalbany.org

**Minister's office hours:** Call church office

**Minister's email:** strumbore@uumin.org

# **Welcome to FUUSA**



## **First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany**

405 Washington Ave.  
Albany, NY 12206  
(518) 463-7135  
www.fuusalbany.org

Rev. Samuel A. Trumbore, Minister

*A welcoming congregation*



## What is Unitarian Universalism?

Unitarian Universalism is a religion that encourages us to seek our own answers to the big questions of life. UUs are united in a search for truth and for religious values meaningful for our lives and time. We are encouraged to develop our own philosophy, aware that as our knowledge and insight deepen our beliefs may evolve.

We seek our truths from many sources—from world religions including Judeo-Christian and Eastern traditions, and from the words and deeds of prophetic women and men. We do not promote a specific creed, but rather, a set of principles for ethical living and an awareness of our interdependent world. Although we may arrive at different concepts of the truth, we hold these things in common: respect for reason, encouragement of spiritual growth, belief in the worth of every individual, and devotion to the goal of humankind undivided by nation, race or creed.

Every congregation is free to design its own services. Each church is self-supporting, deriving most of its income from pledges of its members and friends.

## What's in a name?

Unitarian Universalism has roots in the 16<sup>th</sup> century when the term "Unitarian" was used for dissenters from the dogma of the Trinity. In North America modern Unitarian Universalism sprang from two religious movements of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries: Unitarianism, which affirmed the unity of God and emphasized reason as a test for theological truth, and Universalism, which proclaimed salvation for all human beings.

Our Society began as Unitarian in 1842. In 1961 Unitarians and Universalists formally combined to become the Unitarian Universalist Association, and in May 1994 our congregation changed its name to reflect this joint heritage. For more about our heritage, read the History and Symbols brochure.

## Our Minister

Rev. Samuel A. Trumbore has served the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany since 1999. He graduated from the Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, CA, and served in Port Charlotte, FL, and Niagara Falls, NY, before coming to Albany. He is President of the Iroquois Chapter of the UU Ministers Association and the UU Buddhist Fellowship. He is past President of ARISE, A Regional Initiative Supporting Empowerment, in the capital region. He is also active with the West Hill Minister's Fellowship in downtown Albany, Interfaith Impact, and Family Planning Advocates. Rev. Trumbore is married to Philomena Moriarty Trumbore, and they have an adolescent son named Andy. Sam's interests are wide-ranging, but most of all, he is dedicated to transformative interpersonal engagement which yields personal, emotional, and spiritual growth.

## Programs

***The Religious Education program*** is dedicated to conveying the values of the Unitarian Universalist Principles to our young people. The program encourages children to respect themselves, others, and their environment, to learn about Unitarian Universalism, to ask questions, think for themselves, and develop their own values and beliefs. For details about the RE curriculum, see the Religious Education brochure.

***The Adult Education programs*** at FUUSA provide opportunities to learn about Unitarian Universalism, pursue personal growth, discuss issues facing society as a whole, and build a sense of community among participants. Newcomers find this a wonderful way to get to know this community. A schedule of current offerings is posted in Channing Hall and on our website, and is also available in the office.

***The Social Responsibilities Council*** educates the Society on issues of social and moral significance, and coordinates action on issues as directed by the Society. The council hosts weekly Sunday Forums on current issues and staffs an information table during coffee hour. Current activities include Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless, Prison Action Network, and Family Planning Advocates.

