



March 28, 2021

Why Liberal?

Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church
Founded in 1821

Celebrating Diversity, Encouraging Spiritual Growth,
and Promoting Social Responsibility

Please visit www.A2U2.org to learn more about us!

Order of Service

GATHERING MUSIC Dale Churchill, Dir. of Music

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS John Howard, Member of the Board of Trustees

OPENING MUSIC Andante Cantabile from K330, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Dale Churchill, Dir. of Music

RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP **All Are Welcome* Wendy Bartel and Lynne Gardner

OPENING HYMN **# 21 For the Beauty of the Earth* Singer: Terri Grover

LIGHTING THE CHALICE **The words of Betsy Parsons, adapted*

TIME FOR ALL AGES ***5 Smooth Stones* Rev. Theresa Soto

TESTIMONIAL Keith Williams

ANTHEM **Keep Loving Nimo and Empty Hands Music*

PRAYER/MEDITATION *Prayer for Trans Day of Visibility* Rev. Barb Greve (live service)
**The words of the Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt (YouTube)*

HYMN # 347 *Gather the Spirit* Singer: Mike Luce (MOVE)

LIVE JOYS and SORROWS

[Because of the private nature, joys and sorrows are not recorded for YouTube]

READING **Excerpt from the editorial, Why Liberal?* James Luther Adams, 1939
First published in the Journal of Liberal Religion

REFLECTION *Why Liberal?* Rev. Donna Dolham

CLOSING HYMN **# 95 There is More Love Somewhere* Singer: Michael Crosby

BENEDICTION The words of Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael

EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE

CLOSING MUSIC On Wings Of Song - Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy
Dale Churchill, Dir. of Music

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**Permission granted through, UUMA or UU Ministers Worship Collective on Facebook.

Break Out Room Questions:

*In what ways are James Luther Adams, principles for a free faith relevant to our UU faith today? Relevant to the way you choose to live out your UU faith?

*Which of the 5 (continuous revelation, freedom, justice, agency, hope) are most relevant at this time in history?

*What next steps could Allen Avenue engage to live out these principles in our life together?

About the resources for today's service

The Reverends Lynn Gardner and Wendy Bartel currently co-minister with the UU Society of Schenectady while continuing to serve the wider community through Schenectady Clergy Against Hate and denominationally, through the UU Ministers Association (UUMA), our local Hudson-Mohawk Cluster of 5 Congregations, the St. Lawrence UUMA Chapter, the Central East Region, and the Unitarian Universalist Association.

When we're not working, you might find us in the garden, on the trail, making music, walking our dog, eating fair trade chocolate, dismantling white supremacy, and deconstructing the hetero-patriarchy. We were married in 2008 and have an adult daughter, who lives in CA.

Rev. Lynn's pronouns-She, her, hers or They, them, theirs

Rev. Wendy's pronouns-Please use my name. She, he, and they do not fit my gender identity.



Betsy Parsons (1954 – 2019): Betsy sang for many seasons with Women in Harmony, attended Allen Avenue UU Church, and belonged to her cherished Spiritual Enrichment Group. Betsy was a powerful resource for LGBTQ youth in crisis, supported OUT Maine's suicide prevention efforts, and saved countless lives. Betsy taught English for 30 years at Portland and Deering High Schools. In 1996, she helped to found the Southern Maine Chapter of GLSEN, the Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network, in order to make schools safe for students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. She led the way for LGBT public school teachers by coming out in 1998. Betsy was a leader for democracy and a passionate defender of public schools and public educators.



The Rev. Theresa I. Soto is the newly called senior minister of First Unitarian Church of Oakland, California, and the author of *Spilling the Light: Meditations on Hope and Resilience* (Skinner House, 2019).



The Rev. Mr. Barb Greve serves as Developmental Director of Lifespan Religious Education at the Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church in Walnut Creek, CA. Barb earned his Master of Divinity degree at Starr King School for the Ministry and is a UUA Master level Credentialed Religious Educator. Barb has served as interim director of religious education to congregations in Atlanta, GA, Newton, MA and Hamden, CT. Prior to seminary he served in the UUA Office of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Concerns. Barb is the co-founder of Transgender Religious professional Unitarian Universalists Together (TRUUSt) and a tri-founder of the Guild of Interim Religious Educators (GIRE). Additionally, he is a trained Our Whole Lives (OWL) facilitator. Barb is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist and the child of a Director of Religious Education, a lapsed classical bassist, former home brewer, and a lover of Legos. (live service)



A lifelong Unitarian Universalist, **the Reverend Anya Sammler-Michael** is a graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School where she concentrated on theology and ethics. Rev. Anya is married to Rev. Scott Sammler-Michael. Rev. Anya is dedicated to interfaith work and deepening our efforts of hospitality and welcome. She has received awards for her commitment to Interfaith engagement from Loudoun Interfaith BRIDGES and the All Dulles Area Muslim Society. In 2012 she delivered an invocation for First Lady, Michelle Obama, and an invocation for President Barack Obama at separate campaign events. Her present studies include language philosophy, evil, and the partisan split.



Today is March 28, 2021

For links to all ONLINE meetings and programs, please refer to the [Breeze Calendar](#)

SHARE THE PLATE FOR MARCH 2021

Our Share the Plate for March is Opportunity Alliance. The Opportunity Alliance works with people to build better lives and stronger communities. They provide advocacy, leadership, and support to identify the goals and address the needs of individuals, families, and communities. You can learn more about the Opportunity Alliance [here](#):

UPCOMING This Week at A2U2 on Zoom!

Sunday: [Worship & Coffee & Conversation](#) at 10am
Tuesday: [Dawn Redwood Meditation group](#) at 10am
Tuesday: [Story time with Rev. Donna & Emily](#) at 4pm
Thursday: [Lectio Divina Meditation & Reflection Group](#) at 10am
Thursday: [Choir Practice](#) Please Contact Dale Churchill for more information.
Friday: [Minister Drop In](#) at 9am

Resources

[James Luther Adams in Unitarian Universalist History](#) (Harvard Divinity School)
[James Luther Adams Foundation](#)
Tapestry of Faith Story: [Two Men named James](#)
[Trans Composer Play list](#)
[Transgender UU Religious Professionals Together \(TRUUST\)](#)
[Transforming Hearts Collective](#)
[Unitarian Universalist for Jewish Awareness](#)

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**Certificate of Living Our UU Faith**

This is an opportunity for a challenge! What part of our Unitarian Universalism will you focus on this week? What are you committed to? *(each and every person is important, all people should be treated fairly, we should keep learning together, each person should be free to search for what is true and right in life, all people should vote about the things that concern them, we believe in working for peaceful, fair and free world, and we believe in caring for our planet earth.)*

**Download and fill out your certificate this week! Post your accomplishments on our UU Family Facebook page or send to Rev. Donna to share during coffee hour.**

***The creation of services takes a team!***

Thank you to our Music Director, Dale Churchill, and singers, Terri Grover, Mike Luce and Michael Crosby.  
Thank you Joe Seale and John Howard for editing the music for our services.

Thank you George Hixon for posting the service information for today's service and community conversation.

Thank you Alice Alexander for preparing the zoom link, the "what's up at A2U2, hymn slides and providing tech for today's service.

Thank you to our ushers: Kathy Gulrich and George Hixon

Thank you Erica Bartlett & Katrina VanBrugh for creating the announcement for this week's events and service.

**Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church  
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