

The North Parish of North Andover Unitarian Universalist

Founded in 1645 on unceded land of the Pennacook

Fifth Meeting House built in 1836

Affirming perfect freedom of conscience since 1886

Sunday, April 19, 2026



Artwork by Elizabeth Wandelmaier

Rev. Lee Bluemel, Minister
190 Academy Road, North Andover, MA 01845-4022
www.northparish.org

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Earth Day Sunday

*"Hope is like a road in the country; there was never a road,
but when many people walk on it, the road comes into existence."
-Lin Yutang (1895 –1976)*

Gathering Music: *Ceora* by Lee Morgan
John Finbury, Tad Hitchcock, Valerie Walton of
The Webb Street Weavers

Prelude: *The Sun Will Not Stop It's Rise* by Tad Hitchcock
The Webb Street Weavers

Opening Words and Gratitude Rev. Lee Bluemel
April Outreach: Essex County Greenbelt

Opening Hymn: *Put Your Roots Down* by Molly Hartwell (*see insert*)
Patty Brayden, John Finbury & Congregation

Welcome & Announcements Rev. Lee Bluemel

Lighting of the Chalice:

Life is a gift for which we are grateful!

We gather in community to celebrate the glories
and the mysteries of these great gifts.

-Rev. Marjorie Montgomery, UU, #452

Time for Wonder: Riding Bikes for the Earth!

Prudence Barker, Rev. Lee

Singing Out the Young People: *Blessings On You* by G. Bills

Blessings on you this fine day!

We love you more, more than words can say.

Blessings on you, live your life through in sweet harmony.

Blessings on you, this fine day!

Family and friends, send you on your way.

Blessings on you, blessings on you, blessings on you.

Reading, Meditation, Contemplation, Prayer Rev. Bluemel
Candles of Remembrance, Joy & Sorrow

Musical Meditation: *Some Other Time* by Leonard Bernstein

John Finbury, Tad Hitchcock, Valerie Walton

Shared Remembrances, Joys and Sorrows

Congregational Response: In our joys and in our sorrows,
we are not alone.

Spoken Meditation, Contemplation, Prayer

Offertory: *Shine On* by Terry Garthwaite Webb Street Weavers

Homily: A Biophilic Faith Rev. Bluemel

Reflections: From Vision to Reality

Climate Justice Group Representatives & Congregation

Closing Hymn: *In Your Bones* by Oliva Fern

Closing Gratitude & Benediction Rev. Bluemel

Postlude: *The Scene is Green* by Tad Hitchcock

The Webb Street Weavers

Our April Outreach: Essex County Greenbelt's mission is to keep Essex County green, natural, and accessible—now and for future generations. They manage properties to allow hiking, birdwatching and nature hikes. They protect water supplies for people and wildlife. They help to preserve farmland to prevent it from being sold for development, partnering with private owners, state agencies and local towns.

If you would like to donate, please make checks payable to North Parish with "April Outreach" in the memo line.

You may give to North Parish on our website, www.northparish.org. Go to "Give" at the top right of the page, choose "Ways to Give" from the drop-down menu and click on the "[Monthly Outreach](#)" yellow button.

EARTH DAY SUNDAY SONGS

Put Your Roots Down by Molly Hartwell

Put your roots down, put your feet on the ground,
can you hear what she says when you listen? (x2)

'Cause the sound of river
as it moves across the stones
is the same sound as the blood in your body
as it moves across your bones. (x2)

In Your Bones by Oliva Fern

May you know in your bones
that this earth is your home.

May you feel in your soul
you are worthy and whole.

May you know in your bones
that this earth is your home.

May you feel that you belong.

Gratitude to today's Sunday Team:

Greeter: Jeremy Richards; **Usher:** Cara Forcino

Zoom Greeter: Cathy French

Musicians: The Webb Street Weavers: Patty Brayden on vocals, guitar
John Finbury on cajon, piano; Tad Hitchcock on guitar, vocals
Valerie Walton on sax, vocals.

Tech Team: Evan Gaspar, Steve Vail

Artwork: Elizabeth Wandelmaier

After the service

11 am, following the service - Earth Day Clean-up, meet in Freeman Hall
11:30 am, Discussion on Caring for Aging Parents, Chapel

This Week - *please see the online calendar for more!*

Thurs., Apr. 23, 4 pm; Immigration Justice Weekly Stand-out

5 Union St., Lawrence (New Balance parking lot) at the Duck Bridge

Sat., Apr. 25, 8:30 am-2 pm; NP Community Blood Drive, Freeman Hall

Sat., Apr. 25, 11 am –12, Stand Out; Old Center Rotary (in front of NP)

Sat., Apr. 25, 5 8 pm, Game Night & Potluck Dinner; Freeman Hall

Next Sunday – April 26, 2026

James Dargan Sunday Service and Afternoon Concert



10 am: Our guest preacher/singer, **James Dargan** will ask the question: How do we make a home in a world becoming more and more inhospitable? Inspired by the story of Andover's Alice Hinton, let's find our answers together.

James has done solo work with The Boston Pops, operatic work with

esperanza spalding and Wayne Shorter, multiple performances at Carnegie Hall, and is a founding member of the consortium Ring Shout.

2 pm, “*Ladies Only!*” Concert at Andover Baptist Church

From Fanny Mendelssohn/Hensel (1805 - 1847) to Tracy Chapman (b. 1964), James Dargan will trace the amazing contributions of ten often overlooked female composers and musicians.

Imagine a world where music is truly universal and open to all, where the ability to have one's voice be heard is a given!

Location: 7 Central Street in Andover. Bring your friends!

Also, Next Sunday, 11:30 am, Soul Circle Singing; Chapel

Special Announcements

Join us for an Earth Day Clean-Up Today!

(Meet in Freeman Hall, following the service, then NP grounds.)

Help up care for our community by joining a town-wide effort to pick up litter on the streets surrounding North Parish. All ages welcome; however, for street safety, children must be accompanied by an adult. Gloves and Trash bags will be provided - just bring your energy and willingness to help. The World Wildlife Foundation is calling on people like us to [join Give an Hour for Earth](#), because nature needs us now, and every hour counts.

North Parish Community Blood Drive *this Sat.*

In memory of Matthew J. Driscoll

Give the Gift of Life- Donate Blood, *this Sat.* April 25, 8:30 am-2 pm

To make an appointment, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

This drive will be in memory of Beth and Dave Blanchard's nephew Matthew J. Driscoll, who died on January 13th at the age of 15 after a courageous battle with cancer. Matthew was an avid hockey player, a great big brother to his two younger siblings, and a beloved son. The family encourages all who are willing and able to consider giving the gift of life.

Game Night & Potluck Dinner– *this Sat.* April 25, 5-8 pm

Join us for a Spring Potluck and Games Night this Saturday in Freeman Hall. Feel free to bring some games to share! We will also have games available. All ages welcome.

Sign up to bring your best spring dish (are you thinking asparagus, rhubarb, peas?) or just something cozy (soup, bread...?). For any Questions or to sign up a dish, please contact Rebecca at community@northparish.org.

Ferry Beach Weekend- May 8-10, 2026

Deadline to sign-up is *this Friday, April 24*

Come for a day at the beach! Come for the weekend! See this week's E-News or the NP website for the registration link. Questions? Send to Ferry Beach weekend coordinators Jan Jones & Keith Connors at

FerryBeach@northparish.org

Congregational Questionnaire for Rev. Lee's Studies

Tell me about yourself!

Rev. Lee is currently engaged in a research project about commonalities and diversity among Unitarian Universalists- including the ways we identify ourselves and our beliefs, the religious or spiritual language we prefer to use, and how we care for the earth and its beings through a variety of personal and communal practices, hobbies and habits.

She is looking for people to answer an entirely voluntary questionnaire which is anonymous and will not be linked to your name or email; you can decide mid-way through to not submit your response. You can answer the survey by clicking the QR code below. Thank you so very much!!



Peoples' Food Pantry & Walk for Hunger-May 3rd

This year, The Peoples Food Pantry is joining the Walk for Hunger for the very first time on **Sunday, May 3rd!** For 58 years, this event has brought communities together to fight food insecurity, and we get to be part of it.

Ways You Can Help:

Walk: Gather at the Starbucks on the corner of Beacon St and Charles St. in Boston and we will walk over to the start line together. We'll meet between 8:30-8:45 am - the walk begins at 9 am for a 3 mile walk.




Donate: 60% of funds go directly to Peoples Food Pantry, 40% to Project Bread. Every dollar brings real relief to families struggling with food insecurity.

Share: Spread the word with friends and family to amplify our impact.

Join our team or support our cause through a donation by visiting our page <https://give.projectbread.org/team/813258>

Making an Earth Day Resolution? Want to use renewable electricity? See the QR codes below!

More information on this and other earth-related, biodiversity-related, climate-related efforts, please peruse the tables downstairs on the stage in Freeman Hall. Envision the future you want and make an Earth Day Resolution today!

Town	69% renewable	100% Renewable	Term	Scan to Enroll
Andover		14.637 ¢/kWh	June 2024 until December 2027	
Boxford		14.853 ¢/kWh	June 2024 until December 2027	
No. Andover		13.99¢/kWh	October 2025-October 2028	
National Grid	15.372 ¢/kWh	-	June 2024 until December 2027	

The earth says thanks to all who participated (or will participate) in UU Mass Action Advocacy Day! And thanks to all who are participating right now in *Save North Andover Wildlife* or *Save Andover Wildlife!* Thanks to those who've joined the Green Gardeners and who have been preparing our grounds to be a summer oasis! **Newcomers to the Green Gardeners, Save Wildlife teams and the North Parish Climate Justice Group are always welcome.**