

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, May 3, 2026



*"Empowered by love,
we are an inclusive, free-thinking faith community
that awakens curiosity, nourishes the spirit,
encourages growth
and inspires compassionate action."*

-The North Parish Mission

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

Sunday, May 3, 2026

May Day and Beltane Sunday

*"Life is about not knowing, having to change, taking the moment and making the best of it, without knowing what's going to happen next.
Delicious ambiguity." – Gilda Radner*

"Worry is a misuse of the imagination." -Dan Zadra

"Sell your cleverness and buy bewilderment." -Rumi

Gathering Music & Silent Candle Lighting

Prelude: *For the Beauty of the Earth* by John Rutter
Adult Choir, Aaron Pawelek

Opening Words Rev. Lee Bluemel

Opening Hymn: Siyahamba #1030

Welcome & Announcements

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 Susanne Hinson-Rieger, DRE

Singing Out the Young People: Love Will Guide Us #131

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

Musical Meditation: Comfort Me #1002

Comfort me, comfort me, comfort me oh my soul. (x2)

Sing with me, sing with me, sing with me, oh my soul. (x2)

Shared Joys and Sorrows

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

Spoken Meditation, Contemplation, Prayer

Offertory: *All Things Bright and Beautiful* Adult Choir
by John Rutter

Sermon: Uncertainty, Curiosity, Democracy Rev. Lee Bluemel

Closing Hymn: As We Come Marching, Marching #109

Closing Gratitude & Benediction Rev. Lee & Congregation

We will go forth into the world in peace
to act with works of love,
to affirm each person's dignity
and to cherish the living earth!

Postlude: *Spring Song* by Orlando di Lasso Adult Choir

***The flowers on the altar are given by Cara Forcino,
in memory of Lee Forcino.
Brother, you are always in my heart.***

Gratitude to today's Sunday Team:

Greeters: Renée Hoekstra, Jeff Nathan, Jeremy Richards

Usher: Gail Ensdorf

Musicians: Adult Choir; Aaron Pawelek, flute

Christina Kennedy, Assistant Music Director

John Middleton-Cox, Director

Sunday Luncheon hosted by Community Action Team

Tech Team: Evan Gaspar, Raphael Unterkofler, Steve Vail

After the service

11 am, Luncheon hosted by Community Action Team; Freeman Hall

11:20 am, Annual Meeting Info Session; Chapel

11:15 am, Handbell Choir practice; Sanctuary

11:15 am, Bridging Team Dog Treat Bake Sale; Freeman Hall

Please join the Bridging Team during coffee hour this morning for a dog treat bake sale benefiting Sweet Paws Rescue, a Massachusetts-based, volunteer-powered nonprofit that has rescued nearly 22,000 animals since 2011. Come fetch some homemade goodies and artisanal dog biscuits, wag your tail at our prices, and help fund rescue, medical care, transport and adoption of pups in need.

11:30 am, Grief Group; Blue Room

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

Wed., May 6, 7pm; Annual Info Session [via Zoom](#)

(User ID: 897 9408 1224; Passcode: NP2026)

Thurs., May 7, 4 pm; Immigration Justice Weekly Stand-out

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

Sat., May 9, 11 am –12, Stand Out; Old Center Rotary (in front of NP)

Sat., May 9, 8 pm (doors 7:15 pm), Crossroads Music Series; Freeman Hall

Next Sunday – May 10, 2026 – Mothering Sunday

11:30 am, Soul Circle Singing; Chapel

Social Events/ Building Community:

Crossroads Music Series, Sat. May 9



8 pm, (doors 7:15 pm) Freeman Hall
Don't miss this remarkable musical event, with New Orleans jazz/blues/r&b stalwarts, The Soggy Po' Boys, performing with Della Mae powerhouse lead singer, Celia Woodhouse. Tix:

www.crossroadsmusicseries.org

SAVE THE DATE! – MOTH Storytelling



Come enjoy story telling at North Parish! Join us *Saturday, September 26, 2026 from 6:30 to 9 pm in Freeman Hall* for food, drink and stories.

Contact Kim Adami for more information.
kim.adami@verizon.net *781-983-5523*

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/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 choose which questions to answer or decide not to submit your response!) Answer the survey by clicking the QR code below *or fill out a paper copy* at the Welcome Kiosk in Freeman Hall. *Thank you so very much!!*



The North Parish Annual Meeting

Sunday May 17, 11:20 am

Advance Informational Meetings Today following the service in the Chapel & Wed. May 6, [via Zoom](#)

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Learn about the Budget and a major update to the Green Envelope Project!

Please help our 2026 Annual Meeting go as quickly and smoothly as it has in past years!

- We need a quorum to do our business, so attendance matters.
- Find out answers to your questions and give input in advance! Attend one of the Informational Meetings.

Please note: Only members *present in the sanctuary* can vote. You can watch the meeting on Zoom but we won't be taking questions or votes from the Zoom audience.

Thurs, May 14: DRUUMM invites all souls into a bold & grounding public worship experience!

The Racial Justice Team will host a watch party for the annual DRUUMM Public Worship on Thursday, May 14 in the chapel with a social hour at 7 pm preceding the live, virtual worship at 8 pm. The mission of DRUUMM (Diverse & Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries) is to unite Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) within Unitarian Universalism to work for self-determination, justice, and equal opportunity.

Many people describe DRUUMM Public Worship as one of the most moving UU services they attend all year. The public worship is intentionally centered in Black, Indigenous, and People of Color leadership and theology, while warmly welcoming multiracial families and White antiracist allies who seek a faith grounded in honesty, care, and collective liberation.

New Member Sunday - May 17th

Welcome to our newest members! Much appreciation to **Marjorie Bicking, Jess Clemons, Maria de la Motte, Erin Jackson, Beth Shapiro** and who recently joined North Parish as members.

We at North Parish believe that community is as important now as ever. *If North Parish is starting to feel like home to you, why not make it official?* Joining as a member shows others that they are not alone- that you, too, are committed to our community. It also gives you a vote at our Annual Meeting.

On May 17th, Rev. Lee will lead a short recognition ceremony during the service. New members receive a certificate and are invited to sign the membership book— a meaningful tradition at North Parish. (The next ceremony will be in late fall.)

If you'd like to join, you can find a membership form on the Welcome Desk during Sunday Coffee hour or go to our website at www.northparish.org and click on *How Do I* at the top of the page, then scroll down to *Become a Member*. Feel free to email the form or give it to a greeter or staff member on Sunday.

If you have questions about membership, contact Brittany at membership@northparish.org, any member of the Welcome Team (Jeff Nathan, Nancy Sarro, Lynn Wentzel), or Rev. Lee. We hope North Parish already feels like *your* congregation!

Staff

Rev. Lee Bluemel, Minister
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Susanne Hinson-Rieger, Director of Family Religious Education
DRE@northparish.org

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Molly Kerrigan, Assistant for Religious Education/Exploration
Kids@northparish.org

Alexis Schlesinger, Sunday Photographer
Media@northparish.org

Manuel Tejada, Sexton

Board of Trustees

Marsha Cordio & Mary Kilpatrick, Co-chairs
Renée Hoekstra & Aaron Pawelek, Parish Council Co-Chairs
Cara Forcino, Secretary
Rick Briscoe, Carol Carbonell

with non-voting members Don Melson, Treasurer and Rev. Lee Bluemel

Officers

Don Melson, Treasurer; Klaus Unterkofler, Collector
Darnell Canada, Assistant Treasurer
Kathy Slade, Clerk; Adam Hamel, Moderator

Parish Council

Renée Hoekstra, Aaron Pawelek, Parish Council Co-Chairs; Christine Leone, Family Religious Education; Steve Vail, Ron Zelle, Technology; Tim Daniel, Red Bow Fair; Kirk Olsen, House & Grounds; Gary Muldoon, Personnel; Heather McNeil, Gail Forsyth-Vail, Worship; Dave Kovner, Crossroads Music Series; TBD, Fundraising; Susan Malloy, Great Pond Sangha; Keith Wentzel, Finance; Charlene Curtin, Community Action Team; Janet Foley, Stewardship; Deb Olander, Nancy Lennhoff, Racial Justice Team; Karen Martin, Climate Justice Group; Janet Foley, Debb Putnam, Green Gardeners; Debb Putnam, Website; Nancy Sarro, Welcoming/Membership; Leslie Young-Lemire, Second Sunday Lunch Coordinator