

# 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 24, 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](http://www.northparish.org)





## **Our Guest Preacher - Matt Meyer**

Matt is an itinerant troubadour and worship leader who has led hundreds of services for UU congregations across the country. He has a degree in hand drumming and serves as Director of Community Life for Sanctuary Boston.

## **Gratitude to today's Sunday Team:**

**Greeters:** Jeff Nathan, Jeremy Richards; **Usher:** Betsy Black, Carol Disney

**Worship Assistant:** Cara Forcino; **Zoom Host:** Melissa White

**Musicians:** Matt Meyer; John Middleton-Cox, Music Director

**Coffee Hosts:** Charlene Curtin, Janet Foley

**Tech Team:** Evan Gaspar, Raphael Unterkofler, Steve Vail

**After the service** please join us for coffee hour in Freeman Hall.

At this morning's coffee hour, Dick Howe will be seeking signatures from Andover voters for a Charter Commission petition. Over the past two years, volunteers gathered and submitted more than 4,700 signatures on the petition. Ten days after they were filed, the Town Clerk announced that only 3,451 signatures could be certified, falling short of the required 4,052. Moreover, the petitioners were told they could not submit additional signatures; instead they have to start over to collect the required number. The Charter Petition group is NOT GIVING UP! If you are an Andover registered voter, please sign the petition at coffee hour after this morning's service.

**11:30 am, Soul Circle Singing, Chapel**

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

**Thurs., May 28, 4 pm; Immigration Justice Weekly Stand-out**

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

**Thurs., May 28, 7 pm, Music Rehearsal; Sanctuary**

**Sat. May 30, 11 am –12, Stand Out; Old Center Rotary (in front of NP)**

**Next Sunday – May 31, 2026**

**Bridging Sunday for High School Seniors**

**11:30 am, Handbell Rehearsal, Sanctuary**

## Announcements

### Help a child live their Field of Dreams!

A friend of North Parish is collecting baseball equipment for young people in the Dominican Republic, ages 6-17. Used equipment in the DR is sold at inflated, unaffordable prices - out of reach for so many families. Your donation, new or gently used, can help a child live their Field of Dreams. A collection box is in Freeman Hall. Drop off bats, gloves, baseballs, cleats, pants/shirts/hats - anything baseball related, old or new! Items will be shipped to the DR and distributed directly to the kids who need them most.

### Volunteers Needed for the 4th of July Celebration on the Common

This years 4th of July Declaration of Independence Recitation Event on the common is looking for people to help with program planning and event logistics. This years event will be the 7th Annual event hosted by the Friends of the 1836 Meeting House and this year is the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. A



few people are needed to help develop and finalize the event plans and develop a long term event strategy. Meetings will be held on Zoom, so you can help from home. You can learn about last years event on the Friends website or contact John Lennhoff, Treasurer of the Friends and event coordinator for more information at [John.Lennhoff@gmail.com](mailto:John.Lennhoff@gmail.com)

### 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!!*



## Social Events/ Building Community:

### Crossroads Music Series, Sat. June 13

8 pm, (doors 7:15 pm) Freeman Hall



You don't want to miss acclaimed, Nashville-based singer-songwriter, Liz Longley, in concert, at Crossroads Music Series. Join us for an evening of heart-rending, soulful acoustic music, Sat., June 13, 8 pm in Freeman Hall, North Parish. Tickets, while they last, at [www.crossroadsmusicseries.org](http://www.crossroadsmusicseries.org).

Known for her distinctive blend of folk, pop, and Americana, Liz has earned accolades from prestigious songwriting competitions, including the BMI John Lennon Songwriting Scholarship Competition.

## Upcoming Sundays

**May 31<sup>st</sup>:** Bridging Sunday (high school seniors “bridging” to young adulthood.)

**June 7<sup>th</sup>:** Aaron Pawelek playing original songs, Rev. Lee; RE Volunteer and Multigenerational Party/Celebration following the service

**June 14<sup>th</sup>:** Flower Communion and Volunteer Recognition Sunday

**June 21<sup>st</sup>:** Summer Solstice service with Rev. Helen Cymbala & Æring

**June 28<sup>th</sup>:** Summer service in the Chapel with Pat Scanlon

## June 30<sup>th</sup> is the end of our fiscal year for 25-26

### pledges! A Note on Offertory Donations

**Cash:** If you wish your cash contributions to be applied to your pledge, please use the envelopes in the back of the sanctuary and include your name and pledge intent. Thank you!

- **Text:** send a text to **73256** (in the text, enter **NorthParishUU**)
- **Online:** You may give to North Parish on our website, [www.northparish.org](http://www.northparish.org), under “Give” and then “Ways to Give.”
- **Don't have cash? Give through our virtual collection plate by using the QR code below:**



## **WELCOME TO NORTH PARISH**

**Visitors and guests, welcome** to our worship service! Please fill out a welcome card and put it in the offertory plate. If you check the box, we will send you our weekly E-news.

There is more information at the **Welcome Kiosk** in Parish Hall; you may also speak to any member or email Brittany Moran at [Membership@northparish.org](mailto:Membership@northparish.org).

As a **UUA Welcoming Congregation**, we actively welcome gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and non-binary people and families of all constellations.

**We strive to be accessible to all.** There are assisted hearing devices on the back tables and a Braille hymnal is available upon request. An elevator and *all gender, accessible restrooms* are located outside the door up front, near the pulpit.

**North Parish** is a regional Unitarian Universalist congregation serving members from urban, suburban and rural Merrimack Valley communities. In the UU tradition, we call upon many sources for strength and inspiration, include a wide range of theological positions, and put love at the center of who we are and what we do. We became officially Unitarian in 1836 and first affirmed freedom of conscience in our covenant in 1886. We are in our 381<sup>st</sup> year as a congregation!

Our minister can be reached at [revlee@northparish.org](mailto:revlee@northparish.org)

Our Director of Family Religious Education can be reached at [dre@northparish.org](mailto:dre@northparish.org).

The office can be reached at [office@northparish.org](mailto:office@northparish.org)

## **Staff**

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Alexis Schlesinger, Sunday Photographer  
[Media@northparish.org](mailto:Media@northparish.org)

Manuel Tejada, Sexton

## **Board of Trustees**

Mary Kilpatrick, Chair

Renée Hoekstra & Aaron Pawelek, Parish Council Co-Chairs  
Kat Vallario, Secretary

Tad Bickford, Carol Carbonell, Ken Rohr

with non-voting members Chas Bicking, Treasurer and Rev. Lee Bluemel

## **Officers**

Chas Bicking, 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; TBD, 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; TBD, Stewardship; Nancy Lennhoff, Racial Justice Team; TBD, Climate Justice Group; Janet Foley, Debb Putnam, Green Gardeners; Debb Putnam, Website; TBD, Welcoming/Membership; Leslie Young-Lemire, Second Sunday Lunch Coordinator