

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, June 7, 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, June 7, 2026

*"What should young people do with their lives today?
Many things, obviously. But the most daring thing is to create stable
communities in which the terrible disease of loneliness can be cured."
–Kurt Vonnegut*

"Hoarding won't save us. All flourishing is mutual." -Robin Wall Kimmerer

Gathering Music & Silent Candle Lighting

Prelude: *A Light By the Sea* by Aaron Pawelek

Kim Adami, John Middleton-Cox, Aaron Pawelek, Sam Wright

Opening Words & Gratitude

Rev. Lee Bluemel

Opening Hymn: Woyaya

#1020

Welcome & Announcements Jeremy Richards, Worship Assistant

Lighting of the Chalice:

At times our own light goes out
and is rekindled by a spark from another person.
Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude
of those who have lighted the flame within us.

-#447, Albert Schweitzer

Time for Wonder: Celebrating the Year in Religious Education

Susanne Hinson-Rieger, Molly Kerrigan

Singing Out the Young People: *This Little Light of Mine* #118

This little light of mine; I'm going to let it shine (x3)

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Musical Interlude: *Carry Each Other* by Aaron Pawelek

Kim Adami, John Middleton-Cox, Aaron Pawelek, Sam Wright

Meditation, Contemplation, Prayer

Rev. Bluemel

Candles of Remembrance, Joy & Sorrow

Musical Meditation: Meditation on Breathing

#1009

Breathe in, breathe out.

Breathe in, breathe out. *(repeat)*

When I breathe in, I breathe in peace.

When I breathe out, I breathe out love. *(repeat)*

Shared Joys and Sorrows

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

Spoken Meditation, Contemplation, Prayer

Offertory: *Breathe At the Same Time* by Aaron Pawelek

Kim Adami, John Middleton-Cox, Aaron Pawelek, Sam Wright

Sermon: Flourishing Together- The Modern Prophets' Call

Rev. Lee Bluemel

Closing Hymn: *A Light By The Sea* by Aaron Pawelek *(see insert)*

Closing Gratitude & Benediction

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: *River of Mercy* by Aaron Pawelek

Kim Adami, John Middleton-Cox, Aaron Pawelek, Sam Wright

*The Flowers on the altar are given by Barbara Wrightson
In memory of Richard Orson*

Gratitude to today's Sunday Team:

Ushers: Chris & Don Schemack

Worship Assistant: Jeremy Richards

Zoom Greeter: Cathy French

Zoom Hosts: Melissa White

Musicians: Kim Adami, percussion; John Middleton-Cox, piano & vocals
Aaron Pawelek, composer, vocals & guitar; Sam Wright, vocals

Coffee Hosts: Gail Ens Dorf, Barbara Wrightson

Tech Team: Evan Gaspar, Raphael Unterkofler, Steve Vail

Today

11 am; Religious Educator Facilitator Appreciation & Summer Celebration! All are welcome to join the party and summer celebration in the backyard! There will be food, RE Yearbooks to sign, Summer RE bags to take home, RE teachers to appreciate, and fun activities.

11:30 am; Grief Group, Blue Room

In Andover: 11:30 am Car PRIDE Parade & Picnic in the Park. Line up at the Dundee Office Park, Dundee Park Dr., Andover. Parade begins at noon and finish at South Church, 41 Central St. Picnic, music, and games inside South Church's Fellowship Hall and all are welcome for the Noon to 2 PM festivities. Bring your lunch & a donation for the food and diaper pantry!

In Stow: 4 pm Artemis Circle & Sounds of Stow Concert of maritime music in support of WHOI, at First Parish Church, 353 Great Road, Stow

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

Wed., June 10, 12 pm; Brown Bag Lunch with Rev. Lee, Parlor & Zoom
Meeting ID: 811 7546 4728; Passcode: NP2025

Wed., June 10, 7:30 pm; Music rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thurs., June 11, 4 pm; Immigration Justice Weekly Stand-out
5 Union St., Lawrence (New Balance parking lot) at the Duck Bridge

Fri. June 12, 6 pm; Andover Resolve Reenactment, Revolution 250th
in the Sanctuary with reception to follow in Freeman Hall

Sat., June 13, 11 am; Handbell practice, Sanctuary

Sat., June 13, 11 am –12, Stand Out; Old Center Rotary (in front of NP)

Sat., June 13, 1 pm; Arts & Crafts with Renée Hoekstra, Chapel

Sat. June 13, 8 pm (doors 7:15 pm), Crossroads Music Series, Freeman Hall

Composer's Statement

by Aaron Pawelek

In January, the Social Justice pillar at North Parish held a workshop—*The Urgency of Now*—exploring ways people can get more involved in various advocacy and activist campaigns from food insecurity and immigrant rights to climate justice and much more. A highlight for me was a suggestion about the myriad skill sets and even identities we can bring to our work on these causes. One of the categories had to do with creative expression, and within that, the role of songwriters and song leaders was emphasized.

Ever since then, we've been holding bi-weekly soul-singing circles after church services, and I've been helping to lead those. Coincidentally, I had begun writing new songs a few months earlier with an old friend and bandmate for a recording project we are planning. After attending the *Urgency of Now* workshop, I was inspired to branch out and write songs responding intentionally to the moment we find ourselves in. Once these songs started emerging, I then set my sights on writing in a way that could speak deeply into the worship and communal life of North Parish.

The songs you will hear today are the result of that effort. The prelude, "*A Light By the Sea*", imagines the church as a beacon of light for 'those in trouble to find what they need most'. The interlude, "*Carry Each Other*", is inspired by our joys and sorrows ritual. "*Breathe at the Same Time*", the offertory, refers to the communal act of deep breathing we frequently practice. We will then revisit "*A Light By The Sea*", singing it together as our closing hymn. And our postlude, "*River of Mercy*", will close us out with an exuberant demand for our country to lead with compassion and kindness rather than the cruelty and brutality we have seen in recent months.

This has been a difficult year for many among us. To anyone who feels frightened, angry, sad, or helpless: these are songs of hope and resilience, and they are for you.

A Light by the Sea

Words and Music by Aaron Pawelek

From cape to cape and sea to sea
thunder clouds are rumbling in.
Sound the horn and light the beacon
so safe passage may begin.

Refrain:

**Shine your light down to the harbor;
hold your ground, maintain your post.
Shine your light so those in trouble
might find what they need most.**

As the waves crash ever louder
and we're bracing for the storm
all the boats out on the water
seek the light that guides them home.

(Refrain)

Now the storm is finally landing-
devastation far and near-
yet the tower is still standing,
its beam is strong and clear.

(Refrain)

Next Sunday – June 14, 2026: Flower Communion

Bring a flower- or several- to service if you can!

11 am: All Church 2nd Sunday Potluck & Pizza Lunch



June 14th is our last Second Sunday Lunch for the church year! Please sign up to bring a side dish, drink or dessert by clicking on the **QR code below**. You can drop off your item in Freeman Hall before the service on that day.



Also on June 14th; 11:30 am, Soul Circle Singing, Chapel

Today, Sunday, June 7, 4 pm: North Parish singers Sail Away with Sounds of Stow & Artemis Circle

Come hear North Parish singers *Kim Adami, Anna Choi, Alice Galloway, Tom Harrison, Kristin Leary, Annakiya Marshall, Moira McCarthy, Jennifer Staton, and Melissa White* on Sunday, June 7, 2026, 4 pm at First Parish Church of Acton and Stow, 353 Great Road, Stow, MA, in a lively and evocative concert bringing together the Sounds of Stow Chorus, the Artemis Circle Choral Project, and acclaimed traditional musicians Keith Murphy and Becky Tracy for an afternoon inspired by the sea in support of the **Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI)**.

Directed by Christina Kennedy, the program features folk traditions, choral works, and maritime music that capture the motion, mystery, adventure, and community of life on and around the water. Audience members will also have the opportunity to join in a spirited sea chantey singalong. Tickets at www.soundsofstow.org and at the door.

From the Office: Help Us Save Money!

Did you know that NP had to include **\$6K in the 2026 – 2027 budget** to cover fees to process credit cards? Each credit card payment costs NP **almost 3% of the gift** in transaction fees. In the new fiscal year, we will include an option in REALM to allow givers to cover that percentage fee if willing and able. **OR**, we can *all* save some money! If you make ACH payments directly from your checking account, NP will cover the much smaller transaction fee of **only 45 cents!** Thank you for considering these options. Changes can be made in REALM; ask Stephanie (office@northparish.org) for help as needed.

Summer Services- 10 am Sundays

in the air-conditioned Chapel

&

North Parish Playground Meetups with Molly:

Sun. June 28, Sat. July 11, & Sun. August 9 at 10am

June 21st: Summer Solstice service- Rev. Helen Cymbala

June 28th: You Never Know the Results of Your Actions
Pat Scanlon

July 5th: No Service – Join us for the July 4th Declaration of Independence Recitation event on Sat. at 11 on the Common!

July 12th: UUCharist-- Aaron Pawelek (Food provided)

July 19th: Sourdough Bread and Yoga-- Carl Mellin

July 26th: Making Space for Ruminaton, Self criticism, & Racing Thoughts: Practical Strategies for a Restless Mind--
Renée Hoekstra

August 2nd: Held at the Threshold: Presence, Music, & What the Dying Teach Us—Kerry Anne Kilkelly

August 9th: Sacred Brunch—Ellen Geiger (Bring food!)

August 16th: Songs For The Spirit-- Aaron Pawelek & Patty Brayden

August 23rd: Poetry for the Summer Spirit – Mark Bohrer & Kim Adami

August 30th: How to Defend Yourself Against the Christian Right--Anna Choi

September 6th: Labor Day Weekend - no service!

September 13th: Ingathering & Water/Shell/Stone Communion in the Sanctuary. (Collect some water over the summer!)

For more info: See the Enews or NP homepage at northparish.org

Thank you to our 25-26 RE Volunteers!

Emily Bairos
Prudence Barker
Debbie Bohrer
Cathie Briscoe
Rick Briscoe
Bree Canner
Anna Choi
Marsha Cordio
Charlene Curtain
Helen Cymbala
Cheryl Denmark
Carol Disney
Ben Falkner
Janet Foley
Gail Forsyth-Vail
Mary Jo Fortes
Karin Fuog
Kerry Gaspar
Tiffany Goddard
Pat Grimm
Stephanie Harrington
Renée Hoekstra
Kristin Hunt
Cindy Jones
Allison Jordan
Mary Kilpatrick
Tina Klein

Nancy Lennhoff
Christine Leone
Susan Malloy
Cara Marshall
Jeffrey Martin
Karen Martin
Moirra McCarthy
Justin Modica
Kara Modica
Jackie Nathan
Deb Olander
Carmen Pepicelli
Debb Putnam
Katherine Rand
Nick Rand
AJ Reusch
Mark Richards
Nancy Sarro
Lynn Scarborough
Brenna Schneider
Elizabeth Sholtys
Emma Stanton
Eric Teasdale
Kat Valerio
Lynn Wentzel
Melissa White
Leslie Young-Lemire



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.

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 381st year as a congregation!

Our minister can be reached at revlee@northparish.org

Our Director of Family Religious Education can be reached at

dre@northparish.org. The office can be reached at

office@northparish.org

June 30th 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, under "Give" and then "Ways to Give."
- **Don't have cash? Give through our virtual collection plate by using the QR code below:**





SUMMER

NORTH PARISH RE EVENTS

☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀

<p>Sunday June 7</p>	<p>Summer Celebration Music, fun and snacks in the church backyard after service!</p>
<p>Sunday June 14</p>	<p>Flower Communion Last day of RE for the summer</p>
<p>Sunday June 28</p>	<p>Playground Meetups 10:00 am</p>
<p>Saturday July 11</p>	<p>Drummond Playground Johnson St, North Andover</p>
<p>Sunday August 9</p>	<p>All ages welcome, stay as long as you'd like.</p>

SOUNDS of STOW
Barbara Jones, Artistic Director


4:00 pm Sunday, June 7, 2026
First Parish Church of Acton & Stow
353 Great Road, Stow, MA

SAIL AWAY


SONGS FROM THE SALT SEA
DIRECTED BY CHRISTINA KENNEDY

FOLK SONGS AND CHORAL MUSIC
INSPIRED BY LIFE ON THE WATER



FEATURING THE SOUNDS OF STOW CHORUS AND THE
ARTEMIS CIRCLE CHORAL PROJECT WITH GUEST ARTISTS
KEITH MURPHY & BECKY TRACY OFFERING THEIR
OWN SETS AND LEADING A SEA CHANCEY SINGALONG



In support of the **Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution** Visit soundsofstow.org for tickets & more info

 Mass Cultural Council

Sounds of Stow is supported in part by grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council as administered by the Local Cultural Councils of Acton-Boxborough, Bolton, Hudson, Littleton and Stow

Many Hands Make Light Work

Join our North Parish

Sunday Volunteers and create a joyful welcome!

Name: _____

Email: _____

Would you or your small group be willing to help out on Sunday mornings during the church year? Training and/or detailed instructions are provided. You or your group can volunteer a few times a year, once a month, or when you are willing and available.

It's a great way to meet people and be part of our radical welcome, and you don't miss the service! Check any options that interest you below and you'll be added to our volunteer groups in Realm.

Give to an usher on your way out.

_____ Greeters (welcome people at the door, answer questions about North Parish, visit with newcomers at coffee hour; instructions available)

_____ Ushers (greet people, hand out orders of service, collect the offering, check the pews; instructions available)

_____ Zoom Hosts (attend service via Zoom, greet people in the chat and provide them with words and lyrics, respond to joys and sorrows; training required. Our need for more hosts is great!)
GREATLY NEEDED

_____ Worship Assistants (prepare the pulpit area, do welcome & announcements & readings; script, training & instructions available)

_____ Coffee Hour Set Up/Clean Up (set up coffee table, make coffee, run the dishwasher; training required. Instructions available.) GREATLY NEEDED