

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 14, 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

Flower Communion & Volunteer Recognition

Sunday, June 14, 2026

*"Let us renew our resolution, sincerely, to be real brothers and sisters
regardless of any kind of bar which estranges us from each other...*

Infinite Spirit of Life...

May we cherish friendship as one of thy most precious gifts...

*May we realize that whatever we can do, great or small,
the efforts of all of us are needed to do thy work in this world."*

– Nobert Capek (6/3/1810 – 10/12/1942)

Gathering Music & Silent Candle Lighting

Prelude: *Prayer for the Earth*

trad. folk tune arr. & words by Hal Hopson

Adult Choir sopranos, Children's Choir, Youth Singers &
Handbell Choir

Opening Words & Gratitude

Rev. Lee Bluemel

Opening Hymn: The Sweet June Days

#65

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Bluemel

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

Charge & Blessing of Leaders (*see insert*) Children & Congregation

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!

Volunteer Recognition Rev. Bluemel & Congregation
Leaders Completing Their Terms
All Volunteers

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: *The Landscape of Your Heart* Adult Vocal Choir,
by Sarah Quartel John Middleton-Cox, Directing

Reflection for Flower Communion, 2026 Rev. Lee Bluemel

Flower Celebration

Creating a circle of community

Sharing flowers as messengers of fellowship & love

Blessing the flowers: words by Rev. Norbert Capek, #724

Closing song: Spirit of Life #123 (*see insert*)

Closing Gratitude & Benediction Rev. Bluemel

*The steeple is lit and the flowers are dedicated
with gratitude to all of our 2025 – 2026 leaders and volunteers!*

Charge and Blessing of New Leaders

Members of North Parish:

We now charge you to act on our behalf
as the Board of Trustees and the leaders
of this congregation.

We respect the maturity of spirit that we see
within you, and truly honor your willingness to serve.

We ask that you listen to us and lead us,
as we work through the challenges
and celebrate the joys of congregational life.

We trust your promise to serve
with high standards of integrity.

We promise to be honest and direct with you,
and will do what we can to support our mission.

We may all make mistakes,
but also trust we will also all do our best.

Do you accept this leadership role in our congregation?

Leaders, Trustees, Officers: We do!

Members: We support you, appreciate you,
and will do our part to “be the church”!
May we be a harbor in the storm,
and a blessing in the world.

Closing Hymn, #123:

Spirit of life, come unto me!

Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.

Blow in the wind, rise in the sea,

move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.

Roots hold me close, wings set me free!

Spirit of life, come to me, come to me.

* * * * *

**Thank you to all of our volunteers, for without you,
there is no ministry or mission. Thank you to...**

...those who awaken curiosity- *including Children's RE Teachers, Nursery providers, Youth Programs Advisors, Bridging Mentors, and Adult class facilitators;*

...those who nourish the spirit- *including Worship leaders, Choir members, Musicians, all members of the Sunday teams, Worship and Music Committees, those who provide Hospitality and a Radical Welcome, Green Gardeners, Crossroads volunteers and Ferry Beach coordinators;*

...those who encourage growth- *including our RE volunteers, our many Adult Small Group Facilitators who lead groups including Spiritual Reading, Soul Matters, Great Pond Sangha, Book Group, Arts & Crafts, Grief & Caring for Aging Parents Support Groups, & other small groups;*

...those who inspire compassionate action- *including the Stitch Ministry, Community Action Team, Racial Justice Team, Climate Justice Group, Immigration Justice Team, & volunteers for aligned organizations such as Peoples' Food Pantry, McVagly, & Community InRoads;*

...and those who build the foundations to support all of the above- *including the House and Grounds team, Green Envelope Team, the Stewardship, Personnel, Finance, Nominating and Endowment Committees, Legacy Giving team, Red Bow Fair volunteers, Fundraising Team, Tech Team, Security team, Board Members, Parish Council Members, and Officers of the Congregation!*

We celebrate our Flower Communion today in memory of Unitarian martyr Rev. Norbert Capek and his wife Maja Capek, of the Unitarian church in Prague, Czechoslovakia. Following is an excerpt of a sermon by the Rev. Joan Van Becelaere, published in the June 2002 Quest, newsletter of the Church of the Larger Fellowship.

"In 1939 Rev. Maja Capek left for the United States for what was supposed to be a brief lecture tour to raise funds for a joint Unitarian and Society of Friends program to assist endangered refugees and internees. She brought the flower festival service with her and it was celebrated for the first time in the U.S. at the First Unitarian Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in the spring of 1940. Tragically, the Germans took Czechoslovakia while Maja was still on tour, which prevented her from returning to Prague. She stayed in Massachusetts during the war working at the church in New Bedford.

As soon as the Nazi army took over Czechoslovakia, Rev. Norbert Capek became a marked man. He was interrogated by the Gestapo, whose spies listened to every word he preached. For a time he veiled his message of freedom in Biblical parables and religious symbolism, and for a while it worked.

Then, on March 28, 1941, Capek and his youngest daughter Zora were arrested by the Gestapo. They were convicted of listening to foreign radio broadcasts, a treasonous offence. Remarkably, Capek was only sentenced to a year in prison and his daughter to 18 months. But when the Czech Resistance assassinated the Nazi occupation leader, there was a retaliatory wave of executions and deportations. A Gestapo officer overrode the court's sentence and ordered that Norbert Capek be sent to the concentration camp at Dachau. Capek's papers were marked "return unwanted."

While at Dachau, it is said that he kept up the spirits of the other prisoners with his humor and relentlessly cheerful spirit. He was like the fire flower blooming among the ashes of hopelessness and despair. But on October 12, 1942 he was sent on an "invalid transport," and evidently killed that day either with poison gas or a lethal injection, although his official death certificate states that he died October 30 of a cerebral hemorrhage.

Maja Capek did not learn of Norbert's death until after the war. Leadership of the Prague church passed to the Capek's daughter and son-in-law, both ordained Unitarian ministers. Maja decided to work to help the victims of the war and joined the staff of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Agency. She died in 1966."

Gratitude to today's Sunday Team:

Greeters: Jeff Nathan, Jeremy Richards

Zoom Host: Susan Diachisin

Musicians: Adult Vocal Choir, Children's Choir, Youth Singers, Handbell Choir, Christina Kennedy, John Middleton-Cox

Tech Team: Evan Gaspar, Raphael Unterkofler, Steve Vail

Today

11 am: 2nd Sunday Potluck & Pizza Lunch; Freeman Hall

11:15 am: RISE UP, SING OUT! For this *NO KINGS* Sunday, join Soul Circle Singing in Freeman Hall and the Chapel!

Our North Parish "Soul Singing" will have an extended session on June 14th! We'll start on the stage in Freeman Hall around 11:15 am, then proceed up to the Chapel to sing until 12:30 pm. All are welcome to sing songs of meditation, peace, and justice. No experience necessary!

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

Thurs., June 18, 4 pm; ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY- Immigration Justice Weekly Stand-out! JOIN US! 5 Union St., Lawrence (New Balance parking lot) at the Duck Bridge

Sat June 20, 4 to 8 p.m. JUNETEENTH: Downtown Park, 34 Bartlet St., Andover. Live music, food trucks, children's activities, exhibits, workshops.

Sat., June 20, 11 am –12, Stand Out; Old Center Rotary (in front of NP)

Next Sunday – June 21, 2026: Summer Solstice

The Service will be in the air-conditioned Chapel!

11:30 am, Discussion on Caring for Aging Parents; Chapel

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? In the new fiscal year, we will include an option in REALM to allow givers to cover that percentage fee, **OR**, if you make ACH payments directly from your checking account, NP will cover a small transaction fee of **only 45 cents!** Changes can be made in REALM; ask Stefanie (office@northparish.org) for help as needed.

Duck Bridge Stand-In Anniversary: 50 weeks of LOVE!

On July 24, 2025 several North Parish folks stood with signs of appreciation and love for the immigrant community in Lawrence. Our goal was to show our vulnerable neighbors hope and compassion. Because they are forced to live in a constant state of fear, we made a commitment to show up for them in a way they cannot.

On July 23, 2026, we will celebrate 50 weeks of showing up with LOVE. On this day, we hope you will join us on **Duck Bridge for 1 hour from 4-5pm** to celebrate our commitment to our most vulnerable neighbors. Bring a sign that lifts up the hope and dignity of all, or just come. There will be plenty of signs in Spanish to share. **Our goal: 50 people on the bridge for 50 weeks of showing up!** Questions? Email: immigrationjustice@northparish.org



The flyer features a light orange background with a sun on the left and a blue bucket with a smiley face on the right. The word "SUMMER" is written in large, colorful, multi-colored letters. Below it, "NORTH PARISH RE EVENTS" is written in a teal, sans-serif font. A row of five small sun icons separates the title from the event list. The events are listed in a two-column format, with the date and day on the left and the event name and details on the right, all contained within yellow rounded rectangular boxes.

SUMMER
NORTH PARISH RE EVENTS

Sunday
June 7

Summer Celebration
Music, fun and snacks in the church backyard after service!

Sunday
June 14

Flower Communion
Last day of RE for the summer

Sunday
June 28

Saturday
July 11

Sunday
August 9

Playground Meetups
10:00 am
Drummond Playground
Johnson St, North Andover
All ages welcome, stay as long as you'd like.

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:**



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

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

Summer Services, Spirituality, Connections & Arts at North Parish

Summer Services

10 am in the air-conditioned Chapel & on Zoom
each Sunday *with a few exceptions*

For all the facts, visit northparish.org/events/ or click on
Sunday Service on the North Parish homepage at
northparish.org.

Services are Lay-led & Inspired ~ Connecting Spirituality to Life ~
Topics this summer include thinking about the results of action
and inaction, the spiritual practices of bread making & yoga,
poetry, singing, what those who are dying can teach us, what the
Bible can tell us about LGBTQ+, immigrants, women, abortion,
and more.

Connections

Refreshments & conversations following all services & anyone
can contribute a snack! Grief Support following services on
July 12 & August 9 ~

A Potluck Sunday Service ~ Pawtuckaway State Park Summer
Meet Up ~ Playground Meet Ups for families of all ages June 28,
July 11 & August 9, contact dre@northparish.org for information

Arts

The White Street Band & Alice and the Groove Diggers in North
Andover and/or Andover ~ Crafting Afternoons with Renée
Hoekstra on June 13, July 11 & August 9 from 1-3 pm in the Chapel
~ July 4th events & more!

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