

The North Parish of North Andover Unitarian Universalist

Founded in 1645 on uncaded land of the Pennacook

Fifth Meeting House built in 1836

Affirming perfect freedom of conscience since 1886

**Sunday, September 20, 2026
Nearing the Autumnal Equinox and Yom Kippur**



Fiber art by Debb Putnam

*"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

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*"There is no life apart from life together...
Life is relational through and through.
Everything exists in interaction and interdependence
with everything else... that is a given..."*

*"... We live within a communion of souls,
and receive the beauty given to us by their lives,
so closely linked with ours...
What shall we do with this gift?"
– Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker*

Gathering Music and Silent Candle Lighting

Prelude: *Hevenu Shalom Aleichem* arr. David Gable

Christina Kennedy, John Middleton-Cox

Opening Words & Gratitude

The Rev. Lee Bluemel

Opening Hymn: Come, Come Whoever You Are

#188

Welcome & Announcements Cara Forcino, Worship Assistant
September Outreach: Lazarus House

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 this great gift.

--Rev. Marjorie Montgomery, #452

Reading: What Some of Us Believe

Cara Forcino, Rev. Bluemel

Meditation, Contemplation, Prayer

Candles of Remembrance, Joys & Sorrows

Musical Meditation: *By The Waters*

by Catherine Delanoy, trad. Hebrew

Christina Kennedy, John Middleton-Cox

Shared Joys and Sorrows

Rev. Bluemel

Congregational Response: In our joys and in our sorrows,
we journey on together.

Spoken Meditation

Rev. Bluemel

Outreach Offertory: *Avinu Malkein* by Max Janowski

(Offertory for Lazarus House ministries to the homeless.)

Sermon: You're UU? What Else Are You?

Rev. Bluemel

Closing Hymn: Building a New Way

#1017

Closing Gratitude and Benediction

Congregation

Postlude: *Nigun Bialik*, trad. Hebrew arr. A.W. Binder

Christina Kennedy, John Middleton-Cox

Our September Outreach will go to Lazarus House. Lazarus

House is a community-based nonprofit in Lawrence, MA, serving 2,000 individuals and families each week who are facing the challenges of homelessness and food insecurity.

In 2025, dozens of Guests were provided a place to stay in their Shelter and longer-term Transitional Housing, 13 seasonal emergency response nights were held due to extreme weather conditions, more than 70,000 meals were served in the Soup Kitchen, and nearly 85,000 bags of supplemental groceries were distributed at the Food Pantry.

If you would like to give, please make checks payable to North Parish with "September Outreach" in the memo line. You may also give by going to 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.

Gratitude to today's Sunday Team:

Greeter: Renée Hoekstra, Jeff Nathan

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

Musicians: Christina Kennedy, Assistant Music Director
John Middleton-Cox, Music Director

Tech Team: Evan Gaspar, Raphael Unterkofler, Steve Vail

Today after the service

11:20/11:30 am, Coffee & Clarity: Mutual Aid Giving Circle in the Annex off Freeman Hall. Members of the Mutual Aid Fund Panel will provide info about a new opportunity to continue our support for our immigrant friends and neighbors who are feeling the impact of recent enforcement activities. If you are moved to support immigration justice and have the financial means to do so, stop by with coffee to learn about joining a giving circle.

11:30 am, Caring for Aging Parents Drop-in Support, Chapel

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

12 pm, Wed., Sept. 23, Parlor & via Zoom

Lunch with Rev. Lee/Blue Zone Faith

7:30 pm, Wed., Sept. 23, Sanctuary; Music Rehearsal

4 pm, Thurs., Sept. 24, 5 Union St., Lawrence

Immigration Justice Weekly Stand-in

11 am, Sat., Sept. 26, Stand Out; Old Center Rotary (in front of NP)

6:30 pm, Sat., Sept. 26, Freeman Hall; MOTH Storytelling

Next Sunday – September 27, 2026

11:30 am, Chapel; Soul Circle Singing

4:30 pm, Freeman Hall; Coming of Age Family Dinner

Announcements

Watch Party featuring Bill McKibben Tues Sept 29, 2026
at 6:30pm, in the Chapel.

Please join the Climate Justice Group for a watch party for Bill McKibben's keynote speech at the 2026 Environment & Spirituality Summit. Free and open to all. To RSVP, please register for the Summit: <https://aes-summit.org/register-2026>, (and choose North Parish location).

Questions? email ClimateJustice@northparish.org

JOINING SCIENCE and FAITH

Do you bring a scientist's perspective to your reflections on life's meaning? The worship committee is creating a service for **Sunday, Nov 15**, and is seeking people whose work involves life sciences and/or physical sciences to offer short (3-5 min) reflections or stories that respond to these questions:

Where do you find mystery and the sacred in your work?

How does being a scientist enhance your sense of wonder?

How do you confront the mysteries of faith with the realities of science?

Can you reconcile the two?

If you are interested in sharing, please contact or speak with Ellen Geiger or Gail Forsyth-Vail.

Red Bow Fair – an invitation to join the Community!



Red Bow Fair

A major aspect (some would say, "largest source of revenue") of the annual **Red Bow Fair** is the Silent Auction, in which goods and services are donated to the Fair for purchase by shoppers and participants. The Silent Auction team does a remarkable job with the Auction, and the team needs more members. Many of the tasks – i.e. soliciting items for inclusion in the Auction, entering relevant details into the Silent Auction database – can be done from home, and none of the tasks involve heavy lifting. If you want to join the Red Bow Fair community and can join the Silent Auction team, please contact Tim Daniel (Chair of the 2026 Red Bow Fair) or Lynn Wentzel.

UU Mass Action Potluck & Talent Show Fundraiser

UU Mass Action is holding its annual in-person gathering on September 23 at 6 pm, celebrating its 20th year of organizing UUs to live out our values through action. **People from congregations across Massachusetts will share a meal together at First Parish Concord**, celebrate UU Mass Action's accomplishments over the last year, share our variety of talents, and fundraise for our efforts moving forward. Gail Forsyth-Vail is happy to bring any who wish to come. For details & to register, see the UU Mass Action website (uumassaction.org).

Come enjoy
Story Telling at North Parish!
Join us

Sat. September 26

6:30 pm to 9 pm

in Freeman Hall for food, drink & stories.

If you have a story you'd like to share, please contact

Kim Adami.

Here are a few themes to consider:

Awakening Curiosity

A Chance Encounter

Despite it all, the Impossible Happened

When I (or parents) Came to This Country

If your story has a different theme, no problem! We
want to hear it!



WELCOME TO THE NORTH PARISH

Visitors and guests, *welcome* to our worship service!

Please fill out a newcomers card and put it in the offertory plate or hand to an usher. 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 a Greeter, to Rev. Lee or any staff member, or email Brittany Moran at Membership@northparish.org.

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

We strive to be accessible to all.

There are assisted hearing devices on the back tables. A Braille hymnal is available upon request. An elevator is located outside the door closest to the pulpit. All gender, accessible restrooms are located ½ floor down by elevator or stairs. Additional restrooms are downstairs off Freeman Hall.

To reach our Minister and Director level staff:

*Rev. Lee Bluemel: RevLee@northparish.org

*Susanne Hinson-Rieger, Director of Religious Exploration for Children, Youth & Families: DRE@northparish.org

*John Middleton-Cox, Music Director: Middletoncoxmusic@gmail.com

*Stefanie Nolan, Administrator: office@northparish.org

*Rebecca Driscoll, Engagement: community@northparish.org

A Note on Offertory Donations

Cash/Checks may be put in the plates during the offertory music.

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! **Don't have cash?**

- **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."
- **Give through our virtual collection plate** by using the QR code below:



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**