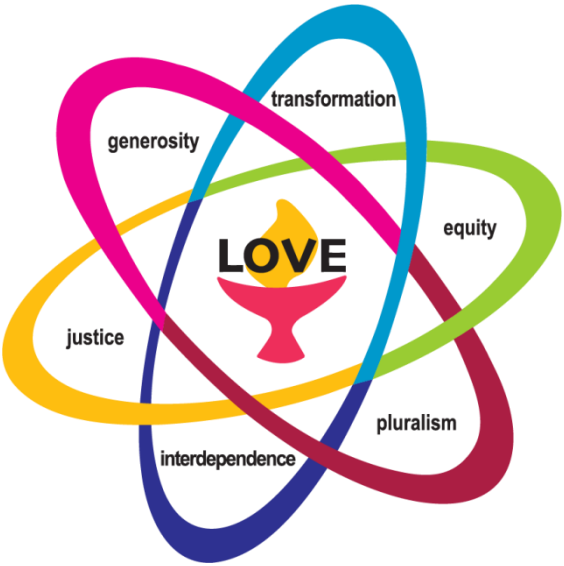
The North Parish of North Andover
Unitarian Universalist

Founded in 1645 on unceded land of the Pennacook
Fifth Meeting House built in 1836
Affirming perfect freedom of conscience since 1886

Sunday, November 15, 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, November 15, 2026

"The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious. It is the fundamental emotion which stands at the cradle of true art and true science."

"The soul given to each of us is moved by the same living spirit that moves the experience." ~ Albert Einstein

Gathering Music & Silent Candle Lighting

Prelude: *Oh, What a World* by Kacey Musgraves, Ian Fitchuk & Daniel Tashian Christina Kennedy, John Middleton-Cox

Opening Words: From *The Transcendent Brain* by Alan Lightman Ellen Geiger

Opening Hymn: A Firemist and a Planet #343

Welcome & Announcements Donna Cloney, Worship Assistant
Red Bow Fair Kick-off Tim Daniel

Introduction
Asteroids and Dinosaurs Ellen Geiger
Faith and Science in Unitarian Universalism Gail Forsyth-Vail

Lighting of the Chalice: Pat Grimm & Tina Klein

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.

-Rev. Dr. Albert Schweitzer, who coined the phrase "reverence for life"

Reading, Meditation, Contemplation, Prayer

Silent Candles of Remembrance, Joys & Sorrows

Musical Meditation To See the World, #398

Shared Remembrances, Joys & Sorrows

Congregational Response:

In our joys and in our sorrows, we are not alone.

Spoken Meditation, Prayer, Contemplation

Offertory: *From a Distance* by Julie Gold
Christina Kennedy, John Middleton-Cox

Reflections on Joining Faith and Science:

John Williams, Meteorologist
Renée Hoekstra, Behavioral Psychologist
Carmen Pepicelli, Biologist and Trauma Therapist

Closing Hymn: Wonders Still the World Shall Witness #139

Closing Words and Benediction: Ellen Geiger

Postlude: *Blue Boat Home*; words by Peter Mayer #1064
music by Roland Hugh Prichard (sing-along)

* * * *

About Our Speakers

John Williams grew up in Colorado Springs, in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains, and carries a sense of wonder at the beauty of nature that he feeds through time outdoors and tending an unwisely large garden. He holds degrees in physics and mathematics, and studied theology for a semester in Germany. John joined North Parish in 2016 after moving to Andover with his family to work for The Weather Company, focusing on forecasting science, aviation weather and AI applications with the goal of helping individuals and businesses make better weather-impacted decisions.

Renée Hoekstra is a clinical psychologist with an invested interest in bringing concepts of applied behaviorism to life. She has been helping people change their lives through meaningful functional analysis to guide treatment planning and the reduction of psychological distress.

Carmen Pepicelli was born and raised in Austria and moved to the US in her early twenties to pursue graduate studies. After a PhD in molecular biology, she spent 15 years in biomedical research and drug development before transitioning to the field of counseling psychology. She is in private practice as a trauma therapist and consultant in Andover, where she uses modern neuroscience to guide her decision making. She finds a sense of awe in the outdoors, the resilience of the human spirit and her backyard suburban permaculture food forest.

* * * *

Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree is happening! Sponsored by CAT, this project will provide Xmas presents for the children in our neighboring communities who have been impacted by ICE. Let's spread some joy by taking a mitten from the tree during coffee hour. Questions? Contact Cindy Jones at cindy.j@verizon.net.

Gratitude to today's Sunday Team:

Greeter: Brittany Moran
Visitor Guide: Jeff Nathan
Usher: Betsy Black
Worship Assistant: Donna Cloney
Zoom Host: Cara Forcino
Musicians: Christina Kennedy, John Middleton-Cox
Tech Team: Evan Gaspar, Raphael Unterkofler, Steve Vail
Coffee Hour: Nancy & Rich Sarro
Special thanks to: Writers & Organizers Gail Forsyth-Vail, Worship Leader and Ellen Geiger; also, to speakers: Ellen Geiger, Renée Hoekstra, Carmen Pepicelli and John Williams

Today after the service:

11:10 am, Chapel; Children's Choir & Youth Singers
11:15 am, Green Room; Parenting UUs Group
11:20 am, Sanctuary; Sunday Team Safety Training
11:30 am, Blue Room; Caring for Aging Parents drop-in
12 pm, Flex Room, Bow Making for Red Bow Fair – All Welcome!

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

Tues., Nov. 17, 6:30 pm, via Zoom; Building and Grounds meeting
Wed., Nov. 18, 10 am, Kitchen; Bread & Roses Meal Prep
Wed., Nov. 18, 7 pm, Zoom; NP Book Group
When Apricots Bloom by Gina Wilkinson
Wed., Nov. 18, 7 pm, via Zoom; Parenting UUs Group
Wed., Nov. 18, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary; Music rehearsal
Thurs., Nov. 19, 3 pm; Immigration Justice Weekly Stand-out
5 Union St., Lawrence (New Balance parking lot) at the Duck Bridge
Thurs., Nov. 19, 7 pm, Chapel; Joint BoT and Parish Council meeting
Thurs., Nov. 19, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary; Handbell rehearsal
Sat., Nov. 21, 11 am –12 pm, Stand Out; Rotary (in front of NP)
Sat., Nov. 21, 5 pm, Chapel; Parents Afternoon/Eve. Out

Later This Afternoon

Sunday, Nov. 15, 5 - 8 pm: Joan Kulash honored at annual MICAH Awards dinner

North Parish is proud to nominate Joan Kulash as a ***Ministry in Community Action Honoree*** (MICAH). Joan has served as Executive Director for Community InRoads for over 20 years, addressing deep-seated social inequities in Greater Lawrence and Haverhill. **Join North Parish members at the Lawrence Elks on Nov. 15th to celebrate** Joan and the other community honorees. Contact racialjustice@northparish.org to join our table or visit merrimackvalleyproject.org/micah to learn more.

Next Sunday – November 22, 2026 – Thanksgiving Service

11:15 am, Blue Room; Climate Justice Focus Group with Rev. Lee
11:30 am, Chapel; Soul Circle Singing
11:30 am, Sanctuary; Handbell rehearsal
5:30 pm, Freeman Hall; Young Adult Friendsgiving Potluck

*** * * ***

At North Parish, we strive to be accessible to all.
There are assisted hearing devices on the back tables. We broadcast using Bluetooth AuraCast (TVSTREAMER+), if your devices are capable. We also have wireless Loopers available in the back along with our other Hearing Assist headsets. 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.

Red Bow Fair

Only 3 weeks until the 2026 Red Bow Fair!!
Saturday, December 5th from 9 am to 2 pm

Please consider donating to the Red Bow Fair Silent Auction, the largest money maker of the Fair. Its success is due in large part to donations of goods and services from North Parish members and friends. What to donate? Here are some ideas:

- **Sports, concert, theater tickets and lottery scratch tix.**
- **Vacation home stays.**
- **Host dinner parties, offer car detailing, house cleaning, home organizing, pet sitting, home staging, power washing services, interior design or gardening consultation**
- **Boston sports memorabilia**
- **Create a theme basket such as wine lovers, mixology, spa day, pet themed, Boston sports, local flavors**
- **Gift card(s) to online retailer(s) using accumulated credit card or other rewards points to buy them.**
- **Culinary "clubs" - offer a monthly, bi-monthly or one-time delivery of a special culinary treat such as cookies, pies or a cooked meal.**
- **Donate a gift card to a local business or restaurant.**
- **Donate something you have never used which is still in the box.**
- **Unique jewelry, antique or collectible items, "as new" designer handbags.**
- **Home decor: Holiday, floral, wreaths, whimsy**

Donations to the Red Bow Fair Silent Auction are needed ASAP, and no later than Sunday 11/29. Please contact Lynn Wentzel at Lynn.S.Wentzel@gmail.com or speak to someone at the Red Bow Fair Table at Coffee Hour in November to discuss donations.

Each Sunday until November 29, the Red Bow Fair table will be at Coffee Hour where you can sign up to volunteer (before, during, and after the Fair itself), arrange to donate needed items, and get all your questions answered.

Experience the Magic of the Red Bow Fair!

To Recreate Caring Community

To be a strong community we must care for one another. Much of this care happens through small groups that support us through life, change and crisis. Yet for newcomers, new members, or longer-term members who are *not* part of a small group, the structures for receiving care from the congregation have frayed.

North Parish has not had a Caring Team, Welcome Team, or Membership Support Team for a few years. Yet it is concrete gestures of support that remind us *"in our joys and sorrows we are not alone"*- that we are seen, heard and cared for. If you can help with any of the simple actions below, please fill out the form and hand it to the ushers as you leave today, or email RevLee@northparish.org and Community@northparish.org

____ **Following up on remembrances, joys and sorrows.** ***Mindful writing = Caring***. Taking turns to write cards from the congregation, and/or J & S condolences for the Enews.

____ **Cooking, baking, or working in the kitchen.** ***Good food = Caring.*** Making/freezing & storing soup, meals, treats for Second Sunday lunches, Coffee Hour, meal train requests, or receptions.

____ **Home visits, calls and companionship.** ***Simple presence & time = Caring***. Offering company to those who cannot get to worship, who are going through hard times, or who could just use some human connection and compassion.

____ **Being wrapped in love (literally).** ***Stitch ministry = Caring.*** Reminding those welcoming a new baby or experiencing a significant illness or death in the family that they are surrounded by the love of community.

____ **Guiding newcomers & coffee hour connections.** ***Reducing isolation = Caring.*** Dedicating part of coffee hour – a few times a month- to seek out newcomers or anyone who is sitting alone.

Name & Email:_____

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:

Holiday Poinsettias



North Parish will be using poinsettias to decorate the front of the sanctuary for the holiday services on Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24.

If you would like to donate a poinsettia(s) for $20.00 each, please complete the information below and put in an envelope and leave in the collection plate or return to the office. You can also contact Stefanie Nolan at office@northparish.org or 978-687-7948 to reserve your plants.

There is an option to dedicate the poinsettia(s) in memory of or in honor of someone. Your donation and dedication will be listed in the Christmas Eve Orders of Service. You can take your plant home after the 7 pm service.

Your Name_____

I would like to donate _____ white _____ red poinsettia(s)

In memory of or In honor of: (please circle)

_____

(If paying by check please make payable to "North Parish" and indicate "poinsettia" in the memo section. You may also purchase online by clicking the QR code below.) ***Deadline is Monday, December 7th.***