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 22, 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

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"Remember the plants, trees, animal life who all have their tribes, their families, their histories, too. Talk to them, listen to them. They are alive poems." - Joy Harjo

Gathering Music & Silent Candle Lighting

Prelude: *This is Home* by Sophia Efthimiou — Vocal Choir

Opening Words & Gratitude — Rev. Lee Bluemel

Opening Hymn: We Gather Together — #349
(tune Valerius, 1626; words Dorothy & Robert Senghas, 1992)

Welcome & Announcements
Red Bow Fair Kick-off — Tim Daniel & The Red Bow Fairy
Nov. Outreach: People's Food Pantry

Lighting of the Chalice: — Emilia, Noah, Kate Baldwin & Paul Massicotte

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"

Music: *Let Us Give Thanks* — Children's Choir & Youth Singers
music & words by Joyce Poley,
additional words by North Parish Children & Youth Singers

Time for Sharing: Bread & Earth Communion — Vocal Choir
Music: *Earth My Body*, trad.

Singing the Children on Their Way: *Blessings On You* by G.Bills

Blessings on you this fine day!
We love you more, more than words can say.
Blessings on you, live your life through, in sweet harmony.

Blessings on you, this fine day!
Family and friends, send you on your way.
Blessings on you, blessings on you, blessings on you.

Reading, Meditation, Contemplation, Prayer
Silent Candles of Remembrance, Joys & Sorrows
Musical Meditation: *Grateful To Be*, anonymous
Patty Brayden, Aaron Pawelek
Shared Remembrances, Joys & Sorrows
Congregational Response:
In our joys and in our sorrows, we are not alone.
Spoken Meditation, Prayer, Contemplation Rev. Bluemel

Offertory: *All the Way Home* by Sarah Quartel Vocal Choir

Sermon: Community, Harmony, Balance: Rev. Bluemel
What's at Stake When Worldviews Collide

Closing Hymn: For the Earth Forever Turning #163

Closing Gratitude & Benediction Rev. Lee & Congregation
Since we are surrounded
by such a great cloud of witnesses…
let us run with perseverance
the race that is set before us. *-Hebrews 12:1*

Postlude: *We Give Thanks* by Alice Parker Vocal Choir

The Steeple is lit this week in memory of Peter Kempton Race,
Raymon W. and Mildred W. Eldridge,
S. Kempton and Mary W. Race,
by Ruth Race

Gratitude to today's Sunday Team:

Greeter: Renée Hoekstra
Visitor Guide: Brittany Moran
Musicians: Children's Choir & Youth Singers; Christina Kennedy
John Middleton-Cox, Vocal Choir
Tech Team: Evan Gaspar, Raphael Unterkofler, Steve Vail
Coffee Hour: Dave Lewis (set-up)

Today after the service:

11:15 am, Blue Room; Earth Care/Climate Justice Focus Group w/Rev. Lee
11:30 am, Chapel; Soul Circle Singing
11:30 am, Sanctuary; Handbell rehearsal

To support UU Mass Action's Indigenous Justice this week:

action to support national day of mourning (Plymouth is trying to break an agreement with the United American Indians of New England that allows them to host the National Day of Mourning in Plymouth.)
ending the BRIC - Call on Boston leaders to not agree to fund surveillance sharing centers that share data with ICE.
this climate action - Let's get climate legislation across the finish line!

Unitarian Universalist Mass Action : Info on faithful advocacy.

To learn more about Indigenous and early American history:
First America Podcast - Rebecca Nagle - Pushkin Industries
The Revolution was fought over taxation and representation, right? Not exactly! What the founders were most angry about in the Declaration was Indian affairs. *First America* unveils hidden history- and how the founders' treatment of Indigenous nations shaped US democracy.

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

Sat., Nov. 28, 11 am –12, Stand Out; Old Center Rotary (in front of NP)

Our November Outreach: The People's Food Pantry

Since 1992, People's Food Pantry has helped fight food insecurity in the Merrimack Valley, serving approximately 600 people twice monthly at North Parish. Three offsite programs extend food assistance to families

with school-aged children, seniors, and veterans, with the support of over 100 volunteers and North Parish's generosity. This week's offering will go directly toward purchasing food for those in need.

If you would like to donate, please make checks payable to North Parish with "People's Food Pantry" in the memo line. You may give to North Parish on 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, Or donate directly at https://peoplesfoodpantry.org/ Monthly donations possible.



Only TWO WEEKS until the 2026 Red Bow Fair
Saturday December 5th, 9 am to 2 pm

Experience the Magic of the Red Bow Fair!!
Numerous opportunities to volunteer and donate!

Details at North Parish website (www.northparish.org)
Red Bow Fair Sanctuary Shops Donation Guidelines

One element of the **Red Bow Fair** is the sale of **good quality goods** donated by the members and friends of North Parish. It is important that donated goods be good quality and, if electronic, be in good working order. When deciding what to donate to the **Red Bow Fair,** please review the Guidelines below first. Thanks!!
Drop off times: Sun. November 29 after services and Mon. - Thurs. before the Fair from 1-3 pm & from 6-8 pm in the Sanctuary.

All donations must be received by Thursday, Dec. 3rd 3 pm

Granny's Attic and Sanctuary Shops accepts the following Items:

- Glassware, vases, wine glasses
- Household goods, pots and pans, serving dishes in good condition, lamps
- Small working appliances such as coffee makers. Please check if it works and make a note that it was tested and is in good working condition.

- Unopened Bathroom items
- Pet grooming and supplies
- Small tools
- Craft and sewing supplies bagged and sorted.
- Toys, games and puzzles. Make a note if pieces are missing.
- Stuffed animals in good condition, preferably washed.
- Linens, tablecloths, bedding, pillows, curtains, slipcovers, gently used and washed. Please put the linen item in a clear bag or the original zipper bag if you can.
- Baby items in very good condition. **No car seats**.
- Books and CD's and DVDs. **No VHS tapes.**
- Holiday Décor in good condition
- Small working electronic accessories.
- Frames and Framed Art.
- Small Antique items
- No mugs unless one of a kind or unique.

If a piece is missing from an appliance or game, please make a note. Please sort and bag items with multiple pieces.

Please test all battery operated or electric items before dropping off and make a note that they were tested and in working condition. A tested item commands a higher price.

No clothes, shoes, hats, mittens, etc.
No dirty and dusty items
No computers, phones, or monitors.

Thank you for donating!

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

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Next Sunday – November 29, 2026

Red Bow Fair set-up week begins following Sunday's service!!!
1 pm, Flex Room; Red Bow Fair Wreath Workshop; All Welcome!

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:_____

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.

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.) ***Deadline is Monday, December 7th.***