

Welcome!

The Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence welcomes you. We work to be an inclusive and welcoming congregation where people of all identities and backgrounds can come with their diverse spiritual beliefs and practices. We strive to build a caring community where children and adults can safely learn and grow – where we are supported and challenged on life's journeys, called to service and to our higher selves, and inspired to better our world.

As a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association, we covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part.

Learn more about Unitarian Universalism at our Welcome Table or on the Association's website: www.uua.org.

Getting To Know Us

Worship and religious education are at the heart of our community life. We hope they will inspire you, nourish you, and help you make meaningful spiritual connections.

Our regular worship service is at 10 AM, in person and on Zoom/Youtube. Children join their parents in the sanctuary for the first part of the service and then leave for religious education activities downstairs.

Once a month we offer a service for all ages. These story-based 'multi-generational' worship services frequently feature the creative talents of congregation members. Check our website and other publications for more information.

Our programs for children and youth offer opportunities to build community and identity while exploring social justice and the UU principles in engaging ways. We also have an active Youth Group (grades 9-12). There are regular outdoor gatherings and service projects for families. Please speak with someone from the Religious Education Council (REC) to learn more or email our Director of Faith Development and Community Engagement at dre@uunorthampton.org.

We have a Young Adult group and adult education classes on a range of topics. Our choir regularly participates in our services. We have special musical offerings as well.

Getting Involved

Members and friends make what we do happen! There are many ways to become engaged at USNF, from one-time to long-term commitments. Ask about joining a Sunday morning team to help with ushering, being a Zoom host, and other Sunday morning tasks. Training is available. Join us for social events like Bingo or Games Night. Engage in Social Justice activities including voting rights and racial justice work, Climate Action, or Bike Trail Cleaning. Walk or run for Safe Passage, or march for Pride! Our choir always welcomes new singers. You can also meet monthly for sharing through our Small Group Circles program and other offerings.

News and Information

There are many more ways to connect! Check our *Beacon* news bulletin that comes out weekly, and the *Sunday Times* which arrives on Fridays with announcements and Sunday service information. You can also visit our website, uunorthampton.org, and our Facebook page.

Membership

Membership is a voluntary commitment made by congregants over 18 years old to join the Society. If you are considering membership, we'll give you opportunities to learn more about us and invite you to meet with the minister or congregation members to sign our Membership Book.

Stewardship

Stewardship is caring for our congregation and for each other. Our Stewardship team focuses on community-building and on making sure we have the financial resources we need. We depend almost entirely on the generosity of our congregation for funding and ask all members and friends to make annual financial commitments. Weekly plate collections also make a difference. At least once a month we allocate all or a portion of the offering to an organization or cause in the greater community.

We also sell supermarket gift cards, which you can use for the full value you pay for them at three local markets. The Society receives a percentage of the value of the card. Cards are available at Sunday social hours and in the office.

A Tradition of Shared Leadership

We are governed democratically. The Society owns our building, and its members approve our budget, call our minister, and elect leaders to govern on our behalf. The Board of Trustees focuses on ensuring our faithfulness to our mission and values, on policy decisions, and on fiscal oversight. Our small, dedicated staff manages daily operations, and a Coordinating Council made up of committee chairs and representatives, facilitates communication and helps coordinate programs and activities.

Our Building

The original building at 220 Main Street was built in 1825 and burned in 1902. Our current Greek revival style structure was built on the original stone foundation and has been standing since 1904. We are proud of our windows. The front right window depicts cheerful service. The front left shows “Charity” as a graceful woman with the river of life flowing behind her. The middle right window shows the autumn of life, and opposite, a window invoking those who have gone before us. You can learn more by picking up a brochure about our windows at the welcome table in the Great Hall.

Handicap access and an elevator is available through the side door. Restrooms are located on the lower level. You may reach them by the stairs at either end of the Great Hall or by the elevator in our Parlor.

Emergency Exit Information

In the event of a fire alarm, please leave through the closest exit door. Teachers will escort all children outside to Pulaski Park where parents & caregivers can meet them. Please do not go downstairs to get your child, as children will be coming up those stairs with their teachers to exit.

Pastoral Care

We provide help and support to each other in many ways. The minister is available for short-term pastoral counseling. Members volunteer to offer rides and meals during times of need. If you need assistance yourself or would like to be called to help when a need arises, contact a Pastoral Care Team member via email, pastoralcare@uunorthampton.org, or by leaving a message at 584-1390, ext. 3.

You Are Welcome Here

We hope you’ll come back and see us again, in person and/or online! Members of our Welcome Team who wear pink name tags are available to answer your questions. Please let us know how we can help you feel at home.



Leadership and Staff

Minister and Staff

The Reverend Janet C. Bush
Minister

Ellen Cogen
Director of Music

Emma Gaudreau
Early Childhood Teacher

Jessica Harwood
Director of Faith Development
& Community Engagement

Frank Taillon
Custodian

Michael Taylor
Congregational Administrator

Cauli Williams
Youth & Young Adult Coordinator

Board of Trustees

Ed Olmstead, President; Stephanie Baird, Vice President; Jane Simonds, Past President; David Nelson, Treasurer; Laura Porter, Clerk. Trustees: Julie Chandler, Molly Hale, Rick King, & Judy Hyde

Coordinating Council

Steve Kramer and Laurie Loisel, Co-Moderators; Kim Henrichon, CC Clerk

OUR CONGREGATION AT A GLANCE



The Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence

220 Main Street
Northampton, MA 01060
413 584-1390
www.uunorthampton.org

*Partner of the Unitarian congregation
of Homoródkarácsonyfalva in
Transylvania (Romania)*

*Please feel free to take this
brochure with you.*