

Who We Are

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Andover offers a warm, open, and supportive sense of community. Our members come from diverse backgrounds and experiences and hold a variety of beliefs. A spirit of acceptance and tolerance of all, regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, life-style, or point of view, pervades our gatherings. We do not have a single creed to bind us, but rather celebrate together the vast mystery of life, the possibilities of truth, and the dignity inherent in the humanity of every individual.

Our Covenant Statement

We covenant with one another to create and sustain a community that supports people of all ages in their spiritual journeys, shines as a beacon of hope, inspires our actions for a just world, and encourages us to demonstrate our Unitarian Universalist principles in our daily lives.

Our communal strength comes from caring for each other in times of joy and sorrow, respecting each other during agreement and disagreement, welcoming and affirming diversity, and giving freely of ourselves from all our personal resources.

From Our Minister

Unitarian Universalism is at once the most ancient and the most modern of religions. UUs are concerned with two timeless questions: 1) Who am I, really? — are beyond my conditioning and habits and the opinions of others and 2) What am I supposed to be doing here? How can I make a loving difference? Our congregation is a community that can help you find your authentic self and support you as you walk your path with heart.

In peace, *Ralph Galen*

Unitarian Universalism

The essence of Unitarian Universalism is reflected in the seven principles that guide our denomination:

- 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 the 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 part.

Religious Exploration

Many people join our congregation out of concern for the moral and spiritual growth of their children. The Religious Education Program, led by a professional Director of R.E., provides Sunday morning classes from pre-school through high school. Our R.E. curricula cover a range of topics including: exploring religious values, understanding the self, the social relevance of religion, and the history and development of Unitarian Universalism.

Generally, children attend the first fifteen minutes of the adult worship service with their parents before meeting in their class group for the remainder of the hour. Loving care is provided for infants and toddlers in our nursery. Teenagers help to design their own activities and as young adults are welcomed into all aspects of congregational life.

Adult education opportunities include an ongoing Small Group Ministry program. New groups are continually being formed. There are also a Women's Spirituality Series, *Journey in Meaning* courses, and a weekly meditation group, in addition to periodic presentations of interest to adults.

On Becoming a Member

We welcome into membership all persons who share a commitment to the search for truth and whose beliefs are in sympathy with Unitarian Universalism. While adherence to a specific creed is not required, we request that you attend a membership orientation program prior to becoming a member to ensure a basic understanding of Unitarian Universalism and our congregation's way of doing things.

The path to membership is different for each individual depending on his/her previous experiences in other religious and secular settings. We recommend the following activities to help you decide if the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Andover is right for you.

- Attend the Sunday services. Stay for fellowship following the service to talk with members and friends.
- Always feel free to speak with our minister.
- Sign the Visitor's Book.
- Subscribe to our newsletter, *The Plumblin*, which is available online at our website. You can subscribe by calling or emailing the office. If you would prefer a printed version of the newsletter, call the office to get on the mailing list.

- Attend a potluck supper on the first Sunday of the month.
- Read the Newcomer's Guide and brochures available on our literature rack.

It's a journey for all of us. We are all works in progress. We invite you to get involved at your pace. Welcome!

Our Staff

Minister: Ralph Galen
minister@uuandover.org
(978) 475-4454

Director of Religious Exploration:
Thea Shapiro
theashapiro@comcast.net
(978) 474-9913

Music Director: Brett Hinkel
BrettHinkel@comcast.net

Congregational Administrator:
Hannah Darling
office@uuandover.org
(978) 475-4454

In the matter of religion people eagerly fasten their eyes on the difference between their own creed and yours; whilst the charm of the study is in finding the agreements and identities in all the religions of humanity. – Ralph Waldo Emerson

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Andover

A religious way of life for all who seek spiritual fulfillment through personal experience, reason, and compassionate service to others.



Six Locke Street
Andover, Massachusetts 01810
(978) 475-4454
www.uuandover.org

Services at 10:30 AM Sundays
September through June
Summer Services at 9:30 AM

Fellowship and refreshments
immediately following each service.