



October 25, 2026

“Lighting The Way”

“Death is not an ending, but a transition to another realm. Let's celebrate those who have journeyed there, not with sadness, but with joy and laughter”
— Author unknown

Worship Leader:	Katie Shubin and Paul Daley
Musician:	Liz Cardenas
Worship Assistant:	Susanne Beeber
Sound/Equipment:	John Luke Mills
Zoom Team:	Sarah Mills, John Bewick, Tara Maharjan
Greeter	Ida Morrison
Coffee Hour Coordinator:	Heidi Boone

The First Parish Church in Billerica, Unitarian Universalist
On the Common - Billerica, Massachusetts

"Lighting The Way" led by CUUPS and Catherine Shubin

The First Parish CUUPS will discuss death/ dying and the transition into living our lives in loss of those who have passed. Please join us as we light the way for those who we have loved and lost this year while the veils are thin

CUUPS

Join our Covenant of UU Pagans chapter! We are an open group welcoming seekers, new members, and seasoned practitioners alike for classes, meetups & rituals following the wheel of the year and moon cycle. Field trips to the beach, mountains & forests in the warmer months. To receive reminders of events, join the group on <https://www.meetup.com/firstparishcuups/>

CALL TO WORSHIP & WELCOME

GATHERING CHANT*

We Are The Flow
Artist: Lindie Lila

CHALICE LIGHTING

In this small flame dwell:
the beacon light of lanterns guiding travelers home;
the warmth of hearth fires tended through the generations;
the transforming energy of furnaces
and the power and life of our sun.
May these blessings –
warmth and light and life-giving energy –
be kindled in each of us.

-by Jean L. Wahlstrom

OPENING SONG

Come To The Labyrinth
Artist: SJ Tucker

REFLECTION & MEDITATION

Lighting The Way
Catherine Shubin

STORIES OF OUR ANCESTORS & CALL TO THE ANCESTORS

- sacred water

Let us take stock in our memories and joyous remembrance
of those past. What is dead is not
gone - their energy never dissipated; just changed. - Let us
take a moment to remember our
ancestors. Please come up and place a pinch of salt into the
water bowl, say their names and a
joyful memory if you choose.

LORE OF THE SEASON

Samhain & Día los Muertos
Speaker – Paul Daley

LITANY OF GRATITUDE:

This Sacred Thread

Speaker: They once dwelled among us, the people of
memory

***Response: They who knew us, they who taught us,
They who loved us.***

Speaker: They touch our lives time and again,
through their presence and their absence.

***Response: Through familiar scents and favorite songs,
Through old stories and renewed sorrow.***

Speaker: As the earth turns and leaves fall,
We reach back to renew the bonds between us.

***Response: With hearts and hands open
We hold onto love, ever-stronger than death.***

Speaker: We reach back in gratitude and understanding—
Without our time together,
The pain and the joy,

***Response: We would never be who we are today;
We would have little to pass on ourselves.***

Speaker: Without fear, with thanksgiving
and with hope for all that awaits,

***Response: We remember those who have gone before,
We honor the circle of life and death,
And our place within this sacred thread.***

-by Heather K. Jannules

COMMUNITY PRAYER

**We give thanks for this day. Thanks for life, love, health.
We are grateful and fortunate for what we have.**

**Let us try our best to do and be our best every day; and not
to be so hard on ourselves. We remember and send healing
thoughts to those who are sick and in pain and we hope for
their speedy recovery.**

**Might we be reminded of our highest aspirations in our
quest for beloved community.**

**Blessings on this community.
And so it is.**

SONG OF PRAYER

This Little Light Of Mine
#118 Singing the Living Tradition

OFFERTORY

Let us take a moment to honor the ancestors of this church -
the people who first came together to create a home for liberal
religion here in Billerica

Who worked to raise money for a building,

Who sat in committee meetings and created bylaws,

Who chopped and marinated and baked for potlucks,

Who painted, and weeded, and pounded nails, and washed
countless dishes,

Who gathered to worship, to learn, to grieve, to heal, to serve, to
build justice, to transform their lives and this world.

We are the recipients of an incredible gift and a beautiful vision.

Let us do our part to keep this congregation strong, vital and
thriving for the generations to
come.

The morning offering will now be gratefully received.

-by Alice Anacheke-Nasemann

CLOSING SONG*

There is No Time
-Kellianna

*There is no time but now
There is no place but here
In the sacred we do stand
In a circle hand in hand*

EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE #456

-words by Elizabeth Selle Jones

*We extinguish this flame
but not the light of truth,
the warmth of community,
or the fire of commitment.
These we carry in our hearts
until we are together again.*

EPITAPH / BENEDICTION

As we end our time together today in spiritual community,
may we depart this sacred space:
Knowing that blessings shall follow us all the days of our lives
If we live in and return to right relationships,
If we extend grace and forgiveness to ourselves and others,
If we behold mercy as a spiritual superpower.
If we emanate the Greater Love that holds us close.
May our lives radiate the blessings that we have been given,
May kindness and compassion fall gently from us.
May there be peace in the world, and may it begin again with
us.
-by Rebekah Savage

MUSIC FOR GOING FORTH

Samhain Song
-Lisa Thiel

We invite you to stay after our service and join us for our potluck lunch

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CUUPS Meetup TONIGHT | 7pm | Parish Hall

Full moon meetup- ritual at 7pm. We will be learning how to read tarot cards and learn how to practice mediumship.

BATV OR TREAT - Monday from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

FPC will be participating with the BATV or Treat at the Howe School, 390 Boston Road. Join us and help hand out candies!

VIRTUAL LUNCH AT FPC Tuesday | 12pm online | Zoom

Join fellow First Parish friends for a virtual and freeform lunch discussion each Tuesday. Link is at www.uubillerica.org/

SEW & SEWS Tue| 4pm| Parish Hall

Come in with your sewing machine and/or sewing project. We'll have a great time working together on our projects. Contact Sarah Mills with any questions smills@pobox.com

ORGANIZING TOGETHER Wednesday | 5:30pm | Parish Hall

Join members of the Social Justice Committee and friends for our monthly gathering to take action and strategize. All are welcome. For more information, see Meredith.

PUMPKIN DECORATING & HALLOWEEN GATHERING

Thursday | 5-7:30pm | Parish Hall

Snacks provided but this will be a potluck, so if you want to bring something yummy to share, please do. We will provide pumpkins and paints. There will also be a flash-light tour of the church.

THEOLOGY DISCUSSION GROUP Sat | 10am | Classroom

Regularly on the 1st Saturday of the Month, but in this case on Halloween itself. This gathering offers a meditative piece, an academic/educational component focused on Faith, and other Big Ideas, and a reflective piece designed to aid people exploring their own personal life.

**FIRST PARISH CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST**

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As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant, congregation-to-congregation and through our Association, to support and assist one another in our ministries. We draw from our heritages of freedom, reason, hope, and courage, building on the foundation of love. Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love. Inseparable from one another, these shared values are: Interdependence, Equity, Transformation, Pluralism, Generosity, and Justice.