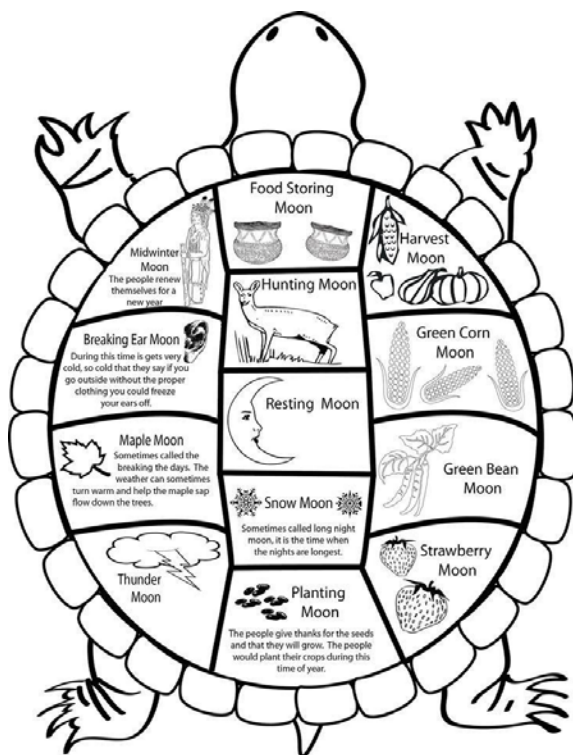




First Parish Unitarian Universalist — Canton

A Neponset River Unitarian Universalist Community



Indigenous Wisdom

October 11, 2026



Our Unitarian Universalist Faith Values

Land and Labor Acknowledgement

The First Parish Unitarian Universalist-Canton, MA
[Adopted at the FPUU Annual Meeting on 6/4/24]

The First Parish Unitarian Universalist-Canton is proud to be a major historical church of Canton, representing a consolidation of two of Canton's oldest churches – the First Parish Unitarian, founded in the 18th century and the First Universalist Church, founded in the 19th century. We recognize that our church's history is complicated by the combined legacies of colonialism and slavery in the United States context. We acknowledge the history of Indigenous peoples and the dispossession of their lands, including that these original lands in Canton and neighboring towns were named Ponkapoag by indigenous peoples. We pay our respects to the Neponset Band, among other bands, of the Massachusetts Tribe, who have stewarded this land throughout generations. We honor their continued presence here and throughout their diaspora. We also acknowledge that we in Canton do not exist independently from centuries of forced labor and economic extraction from enslaved and indentured Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC), including children, as well as poor white immigrants/residents suffering abusive child labor and economic exploitation. And we want to affirm that although we cannot change history, we can and will work for justice, and that justice first begins in direct relationship with mutual recognition and acknowledgment of our shared history, experiences, and interactions. We celebrate and work in solidarity with BIPOC organizations leading the movement for our collective liberation, and we choose to build a diverse, multicultural Beloved Community casting out racism and oppression in ourselves and our institutions.

Our Vision and Purpose

FPUU Canton is a welcoming, caring, and diverse faith community that seeks to nurture and inspire each person's spiritual journey while serving others in our commitment to peace and justice.

Minister & Staff

The Rev. Dr. Michelle Walsh, *Lead Minister*
The Rev. Dr. Clyde Grubbs, *Affiliate Community Minister*
The Rev. Dr. Anita Farber-Robertson, *Minister Emerita*
James Chubet, *Music Director*
Carol Smith, *Office Administrator*

Parish Committee 2026-2027

Kitty McGregor, *President*
Dave Williams, *Vice President of Administration*
Debbie Radovsky, *Vice President of Member Services*
Larry Cotton, *Treasurer*
Nancy Devine, *Clerk*
Felisa White, *Member-at-Large*
Don Seaman, *Member-at-Large*

Vision Ministry 2026-2027

Dave Williams and Kitty McGregor, Co-Chairs

Congregational Life Ministry 2026-2027

Don Seaman and Debbie Radovsky, Co-Chairs

Building Project Ministry 2026-2027

Kitty McGregor and Debbie Radovsky, Co-Chairs

Stewardship Ministry 2026-2027

Kitty McGregor and Dave Williams, Co-Chairs

Contact Us

Phone: 781-828-0296 / Office Email: office@fpuucanton.org

Ministers' Email: minister@fpuucanton.org



<https://fpuunr.org>

Indigenous Wisdom
Led by Rev. Dr. Clyde Grubbs
October 11, 2026

Gathering Music

Drumming Circle
Don Swanson, Leader

Centering Bell

Rev. Michelle

Prelude

The Leaves Turn Gold (Marilyn Davidson) – First Parish Choir

Welcome & Announcements

Linda Hamaker

Call to Worship

Rev. Clyde

Unison Chalice Lighting

Rev. Clyde, Linda Hamaker & Congregation

*Full chalice lighting is adapted from writings of Christina Shu and Tera Landers
by Rev. Dr. Clyde Grubbs*

*[Special Note: The congregation is invited to share in unison this final
paragraph of a fuller chalice lighting when invited by Rev. Clyde]*

As we light our chalice We call upon and honor the beauty of the
earth, the Blue Hills; to the rivers and springs that have blessed all
that lived in this land even unto the seventh generation

Covenant

Linda Hamaker & Congregation

Love is the doctrine of this congregation. The quest for truth is its
sacrament, and service is its prayer. To dwell together in peace with
respect and understanding; to seek knowledge in freedom; to serve
our fellows and humankind to the end that all souls shall grow
together in harmony. Thus do we covenant with each other and with
our God, by whatsoever name we worship.

***Opening Hymn**

#145 – *As Tranquil Streams*
First Parish Choir & Congregation

World Wisdom Story *A Cherokee Tale: How the Deer Got Their Antlers*
Rev. Clyde

Invitation to the Offering Linda Hamaker

Offertory *Love Reaches Out (Emma's Revolution)*
First Parish Choir

Laughter Meditation Linda Hamaker & Congregation

Joys & Sorrows Rev. Michelle & Linda Hamaker

Prayer & Moments of Silence Rev. Michelle

Musical Interlude *Peace Salaam Shalom (Emma's Revolution)*
First Parish Choir

Sermon Indigenous Wisdom – Rev. Clyde

***Closing Hymn** #123 – *Spirit of Life*
First Parish Choir & Congregation

Benediction modified words by Elena Westbrook – Rev. Clyde

Unison Chalice Extinguishing Linda Hamaker & Congregation
Written by Rev. Elizabeth Selle Jones, SLT #456

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.

Postlude *Mazurka in C Major, Op. 67 No. 3 (Frederic Chopin)*
James Chubet

***Please rise in body and/or in spirit.**
Please join us for Coffee Social Hour after the Service.

October 2026 Faith in Action: Waltham House

Our October Faith in Action (FIA) collection supports Waltham House, a program of The Home for Little Wanderers. Waltham House is the first residential group home in New England designed specifically for LGBTQ+ youth and was among the first of its kind in the nation when it opened in 2002. Its founding principles are that every child deserves to live in an environment in which they feel safe, respected, supported, and cared for by those around them. Waltham House provides a safe and supportive living environment with 24-hour staffing for up to 12 gay, lesbian, bisexual, and/or transgender youth ages 14–18. Many youth at Waltham House have experienced difficulty — at home or in placement — due to their gender expression or sexual identities. Their stay at Waltham House prepares them for what is next in their plan, which may be reunification with their families, transitioning to a foster family, or preparing for independent living.

To donate, please use the envelopes in the pews for your checks, with contributions payable to FPUU Canton, and tell us in the memo line that your contribution is for the Faith In Action (FIA). You also can use the Donation button on the FPUU website for PayPal or credit cards. Please give as generously as you are able. Thank you!

Parish Committee Board Meeting & Today's Designated Representative

Parish Committee meetings are open to members and friends, and are generally held on the second Thursdays of the month – the next meeting is **November 12th at 2:30pm**. See Kitty McGregor, President during coffee social hours if you would like to attend a meeting. Today's Parish Committee representatives for questions are Don Seaman or Nancy Devine.

Opportunities for Community Meals with FPUU Friends

Lunch with Friends – Third Thursday of the month. Our next gathering is on **October 15th from 12 - 1pm** in Parish Hall. Please bring a bag lunch for yourself and if you wish something to share with others. Contact Barbara Foley for more information.

Sunday Brunch Potluck – First Sunday of the month, **November 1st** after the service. A few food items, coffee and tea will be provided. We are asking everyone attending to bring the rest. Contact Barbara Foley with any questions.

Covenant Group Invitations

Contact **Linda Hamaker** at lindahamaker324@gmail.com if interested in joining a monthly Tuesday evening covenant group, open to all genders, or **Elaine Goldstein** at 781-784-5210 if interested in a Thursday morning women's group. Both occur on Zoom.

Save the Dates (see your newsletter, website, & Facebook)

Emma's Revolution Returns! – Friday, October 16th, 7PM (buy tickets now!)

No King's – Saturday, October 17th, 1-2PM, messaging for early voting

Neponset River Mind-Body-Spirit Programs
(free public programs of FPUU Canton: A Neponset River UU Community)

Let's Laugh Today in Canton (with Bill & Linda Hamaker)

Finding it hard to laugh these days? Come join Bill and Linda, Certified Laughter Yoga Master Trainers, as they help you to de-stress and decompress with some good hearty laughing practices. See <https://www.letslaughtoday.com> for more information (and to register for free 45-minute on-line Wednesday night groups, 7:30pm). Bill and Linda also will lead an in-person group for free on the second Sundays of the month after the service. First one of this year will be **TODAY Sunday, Oct. 11th, 12:15-1:15PM.**

Zen Buddhist Meditation Hour (with Rev. Dr. Michelle)

Feeling stressed? Meditation is known to help stress – join us for a combination of sitting, walking and mindful eating combined with a Buddhist reading and sharing.

Weekly Tuesdays & Thursday's, 1-2pm (in person, Chapel)

Ongoing

Exploring Your Spirituality (with Rev. Dr. Michelle)

Wondering about some big meaning-making questions but not interested in typical religious responses? Join us for our theme-based Soul Matters spiritual curriculum of conversation, music, and the arts. Pick up a booklet from Rev. Michelle or the office.

Third Sundays, 12:15-1:15PM

Fall Dates/Theme: Oct. 18 (Courage)

November's is on the second Sunday: Nov. 8 (Healing)

Poetry Group - Facilitated by Florence Noonan

Poetry can make us laugh or speak to our deepest feelings. Come and enjoy A Poetry Circle that will meet each month on ZOOM from **7:00-8:00 pm starting on Tuesday, October 27.** Bring one or two poems that you'd like to read. Other folks in the group can share their personal responses to each poem. And no - this group isn't about the technicalities of poetry. Its purpose is to share and enjoy poetry. **Contact Florence Noonan** at flnoonan@gmail.com to register and get a zoom link for the group. Florence also may lead another poetry group workshop on **Sunday, October 25, at 12:15PM!**

Unitarian Universalist Traditions as History (with Rev. Dr. Clyde Grubbs)

In my newsletter column 'Between Us,' I spoke about tradition as the handing off of the meaning making of the past. I also announced that I would lead a class, a monthly discussion on events and controversies that shaped Unitarianism and Universalism. The first class will be on the Council of Nicea and the consolidation of orthodoxy. The next class will be held on **November 1st**, also after the service and potluck, and we will discuss the birth of religious humanism and Liberal Christianity. No homework required!