

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Foss* (Michele McLaughlin)

WELCOME & CHALICE LIGHTING

UNISON AFFIRMATION (SUNG)

*We pledge to walk together
in the ways of truth and affection
as best we know them now
or may learn them in days to come
that we and our children may be fulfilled
and that we may speak to the world
in words and actions of peace and goodwill.*

Words by Alice Blair Wesley; Music by Michele Kelly

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN *Coming Home* (hymn of the month vs. 1-4) All

TIME FOR ALL *The Race to the Top of the Tree* Sara Allegretti
by: Janeen K. Grohsmeier

SING THE CHILDREN TO RE

*As you go may joy surround you. As you go, go in peace
Know our love is with you always. As you go, as you go*

CANDLES OF JOY OR SORROW

PRAYER/MEDITATION

ANTHEM *Spirit of Life* (arr. D. Warland)

SERMON *Loosening the Grip*

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Bittersweet September* (Thad Fiscella) Michele Kelly

HYMN #298 Wake Now My Senses

BENEDICTION

FAREWELL SONG (introduced by worship leader)

Carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again (sung twice)

EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE

Linda Plukas

Michele Kelly

Evelyn Rossing

Rev. Chris Scheller

Julie Sutherland

Rev. Chris

Universal Singers
Laura Minichelli, flute

Rev. Chris

Andy Majcher

Rev. Chris

All

Rev. Chris

WELCOME

We are happy you chose to worship at First Universalist Society in Franklin (FUSF) this morning. If you are a first time visitor, please be sure to sign our guest book that can be found on the welcome table in the foyer. If you leave an email address, we will include you in the mailing of our weekly newsletter, the Emessenger, and you will be kept up to date on all that is happening at FUSF. We hope you will all stay for coffee and conversation in the foyer following the service. We look forward to getting to know you better and to answer any questions you may have about FUSF or Unitarian Universalism.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)

The FUSF nursery is open every Sunday from 9:30 am - 11:30 am. The nursery is typically for children aged 0 to 4 years old.

Children and youth can join their family in the sanctuary for the beginning of FUSF's worship service. After the *Time for All*, they will be invited to attend Religious Education programming.

JOYS AND SORROWS

Please send joys or sorrows to be shared during next Sunday's service using the Joys and Sorrows link found in the weekly E-Messenger. If you have trouble with the form, please contact the lay ministers by email: layministers@fusf.org. You may also fill out an index card found in the basket on the back table in the sanctuary.

OFFERING

Give online: www.fusf.org/give; by US Mail: FUSF, PO Box 316, Franklin, MA 02038; or leave a contribution in one of the offering plates during the service. Thank you for your generosity!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send your announcements to announcements@fusf.org by Friday no later than 5:00 pm to be included on Sunday morning.

THIS WEEK AT FUSF

Today, Sun. Sept. 20, 11:15-12: Adult Faith Programming
Conversation with Rev. Chris (Sanctuary)
Today, Sun. Sept. 20, 3:30pm: Apple Picking (Big Apple Farm)
Thurs. Sept. 24, 7-9 pm: Men's Group (Cook Room)
Thurs. Sept. 24, 7-9 pm: Food Justice Team (Zoom)
Fri. Sept. 25, 6-9 pm: Game Night

Go to FUSF.org/calendar for Zoom links and more information.

FUSF is a Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association and certified as a Welcoming Congregation. We warmly welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people into our community.

Reverend Chris Scheller, Minister, revchris@fusf.org
Michele Kelly, Music Director, musicdirector@fusf.org
Sara Allegretti, Director of Religious Education, dre@fusf.org
Emily Steltzer, Youth Advisor, ya@fusf.org
Mary Dennis, Membership Coordinator,
Membership.Coordinator@FUSF.org
Alison Green, Office Administrator, office@fusf.org

Office Hours: Mon., Tues., Fri. onsite 10 - 3 pm
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 316, Franklin, MA 02038
Physical Address: 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin, MA
508-528-5348
Email: office@fusf.org
Website: www.fusf.org

FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY IN FRANKLIN



ORDER OF SERVICE September 20, 2026

Loosening the Grip

#298 Wake Now My Senses

Wake, now, my senses, and hear the earth call;
feel the deep power of being in all;
keep, with the web of creation your vow,
giving, receiving as love shows us how.

Wake, now, my reason, reach out to the new;
join with each pilgrim who quests for the true;
honor the beauty and wisdom of time;
suffer thy limit, and praise the sublime.

Wake, now, compassion, give heed to the cry;
voices of suffering fill the wide sky;
take as your neighbor both stranger and friend,
praying and striving their hardship to end.

Wake, now, my conscience, with justice thy guide;
join with all people whose rights are denied;
take not for granted a privileged place;
God's love embraces the whole human race.

Coming Home (verses 1-4)

(Chorus)

We're coming home, to the spirit in our soul. We're coming home
and the healing makes us whole.
Like rivers running to the sea, we're coming home, we're coming
home.

Verse 1

As the day is woven into night,
As the darkness lives within the light,
As we open vision to new sight,
we're coming home, we're coming home.

Verse 2

Bearing words born new unto each day
Speaking bold where only silence lay
As we dare to rise and lead the way
we're coming home, we're coming home. **(to chorus)**

Verse 3

As the full moon waxes into wane
changing-yielding, all that she did gain.
As from death she dares be born again
we're coming home, we're coming home.

Verse 4

To reclaim the thinking of our mings
Leaving shackles lying far behind
Bearing hope for ev'ry soul confined,
we're coming home, we're coming home. **(to chorus)**