

ANNOUNCEMENTS	Meg Loring
PRELUDE <i>Preludio</i> (Tim Neumark)	Michele Kelly
WELCOME & CHALICE LIGHTING	Donna Williams
UNISON AFFIRMATION (SUNG)	
<i>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.</i>	
Words by Alice Blair Wesley; Music by Michele Kelly	
WELCOME & PRESENTATION OF GIFT	Vicki Coates, Linda Plukas, Karen Swann
CALL TO WORSHIP	Rev. Chris Scheller
OPENING HYMN #188 <i>Come, Come, Whoever You Are</i>	All
TIME FOR ALL <i>Fitting In and Acceptance</i>	Sara Allegretti
SING THE CHILDREN TO RE	
<i>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</i>	
CANDLES OF JOY OR SORROW	Katie Nunes
READING <i>Congregational Polity & the Myth of Congregational Autonomy</i> (General Assembly, 2015, Rev. Sue Phillips)	
ANTHEM <i>Home</i> (Holden/Pearson)	Universal Singers
SERMON <i>A Spiritual Home</i>	Rev. Chris
MEDITATION	Rev. Chris
CALL FOR THE OFFERING	Caitlin MacDonald
OFFERTORY <i>Home</i> (Dustin O'Halloran)	Michele Kelly
HYMN <i>We'll Be Known By Our Love</i> (hymn of the month)	All
BENEDICTION	Rev. Chris

FAREWELL SONG	All
<i>Carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again (sung twice)</i>	
EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE	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. RE will be dismissed at the end of the service today.

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.

REV CHRIS WELCOMING CEREMONY

Leader:

"Let us bless this new beginning.
For the path that brought us to this moment, we give thanks.
For the road that stretches out before us, we give thanks.

Leader:

"The vibrant colors and symbols of this stole mirror our commitment to acceptance, diversity and spiritual exploration. They represent the dawn of a new chapter, the warmth of our community, and the sparks of creativity we will ignite together. May they fuel our passion for justice, and light our way through this period of mutual discovery.

Congregation:

"We are the keepers of the flame. With open hearts and steady steps, we are excited to move forward together."

Leader: "Rev. Chris, as you wear this stole, may you feel the strength of this community wrapping around you. May it remind you that you do not walk alone."

(The stole is placed on Rev. Chris' shoulders by Karen)

Congregation: "We give you this stole as a sign of our shared commitment to each other. Together, we move forward into a new beginning."

Minister: "I accept this stole and the hope, dreams and trust it represents. I promise to walk beside you, to listen deeply, and to help guide our steps as we discover what we can build together."

Leader:

"Blessed be this cloth, blessed be this ministry, and blessed be the journey we begin today. Let us now continue our worship together."

#188 Come, Come, Whoever You Are

Come, come, whoever you are,
wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving.
Ours is no caravan of despair.
Come, yet again come.

We'll Be Known By Our Love (hymn of the month)

When the winds around you blow, take my hand.
When the raging waters flow, I'll help you to land,
And we'll go together into the great unknown.

Shelter for each other, compassion as our home,
And we'll be known by our love. We'll be known by our love.

When you're fearful, when you're blue, don't despair.
When the world gives up on you, I'll be there,
And we'll go together into the great unknown.

Shelter for each other, compassion as our home,
And we'll be known by our love. We'll be known by our love.

We'll be known by our love. We'll be known by our love.

THIS MONTH AT FUSF:

COUNTRY LINE DANCING is coming to FUSF

Saturday, October 17th from 6:30-9:00 pm

Please, plan to join us in the FUSF sanctuary for a Boot Scootin' FUNdraising event. Learn some of the latest country line dances. It's fun and easy. All ages are welcome! No previous experience needed!

Western attire, boots, and hats are optional!
However, please wear smooth, hard-soled shoes that will allow for easy movement on the carpeted sanctuary floor.

COST: Adults \$10 (18+)
Students \$8 (12-18)
Families \$25 max

Advance tickets are available at
<https://fusf.org/category/upcoming-events/>
Or buy at the door.

Snacks and Beverages will be available for purchase.

The FUSF Board of Trustees cordially invites you to the first **Congregational Conversation** of FY27 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027) on October 18 directly after service.

The Board will be reviewing its goals and objectives for this year. Per usual, we will also be reviewing "Money Matters". Please plan to attend.

THIS WEEK AT FUSF

TODAY, Sun. Oct. 4, after worship: FUSF Scavenger Hunt
Wed. Oct. 7, 1 - 3 pm: Prayer Shawl Group (Cook Room)

Go to [FUSF.org/calendar](https://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
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FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY IN FRANKLIN



ORDER OF SERVICE

October 4, 2026

A Spiritual Home