

Summer 2026 at First Religious Society UU (rev. 6/12/26)

Summer Worship Services

Summer worship services will be held in the FRSUU sanctuary and livestreamed on YouTube starting at 10am unless otherwise noted.*

June 28: *Ohketeau Cultural Community* – led by Sue Creed

Larry Spotted Crow Mann, Director and Founder of the Ohketeau Cultural Community, will share ancestral music, stories, and teachings that will increase our cross-cultural knowledge of their community in our area past and present.

July 5: *Reading Frederick Douglass Together – an FRSUU tradition since 2018

Please join us for the annual community reading of Frederick Douglass's speech, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" Meet in Brown Square across from City Hall (rain location, FRS) at 10am. No sign-up required. Light refreshments will follow. Lawn chairs are encouraged. Co-hosted by the Friends of William Lloyd Garrison, the YWCA of the Greater Northshore, Museum of Old Newbury, and Congregation Ahavas Achim, with support from Mass Humanities and Mass Cultural Council. No livestream. More information at www.WLGarrison.com.

July 12: *Growing into Harmony with the Divine* – led by David Turner

Drawing from Steve McIntosh's *Evolution's Purpose*, the story of cosmic, biological, and cultural evolution, the service will explore how familiar phrases from our FRS Affirmation of Faith and Doxology can speak to our lives today. The service will include harmonies from choir members and video reflections and songs from Alban and Erinda in Albania.

July 19: *Visions of Hell* – led by Doug Latham

Concepts of the afterlife have evolved over millennia. Why does an afterlife occupy such a prominent place in the human search for meaning? How does the question or certainty of an afterlife resonate with liberal theology? What meaning does it hold in our lives?

July 26: *What Kind of Ancestors Will We Choose to Be?* – led by Ray Wilson

The Rev. Dr. Peter S. Raible wrote, "We build on foundations we did not lay; we warm ourselves by fires we did not light; we sit in the shade of trees we did not plant; we drink from wells we did not dig." All those things—and a thousand more, both good and evil—are our inheritance from our ancestors. We stand on their shoulders. Now: "What kind of ancestors will we choose to be?"

***August 30: *Service at Hampton Falls UU* – Worship leader and time TBD**

We continue the long tradition of an FRSUU minister preaching on the last Sunday of August at First Congregational Society Unitarian Church, 143 Exeter Rd., Hampton Falls, NH. This is a special, more intimate gathering you won't want to miss.

Summer Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care Associates (PCAs), in consultation with Rev. Jane Tuohy, will provide pastoral care coverage from June 1 - September 6. If you need to speak with someone on an urgent pastoral care matter, please email the PCAs at pastoralassociates@frsuu.org and one of us will respond as soon as possible. The PCA team includes Rev. Jane, Nancy Kidd, Jean Lanham, Karen Letourneau, Andy Lobb, Hugh Martinez (Chair), Susan Ricker, and Megan Wilson.

Summer Business Office Hours

The church business office will be open this summer on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, from 9:30am-1:30pm**. The business office will also be closed some weeks when Church Administrator Diane Carroll is on vacation.

Summer Events

July 19: Newburyport 250 Declaration of Independence Day, 1:45pm procession, 2pm program

A public commemoration of the 250th anniversary of Newburyport's first reading of the Declaration of Independence, with readings, music, reenactors, family-friendly activities, a waterfront salute by two schooners, and more. Procession from Brown Square to Market Square, with a stop at FRSUU, followed by a waterfront observance and activities. More information about this event [here](#).

August 9: Worship Field Trip, Interfaith Service, Lynch Park Rose Garden, Beverly, 10am

Join in this annual service featuring prayer, song, and reflection organized by the Beverly Multifaith Coalition, a group of faith leaders who meet regularly to promote respect, understanding, and peace through interfaith dialogue and community action. The service is part of [Beverly Homecoming](#). Non-residents attending this service typically receive free parking at the park by informing the attendant. The service is in the beautiful [Lynch Park Rose Garden](#) located next to the sea at 55 Ober St. in Beverly, MA, on the left side of the parking lot. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on. All are welcome! Questions? Email Joanna Fernandes: jfern.cf@gmail.com. Please offer or request a ride using this [form](#).

August 16: Worship Field Trip, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Newburyport, 9:30am

A longtime, integral part of the Newburyport community, the Church of the Annunciation was founded by 60 immigrant Orthodox Christian members in 1918. For over one hundred years, the Greek Orthodox church has been FRSUU's downtown neighbor. Let's learn more about our neighbor, its members, faith, and practices with a visit to Annunciation together beginning with a service. Worship ends roughly at 10:45am, after which we will join Father Costin for a brief presentation and Q&A, then join in community with the congregation for coffee hour. Father Costin has invited our questions regarding the church and Orthodox Christianity ahead of time. Please send questions to Joanna Fernandes: jfern.cf@gmail.com by August 9. To learn more about worship at Annunciation and Orthodox Christianity, please visit the [Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church](#) and [Orthodox Christian Network](#) sites. While not required to attend, a courtesy RSVP by August 14 to Joanna Fernandes is encouraged. We will meet outside the church entrance at 7 Harris St. by 9:15am to enter the church together.

August 23: Sacred Service in the Sanctuary, 9am

Lend your hands and heart to this special morning as we work together to deep-clean our church's sanctuary in preparation for the coming church year. FRSUU will provide cleaning supplies and coffee. Come and have some fun and leave the church knowing that you have made a difference!