



FIRST PARISH IN LINCOLN

an open and welcoming community church



“Learning from the Shakers”

Worship Theme | Ways to Pray
October 19, 2025 at 10am

WELCOME TO FIRST PARISH

Nurturing Spirituality | Building Community | Pursuing Justice

We are an open and welcoming community church formed in 1942 by the union of the Congregational (1746) and Unitarian (1842) churches in Lincoln. Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Land Acknowledgment. We gather today on the unceded homelands of the Massachusetts and Nipmuc peoples. Let us strive to honor all indigenous peoples by joining their efforts to pursue justice and care for this land. *An action step is included at the back of this bulletin.*



If you are visiting this morning, we are so glad you are here! We hope you'll join us for Coffee Hour after worship. Tell us about yourself or sign up for our mailing list by filling out a Virtual Connect Card.

Livestream. You can view past services on our YouTube page. If you don't wish to have your image included in a recording, please contact the church office or a minister.

One License #A-732063 | CCS # 15261

Assistive Listening Devices are available in the narthex. Please ask an usher for assistance.



Give Online! Scan the QR code to contribute toward the Sunday Plate, a pledge, or a Special Offering.

Art. Polly Jane Reed (1818–1881),
"A Type of Mother Hannah's Pocket Handkerchief."

We thank the following people for their contributions to today's service.

Lay Leader

Laura Crandall

Hospitality

R.L. Smith
Mimsy Beckwith

Ushers

Adele Harvey
Richard Mollica
Tom Quinn
Dave Elliott

RE Volunteers

Anna Bishop, Melissa Deck,
Kelly Kerber, Bob Shaw

Altar Flowers

Nancy Boulton-LeGates
In memory of my sister, Janet.

Welcome! Please enjoy the prelude in a spirit of meditation.

PRELUDE

Variations on Simple Gifts

James E. Barrett

RINGING OF THE BELL

INTROIT

Come Life, Shaker Life

*Elder Issachar Bates
Regina Stroncek, soprano*

WELCOME

Rev. Nate Klug

***OPENING WORDS**

Adapted from "Of Being" | Denise Levertov

One: I know this happiness is provisional...

**All: The looming presences—great suffering, great fear—
withdraw only into peripheral vision.**

One: But ineluctable this shimmering of wind in the leaves...

All: This flood of stillness, widening the lake of sky...

One: This need to dance, this need to kneel...

All: This mystery.

***OPENING HYMN | Gray 273**

Immortal, Invisible

ST. DENIO

***COVENANT | In Unison**

Laura Crandall

In the love of truth and in the spirit of Jesus

We unite for the worship of God and the service of all.

TIME FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY

Partakers Prison Mentoring

SUNG RESPONSE | Gray 368 (vv.1-2)

Now Let Us Sing

FIRST READING

From Acts 2 (The Message translation)

Everyone around was in awe—all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met.

They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.

From "The Number of Shakers in the U.S. Rises to 3," *NPR.org* (August 19, 2025)

Until a few months ago, there were only two living Shakers left in the United States. Now, a third person has joined the celibate Christian sect founded in 1747. Maine Public's Madi Smith met the new member of the Shaker community.

MADI SMITH, BYLINE: At the end of a beautiful summer day, Friends of the Shakers weekend attendees settle in for a group singalong of Shaker songs. A majority of women sit on the sisters' side of the chapel, and the men sit opposite, all holding lyrics to the songs, though few seem to need them.

UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE: (Singing) Bright angels descend. I feel their presence.

SMITH: Fifty-nine-year-old Sister April Baxter is unassuming in her colorful button-down and jeans but has brought a palpable energy to the space. Baxter is the newest Shaker. She came to live at the village this spring and says the place was special from the first time she visited.

APRIL BAXTER: I didn't understand why, but I was very moved. I mean, I've been to lots of beautiful places in my life - lots of beautiful places. But something made me feel like I had to come back.

SMITH: Before joining the Shakers, Baxter lived in an episcopal convent for four years. But she says visiting the Sabbathday Lake Shaker community felt like coming home.

BAXTER: Someone said to me, oh, that must have been a really hard decision for you to make. I'm like, no, it wasn't a decision. It's a calling.

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER

Laura Crandall

PRAYER HYMN | Gray 123

Spirit of Life

SPIRIT OF LIFE

SILENT PRAYER & MEDITATION

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

The Ministers

PASTORAL PRAYER

Laura Crandall

UNISON PRAYER

From "Simple Gifts"

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'Tis the gift to come down where you ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
To turn, turn will be our delight
'Till by turning, turning we come round right.

OFFERTORY

Come Life, Shaker Life

Improvisation

***DOXOLOGY | In Unison**

From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise
Let the Redeemers' names be sung through every land by every tongue.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER | In Unison**

We give thanks for both these gifts and the givers, and we ask that we may use these gifts wisely and well, both to nurture the life of this congregation and to further the goals of justice and peace throughout the world.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Alma Redemptoris

Giovanni Palestrina (1525-1594)

O loving Mother of our Redeemer, gate of heaven, star of the sea,
Hasten to aid thy fallen people who strive to rise once more.
Thou who brought forth thy holy Creator, all creation wond'ring,
Yet remainest ever Virgin, taking from Gabriel's lips
that joyful "Hail!": be merciful to us sinners.

SECOND READING

Valentine Rathbun, 1781 (from *The Shakers and the World's People*, ed. Flo Morse)

Their manner of worship is entirely new, and different from all others...
While they are...shaking, one will begin to sing some odd tune, without
words or rule; after a while another will strike in; and then another; and
after a while they all fall in, and make a strange charm.

The mother, so called, minds to strike such notes as make a concord.

In the best part of their worship, everyone acts for himself, and almost
every one different from the other...dancing...hopping...turning around, so
swift that if it be a woman, her clothes will be so filled with the wind, as
though they were kept out by a hoop...

Then all break off, and have a spell of smoking, and sometimes great fits of
laughter.

SERMON

Learning From the Shakers

Rev. Nate Klug

***CLOSING HYMN**

Lord of the Dance

SIMPLE GIFTS

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,

And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain:

"Dance, dance, wherever you may be;

I am the Lord of the Dance," said he.

"I'll lead you all wherever you may be,

I will lead you all in the Dance," said he.

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame,
The holy people, they said it was a shame;
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
And they left me there on a cross to die. **[Refrain]**

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
But I am the dance and I still go on. **[Refrain]**

They cut me down and I leapt up high,
I am the life that'll never, never die,
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
"I am the Lord of the Dance," said he. **[Refrain]**

***OUR CALL TO MINISTRY | In Unison**

Laura Crandall

We go forth from the worship of God to be faithful to the vision of Jesus
To affirm each person's dignity and to cherish the living earth.

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Nate Klug

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

Seven-fold Amen

John Stainer (1840-1901)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Two English Country Dances

arranged by Marhsall Barron

Feel free to depart or remain seated during our postlude. Please join us for Coffee Hour in our Stearns Room directly following worship!



Please recycle this program.

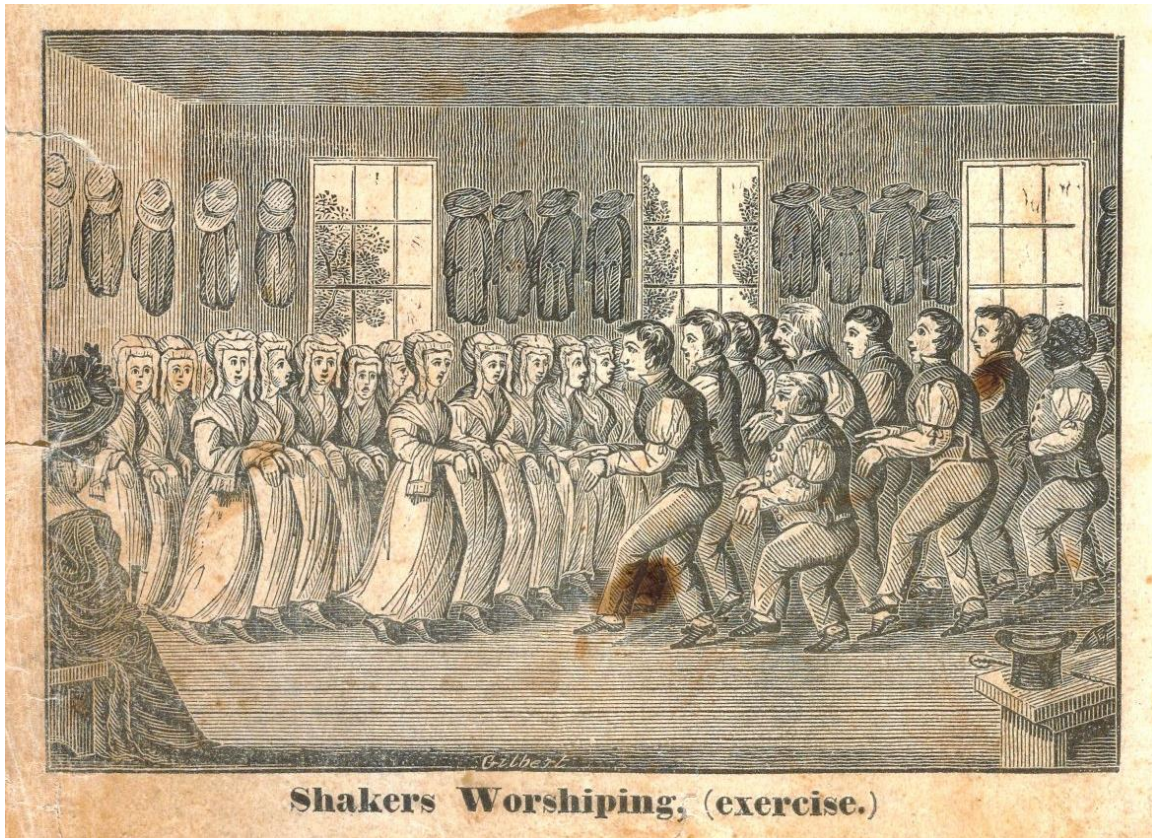
Bins are available in the narthex and Stearns Room.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ACTION STEP. You are invited to learn about and support the legislation currently before the MA State Legislature that would benefit Indigenous Peoples. There are currently five bills being considered in the 2025-2026 session that reflect the key concerns of local tribes. Scan the QR code to learn more about these bills and/or write your representative to express your support.



PURSUING JUSTICE ACTION STEP. Save the LUCE hotline number in your phone today! Think You SEE I.C.E. in your area? **CALL: 617-370-5023.** The hotline operates from 5am - 9pm every day of the week across multiple languages: English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Haitian Creole, and more to be added! Volunteer for ICE watch + hotline. Trained volunteers hold shifts from 5a-9a, 9a-1p, 1p-5p and 5p-9p across multiple languages. Scan QR code to sign up.





Above: George Gilbert. "Gottesdienst der Tanzenden Quaker," 1831.

Next Page: Architectural elements from North Family Dwelling, New Lebanon, New York. ca. 1830-40.





Hearth & Hope

A NEW CASUAL SERVICE
BASED IN STORYTELLING AND SONG

THEME: "I See You"

STORYTELLERS: Sarah Bishop, Edwin Elineema,
and Kelly Kerber

Sunday, October 19 at 5:00pm
Parish House, 14 Bedford Road

All ages and identities welcome
Free dinner following

www.fplincoln.org

HEARTH & HOPE

TODAY, October 19 • 5:00pm • Parish House Auditorium

SARAH'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday, October 20 • 10:00am • Twisted Tree Lincoln Station
With Sarah Klockowski (sarah@fplincoln.org).

DIG DEEPER

Monday, October 20 • 12:00pm • Twisted Tree Lincoln Station
With Sarah Klockowski (sarah@fplincoln.org). Join an FPL minister to reflect on today's service.

MEDITATION SANGHA

Tuesday, October 21 • 4:00pm • Stearns Room
Joan Kimball & Ben Wells (sangha@fplincoln.org)

8TH GRADE OWL PARENT ORIENTATION

Tuesday, October 21 • 7:00pm • Stearns Room
With Lora Venesy (lora@fplincoln.org)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSAL

Thursday, October 23 • 4:30pm • Stearns Room
Miranda Loud, miranda@fplincoln.org

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Thursday, October 23 • 7:00pm • Stearns Room
Miranda Loud, miranda@fplincoln.org

QUIET WALKS

Friday, October 24 • 1:30pm • Lincoln Trails
Andy Falender & Jackie Lenth

ALL CHURCH WORKDAY AT FARRINGTON NATURE LINC

Saturday, October 25 • 2:00pm • Farrington Nature Linc

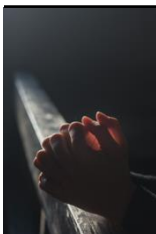
Visit our website or sign up for weekly emails for program details: www.fplincoln.org



THE FORUM | ROOM TO GROW

Sunday, October 26 • 11:30am • Sanctuary

Join Rev. Nate and Parish Committee Chair Gina Halsted for a discussion about where we are as a church and how we can set ourselves up to continue to grow in the right way for First Parish. We'll begin by reviewing the big ideas from last month's Leadership Retreat, before turning to a specific item of consideration: the small side pews on either side of the pulpit in the Sanctuary. With growth and welcome in mind, Nate will introduce the idea of removing those side pews for three reasons: a) giving our children more space up front during the monthly Times for All Ages and the Christmas Pageant, b) allowing more music performance possibilities from the front of the sanctuary, and c) facilitating traffic flow in and out of the sanctuary. Discussion to follow.



SPIRITUAL PRACTICES: WAYS TO PRAY

Sunday, October 26 • 4:00pm • Stearns Room

Looking to begin or deepen a practice of prayer? Join us for a quiet evening exploring some of the many ways to pray, including contemplative prayer, Lectio Divina, body prayer, and more. Sarah will spend some time introducing then leading 10-15 minutes of each practice, followed by individual and collective reflection. You are encouraged to bring a journal.



JOURNEY TO BELONGING

An offering for newcomers who want to deepen their connection at First Parish. Over a shared meal provided by FPL, we'll have the chance to:

- Reflect on own spiritual journeys
- Explore the history of First Parish, and the “big spiritual tent” of our UUA & UCC traditions
- Learn about the meaning and benefits of membership

We plan to hold two Journey to Belonging sessions this fall—one on a Wednesday night (with childcare) for younger families and single people (October 29 from 5-6:30 pm), and one after church on a Sunday (November 2 at 11:30 am).

Values & Vision

NURTURING SPIRITUALITY

To be a spiritual home for individuals from diverse faith backgrounds where each person can find help and inspiration to foster personal growth on their own journey while in community with others.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

To be an open and inclusive community that learns to trust and work with each other as we celebrate, grieve, grow, support, and serve together.

PURSUING JUSTICE

To be a source of hope and positive impact in our communities, our region and beyond by affirming the dignity of all peoples and caring for the living earth.



Open & Welcoming

First Parish is an Open and Welcoming community church, affirming the dignity of all people. We welcome all persons to full participation and belonging regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, economic status, age, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

Having fulfilled the requirements to be recognized as an Open and Affirming Congregation (UCC), First Parish is intentional about celebrating the presence and participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer persons in all aspects of congregational life, fully and without qualification.

Contact OandW-TF@fplincn.org for more information.

FIRST PARISH IN LINCOLN

(781) 259-8118 | www.fplincn.org

Rev. Kit Novotny (she/her)
Co-Minister | kit@fplincn.org

Sarah Klockowski (she/her)
Ministry Associate | sarah@fplincn.org

Miranda Loud (she/her)
Music Director & Organist | miranda@fplincn.org

Silvia Dieckow (she/her)
Parish Administrator | silvia@fplincn.org

Rev. Nate Klug (he/him)
Co-Minister | nate@fplincn.org

Lora Venesy (she/her)
Director of Religious Exploration | lora@fplincn.org

Debby Adams (she/her)
Nursery Director

Chris Lehmann (he/him)
Audio/Visual Coordinator | chris@fplincn.org