



# January at Unity Church

**Welcome  
2024!**

*Dr. Andrew Tripp,  
Coordinator of  
Ministry  
Unity Church of  
North Easton  
He/Him/His*

This month we explore the theme of pluralism. Our faith is informed by wisdom of many traditions, and historically Unitarians and Universalists were curious and interested in learning about and from different teachings.

On January 7th I'll be preaching "Do Good Fences Make Good Neighbors?" I've often used the image of the porcupine problem in my sermons, where we both need proximity to one another but our natural prickly natures can harm each other leading to alienation. Robert Frost challenged the notion that good fences make good neighbors with his famous poem "mending walls" but healthy boundaries are necessary for healthy relationships. We will explore both human inclinations of walls and universality.

On January 14th I'll be preaching "King in India." When Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. went to India for the first time to learn more about Ghandi and his uses of nonviolent resistance he was met with a greeting welcoming him as the leader of the American harijan. He bristled at the notion but it later informed him significantly in his approach to social change. We will look at the ways King learned from Ghandi and from India, and the ways our country was an influence and influenced by such social change.

On January 28th we have a guest. My spouse, Dr. Lynn Cooper, is coming close to finishing her first draft of her book on interfaith friendship that has arisen from her doctoral studies and her work with the Tufts University Chaplaincy, including its interfaith "Befriend" program. With a world full of division, making genuine friendship across traditions helps us against isolation and ignorance.

Best,  
~ Andrew

## January Services

10:30am at Unity Church and Zoom\* unless otherwise noted



**January 7th ~ "Do Good Fences Make Good Neighbors", Dr. Andrew Tripp** (*see Andrew's article*).

**January 14th ~ "King in India", Dr. Andrew Tripp** (*see Andrew's article*).

**January 21st ~ "Can a Science Flood Story Inspire Us as Much as the One by Noah?",** Stephen Ledoux, Guest Service Leader. The biblical flood story by Noah has been inspirational for millennia. More recently science has uncovered facts about a flood unprecedented in human history, from a time and place that indicate it was the source of the Great Flood experiences and stories. Can this flood story by science be at least as inspirational as Noah's story? More inspirational? Perhaps a closer look will provide an answer. Stephen offers thoughts from the book : Ryan, W. & Pitman, W. (2000). Noah's Flood: The New Scientific Discoveries About the Event that Changed History

**January 28th ~ "Interfaith Friendship: A Spiritual Priority in 2024", Dr. Lynn Cooper,** Guest Service Leader (*see Andrew's article*)

\* Zoom link at our Webpage, <https://www.unitychurchofnortheaston.org/>

## Tours of Unity Church

Unity Church of North Easton is now offering weekly tours of Unity Church to the public. They are scheduled for Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 pm, taking full advantage of the Sunshine gloriously highlighting the LaFarge Window of Help. Registration requested by calling the church office at 508-238-6373. Tours can be scheduled on other days if needed.