

**Thank you to:**  
Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host  
Rebecca and John MacNeil, Ushers  
Sharon Brownfield and Jeff Brown, Coffee Hosts  
Our staff and leadership



### Land Acknowledgement

- ‡ We would like to acknowledge that this service is being held by a community that gathers on the stolen traditional lands of the Massachusetts, Nipmuc, Pawtucket, and Wampanoag People.
- ‡ We pay respect to those Indigenous Peoples who lost their lives in the colonization of this land and recognize that these Indigenous tribes are still today facing violations of sovereignty, territory, and water.
- ‡ We also give thanks for the Earth we walk upon, the waters, the lifegiving plants, and all the Earth's creatures, as well as the winds, sun, moon, and stars.
- ‡ We recognize that this is just a first step in moving toward right relationship with Native peoples and healing of the Earth.



### **How to Connect with First Parish Church:**

Sign our visitor log at [tinyurl.com/visitfpc](https://tinyurl.com/visitfpc) or scan the QR code:  
We'll send you information on request.



Come to Sunday's 10 am service and 11 am social hour, in person or online.

### Subscribe to our publications...

*The Chronicle* - monthly e-newsletter

*This Week at FPC* - weekly e-newsletter

*FPCAnnounce & FPCForum* - e-mail groups

...all at <https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org/subscribe-newsletters>.

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

*Unitarian Universalist*



Sunday, January 28, 2024

**The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum**  
Minister

**Meg Rivers-Wright**  
Administration and Membership

**Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson**  
Director of Religious Education

**Chris Hossfeld**  
Music Director

**Trevor Berens**  
Accompanist

**Justin Marble**  
Nursery Care Coordinator

**Mike Silkonis**  
Sexton

**Janet Beatrice**  
External Publicity

**Felix Freeman**  
Tech Assistant

**Jenni Edgerton**  
President

**Brendon Chetwynd**  
Vice President

**Bill Froberg**  
Treasurer

**Johanna Pyle**  
Clerk

*First Parish is a Unitarian Universalist Association Welcoming Congregation.  
We warmly welcome gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people into our community.*

To help everyone be a part of worship in the fullest way possible,  
large print orders of service and hymnals are available from an usher.  
Assisted Listening Devices are available when worship is in the Sanctuary.

FPC currently has a masks-optional policy throughout the church.  
Several rows in the back of the Sanctuary are designated "mask-required."  
They are a greater distance from unmasked speakers and include accessible seating.

FPC is on the web at [fpc-stow-acton.org](https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org) and on Facebook.

January 28, 2023 10:00 a.m.

**Gathering**

**Prelude** "Peace of the Woods" Trevor Berens, piano  
Edvard Grieg

**Welcome** Meg Rivers-Wright,  
Parish Administration and Membership

**Greet Your Neighbor**

**Opening Words** "Invocation" Lindsay LaPointe,  
May Sarton Worship Committee Member

**Chalice Lighting**

\* **Hymn #51** "Lady of the Seasons' Laughter"

**Centering**

\* **Covenant and Affirmation**

Love is the spirit of this church,  
and service its law.  
This is our great covenant:  
To dwell together in peace,  
to seek the truth in love,  
and to help one another.

From all that dwell below the skies  
let words of love and peace arise.  
Let joyful songs of praise be sung.  
through every land, by every tongue.

**Land Acknowledgement** Lindsay LaPointe

**Joys and Sorrows** Ann Sadler, Lay Minister

**Prayer or Meditation** "Earth Mother, Star Mother"  
Starhawk

\* **Hymn** "La Ténèbre"  
Taize

Our darkness is never darkness in your sight: the deepest night is clear as the day - light.

**Exploring**

**Reading** "Ground Hog Day"  
Lynn Ungar

**Sharing Our Gifts**

This month we share our weekly offering with RIA, Inc. (ready · inspire · act)  
You may donate with a check made out to First Parish Church,  
online at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate>, or text (978) 310-3309.

**Anthem** "The Silver Swan" FPC Adult Choir  
Orlando Gibbons Trevor Berens, piano

The silver swan, who living had no note,  
When death approached, unlocked her silent throat;  
Leaning her breast against the reedy shore,  
Thus sung her first and last, and sung no more:  
"Farewell, all joys; Oh death, come close mine eyes;  
More geese than swans now live, more fools than wise."

**Sermon** "Persephone and the Groundhog"  
Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

**Returning**

\* **Hymn #1068** "Rising Green"

\* **Benediction** Carl Seaburg

\* **Closing Song**  
Peace be with you 'til we meet again!  
As life lays its task before you,  
keep love's banner floating o'er you.  
Peace be with you 'till we meet again.

**Postlude** "The Snow is Dancing" Trevor Berens, piano  
Claude Debussy

\* *Rise in Body and Spirit*

## January Plate Sharing



### ready • inspire • act

Thank you again for supporting RIA as the January 2024 Plate Sharing Initiative. As difficult as it is, FPC has continued to address the horrific worldwide problem of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation as RIA enters its thirteenth year.

Globally more than 29 million people are trafficked for purposes of sex or labor across every country. Most of these people are women and children. More than half are trafficked for sex. This results in a \$32 billion illegal industry.

Human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation happens everywhere, including not just Boston, but in the MetroWest and Central areas of Massachusetts.

RIA is a developing service organization in Central Massachusetts assisting adult women who have experienced sexual slavery, commercial sexual exploitation, and sex trafficking. Our vision is to contribute to a world where women and children are loved and supported, not victimized and exploited. Again your continued support is helping us all to get there.

## Stewardship Campaign

FPC's Stewardship campaign for our next fiscal year is underway.

Thank you so much to our members and friends who have already made pledges! In the spirit of love and thanksgiving, please join us in reaffirming your financial commitment to FPC with a stewardship pledge. Here's how:

Pledge online. It's easy and secure.

Go to

<https://fpc-stow-acton.org/pledge>

...or scan the QR code:



...or fill out a pledge card at the

Stewardship Table during coffee hour.

You can also ask a member of our team to discuss your pledge with you.

Our goals: 100% Member participation, 5% average pledge increase.

Thank you for your generosity!

- The FPC Stewardship Team: Jenni Edgerton, Carole Feldhusen, Andy Derr, Sharon Brownfield, Russ Hart, and Rick Gentilman

## Today at FPC

- 10 – 11am Service; Children's Chapel (Sanctuary, online)
- 11am – 12pm Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)
- 12 – 1pm Spiritual Conversations about Poetry (online)

### 11 am Coffee Hour Fellowship Hall

Tickets will be available today at coffee hour for *Still Here*, the February 4 concert to benefit the Interfaith Partnership for Refugee Resettlement (IPRR). Details are in *Upcoming Events* in this bulletin.

### 12 pm Spiritual Conversations Through Poetry (online)

You don't need to know anything about poetry to join Elizabeth Cobblah, Ilene Rudman, and Hector Constantzos for this deeply satisfying time of engaging with others through a poem. Contact one of us to attend and receive the zoom link: [ecobblah@fenn.org](mailto:ecobblah@fenn.org), [irudman@aol.com](mailto:irudman@aol.com), or [Hconstantzos@gmail.com](mailto:Hconstantzos@gmail.com).

## Religious Education Update

**Sun, 1/28** - We will have a full hour of Chapel. Chris will be teaching us the Beatles Song, "Ob-la-di, Ob-la-da" in preparation for our Beatles Sunday on 2/11. We will also get to have a chat with Rev. Cindy, followed by New Year's wishes with Rayla.

**Fri, 2/9** – 6:30-8:30 pm Club UU, Vestry & Youth Room  
Our Special time for kids in grades K-5!

**Sat, 3/9** - For our junior and senior youth who would like to get more involved with other area UU youth, there will be a **Youth Con** at First Unitarian Church in Worcester, MA on March 9th from 10-5 PM.

## This Week at FPC

29	JAN, MON	●	8am – 1pm	AssabetFoodCoop (Vestry)
		●	7 – 9:30pm	Sounds of Stow (Hall)
30	JAN, TUE	●	10 – 11am	Coffee & Chat (Gazebo)
31	JAN, WED	●	6:40 – 8:45pm	Meditation (Fellowship Hall & online)
1	FEB, THU	●	All day	First Day of Black History Month
		●	5 – 6pm	Peace Vigil (outside)
		●	7:15 – 9pm	Choir Practice (Hall)
2	FEB, FRI	●	1 – 3:30pm	Bridge Group (Community Rm)

Sun  
2/4

**Next Sunday's Service:** 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone  
**“Choosing Love: Stories of Justice & Persistence”**  
 - Rev. Alice Anacheka-Nasemann, minister, Unitarian Church of Marlborough and Hudson

At the age of 85, Universalist Olympia Brown walked into a voting booth to cast her very first vote after a lifetime of advocating for women's suffrage. Beaten severely by angry mobs and arrested for his involvement in the Civil Rights Movement, John Lewis went on to be elected to congress, where he served for 17 terms. In 1997, Julia Butterfly Hill moved into the branches of an approximately 1500-year-old redwood tree, where she lived for 738 days to protect it from loggers. Join us this Sunday as Rev. Alice Anacheka-Nasemann shares stories of justice and persistence.

## Upcoming Events

**Wed 1/31** **Reading and Meditation** 6:40 pm-8:45, Fellowship Hall and online



6:40 - 7:20 pm Read & discuss *A Path with Heart*,  
by Jack Kornfield

7:20 - 7:30 pm Transition break  
 7:30 - 8:45 pm Meditation

**Sun 2/4** **Still Here** 4 pm, Sanctuary  
**A Benefit Concert for the Interfaith Partnership for Refugee Resettlement**  
*Music of Sorrow, Resilience, and Joy, Inspired by the Courage of the Ukrainian People*



Jonathan Russell, clarinet/bass clarinet  
 Solon Gordon, piano

Sunday, February 4, 2024 · 4 pm  
 Admission free • Suggested donation \$5-\$40  
 Tickets: Scan QR Code



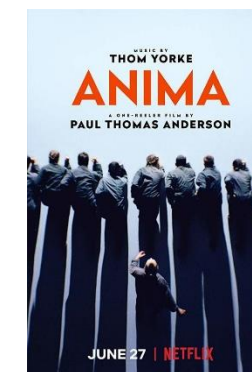
**Next Fri 2/9** **Film Night at FPC** 6:45 pm, Community Room  
 THE ARTS COMMITTEE OF FPC PRESENTS  
 A SCREENING AND AUDIO EXPERIENCE OF...

In a short musical film directed by Paul Thomas Anderson, Thom Yorke of Radiohead scores and stars in a mind-bending visual piece.

**THE FPC VIEWING EXPERIENCE:**  
 Join Lindsay LaPointe and the Arts Committee Members as we experience this film in two ways:

- 1) *Listening* to the film with the use of audio descriptions with the music.
- 2) *Viewing* the film and listening to the music.

We will discuss both experiences, comparing what we created in our heads with what we saw, in hopes that we gain more understanding and empathy for people who are visually challenged.



**ONLINE SUPPLEMENT PAGE:**  
**Information for folks joining us online**

1. Closed captioning is available for FPC's online services. If you don't see captions on your screen, you can use the button at the bottom of your screen to request that the host turn them on.
2. Today's Zoom Host: **Kim Kinnear**
3. Hymn lyrics will be in a slide presentation today.



**Sharing Our Gifts**

If you are mailing a pledge or a donation, here is the information:

Pledges:

Attn: Pledge Secretary  
PO Box 215  
Stow, MA 01775

Donations:

Attn: Treasurer  
353 Great Rd  
Stow, MA 01775