



**Thank you to:**  
 Laurie Proulx, Zoom Host  
 Felix Freeman, Tech Assistant  
 Marcia Rising, Carolyn Zettler, Ushers  
 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 Massachusett, 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 7, 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 7, 2024: 10:00 am

**Gathering**

**Prelude** Trevor Berens, piano

**Welcome and Land Acknowledgment** Nathan Sugioka, Small Group  
Ministry Facilitator

**Opening Words** “Weavers of One Story” Leah Ongiri  
Dr. Kristin M. Comment

**Chalice Lighting**

\* Hymn #347 *Gather the Spirit*

**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.

**Time for All Ages** Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson  
Director of Religious Education

**Going Forth With the Light**

K-5 kids will depart into a break-out room from the service. The youth group has a separate zoom room that has already been sent to them.

**Joys and Sorrows** Hector Constantzos, Lay Minister

**Prayer or Meditation** "In-betweeness"  
Michelle LaGrave

\* Hymn #123

*Spirit of Life*

**Exploring**

**Plate Sharing Introduction** Diane Miller

**Sharing Our Gifts**

This month we share our weekly offering with **Ria House**.  
Checks may be made to “First Parish Church”  
or donate online at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate> or by text to (978) 310-3309.

**Anthem** Trevor Berens, piano

**Sermon** “Eckhart Tolle, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and the American Ego:  
How a More Conscious Activism Might Save Us” Kris Comment

**Returning**

\* Hymn #1017 *Building a New Way*

\* **Benediction** "Long, Too Long, America"  
Walt Whitman

\* **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** Trevor Berens, piano

## January Plate Sharing



**RIA House** 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 am.....**Service**, online only

Because of the snow, today's activities at FPC are cancelled and its buildings closed for the day.

## Religious Education Update

**We will still have RE classes today** even though our worship service will be online. Our DRE will still offer *A Time For All Ages* message and then **children 5th grade and under** will go into a break-out room directly from the service link. A separate zoom room has been set up for **youth grades 6th-12th** and a link sent directly to them.

**The first 2024 OWL session**, scheduled in Littleton for January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2-5pm, **has been cancelled** due to the snow. We will send a later notification about how we will be modifying the schedule going forward.

**Club UU** Fri 1/12, 6:30-8:30pm youth ages 4-11 are invited to join Justin Marble, Laura Skorczeski and Johanna Pyle for a night of wonder-themed art and crafts, snacks, and fun. Our special craft is making a home-made snow globe. If your child has a waterproof toy no more than 2 inches wide or 3 inches tall they want to display in their snow globe they can bring it. Of course, it will be in the snow globe forever. If they don't have anything we have lots of small animal figures to choose from. And if they fit, they can choose both!

## This Week at FPC: Jan. 8-13, 2024

8	JAN, MON	● 7 – 9:30pm	Sounds of Stow (Hall)
		● 7 – 9pm	2nd Monday Group, SGM (Parlor)
		● 7 – 9pm	Jazz Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
9	JAN, TUE	● 10 – 11am	Coffee & Chat (Gazebo)
		● 7 – 8pm	Committee on Ministry meeting (online)
		● 7:30 – 9:30pm	Climate Task Force (online)
10	JAN, WED	● 6:40 – 8:45pm	Meditation (Fellowship Hall & online)
		● 7 – 8pm	Committee on Ministry meeting (online)
11	JAN, THU	● 5 – 6pm	Peace Vigil (outside)
		● 7:15 – 9pm	Choir Practice (Hall)
12	JAN, FRI	● 9:30 – 11:30am	2nd Friday Group, SGM (Community Room)
		● 12 – 8pm	Guest Table, prep-serve-clean (Hall/Kitchen)
		● 1 – 3:30pm	Bridge Group (Community Rm)
		● 6:30 – 8:30pm	Club UU (Community Room) Community Rm
13	JAN, SAT	● 9am – 12pm	Meditation Retreat - Auction Item (Fellowship Hall)

**Next Sunday's Service:** 1/14, 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone  
**“Liberating Love” Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday**  
 - Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum - The proposed new “Values” for Unitarian Universalism put love at the center, and love points us to justice. Our covenant says, “Love is the spirit of this church, and service its law.” This service will explore how liberating love is the path to justice.

## FPC Upcoming Events

**Mon 1/8** **Jazz Band Rehearsal** 7-9 pm, Sanctuary

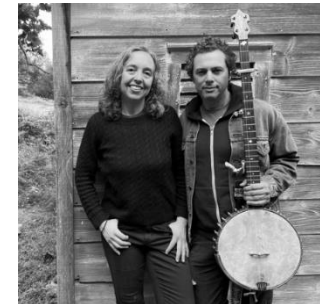
**Wed 1/10** **Reading and Meditation** 6:40-8:45 pm, Fellowship Hall and online  
 6:40 - 7:20 pm Read & discuss *A Path with Heart*, by Jack Kornfield  
 7:20 - 7:30 pm Transition break  
 7:30 - 8:45 pm Meditation

**Fri 1/12** **Guest Table** 5:30 pm-6:30 pm ~Doors open at 5 ~All are Welcome  
 ~No Charge. Menu TBA



**Club UU** 6:30-8:30pm youth ages 4-11 are invited to join Justin Marble, Laura Skorczeski and Johanna Pyle for a night of wonder-themed art and crafts, snacks, and fun. Our special craft is making a home-made snow globe. If your child has a waterproof toy no more than 2 inches wide or 3 inches tall they want to display in their snow globe they can bring it. Of course, it will be in the snow globe forever. If they don't have anything we have lots of small animal figures to choose from. And if they fit, they can choose both!

**Sat 1/20** **Hudson Valley Duo Mike & Ruthy return to New Revival Coffeehouse**



Mike Merenda + Ruth Ungar have recorded and performed their exquisite, original folk music together for two decades as the duo *Mike + Ruthy* and with their seminal folk-rock quintet *The Mammals*.

*“Some of the best songwriting of their generation.”*  
*High Times*  
*“In the vanguard of today’s vibrant folk revival.”*  
*Pop Matters*

Doors open at 7:00 pm; concert begins 7:30.  
 Tickets \$20 in advance (scan QR code)  
 and \$25 at the door.

Tickets at the advance price will also be available at coffee hour on  
 1/7 and 1/14.



**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: **Laurie Proulx**
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