




Thank you to:
 Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host
 Felix Freeman, Tech Assistant
 Nancy Cataldo, Judy Holmes, 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 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.

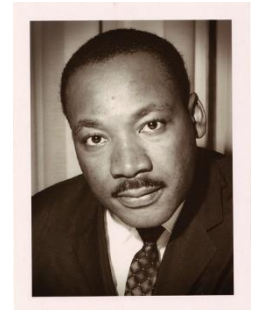


How to Connect with First Parish Church: 
Sign our visitor log at tinyurl.com/visitfpc or scan the QR code:
 We'll send you information on request.

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 14, 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 14, 2023, 10:00 am

Gathering

Prelude Trevor Berens, piano

Welcome & Announcements Karen Kinnear, Small Group Ministry

Opening Words & Chalice Lighting Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
Excerpt from “Loving Your Enemies,” 1963
The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

* **Hymn #1029** *Love Knocks & Waits for Us to Hear*

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 The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Going Forth With the Light

Land Acknowledgement

Joys and Sorrows Hector Constantzos, Lay Minister

Prayer or Meditation Prayer from “Unfulfilled Hopes”
April 5, 1959
The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

* **Hymn #199** *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

Exploring

Reading Excerpt from “Don’t Sleep Through the Revolution”
UUA General Assembly Ware Lecture
Hollywood, Florida, May 18, 1966
The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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 *Like a Mighty Stream* FPC Adult Choir
Moses Hogan and John Jacobson Trevor Berens, piano

Lift every voice and let us sing!
In every song let freedom ring!
From every soul comes a noble dream:
Let justice roll like a mighty stream.

Like a mighty stream,
Let justice roll like a mighty stream.

Oh every trial we’ll overcome,
When every child beneath the sun,
And every soul shall live as one.
The noble dream has just begun!

Like a mighty stream,
Let justice roll like a mighty stream.

Sermon “Liberating Love” The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Returning

* **Hymn #131** *Love Will Guide Us*

* **Benediction** Excerpt from Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech
University of Oslo, 10 December 1964
The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

* **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



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

- 9 – 9:45am Open Choir (Sanctuary) Sanctuary
- 10 – 11am Service (Sanctuary, online) Sanctuary and online
- 11am – 12pm Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)
- 12 – 1pm Spiritual Conversations through Poetry (online)
- 7 – 8pm Artist's Way Practice (online)

11 am Coffee/Social Hour, Fellowship Hall

Today is the last chance to buy tickets without a fee for the Mike + Ruthy concert on Jan 20. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 the day of the concert. Advance tickets are also available at Eventbrite.

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: ecobblah@fenn.org, irudman@aol.com, or Hconstantzos@gmail.com.

Religious Education Update

Today, 1/14 - Time For All Ages followed by age-appropriate classes; Jr. and Sr. Youth will not meet; Our DRE, Rayla, will be off in order to celebrate Rayla's birthday, which is that day. Our Rayla will be in attendance for all other Sundays in the month!

RE Volunteers Needed - Sunday Mornings

We are still short a few volunteers to work with the junior youth and the 3rd-5th graders.

Please contact Rayla or the RE committee if you are interested in more information on how you can volunteer.



FPC Upcoming Events

Sat 1/20 **Valentine's Family Dance**, 1-3 pm, Fellowship Hall
Children are invited to bring their favorite adult(s) for dancing, a Valentine's Day card craft, and a sweet treat.

Tickets are \$20 for one child/adult pair, and \$5 for each additional family member, available at the door with cash or check. You can also go to fpc-stow-acton.org/donation and pay the fee in advance; be sure to write "family dance" on the comment line. All proceeds benefit FPC.



Children must be accompanied by an adult.

We need a few volunteers to staff the event!
(Decorating, making marshmallow treats, and staffing the event.) Please contact leahabraham@gmail.com.

1/20 **Mike & Ruthy at New Revival Coffeehouse**, 7:30-9:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Mike Merenda and 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 at 7:30.
Tickets \$20 in advance (scan QR code) and \$25 at the door.



Sun 1/21 **Next Sunday's Service**: 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone
"The Three Questions" – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum – Leo Tolstoy wrote a story called "The Three Questions" which asked, "What is the best time to begin everything?", "Who are the best people to listen to?" and "What is the most important thing to do?" This service will explore the questions and answers.

More Upcoming Events

Sun 1/21 **SGM Registration EXTENDED to Sunday, Jan. 21**



Looking for more social connection?
Try SGM to get to know yourself and a small group of 8-10 people more closely.
New groups form each year and meet once a month for 2 hours starting in February.

Facilitated discussions have included topics such as Living Simply, This Body, and The Gift of Time.

Great way to have someone to chat with at any church event such as coffee hour. **Register here:** <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/sgm>

Current SGM group members, please re-enroll for 2024.

You can request the same group or get to know a new set of friends.

Feel free to invite a friend to join a group with you!

We are also looking for a couple more SGM co-facilitators.

Please let Karen know if you are interested or want to recommend someone.

Questions, registration, or to help us better understand your needs:
SGM coffee hour table or contact: Karen Kinnear sgm@fpc-stow-acton.org

Fri 1/26 **Dinner Church Comes to First Parish!** Fri 1/26, 6-8 pm, Fellowship Hall
Our neighbors at the *Unitarian Church of Marlborough & Hudson* are bringing their popular program, *Dinner Church*, to FPC on the Friday after next.

Dinner church combines worship elements with conversation and community, all over a nourishing meal shared with some new UU friends! All ages are welcome & encouraged to attend. RSVPs are requested so we purchase the correct amount of food -- go to <https://forms.gle/tDFbuTzffcHYxL9c8> or scan the QR code here.



Menu: Make-your-own burrito bowls, including gluten free & vegan Suggested \$15 donation to cover costs to the church, \$20 if you are able to help cover food for those who find the cost prohibitive. Donations will be collected at the dinner, but you can also make your donation in advance using the link above.

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