




Thank you to:
 Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host
 Lisa Rydin, Hector Constantzos, 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 21, 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 21, 2023, 10:00 am

Gathering

Prelude Trevor Berens, piano

Welcome & Announcements Karen Kinnear, Small Group Ministry

Introit “Dao Ke Dao” FPC Adult Choir
Music: Chris Hossfeld Trevor Berens, piano
Words: Lao Zi, from the Dao De Jing

The way that can be told is not the eternal way.
The name that can be named is not the eternal name.
Mystery within mystery; the gate to all mystery.

Opening Words Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
Attributed to Kalidasa

Chalice Lighting Leslie Takahashi

* **Hymn #1000** “Morning Has Come”

Centering

Land Acknowledgement Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host

* **Covenant and Affirmation**
Love is the spirit of this church, From all that dwell below the skies
and service its law. let words of love and peace arise.
This is our great covenant: Let joyful songs of praise be sung.
To dwell together in peace, through every land, by every tongue.
to seek the truth in love,
and to help one another.

Time for All Ages *The Three Questions* Rayla Baldwin-Mattson
Jon Muth Director of Religious Education

Going Forth with the Light

Joys and Sorrows Kate Hart, Lay Minister

Prayer or Meditation Thich Nhat Hanh

Exploring

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 “One Foot/Lead with Love” FPC Adult Choir
Melanie DeMore Trevor Berens, piano

You gotta put one foot in front of the other and lead with love,
Put one foot in front of the other, and lead with love.

Sermon “Three Questions” The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Returning

* **Hymn #108** “My Life Flows On”

* **Benediction** Excerpt from the *Dao De Jing*
Lao Zi

* **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

- 10 – 11am Service (Sanctuary, online)
- 11am – 12pm Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)
- 11:45am – 1:30pm Racial Justice Task Force monthly meeting (Community Room)
- 5 – 7pm Support for Asylum Seekers Task Force potluck (Hall)

11am **Coffee/Social Hour**, Fellowship Hall: SGM Registrations Due Today!

If you've been wondering how to get to know more people in FPC's community, why not join our Small Group Ministry?



We are currently forming groups of 8-10 that will meet once a month for a 2-hour facilitated discussion on topics designed to increase self-awareness and interconnectedness. No preparation needed.



Groups meet in-person and virtually. Let us know your availability & preferences in our registration form at: fpc-stow-acton.org/sgm Give it a try and you'll find you suddenly have special people to talk to at other church gatherings.

5-8 pm **Potluck Dinner**, Fellowship Hall

Hosted by the Supporting Asylum Seekers Task Force; Rescheduled from November

FPC has been helping 3 families from Latin America as they've sought asylum in the USA. Now SAS will host six adults and five children for a dinner, and we invite you, many of whom have helped them, to participate in the potluck. Our guests are all doing well now and speak English, at various levels, as well as native Spanish.

For planning, **if you expect to attend please RSVP to millerroy@comcast.net.** Potluck Sides or Desserts Appreciated. Come welcome our Latino Friends!

Religious Education Update

Today, 1/21 - *Time For All Ages* followed by age-appropriate classes

Sun, 1/28 - Children's Chapel followed by an all-ages program with the DRE.

This Week at FPC

22	JAN, MON	● 7 – 9pm	Jazz Band Rhrs! (Sanctuary)
23	JAN, TUE	● 10 – 11am	Coffee & Chat (Gazebo)
		● 11:30am – 1pm	Membership Committee mtg. (online)
		● 7 – 8pm	Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF) mtg (onlin
24	JAN, WED	● 6:40 – 8:45pm	Meditation (Fellowship Hall & online)
25	JAN, THU	● 5 – 6pm	Lay Ministers meeting (online)
		● 5 – 6pm	Peace Vigil (outside)
		● 7:15 – 9pm	Choir Practice (Hall)
26	JAN, FRI	● 1 – 3:30pm	Bridge Group (Community Rm)
		● 6 – 8pm	Dinner Church (Hall)
27	JAN, SAT	● 9 – 10am	Spanish Conversations (Vestry)

Sun 1/28 Next Sunday's Service: 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone
"Imbolc, Persephone & the Groundhog" – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
 Our modern tradition of Groundhog's Day is rooted in ancient stories of returning from the underworld like Persephone, and the ancient pagan holiday Imbolc on which St. Brigid's day was overlaid. This service will explore Pagan and secular ways and why we mark the halfway point between Winter Solstice and Spring Equinox.

Upcoming Events

Mon 1/22 7-9 pm **Parish Jazz Band Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
 Please contact Michael Paladini mwpaladini@gmail.com for more information.

Fri 1/26 6-8 pm **Dinner Church Comes to First Parish**, 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 or code above.



Sat 1/27  9-10 am **Spanish Conversations** Vestry.
 Roy Miller: millerroy@comcast.net

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



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