

I Choose Love



1 In the midst of pain, I choose love. _____
2 In the midst of war, I choose peace. _____
3 When my world falls down, I will rise. _____
4 In the midst of pain, I choose love. _____



In the midst of pain, I choose love. _____
In the midst of war, I choose peace. _____
When my world falls down, I will rise. _____
In the midst of pain, I choose love. _____



In the midst of pain, sor-row fall - ing down like rain, I a -
In the midst of war, hate and an - ger keep - ing score, I will
When my world falls down, ex - pla - na - tions can't be found, I will
In the midst of pain, sor-row fall - ing down like rain, I a -



wait the sun a - gain, I choose love. _____ I choose love.
seek the good once more, I choose peace. _____ I choose peace.
climb to ho - ly ground, I will rise. _____ I will rise.
wait the sun a - gain, I choose love. _____ I choose love.

Words: Lindy Thompson
Music: Mark A. Miller

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.



FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



Sunday, February 4, 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 and on Facebook.

February 4, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Gathering

Prelude "Still Here," mvt. 1 Jonathan Russell, bass clarinet
Jonathan Russell (b. 1979) and Solon Gordon, piano

Welcome and Announcements June McKnight,
Worship Committee

Opening Words "You Are Beloved and You Are Welcome Here" Rev. Alice/
Joan Javier-Duval June McKnight

Chalice Lighting "The Struggle for Freedom" Rev. Alice
Paul Sprecher

* **Hymn #168** "One More Step"

Centering

* **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.

Land Acknowledgement June McKnight

Time for All Ages "How Much Does Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson,
a Snowflake Weigh" Director of Religious Education

Going Forth with the Light

Joys and Sorrows Ann Sadler, Lay Minister

Prayer or Meditation "What We Do Matters" Rev. Alice
Laura Horton-Ludwig

Hymn #123 "Spirit of Life"

Exploring

Plate Sharing Introduction Lisa Fagerstrom

Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share our weekly offering with **the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry**. 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

"In Memory of MLK" FPC Adult Choir
Holly Peppe, arr. Kenneth P. Langer

Last night as I lay sleeping, Oh, who could have done such a senseless thing,
a man was killed in Tennessee, and left us alone to face the light?
and a million people started weeping This country will remember
for the man who had lived for their liberty. the April night when Dr. King died.
He was kind, oh he was gentle. For one man's crime a nation will suffer,
His was a dream that had no end. sadly remembering how he tried.
By loving his neighbors, black and white, The peaceful struggle is over,
he tried to bring them together as friends. the riots have begun again.
Today only questions plague us, Oh, must there be a million more bloody deaths
as we look with despair to the night. before hate and violence come to an end?

Reading Excerpt from "Walking with the Wind"
John Lewis

Song "I Choose Love" * Please see next page for lyrics

Sermon "Choosing Love: Stories of Justice & Persistence" Rev. Alice

Returning

* **Hymn #1020** "Woyaya"

* **Benediction** "Take From Life Its Coals"
Laurel S. Sheridan

* **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 "Sorrow Song #2" Jonathan Russell, bass clarinet;
Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Solon Gordon, piano

Thank you to:
Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host; Marcia Rising, Carolyn Zettler, Ushers; Kirsten and Brendon
Chetwynd, Coffee Hosts

* *Rise in Body and Spirit*

February Plate Sharing

The UU Urban Ministry (UUUM) is an organization based in Roxbury that is housed on the site of an early UU church. Its mission is to "work across race and place to dismantle racism and white supremacy culture, as well as to advance racial, economic, and social justice." UUUM's vision is to "envision a Greater Boston where all people live with freedom and dignity and have equitable access to resources and opportunity to shape the present and the future."



The UUUM was founded almost 200 years ago by Rev. Joseph Tuckerman, with the focus of empowering the underprivileged citizens of Boston while transforming the social consciousness of privileged residents. Today the UUUM focuses on providing safe shelters and workforce development programming for survivors of domestic violence, specifically Renewal House. [FPC has contributed for many years by collecting annual holiday contributions for Renewal House.]

UUUM also provides academic enrichment for youths of color through their Roxbury Youth Programs. And UUUM provides programming for various arts and humanities grounded in a social justice message, including providing exhibits of local artists' works.

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

11 am **Coffee Hour** Fellowship Hall

Tickets will be available today at coffee hour for *Still Here*, today's concert to benefit the Interfaith Partnership for Refugee Resettlement (IPRR).

2-4 pm **Craftivism** (Crafts + Activism), Vestry

4 pm **Still Here** 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



Religious Education Update

This week will be the beginning of First Chalice for our 2nd-5th graders. They will be following the adventures of Jet Pig. The class and Jet Pig will be finding clues to figure out what the UU Values are that Jet Pig was named after. Jet Pig will be taking photos to share with all of you. So, please be prepared to catch Jet Pig living into our UU Values with our kids!

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

6	FEB, TUE	● 10 – 11am	Coffee & Chat (Gazebo)
		● 7 – 8pm	Book Group (online)
7	FEB, WED	● 6:40 – 8:45pm	Meditation (Fellowship Hall & online)
8	FEB, THU	● 5 – 6pm	Peace Vigil (outside)
		● 7:15 – 9pm	Choir Practice (Hall)
9	FEB, 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 (Vestry & Youth Room) Vestry & Youth Room
		● 6:30 – 8:30pm	Club UU (Vestry, Youth Room)
		● 6:45 – 10pm	Arts Committee: Film and Discussion Evening (Commun
10	FEB, SAT	● 7:30 – 9am	Saturday Morning Breakfast (Hall)
		● 9 – 10am	Spanish Conversations (Vestry) Vestry

Sun 2/11 Next Sunday's Service: 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone
“All You Need Is Love: A Beatles Celebration” –

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum, Chris Hossfeld & Rayla Baldwin-Mattson
 60 years after their first appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show, the Beatles still have widespread appeal. What does their music say to us today?

Upcoming Events

Wed 2/7 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

Fri 2/9 **5:30-6:30 pm** Guest Table Fri, #/#, Fellowship Hall
 ~Doors open at 5 ~All are Welcome ~No Charge. Menu TBA



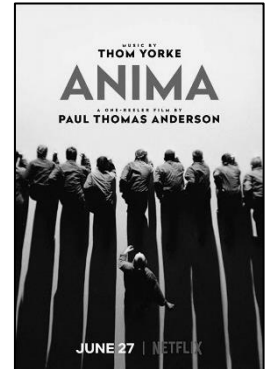
6:45 pm Film Night at FPC, Community Room
 THE ARTS COMMITTEE OF FPC PRESENTS
 A SCREENING AND AUDIO EXPERIENCE OF...

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