

**FIRST PARISH
CHURCH
OF STOW & ACTON**
Unitarian Universalist



Sunday, March 17, 2024

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

Meg Rivers-Wright
Administration,
Membership

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
Dir. 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.*

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.
In the Sanctuary, several back rows with accessible seating are "mask-required."

FPC is on the web at fpc-stow-acton.org and on Facebook.

March 17, 2024: 10:00

Gathering

Prelude "Honey" Trevor Berens, piano
Nathaniel Dett

Welcome and Announcements Neil Saunders, Worship Committee Chair

Greet Your Neighbor

Opening Words "You Are Never Alone" Johanna Ambrosio-LaPlant
Sharon Wylie Guest Speaker

Chalice Lighting "Steadied by Each Other" Neil Saunders
Rev. Scott Tayler

* **Hymn #402** *From You I Receive*

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.
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Land Acknowledgement Neil Saunders

Time for All Ages "The Ugly Duckling" Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
Hans Christian Anderson Director of Religious
Education

Going Forth With the Light

Joys and Sorrows Ann Wickham, Lay Minister

Prayer/Meditation "In the Holy Quiet of This Hour: Johanna Ambrosio-
A Meditation Manual" LaPlant
Rev. Richard S. Gilbert

* **Hymn #352** *Find a Stillness*

Exploring

Reading

“Being Perfect”
Anna Quindlen

Neil Saunders

Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share our weekly offering with **UU Mass Action**.
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.

Musical Interlude

“Adagio Cantabile”
Nathaniel Dett

Trevor Berens, piano

Sermon

“Finding My People” Johanna Ambrosio-LaPlant

Returning

* **Hymn #1064**

Blue Boat Home

* **Benediction**

by Rev. Dr. Danielle DiBona

* **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

“Magnolia”
Nathaniel Dett

Trevor Berens, piano

Thank you to:

Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host
Nancy Cataldo, Judy Holmes, Ushers
Rick Lent, Coffee Host ♥
Our staff and leadership



Plate Sharing

UU Mass Action is our MA State Action Network that organizes and mobilizes 25,000 UUs and 142 UU congregations to confront oppression and create equity in Massachusetts.

Founded in 2005 (its first two Executive Directors were from FPC Stow and Acton!), all of our work is grounded in racial justice and is in relationship with broader coalitions that center frontline communities, or those most impacted by an injustice.

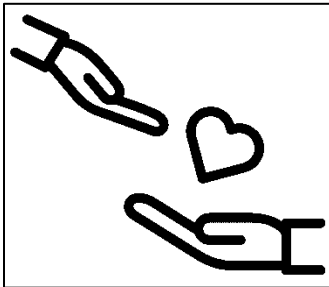


UU Mass Action is FPC's partner in nearly ALL of our social justice work, uniting us with other neighboring churches for a bigger political impact. If you want to change anything in MA that coincides with a UU value, chances are you will find UU Mass Action trying to rally UU churches to DO something about it. Together, we confront systems of oppression and work to create a world where all people are honored and valued. 2023-2024 Campaigns include: Climate & Environmental Justice • Indigenous Justice • Immigrant Justice • Decarceration & Ending Solitary Confinement • Economic and Housing Justice

Our funding does NOT come from the UUA, but from three main sources: individuals, congregations, and grants. We are an efficient organization that makes every donated dollar count! This is our shared, state action network - we are truly grateful for every dollar donated! Learn more at uumassaction.org.

Stewardship Campaign

Stewardship Update



A big **thank you** to all who have generously pledged in our 2024-25 campaign this year. Through your generosity, **we are close** to being able to support our wonderful staff, fund our programs, and maintain our lovely facility.

We are still working to reach several members who have not yet participated. If you are among that outstanding group, please pledge now.

With deep appreciation,

Your FPC Stewardship Team

Rick Gentilman, Andy Derr, Jenni Edgerton,
Carole Feldhusen, Russ Hart, and Sharon Brownfield

Today at FPC

10-11 am Service, Sanctuary and online

11am-12 pm Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall

11:30 am Come offer input on our Shared Ministry Assessment, Parlor

After coffee in the Hall, please join the Committee on Ministry to provide feedback on the “Shared Ministry” of this church:

- What are we doing well under Cindy’s leadership?
- What are areas for improvement or growth?

We’ll look at these areas, specifically:

Pastoral Care
Religious Education &
Rites of Passage
Social Justice
Spiritual Development
Worship & Music

The meeting should last about an hour.

Your feedback will be instrumental in helping Cindy and FPC build on our strengths and address our areas for growth.

Religious Education

TODAY, TFAA, followed by age-appropriate classes.

3/17 Children will rehearse for Easter right after the service in the Community Room.

SUN, 3/24 Children's Chapel

SUN, 3/31 There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for children immediately following the morning worship service. Youth, please come for morning worship to help hide Easter Eggs for our children!

SAT 4/6 RESCHEDULE: The UU kids con has been rescheduled to the Fall. This means we will *not* go on April 6th. Stay tuned for the fall date!

SAT 4/20 Youth Group Sleep Out in Boxes overnight Stay tuned for details!

FRI 4/26- Youth Group activities at Ferry Beach with the Lynn Congregation
SUN 4/28

Announcements and Upcoming Events

SAT, 3/23 in Fellowship Hall

The Beauty of Making Something New from Many Things Old

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FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

ART SHOW UPCYCLED

March 23rd 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
353 Great Road Stow, MA

Evening Activities:

- Enjoy the art made from found materials
- Test your knowledge during Upcycled/Art Trivia
- Bring clothes to contribute to a clothes swap
- Create a craft together
- Come dressed in an outfit from the back of your closet or made from something in your home

SUN, 3/24 Next Sunday's Service 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone

“Living Our Covenant” - Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum - Our church covenant says that Love is the spirit of this church and calls on us “to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.” Our member John Kendrick asked Cindy, “Can we do a better job of communicating this covenant and mindset to the local community and attract more people to FPC?” This sermon will explore some answers!

Announcements and Upcoming Events

THU, 3/28 Potluck Vespers: Maundy Thursday 6 pm, Fellowship Hall

Bring a vegetarian, nut-free soup or salad for our potluck and join us in Fellowship Hall for a “dinner church” take on our traditional Maundy Thursday vespers.



We’ll break bread together (Rev. Cindy will bring the literal bread), sing, and share in what it means to celebrate the Last Supper in remembrance. **Please sign up in advance to bring a soup or salad**, so we have a sense of numbers. Use the QR Code or go to <https://tinyurl.com/3xjzshn9>.



SUN, 3/31 Easter Sunday is almost here - just two weeks away! If you would like to help beautify FPC’s Sanctuary for the spring celebration and honor a loved one, you may request a pot of flowers now.



Potted tulips and jonquils have been ordered through Stow Gardens and will cost \$14 each. Donors’ names, as well as your “In memory of.../In honor of...” will be listed in the order of service on Easter Sunday. Please act soon so that we can finalize the order numbers. Contact Marcia Allison at marrich86@hotmail.com. Thank you!

SAT, 4/13 FPC’s Auction 2024: Olympic Games 6:30-9:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

It’s FPC’s biggest fundraiser, and we need your help ♥ to make it a success!

Right now... We Need Donations! More donations make a more exciting auction:

Donate Physical Items

a painting
baked goods
homemade maple syrup
tickets to a concert
a week at your vacation home
let someone borrow your kayak
unique hand-crafted items
meals for home delivery

Donate Services

host an event
offer lessons
open your home to a dinner
for 6-8 winners
plan a picnic by a lake
home fix-it services
host a cocktail party

Donate Gift Cards:

Purchase a gift card and donate it to the auction or ask a business owner to donate one: contact the auction committee at auction@fpc-stow-acton.org for the Business Solicitation letter which has our tax-exempt number.

TO DONATE: Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/ez27v4wf> or use the QR code to...



- donate your goods & services
- sign up to donate a Gift Card
- pre-register for the Online Auction

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