

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



Sunday, March 24, 2024

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

Trevor Berens
Accompanist

Jenni Edgerton
President

Meg Rivers-Wright
Administration,
Membership

Justin Marble
Nursery Care Coordinator

Brendon Chetwynd
Vice President

Mike Silkonis
Sexton

Bill Froberg
Treasurer

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
Dir. of Religious Education

Janet Beatrice
External Publicity

Johanna Pyle
Clerk

Chris Hossfeld
Music Director

Felix Freeman
Tech Assistant

*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 24, 2024: 10:00

Gathering

Prelude “An Old Garden” Trevor Berens, piano
Edward MacDowell

Welcome

Opening Words “Love Is the Center Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
and Foundation”
Shari Woodbury

Chalice Lighting “Drawn Together”
Jennifer Gracen

* **Hymn #113** *Where is Our Holy Church?*

Centering

* **Affirmation**

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.

Land Acknowledgement

Joys and Sorrows Hector Constantzos, Lay Minister

Prayer or Meditation “We Hold Hope Close”
Julián Jamaica Soto

* **Hymn #1027** *Cuando el Pobre* v.1 in Spanish, Choir only
v.1&2 in English, Congregation

Exploring

* **Covenant**

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.

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.

Anthem

“Yonder Come Day”
Judith Cook Tucker
arr. Clif Hardin

FPC Adult Choir
Trevor Berens, piano

Yonder come day, day is a-breaking,
Yonder come day, oh my soul,
Yonder come day, day is a-breaking,
Sun is a-rising in my soul.
Day is breaking all around,
I’m singing sun is rising in my soul.

Sermon

“Living Our Covenant”

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Returning

* Hymn #1028

The Fire of Commitment

* Benediction

* 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

“D’un Vieux Jardin”
Lili Boulanger

Trevor Berens, piano

Greet Your Neighbor



Thank you to:

Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host
Rebecca and John MacNeill, Ushers
Susan and Kevin O’Brien, Coffee Hosts ♥
Our staff and leadership

Our flowers today were donated by
Sandra Mika in honor of Frances Mika.

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

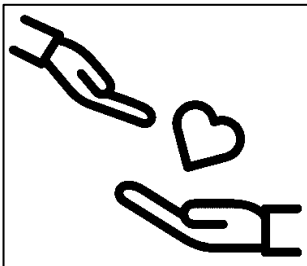
Our funding does NOT come from the UUA, but from three main sources: individuals, congregations, and grants. We are an efficient organization that makes every donated dollar count! This is our shared, state action network - we are truly grateful for every dollar donated! Learn more at uumassaction.org.



Stewardship Campaign

With gratitude: Stewardship Update

A big thank you to all who have generously pledged in our 2024-25 campaign this year. Through your generosity, 130 members pledged \$344,000. This enables us to support our wonderful staff, fund our programs, and maintain our lovely facility. While our work is at a close, pledges are still gratefully accepted.



With deep appreciation,

Your FPC Stewardship Team

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

Today at FPC

- 8 am-2 pm Upcycling Art Show, Fellowship Hall
- 10-11 am Service, Sanctuary and online
- 11am-12 pm Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
- 12-1 pm Spiritual Conversations about Poetry, online
You don't need to know anything about poetry to join Elizabeth Cobblah and Ilene Rudman for this deeply satisfying time of engaging with others through a poem. Contact either one of us to attend: ecobblah@fenn.org or irudman@aol.com.

Religious Education

- 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



This Week at FPC

25	MAR, MON	● 8am – 1pm	AssabetFoodCoop (Vestry)
		● 2 – 4pm	Auction Committee: decoration making (Community Rm)
		● 7 – 9pm	Jazz Band Rhrl (Sanctuary)
26	MAR, TUE	● 10 – 11am	Coffee & Chat (Gazebo)
		● 7 – 8pm	Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF) mtg (online)
27	MAR, WED	● 6:40 – 8:45pm	Meditation (Fellowship Hall & online)
28	MAR, THU	● 9:30 – 11am	Archives Committee (Vestry)
		● 5 – 6pm	Lay Ministers meeting (online)
		● 5 – 6pm	Peace Vigil (outside)
		● 6 – 6:45pm	Maundy Thursday Potluck Vespers (Fellowship Hall)
		● 7:15 – 9pm	Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
29	MAR, FRI	● 1 – 3:30pm	Bridge Group (Community Rm)

SUN, 3/31 Next Sunday's Service 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone

Bunnies, Eggs, and the Pagan Roots of Easter - Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Underlying the Christian celebration of Easter are a number of traditions and elements that pull from older Pagan stories. This service will delve into the reasons why we carry these on, centuries later, and what they and the Christian story of Easter have to say to us today. A children's egg hunt will follow the service!



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!

Announcements and Upcoming Events

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



Bring a vegetarian, nut-free soup or salad 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, 4/7 - Newcomer Coffee Gathering following the service in the church parlor

We hope that you can join Cindy Landrum, our minister, and Meg Rivers-Wright, our Membership Coordinator, for a coffee hour after the service, where you will meet other people who are relatively new to First Parish Church (FPC). It’s also an opportunity to ask the minister questions and learn more about FPC in an informal setting. Please contact Meg Rivers-Wright at office.fpcstowacton@gmail.com or 617-291-3351.

DONATE - TO THE FPC AUCTION!

It’s our biggest fundraiser, held on Sat, 4/13, 6:30-9:30 pm, and we need your help ♥ to make it a success! **How can you help?**



DONATE: Goods, services, gift cards... More donations make a more exciting auction with many choices. Here are some ideas:

<u>Goods</u>	<u>Services</u>	<u>Gift Cards:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a painting baked goods • homemade maple syrup • tickets to a concert • week at your vacation home • lend your kayak • unique hand-crafted items • meals for home delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • host an event • poetry readings • lessons in knitting or crocheting • host dinner for 6-8 • plan a picnic by a lake • home fix-it services • host a cocktail party 	<p>Purchase a gift card and donate it to the auction <u>or</u> 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.</p>

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