

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



Sunday, October 20, 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

**Brendon Chetwynd**  
President

**Trisha Gudit**  
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](http://fpc-stow-acton.org) and on Facebook.

October 20, 2024: 10:00

Gathering

**Prelude** Two Part Invention in A minor Trevor Berens, piano  
JS Bach, improvisation inspired  
by an arrangement by Phillip Keveren

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Greet Your Neighbor**

**Opening Words** “Let There Be Joy...” Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum  
by Carl Seaburg

**Chalice Lighting** “Warmth, Joy, Togetherness”  
by Ben Soule

\* **Hymn #395** “Sing and Rejoice”

Centering

\* **Covenant and Affirmation**

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

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Time for All Ages** Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson  
Director of Religious Education

**Going Forth With the Light**

**Joys and Sorrows** Ann Wickham, Lay Minister  
Joys and Sorrows is a time for the things on our hearts and minds to be  
heard by the gathered community. If you would like a follow-up call by a  
lay minister or the minister, email [caring@fpc-stow-acton.org](mailto:caring@fpc-stow-acton.org).

\* *Please rise in body or in spirit*

**Prayer or Meditation**

“Mindful”  
by Mary Oliver

\* Hymn #1009

“Meditation on Breathing”

**Exploring**

**Reading**

“Welcome Morning”  
by Anne Sexton

**Sharing Our Gifts**

This month we share our weekly offering with **Concord Prison Outreach**. You may donate by check made out to First Parish Church, at [fpc-stow-acton.org/donate](http://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate), or text (978) 310-3309.

**Sermon**

“Joy, Play, and Fun!” Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

**Returning**

\* Hymn #1021

“Lean on Me”

\* **Benediction**

Isaiah 55:12

\* **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**

“Piano Man”  
Billy Joel

Trevor Berens, piano



**Thank you:**

Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host  
Kate Imhoff, Nancy Cataldo, Ushers  
Coffee Brewer, Rick Lent ☞♥  
Our staff and leadership

\* *Please rise in body or in spirit*

## **To our visitors, thank you for coming!**

We hope you find what you're looking for and that you'll come back. Here's how to keep connecting with our people and programs:



♥ **Watch these pages** for information about fall & winter *Newcomer Coffees* to meet the minister and other newcomers, and *UU Journey classes* to learn about UU history, spirituality, mission, and traditions.

♥ **Fill out a Visitor Card in your pew** or scan the QR code to complete the same form online.



Visiting & Learning  
about FPC

♥ **Check out our website at [www.fpc-stow-acton.org](http://www.fpc-stow-acton.org)** There's so much happening at FPC! Visit our homepage and the "Church Life" tab to learn about our events & programs.



Subscribe to  
E-Newsletters

♥ **Subscribe to our e-newsletters and email groups**

**Next Sunday: October 27, 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone**

**"All Souls and Samhain"** - Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum - As the fall turns to winter, we will remember the losses of our community this year and learn how the traditions of All Souls and All Saints are tied to the Pagan Samhain.

## **Today at FPC**

- 9-9:45am Pre-Service Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 10am-12pm FPC Open House/Bring-a-Friend, Sanctuary and Hall
- 11 am ► Coffee Hour: Refreshments & Info tables, Fellowship Hall  
► RE Dance Rehearsal, Community Room
- 12pm Spiritual Conversations through Poetry, online
- 4-6pm Trevor Berens Piano Concert, Sanctuary

## Today at FPC, cont'd.

**Open House** 11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Our Open House features tables in Fellowship Hall with information about some of our diverse programs below. This is an excellent opportunity for both newcomers and current friends/members to see all that FPC has to offer!

### ARTS & MUSIC

Adult Choir

Annual Visual Arts Show

Arts Committee

Benefit Concerts

New Revival Coffee House

Parish Jazz Band, Uketarians

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sunday programming:

Nursery care • K-5 • Middle School •

High School Exploration

Monthly Children's Chapel

Field trips & social justice projects

Friday Friends (K-5 monthly social)

Coming-of-Age Program

(every-other year)

Junior Youth group, Senior Youth Grp

Our Whole Lives (OWL):

Lifespan Sex. Ed.

### SOCIAL JUSTICE

Climate Change Task Force

Guest Table - free community dinners

LGBTQ+ group

Peace Vigils

Prison Outreach group

Racial Justice Task Force

Supporting Asylum Seekers

### SPIRITUALITY & WORSHIP

Lay Ministry

Memorial Garden

Pagan/Wiccan group

Small Group Ministry Program

Spiritual Conversations thru Poetry

Meditation & Reading group

**Spiritual Conversations through Poetry** 12:00pm, Zoom

Join Elizabeth Cobblah and Hector Constantzos online to engage with others through the sharing of a poem.

Hear it

Read it

Discuss your response to it

Such conversations were inspired by, amongst others, our beloved Ilene Rudman. They have been going on at FPC for over a decade. We sincerely hope you will join us in this deeply satisfying time of connection. For a copy of the poem and the Zoom link, please contact one of us: [ucobblah@gmail.com](mailto:ucobblah@gmail.com), [Hconstantzos@gmail.com](mailto:Hconstantzos@gmail.com).

## **Piano Concert: 200 Years of Women Composers**

TODAY 10/20, 4-6pm, Fellowship Hall

Featuring Trevor Berens, piano. Music includes works by Amy Beach, Clara Schumann, Marti Epstein, and Florence Price. Suggested donation: \$5-\$40. Tickets available at the door and in advance at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)



Eventbrite

Trevor Berens presents a concert of music written by women, from 1836 through 2005. The music is as varied as it is beautiful, from Clara Schumann's early suite of short works inspired by the music of Chopin ("Soirées Musicales") to Marti Epstein's minimalist pieces written at the turn of this century (selections from "American Etudes"). Trevor will also be performing, in its entirety, Florence Price's rarely heard set of four dances, "Dances in the Canebrakes", as well as music by the early twentieth-century American composer, Amy Beach.



## **Religious Education**

**Today** - ► Open House/Bring a Friend! All children and youth are encouraged to bring their friend to join us in our RE spaces. We can't wait to meet them!

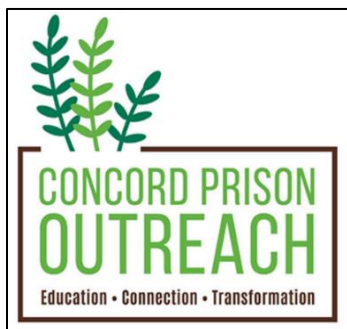
► **Coming of Age** will have their 2nd session beginning at 10:00am in the youth group room.

**Saturday, Oct 26th** - Join us for a fun Halloween night! If you joined us last year, then you know what a great time we had! There will be a haunted house, a potluck, bingo, arts and crafts and much more. You don't want to miss this fantastic party! Get your costume ready now.



**Sunday, Oct 27th** - Who doesn't want to wear their costume to church? Not us! Wear your costume again and keep on with those happy spirits. There will be a Time For All Ages during the morning worship followed by age-appropriate classes.

## October Plate Sharing



**Concord Prison Outreach (CPO)** is a 501(c)(3) organization composed of a coalition of individuals and faith communities committed to helping people who are incarcerated build better lives for themselves and their families. ► Since its founding in 1968, when its first volunteers helped to support people in a local prison infirmary, CPO has developed into the largest organization of its kind in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. ► CPO works cooperatively with the Massachusetts Department of

Correction (DOC), offering educational programs that focus on skill-building and personal growth, essentials to help support people in prison to achieve success while incarcerated or post-incarceration. ► For information about CPO programs and volunteer opportunities, please visit the website at [concordprisonoutreach.org](http://concordprisonoutreach.org).

## This Week at FPC

### **Racial Justice Task Force** Tue 10/22, 7pm, Zoom

The Racial Justice Task Force will host a discussion online as part of our “drop in” sessions. Our guest speaker will be Mac Hudson from the Prisoners Legal Services of Massachusetts, and he will be talking about his work with the Racial Equity in Corrections Initiative. REICI is an organization-wide initiative offered through Prisoner Legal Services, a nonprofit and anti-racist organization that advocates equity and the humane treatment of incarcerated people in the Commonwealth. Please mark your calendar and join us for this event! For the Zoom link or more information on how to be involved with the RJTF, please contact Katy Weeks [katy.brightleaf@gmail.com](mailto:katy.brightleaf@gmail.com) or Johanna Pyle [johanna.pyle@gmail.com](mailto:johanna.pyle@gmail.com).



## Upcoming Events

### **The UU Journey at FPC** Sun. 10/27 & 11/3, 12-2:30 pm, lunch provided

*A Two-Session Course on UU History, Spirituality, Mission, and Traditions*

Rev. Cindy Landrum leads class. Join us for this opportunity to...



- ▶ share your own spiritual journey
- ▶ ask questions about UU and FPC
- ▶ get to know others in the church

You do not need to be new to FPC to participate; all are welcome!

To sign up, please contact Meg Rivers-Wright, Parish

Administrator, at [office@fpc-stow-acton.org](mailto:office@fpc-stow-acton.org) or [617-291-3351](tel:617-291-3351).

### **FPC's Butterfly Story Hour** Sat. 11/2, 7-8:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

The FPC Arts Committee has an exciting panel\* of FPC storytellers lined up for this event, so come out enjoy and support FPC's very own raconteurs. Bring friends and family!

\* Do you have a five-minute story of your very own authorship to share on stage? We still have several slots left. If you have a story, please contact larval conservators and show hosts Dave Kay or Katy Weeks with your story synopsis. Send story proposals or questions to [dave.brightleaf@gmail.com](mailto:dave.brightleaf@gmail.com) and/or [katy.brightleaf@gmail.com](mailto:katy.brightleaf@gmail.com).

### **Saturday Morning Breakfast** Sat. 11/2, 7:30-9 a.m. Fellowship Hall

Amy Stimac from Acton is a librarian working for the town of Sudbury. She'll give us a presentation about book banning and how it affects our society.

Coffee and tea at 7:30, breakfast at 8:00, speaker begins at 8:20, and we try to wrap up by 9:00. We ask for an \$8 donation to cover food costs and that you RSVP to [jab.jeffbrown@gmail.com](mailto:jab.jeffbrown@gmail.com) to be sure we have enough food.

### **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