

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

*Unitarian Universalist*



Sunday, November 3, 2024  
*Election Sunday*

**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.

**November 3, 2024: 10:00**

**Gathering**

**Prelude**

“Song for My Father”  
Horace Silver

Members of the  
Parish Jazz Band

Peter Fiske, percussion; Michael Paladini, guitar  
Quinci Sprague, bass; Stephen Warnick, piano

**Welcome and Announcements**

Sharon Brownfield,  
Stewardship Committee Co-Chair

**Opening Words**

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

**Chalice Lighting**

“The Great Turning”  
Lisa Garcia-Sampson

**\* Hymn (see slides)**

“Woyaya”

Ysaye M. Barnwell

**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.

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Testimonial**

Sharon Webb, Arts Committee

**Time for All Ages**

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson  
Director of Religious Education

**Going Forth with the Light**

Chris Hossfeld, Words and Music

Our love surrounds you. Here joy has found you.  
Let hope abound freely. Go in peace!

*\* Please rise in body or in spirit*

## Joys and Sorrows

Ingrid Holcomb, 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).

## Prayer or Meditation

“Toward the Promise”

Dayna Edwards

## \* Hymn

“Be the Change”

## Exploring

## Reading

Excerpt from *Democracy Awakening*

Heather Cox Richardson

## Plate Sharing Introduction

video

## Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share our weekly offering with **African Community Center of Lowell**. 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.

## Anthem

“One Foot/Lead with Love”

Melanie DeMore

FPC Choir

Parish Jazz Band

Trevor Berens, organ

### One Foot/Lead with Love

Melanie DeMore

*Refrain:*

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

*Refrain*

Don't give up hope (don't give up hope)  
You're not alone (you're not alone)  
Don't you give up (don't you give up)  
Keep movin' on (keep movin' on)

*Refrain*

Lift up your eyes (lift up your eyes)

Don't you despair (don't you despair)

Look up ahead (look up ahead)

Your path is there (your path is there)

*Refrain*

I know you're scared (I know you're scared)

And I'm scared too (and I'm scared too)

But here I am (but here I am)

Right next to you (right next to you)

*Refrain*

Don't give up hope (don't give up hope)

You're not alone (you're not alone)

Don't you give up (don't you give up)

Keep movin' on (keep movin' on)

*Refrain*

Sermon "Democracy" Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

**Returning**

\* Hymn and Dance "I Need You to Survive"  
David Frazier FPC Choir  
Parish Jazz Band Members  
FPC Dancers

\* Benediction by Lucas Hergert

\* 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 "Hymn to Freedom"  
Oscar Peterson Members of the  
Parish Jazz Band

Greet Your Neighbor



**Thank you:**

Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host  
Marcia Rising, Jamison House, Ushers  
Coffee Brewers, Russell and Kate Hart 🍷♥  
Our staff and leadership

**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**

## Today at FPC

### Religious Education -

- After the service, 11 am – 12 pm
- ▶ Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
  - \* Tickets on sale for The Smack Dabs' Nov. 16 concert, presented by The New Revival Coffeehouse
  - ▶ RE Dance Rehearsal, Community Rm.

## November Plate Sharing



### **African Community Center of Lowell**

ACCL's Mission is to equip African immigrants and refugees in the Greater Lowell area with resources to be actively engaged community members through educational, social, and cultural initiatives. With your support, the ACCL

has been able to provide for the immigrant and refugee communities of the Greater Lowell area since October 29, 2016, through education, advocacy, presentations, partnerships, community events, and mentorship programs.

### **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

## This Week at FPC

**Guest Table** Fri, 11/8, 5:30-6:30pm, Fellowship Hall

♥ IT'S SO NICE NOT TO HAVE TO MAKE DINNER ON A FRIDAY NIGHT! ♥



Happily, our free community dinner is on the second Friday of each month. Doors open 5 PM ~ Dinner starts 5:30 ~ All are Welcome ~ No Charge! Menu: Salad, American Chop Suey/Goulash, Broccoli, Bread, Dessert Bars Vegetarian, gluten-free, and dairy-free options available. All meals nut-free.

**Friday Friends** 11/8, 6:30-8:30pm, Hall, Vestry, Youth Rm

Youth ages 4-11 are invited to join Pat Sorn, Justin Marble, and another adult for a night of games, snacks, and fun, including our special craft making gratitude jars. Drop off and pick up is in the Vestry as usual.



**Saturday Morning Breakfast** 11/9, 7:30-9 am, Fellowship Hall

"Banned in the USA": Efforts to ban books in school and public libraries have more than doubled since 2021. What is going on and how is this surging movement impacting library collections, services, and access throughout the country and the Commonwealth of MA? Join Amy Stimac, Librarian and Head of Children's Services at the Goodnow Library in Sudbury, for a discussion of these trends and their impacts on the freedom to read in 2024.

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.

**Next Sunday's Service** 11/10, 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone

"What Comes Next?" - Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum - The Sunday after the election things may be settled or they may still be unfolding, but either way the future lies ahead of us to determine. What is our faith calling us to focus on in this hour?