

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



Sunday, November 17, 2024
Quakerism

**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 Guditz
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.

November 17, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Gathering

Prelude "Simple Gifts" Chris Hossfeld, piano
Trad. Shaker Tune, arr. Aaron Copland

Welcome and Announcements Susan Avery, Worship Committee

Opening Words Neil Saunders

Chalice Lighting by Isaac Penington

*** Hymn 1023** "Building Bridges"

Introductory Reflections Neil Saunders

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 Susan Avery

Testimonial Chip Beauvais

Joys and Sorrows Kate Hart, 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.

Reflections on Worship Neil Saunders

Silent Prayer/Meditation by Rev. Egbert
Ethelred Brown

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

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, or text (978) 310-3309.

Anthem

“The Ballad of George Fox”
Sydney Carter

FPC Choir

1. There’s a light that is shining in the heart of a man,
It’s the light that was shining when the world began.
There’s a light that is shining in the whole world through,
And a light that is shining, friend, in me and in you.

CHORUS:

*Walk in the Light, wherever you may be!
Walk in the Light, wherever you may be!
In my old leather breeches and my shaggy, shaggy locks,
I am walking in the glory of the Light, said Fox.*

2. With a book and a steeple, a bell and a key
They would bind it forever, but they can't (said he).
Oh, the book it will perish, and the steeple will fall,
But the light will be shining at the end of it all. *CHORUS.*
3. “Will you swear on the Bible?” “I will not!” said he,
“For the truth is more holy than the book, to me.”
“If we give you a pistol, will you fight for the Lord?”
“But you can’t kill the Devil with a gun or a sword!” *CHORUS.*
4. There’s an ocean of darkness and I drown in the night
Till I come through the darkness to the ocean of light,
For the light is forever and the light it is free
“And I walk in the glory of the light,” said he. *CHORUS.*

Reflections on Service

Neil Saunders

* **Hymn 108** “My Life Flows on in Endless Song”

* **Benediction** by George Fox

* *Please rise in body or in spirit*

* 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

"Elms" from
Views from the Oldest House (1982)
Ned Rorem

Chris Hossfeld, organ



Thank you:

Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host
Rebecca and John MacNeill, Ushers
Kirsten Chetwynd, Coffee Host ♣♥
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.

♥ Subscribe to our e-newsletters and email groups

♥ Check out our website, www.fpc-stow-acton.org
There is so much happening at FPC! Visit our homepage and the "Church Life" tab to learn about our events & programs.

* *Please rise in body or in spirit*



Visiting & Learning
about FPC



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Today at FPC

Religious Education

Nursery - Open during the morning service.

Children and Youth - Children's Chapel at 10 a.m. in the Community Room and remaining there for RE class.

Coming of Age -10 a.m. in the Youth Room

Next Sat. 11/23 – Youth outing/off-site event. If you are still interested in joining us, please let Rayla know.

After Sunday Service

11 am Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall

12-1 pm ▶ Grounds Working Group, outside

▶ Spiritual Conversations through Poetry, on Zoom

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 See how you respond 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. Contact one of us to attend and for a copy of the poem: ecobblah@fenn.org or Hconstantzos@gmail.com.

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.

This Week

Community Documentary Viewing Tue. 11/19, 6-9:30pm, MFAT

The Racial Justice Task Force would like to promote the screening of *Who We Are, A Chronicle of Racism in America* at Maynard's Fine Arts Theater and the facilitated discussion that follows. For more information please contact Katy Weeks katy.brightleaf@gmail.com or Johanna Pyle johanna.pyle@gmail.com.

Ukulele Meet-up Wed. 11/20, 7-9pm, Community Room

All are welcome to come and play, sing, and share music with the group. We have extra ukes for anyone who'd like to try one out.

Transgender Day of Remembrance Wed, 11/20, 7-9 p.m.

We will have a special drop-in time in the Sanctuary for members to come and read the names, light a candle, say a prayer, or spend time in silent reflection. This is a drop-in time, not a formal service.

Hanging of the Greens Sun, 11/24, after the service



Join with other FPC members, Rev. Cindy, and Meg in decorating the church for Christmas AND meeting our sabbatical Minister Rev. Susan Suchocki-Brown!* Hot cider for all helpful elves. Especially needed: help with wreaths on doors and organ.

*Committee chairs and board members will be invited to a special meet-up during this time.

Next Sunday's Service 11/24, 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone

Roots and Wings: an Intergenerational Celebration of Harvest and Generosity

We invite everyone to join in a "harvest communion" by bringing something edible that represents the harvest season: a squash or pumpkin, baked goods like corn muffins, or anything canned or fresh. As with our spring "Flower Communion," this will be a bringing of one thing and a taking of another, representing the diversity and generosity of our community. All leftovers will be given to Open Table or a food pantry. This service will also include a presentation from our Stewardship Committee as we launch this year's Roots and Wings pledge drive, where we call on the generosity of our community to sustain us through the year to come (see next page for details).

FPC Stewardship Kicks Off on Generosity Sunday, Nov. 24th

Please join us next Sunday for the kick-off of **FPC's 2024-2025 Stewardship Drive** with the theme "Roots and Wings." First Parish Church relies on the generosity of its Members and Friends to raise about two-thirds of the funds needed to run our church and our wide array of programs and activities. So each year FPC's Board of Trustees and Stewardship Team reach out to the congregation to ask for pledges of financial support for the upcoming church year (July 2025 to June 2026).

This year we are again striving for 100%-member participation in Stewardship, as we seek to strengthen the many program areas that we love, including Social Justice, Religious Education, Music & Art, Spirituality, and Community.

Now is the time to begin thinking about what FPC means to you and how we all can support our programs and ministries.

You are invited to fill out the pledge card in your order of service next Sunday...



or make your pledge securely and confidentially online at fpc-stow-acton.org/pledge



or scan the QR code below.



Newer FPC members are encouraged to meet with one of our Stewardship team to learn more about the goals and objectives of the campaign for the coming church year.



The primary phase of our Stewardship campaign will continue through December. Watch for the FPC Stewardship Thermometer to track progress towards our 100% participation goal. Please join us!



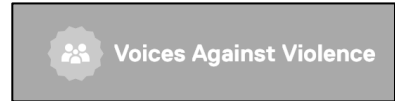
From your FPC Stewardship Team

Andy Derr, Sharon Brownfield, Carole Feldhusen, Russ Hart, Rick Gentilman

Announcements

Annual Holiday Gift Drive

The Christmas Gift Giving drive is under way! Once again, FPC is fulfilling the holiday wishes of the guests of two domestic shelters: Renewal House and Voices Against Violence. What better way to celebrate the holidays than to make them special for someone else?



SignUpGenius

You can access our SignUpGenius site through this QR code, the SignUpGenius website at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49A5A82DABFEC34-52843975-2024#/> or on the FPC website homepage under the "News & Events" section. Browse through the gift requests and claim one or two (or more!) to purchase. All gifts must be claimed via SignUpGenius.

⌘ Important Notes On Using SignUpGenius ⌘

- 1) Scroll through the entire list of gifts before making your choice, if you have time. The list of gifts is long, and the recipients at the end are always the last to get selected.
- 2) Hit SUBMIT at the bottom of the SignUpGenius list after you select your gift(s).
- 3) Print out and save the confirmation notice from SignUpGenius. It contains the name and shelter of your gift recipient(s), which you will need to attach to each gift when you turn it in.
- 4) Place any gift cards you buy in an envelope with the recipient's name and shelter before you turn them in.

Let's celebrate the holiday season by bringing a smile to the face of a struggling child, or a woman or man who has fled a dangerous situation and is facing an unknown future. The guests of these shelters have left home with nothing. We can give them some holiday joy to brighten their lives. If you have any questions, contact Carolyn Zettler at (978) 793-0638, Marcia Rising at (978) 273-1637, or our team of elves at gift-drive@fpc-stow-acton.org. And thank you for your generosity!

♥ Your Holiday Elves