

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



Sunday, November 24, 2024

Roots and Wings: a Celebration of Harvest and Generosity

**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 and on Facebook.

November 24, 2024: 10:00

Gathering

Prelude "Shadows" Trevor Berens, piano
Ola Gjiello

Welcome and Announcements Andy Derr, Stewardship Committee

Special Introduction Ann Sadler, Sabbatical Committee
Rev. Susan Suchocki-Brown, FPC Sabbatical Minister
January 2025 - April 2025

Opening Words "The Seven of Pentacles" (abridged)
Marge Piercy Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Chalice Lighting

* **Hymn #69** "Give Thanks"

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

"Roots and Wings" Pledge Drive Andy Derr, Stewardship Committee

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.

Prayer or Meditation

* **Hymn #123** "Spirit of Life"

* *Please rise in body or in spirit*

Exploring

Time for All Ages “Harvest Communion: The Story”

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
Director of Religious Education

Introduction to Harvest Communion

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Harvest Communion

Blessing

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

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.

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

Anthem

"Székely Áldás (Székely Blessing)"

FPC Choir

Music: Elizabeth H. Norton

Trevor Berens, piano

Words: Traditional Transylvanian

Hol hit ott szeretet;

hol szeretet ott béke.

Hol béke ott áldás;

hol áldás ott Isten.

Hol Isten ott szükség nin csen.

Where there is faith there is love;

where there is love there is peace.

Where there is peace there is blessing;

where there is blessing there is God.

Where there is God, there is no need.

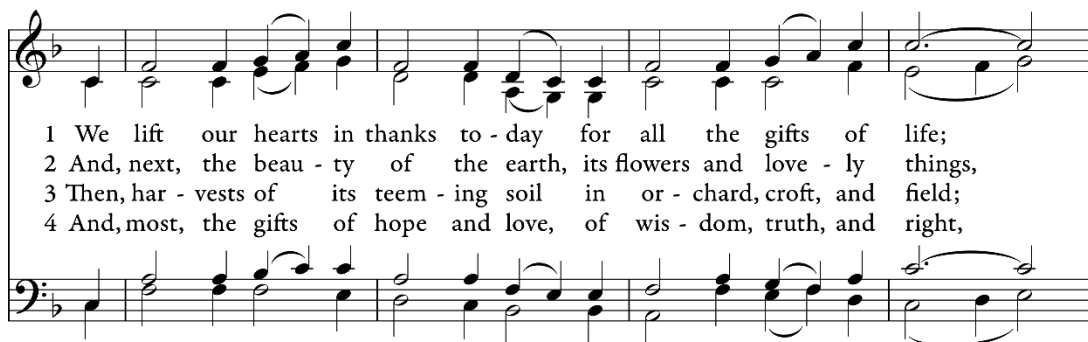
Reflections "On Roots (Root Vegetables, That Is) and Wings"

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

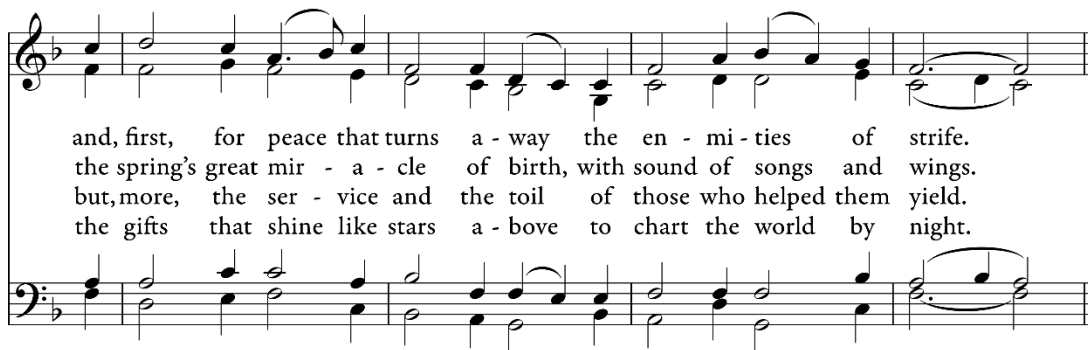
Returning

* Hymn #355/70

"We Lift Our Hearts in Thanks"



1 We lift our hearts in thanks to - day for all the gifts of life;
2 And, next, the beau - ty of the earth, its flowers and love - ly things,
3 Then, har - vests of its teem - ing soil in or - chard, croft, and field;
4 And, most, the gifts of hope and love, of wis - dom, truth, and right,



and, first, for peace that turns a - way the en - mi - ties of strife.
the spring's great mir - a - cle of birth, with sound of songs and wings.
but, more, the ser - vice and the toil of those who helped them yield.
the gifts that shine like stars a - bove to chart the world by night.

* Please rise in body or in spirit

* **Benediction** “The Seven of Pentacles” (abridged)
Marge Piercy

* **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 *Intermezzo, Op. 117, No. 1* Trevor Berens, piano
Brahms

Greet Your Neighbor

Thank you:

Zoom Host

Marcia Allison, Marion Scott, Ushers

Coffee Hosts, Josh Ledwell, Kirsten Chetwynd, Steve Evans ☕♥♥♥

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.



Visiting & Learning
about FPC



Subscribe to
E-Newsletters

Today at FPC

Religious Education No sessions today; the service is intergenerational.

After the Service

- 11 am Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
- 11:30 am Hanging of the Greens, Front Atrium/Sanctuary/Community Room
- 12-1 pm Spiritual Conversations about Poetry



Hanging of the Greens 11:30 am, FPC

Join with friends and members, Meg, and Rev. Cindy in decorating the church for Christmas! Hot cider provided for all helpful elves. Especially needed: help with wreaths on doors and organ.

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: ecobblah@fenn.org or Hconstantzos@gmail.com.

This Week at FPC

Parish Jazz Band Rehearsal Mon, 11/25, 7-9pm, Sanctuary

Please contact Michael Paladini mwpaladini@gmail.com for more information.

Reading and Meditation will not meet this week on 11/27 and resumes on



12/4. Likewise, there is **no Thursday Peace Vigil** on Thanksgiving Day. Instead, we ask people to light a candle for peace from 5pm and 6pm, and if they so desire, meditate and/or pray for peace internationally, nationally, regionally, locally, and personally. This is

undoubtedly a time when peace is particularly precious and necessary.

Next Sunday's Service 12/1, 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone

"To Become the Sanctuary" - Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich

During the pandemic, we learned firsthand that a building isn't nearly as essential to the congregation as the people. What does it mean to be a sanctuary for each other? Join guest preacher Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich as they explore true belonging.

Announcements

Stewardship Campaign

At this Thanksgiving time we are especially grateful for all the things this wonderful community provides for us: spiritual enrichment, encouragement, joy, and support during times of crisis. In preparation for sustaining this community, its programs, staff, and building, the Stewardship committee is starting its campaign today. We are asking you to please join us in making a financial commitment to FPC with a stewardship pledge. This will impact next year's budget. Here's how to pledge:

You may pledge
online - it's easy
and secure.
Use this link...

<https://fpc-stow-acton.org/pledge>

...or scan the QR
code...



...or fill out a pledge
card at the
Stewardship Table
during coffee hour.
You can also ask a
member of our team to
discuss your pledge.

Thank you for your generosity!

- The FPC Stewardship Team: Andy Derr, Sharon Brownfield, Carole Feldhusen, Russ Hart, and Rick Gentilman

Annual Holiday Gift Drive

Once again, FPC will be 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