

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



Sunday, February 25, 2024

<b>The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum</b> Minister	<b>Trevor Berens</b> Accompanist	<b>Jenni Edgerton</b> President
<b>Meg Rivers-Wright</b> Administration, Membership	<b>Justin Marble</b> Nursery Care Coordinator	<b>Brendon Chetwynd</b> Vice President
<b>Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson</b> Dir. of Religious Education	<b>Mike Silkonis</b> Sexton	<b>Bill Froberg</b> Treasurer
<b>Chris Hossfeld</b> Music Director	<b>Janet Beatrice</b> External Publicity	<b>Johanna Pyle</b> Clerk
	<b>Felix Freeman</b> 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](http://fpc-stow-acton.org) and on Facebook.

February 25, 2024: 10 am

**Gathering**

**Prelude** "Rosemary" Trevor Berens, piano  
Frank Bridge

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Opening Words** "On A Day When the World The Rev. Elizabeth  
Has Had Its Way With Me" Carrier-Ladd  
Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer

**Chalice Lighting**

\* Hymn #18 *What Wondrous Love*

**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.
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**Land Acknowledgement**

**Time for All Ages** The Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd

**Going Forth With the Light**

**Joys and Sorrows** Hector Constantzos, Lay Minister

**Prayer or Meditation**

\* Hymn #1013 *Open My Heart*

**Exploring**

**Reading** "Witness"  
Jess Reynolds

**Sharing Our Gifts**

This month we share our weekly offering with **UU Urban Ministry**.  
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** "Show Us How to Love" FPC Adult Choir  
Music: Mark A. Miller Trevor Berens, piano  
Lyrics: Lindy Thompson

- |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) Hearts open, minds awake.<br>Change us now, for heaven's sake.<br>Leave us not alone in hatred's wake.<br>Show us how to love. | 3) Hearts open, shocked awake.<br>Much to learn from our mistakes.<br>Draw us close in our heartache.<br>Show us how to love. |
| 2) Eyes open, souls awake.<br>Rules we made we now must break.<br>With our very own lives at stake,<br>we must learn to love.     |                                                                                                                               |

**Sermon** "How To Love" The Rev. Elizabeth  
Carrier-Ladd

**Returning**

\* Hymn #1012 *When I Am Frightened*

\* **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

"Ballade"  
Clara Schumann

Trevor Berens, piano

**Thank you to:**

Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host  
Kate Imhoff and Nick Francis, Ushers  
Mark Koenig and Troy Liston, Coffee Hosts  
Our staff and leadership



**How to Connect with First Parish Church:**  
tinyurl.com/visitfpc or scan the QR code:  
information on request.



Sign our visitor log at  
We'll send you

Come to Sunday's 10 am service and 11 am social hour, in

person or online.

Subscribe to our publications...

*The Chronicle* - monthly e-newsletter

*This Week at FPC* - weekly e-newsletter

*FPC Announce & FPC Forum* - e-mail groups

...all at <https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org/subscribe-newsletters>.

## Plate Sharing

**The UU Urban Ministry (UUUM)** is an organization based in Roxbury that is housed on the site of an early UU church. Its mission is to "work across race and place to dismantle racism and white supremacy culture, as well as to advance racial, economic, and social justice." UUUM's vision is "a Greater Boston where all people live with freedom and dignity and have equitable access to resources and opportunity to shape the present and the future."



The UUUM was founded almost 200 years ago by Rev. Joseph Tuckerman, with the focus of empowering the underprivileged citizens of Boston while transforming the social consciousness of privileged residents. Today the UUUM focuses on providing safe shelters and workforce development programming for survivors of domestic violence, specifically Renewal House.

UUUM also provides academic enrichment for youths of color through their Roxbury Youth Programs. And UUUM provides programming for various arts and humanities grounded in a social justice message, including providing exhibits of local artists' works.

## Stewardship Campaign

Have you made a pledge? **Thank you.**

Have you answered the call and let us know what your intentions are? **Thank you.**

If not, please let us know as soon as possible. Our goal is 100% participation.

We need to hear from you!

Pledge online. It's easy and secure.

Go to

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

...or scan the  
QR code:



...or fill out a pledge  
card by asking a  
member of our team to  
discuss your pledge  
with you.

Thank you!

- The FPC Stewardship Team:

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

## Today at FPC

- 10-11 am     Service, Sanctuary and online
- 11am-12pm   Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall  
 \* Tickets for New Revival Coffeehouse's March 9 concert by The Clements Brothers will be on sale at coffee hour this Sunday and next!
- 12-1 pm     Spiritual Conversations Through Poetry (online)  
 You don't need to know anything about poetry to join Elizabeth Cobblah, Ilene Rudman, and Hector Constantzos for this deeply satisfying time of engaging with others through a poem. Contact one of us to attend: [ecobblah@fenn.org](mailto:ecobblah@fenn.org), [irudman@aol.com](mailto:irudman@aol.com), or [Hconstantzos@gmail.com](mailto:Hconstantzos@gmail.com).

## Religious Education News

- Today, 2/25     TFAA (Time For All Ages), followed by a one-room activity:  
An Exploration of Income Inequality 10:20-11:30 am, Youth Room  
 You are invited to join us and a special guest who worked at a UMass Memorial Medical clinic to share stories about families seriously struggling financially. We will also do a privilege walk.
- Sat. 3/2 -        There will be an afternoon escape room for youth.  
 Please contact Rayla to sign up.
- Sun. 3/3         TFAA, followed by age-appropriate classes. After service, we will practice our Easter worship dance in the Community Room. No youth group this week.

### And for Adults...

#### **It's Back! The UU Journey at FPC Sundays 3/3 & 3/10, 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.



## This Week at FPC

26	FEB, MON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 8am – 1pm</li> <li>● 7 – 9:30pm</li> <li>● 7 – 9pm</li> <li>● 7 – 9pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AssabetFoodCoop (Vestry)</li> <li>Sounds of Stow (Hall)</li> <li>Jazz Band Rhrl (Sanctuary)</li> <li>Sounds of Stow, Room #2 (Community Room)</li> </ul>
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27	FEB, TUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 10 – 11am</li> <li>● 7 – 9pm</li> <li>● 7 – 8pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coffee &amp; Chat (Gazebo)</li> <li>Board of Trustees Mtg. (Fellowship Hall)</li> <li>Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF) mtg (online)</li> </ul>
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28	FEB, WED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 6:40 – 8:45pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meditation (Fellowship Hall &amp; online)</li> </ul>
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29	FEB, THU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 11:30am – 3pm</li> <li>● 5 – 6pm</li> <li>● 7:15 – 9pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Piano tuner (Sanctuary &amp; Hall)</li> <li>Peace Vigil (outside)</li> <li>Choir Practice (Hall)</li> </ul>
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1	MAR, FRI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All day</li> <li>● 1 – 3:30pm</li> <li>● 7 – 9pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Day of Women's History Month</li> <li>Bridge Group (Community Rm)</li> <li>Gender roles &amp; identity discussion (Community Rm.)</li> </ul>

**Next Sunday's Service:** March 3, 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone

**“Centering on Love: A Look at Changes in the UUA”** - Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum -  
As the second year of the process of revising Article II of the UUA Bylaws is underway, it's worth looking at the meaning behind and the reasons for the shifts we're undergoing. Why are we talking about replacing Principles with Values? This service will explore the issues at stake in the upcoming vote in June.

## Upcoming Events

**Fri 3/1** **Gender Roles and Identity Discussion, 7-9 pm**, Community Room & online  
Join Our Whole Lives (OWL) facilitators Hector Constantzos and Rebecca Stadolnik for a lively discussion of gender identity and gender roles, how they have changed in recent years, and the impact each has on how we relate to the world and each other. For example, how do your genetics (eg, xx, cu, other) relate to your gender (or do they)? Come join us to share your ideas and broaden your understanding of these topics.

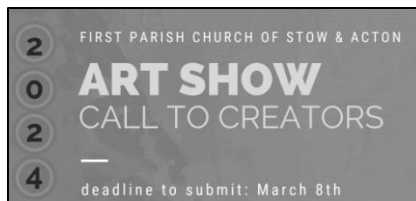
**Fri 3/8** **FPC's Arts Committee is calling for creators!**  
We encourage participants of ALL AGES to submit arts or crafts that utilize recycled/upcycled materials in some way.

This is your opportunity to be creative and wacky and have fun -

- ▶ What can you make from that old plank of wood?
- ▶ Or that jar of old keys or nails?
- ▶ Or that piece of fabric or old clothing that's been lying around forever?
- ▶ Or that old canvas or that Clorox container?

The sky's the limit and anything goes! No rules (except "family friendly").

See our ad in *This Week at FPC* for the link to submit!



**Sat 3/9** **New Revival Coffee House, 7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall**

The Clements Brothers are returning to the Coffeehouse, bringing their close harmonies and intimate sound. George and Charles Clements are identical twins from New England who have been playing and writing music together for as long as they can remember.

For more information, see the New Revival webpage at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/music/coffeehouse>

Tickets are \$17 in advance on [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com), and \$20 on the day of the concert. Advance price tickets will also be available at coffee hour today and March 3. Doors open at 7:00 and the concert begins at 7:30.

Masks are optional.



## 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.



don't see captions on request that the host turn

## **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