

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



Sunday, November 21, 2021

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister
Michelle Coté, Director of Religious Education
Deedee Perkins, Parish Administrator

Brad Dumont, Music Director
Sanghee Kim, Organist/Pianist

Joleen Trotta, Welcoming & Membership Coordinator
Mike Silkonis, Sexton

Marissa Evans, Youth Coordinator

Janet Beatrice, External Publicity
Sharon Brownfield, President

Jenni Edgerton, 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 to help everyone be a part of worship in the fullest way possible. Assisted Listening Devices are available when worship is in the sanctuary.

On the web at fpc-stow-acton.org and on Facebook.

**Thanksgiving Service ~ November 21, 2021
9:00 AM and 11:00 AM**

Gathering

Land Acknowledgement, Welcome & Announcements

9 am: Jenni Edgerton, Vice President

11 am: Sharon Brownfield, President

Choral Prelude *Blue Green Hills of Earth*

by K. Oler & P. Halley

9:00 am: Brad Dumont, piano

11:00 am: FPC Adult Choir

Greet Your Neighbor

Call to Worship Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Chalice Lighting

*** Song #67** *We Sing Now Together*

1. We sing now together our song of thanksgiving, rejoicing in goods which the ages have wrought, for life that enfolds us, and helps and heals and holds us, and leads beyond the goals which our forebears once sought.
2. We sing of the freedoms which martyrs and heroes have won by their labor, their sorrow, their pain; the oppressed befriending, our ampler hopes defending, their death becomes a triumph, they died not in vain.
3. We sing of the prophets, the teachers, the dreamers, designers, creators, and workers, and seers; our own lives expanding, our gratitude commanding, their deeds have made immortal their days and their years.
4. We sing of community now in the making in every far continent, region, and land; with those of all races, all times and names and places, we pledge ourselves in covenant firmly to stand.

** While pandemic levels remain at FPC's "orange gate," we ask that the congregation not join in singing, but you may hum softly if desired.*

Covenant

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.

* Affirmation

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.

Centering

Homecoming Blessing

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L Landrum

Message for All Ages

Michelle Coté,
Director of Religious Education

Joys and Sorrows

9 am: Hector Constantzos, Lay Minister
11 am: Marcia Rising, Lay Minister

Prayer or Meditation

* Song #123 *Spirit of Life*

Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

Exploring

Reading

Testimonial

Katy Weeks, Past Board President

Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share our weekly offering with
our Partner Church Program

Checks may be made to “First Parish Church” and sent to:
Pledges: attn: Pledge Secretary, PO Box 215, Stow MA 01775
Donations: attn: Treasurer, 353 Great Rd, Stow MA 01775
or donate online at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate>
or by text to (978) 310-3309.

Offertory Music

Gymnopédie #1 by E. Satie
Brad Dumont, piano

Reflections

Gratitude
The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Returning

* Song #69

Give Thanks

1. Give thanks for the corn and the wheat that are reaped,
for labor well done and for barns that are heaped,
for the sun and the dew and the sweet honeycomb,
for the rose and the song and the harvest brought home.
2. Give thanks for the mills and the farms of our land,
for craft and the strength in the work of our hands,
for the beauty our artists and poets have wrought,
for the hope and affection our friendships have brought.

Benediction

* Sung Benediction

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

Brad Dumont, piano

* While pandemic levels remain at FPC’s “orange gate,” we ask that the congregation not join in singing, but you may hum softly if desired.



Thank you to:

Marion Scott and Jeff Brown,

First Service Ushers;

Nancy Cataldo and Judy Holmes,

Second Service Ushers;

Brendon Chetwynd, Jonathan Daisy, and

Hector Constantzos, Tech Helpers;

and to our staff and leadership

Thank you in particular to all those who worked so hard to make our return to worshipping in the sanctuary possible, from our COVID Planning Task Force, Ventilation Task Force, and Board to all the people who said yes this week to tasks large and small.



**FPC Announcements
Thanksgiving Sunday, November 21, 2021**

9:00 Worship Service

10:30 Choir Rehearsal in Fellowship Hall

11:00 Choir Sings on zoom Hall

11:00 Hybrid Worship Service Join second service

online: <https://tinyurl.com/fpcnov21>

Meeting number: 987 1673 5529 Password: 11762

Or join by phone: 929-205-6099 (long distance rates will apply)

This Sunday in our Religious Education Program

It is so wonderful to hear that we can resume our church services in person and in the sanctuary! Unfortunately our younger group of k-5th graders are not all vaccinated so we need to wait a couple of more weeks before we can move inside.

However, it has been really cold outside and so it makes sense to offer a virtual RE this coming Sunday, November 21st *with a goal of beginning indoor RE on December 5th for all ages*. So we need your patience as we wait for all our families to feel safe and so that we can prepare all classrooms for RE use.

Grades PreK-5: We will meet virtually for a very special scavenger hunt and lesson on gratefulness! We will meet on zoom at 10:15-11:00 allowing parents if they choose to attend the in person church service.

Junior and Senior Youth (grades 6-12) do not have morning programs at 9:00 or 11am.

There is a special theater and improve with Brad (our music director) and Marissa Evans (Youth coordinator) **from 12:15-1:15 (outside if the weather is good-if not we will default to Fellowship Hall)**

Please contact Michelle Cote, our Director of Religious Education, at dre@fpc-stow-acton.org if you have any questions or concerns.

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 22-27 2021

- Monday** Sounds of Stow (Hall) 7:00-8:30pm
- Tuesday** Coffee & Chat 10-11:00am at the Gazebo town park
TRUSTEE Meeting 7:00pm Zoom
Climate Subcommittee (Sanctuary Windows) 7pm
- Wednesday** Worship Committee 12:30 zoom
Meditation 7:25pm—9:30pm zoom
- Thursday** THANKSGIVING
- Saturday** Growing Victory Garden 9am zoom

Saturday, November 27, 4pm

“Gather” Film Showing

Hosted by the Racial Justice Task Force

Join us to watch the film “Gather.” Gather is an intimate portrait of the growing movement amongst Native Americans to reclaim their spiritual, political, and cultural identities through food sovereignty, while battling the trauma of centuries of genocide.

Join us by video: <https://tinyurl.com/fpcgather>

Meeting ID: 921 3622 9593 Passcode: 11762

Sunday November 28, 2021

10:00 am only

online plus possible location to be announced

"Loved Into Being"

Faith in Unitarian Universalism isn't just an intellectual exercise: it's "heart" work. This special worship service from the UUA features a sermon by UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, as well as vibrant music, storytelling, and other worship elements that will help us to grow in spirit, in courage, and in generosity.

Join service online: <https://tinyurl.com/fpcnov21>

Meeting number: 987 1673 5529

Password: 11762

Or join by phone: 929-205-6099 (long distance rates will apply.)

Racial Justice Task Force November 29th 7pm Why Have a Land Acknowledgement?

Come and hear why it is important for FPC to have a Land Acknowledgement as a first step in being allies with our Native American neighbors. Zoom info to come

FPC COOKIE SWAP - SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, December 7, 7:00pm

Last year, we had our first virtual Cookie Swap and so many of you signed in. We eliminated going out in the cold and maybe snowy streets, but we didn't have to miss being together. It was a delightful evening with over 30 of you zooming in.

Get in on your calendar for Tuesday, December 7 at 7:00 pm. *RSVP to Diane Miller at millerdiane@comcast.net and we will send you the link beforehand.* ~Diane Miller

The **CHRISTMAS GIFT DRIVE** is happening now! Be part of this holiday tradition and make the holidays special for those in need! Shoppers are needed to fulfill the Wish Lists of the two Domestic Violence Shelters that we support.



Below is the link to Sign Up Genius where you can select gifts to buy.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49A5A82DABFE C34-2021>

Any questions, contact Diane Miller at 978-897-5470 or at millerdiane@comcast.net

FPC Stewardship Campaign is Underway

FPC's Stewardship campaign for our next fiscal year is now underway. Thank you so much to our members and friends who have already made pledges! In the spirit of love and thanksgiving, please join us in Embracing the Possibilities and reaffirming your financial commitment to FPC with a stewardship pledge. The goals for this year's campaign are:

100% Member Participation
5% Increase in the total Pledge amount



Our Board of Trustees is seeking to strengthen FPC's operating budget for next year to Embrace the Possibilities of:

- Providing fair and equitable compensation and benefits for all staff
 - Bolstering capital reserves for repairs and maintenance to our campus
 - Raising our annual contribution to the UUA back to the 100% fair share level
- while continuing to
- Sustain our ministries and a broad offering of programs, and
 - Support First Parish Church and the greater community.

Please join our stewardship campaign today and pledge on line. Pledging on line is easy and secure. Here is the link <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/pledge>. Alternatively, please contact a member of the Stewardship team or the Board to arrange an in-person stewardship discussion, or to request a pledge card.

First Parish Church is a self-sustaining congregation that relies on the generosity of members and friends to fund about 70% of our budget. **Please make a pledge today if possible, or in any case by**

December 19. Remember our goals: 100% Member Participation and 5% average pledge increase.


Thank you for your generosity to First Parish Church!

From the FPC Stewardship Team: Rachele Reisberg, Rick Gentilman, Sharon Brownfield, Helen Ham, Sue Moses, Russ Hart, and Lynda Layer.

The graphic has a dark green background with gold snowflakes and starburst patterns. The text "Let nature sing!" is written in a large, elegant gold cursive font. Below it, in a smaller gold sans-serif font, is "Sunday, December 5 at 5:00p". Further down, also in gold sans-serif font, is "A fun and casual virtual carol sing" and "Offered by the FPC Choir from the Sanctuary". At the bottom, in gold sans-serif font, is "Find the Zoom Link at FPC-Stow-Acton.org". At the bottom right, there are two small circular images: one of a stained glass window with a flame and one of a church steeple.


SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5 AT 5:00PM
A FUN AND CASUAL VIRTUAL CAROL SING
OFFERED BY THE FPC CHOIR FROM THE SANCTUARY
Find the ZOOM LINK at FPC-STOW-ACTON.ORG

The Sudbury Savoyards presents



A CHRISTMAS CAROL 2021

Please join us for Dickens' beloved Christmas tale of philanthropy and personal growth.



At the
 First Parish Church of Stow and Acton
 353 Great Road, Stow, MA

Saturday December 4 at 2 PM

Please call 617-448-2073 to reserve a ticket, \$20

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2:00 PM

**The Sudbury Savoyards present
 A Christmas Carol 2021
 Please join us for**

**Dickens' beloved Christmas tale
 of philanthropy and personal growth
 First Parish Church of Stow and Acton
 353 Great Road
 Stow, Massachusetts 01775**

**Please call 617-448-2703
 to reserve a ticket @ \$20.**

**Proceeds will go to the
 Greater Boston Area Food Bank**

NOVEMBER PLATE SHARE

Our Partner Church

Unitarianism's roots extend into the Transylvania region of Romania, where some of the principles of freedom of belief had their origin. FPC has a partner congregation in the tiny village of Olasztelek. History has not been kind to the people of this region, so every year at Christmas, FPC makes a gift supporting a number of quite elderly people who have a hard time making it through the winter.

The gifts are not supported in our general budget, but are made from plate sharing. The committee asks that the church continue to support this tradition. Thank you for your generosity!

Note: If the church is open for services in November, please check out the electronic display in the lobby as it will feature photos from our 2016 trip there! We hope some day circumstances will allow another visit.