

Thank you to:

Jenni Edgerton, Zoom Host
Felix Freeman, Tech Assistant
Peter Fiske and Jamison House, Ushers
Josh Ledwell, Coffee Hour Host
and our staff and leadership



How to Connect with First Parish Church:

- Sign our visitor log at tinyurl.com/visitfpc:
We'll send you information on request.



- 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
FPCAnnounce & FPCForum - e-mail groups

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

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



Sunday, November 19, 2023

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
Minister

Meg Rivers-Wright
Administration and Membership

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
Director of Religious Education

Chris Hossfeld
Music Director

Trevor Berens
Accompanist

Cindy Koegler
Youth Coordinator

Justin Marble
Nursery Care Coordinator

Mike Silkonis
Sexton

Janet Beatrice
External Publicity

Felix Freeman
Tech Assistant

Jenni Edgerton
President

Brendon Chetwynd
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.*

To help everyone be a part of worship in the fullest way possible,
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.
Several rows in the back of the Sanctuary are designated "mask-required."
They are a greater distance from unmasked speakers and include accessible seating.

FPC is on the web at [fpc-stow-acton.org](https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org) and on Facebook.

November 19, 2023 10:00 am

Gathering

Prelude "If" Trevor Berens, piano
David Gates

Welcome & Announcements Meg Rivers-Wright,
Parish Admin. & Membership Coordinator

Introit "Székely Áldás" (Székely Blessing) FPC Adult Choir
Music: Elizabeth H. Norton Trevor Berens, piano
Words: Traditional Transylvanian

Hol hit ott szeretet; Where there is faith there is love;
hol szeretet ott béke. where there is love there is peace.
Hol béke ott áldás; Where there is peace there is blessing;
hol áldás ott Isten. where there is blessing there is God.
Hol Isten ott szükség nin csen. Where there is God, there is no need.

Opening Words The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Chalice Lighting

* Hymn #349 "We Gather Together"

Centering

* **Covenant and Affirmation** Meg Rivers-Wright

Love is the spirit of this church, From all that dwell below the skies
and service its law. let words of love and peace arise.
This is our great covenant: Let joyful songs of praise be sung
To dwell together in peace, through every land, by every tongue.
to seek the truth in love,
and to help one another.

Land Acknowledgement

Reflections on Thanksgiving The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Joys and Sorrows Hector Constantzos, Lay Minister

Prayer or Meditation

Sharing Our Gifts

This month at FPC we share our weekly offering with The Food Project (see insert).
You may donate with a check made out to First Parish Church,
online at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate>, or text to (978) 310-3309.

* *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Anthem "We Shall Be Known" FPC Adult Choir
Karisha Longaker of MaMuse Trevor Berens, piano
Arranged by the Thrive East Bay Choir

We shall be known by the company we keep
By the ones who circle round to tend these fires
We shall be known by the ones who sow and reap
The seeds of change, alive from deep within the earth
It is time now, it is time now that we thrive
It is time we lead ourselves into the well
It is time now, and what a time to be alive
In this Great Turning we shall learn to lead in love

Ethnic Heritage Bread Celebration

Introduction The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Sharing Bread Religious Education Program Members

Bread for All Ages Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
Director of Religious Education

Ethnic Heritage Bread Celebration

Introducing the Breads

Blessing the Bread

Breaking Bread Together

Hymn #1031 "Filled with Loving Kindness"

Introduction to Guest at Your Table Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson

Returning

* **Hymn #1051** "We Are..."

* **Benediction** The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

* **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 "Au lac de Wallenstadt" Trevor Berens, piano
Franz Liszt

November Plate Sharing:



The Food Project

At The Food Project, we believe that everyone has the right to fresh, healthy, affordable food. Our goal is to transform the food system into a more just, community-engaged model that supports food security for all while connecting diverse communities to each other and to the land.

Young people are the driving force of The Food Project. They work on our farms and with community members to realize the right to food that nourishes our communities and the planet we share. Each summer, we employ 140 teenagers on 70 acres of urban and suburban farmland in Lincoln, Wenham, Boston, and Lynn. On Saturdays throughout the academic year, a smaller cohort builds raised bed gardens, leads educational workshops, and learns together about food and social justice.

We focus our food security efforts on the two communities we are most deeply connected to: Boston's Dudley neighborhood and the City of Lynn.

<https://thefoodproject.org/>



Land Acknowledgement

- ‡ We would like to acknowledge that this service is being held by a community that gathers on the stolen traditional lands of the Massachusetts, Nipmuc, Pawtucket, and Wampanoag People.
- ‡ We pay respect to those Indigenous Peoples who lost their lives in the colonization of this land and recognize that these Indigenous tribes are still today facing violations of sovereignty, territory, and water.
- ‡ We also give thanks for the Earth we walk upon, the waters, the lifegiving plants, and all the Earth's creatures, as well as the winds, sun, moon, and stars.
- ‡ We recognize that this is just a first step in moving toward right relationship with Native peoples and healing of the Earth.

Today at FPC

10 am.....**Service**, Sanctuary/online

11 am.....**Coffee Hour***, Fellowship Hall

5 pm.....**Support for Asylum Seekers Task Force**, Vestry/Community Room

7 pm.....**Transgender Day of Remembrance Service**, Hudson, MA

Hosted jointly by the First Parish Church of Stow & Acton and the Unitarian Church of Marlborough & Hudson at the Unitarian Church of Marlborough & Hudson, 80 Main Street, Hudson, MA. Join us for music, poetry, prayer, and a reading of names, as we honor the lives of transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of violence this year.



* **South East India Project** is collecting donations of vitamins, toothpaste, and photos on Sundays at coffee hour until Jan 5.

We are again collecting items for the children at WIDE Children's Home, an orphanage for Dalit children (formerly Untouchables) in SE India. To make the transport of kits all the way to India easier, we are collecting only the usual photos of your families plus a year's worth of children's vitamins (in large plastic jars) and a year's worth of toothpaste. We will attempt to pick up other items in India. Please include letters in which you (with your child if you like) tell a little about yourselves. You may receive back a photo and possibly a letter from a child in India. This could spark meaningful conversation around the kitchen table!

This Week in Religious Education

Today's service is intergenerational. We will all join worship together for Bread Communion. Children and youth will have the opportunity to share about their bread.

Next Sunday, 11/26 the children will have a craft activity after a *Time For All Ages*, and the Senior Exploration group will not be meeting. The DRE will be off this week.

Looking into December, instead of the Mummies Play we will share the Latke story on December 17. There are still parts available for adults, children and teens. Please let Rayla know if you'd like to participate!

This Week at FPC: November 20-25

21	NOV, TUE	● 10 – 11am	Coffee & Chat (Gazebo)
		● 7 – 9pm	3rd Tuesday Group, SGM (Community Room)
		● 7 – 9pm	Board of Trustees Mtg. (Fellowship Hall)
23	NOV, THU	● 12 – 6pm	Native Topics in Film, Music and Literature (Comm Rm)
24	NOV, FRI	● 1 – 3:30pm	Bridge Group (Community Rm)

National Day of Mourning Thu, 11/23, 12-6pm, Community Room

As we learn the truth of the colonization of this land, some of us look for alternatives that celebrate Native Americans and honor National Day of Mourning. If you've ever wondered, "What would we do instead of Thanksgiving?" we hope to help answer that and inspire new traditions. We'll watch movies, listen to music, read books, do crafts and more, in a casual, family-friendly setting. To respect Day of Mourning, food will not be served. Coffee, tea, and other beverages will be available to stave off low blood sugar and energize us. As always, FPC is a nut-free environment, so if you need to bring a snack, please make sure it is nut-free. *Drop-ins welcome! Families Welcome! *



Native Topics in Film, Music and Literature

Next Sunday's Service: 11/26, 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone "World AIDS Day Remembrance"

Phyllis C, an applicant for ministerial fellowship with the UUA, will be joining us as guest worship leader. Please see our website for more information about Phyllis.

World AIDS Day is December 1st of every year, and this Sunday will focus on remembering the long struggle of addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic in our communities and the wider world.



FPC Upcoming Events

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.



Reading and Meditation will not meet this week on 11/22 and will resume on 11/29.



Hanging of the Greens Thu 11/30, 3-5 pm, FPC
Join with FPC 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.

The UU Journey at FPC: Sun 12/10, 12 -2:30 pm
A One-Session Whirlwind Tour of UU History, Spirituality, Mission, and Traditions

- Rev. Cindy Landrum leads class.
- Opportunities to share your own spiritual journey, ask questions, and 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 or [617-291-3351](tel:617-291-3351).

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: **Jenni Edgerton**
3. Hymn lyrics will be in a slide presentation today.



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