

Thank you to:

Katy Weeks, Zoom Host
Felix Freeman, Tech Assistant
Marcia Allison and Marion Scott, Ushers
Coffee Hour Host
and our staff and leadership

Today's flowers are donated by Mark Koenig and Troy Liston:
In memory of all the friends we lost to AIDS.

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.

How to Connect with First Parish Church:

- [Sign our visitor log at tinyurl.com/visitfpc:](https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org/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 26, 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 26, 2023 10:00 am

A special welcome to the members of the Unitarian Church of Marlborough and Hudson joining us for this service!

Gathering

Prelude Trevor Berens, piano

Land Acknowledgement Neil Saunders, Worship Committee member

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Words “Come, Let Us Worship Together” Phyllis Colvin,
Lindsay Bates Worship Leader,
Applicant for Ministerial Fellowship,
UUA

Chalice Lighting “Memorial Chalice Lighting”
Mira Mickiewicz

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

* **Covenant and Affirmation** Neil Saunders

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.

Centering

Time for All Ages *The Very Lonely Firefly* Phyllis Colvin,
Eric Carle Worship Leader

Going Forth with the Light

Joys and Sorrows Ann Wickham, Lay Minister

* *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Prayer or Meditation Moment of Silence and Words for
World AIDS Day Remembrance
by Phyllis Colvin

Exploring

Reading Excerpts from Elizabeth Glaser’s Speech
to the 1992 Democratic National Convention Phyllis Colvin,
Worship Leader

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.

* **Hymn #18** "What Wondrous Love is This, O My Soul, O My Soul"

Sermon “World AIDS Day Remembrance” Phyllis Colvin,
Worship Leader

Returning

* **Hymn #146** “Soon the Day Will Arrive”

* **Benediction** “Closing Words for Hard Times”
by Maureen Killoran Phyllis Colvin,
Worship Leader

* **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 Trevor Berens, piano

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/>

First Parish Church 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 reaffirming your financial commitment to FPC with a stewardship pledge:

You may pledge online – it's easy and secure. Use this link... <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/pledge> ...or scan the QR code.



Alternatively, contact a member of the Stewardship team or the Board to arrange an in-person stewardship discussion, or to request a pledge card.

Remember our goals: 100% Member participation, 5% average pledge increase. Thank you for your generosity to First Parish Church!

Many thanks from the FPC Stewardship Team:
Jenni Edgerton, Carole Feldhusen, Andy Derr, Sharon Brownfield, Russ Hart, and Rick Gentilman

Today at FPC

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

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



* **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, so you may receive back a photo and letter from a child in India. This could spark meaningful conversation around the kitchen table!

Religious Education Update

Today

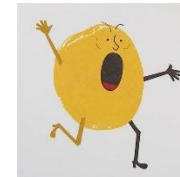
After a *Time for all Ages*, Children go downstairs for a story and seasonal craft. Senior Exploration group is not meeting.

Sun 12/10 (in two weeks)
Next Children's Chapel
We will learn a Hanukkah song to prepare for our 12/24 morning worship service.

Thu 12/14 at 6 pm
Rehearsal for service on Sun 12/17.

We are looking for...

- performers of all ages to present *The Latke Who Couldn't Stop Screaming* on 12/17.
- Teachers and Volunteers for the next RE trimester for...
 - Junior Youth
 - 2nd - 5th
 - preK-1st



- performers and stagehands for 12/24. (I will be recovering from a 12/21 surgery on my foot and leg, so all help is welcome!)






Thank you for the donations towards making the DRE's office a more comfy place! ♥

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson,
DRE

This Week at FPC: Nov. 27-Dec. 02

27	NOV, MON	● 7 – 9pm	Jazz Band Rhrl (Sanctuary)
28	NOV, TUE	● 10 – 11am	Coffee & Chat (Gazebo)
		● 11:30am – 1pm	Membership Committee mtg. online
		● 7 – 8pm	Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF) mtg (online)
29	NOV, WED	● 6:40 – 8:45pm	Meditation (Fellowship Hall & online)
30	NOV, THU	● 3 – 5pm	Hanging of the Greens (FPC)
		● 5 – 6pm	Peace Vigil (outside)
		● 7:15 – 9pm	Choir Practice (Hall)
1	DEC, FRI	● 1 – 3:30pm	Bridge Group (Community Rm)
2	DEC, SAT	● 9 – 10am	Spanish Conversations (Vestry) Vestry

Every Week at FPC

Tues. 10AM Coffee and Chat at the Town Center Park Gazebo 	Wed. 6:40PM Meditation in Fellowship Hall & Online 	Thurs. 5PM Peace Vigil on the Town Common in front of FPC 	Thurs. 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal in the Community Room - Join the choir! music@fpc-stow-acton.org 	Fri. 1PM Bridge Playing in the Community Room 
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Next Sunday's Service: 12/3, 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone

“In the Bleak Midwinter” – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum – Winter and the holiday season can be a tough time for many. In the “Blue Christmas” season as the “frosty winds gave moan,” we’ll explore how to navigate the “most wonderful time of the year” and how to have hope that there will be “peace on earth, goodwill to all.”

FPC Upcoming Events



Racial Justice Task Force Drop-In Session Tue 11/28, 7pm Zoom
 Our topic will be a report that came up in FPC's open discussion email group, *FPC Forum*, titled "Exclusionary by Design," which shows how our own Boston suburban neighborhoods have been keeping people of color from being able to move in for over 100 years. Email katy.brightleaf@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Reading & Meditation Wed 11/29, Fellowship Hall

6:40 - 7:20 pm Read & discuss

A Path with Heart,
by Jack Kornfield

7:20 - 7:30 pm Transition break

7:30 - 8:45 pm Meditation



Hanging of the Greens Thu 11/30, 3-5 pm, FPC
 Join with other FPC members, Rev. Cindy, and Meg, in decorating the church for Christmas!

Hot cider 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 led by Rev. Cindy Landrum

Opportunities to...

- ask questions about Unitarian Universalism and FPC
- share the story of your own spiritual journey
- 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.

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: **Katy Weeks**
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