

December 10, 2023: 10:00

Gathering

Prelude “The Piano Thinks Out Loud” Trevor Berens, piano
Leo Ornstein

Welcome Name, Role

Greet Your Neighbor

Opening Words by Phillip Hewett Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Chalice & Advent Candles Lighting by Cynthia Landrum

* **Hymn #221** *Light One Candle*

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.

Sharing the Hanukkah Tommy Garr

Land Acknowledgement

Joys and Sorrows Ann Sadler, Lay Minister

Prayer or Meditation

* **Hymn #159** *This Is My Song*

Exploring

Responsive Reading #567 “To Be of Use”
Marge Piercy

Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share our weekly offering with _____.
Checks may be made to “First Parish Church”
or donate online at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate> or by text to (978) 310-3309.

Anthem “Between Darkness and Light” FPC Adult Choir
Daphna Rosenberg and Manal Hreib Trevor Berens, piano

*Between darkness and I light I will always walk; and wherever I will go,
I will open a window of light and plant the seeds of love.*

Sermon “Spiritual Types IV: The Journey of Works” Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Returning

* **Hymn #226** *People, Look East*

* **Benediction** by Kendyl R. Gibbons

* **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 Notturmo Clara Schumann Trevor Berens, piano

December Plate Sharing

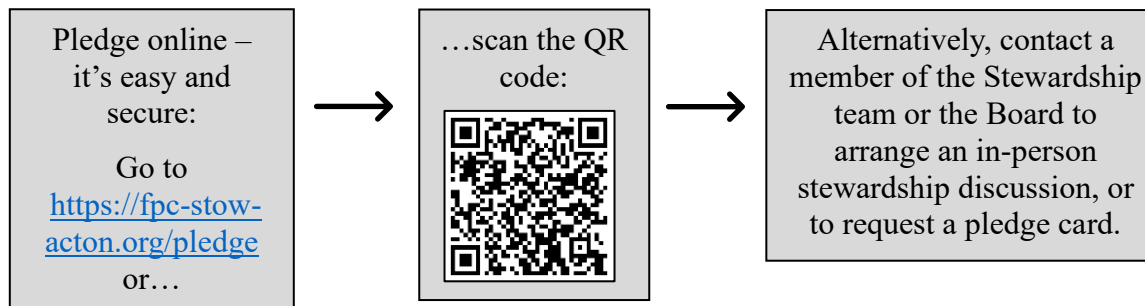


FPC Guest Table started serving a free monthly community dinner in Fellowship Hall in November 2015. It is a sit-down meal consisting of salad, entree, and dessert. We have served anything and everything from pizza to salmon. Volunteers plan, shop, set up, clean up, prepare, and serve the meal. After dinner is served, the leftovers are put in to-go containers and given to guests to take home.

It costs about \$250 a month to put on a meal, and the largest portion of that expense is food. Our primary sources of funding are the Stow Community Chest and the plate-share from this congregation. In addition to being a resource for those with food insecurity, we are also a resource for those who want a night off from planning and cooking a meal, and/or for those who typically dine alone in their homes. Guest Table is a welcoming community for ALL, and we invite you to come dine with us on the second Friday of every month in Fellowship Hall.

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:



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

Today at FPC

9 am.....**Open Choir Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
10 am.....**Service**, Sanctuary/online
11 am.....**Coffee Hour**, Fellowship Hall
11:30 am-1:30pm...**Senior/Junior Youth Holiday Party** (Fellowship Hall)
12 - 2:30pm.....**UU Journey Class**** (Community Room)
12-1pm.....**Spiritual Conversations** (Parlor, on-line)

11 am South East India Project is collecting donations of vitamins, toothpaste, and photos on Sundays at coffee hour until Jan 5. Please see *This Week at FPC* for details.

12 pm The UU Journey at FPC: TODAY until 2:30 pm



A One-Session, Whirlwind Tour of UU History, Spirituality, Mission, and Traditions led by Rev. Cindy Landrum. Includes opportunities to ask questions about Unitarian Universalism and FPC, share the story of your own spiritual journey, and get to know others in the church. You do not need to be new to FPC to participate; all are welcome! Contact Meg Rivers-Wright, Parish Administrator, at office@fpc-stow-acton.org or come by the Community Room at noon.

12 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, irudman@aol.com, or Hconstantzos@gmail.com.

Religious Education Update

Sun, 12/10 - The children and youth will begin worship in the Community Room for Chapel followed by age-appropriate classes. Chris will be working with us in chapel on a song in Hebrew.

Thu, 12/14 - All participants in *The Screaming Latke* will meet in the Sanctuary at 6:00 pm for rehearsal.

Fri, 12/15 - **All Ages Game Night**, 7:00-9:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. *Now that Cindy K. is no longer with us, we could use some additional help with game night.* Please let the DRE know if you're able to assist with set-up or clean-up!



This Week at FPC: Dec. 11-16

11	DEC, MON	● 7 – 9pm	2nd Monday Group, SGM (Parlor)
		● 7 – 9pm	Jazz Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
12	DEC, TUE	● 10 – 11am	Coffee & Chat (Gazebo)
		● 7 – 9pm	Annual FPC Cookie Swap (Community Rm)
		● 7:30 – 9:30pm	Climate Task Force (online)
13	DEC, WED	● 6:40 – 8:45pm	Meditation (Fellowship Hall & online)
14	DEC, THU	● 5 – 6pm	Peace Vigil (outside)
		● 7:15 – 9pm	Choir Practice (Hall)
15	DEC, FRI	● 1 – 3:30pm	Bridge Group (Community Rm)
		● 6:30 – 10pm	Multigen Game Night (Hall) Fellowship Hall
16	DEC, SAT	● 9 – 10am	Garden Conversations (online)
		● 9 – 10am	Spanish Conversations (Vestry) Vestry
		● 10am – 12:30pm	Rehearsal for Christmas Vespers (Sanctuary)
		● 1 – 2pm	Sanctuary - Shirley Farmer - Memorial
		● 2 – 6pm	Hall - Shirley Farmer - Memorial Reception

Next Sunday's Services

10 AM - "Latke Lessons" Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum – A hilarious and fun-filled Sunday with a special presentation from our children and youth of the Lemony Snicket story, "The Latke Who Couldn't Stop Screaming." Join us as this personified Latke teaches us not to simply merge all the holidays together and how to celebrate difference.

5 PM - "In the Beginning: A Solstice Celebration" - FPC's annual musical gift to the community. All are welcome to a musical multi-faith Winter Solstice service that will include a rarely performed choral piece, The Dylan Thomas poem, "In the Beginning," set to music by composer and music professor Relly Raffman. FPC Music Director Chris Hossfeld will be joined by accompanist Trevor Berens, the FPC Choir, and a special guest, soprano Jessica Tunick Berens.

FPC Upcoming Events

Tue 12/12 **FPC Annual Cookie Swap** 6:30 pm, Community Rm. The most relaxing and enjoyable Christmas event you'll go to this year! Call it a late dinner with plenty of snacks, both sweet and savory. We'll have wine, seltzer, and hot mulled cider. To Cookie Swap, bring three dozen homemade cookies with no nuts; you'll go home with a wide assortment to share during the holidays. For those who have left their baking days behind, we still invite you to come; holiday decorations, games, and poem & story readings are everyone's to enjoy. Ann Sadler is our storyteller by popular demand. Come one and all - old timers and newcomers alike! So that we can easily plan, please RSVP to Diane Miller at millerdiane@comcast.net.



Wed 12/13 **Reading & Meditation** 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



Fri 12/15 **Multigenerational Game Night** 7-9 pm, Fellowship Hall
 Bring your own game or play one provided by RE Committee member Chip Beauvais. Snacks and cider provided by Religious Education. All ages, all folks welcome!

Sat 12/16 **Garden Conversations** 9-10 am, online
 We meet online on the 3rd Saturday of every month. Please join us to share questions, tips, and sometimes resources for the gardening season.

Spanish Conversations 9-10 am, Contact Roy Miller millerroy@comcast.net

Fri 12/22 **Hygge ("Hoo-Gah") Party** 6-9pm, Fellowship Hall
 Regarded as a defining characteristic of Danish culture, *hygge* is a quality of coziness and comfortable conviviality that engenders a feeling of contentment or well-being. Follow the Danish example and wear your pajamas and cozy socks to our Hygge Party! Hot cider, cocoa, cookies, board games, books, puzzles, and mellow music & mood. Movie & popcorn in the youth, too.
 Suggested donation: \$5/person

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.



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