# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON



Unitarian Universalist

Sunday, December 1, 2024

Guest Speaker, Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum Minister Trevor Berens Accompanist

**Justin Marble** 

Nursery Care Coordinator

Brendon Chetwynd President

Trisha Guditz

Vice President

**Meg Rivers-Wright** Administration, Membership, Publicity

**Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson** Dir. of Religious Education

Mike Silkonis Sexton Bill Froberg Treasurer

**Chris Hossfeld** Music Director Felix Freeman Tech Assistant **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. 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 <u>fpc-stow-acton.org</u> and on Facebook.

#### December 1, 2024: 10:00 a.m.

#### **Gathering**

"Aria from Goldberg Variations " Trevor Berens, piano JS Bach

#### Welcome and Announcements

Ann Wickham, Worship Host

**Opening Words** "In This Time of Waiting (Advent Prayer)" Cricket Hall

**Chalice Lighting** 

\* Hymn #1021

Prelude

"Lean on Me"

#### **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.

#### Land Acknowledgement

Time for All Ages

#### Going Forth With the Light

Our love surrounds you. Here joy has found you. Let hope abound freely. Go in peace!

#### Joys and Sorrows

Joys and Sorrows is a time for the things on our hearts and minds to be heard by the gathered community. If you would like a follow-up call by a lay minister or the minister, email caring@fpc-stow-acton.org.

\* Please rise in body or in spirit

Ann Wickham Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson

Director of Religious Education

Kate Hart, Lay Minister

Congregation sings

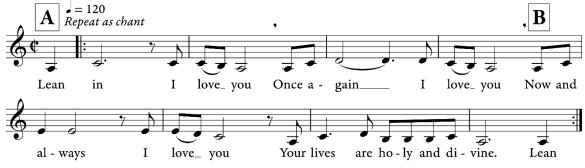
CICKet Hall

#### **Prayer or Meditation**

#### "Shantideva Prayer" Shantideva

#### \* Hymn

"Holy and Divine" Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich



You can replace the pronouns as appropriate for your context (for example, "our lives," "we love you," "my life is")

Music: "Holy and Divine," Rev. Lindasusan V. Ulrich Lyrics: Inspired by the words of Rev. JeKaren Olaoya. Dedicated to the trans/nonbinary community. Copyright 2024 Lindasusan V. Ulrich

#### **Exploring**

#### Reading

"A Blessing Called Sanctuary" Jan Richardson Ann Wickham

#### **Sharing Our Gifts**

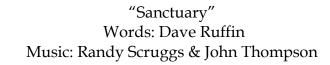
This month we share our weekly offering with **FPC's Guest Table**. You may donate by check made out to First Parish Church, at fpc-stow-acton.org/donate, or text (978) 310-3309.

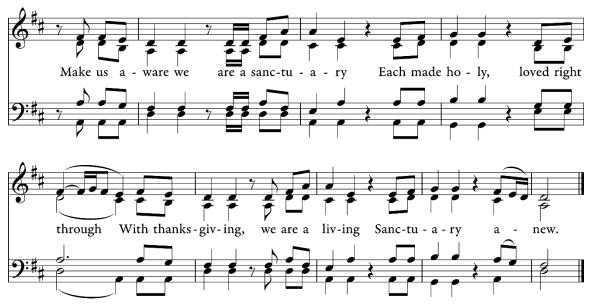
Anthem	Improvisation	Trevor Berens, piano
Sermon	"To Become the Sanctuary"	Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich

\* Please rise in body or in spirit

#### <u>Returning</u>







\* 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

"O Jesu, wie ist dein Gestalt" BWV 1095, JS Bach

Trevor Berens, organ

#### **Greet Your Neighbor**

## Thank you:

Zoom Host Marcia Rising, Carolyn Zettler, Ushers Coffee Hosts, Kate Imhoff, Mark Koenig, Jeff Brown ♥ Our staff and leadership



# To our visitors, thank you for coming!

We hope you find what you're looking for and that you'll come back. Here's how to keep connecting with our people and programs:

♥ <u>Watch these pages</u> for information about fall & winter Newcomer Coffees to meet the

minister and other newcomers, and <u>UU Journey classes</u> to learn about UU history, spirituality, mission, and traditions.

♥ <u>Fill out a Visitor Card in your pew</u> or scan the QR code to complete the same form online.

♥ <u>Subscribe to our e-newsletters and email groups</u>

 Check out our website, www.fpc-stow-acton.org
There is so much happening at FPC! Visit our homepage and the "Church Life" tab to learn about our events & programs.



Visiting & Learning about FPC



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# **Today at FPC**

• 10-11am

11am-12pm

Service, Sanctuary & online Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall

# **Religious Education News**

**Sunday, Dec. 1**<sup>st</sup> - *Time for All Ages* during the worship service, after which we will head to the Community Room to practice for our Solstice service on the 15th and Christmas Eve on the 24th. There will also be activities for those not wishing to participate in those services.

# Next Sunday

### December 8, 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone

"Unpacking Christmas" - At Christmas time, we often feel like we have to love or hate Christmas, hating it based on our reactions to some of the most extremes in Christian theology and the perpetuation in the media of the "war on Christmas" myth. This service will unpack the Christian story and the cultural trappings around it and find space for a truly Unitarian Universalist celebration of the holiday.

# **December Plate Sharing**

# **FPC Guest Table**



FPC Guest Table has been offering a free monthly community dinner in Fellowship Hall since November 2015. It is a sit-down meal consisting of salad, entree, and dessert. We serve a varied menu but make sure that we have gluten free and vegetarian options at every meal. Volunteers plan, shop, setup, clean up, prepare, and serve the meal. After dinner, 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.

#### **Sharing Our Gifts**

If you are mailing a pledge or a donation, here is the information:

<u>Pledges</u>: Attn: Pledge Secretary PO Box 215 Stow, MA 01775 Donations: Attn: Treasurer 353 Great Rd Stow, MA 01775

# Announcements

# Stewardship Campaign

At this time of thanksgiving we are especially grateful for are all the things this wonderful community provides for us: spiritual enrichment, encouragement, joy, and support during times of crisis. In preparation for sustaining this community, its programs, staff, and building, the Stewardship committee is starting its campaign today. We are asking you to please join us in making a financial commitment to FPC with a stewardship pledge. This will impact next year's budget. Here's how to pledge:

You may pledge online – it's easy and secure. Use this link...

https://fpc-stowacton.org/pledge

... or scan the QR code...

... or fill out a pledge card at the Stewardship Table during coffee hour. You can also ask a member of our team to discuss your pledge.

Thank you for your generosity! - The FPC Stewardship Team: Andy Derr, Sharon Brownfield, Carole Feldhusen, Russ Hart, and Rick Gentilman

# Annual Holiday Gift Drive

Once again, FPC will be fulfilling the holiday wishes of the guests What better way to celebrate the holidays than to make them special for someone else?

The Gift Drive wraps up on Friday and we still

have many gifts left to be claimed. Imagine the joy in your heart knowing that you have fulfilled the holiday wishes of a woman, child, or man fleeing domestic violence at one of two shelters: Renewal House and Voices Against Violence. We've always found that giving joy multiplies well beyond the recipient, and who couldn't use a little joy these days?







All gift requests can be viewed on the FPC website where you can find a history of the gift drive and a Signup Genius link for claiming gifts - <u>https://fpc-stow-acton.org</u> - or go directly to SignupGenius using the QR code or this link -

SignUpGenius

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49A5A82DABFEC34-52843975-2024#/

We are off to a great start, but there are over 160 gifts left to claim. Make sure to peruse the entire list!

Here are a few helpful SignUpGenius hints:

- The list of gifts is long, and the recipients at the end are always the last to get selected. Take a minute to scroll through the entire list before making your choice.
- After you select your gift(s), makes sure to go to the bottom of the SignUpGenius list and hit "submit."
- When you receive a <u>confirmation notice from SignUpGenius</u>, please print <u>it out and save it</u>. It contains the name and shelter of your gift recipient(s), which will need to be attached to each gift when you turn it in. Also <u>attach</u> <u>a receipt for the gift if you have it</u>.

If you purchase a gift card for a recipient, please place it in an envelope with the recipient's name and shelter before you turn it in.

All gifts, unwrapped, need to be returned to the FPC Atrium on Friday, December 6, 3-6 p.m., or Saturday, December 7, 10 a.m. -1 p.m. If you have any questions If you have any questions, contact Carolyn Zettler at (978) 793-0638, Marcia Rising at (978) 273-1637, or our team of elves at <u>gift-drive@fpc-stow-</u> <u>acton.org</u>. Keep your eye out for announcements about our progress in securing gifts throughout the signup period. And thank you for your generosity!