

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

Brendon Chetwynd
President

Meg Rivers-Wright
Administration, Membership,
Publicity

Justin Marble
Nursery Care Coordinator

Trisha Guditz
Vice President

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 fpc-stow-acton.org and on Facebook.

Prayer or Meditation

“Shantideva Prayer”
Shantideva

*** Hymn**

“Holy and Divine”
Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich

A ♩ = 120
Repeat as chant , **B**

Lean in I love_ you Once a - gain I love_ you Now and
al - ways I love_ you Your lives are ho - ly and di - vine. Lean

*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.

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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*

Returning

* Hymn

"Sanctuary"

Words: Dave Ruffin

Music: Randy Scruggs & John Thompson

Make us a - ware we are a sanc-tu - a - ry Each made ho - ly, loved right

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 7/8 time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes.

through With thanks-giv-ing, we are a liv-ing Sanc-tu - a - ry a - new.

The second system of musical notation continues from the first. It features two staves in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of one sharp and a 7/8 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes.

* 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"

Trevor Berens, organ

BWV 1095, JS Bach

Greet Your Neighbor

* Please rise in body or in spirit

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:

♥ **Watch these pages** for information about fall & winter Newcomer Coffees to meet the

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

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

♥ **Subscribe to our e-newsletters and email groups**

♥ **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



Subscribe to
E-Newsletters

Today at FPC

- 10-11am Service, Sanctuary & online
- 11am-12pm Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall

Religious Education News

Sunday, Dec. 1st - *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:

Pledges:

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 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-stow-acton.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?



Voices Against Violence





SignUpGenius

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 - <https://fpc-stow-acton.org> - or go directly to SignupGenius using the QR code or this link -

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49A5A82DABFEC34-52843975-2024#/
/](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), make sure to go to the bottom of the SignUpGenius list and hit "submit."
- ❖ When you receive a confirmation notice from SignUpGenius, please print it out and save it. 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 attach a receipt for the gift if you have it.

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 gift-drive@fpc-stow-acton.org. Keep your eye out for announcements about our progress in securing gifts throughout the sign-up period. And thank you for your generosity!