

**FIRST PARISH
CHURCH
OF STOW & ACTON**
Unitarian Universalist



Sunday, January 5, 2025

Love and I Had the Wit to Win

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

Rev. Paul Langston-Daley
Sabbatical Minister
for January

Meg Rivers-Wright
Administration, Publicity,
Membership

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
Director of Religious Education

Chris Hossfeld
Music Director

Trevor Berens
Accompanist

Justin Marble
Nursery Care Coordinator

Felix Freeman
Tech Assistant

Mike Silkonis
Sexton

Brendon Chetwynd
President

Trisha Guditz
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.*

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.

January 5, 2025: 10:00

Gathering

Prelude

“Ach Gott von Himmel, sieh darein”
Johann Pachelbel

Trevor Berens,
organ

Welcome and Announcements

Small Group Ministry

Opening Words

“Outwitted”
by Edwin Markham

He drew a circle that shut me out –
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But Love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle that took him in!

Chalice Lighting

* **Hymn #361**

“Enter, Rejoice and Come In”

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

June McKnight, Worship Committee

Time for All Ages

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
Director of Religious Education

Going Forth With the Light

Congregation sings

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

* *Please rise in body or in spirit*

Joys and Sorrows

Ann Sadler, Lay Minister

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.

Prayer or Meditation

Rev. Nannene Gowdy

* Hymn #95

"There is More Love Somewhere"

Exploring

Reading

Plate Sharing Introduction

Ann Wickham

Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share our weekly offering with the **Supporting Asylum Seekers Task Force**. You may donate by check made out to First Parish Church, at fpc-stow-acton.org/donate, or text (978) 310-3309.

Offering

Improvisation

Trevor Berens, piano

Sermon

"Love and I Had the Wit to Win"

Rev. Nannene Gowdy

Returning

* Hymn #131

"Love Will Guide Us"

* 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

"Mid-Winter"

Trevor Berens, piano

Edward MacDowell

Greet Your Neighbor



Thank you to:

Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host

Marcia Rising and Carolyn Zettler, Ushers

Brendon Chetwynd, Kirsten Chetwynd, & Steve Evans, Coffee Hosts ♥

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

Religious Education - *Time for All Ages* during the worship service, after which we will head to the Community Room to begin learning more about the Baha'i Faith or choose a station.

11am-12pm Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall: Last Sunday to donate vitamins, toothpaste & photos for the Southeast India Project.

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

Small Group Ministry Registration is Open for 2025!

This January we are enrolling people for new Small Group Ministry groups for a new year which will start meeting in February.

Many of you have already participated in Small Group Ministry. We hope you'll decide to re-enroll, and we welcome you back to the same group or a new one - We encourage trying out new groups as a way to get to know more people and build connections with a larger community.

In addition, this year we're opening SGM to both FPC and UCMH (Marlboro-Hudson). We hope this gives a special way for our communities to get to know each other better, and we hope many of our new members and friends will give it a try. You do not have to be a church member to participate in SGM. It's an excellent way to build connections with other people and between our churches.

What is Small Group Ministry (SGM)?

SGM is a network of small groups of 8-10, led by a trained facilitator, who meet for two hours monthly for one year. SGM has a dual purpose, which has been described as *Intimacy and Ultimacy* - to promote the spiritual growth of the participants and to strengthen the connections between members.

Each meeting has a chalice-lighting, general check-in, reading a brief topic and then members optionally share their own experiences, thoughts and feelings about the subject. Past topics included Taking Care of Ourselves, Connections, Our Parents, Home, and Taking Risks. In addition, each group covenants to perform one service project.

REGISTRATION: Please register by **January 19, 2025:**

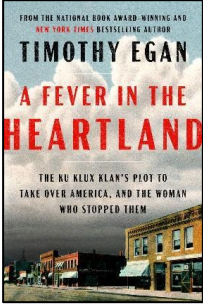
* online at <http://fpc-stow-acton.org/sgm>

* email Karen Kinnear at sgm@fpc-stow-acton.org

* Fill out a printed registration form in your current SGM session or at coffee hour in January and hand it to an SGM Facilitator.

We need some additional facilitators this year. If you would like to find out what that entails, please indicate that on the bottom of your registration form and Karen Kinnear will get in touch with you. We'll provide a short training for new facilitators. Our goal is to have every group have two co-facilitators.

FPC Book Group Wed 1/8, 7-8 pm on Zoom



A Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them by Timothy Egan

"With narrative elan, Egan gives us a riveting saga of how a predatory con man became one of the most powerful people in 1920s America, Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan, with a plan to rule the country – and how a grisly murder of a woman brought him down. Compelling and chillingly resonant with our own time." – Erik Larson, author of *The Splendid and the Vile*

Please email Sharon Brownfield sharonbrownfield@gmail.com for the link.

Meet and Greet (tentative) w/Rev. Paul Langston-Daley

Thu, 1/9, 5:30-6:45 pm, Fellowship Hall

Brown bag dinner; coffee and tea. Details to come in FPC Announce.

Friday Friends Fri 1/10, 6:30-8:30pm. Meet in Vestry. This week we will be working on New Year's activities. This event is open to the public.

Guest Table Fri, 1/10, 5:30-6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Free yourself from cooking at our free community dinner

Doors open 5 PM ~ Dinner starts 5:30 ~ All are Welcome ~ No Charge!

Menu: Salad, Frittata, Roasted potatoes, Desert

Vegetarian, gluten-free, and dairy-free options available. All meals nut-free.

Next Sunday

January 12, 10 am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone-

“Communities of Resistance and Resilience” - Rev. Laura Randall - Authoritarian regimes depend on making people feel alone and powerless. The truth is that we have incredible collective power through communities of resistance, resilience, and mutual aid. Rev. Laura Randall from the UU Service Committee shares stories about UUSC partners such as the Pink Haven Coalition, which, with the support of UUSC members, is ensuring that our trans, 2spirit, and gender-expansive kin can survive and thrive. See service descriptions on our website for Rev. Randall's bio:

www.fpc-stow-acton.org/services

Elder Care/Memory Care Support Group 11am -12:30pm, Parlor

Are you or your family approaching, dealing with, or recovering from an elder/memory care crisis? It's exhausting and draining. There are all kinds of legal, financial, and caregiving or care-finding challenges. It can be overwhelming and lonely. And that's not to mention the *grief*. Join us for the FPC Peer-to-Peer Support Group for anyone dealing with elder/memory care issues for a loved one. We're here to support each other on this difficult journey and share resources.

DrUUm and Dance Circle 6:45-8:45 pm, Fellowship Hall

Come and drum! A collaborative venture between FPC and UCMH, the **drUUm-&-dance circle** meets on **Second Sundays**. Bring your joy and your open heart and join us for an evening of hand drumming and dancing around the "fire" circle. Facilitated by experienced drummers/dancers Jim



Flavin and Nan Rogers, we'll circle up to experiment with various types of instruments and sustained rhythm sessions and see what we create together. Let's gather in sacred and healing community to lower our stress levels, plug into the energy, and raise some good vibes! *Drummers and dancers of all abilities are welcome; please bring your own drums, and we will have a few drums and other percussion instruments available to borrow. Questions? Contact Nan at nandancing@comcast.net.*

January Plate Sharing

Supporting Asylum Seekers - The SAS works to support asylum seekers and refugees who seek a safe home in our surrounding communities.

We help asylum seekers to...

- learn English
- write resumes
- find jobs
- navigate the medical system
- learn to ride a bike or the bus
- obtain a driver's license, housing, and health insurance

We provide them with...

- rides to medical appointments & job interviews
- legal fees for asylum cases
- political advocacy
- temporary food and housing in a hotel if they are waiting for MA Emergency Family System support

During this time of threats of mass deportations of immigrants, FPC is proud to have a task force working directly with immigrants. Over the past year and a half, we have lobbied for the successful passage of the driver's license law, supported numerous families seeking asylum in the greater Stow area, and worked with a seven-church partnership and a family in Lowell MA, and with the Acton Boxborough United Way. Please support this important work in the weekly plate share during January, and stop by our table during coffee hour on January 5th to learn more about our families and the work we do.

Upcoming Events

Line Dancing and Potluck Dinner Sat 1/25, 5:30 pm & 7-8:30 pm, Hall

Join family and friends at FPC for a chill-busting Arts Committee-sponsored evening of Dinner and Line Dancing led by the incomparable Paul Hughes! This will be a family-friendly event, open to all ability levels and friends from the community. Admission is free but please consider a small donation to help us pay for our teacher/caller. Potluck begins at 5:30, dancing from 7-8:30.



High Tea at the New Revival Coffeehouse Sat 2/1, 7:30 pm, Hall



High Tea is a Massachusetts-based "y'alternative" folk-punk duo with a unique blend of soulful harmonies and powerful guitar riffs. Doors open at 7:00 and the concert starts at 7:30. Tickets are \$20 via [Eventbrite](#) and \$25 at the door.

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