

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



Sunday, January 19, 2025

Strengthening Democracy: The Power of the Civic Sphere

**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 19, 2025: 10:00 a.m.

Gathering

Prelude “Was mein Gott will, das gescheh’ allzeit” Trevor Berens,
Johann Pachelbel organ

Welcome & Announcements John Kendrick,
Small Group Ministry Facilitator

Greet Your Neighbor

Introit “January: Listen Stillness” FPC Choir
Catherine Young Chris Hossfeld,
Music Director

Listen, stillness January time.
Light grows; firs in rime.
Listen; garden white.
January sings, blossoming light.

Opening Words from Thomas Merton Rev. Paul Langston-Daley

Chalice Lighting words by Vanessa Titang

* **Hymn #323** “Break Not the Circle”

Centering

* **Covenant and Affirmation**

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| Love is the spirit of this church, and service its law. | From all that dwell below the skies let words of love and peace arise. |
| This is our great covenant: To dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another. | Let joyful songs of praise be sung. through every land, by every tongue. |

Land Acknowledgement Nancy Maldari, Worship Committee

Time for All Ages *Yertle the Turtle*
Dr. Seuss

* *Please rise in body or in spirit*

Joys and Sorrows

Hector Constantzos, 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

“A Charm for Hope”

Julian Jamaica Soto

* Hymn #155

“Circle Round for Freedom”

Exploring

Reading

“The Voluntary Associations of James Luther Adams”

UUA Leader Resource

Plate Sharing Testimony Introduction

Susie O’Brien, SAS

Testimony

Francio Joseph

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.

Anthem

“Like a Mighty Stream”

FPC Choir

Moses Hogan and John Jacobson

Trevor Berens, piano

Lift every voice and let us sing!
In every song let freedom ring!
From every soul comes a noble dream—
Let justice roll like a mighty stream.

Oh, every trial we’ll overcome,
When every child beneath the sun,
And every soul shall live as one.
The noble dream has just begun!

Like a mighty stream.
Let justice roll like a mighty stream.

Like a mighty stream.
Let justice roll like a mighty stream.

Sermon “Strengthening Democracy: The Power of the Civic Sphere”

Rev. Paul Langston-Daley

Returning

* Hymn #1028

“The Fire of Commitment”

* Benediction

from Octavia Butler

* 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

"America the Beautiful" Trevor Berens, piano
music by Samuel A. Ward, arr. Jonny May

Greet Your Neighbor

Thank you:

Kim Kinnear, **Zoom Host**
Rebecca and John MacNeill, **Ushers**
Joshua Ledwell, **Coffee Host**
Our staff and leadership



To our visitors, thank you for coming! ♥

We hope you found what you're looking for and that you'll return.

Here's how to keep connecting with our people and programs:

- Fill out a Visitor Card in your pew or online (QR code)
- Watch these pages for newcomer events:
 - **Newcomer Coffees** - Meet the minister and other newcomers
 - **UU Journey classes** - Learn about UU history, spirituality, mission, and traditions
- Check out our website, www.fpc-stow-acton.org
There is so much happening at FPC! Our homepage and "Church Life" tab detail our events and programs.
- Subscribe to our e-newsletters & email groups (QR code)



* Please rise in body or in spirit

Today at FPC

10 am Religious Education - The children will begin in the Community Room for Chapel and remain there for more learning on the Baha'i Faith and stations. Coming of Age class meets in the Youth Room.

Next Sunday, Jan 26 - *Time for All Ages* during the worship service, after which we'll head to the Community Room for our stations and our continued learning about the Baha'i Faith.

11 am Coffee Hour Fellowship Hall

- Small Group Ministry Registration
- Stewardship table

12 pm Spiritual Conversations through Poetry Zoom

Join Elizabeth Cobblah and Hector Constantzos online to engage with others through the sharing of a poem. Hear it, read it, see how you respond to it. Such conversations were inspired by, amongst others, our beloved Ilene Rudman. They have been going on at FPC for over a decade. We sincerely hope you will join us in this deeply satisfying time of connection. Contact one of us to attend: ecobblah@fenn.org or Hconstantzos@gmail.com.

This Week at FPC

Board of Trustees Meeting Tues, 1/21, 7-9pm, Fellowship Hall

Line Dancing and Potluck Dinner Sat 1/25, 5:30-8:30 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! 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.

Line Dancing
& POTLUCK DINNER



Upcoming

Next Sunday's Service 1/26, 10 am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone-
"World Religions Series: Bahá'í Faith" - Our world religions series continues with guest speaker, Frank Robinson, Jr., a member of the Regional Bahá'í Council of the Northeastern States.

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:

- On sale at coffee hour on January 19 and 26, \$20 with no processing fee
- Online in advance at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) for \$20
- \$25 at the door



Announcements

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 asylum seekers 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.

Small Group Ministry Registration

SGM Registration **DEADLINE EXTENDED** to Sunday January 26

We welcome new and returning folks as we create new groups of 8-11 people. We meet 2 hours monthly starting in February for a facilitated discussion with the goal of getting to know ourselves and each other more closely. No preparation needed.

We hope you will give it a try. Feel free to invite a friend. Church membership not required.

Register online by Sunday, January 26 at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/sgm>
For questions or to register on paper - visit the SGM coffee hour table or contact Karen Kinnear, SGM facilitator, sgm@fpc-stow-acton.org.

Stewardship

With the new year usually comes resolutions - things we want to accomplish and do in the coming year. We ask that one of those resolutions be to complete your pledge to FPC for the next fiscal year. A big thank you to the 49% of those who have pledged already that will help the Board budget and planning for the coming fiscal year. If you haven't pledged already, consider doing so now to ensure that the programs, services, music you love and the community you depend on is maintain for now and in the future. Here are several ways how:

- 1) Pledge Online (easy and secure) <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/pledge>
- 2) Scan the QR code
- 3) Fill out a pledge card at the Stewardship Table during coffee hour.



In deep appreciation,

Your Stewardship Team (Andy Derr, Sharon Brownfield, Rick Gentilman, Carole Feldhusen and Russ Hart)

FPC Spring Auction Needs You!

On March 29, FPC's Live Auction-- part of our biggest annual fundraiser-- will be held with a *Wizard of Oz* theme. A lot of planning and help is needed to make this a fun, exciting, and successful event. Please come join the effort by signing up for one of the various subcommittees. These subcommittees are especially in need of help:



Food: What's a party without food? We have well-developed ideas for crowd-pleasing donations to keep auction goes happy and well-fed, but we need help coordinating food donations and food service at the live auction to make it a success!

Business Donations: Contact businesses in Maynard, Acton, Hudson, and Stow for donations. We have a list of businesses who have donated in the past as well as a letter with the details they would need.

Decorations: Need your creativity. Craft skills a plus. Goal is to transform the facility to match the theme.

If you want to be part of a subcommittee, or can help out with small tasks, we can find ways to suit your schedule and interests. Please contact one of us: Sue Stewart (dnasue@gmail.com), Susan Avery (susan.avery@verizon.net), or Sharon Brownfield (sharonbrownfield@gmail.com).

Let the magic begin!!!

- Auction Steering Committee

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

