

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



Sunday, February 9, 2025
So, Now What?!

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

Rev. Susan Suchoki Brown
Sabbatical
Minister

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.

February 9, 2025 • 10:00 a.m.

Gathering

Prelude	“Meditation (Improvisation)”	Trevor Berens, piano
Welcome & Announcements		Meg Rivers-Wright Welcoming and Membership
Opening Words	“Weavers of One Story” Leah Ongiri	Lisa Fagerstrom
Chalice Lighting	“We Kindle this Light in Honor of Hope” Rami M. Shapiro	Lisa Fagerstrom Meg Rivers-Wright
Opening Hymn #389	“Gathered Here”	Trevor Berens, piano and voice

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 Chair

A Time for All Ages

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson,
Director of Religious Education

Joys and Sorrows

Ingrid Holcomb

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.

Meditation/Prayer

“Hug the Prayer”
Jennifer Pratt-Walter

Lisa Fagerstrom

Exploring

Hymn #1031 “May I Be Filled with Loving Kindness” Trevor Berens,
piano and voice

Reading “The Spirit of Life Is Here” Lisa Fagerstrom
Rebekah Savage

Sharing Our Gifts

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

Anthem “Your Labor Is Not in Vain” Chris Hossfeld,
piano and voice

Your labor is not in vain
Though the ground underneath you
is cursed and stained
Your planting and reaping are
never the same
But your labor is not in vain

Your labor is not unknown
Though the rocks they cry out
and the sea it may groan
The place of your toil may not seem
like a home
But your labor is not unknown

Chorus:

I am with you, I am with you
I am with you, I am with you
For I have called you, called you by name
Your labor is not in vain

The vineyards you plant will bear fruit
The fields will sing out and rejoice
with the truth
For all that is old will at last be made new
The vineyards you plant will be bear fruit

Chorus

The houses you labor to build
Will finally with laughter and joy be filled
The serpent that hurts and destroys
will be killed
And all that is broken be healed

Chorus

Sermon “So, Now What?” Lisa Fagerstrom

Returning

Closing Hymn

“Lead with Love”
Melanie DeMore

Trevor Berens,
piano and voice

* Benediction

“Be a Branch of the Tree of Life”

Lisa Fagerstrom
Norman V. Naylor

* 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

Trevor Berens, piano

Greet Your Neighbor

Thank you to:

Kim Kinnear, **Zoom Host**
Rick Lent and helpers, **Ushers**
Kirsten Chetwynd, **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)



Announcements

February Plate Share: UU Urban Ministry

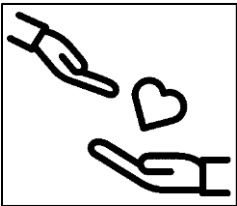
The UU Urban Ministry (UUUM) is a UU-based organization in Roxbury whose mission is to "work across race and place to dismantle racism and white supremacy culture, as well as to advance racial, economic, and social justice." UUUM's vision is "a Greater Boston where all people live with freedom and dignity and have equitable access to resources and opportunity to shape the present and the future."



Founded 200 years ago by Rev. Joseph Tuckerman, today the UUUM focuses on providing services directly to the local community. This includes safe shelters and workforce development programming for survivors of domestic violence, specifically Renewal House. It also includes academic enrichment programs for youths of color through their Roxbury Youth Programs. And UUUM provides programming for various arts and humanities grounded in a social justice message, including providing exhibits of local artists' works. FPC is part of a group of over 40 local congregations who support the UUUM in its ministry.

Stewardship

The Importance of Securing the Future of FPC through Pledging



As we approach this year of uncertainty, we find ourselves needing and looking to our community to sustain us and bring us joy - this community which helps us foster connections, celebrate our talents, educate our children, and nurture our souls. Collectively we bring joy and hope to others through our outreach.

This community not only thrives by your time and talent but also your treasure. If you have pledged already, thank you for your generosity. If you haven't yet, please consider doing so as soon as possible. Your pledge is critical for supporting FPC's programs, activities, and staff.



Please consider joining with the Stewardship Committee and the Board of Trustees in making a generous pledge. Both groups increased their pledges by 5%. Here are three ways you can pledge:



- 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.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee and the Board of Trustees

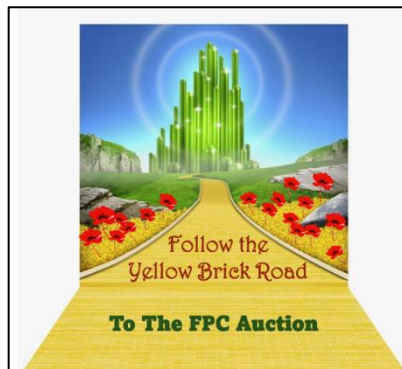
FPC Spring Auction Needs You!

Auction Time – Donations to FPC Emerald City.

Date: March 29th 6:30 -9:30 pm

Join in FPC’s biggest fundraiser - we need your help to make it a success.

Donations Needed!!! More donations make an exciting auction. **What can you donate?**



Physical item: A painting, baked goods, homemade maple syrup? Tickets to a concert. Offer a week at your vacation home. Let someone borrow your kayak! Unique hand-crafted items.

Services: host an event, offer lessons, loans of sporting equipment...all are popular and in demand. Open your home to a dinner for six or eight winners. Plan a picnic by a lake. Home fix-it services, or a cocktail party.

Gift Card Donations: You can purchase a gift card at one of your favorite businesses. Sign up at coffee hour. Note: an online sign-up will be available shortly.

There is no shortage of ideas. You can also partner with someone else to come up with an event. Sign up at coffee hour. Note: A donation form will be available shortly.

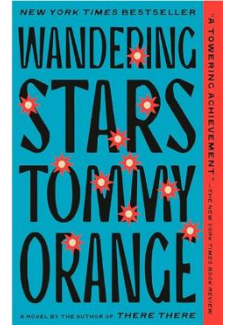
Coming soon - A volunteer and food donation sign up. Questions? Ask your anyone on the Action Steering Committee auktion@fpc-stow-acton.org

This Week at FPC

Book Group Wed, 2/12, 7-8pm on Zoom

Wandering Stars by Tommy Orange. Email Sharon Brownfield at sharonbrownfield@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

"For the sake of knowing, of understanding, *Wandering Stars* blew my heart into a thousand pieces and put it all back together again. This is a masterwork that will not be forgotten, a masterwork that will forever be part of you." –Morgan Talty, bestselling author of *Night of the Living Rez*



Guest Table Fri, 2/14, 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!

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

SPECIAL NOTE: A special call for extra volunteers!!! A few of our regular volunteers flew south for the winter, or north for skiing, or west for the vineyards, or east for Europe-ing. We could really use more help this time around! Click [here](#) to sign up.

Game Night, Fri, 2/14, 7-9 pm, Fellowship Hall

Led by Chip Beauvais. All are welcome. Feel free to bring a game or join in and play one of ours!



Next Sunday's Service: 2/16, 10 am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone-

"The Vulnerabilities and Challenges of a Thriving Life and Love"

- Rev. Susan Suchoki Brown - Our Sabbatical Minister will be getting to know the congregation and sharing some of her recent learnings about living, loving, thriving, and surviving. Rev. Susan Suchoki Brown has been part of the UU Trauma Response Ministry for years. She served as the fire department chaplain in Leominster for many years where she was also minister of the UU church and has served on the Ministerial Fellowship Committee and in many other UUA volunteer roles.

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](mailto:music@fpc-stow-acton.org)**

Fri. 1PM

**Bridge Playing in
the Community
Room**



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