

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



Sunday, February 23, 2025
World Religion Series: Hinduism

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

Rev. Susan Suchocki 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

Joe Stadolnik
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 23, 2025: 10:00

Gathering

Prelude "Om Jai Jagdish Hare" Trevor Berens, piano
trad. Hindu hymn, arr. Sivabruntha Visvanathan

Welcome and Announcements Meg Rivers-Wright
Parish Administration and Membership

Introit "February: Winter will ease" FPC Choir
Catherine Young Chris Hossfeld,
Music Director

Crystal icicles sparkling in the sun
will melt and run, will melt and run.
February thaw and freeze,
winter will ease, winter will ease.
What! What! What! What! What! sings the cardinal
we seek Cheer! Cheer! Cheer!
Chickadee, Chickadee flits tree to tree
in the February cold of the year.

Opening Words Deepika Prakash

Chalice Lighting Diya Lighting Prayer

* **Hymn #22** "Dear Weaver of Our Lives' Design"

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.

* *Please rise in body or in spirit*

Land Acknowledgement

Shana D. Garr, Worship Host

Time for All Ages

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
Director of Religious Education

Going Forth with the Light

Congregation Sings

“Our Love Surrounds You”

Chris Hossfeld

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

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/Meditation

“Gayatri Mantra -Rigveda”

Deepika Prakash

* Hymn #1012

“When I Am Frightened”

Exploring

Reading

Bhagwad Gita - Chapter 2 Verse 47

Sharing Our Gifts

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

If you are mailing a pledge or a donation, please mail to:

Pledges:

Attn: Pledge Secretary
PO Box 215
Stow, MA 01775

Donations:

Attn: Treasurer
353 Great Rd
Stow, MA 01775

Anthem

“I Know I Can”
 Dennis Hamilton
 Jeannie Gagné

FPC Choir
 Chris Hossfeld, Director
 Trevor Berens, piano

Though days be dark with storms
 And burdens weigh my heart;
 Though troubles wait at every turn,
 I know I can go on.

When sorrow heals my soul
 And burdens make me strong,
 Though troubles wait at every turn,
 I know I can go on.

My sister in my heart,
 My brother in my song,

Though troubles wait at every turn,
 I know I can go on.

And though the journey is long,
 The destination is near,
 Though troubles wait at every turn,
 I know I can go on.

So brothers take my hand,
 And sisters sing my song,
 When hope awaits at every turn,
 I know we will go on.

Sermon

“Hinduism - A Philosophy - A Way of Life” Deepika Prakash

Returning

* **Hymn #311**

“Let it Be a Dance”

* **Benediction**

Kalyana Mantra

Kalyana Mantra

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

“Not While I’m Around”
 Stephen Sondheim, arr. Fred Hersch

Trevor Berens, piano

Thank you to:

Kim Kinnear, **Zoom Host**
 Rebecca and John MacNeill, **Ushers**
 Kate Hart, **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)



Today at FPC

Religious Education - *Time for All Ages* during the worship service, after which we will head to the Community Room. We had to move our Share the Love Activities to today because of the snow and ice of the past two Sundays, so our RE group will be doing two activities during service. One will be on display later on in the Vestry (which the RE Committee has been renovating). The other will be shared with all of you during coffee hour. I hope you will come and share some love with us!

11am-12pm Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall: Stewardship Table

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



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:



SCAN ME

- 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!

In the midst of the snowstorms and freezing weather, one thing you can do at home is donate to FPC's Wizard of Oz Auction Party.

Use your creativity on a physical item like a painting.

Loan something like a canoe or kayak.

Lend your skills and expertise

- homemade baked goods
- unique handcrafted items
- yard work or handy person fix

Tickets to events are also popular!

Leverage an opportunity to connect with other FPCers through a dinner or picnic by a lake or combining an event with others such as a garden party or storytelling.

Buy a gift card to one of your favorite places. Gift card donation sign up is coming soon.

Ideas are limitless. **Use the QR code to find the Donation Form** or sign up at coffee hour.

Remember: FPC Wizard of Oz Auction Party will be **March 29th 6:30-9pm** with an online auction starting **March 23rd**. Mark your calendars. Childcare will be provided. You don't want to miss the event.

Curious about the auction? Look for the green jewels and stop by the **Auction table** at coffee hour on Sundays.



This Week at FPC

Parish Jazz Band Rehearsal Mon 2/24, 7-9pm, Sanctuary

Please contact Michael Paladini mwpaladini@gmail.com for more information.

RJTF Drop-in Session Tue 2/25, 7-8 pm, Zoom

Tending Our Flame: St. Brigid & the Light Within Sat 3/1, 10am-12pm

Fellowship Hall: A musical-mystical workshop inspired by St. Brigid of Kildare, Ireland, crafted to help us kindle our inner fire during the coldest time of the year. Led by Allison Mondel, teaching artist and director of Eya Medieval Music, this experience weaves together story, contemplation, and rare medieval chant from Ireland. Together, we will explore how St. Brigid's wisdom can illuminate and rekindle our inner flame, empowering us to radiate this light into our life, art, and work. Through mindful vocal practices, sacred chant, and guided contemplation, participants connect their voice to the radiant source within.



Tending Our Flame

This event is free and open to the public. All are welcome to attend! Registration is requested, using the link below or QR code.

REGISTER HERE:

<https://fpcosna.breezechms.com/form/tending-our-flame>

Questions? Please contact Chris Hossfeld at music@fpc-stow-acton.org.

Next Sunday's Service: Sun 3/2, 10 am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone

"Family Music Sunday: Songs from Disney's *Encanto*" - Chris Hossfeld, Music Director - The whole family is invited to join the FPC Choir and RE program in presenting music from the hit Disney animated feature, *Encanto*. This Sunday morning service will explore the themes of love, family, and supporting each other as we develop our unique gifts. And yes, we *will* talk about Bruno! All are welcome! Please note that this service will be broadcast on Zoom as usual but *not* recorded and posted later on our YouTube channel.