

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

*Unitarian Universalist*



Sunday, April 13, 2025  
*A Journey from Darkness to Faith*

**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

**Felix Freeman**  
Tech Assistant

**Mike Silkonis**  
Sexton

**Brendon Chetwynd**  
President

**Trisha Guditiz**  
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](http://fpc-stow-acton.org) and on Facebook.

**April 13, 2025: 10:00 a.m.**

**Gathering**

<b>Prelude</b>	"Adagio Cantabile" Nathaniel Dett	Trevor Berens Accompanist
<b>Welcome &amp; Announcements</b>		Meg Rivers-Wright Administration & Membership
<b>Stewardship Drive</b>		Sharon Brownfield & Andy Derr
<b>Opening Words</b>	by Ilhan Omar	
<b>Chalice Lighting</b>	words by James Baldwin	
<b>* Hymn #131</b>	"Love Will Guide Us"	

**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.
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<b>Land Acknowledgement</b>	Shana Garr, worship committee
<b>A Time for All Ages</b>	Anela Kruščica, Amy Osenar
<b>Going Forth With the Light</b>	Chris Hossfeld Congregation Sings
Our love surrounds you. Here joy has found you. Let hope abound freely. Go in peace!	

<b>Joys and Sorrows</b>	Kate Hart, 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 <a href="mailto:caring@fpc-stow-acton.org">caring@fpc-stow-acton.org</a> .	

<b>Meditation</b>	Hymn #1009: "Meditation on Breathing"
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*\* Please rise in body or in spirit*

## **Exploring**

**Reading**

by Leslie Takahashi

Amy Osenar

**Introduction to April Plate Share**

Russ Hart, Southeast India Project

**Sharing Our Gifts**

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

**Anthem**

“Between Darkness and Light”

FPC Choir

Manal Hrieb

Chris Hossfeld

and Daphna Rosenberg

Music Director

*Sung in Hebrew, Arabic, and English:*

Between darkness and light I will always walk; and wherever I will go,  
I will open a window of light, and will plant the seeds of love.

**Sermon**

“A Journey from Darkness to Faith”

Anela Kruščica

## **Returning**

**\* Hymn #108**

“My Life Flows on in Endless Song”

**\* Benediction**

Words by Ramiza Gurdić

**\* 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 'til we meet again.

**Postlude**

“Le Crépuscule”  
George W. Chadwick

Trevor Berens

**Greet Your Neighbor**

\* \* \*

*Thank you to:*  
Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host  
Jamison House, Rick Lent, Ushers  
Kevin and Susan O'Brien, Steve Evans, Coffee Hosts ♥  
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](http://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)



Visitor Card



E-Newsletters

## **Today at FPC**

**Religious Education** The young people will begin in the Sanctuary. After a *Time for All Ages*, they will depart to the Community Room for Religious Education.

**Next Sunday, April 20**- Easter - The young people will begin in the Sanctuary and then after *A Time for All Ages*, head out to the front lawn for an Easter Egg Hunt. We will also have a bonnet and hat contest, so please come with your fanciest or silliest hats or bonnets!

### **First Grounds Work Party of Spring** POSTPONED

While it may be spring...it doesn't look like gardening weather. We will postpone our garden clean-up a couple weeks....until after Ferry Beach. Look for an update for May 3/4. - Ellen and Rick 🌱

### **Elder Care/Memory Care Support Group** 4/13, 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** 4/13, 6:45-9 pm, Fellowship Hall

A collaborative venture between FPC and UCMH, **the drUUm-&-dance circle** meets on **Second Sundays** at FPC. 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.*

## **Announcements**

### **Stewardship Drive**



It is with deep appreciation and gratitude that the stewardship committee thanks all the members and friends who have made pledges to FPC for the next year's budget. We received \$362,969 in pledges. The pledges help the Board as it plans next year's budget

which will be presented at the annual meeting. Your continued support is critical to the maintenance and growth of our community, programs and staff.

## **Lead a Summer Service**

The Worship Committee has started the planning process for this year's lay-led summer services, which will begin on June 15th and end on September 7th. If you are interested in leading one of these services, please let us know what you have in mind. We will assign a worship host, who will help you with the process.

Please send your request by May 1st to [junebmcknight@yahoo.com](mailto:junebmcknight@yahoo.com) or call me at 978-844-3214. We look forward to hearing from you!

Your Worship Committee - June McKnight (Chair), Susan Avery, Lindsay LaPointe, Ann Wickham, Shana Garr, Nancy Maldari

**2025**

JUNE						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

JULY						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
7						

## **This Week**

**Parish Jazz Band Rehearsal** Mon, 4/14, 7-9pm, Sanctuary

Please contact Michael Paladini [mwpaladini@gmail.com](mailto:mwpaladini@gmail.com) for more information.

**Ukulele Meet-up** Wed 4/16, 7-9pm, Community Room

FPC hosts monthly ukulele gatherings for ukulele players wanting to practice with other players. All levels are invited to come and play! Beginners are welcome! We have extra ukes for anyone who'd like to try them out. Contact Pat Sorn for more information: [psorn@mailstarusa.com](mailto:psorn@mailstarusa.com).

# Upcoming

**Ferry Beach Retreat** Fri 4/25 - Sun 4/27 (last wknd of April school vacation)

Calling all interested in a weekend of community and fun on the Maine Coast.

Our annual church retreat takes place at Ferry Beach Retreat and Conference Center in Saco, Maine - about a two hour drive from FPC. The center is right on the beach and is surrounded by the Ferry Beach State Park.

During our weekend we share the campus with the UU church of Greater Lynn and often share activities and a Sunday service.

Check-in after 4pm Friday and check-out by 10am Sunday, but we can stay on campus until 2pm. On Friday night folks eat out at various local restaurants on their way to Ferry Beach or in the surrounding area. Four meals are provided by Ferry Beach from Saturday breakfast through Sunday breakfast.

Accommodation is in dorm-type rooms in Quillen and Underwood (Lynn uses Rowland) or private cabins, some of which are accessible. The rooms have been upgraded over recent years with better beds and there is a choice of arrangements, as you will see on the booking form.

FPC has been coming to Ferry Beach for a number of years and we always enjoy being in community in this beautiful location, whatever the weather! Depending on volunteers, we usually offer a schedule of activities and workshops over the weekend.

<b>More information about conference center:</b> <a href="https://www.ferrybeach.org">https://www.ferrybeach.org</a>	<b>Sign up for the retreat:</b>  Ferry Beach Registration
<b>Volunteer to help with activities:</b> <a href="mailto:jledwell@gmail.com">jledwell@gmail.com</a>	<b>Questions:</b> Margaret Tucker, <a href="mailto:mstucker@mac.com">mstucker@mac.com</a>

## Supporting Asylum Seekers Community Dinner Purchase tickets by Sat 4/26 for the dinner on Sat 5/3, 5:30-8:00 pm

Join us for a time of good food, good stories, and round table discussions about what we can do to support our immigrant neighbors.

The dinner will be prepared by a local small business and feature classic Afghan food, which will delight your senses and satisfy your appetite!

\$10.00 per adult for a 3-course meal and beverages. Children under 16 eat free.



**DEADLINE:** In order to give us a sense of numbers, please purchase tickets online by Sat, April 26 using the QR code or tiny url: [bit.ly/SASdinner](https://bit.ly/SASdinner)



### 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

