

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



November 2, 2025
Samhain & All Souls

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

Yaakov Trek Reef
Intern Minister

**Rayla D.
Baldwin-Mattson**
Director of Religious
Education

Meg Rivers-Wright
Parish Administrator

Chris Hossfeld
Music Director

Trevor Berens
Accompanist

Bradshaw Mattson
Tech Assistant

Mike Silkonis
Sexton

Justin Marble
Nursery Care Coordinator

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 and on Facebook.

November 2, 2025: 10:00 a.m.

Gathering

Prelude

“Siciliana”
William Walkond

Trevor Berens, organ

Welcome & Announcements

Ann Sadler, Nominating Committee

Introit

“All Shall Be Well”

FPC Choir

Words: Julian of Norwich

Chris Hossfeld

Music: Angela Salvaggione

Music Director

All shall be well, and all shall be well,
And all manner of thing shall be well.

Opening Words

“United by Story and Bound by Love”

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L.

Andrea Hawkins-Kamper

Landrum

Chalice Lighting

“All Souls Chalice Lighting”

Florence Kaplow

* Hymn #1067

“Mother Earth, Beloved Garden”

Singing the Journey

We invite you to turn and face the directions
as we cast the circle with this hymn.

Verse 1, earth: face North – towards the pulpit.

Verse 2, air: turn East – towards Fellowship Hall.

Verse 3, fire: turn South – towards the foyer.

Verse 4, water: turn West – towards the Stow library.

Verse 5, center: turn towards the center of the sanctuary, facing each other.

Centering

* Covenant and Affirmation

Greet Your Neighbor

A Time for All Ages

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
Director of Religious Education

Going Forth With the Light “Our Love Surrounds You”

Sing Out Love

Chris Hossfeld

* Please rise in body or in spirit

Land Acknowledgement

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

“Embrace the Change”
Starhawk

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L.
Landrum

* Hymn #123

“Spirit of Life”

Singing the Living Tradition

Exploring

Reflections

“The Wheel and the Veil”

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Sharing Our Gifts

“Honoring Church Ancestors”
Alice Anacheke-Nasemann

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

Anthem

“Wanting Memories”
Ysaye M. Barnwell

FPC Choir

Refrain:

I am sitting here wanting memories
to teach me

To see the beauty in the world
through my own eyes

You used to rock me in the cradle
of your arms

You said you'd hold me till the pains
of life were gone

You said you'd comfort me
in times like these

And now I need you, now I need you,
and you are gone

Refrain

Since you've gone and left me,
there's been so little beauty

But I know I saw it clearly
through your eyes

Now the world outside is such
a cold and bitter place

Here inside I have few things
that will console

And when I try to hear your voice
above the storms of life

Then I remember all the things
that I was told

Refrain

I think on the things that made me
feel so wonderful when I was young

I think on the things that made me
laugh, made me dance, made me sing
I think on the things that made me
grow into a being full of pride
I think on these things, for they are truth
Refrain

I thought that you were gone,
but now I know you're with me
You are the voice that whispers
all I need to hear

I know a please, a thank you,
and a smile will take me far
I know that I am you and you are me
and we are one
I know that who I am is numbered
in each grain of sand
I know that I've been blessed again,
and over again *Refrain*

In Memoriam

*Sharing the Names of Those
Who Have Died This Year*

Returning

*** Hymn #1051**

"We Are"

Singing the Journey

*** Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

*** Closing Song**

Postlude

Nocturne in B flat
John Field

Trevor Berens, piano

*Following the service you are invited to bring rocks of remembrance
and proceed to the memorial garden for a brief service.*

In the Memorial Garden

*** Reading**

"This Sacred Thread"
Heather K. Janules

*** Placing of Rocks**

*You are invited to place your rocks
in the bed as we sing "Amazing Grace."*

*** Hymn**

*"Amazing Grace" Singing the Living Tradition
(Lyrics on next page)*

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

- 1 Amazing grace!
 how sweet the sound,
 that saved a wretch like me!
 I once was lost
 but now am found,
 was blind but now I see.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught
 my heart to fear,
 and grace my fears relieved;
 how precious did
 that grace appear
 the hour I first believed!
- 3 Through many dangers,
 toils, and snares,
 I have already come;
 'tis grace that brought
 me safe thus far,
 and grace will lead me home.
- 4 When we've been there
 ten thousand years,
 bright shining as the sun,
 we've no less days
 to sing God's praise
 than when we'd first begun.

*** Benediction**

By Leia Durland-Jones

* * *

Thank you to:

Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host
Marcia Rising, Carolyn Zettler, Ushers
Mark Koenig and Troy Liston, Coffee Host
Our staff and leadership

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:
 - o **Newcomer Coffees** - Meet the minister and other newcomers
 - o **UU Journey class** - 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)



Visitor Card



E-Newsletters

≧ Today at FPC ≦

11:00 am **Coffee Hour** - Fellowship Hall
Tickets on sale for Sonic Liberation Players and House of Hamill
2-5 pm **Lay Ministers Pastoral Care Training** - Community Room

≧ Announcements ≦

Plate Sharing for November The Pink Haven Coalition assists transgender people and families escape states that are unsafe for transgender people to states that are safer. Pink Haven offers monetary support in the relocation as well as a network of volunteers to assist with the transition to a new home. This includes assistance in getting gender affirming care, finding housing, obtaining legal assistance and assistance in navigating a new area. Pink Haven is a grass roots partnership within the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Stewardship Campaign Our annual Stewardship campaign will kick off next Sunday, November 9, but today is a good time to start thinking about what your church means to you.



What if there were no First Parish Church in your life? You could certainly spend more time in bed on Sunday morning, and you could spend your money on restaurant meals or travel. But if you look to FPC to lift your spirits and inspire you to look beyond yourself, if the music and the words from the pulpit fill a need in you, you might find yourself unfulfilled.

You may feel concerned about social justice issues. And there are groups in this church doing important work on peace, climate and LGBTQ rights. People in our church are making life better for incarcerated people. People in our church are helping asylum seekers find better lives here in this country. We can take pride in those activities and we can participate in this work.

You can find friends without being part of this church, but here at FPC you can find a community of people who share your values and interests. There is a community who wants to support your trials and your triumphs. You can find strong friendships while you are singing together, baking pies together, meeting in Small Group Ministry, or serving on committees. You might conclude that for all these reasons and more, supporting and perpetuating this church is an important use of your time, your skills, and your money. Please reflect on these questions and come to the campaign kick-off next Sunday.

Annual Holiday Gift Drive Starts Today

Mark your calendars! It's almost time for our annual holiday gift drive for the guests of two domestic violence shelters, **Voices Against Violence** and **Renewal House**. This year looks to be particularly tough given inflation and the government shutdown. Can you help make the holiday season a bit more cheerful for these shelter guests? FPC-ers never fail to overwhelm our hearts with your generosity during the gift drive. Let's make this year the most successful ever!



When: Starting today, Sunday, November 2nd, the wish lists from the shelters will be available on SignUp Genius on the FPC website and in future announcements for four weeks. We will use only Signup Genius for claiming gifts - there will not be a sign up table at coffee hour.

Gift Due Date: All gifts, unwrapped, need to be returned to the FPC Atrium on Friday, December 5th from 3:00-6:00 pm, or Saturday, December 6th from 10:00 to 1:00.

Questions: Contact Diane Miller at 978-897-5470 or our team of elves at gift-drive@fpc-stow-acton.org.

Let's spread the spirit of love this holiday season! What better way to bring joy to the guest of these shelters? And the joy of giving is a gift you can give yourself! So let's help those less fortunate experience a wonderful holiday season. Thank you for your generosity! - Your Holiday Elves

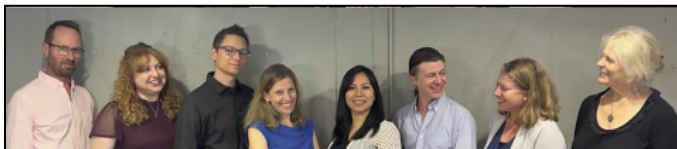
≧ This Week at FPC ≦

FPC Book Group - Tuesday, November 4, 7-8 pm, online
The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich. Email sharonbrownfield@gmail.com for the link.

Friday Friends - Friday, November 7, 6:30-8:30 pm, Vestry/Hall/Sanctuary
Young people ages 5 - 11 are invited to join us for a night of games, snacks, and fun.

Sonic Liberation Players in Concert - Saturday, November 8, 7:30-9:30 pm, Sanctuary * Tickets on sale at coffee hour today! *

The group opens their 8th season with Raven Chacon's "Voiceless Mass," winner of the 2022 Pulitzer Prize for Music. FPC Accompanist Trevor Berens will join the ensemble from our historic Hutchings pipe organ. The concert will also feature John



Cage's rarely-performed "Apartment House, 1776" which celebrates the various musics of this country in 1776, and a new commission from composer Eddie Davis. Suggested donation: \$20, collected at the door or in advance at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com). See full details on the FPC website under the "Music & Arts" tab.

Next Sunday's Service: November 9, 10 am - "Moving Forward in Community" - Sanctuary and online - Yaakov Trek Reef, Intern Minister. This is an exciting year for the FPC Community, with big questions in our near future. This service will launch our annual stewardship drive, and highlight our hopes and dreams as a community.

≧ Upcoming ≦

New Revival Coffeehouse: House of Hamill

The next concert at New Revival is just two weeks away.

House of Hamill, a trio based in Pennsylvania, will bring what they call "upcycled Celtic folk" to our stage on November 15 at 7:30 p.m.

They play jigs and reels on guitar, fiddles, mandolin and bass. and they sing in three-part harmonies. Their original song, "Banks of the Brandywine," won a Grand Prize in the 2024 John Lennon Songwriting Contest. And they have a slew of entertaining stories from their years on the road. You can get an idea of the group's sound by listening to their music on houseofhamill.com.



Tickets for this concert are \$20 in advance and \$25 the day of the show. Tickets are available at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) and the coffeehouse committee will be selling tickets at coffee hour today and next Sunday. Doors open for the concert at 7:00 p.m.