

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



November 9, 2025
Moving Forward Together in Community

**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 9, 2025: 10:00 a.m.

Gathering

Prelude	"In Deep Woods"	Trevor Berens
	Edward MacDowell	Accompanist

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Words	Yaakov Trek Reef, Intern Minister
----------------------	-----------------------------------

Chalice Lighting

* Hymn #347	"Gather the Spirit"	<i>Singing the Living Tradition</i>
--------------------	----------------------------	-------------------------------------

Centering

*** Covenant and Affirmation**

Land Acknowledgement

Greet Your Neighbor

A Time for All Ages	Yaakov Trek Reef, Intern Minister
----------------------------	-----------------------------------

Going Forth With the Light	"Our Love Surrounds You"	<i>Sing Out Love</i>
	Chris Hossfeld	

Introduction to Stewardship Program	Sharon Brownfield, Stewardship Committee Co-Chair
--	--

Joys and Sorrows	Ingrid Holcomb, 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

* Hymn #346	"Come, Sing a Song with Me"	<i>Singing the Living Tradition</i>
--------------------	------------------------------------	---

Exploring

Introduction to November Plate Share	Josh Ledwell and Kathy Haberle, LGBTQ+ Task Force
---	--

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

Sharing Our Gifts

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

"The Road Not Taken"
Music: Randall Thompson
Lyrics: Robert Frost

FPC Choir
Chris Hossfeld
Music Director

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Sermon

"Moving Forward Together in Community" Yaakov Trek Reef
Intern Minister

Returning

* Hymn #1028

"Fire of Commitment"

Singing the Journey

* Benediction

Yaakov Trek Reef, Intern Minister

* Closing Song

Postlude

"Peace of the Woods"
Edvard Grieg

Trevor Berens

* * *

Thank you to:

Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host
Joe Stadolnik, Tech Assistant
Jamison House, Rick Lent, Ushers
Kate Imhoff, Rebecca Stadolnik, 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
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 House of Hamill; Stewardship Table
- 11:30 am **Elder/Memory Care Peer Support Group** - Parlor - until 12:30 pm
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.
- 11:30 am **LGBTQ+ Task Force Transgender 101** - Community Rm - until 1 pm
* *Trans 101*, a 25-minute video (new to FPC) by Alex Kapitan
* Facilitated Q&A about Transgender & Nonbinary identities
* Bring your questions - we can help with answers
* Bring your coffee from coffee hour - we'll supply the cookies

≧ Announcements ≦

Next Sunday's Service is at 10:30 am, November 16 at UCMH!

The Unitarian Church of Marlborough and Hudson is located at 80 Main Street in the center of downtown Hudson, Massachusetts, at the corner of Main and Church Streets.

"Joint Service on Church History" - Rev. Bruce Carey Taylor, UCMH Minister, and Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, FPC Minister. Like the sankofa bird which looks back to the past to build a better future, we'll look to the lessons and stories of our past as we plan a potential future of two churches coming together.

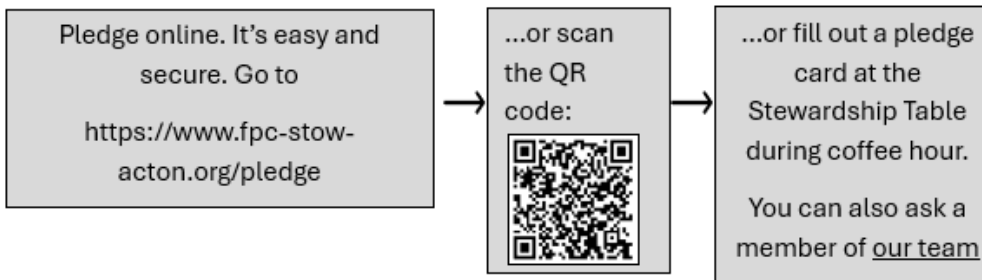


Stewardship Campaign *Moving forward in Community with Our Time, Talent and Treasure*

Our stewardship campaign kicked off this Sunday. Our theme is one of hope and resilience as we navigate these challenging times. We are looking to not only sustain this community but to grow in our support for each other and the environment which nurtures our children and us. Giving of your time, talent and treasure is what makes this a home for so many. A pledge during the Stewardship Drive is your acknowledgement that you are invested in this community.



Here's how to pledge:



Thank you for your generosity!

- The FPC Stewardship Team - Andy Derr, Sharon Brownfield, Russ Hart, Peter Fiske, Ruth Lull

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.



Holiday Gift Drive

It's here! Our annual holiday gift drive for guests of two domestic violence shelters, **Voices Against Violence** and **Renewal House**, goes live TODAY, November 9. As always, the shelter guests need our help to make this holiday season a happy one. With your help and generosity, we can ensure that the women, children, and men in these shelters have a merry Christmas morning.



The wish lists from the shelters will be available through a SignUp Genius link you can access on the FPC website (<https://fpc-stow-acton.org>) or through the QR code here, with all the information you need to participate in this heartwarming and gratifying experience. 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.

We can make a difference in the lives of our neighbors who are suffering through difficult times. And you can give yourself the gift of giving. Let's make this year another rousing success! If you have any questions, contact Diane Miller at 978-897-5470 or our team of elves at gift-drive@fpc-stow-acton.org. Keep your eyes out for announcements about our progress in securing gifts throughout the signup period, and thank you for supporting this effort!

✨ Your Holiday Elves

≧ This Week at FPC ≦

Jazz Band Rehearsal Monday, November 10, 7-9:00 pm, Sanctuary

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

Guest Table Friday, November 14, 5:30-6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Our free community dinner on the second Friday of each month

Doors open 5 PM ~ Dinner starts 5:30 ~ All are Welcome ~ No Charge!

Menu: Ravioli, Gluten-free, dairy-free pasta, Mixed vegetable, Rolls or bread, Salad, Cookies and bars for dessert. All meals nut-free.

Game Night Friday, November 14, 7-9 pm, Vestry

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

New Revival Coffeehouse Presents: House of Hamill

Saturday, November 15, 7:30 pm, Hall

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 and the coffeehouse committee will be selling tickets at coffee hour today. Doors open for the concert at 7:00 p.m.

≧ Every Week at FPC ≦

Tue. 10 AM <u>Coffee and Chat</u> Town Center Park Gazebo 	Wed. 6:40 PM <u>Meditation & Reading</u> Fellowship Hall & Online 	Thu. 5 PM <u>Peace Vigil</u> Town Common in front of FPC 	Thu. 7:15 PM <u>Choir Rehearsal</u> Fellowship Hall - Join the choir! music@fpc-stow-acton.org	Fri. 1 PM <u>Bridge Playing</u> Community Room 
---	---	--	--	--

≧ Upcoming ≦

The UU Journey at FPC

Sun. November 23, 12-2:00 pm

A One-Session Course on UU History, Spirituality, Mission, and Traditions

Rev. Cindy Landrum leads class. Join us for this opportunity to...



- ▶ share your own spiritual journey
- ▶ ask questions about UU and FPC
- ▶ get to know others in the church

You do not need to be new to FPC to participate; all are welcome!

To sign up, please contact Meg Rivers-Wright, Parish Administrator, at office@fpc-stow-acton.org or [617-291-3351](tel:617-291-3351).