

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



January 18, 2026
"Moral Responsibility to Disobey"

**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.

January 18, 2026: 10:00 a.m.

Gathering

Prelude	“Take My Hand, Precious Lord” Thomas Dorsey	Trevor Berens Accompanist
Welcome & Announcements	Lisa Fagerstrom, Small Group Ministry	
Opening Words	words by Cole Arthur Riley	Yaakov Trek Reef, Intern Minister
Chalice Lighting	Micah 6:8, from the Hebrew Bible	Lisa Fagerstrom
* Hymn	“One Foot/Lead with Love”	<i>Melanie DeMoore</i>

Centering

* Covenant and Affirmation	Yaakov Trek Reef, Intern Minister	
Land Acknowledgement	Meg Rivers-Wright, Parish Administrator	
A Time for All Ages	Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson Director of Religious Education	
Going Forth With the Light	“Our Love Surrounds You” Chris Hossfeld	<i>Sing Out Love</i>
Reading, Part I	“Letter from the Birmingham Jail”	Susan Avery
Joys and Sorrows	Hector Constantzos, 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	Yaakov Trek Reef, Intern Minister	
In Words	“Getting Through This Day” by Rev. Theresa Hardy	
In Silence		
In Song	“All Will Be Well” Meg Barnhouse	<i>Sing Out Love</i>

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

Exploring

Reading, Part II

“Letter from the Birmingham Jail”

Nancy Maldari

Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share our weekly offering with **Boston Area Gleaners.**

You may donate by check made out to First Parish Church,
online at fpc-stow-acton.org/donate, or text (978) 310-3309.

Anthem

“Like a Mighty Stream”

Moses Hogan and John Jacobson

FPC Choir

Chris Hossfeld

Music Director

Lift ev’ry voice and let us sing!
In ev’ry song let freedom ring!
From ev’ry soul comes a noble dream
Let justice roll like a mighty stream.

Like a mighty stream.
Let justice roll like a mighty stream.

Oh, ev’ry trial we’ll overcome,
When ev’ry child beneath the sun,
And ev’ry soul shall live as one.
The noble dream has just begun!

Like a mighty stream.
Let justice roll like a mighty stream.

Reading, Part III

“Letter from the Birmingham Jail”

June McKnight

Sermon

“Moral Responsibility to Disobey”

Yaakov Trek Reef,
Intern Minister

Returning

* Hymn #149

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

Singing the Living Trad.

* Benediction

Yaakov Trek Reef

* Closing Song

Postlude

“We Shall Overcome”
Hymn 169

Trevor Berens

Greet Your Neighbor

* * *

Thank you to:
Webb Tilney, Zoom Host
Jeff Brown, Lisa Rydin, Ushers
Joanna Hawryluk, Rick Lent, 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 ≦

9:00 am Open Choir

10:00 am Service Sanctuary/online/phone

After Service: Coffee Hour - Fellowship Hall

- Stewardship Table, Small Group Ministry Registration
- Tickets for the Kathleen Parks concert January 31 will be on sale this Sunday and next for \$20 (\$25 on the day of the concert). Kathleen is a fiddler, singer, and songwriter who brings joyful, creative energy to the stage and studio.

12-2 pm OWL Gr. 4-6 Session 4, Classroom 5, lower level

≧ Announcements ≦

SGM Registration deadline EXTENDED to Sunday January 25!

Looking for more social connection? Try SGM to get to know yourself and a small group of 8-10 people from FPC and UCMH more closely. New groups form each year and meet once a month for 2 hours starting in February. Facilitated discussions have included topics such as Living Simply, This Body, and The Gift of Time. Great way to have someone to chat with at any church event such as coffee hour.

- Current SGM group members, please re-enroll for 2026. You can request the same group or get to know a new set of friends. Feel free to invite a friend to join a group with you.
- We are looking for a couple more SGM co-facilitators. Please let Karen know if you are interested, want to know more, or want to recommend someone.
- Register by January 25th online <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/sgm>
- Questions or to help us better understand your needs - stop by the SGM coffee hour table or contact Karen Kinnear, SGM facilitator, sgm@fpc-stow-acton.org

Plate Sharing

Bridges to Malawi is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bettering the lives of the people of Malawi through multiple service projects, including an annual Medical Mission Trip, agricultural projects, projects to deliver electricity to remote areas, projects to increase the number of livestock, and many more: "We are a small, committed group of American health care professionals and extraordinary Malawians. With your help, we are making a difference in Malawi, one of the poorest countries in the world." [bridgestomalawi.org]



FPC's liaison to Bridges to Malawi is Annadelia Ruminski, who was one of the high school students given the opportunity to travel to Malawi with founder Dr. Brian Lisse and multiple other doctors on the annual medical mission trip. Annadelia hopes to share more about BTM in a service this month and provide an opportunity for FPC members and friends to donate some of the supplies that BTM brings to Malawi in April 2026.

≧ This Week ≦

Submission Deadline for February Chronicle - Wed, Jan 21, 5 pm

Please email your submissions to Meg at office@fpc-stow-acton.org

Ukulele Meetup - Wednesday, January 21, 7 - 9pm, Community Room

Pat Sorn and Sue Stewart, Coordinators - FPC hosts monthly ukulele gatherings for ukulele players wanting to practice with other players. Uke lovers of all levels (including beginners!) are welcome to come and play, sing, and share music with the group. We have extra ukes for anyone who'd like to try them out. If not, you can just come and sing along!

Line Dancing Evening - Saturday, January 24, 7 pm

Join us for a chill-busting Arts Committee-sponsored evening of line dancing led by the incomparable Paul Hughes! A family-friendly event, open to all ability levels and friends from the community. Paul is very skilled at making even the most novice dancer feel like Fred Astaire or Ginger Rogers! Beverages available, and we would love it if some folks could bring some snacks to share.

This event is free, but donations to cover Paul's fee will be gratefully accepted. Suggested: \$5 per person.

≧ Every Week at FPC ≦

Tue. 10 AM
Coffee and Chat

Town Center
Park Gazebo



Wed. 6:40 PM
Meditation & Reading

Fellowship Hall
& Online



Thu. 5 PM
Peace Vigil

Town Common
in front of FPC



Thu. 7:15 PM
Choir Rehearsal

Fellowship Hall -
Join the choir!

music@fpc-stow-acton.org

Fri. 1 PM
Bridge Playing

Community
Room



≧ Upcoming ≦

New Revival Coffeehouse presents: Kathleen Parks - Saturday, January 31

Doors open 7:00 pm, concert at 7:30 pm



Kathleen Parks is a fiddler, singer, and songwriter whose virtuosic fiddle blends and reimagines traditional and modern musical styles with boundless groove, and a playful improvisational spirit.

“Goosebump-inducing vocal performances from Kathleen Parks...” - Glide Magazine

Tickets are \$20 in advance on Eventbrite, at coffee hour today and next Sunday, and \$25 on the day of the concert.



Tickets:
Kathleen Parks

Carnival Games - Winter Games Fest at FPC - Saturday, February 28, 12-4 pm

An afternoon of indoor fun for the whole family!



Over three dozen carnival games, including...

- a life-size "whack-a-mole"
- pop bottle standup
- Plinko
- life size Tetris
- an "impossible" giant slidey puzzle
- stuffed animal prizes (every child goes home with at least 1 prize)
- game difficulty levels ranging from age 2 to adults young at heart
- many life size wooden games built by FPC members and youth!



Face painting



Popcorn, cookies, lemonade, and more will be available for purchase.

Admission is free and carnival game tickets are \$1 each.

1 ticket per game

2 tickets for face painting

Parent/guardian supervision is required during the carnival games.

Email dre@fpc-stow-acton.org with any questions about the event.

Turkey Hill Ragtime Orchestra - Sunday, March 15, 4 pm

The FPC Music Committee is proud to present Suzie Cartreine and the Turkey Hill Ragtime Orchestra in concert in the Sanctuary. Toe-tapping fun for the whole family!

The Orchestra plays vintage arrangements of ragtime music and popular songs from the 1890's – 1920's. That includes rags, fox-trots, slow drags, two-steps, waltzes and more, and features works of Joplin, Salisbury, Lamb, Turpin, Berlin, and others. They put a smile on your face and a spring in your step!



Founded in 2022, Turkey Hill Ragtime Orchestra sprang from pianist Suzie Cartreine's lifelong love of ragtime, combined with her academic interest in historical performance practice.

The band is drawn from a roster of professional-level musicians from the Greater Boston area. Recent appearances include the New England Folk Festival, Chelmsford Open Spaces, the Medford Library Summer Concert Series, and numerous porchfests in the Boston area.

Suzie Cartreine was Director of Music and Organist at FPC from 2002 to 2011.

The suggested donation is \$20 to \$40. Donations will be accepted at Eventbrite, at the door, and at coffee hour on March 8 and March 15.

You can find find audio and video samples on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@TurkeyHillRagtimeOrchestra>