

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



February 1, 2026

Land Acknowledgement and Land Back: Native Perspectives

**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

Joe Stadolnik
Tech Assistant

Mike Silkonis
Sexton

Justin Marble
Nursery Care Coordinator

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 1, 2026: 10:00 a.m.

Gathering

* **Gathering Song**

"Call to Our Relations"
George Paul

Nugumij Drum and
Morning Star Singers

*All are invited to join in singing on the text in **bold**.*

Wejgwita'jig gnngi'gmaq,
Ula tet nige'ia

They are coming, my people,
right here now.

Mawiomi wesgowa's'g,
Welta' sualtultimgewei

The gathering is on.
We are very happy.

Wejgwita'jig niskamij,
Ula tet nige'ia

They are coming, the ancestors,
right here now.

Nenmi'tij ta'n elta'tij angap
Tmi'tij ugtawtiwow

They know where they are going
They look at their road

Wejgwita'jig no'gmaq,
Ula tet nige'ia

They are coming, my relations,
right here now.

Pepgwejete'mati'gw newgititpa'q
Way ha ya yo way

We are drumming all night long.

Way ha way ha way ha ya
Way ha way ha ya
Way ha ya yo way
Way ha, way ha, way ha ya
Way ha way ha ya
Way ha ya yo way

Welcome & Announcements

Morgan Wilson

Opening Words

Nan Flavin

Chalice Lighting

Aimeé Ledwell

* **Communal Song**

"Water Song"
Ancient Cherokee

Morning Star Singers

Centering

* **Covenant and Affirmation**

Chris Hossfeld, Music Director

* *Please rise in body or in spirit*

Land Acknowledgement

Mary Evans

A Time for All Ages

*We Are All Related:
"Mitakuye Owasin"*

by Jessie Taken Alive-Rencountre
Illustrations by Erin Walker-Jensen

Going Forth With the Light "Our Love Surrounds You"

Chris Hossfeld

Sing Out Love

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.

Meditation

In Words

Ecology and Religion

Aimeé Ledwell

In Silence

***In Song**

"Humble Song"

Morning Star Singers

Exploring

Reading

"A Poem for Margaret Moxa" by Jennifer Sapiel Neptune

Josh Ledwell

To learn more about the Owl's Head Massacre, view Upstander Project's Owl's Head Massacre Revisited: <https://upstanderproject.org/learn/storymaps-and-walking-tours/owl-s-head>

Sharing Our Gifts

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

Anthem

"Mahk-Jhi"

Morning Star Singers

The only remaining song of the Tutelo-Saponi Sioux people

Translation:

Our hearts are full and our minds are good,
Our ancestors come and give us strength,
Stand tall, sing, chant and never forget
who you are or where you come from.

Sermon “Land Acknowledgement and Land Back”

Aimeé Ledwell

Returning

* Communal Song

“Bear Song”
Mi’kmaq song

Nugumij and
Morningstar Singers

* Benediction

Nan Flavin

* Closing Song

Postlude

“Healing Song”

Nugumij and
Morning Star Singers

Way____a____hay noo
Way____a____hay noo
Way____a____hay noo
Way____a____hay noo

Hey noo yah____hey noo____
Hey noo yah____hey noo____yah
Hey noo yah____hey noo____
Hey noo yah____hey noo____yah

* * *

Thank you to:

Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host
Marcia Rising, Carolyn Zettler, Ushers
Kirsten and Brendon Chetwynd, 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:
 - o **Newcomer Coffees** - Meet the minister and other newcomers
 - o **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

* Please rise in body or in spirit

United Native American Cultural Center (UNACC) – unacc.org

UNACC's mission is to be a positive place for peoples of all cultures to gather, share and educate one another. Essential to this endeavor is a program of cultural enrichment, education and whole life strategies for Native American people; a place to learn and teach our crafts, artwork, voices and traditional ways. We welcome the entire community to share in the various programs and cultural experiences which we offer.

Our volunteer staff, board of directors, and members present cultural programs at surrounding schools, scout groups, libraries and various organizations. We are located in Devens, but we also serve the surrounding towns including Ayer, Pepperell, Shirley, Leominster, Fitchburg, Groton, and Harvard and expand out from there.

UNACC Morning Star Singers

Jenn Beal, Doreen Benati, Anna-Celestrya Carr, Heidi Durrin, Maydelle Gamester, Cheney Harper, Barbara Jerome, Doria Kutrubes, Aimeé Nicole Snyder Ledwell, Lorena Novak, Heather Moretz, Naomi Newell, Janet Pare, Chere Piermarini, Jean Secovich, and Rita Wornham
UNACC Chief - Peter Searching Owl

The Morning Star Singers are a women's traditional hand drum group from the United Native American Cultural Center in Devens, MA. Founded under our former Chief, Ronald Jerome (Mi'kmaq), this group seeks to preserve and continue the tradition of women's singing in native culture.

The Morning Star Singers regularly participate in cultural outreach programs, events and Powwows in the Eastern United States. The group is intertribal and consists of members and descendants of multiple native native nations as well as non native women who wish to sing and participate in our beautiful traditions.

UNACC's 29th ANNUAL UNITY DAYS POWWOW

Saturday, May 16, & Sunday, May 17, 12-5 pm
Vendors Open at 10:00 am • Grand Entry Begins at 12 noon
29 Antietam Street, Devens, MA 01434

*Sacred Earth Drum • Humble Spirit Drum • Morningstar Singers • Flutists
UNACC Food Tent • Raffle • Vendors • kid activities and more!*

*Bring lawn chairs/blankets to sit on
This is an alcohol/drug free event*

≥ Today at FPC ≤

After the service - Coffee Hour - in Fellowship Hall

11:30-12:45 - "Next Steps to Right Relationship with Native Neighbors" Discussion

Please join us after the service in the Community Room to discuss our next steps toward Native Justice as a community.

11:45 - 1:15 - Auction Committee meeting - online

1-6:30pm - OWL Gr. 7-9 - Youth Room/Community Room/Parlor

5 - 7 pm - Membership Committee meeting - online

≥ Announcements ≤

February Plate Sharing - Communities for Restorative Justice

C4RJ partners with law enforcement, district attorneys, and community members to offer restorative justice, an alternative response to crime that promotes healing, accountability, and equity in order to address the harm caused by crime and conflict. Unlike the traditional criminal justice system which centers around punishment, restorative justice aims to repair harm by addressing the needs of those most affected, including victims, the responsible parties, and the broader community. By bringing participants together in a restorative circle process, we create spaces for open and honest dialogue and meaningful repair that lead to stronger, more connected, and resilient communities. Our liaison to C4RJ is Hector Constantzos, and you can read more about his connection and how to volunteer with C4RJ in this month's issue of *The Chronicle*.



Make a Donation

Online

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

Ascend Hospice is currently seeking volunteers to provide companionship and supportive visits to those in their community with terminal illness at Robbins Brook in Acton. Volunteers are the heart of the hospice experience and vital members of our hospice team. We provide online training for volunteers. If you are able to provide one hour or more per week to volunteer, we need you. If you would like more information, please contact Joy Rehfeld @ 508-454-2893 or joy.rehfeld@ascendhealth.com.

≥ This Week ≤

Book Group Tue, Feb 3, 7-8 pm, Online

Lilac People by Milo Todd. This is a humane story about a trans man who must relinquish the freedoms of pre-war Berlin to survive first the Nazis then the Allies while protecting the ones he loves. Email sharonbrownfield@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Resilience Practices for Social Justice Organizers Thu, Feb 5, 6-7:30pm, Community Room

Friday Friends Fri, Feb 6, 6:30-8:00pm, Vestry

Young people ages 5 - 11 are invited to join Pat, Lindsay, Carolyn, and Justin for a night of games, snacks, and fun. Drop off and pick up are in the Vestry.

≥ 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 
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Next Sunday's Service - February 8, 10 am - **"I'm Still Standing: Finding Identity and Resilience in the Music of Elton John"** (Intergenerational Music Sunday) - FPC Minister, Staff, Choir, Religious Education Program and More! The music of Elton John is loved by many generations and covers many themes from identity ("Goodbye Yellow Brick Road") to endurance ("I'm Still Standing"). This special intergenerational service will include a song from The Lion King performed by the children of our church, and sing-alongs to songs both poignant and fun like "Crocodile Rock." Whether you're a Tiny Dancer or a Rocket Man, this is Your Song! Come join us!



⇒ Upcoming ⇐

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.