

# 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 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.

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

Wejgwwita’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"

*Sing Out Love*

Chris Hossfeld

### 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](mailto: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/owls-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](https://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

Hey noo yah\_\_hey noo\_\_

Way\_\_a\_\_hay noo

Hey noo yah\_\_hey noo\_\_yah

Way\_\_a\_\_hay noo

Hey noo yah\_\_hey noo\_\_

Way\_\_a\_\_hay 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:
  - **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

*\* Please rise in body or in spirit*

## **United Native American Cultural Center (UNACC) – [unacc.org](http://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



Make a Donation  
Online

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*.

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

**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](mailto:dre@fpc-stow-acton.org) with any questions about the event.