

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

*Unitarian Universalist*



February 8, 2025

*I'm Still Standing: Celebrating Identity & Resilience  
Through the Music of Elton John*

**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 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](http://fpc-stow-acton.org) and on Facebook.



**In Words  
In Silence  
In Song**

“Candle in the Wind” FPC Choir & Band  
Elton John, music; Bernie Taupin, lyrics Emmeline Jones  
arr. Ed Lojeski & Margot Law, solos

### **Exploring**

**Message for All Ages** “Finding Identity Yaakov Trek Reef  
in Elton John’s Music” Intern Minister

**Plate Sharing Introduction** Tammy Hopkins, Director of Development,  
Nathan Simms, Director of Programs,  
Communities for Restorative Justice

### **Sharing Our Gifts**



Make a Donation  
Online

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](http://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate), or text (978) 310-3309.

**Anthem** “Goodbye Yellow Brick Road” FPC Choir and Band  
Elton John, music; Bernie Taupin, lyrics

**Message for All Ages** “Finding Resilience Rev. Dr. Cynthia  
in Elton John’s Music” L. Landrum

### **Returning**

\* **Hymn** “I’m Still Standing” FPC Choir  
Elton John, music; Bernie Taupin, lyrics and Band  
arr. Pete Schmutte

\* **Benediction** Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum  
& Yaakov Trek Reef, Intern Minister

\* **Closing Song**

**Postlude** “Tiny Dancer” Trevor Berens,  
Elton John, music; Bernie Taupin, lyrics FPC Choir  
and Band

\* \* \*

*Thank you to:*

Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host  
Rebecca MacNeill and Rick Lent, Ushers  
Susie O'Brien, Coffee Host  
Our staff and leadership

*FPC Band Members:*

John MacNeill, soprano saxophone; Ian and Caitlin McIntyre, violin;  
Trevor Berens, piano; Michael Merrill, bass; and Todd Rhodes, drums

*FPC Ukutarians:*

Sue Stewart and Emmeline Jones

## **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

## ≧ **Today at FPC** ≦

After the service - Coffee Hour - in Fellowship Hall

11:30 - 1 pm - RJTF Drop-in Session - Community Room

Please join members of the Racial Justice Task Force to reflect on the poetry exhibit currently on display in the gallery and share conversation around a few specific poems. Grab a coffee in Fellowship Hall and come join us in the Community Room!

2 - 4:30 pm - OWL Gr. 7-9 - Youth Room/Community Room/Hall

## ≧ 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

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### **Special date to join as a member of FPC Sunday, February 22!**

All who would like to join FPC as a member will be asked to come forward during the service on February 22 to sign the book and participate in a short joining ceremony with responsive reading. If you would prefer a more private membership service, we will be available after the service on February 15th. Please let us know in advance, either way, as we prepare small welcome bags for your ceremony. (If you forget or make a last-minute decision, that's okay, please come and sign anyway.) If you are interested in joining, please email both our Parish Administrator Meg at [office@fpc-stow-acton.org](mailto:office@fpc-stow-acton.org) and me at [Minister@fpc-stow-acton.org](mailto:Minister@fpc-stow-acton.org). We look forward to celebrating your decision that FPC is YOUR church home!

## ≧ This Week at FPC ≦

- Mon, Feb 9 **Jazz Band Rehearsal** 7-9 pm, Sanctuary
- Thu, Feb 12 **Resilience Practices for Social Justice Organizers**, 6-7:30pm, Community Room
- Fri, Feb 13 **Guest Table** 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: Salad, stir fry veggies, rice, and dessert.  
 All meals nut-free.
- Game Night** 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.

## ≧ Every Week ≦

<p><b>Tue 10 am</b>  <b><u>Coffee and Chat</u></b>                  Town Center                  Park Gazebo</p> 	<p><b>Wed 6:40 pm</b>  <b><u>Meditation and Reading</u></b>                  Fellowship Hall                  &amp; online</p> 	<p><b>Thu 5 pm</b>  <b><u>Peace Vigil</u></b>                  Town Common                  in front of FPC</p> 	<p><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></p>	<p><b>Fri 1 pm</b>  <b><u>Bridge Playing</u></b>                  Community Room</p> 
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**Next Sunday's Service** - February 15, 10 am - "**Question Box Sunday**" - Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum - Google "Question Box Sermon" and you'll find that these sermons are an old favorite of many UU ministers, often done at the end of the year. This year is such an unusual one in both the FPC community and the world, however, that it makes sense to stop, pause, and talk as a community right now about some of the things that are on our hearts and minds. We're merging with another church. There's been a lot of action around specific social justice issues that are getting intense in our community. Maybe you're just new to this church and there are things you want to know! Bring your questions, Rev. Cindy will bring what she knows, and together we'll explore.



*please join us in*

*celebrating the life*

*of*

**Keshava Srivastava**

*Aug 23, 1943 - Oct 12, 2025*

*We would love for you  
to join us on **21 February at 11 am**  
at First Parish Church of Stow and Acton  
to honor the life of Keshava Srivastava.  
The informal memorial service will take place  
in the **Fellowship Hall**.*

*Please bring a story or memory of Keshava  
if you would like to share it with everyone.*

*Food will be offered after the service.*

**RSVP and questions:**  
**Sunil Srivastava 212-518-6227 or**  
**Nataliya Pylypiv 646-531-2798**  
**[nataliapylypiv@gmail.com](mailto:nataliapylypiv@gmail.com)**



## ≧ Upcoming Events ≦

### **Next Steps to Native Justice**

Sunday, February 22, 11:30-12:45, Community Room

Join us for a conversation with Nipmuc Elder Akuahah Wheaton about Land Back in Massachusetts. - Aimee Nicole Snyder Ledwell

### **Climate Task Force Presents: Sharing Local Progress on Climate Action**

Tuesday, February 24, 7 pm at FPC

Join us as we learn from each other with a panel of presenters from Hudson, Acton, Maynard, and Stow. Each town will share their accomplishments on climate action and what they have learned. We can also share plans for the next several years, and hope to get Sen. Eldridge to give us his perspective.

### **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.