

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



February 15, 2026
Question Box Sunday

**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 and on Facebook.

February 15, 2026: 10:00 a.m.

Gathering

Prelude "Warum?" ("Why?") Trevor Berens
Robert Schumann Accompanist

Welcome & Announcements Trisha Guditz, Vice President
Board of Trustees

Introit Improvisation Trevor Berens

Opening Words "Come In, Be Among Us"
by Shari Woodbury Rev. Dr. Cynthia L.
Landrum

Chalice Lighting "Open to Unexpected Answers"
by Julianne Lepp

* **Hymn #1003** "'Where Do We Come From?'" *Singing the Journey*

Centering

* **Covenant, Affirmation & Land Acknowledgement**

Greet Your Neighbor

A Time for All Ages "The Answer Is in
Your Hands" Rev. Dr. Cynthia L.
Landrum

Going Forth With the Light "Our Love Surrounds You"
Chris Hossfeld *Sing Out Love*

Joys and Sorrows Ann Wickham, 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 Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

In Words "In-Betweenness" by Michelle LaGrave

In Silence

In Song #108 "How Can I Keep from Singing"
Singing the Living Tradition

* *Please rise in body or in spirit*

Exploring

Reading

“Big Shoes to Fill”
by Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson

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, or text (978) 310-3309.

Anthem

“Petit Offertoire”
Cesar Franck

Trevor Berens

Sermon

“The Question Box
Sermon”

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L.
Landrum

Returning

* Hymn #354

““We Laugh, We Cry””

*Singing the Living
Tradition*

* Benediction

“An Endling? Or Merely a Prelude
to More Glorious Beginnings?”
by Michael A. Schuler

* Closing Song

Postlude

“Impromptu, Op. 143, No. 2”
Franz Schubert

Trevor Berens

* * *

Thank you to:

Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host
Webb Tilney, Tech Assistant
Marcia Allison, Kate Imhoff, Ushers
Coffee Host(s)
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 ≦

After the service -

- Private Joining Ceremony for FPC Membership - Parlor
- Coffee Hour - Fellowship Hall

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

2-5:30 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



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.

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 next Sunday, 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 today after the service.)




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 and Rev. Cindy at Minister@fpc-stow-acton.org. We look forward to celebrating your decision that FPC is YOUR church home!

≧ This Week at FPC ≦

Wed, Feb 18 **5 pm - Submission Deadline for March 2026 Chronicle**
 Email your submissions to Meg at office@fpc-stow-acton.org.

7-9 pm - Ukulele Meetup, Vestry
 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!

≧ Every Week ≦

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

10 am - "What's in a Name?" - Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum and Intern Minister Yaakov Trek Reef - In *Romeo and Juliet*, William Shakespeare writes, "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." As our congregation considers a name change, and in a culture that is persecuting people who choose name change, we'll look at the power of naming and being able to choose a name.

11:30 am - Next Steps to Native Justice - Community Room
 Join us for a conversation with Nipmuc Elder Akuahah Wheaton about Land Back in Massachusetts. Ends at 12:45 pm - Aimee Nicole Snyder Ledwell



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



≧ Upcoming Events ≦

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 with any questions about the event.

GAMES FEST
An Indoor Winter Carnival

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28*
12-4 PM
*Snow date Sunday, March 1

FREE ADMISSION!
Game tickets \$1 each

★ **Carnival Games**
★ **Face Painting**
★ **Food & Snacks**

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON
353 Great Rd, Stow MA