

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

*Unitarian Universalist*



February 22, 2026  
*What's in a Name?*

**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

*Board of Trustees  
Leadership:*

**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.

February 22, 2026: 10:00 a.m.

Gathering

<b>Prelude</b>	“Morning Greeting” Adolf Jensen	Trevor Berens Accompanist
<b>Welcome &amp; Announcements</b>		Johanna Pyle, Board Clerk
<b>Opening Words</b>	“River Call” by Manish K. Mishra-Marzetti	Yaakov Trek Reef, Intern Minister
<b>Chalice Lighting</b>	“The Great Turning” by Lisa Garcia-Sampson	Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
<b>* Hymn</b>	“This Boat”	<i>Sing Out Love</i>
<b>* Covenant and Affirmation</b>		
<b>Land Acknowledgement</b>		
<b>Greet Your Neighbor</b>		

New Member Ceremony

<b>Introduction</b>		Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
<b>Introduction of New Members</b>		Joshua Ledwell, Membership Committee Co-Chair
<i>Any people wishing to join are welcome!</i>		
Cheryl Breslin	Willard Hunter	Phil Lynes
Lily Haberle	Emmeline Jones	Joan Toussaint
Chris Hossfeld	Carolyn Lynes	
<b>Charge to the New Members</b>		Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum & Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson, Director of Religious Education

From “The Five Smooth Stones of Religious Liberalism”  
by James Luther Adams

1. **Knowledge:** Our religion holds that revelation is continuous – we are always learning new truths.
2. **Freedom:** Our religion is based on free consent -- we choose to enter into this faith together.
3. **Justice:** Our faith affirms the necessity of working for a just and loving community.

*\* Please rise in body or in spirit*

4. **Agency:** We affirm the necessity of working towards the world we dream of, not just waiting for it to happen.
5. **Hope:** Our faith holds that hope is justified, as we have the inherent ability to create meaningful change.

### **Responsive Reading**

**Board Member(s):** *[To new members]* We welcome you to the First Parish Church of Stow and Acton! Membership here comes with both privileges and commitments. As members we come together to grow spiritually, to continue learning, to create community, and to do the work of love and justice in the world. We will count on you, as you count on us, to speak the truth with courage and with love, to support the work of this church with your time, treasure, and talent as you are able, and to care for one another in times of need.

**New Members:** I bring to this church my unique self, seeking to join with others in our quest for truth and meaning. I recognize with a free faith comes responsibility, and I desire to join in building a church that strengthens community and our connections to our deepest callings.

**FPC Members:** We are glad you have found a home with us. Each new member shapes the church community and how we will be in the future. We welcome you into our community - *with great rejoicing!*

### **Signing the Book**

New Members  
with Board Member(s)

### **Presentation of Gifts**

Meg Rivers-Wright,  
Parish Administrator

### **Going Forth With the Light** "Our Love Surrounds You"

*Sing Out Love*

Chris Hossfeld

### **Centering**

### **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](mailto:caring@fpc-stow-acton.org).

### **Prayer or Meditation**

Yaakov Trek Reef,

**In Words**

"Prayer Poem to the Names of God"

Intern Minister

**In Silence**

by Richard Fewkes

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

### Anthem

"I'm Not Alone"  
Aly Halpert & Anat Hochberg  
FPC Choir  
Chris Hossfeld  
Music Director

I'm not alone, I'm not alone	The beauty and the pain
I forgot, for a minute	I'm not alone
Who I belong to	For me the world was created
The mama earth	I'm not alone
The wind and rain	To dust I will return

### Exploring

#### Reading

From *The Wizard of Earthsea*  
by Ursula K. LeGuin

#### Homily

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

#### Hymn #1051

"We Are..." *Hymnal*

#### Reading

"What's in a (trail) name?"  
by Traci 'Purple Lotus' Withani

#### Homily

Yaakov Trek Reef  
Intern Minister

### Returning

#### \* Hymn #1064

"Blue Boat Home" *Singing the Journey*

#### \* Benediction

#### \* Closing Song

#### Postlude

"I Got a Name"  
Norman Gimbel, Charles Fox  
Trevor Berens

\* \* \*

\* Please rise in body or in spirit

*Thank you to:*  
Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host  
Peter Fiske, Jamison House, Ushers  
Jeff Brown, Jennifer Rambridge, 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

## ≧ **Today at FPC** ≦

➤ **11:15 am - Coffee Hour** - After the service in Fellowship Hall

➤ **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

➤ **2-6:30 pm - OWL Gr. 7-9** - Youth Room/Community Room/Hall

## ≧ Religious Education Highlights ≦

There is so much happening in Religious Education right now! This program year, Josh Ledwell and I have been running an OWL (Our Whole Lives) class for 4th-6th graders. OWL covers the lifespan of our sexuality from kindergarten through older adulthood. The 4-6 grade level has not been taught here at FPC for some time and the RE committee was excited to be able to offer it this year.



The course is a 10-week, in-person session with a guidebook and activities to be done at home with parents and caregivers. Our group is composed of members from two congregations as well as the local community, and meets on Sunday afternoons in lower Fellowship. To learn more about the OWL programs and facilitator training, please visit <https://www.uua.org/lifespan/owl>.

## ≧ 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*. 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).



Make a Donation  
Online

## ≧ This Week ≦

Mon, Feb 23 7-9 pm **Jazz Band Rehearsal**, Sanctuary

Tue, Feb 24 7 pm **Learning from Our Towns on Ten Years of Local Climate Work**, Fellowship Hall

Come hear from members of Acton, Hudson, Maynard, and Stow as they share actions to address the threat of climate change in their communities. They will be joined by Sen. Jamie Eldridge who will give us the perspective from Beacon Hill. Preserving a livable environment is now our responsibility. Please join us for this in-person conversation.

Thu, Feb 26 6-7:30 pm **Resilience Practices for Social Justice Organizers**, Community Room

Sat, Feb 28 12-4 pm **Carnival Games - Winter Games Fest at FPC** -  
*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.



Sun, Mar 1 10 am **"Paying Attention"** - A pulpit swap with UCMH that sends Rev. Cindy to Hudson to deliver this Sunday's "What's in a Name?" service and brings Rev. Nan Rogers Flavin of UCMH to us!

## ≧ Every Week ≦

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

### The FPC Auction 2026 - Under One Sky

Save the date: FPC Auction is coming April 18th.  
It is our largest fundraiser and a terrific party - you'll want to be a part of it!

How, you ask..? Here are some ways to help:

- Donate! Donate! Donate! Offer a few hours of gardening, a group dinner or brunch, an art piece, home-baked goods, a workshop.
- Donate a gift card from your favorite restaurant or shop - gift cards are popular and affordable. The only limitation is your imagination.
- Volunteer to help out at the live auction (setup, cleanup, bid spotters and recorders, food service, and more). A Volunteer Signup will be coming soon.



➤ Donate Goods & Services by visiting the Auction table at Coffee Hour or <https://tinyurl.com/donateFPCAuction>

Questions? Contact the Auction Committee and we will get you started! [auction@fpc-stow-acton.org](mailto:auction@fpc-stow-acton.org)

Donate to  
Auction

**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>