

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

*Unitarian Universalist*



March 1, 2026

*Igniting the crUUCible Through the Gift of Noticing*

**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.

March 1, 2026: 10:00 a.m.

**Gathering**

**Prelude** "Improvisation" Trevor Berens

**Welcome & Announcements** Ann Wickham

**Opening Words** Welcoming It All Nancy Rogers Flavin

**Chalice Lighting** "May our attention be befriended" Jim Flavin  
Lore Stevens

\* **Hymn #346** "Come, Sing A Song With Me" - Carolyn McDade *STLT*

**Centering**

\* **Covenant and Affirmation** Ann Wickham

**Land Acknowledgement** Ann Wickham

**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).

**Prayer & Meditation In Breath and Song** FPC Choir, Nancy Rogers Flavin

\* **#1009** "Meditation on Breathing" by Sarah Dan Jones *STJ*

**Exploring**

**Reading** "Prayer for Attention to Ourselves" Jim Flavin  
Rev. Michelle Collins

**Introduction to March Plate Sharing** Bob Tabor

**Sharing Our Gifts**  
This month we share our weekly offering with the **Southeast India Project**. 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.

\* *Please rise in body or in spirit*

**Anthem**

"If There Ain't Room (Room for Me and You)"

Melissa Jeter

FPC Choir  
Chris Hossfeld

If there ain't room for me  
 If there ain't room for you  
 If there ain't room for me and you  
 that ain't the space for me  
 that ain't the place for "We"  
 If there ain't room for me and you.

People talk inclusivity  
 inherent worth and dignity.  
 So you gotta make room for this faith to  
 grow on.  
 'Cause if there ain't room for me  
 that ain't the space for "we."  
 You gotta make room for this faith to  
 grow on.

If my neighbor can't go  
 If the stranger can't go  
 If the neighbor and the stranger can't go.  
 That ain't the place for me  
 That ain't the space for "we."  
 Siding with love is the way for you and  
 me.

People who love, make room  
 Siding with Love they will make room.  
 For Beloved community  
 That is the place for me.  
 Siding with love make room  
 widen up the circle make room  
 That is the space for me and you.  
 That is the space for me and you.  
 You gotta make room for we.

**Sermon***"Igniting the crucible Through the Gift of Noticing"*

Nancy Rogers Flavin

**Returning****\* Hymn***"Swimming To The Other Side"*

Pat Humphries

**\* Extinguishing the Chalice**

Ann Wickham

We have gathered in love, worshipped in hope, and lifted our hearts in peace; we  
 go now to share these blessings with the world. (UCMH Tradition)

**\* Benediction***"Prayer for Attention to One Another"*

Rev. Michelle Collins

Nancy Rogers Flavin

**\* Closing Song****Postlude***"Reverie"*

Carrie Jacobs-Bond

Trevor Berens

\* \* \*

*Thank you to:*  
Sharon Brownfield, Zoom Host  
Marcia Rising, Carolyn Zettler, Ushers  
Rick Lent, Coffee Host  
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** ≦

**Religious Education** - We will begin in the Vestry, followed by classes.  
Gr. 7-9 OWL will be this afternoon according to the schedule.

- 9-9:45 am - **Open Choir Rehearsal**
- 11:15 am - **Coffee Hour** - After the service in Fellowship Hall
- 11:30 am - \*At UCMH: **New Name Cottage Meeting**

## ≧ Announcements ≦

### March Plate Sharing - Southeast India Project



For 21 years FPC has fostered and supported the Southeast India Project, which works with poor villages in the tsunami-affected area of Tamil Nadu, India, as well as WIDE Orphanage for dalit children (from the caste formerly known as Untouchables), provides micro-lending for financing new opportunities for women, and establishes Self-Help Organizations for women.







Bob Tabor (21th journey) and Russ Hart (5th year) have traveled there in Januaries and Februaries, visiting the Wide Children's Home and the dalit villages. With support from FPC and other individuals and organizations, more children are being sponsored by FPC families, providing these children with a healthy, safe, caring environment, as well as an education. Plate Sharing contributions have also helped us drill a bore well for a village, build pre-schools and a tailoring school with foot-treadle sewing machines for women in a tribal village, fund herds of dairy cows managed by Women Self Help Groups, and to reclaim arable land for organic farming in dalit villages. We also fund micro-lending projects and a seed bank for farmers. Thank you for your generous and continued support.



Make a Donation  
Online

## ≧ Every Week at FPC ≦

<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! music@fpc-stow-acton.org</p>	<p><b>Fri 1 pm</b> <b><u>Bridge Playing</u></b> Community Room</p> 
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\*In inclement weather, we meet at The Boston Bean House in Maynard, 102 Main Street.

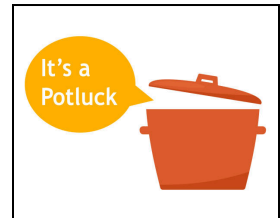
## ≧ This Week ≦

➤ Tue, Mar 3 **Book Group** 7-8 pm, Online

*Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books* by Kirsten Miller. "Clever and astute ... a cracking read" - The Belfast Telegraph. Email [sharonbrownfield@gmail.com](mailto:sharonbrownfield@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.

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

➤ Fri, Mar 6 **Potluck Dinner** 5-7 pm, Fellowship Hall  
Hosted by the Membership and Nominating Committees  
5 pm social hour; 6 pm dinner



➤ Sat, Mar 7 **Line Dancing** 7-8:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Please join us! The professional caller is great with both beginning line dancers and those with experience. He instructs every step of the way. Come on out and have some fun with us! Donations will be appreciated and will help us pay for the caller's services. Also, if you're able to bring a snack to share that would be great! *Sponsored by the FPC Arts Committee*



**Next Sunday, Mar 8, 10 am** - "Abolition"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum & Yaakov Trek Reef, Intern Minister

Abolition is a word long associated with our Universalist, Unitarian, and Unitarian Universalist ancestors. Let's explore what this could mean for us today. Yaakov Trek Reef, our intern minister, will give the sermon and Rev. Cindy will share how this topic is this year's UUA Congregational Study Action issue, what that means, and why it was chosen.

## ≧ Upcoming at FPC ≦

### UCMH-FPC Merger: Cottage Meetings to Discuss New Name Ideas

**Sun March 1** at UCMH after church (in person)

**Sun March 8** at FPC after church (in person)

**Mon March 9 @ 7:30pm** - Zoom Cottage Meeting on Choosing a New Name

**Tue March 10 @ 7:30pm** - Zoom Cottage Meeting on Choosing a New Name

**Wed March 11 @ 7:30pm** - Zoom Cottage Meeting on Choosing a New Name

Welcome! Please join the discussion! These meetings are our opportunity to hear each other, share thoughts, learn together, and ensure that feelings and controversies can be aired, but gently, with kindness and tact. We are not voting on the name at any of these cottage meetings. Multiple rounds of voting will occur after all cottage meetings have concluded.

You can find **Zoom links, Discussion Guidelines & Meeting Agreements, and links to the name brochure and name suggestion form inside this month's Chronicle.**

### The FPC Auction 2026 - Under One Sky

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>



Donate to  
Auction

## **Turkey Hill Ragtime Orchestra**

Sunday, March 15, 2026, 4 pm, Sanctuary  
The Music Committee presents The Turkey Hill Ragtime Orchestra, led by former FPC music director Suzie Cartreine. The Orchestra features 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.



Suzie was Director of Music and Organist at FPC from 2002 to 2011. Her love of ragtime music began in childhood, when her family vacationed each summer at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, with daily performances of a wide variety of music, including Dixieland and R&B.

As a teenager, Suzie was drawn to the music of the New Leviathan Oriental Foxtrot Orchestra, which plays music from the 1890's to the 1930's, and she imagined herself playing in the band. She learned and played the classic piano rags, but she always wanted to play them in an ensemble. "I loved the music, and I decided if I was going to play that music, I'd have to do it myself." Rags were orchestrated right from the start, and Suzie discovered that out-of-copyright sheet music was available online at the International Music Score Project.

She started the Turkey Hill Ragtime Orchestra with a small group of musicians, and over time it has grown. She draws from a roster of 40 or so musicians to fill out what is usually a ten- to twelve-piece band, including violins, viola, cello, double bass, flute, clarinet, trumpet and trombone, piano, drums, and sometimes a vocalist. With strong - and busy - musicians, it is not necessary or possible to have a regular rehearsal time. "We rehearse for the gig," she said.

Suzie has been the music director at UU of Wellesley Hills since 2016. She is also music director for Tufts University Chaplaincy, where she is responsible for rehearsals and services each Sunday evening.

The concert will be at 4 p.m. in the FPC Sanctuary. 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.