

**FIRST PARISH
CHURCH
OF STOW & ACTON**
Unitarian Universalist



March 8, 2026

“Do Justice. Love Kindness. Abolish ICE.”

**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.

In Song

“Hold On”
Heidi Ann Wilson

*Boston Voices of
Community & Labor*

Musical score for the song "Hold On" by Heidi Ann Wilson. The score is written for two staves in G major and 4/4 time. The melody is on the top staff, and the accompaniment is on the bottom staff. The lyrics are: "Hold on, hold on, my dear ones. Here comes the dawn." The melody features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests. The accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines.

Words & music: Heidi Ann Wilson, b.1981

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Exploring

Introduction

“Congregational Study-Action Issues
and Freedom of the Pulpit”

Rev. Dr. Cynthia
L. Landrum

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, or text (978) 310-3309.

Anthem

“Would you harbor me?”
Ysaye Barnwell

FPC Choir, Chris
Hossfeld, Music Director

Would you harbor me?
Would I harbor you?
Would you harbor a Christian,
a Muslim, a Jew,
A heretic, convict, or spy?
Would you harbor a runaway woman
or child,
A poet, a prophet, a king?
Would you harbor an exile or a refugee,
A person living with AIDS?

Would you harbor a Tubman, a Garret,
a Truth,*
A fugitive or a slave?
Would you harbor a Haitian, Korean,
or Czech,
A lesbian or a gay?
Would you harbor me?
Would I harbor you?
**Harriet Tubman, Thomas Garrett,
and Sojourner Truth*

Sermon

“Do Justice. Love Kindness.
Abolish ICE.”

Yaakov Trek Reef,
Intern Minister

Returning

* Hymn

"Change Is Coming"
Molly Bajgot

Sing Out Love

Am⁷ F C G⁷(sus⁴)

Change is com-ing, what do we need to im-ag-ine?
To be pre-pared, you know_ I'm scared,
yes I_ am_ scared,
But I know_ from bro-ken-ness there's whole,
Yes I know_

The musical score is written in 4/4 time. The first staff shows the piano accompaniment with chords Am⁷, F, C, and G⁷(sus⁴). The second and third staves show the vocal melody with lyrics. The lyrics are: "Change is com-ing, what do we need to im-ag-ine? To be pre-pared, you know_ I'm scared, yes I_ am_ scared, But I know_ from bro-ken-ness there's whole, Yes I know_".

Words & music: Molly Bajgot, b.1992

© Molly Bajgot Sing Out Love expiration March 2029

* Benediction

Yaakov Trek Reef

* Closing Song

Postlude

"Wade in the Water"

Trevor Berens

* * *

Thank you to:

Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host
Rick Lent, Marcia Allison, Ushers
Kirsten Chetwynd, Coffee Host
Our staff and leadership

* Please rise in body or in spirit

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 ≦

Religious Education - This will be the first week the nursery will have a special planned activity led by our DRE. There will also be our regular *Time for All Ages* in the service, followed by classes in the Vestry.

Gr. 7-9 OWL will be this afternoon according to the schedule.

Gr. 4-6 OWL will be from 12-2 pm in classroom 5.

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

➤ 11:15 am - 1 pm **New Name Cottage Meeting** Community Room

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.

≧ 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>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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*In inclement weather, we meet at The Boston Bean House in Maynard, 102 Main Street.

≧ This Week ≦

➤ Mon, March 9

7-9 pm - **Jazz Band Rehearsal** - Sanctuary

7:30 pm - **UCMH-FPC Merger Cottage Meeting**: Choosing a New Name

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

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

➤ Fri, March 13

5:30-6:30 pm - Guest Table - 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!

Vegetarian, gluten-free, and dairy-free options available. All meals nut-free. We will be sending the menu out shortly but could use some volunteers, so please sign up using the QR code or <https://tinyurl.com/FPCguesttable>.



Volunteer at
Guest Table

6:30-8:00 pm - Friday Friends - 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 is in the Vestry as usual.

➤ Sat, March 14, 6-9 pm - **Tropical Beach Party** - UCMH

Tired of winter? Come join us in your favorite tropical shirt! Sarong, too. Be prepared to dance to some sunny tropical music. If you want to bring a favorite treat, please let Maria Rutzmoser know at meurutz@gmail.com. Looking forward to seeing everyone next Saturday night!

Next Sunday, Mar 15, 10 am - "Creativity, Labor, & Ethics -- AI!"

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum - Often in our spring auction, Rev. Cindy auctions off a sermon topic to be chosen by the highest bidder. This year's topic is about Artificial Intelligence and the nature of creativity. What is creativity? Is AI truly creative? Is it ethical to use AI? What does AI tell us about the importance and value of human labor? In short, what is "intelligence" and what is "human"? Rev. Cindy is delighted to explore this topic, and may or may not use AI to help her write the sermon...

≧ Upcoming at FPC ≦

Turkey Hill Ragtime Orchestra

Sunday, March 15, 4 pm, Sanctuary

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. The suggested donation is \$20-40. Donations will be accepted at Eventbrite, at the door, and at coffee hour today and next Sunday, March 15. *A presentation of the Music Committee*



Spring Equinox Art Fair



Works for sale by local artists from the Stow Area Guild of Artists, FPC, and local community members. Admission is free. Meet the artists, explore their work, and enter our raffle – each artist donates a piece to win! *Sponsored by SAGA and the FPC Arts Committee.*

FPC Auction 2026 - April 18



It's our largest fundraiser! Here are some ways to help:

➤ **Donate:** Offer a few hours of gardening, a group dinner or brunch, an art piece, home-baked goods, a workshop, a gift card from your favorite restaurant or shop. Donate at coffee hour or online with the QR code or <https://tinyurl.com/donateFPCAuction>.

➤ **Volunteer:** Help out at the live auction with set-up, clean-up, bid spotting and recording, food service, & more). Sign-up coming soon.



Donate to
Auction