

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



March 15, 2026
AI and Creativity

**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.

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

Gathering

Prelude "Paranoid Android" Trevor Berens
Radiohead Accompanist

Welcome & Announcements Aimeé Nicole Snyder Ledwell

Opening Words from *Nature* Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
by Ralph Waldo Emerson

Chalice Lighting

* **Hymn #38** "Morning Has Broken" *SLT*

Centering

* **Covenant and Affirmation** Aimeé Nicole Snyder Ledwell

Land Acknowledgement

Greet Your Neighbor

A Time for All Ages Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
Director of Religious Education

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

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.

Prayer or Meditation Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

In Words "Be the Blessing You Already Are"
by John & Sara Gibb Millspaugh

In Silence

In Music "Gnossienne No. 3" Trevor Berens
Eric Satie

* *Please rise in body or in spirit*

Exploring

Reading

“The Co-Creators”
ChatGPT

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

“Sound of Silence”
Paul Simon

FPC Choir

Hello, darkness, my old friend
I've come to talk with you again
Because a vision softly creeping
Left its seeds while I was sleeping
And the vision that was planted
 in my brain
Still remains
Within the sound of silence

In restless dreams I walked alone
Narrow streets of cobblestone
'Neath the halo of a streetlamp
I turned my collar to the cold and damp
When my eyes were stabbed
 by the flash of a neon light
That split the night
And touched the sound of silence

And in the naked light I saw
Ten thousand people, maybe more
People talking without speaking
People hearing without listening

People writing songs that voices
 never share
No one dared
Disturb the sound of silence

“Fools,” said I, “You do not know
Silence like a cancer grows
Hear my words that I might teach you
Take my arms that I might reach you.”
But my words like silent raindrops fell
And echoed in the wells of silence

And the people bowed and prayed
To the neon god they made
And the sign flashed out its warning
In the words that it was forming
And the sign said, “The words
 of the prophets
Are written on the subway walls
And tenement halls
And whispered in the sounds
 of silence.”

Sermon

“AI, Ethics & Creativity”

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Returning

* Hymn #1017

“We Are Building a New Way”

Singing the Journey

* **Benediction**

by James Luther Adams

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

* **Closing Song**

Postlude

“Space Oddity”

David Bowie

Trevor Berens

* * *

Thank you to:

Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host
Peter Fiske, Jeff Brown, Ushers
Kirsten Chetwynd, Coffee Host
Our staff and leadership

*Today's flowers are provided by friends of Mady Harvey
to commemorate her passing in 2020. March 15th is Mady's birthday.*

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

* *Please rise in body or in spirit*

≧ Today at FPC ≦

➤ 11:15 am - **Coffee Hour** - After the service in Fellowship Hall. Tickets available for Turkey Hill Ragtime Orchestra.

➤ 4:00 pm **Suzie Cartreine and the Turkey Hill Ragtime Orchestra**, Sanctuary
Suzie is a former Director of Music and Organist at FPC, and the orchestra she founded performs music and songs from 1890 to 1920. It's toe-tapping, fun music, and this is a rare opportunity to hear this genre played by a full dance orchestra. They will be joined by acclaimed mezzo-soprano Christina English, who will perform an assortment of delightful ragtime-era songs, ranging from silly to tender.



➤ Following the show - **Reception for Turkey Hill Ragtime Orchestra**, Vestry

≧ Announcements ≦

➤ **Religious Education** - This past week in Religious Education, the nursery got their duck hunt! It was most exciting. They heard a story about cows and chickens and a duck on the farm. Next, they were off on their own duck hunt which was very exciting. Once they counted how many ducks they found, one final story about a mischievous duck was read.



Upstairs in the Vestry, the group was learning what it means to "defund" something. They debated on whether or not to defund the chocolate factory. (a made up one) Each side had an opportunity to state their case along with visual aids. This was used as groundwork for talking about what that would mean to a real business/organization. The kids then shared some profound thoughts and opinions on current news topics. A display of their work will be up in the Vestry soon.

- Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson, DRE

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.



Stewardship

It is with deep appreciation and gratitude that the stewardship committee thanks all the members and friends who have made



pledges to FPC for the next year's budget. **We received \$404,512 in pledges.** The pledges help the Board as it plans next year's budget which will be presented at the annual meeting. Your continued support is critical to the maintenance and growth of our community, programs, and staff. ♥

≧ This Week at FPC ≦

➤ Ukulele Meetup - Wed, Mar 18, 7-9 pm - Community Room

Pat Sorn & Sue Stewart, Coordinators - For ukulele players wanting to practice with other players. All levels, including beginners, are invited to come and play. We have extra ukes for anyone to try.

➤ Spring Equinox Art Fair - Sat, Mar 21 & Sun, Mar 22



Works for sale by local artists from

- Stow Area Guild of Artists
- First Parish Church
- 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.*

Next Sunday, Mar 22, 10 am - "Prayers for the Future: An Intergenerational, Interactive Arts Sunday" Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum & Yaakov Trek Reef, Intern Minister - As we celebrate our artists in the art gallery event the previous day and after this service, this Sunday we will have an intergenerational and interactive service where we engage our artistic spirits while looking at our visions and prayers for the future of our church and the larger world.

≧ Upcoming at FPC ≦

Game Night - Friday, March 27, 7-9pm, 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.



FPC Auction 2026

Live Auction Sat, April 18, 6:30-9:30 pm

Online Auction from Sun, Apr 12 - Wed, Apr 22

Join in the FPC's biggest fundraiser! We need your help to make it a success, so please donate.

➤ **Physical items**: a painting, baked goods, homemade bread, tickets to a concert, a week at your vacation home, unique hand-crafted items, premium homemade compost

➤ **Services**: host an event, offer lessons, loans of sporting equipment, open your home to a dinner for six or eight winners, plan a picnic by a lake,

home fix-it services, pet sitting for a weekend, partner with someone else and offer an event together

➤ **Gift Cards**: You can either purchase a gift card or ask that business' owner if they would donate one. If you plan to ask a business for a donation, contact the auction committee for a copy of the Business Solicitation letter which has our tax-exempt number.

Donate at Sunday coffee hour or online with the QR code or link:

<https://tinyurl.com/donateFPCAuction>.

Donations are due by Monday, April 6th.

Questions? Ask anyone on the Action Steering Committee or email us at auction@fpc-stow-acton.org.

