

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



March 22, 2026

Seed Prayers for the Future:

An Intergenerational, Interactive Arts 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.

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

Gathering

Prelude "It Might As Well be Spring" Trevor Berens
Rodgers and Hammerstein Accompanist

Welcome & Announcements Elizabeth Michaud,
New Names Task Force

Introit "Vieni Spirito Creatore" FPC Choir
Taizé Chris Hossfeld
Come, Spirit of Creation Music Director

Opening Words & Chalice Lighting Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

* **Hymn** "We Are Rooted in Fertile Ground" *Sing Out Love*

Centering

* **Covenant**

Affirmation #380 Rejoice in love we know and share,
in love and beauty everywhere;
rejoice in truth that makes us free,
and in the good that yet shall be.

Land Acknowledgement

Greet Your Neighbor

Story Part I *The Everything Seed* Yaakov Trek Reef,
by Carole Martignacco (Author) Intern Minister
& Joy Troyer (Illustrator) & Meg Rivers-Wright,
Parish Administrator

Reflections "Prayerful Intentions" Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Introduction to Seed Paper Prayer Flags Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
Director of Religious Education
& Yaakov Trek Reef

* *Please rise in body or in spirit*

Joys and Sorrows

Mark Koenig, 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

In Words

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

In Silence

passing of prayer flags

In Music

Improvisation

Trevor Berens

Exploring

Gathering of Writing Implements

Children of the RE Program

Story Part II

The Everything Seed Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson,
by Carole Martignacco (Author) Director of
& Joy Troyer (Illustrator) Religious Education

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

"We Resist"

FPC Choir

Mark Miller

We resist, we refuse
to let hatred in!

We rise up, we won't back down!
We're in this 'til the end!

Pray for your enemies!

Welcome the stranger!

Show love to your neighbor!

We're in this 'til the end!

Hanging of the Prayer Flags

Returning

* Hymn

"For the Weaving of Our Lives"

Sing Out Love

* Benediction

Yaakov Trek Reef

* Closing Song

Postlude

"Heliotrope Bouquet"
Scott Joplin

Trevor Berens

* * *

Thank you to:
Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host
Lisa Rydin, Rick Lent, Ushers
Mark Koenig and Troy Liston, 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
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 - No classes. Today's service is intergenerational. Gr. 7-9 OWL will be this afternoon, according to the schedule.

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

➤ 12-4 pm - **Spring Equinox Art Fair** -



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.*

➤ 7-8:30 pm - New Name Q&A Time, Zoom

≧ Announcements ≦

March Plate Sharing - Southeast India Project



FPC has fostered and supported the Southeast India Project for 21 years. We work with poor villages in the tsunami-affected area of Tamil Nadu, India and the WIDE Orphanage for dalit children (from the caste formerly known as Untouchables), provide micro-lending for financing new opportunities for women, and establish 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. Thank you for your generous and continued support.



FPC Auction 2026

✨ Our Auction Shines Brighter With You! ✨

Be a Star – Donate to the FPC Auction

Help make FPC's biggest fundraiser of the year unforgettable! Great auctions start with great donations – and every item or experience makes a difference.



What Can You Donate?

- ★ Time at a vacation home
- ★ Artwork, gift cards, baked goods, meals
- ★ Handcrafted or one-of-a-kind items
- ★ Experiences: dinners, parties, classes
- ★ Services: lessons, pet & childcare, handyman, repair
- ★ Tickets to a game or show



Scan to Donate

 **Donations Due: April 6**

Auction Night: Saturday, April 18 | 6:30–9:30 PM

Online Auction Opens: Sunday, April 12

Questions?  auction@fpc-stow-acton.org

Thank you for supporting FPC!

⇒ This Week at FPC ⇐





➤ **Ukulele Meetup** - Wed, Mar 25, 7-9 pm - Community Room

Pat Sorn & Sue Stewart, Coordinators - We're having a special EXTRA Uke Meetup this month! All 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, or just come and sing along!

➤ **Game Night** - Fri, Mar 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.

⇒ Every Week at FPC ⇐

<p>Tue 10 am <u>Coffee and Chat</u> Town Center Park Gazebo*</p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div>	<p>Wed 6:40 pm <u>Meditation and Reading</u> Fellowship Hall & online</p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div>	<p>Thu 5 pm <u>Peace Vigil</u> Town Common in front of FPC</p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div>	<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> <div style="text-align: center;"></div>
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*In inclement weather, we meet at The Boston Bean House in Maynard, 102 Main Street.

Next Sunday, Mar 29, 10 am - "Resilience" Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum - Resilience is an important psychological and spiritual tool, needed now more than ever. Whether it's resilience as individuals, in a covenant-ed community, or as an entire planet, there are practices that will strengthen and grow our resilience. This service will explore resilience as a spiritual practice.

≧ Upcoming at FPC ≦

Polarized Guru Returns to the New Revival Coffeehouse

Saturday, April 11, 7:30 p.m.

The jazz/fusion quintet Polarized Guru returns to our stage to play a benefit concert for First Parish Church. The band is celebrating ten years together and presents a dynamic show with a mix of jazz, funk, latin, and other styles. Inspired by artists like Chick Corea, Spyro Gyra, Snarky Puppy, and Steps Ahead, the Gurus play covers and originals.



Members include Paul Rodriguez, leader, guitar and vocals; Todd Rhodes, drums; Bob Ponte, keyboards; Michael Merrill, bass; and John MacNeill, saxes and Aerophone.

“What a pleasure it is to hear a band like Polarized Guru. This five-piece fusion group is polished, professional and plays with passion and joy (no cold fusion here). The band performs originals as well as standards from the likes of Return to Forever, Spyro Gyra and the Yellowjackets. This is a band for serious listening and enjoyment – recommended for concerts and clubs more than easy-listening jazz brunches.” – Tom Nutile, Host of the Tuesday edition of Standard Time on WICN

Learn more about the Gurus at polarizedguru.com.

Tickets are \$20 in advance at Eventbrite.com and \$25 on the day of the concert. Tickets will also be available at coffee hour on March 29 and April 5. Doors open at 7:00 and the concert is at 7:30.

≧ Merger News at FPC ≦

May 3, 2026 after the Sunday Service is our big vote on the merger! Thank you to the 122 of you who have let us know that you will be there or have a proxy vote for you! For the 80 of you who haven't responded, we're going to start phoning you soon. You can save our volunteers time by answering this quick survey: <https://tinyurl.com/uusmash>

How will proxy votes work? When we have the articles of merger, we'll send them to all members, and send proxy forms out as well. If you've indicated that you need a proxy (via the form at <https://tinyurl.com/uusmash>) we'll have someone follow up with you specifically and walk you through the process as much as you need! If you know you want a proxy, also please answer this form: <https://tinyurl.com/uusmash>

What will our name be? Funny you should ask! The voting process begins TODAY after the service! Hopefully you've been receiving our emails about the vote. If you have, you should receive a vote in your email by the end of the service hour... try not to keep looking for it while worship is going on! If you believe you're a member, but you didn't get our email, or if you don't have an email, or if you need help voting, see our volunteers at coffee hour! We had around 130 unique names suggested! They represent a beautiful diversity of choices!

Where will we put things? What things are coming over from UCMH? A team comprised of Jeff Brown and Scott Feldhusen from the Building Committee, Helen Ham from the Arts Committee and Liz Moseley from the Archives Committee have been working with UCMH members on exactly that, taking photos and measurements and are figuring out where the paintings and documents, small tables, and the banner from behind their pulpit, and some really beautiful pieces overall will go. Our goal is that when (former) UCMH members walk into our united congregation for the first time, it feels like home!

What about our Covenant, our Mission, our Black Lives Matter Banner and their Rainbow path? There are many things we'll be working through together as a united congregation in the fall and throughout the next church year. These are some of the big ones, but we have confidence that we'll find common ground in all areas.