

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



March 29, 2026
Resilience

**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 29, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

Gathering

Prelude "Dear Lord" John MacNeill, Saxophone
John Coltrane Trevor Berens, Accompanist

Welcome & Announcements Ann Sadler, Lay Minister &
Nominating Committee

Opening Words "Our True Heritage" Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
by Thich Nhat Hanh ❀

Chalice Lighting

* **Hymn #347** "Gather the Spirit" *SLT*

Centering

* **Covenant and Affirmation**

Land Acknowledgement

Greet Your Neighbor

A Time for All Ages Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

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

Joys and Sorrows Ingrid Holcomb, 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

* *Please rise in body or in spirit*

In Words "I Carry Your Heart With Me (I Carry It in"
by e.e. cummings ❀

In Silence

In Song

"Loosen, Loosen"

Sing Out Love

Exploring

Reading

"Refugees"

by Brian Bilston ❀

They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way
(Now read from bottom to top)

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.

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 - RE will begin in the Vestry followed by classes. 7-9 OWL will be this afternoon according to the schedule.

➤ 11:15 am - **Coffee Hour** - After the service in Fellowship Hall; tickets on sale for April 11's Polarized Guru concert

➤ 11:30am-1pm **Native Justice Team TED Talk**: Lindsey Schneider, Indigenous Scholar, *Whose Land Are You On? What to Know About the Indigenous Land Back Movement*. Want to know more about Land Back? Please join us in the Community Room for this screening and conversation about Land Back, why it matters, and what we can do about it!

≧ 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.



Easter Flowers

Easter is right around the corner, and once again we will be decorating the Sanctuary, this year with all daffodils. This is also an opportunity to remember or honor a loved one by dedicating a plant to them, and you can take the plant home after the Easter service. Each potted plant is available for a donation of \$11. Order with Marcia Allison at church and coffee hour on Sunday or by emailing her at marrich86@hotmail.com. Please include...



- the number of plants you would like
- your names **exactly** as you want them to appear in the order of service
- "In memory of..." or "Honoring...." (optional)

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 – 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** ≦

2 April Thu 5:30-7 pm ➤ **Maundy Thursday Vespers** - Hall or Sanctuary, TBD

A communion service with no dinner church component because we'll be having a seder the following night! No sign-up needed!

3 April Fri 7-9 pm

➤ **Passover Freedom Seder & Potluck** - Fellowship Hall

A full seder mixing traditional texts with modern ideas about freedom, justice, and liberation from authoritarianism. Sign up is highly encouraged and you can do that with the QR code or here: <https://forms.gle/dWEkTdK7tKzzCvky7>

➤ **Game Night (Yes, for the second week in a row.)** - 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.





4 April Sat 1-2:30 pm ➤ **Native American Perspectives on Church Names**

with Akuahah and Aimee - Zoom



Sign Up: Passover
Freedom Seder
& Potluck

⇒ 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.

Next Sunday's Service, Apr 5, 10 am - "Easter Sunday: They Tried to Bury Us" - Yaakov Trek Reef, Intern Minister - What can the Easter story teach us about our Universalism and the resurrection of a values-based world rooted in love? There will also be an Easter Egg Hunt for the children followed by a special surprise for the adults in Fellowship Hall.

⇒ 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.



"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 TODAY and April 5. Doors open at 7:00 and the concert is at 7:30.