

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



April 5, 2026  
*They Tried to Bury Us*

**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.

April 5, 2026: 10:00 a.m.

**Gathering**

**Prelude**

“Frühlingsmorgen”  
(Spring Morning)  
Gustav Mahler

Jessica Tunick Berens,  
soprano  
Trevor Berens, Accompanist

The linden tree taps at the window  
With flower-laden boughs. Get up!  
Why do you lie dreaming?  
The sun has risen!

The lark awakes, the bushes stir,  
The bees and beetles hum. Get up!  
I’ve already seen your love.  
Get up, sleepy-head!

**Welcome & Announcements**

Ruth Lull,  
Board of Trustees

**Introit**

“Julian of Norwich”  
Sidney Carter,  
arr. Ed Stauff

FPC Choir; Chris Hossfeld, Music Director;  
Margot Law, piccolo; Caitlin McIntyre, violin;  
Ian McIntyre, viola

Loud are the bells of Norwich  
and the people come and go.  
Here by the tower of Julian,  
I tell them what I know.

Ring for the yellow daffodil,  
the flower in the snow.  
Ring for the yellow daffodil,  
and tell them what I know.

*Ring out, bells of Norwich,  
and let the winter come and go  
All shall be well again, I know.*

Loud are the bells of Norwich  
and the people come and go.  
Here by the tower of Julian,  
I tell them what I know.

Love, like the yellow daffodil,  
is coming through the snow.  
Love, like the yellow daffodil,  
is Lord of all I know.

*Ring out, bells of Norwich...*

*Ring out, bells of Norwich...*

All shall be well, I’m telling you,  
let the winter come and go  
All shall be well again, I know.

**Opening Words**

Yaakov Trek Reef,  
Intern Minister

**Chalice Lighting**

**\* Hymn #61**

“Lo the Earth Awakes Again”

SLT

*\* Please rise in body or in spirit*

## Centering

### \* Covenant and Affirmation

Tribe and Land Acknowledgement

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Greet Your Neighbor

Seed Communion

Yaakov Trek Reef, Intern Minister,  
and 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

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](mailto:caring@fpc-stow-acton.org).

Prayer or Meditation

Yaakov Trek Reef

In Words

In Silence

In Song

“All Will Be Well”

*Sing Out Love*

## Exploring

Reading

Excerpts from the Gospel of Mark

Sharing Our Gifts



This month we share our weekly offering with **RIA - Ready. Inspire. Act.** 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.

Make a Donation  
Online

**Anthem**

“Cantique de Jean Racine”

FPC Choir

Gabriel Fauré

Susan Avery, bassoon

*Verbe égal au très-haut, notre unique espérance,  
Jour éternel de la terre et des cieux,  
De la paisible nuit nous rompons le silence:  
Divin Sauveur, jette sur nous les yeux.*

Word of the highest, our only hope,  
Eternal day of earth and the heavens,  
We break the silence of the peaceful night;  
Divine Savior, cast your eyes upon us!

*Répands sur nous le feu de ta grâce puissante;  
Que tout l'enfer fuie au son de ta voix;  
Dissipe le sommeil d'une âme languissante  
Qui la conduit à l'oubli de tes lois!*

*Ô Christ! sois favorable à ce peuple fidèle,  
Pour Te bénir maintenant rassemblé;  
Reçois les chants qu'il offre  
à ta gloire immortelle,  
Et de tes dons qu'il retourne comblé.*

Pour on us the fire of your mighty grace,  
As all hell flees the sound of your voice;  
Banish the slumber of a weary soul,  
Who has forgotten your teachings!

O Christ, look on your people favorably,  
Now gathered here to praise you;  
Receive their hymns offered  
to your immortal glory;  
May they go forth filled with your gifts.

**Sermon**

“They Tried to Bury Us”

Yaakov Trek Reef,  
Intern Minister

**Returning**

\* **Hymn #163**

“For the Earth Forever Turning”

SLT

\* **Benediction**

Yaakov Trek Reef,  
Intern Minister

\* **Closing Song**

**Postlude**

“Du Friedefürst, Herr Jesu Christ,” BWV 1102  
Johann Sebastian Bach

Trevor Berens,  
organ

*After the service, please join us outside for the children's egg hunt,  
or in the Fellowship Hall for a special adult egg hunt!*

*Thank you to all those who provided daffodils for today's service!  
Please remember to take one with you as you leave the sanctuary.*

\* \* \*

*Thank you to:*

Zoom Host

Marcia Rising, Carolyn Zettler, Ushers  
Sharon Brownfield, Rick Lent, 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](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 have a *Time for All Ages* followed by Religious Education. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the children, followed by a special surprise for the adults in Fellowship Hall.

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

## ≧ 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.

## ≧ Announcements ≦

### **Plate Share for April: RIA (ready • inspire • act )**



RIA stands with and supports adults with experience in the commercial sex trade and its associated exploitation, trafficking, and prostitution by providing a range of community-based services to adult survivors including peer mentorship, clinical therapy, case management, support groups, and financial assistance. Our vision is a world where people's bodies are not victimized, exploited, bought, or sold for the gratification of another person. Your continued support is helping RIA to actualize their vision!

As difficult as it is, FPC has continued to address the horrific worldwide problem of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation. Globally more than 29 million people are trafficked for purposes of sex or labor across every country. Most of these people are women and children. More than half are trafficked for sex. This results in a \$32 billion illegal industry. Human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation happens everywhere, including not just Boston, but in the MetroWest and Central areas of Massachusetts.



Our liaison, Diane Miller, was one of the original Board Members when RIA started 12 years ago. Today she continues to support RIA by sharing her expertise on special projects. Visit <https://readyinspireact.org/> to learn more.

You may donate by check made out to First Parish Church, text to (978) 310-3309, or online using the QR code or going to [fpc-stow-acton.org/donate](https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate).



**FPC Auction 2026**

✨ **The Stars are aligned for FPC’s Auction!** ✨  
**The date is set and the theme is picked!**  
**Come join the fun!!**



**The Online Auction  
launches April 12  
and closes April 22.**

Please pre-register for bidding on the homepage – instructions are there to help: <https://FPCAuction2025.auctria.events>  
Bid early and often on items ranging from paintings to dinners to homemade soups to restaurant gift cards. Our wonderful collection of gently used jewelry will be available, too. Buy raffle tickets for a cash prize at coffee hour or at the live event.

**The Live Auction  
“Under One Sky”  
will be held on April 18th, 6:30-9:30 pm.**

A social hour with drinks, food and selected Silent Auction items will start at 6:30 PM. You’ll be able to preview jewelry and other Online Auction Items. Then we will assemble in Fellowship Hall for the live auction. We’ll also feature a Costume Contest and Get to Know you “Bingo” with prizes! We will announce winners and draw raffle winners after the Live Auction closes.

What you can do to help us reach for the stars:

**Donate!**

Last minute donations are still welcome.  
Donate a dinner, a unique item or service. Use the Donation Form to describe and price your item. Remember, if you donate an event, make sure to give a date, and please send photos of your offerings to [auction@fpc-stow-acton.org](mailto:auction@fpc-stow-acton.org).

Donate a Gift card to your favorite restaurant or business.





Scan to Donate

**Volunteer**

Watch for a SignUp Genius on FPCannounce and sign up to help with the many tasks needed to run the auction: serving appetizers and desserts, helping to decorate, recording bids and more. If you’ve never attended the auction before, volunteering is a great way to see what it’s all about!

Bring food! Watch for a SignUp Genius for food requests and help feed hungry bidders!

 **Donations Due: Tomorrow, April 6**  
Questions?  [auction@fpc-stow-acton.org](mailto:auction@fpc-stow-acton.org)  
*Thank you for supporting FPC!*

## ≧ This Week at FPC ≦

### ➤ **Book Group** Tuesday, April 7, 7-8 pm

*Other Rivers: A Chinese Education* by Peter Hesler

Email [sharonbrownfield@gmail.com](mailto:sharonbrownfield@gmail.com) or watch FPC Announce for the Zoom link.

### ➤ **Guest Table** Friday, April 10, 5:30 pm, 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! ~  
As always, there are many volunteer opportunities open!

Menu: Pizza, Salad, Dessert; We offer options made with vegetarian and gluten-free ingredients. All meals are nut-free.



Volunteer at  
Guest Table

### ➤ **New Revival Coffeehouse Presents: Polarized Guru** Sat, April 11, 7:30 p.m.

The jazz/fusion quintet Polarized Guru returns to our Hall 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...This five-piece fusion group is polished, professional and plays with passion and joy (no cold fusion here)." – Tom Nutile, Host of the Tuesday edition of Standard Time on WICN*



Tickets:  
Polarized Guru

Learn more about the Gurus at [polarizedguru.com](http://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. Doors open at 7:00 and the concert is at 7:30.

## ≧ Next Sunday, April 12 ≦

➤ 10 am - **Sunday Service: "Love at the Center"** - Reverend Doctor Cynthia Landrum  
Love is at the center of our new UU values. What does it mean to be a faith that centers love? We'll look at the Universalist heritage that tells us God is love and that that love is universal and what that means for us today.

➤ 11 am - **Elder/Memory Care Peer Support Group** - Parlor

➤ 11:30 am - **Racial Justice Task Force Drop-in** - Community Room