

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



April 12, 2026
Centering Love

featuring What the World Needs Now: Interfaith Coalition Singers

**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.

If the sky above you
Grows dark and full of clouds
And that old north wind begins to blow
Keep you head together
And call my name out loud now
Soon you'll hear me knocking at you door
You just call out my name...

Now ain't it good to know
that you've got a friend
When people can be so cold?
They'll hurt you, yes, and desert you
And take your soul if you let them,
Oh, but don't you let them
You just call out my name...

Ain't it good to know you've got a friend?
Oh yeah now, you've got a friend.

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

Milestone 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 "The Spirit of Life Is Here"
by Rebekah Savage

In Silence

In Song (Medley) WWNN
"Geshher Tzar M'od," Judith Silver & Rabbi Nachman of Breslov
"Peace Salaam Shalom," Pat Humphries & Sandy Apatow
"Od Yavo Shalom/Salaam Moshe," Ben Ari

Exploring

Song "This Little Light" WWNN
African American Spiritual Introduction by Walter Cooper

Introduction to April Plate Share Diane Miller, RIA

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, or text (978) 310-3309.



Make a Donation
Online

Anthem "Hiney Ma Tov" WWNN
James Wilson

Homily "Centering Love" Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Returning

* **Hymn (Medley)** "Poor People's Campaign:
Everybody's Got a Right to Live" WWNN
Rev. Frederick Douglass Kirkpatrick & Jimmy Collier

"You are Not Gonna Take My Sister"
Cantor Vera Broekhuysen

* **Benediction** "Be True, Be Well, Be Loving"
Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

* **Closing Song**

Postlude "Lean on Me" WWNN
Bill Withers and FPC Choir

* **Greet Your Neighbor**

* * *

Thank you to:

Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host

Brendon Chetwynd, Tech Helper

Jeff Brown, Rick Lent, Ushers

Kirsten Chetwynd, Michael Merrill, Quinci Sprague, Coffee Hosts

Our staff and leadership

What the World Needs Now: Interfaith Coalition Singers harness the power of song to inspire hope, foster unity, and ignite action. Rooted in the Greater Boston area, they bring people together through harmonies that transcend differences, spreading messages of love, justice, and togetherness. Through performances, song-leading, and collaborations with social justice movements, faith communities, and advocacy groups, they strive to heal, uplift, and empower change – one song at a time.

* *Please rise in body or in spirit*

What the World Needs Now's performances blend concert-style singing with interactive sing-alongs, creating a powerful and joyous experience. From RnB and Soul to Folk, they offer songs reflecting differing faith traditions including singing in Hebrew and Arabic. They lend their voices to organizations like the Poor People's Campaign, Massachusetts Peace Action, houses of worship, and community events in the greater Boston area.

Members:

Jenny Bonham-Carter, Walter Cooper, Stephen Cooper,
Belle Linda Halpern, Merle Perkins

Information and videos online at *whattheworldneedsnowsingers.com* or contact Jenny Bonham-Carter at *jennysusannabc@gmail.com* or 857-998-0992.

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** - There will be a *Time for All Ages* early in the service, after which children will leave for class in the Vestry.
- **Coffee Hour** - After the service in Fellowship Hall
- **Elder/Memory Care Peer Support Group** - After the service in the Parlor
For anyone dealing with elder/memory care issues for a loved one. We're here to support each other on this difficult journey and share resources. Ends 12:30 pm.
- **Racial Justice Task Force Drop-in** 11:30 am – 1 pm, Community Room

≧ 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.



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
launched April 12
and closes April 22.**

**The Live Auction
is this Saturday, April 18th
6:30-9:30 pm.**

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.

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.

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!

Questions?  auction@fpc-stow-acton.org
Thank you for supporting FPC!

≧ This Week at FPC ≦

➤ 4/13 Monday, 7-9 pm, Sanctuary - **Jazz Band Rehearsal**

➤ 4/15 Wednesday, 5 pm **Submission Deadline for *The Chronicle***
Please email your submissions to Meg at office@fpc-stow-acton.org.

➤ 4/15 Wednesday, 7-9 pm, online - **Committee & Task Force Heads Annual Calendar of Programs**

<https://tinyurl.com/calendarzoommtg>

Meeting ID: 926 4909 5756

Passcode: 711401



Zoom mtg.
26-27 Calendar
Committee Heads

➤ 4/15 Wednesday, 7-9 pm, Community Room **Ukulele Meetup**

For ukulele players wanting to practice with other players. Uke lovers of all levels (including beginners!) are welcome to come and play. We have extra ukes for anyone who'd like to try them out. Pat Sorn and Sue Stewart, Coordinators

➤ 4/18 Saturday, 6:30-10 pm, Fellowship Hall & Community Room
2026 FPC Auction - Under One Sky - Live Auction

This is our Live Auction of specially selected items. Gather to socialize and partake in light snacks, wine, beer, and soft drinks. Peruse the FPC Jewelry Table offerings and a few Silent Auction surprises in the Community Room. Then get down to the business (and fun!) of live bidding! Childcare will be provided.

➤ Next Sunday's Service - 4/19, 10:30 am - **"Earth Day: A Celebration in Rhyme"** at the Unitarian Church of Marlborough and Hudson - Reverend Doctor Cynthia Landrum - This Sunday our congregation will be joining the 10:30 am service of the Unitarian Church of Marlborough and Hudson at 80 Main St. in Hudson. Earth Day has been an important holiday in liberal circles since its creation in the 1970s. On this Earth Day, Reverend Cindy will celebrate, through poetry, our love for the planet.

➤ **1:30-3:30 pm - Transgender Rights 2026 Panel** - Hall - Free & Open to Public
Join Senator Jamie Eldridge and a panel of experts and neighbors who will discuss transgender and nonbinary legislation - examining both the legal policies and how they affect real people. Rebecca Minor, therapist and author of *Raising Trans Kids*, will be signing her book. Send your questions in advance:
lgbtqevents@fpc.groups.io - FPC LGBTQ+ Task Force