

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



April 26, 2026
Coming Together

**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.

April 26, 2026: 10:00 a.m.

Gathering

Prelude "April in Paris" Trevor Berens
Vernon Duke Accompanist

Welcome & Announcements Lisa Fagerstrom

Opening Words "You Are Never Alone" Lisa Fagerstrom
by Sharon Wylie

Chalice Lighting "A Wild and Holy Vision"
by Shawn Gibson

*** Hymn #145** "As Tranquil Streams" *Singing the Living Tradition*

Centering

*** Covenant and Affirmation** Lisa Fagerstrom

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

Art of Transformation and Change Exercise Lisa Fagerstrom &
Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

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

In Words "In-betweenness"
by Michelle LaGrave

In Silence

In Song #1002 "Comfort Me" *Singing the Journey*

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

Exploring

Antiphonal Reading #568 “Connections Are Made Slowly
(The Seven of Pentacles)”
by Marge Piercy

Lisa Fagerstrom



Make a Donation
Online

Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share our weekly offering with **RIA (Ready Inspire Act)**. You may donate by cash, check made out to First Parish Church, online at fpc-stow-acton.org/donate, or text (978) 310-3309.

Anthem

“Prelude in D Major”
Sergei Rachmaninoff

Trevor Berens

Sermon

“Coming Together” Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Returning

* **Hymn #18**

“What Wondrous Love” *Singing the Living Tradition*

* **Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

* **Closing Song**

Postlude

“Intermezzo Op 118 No 2”
Johannes Brahms

Trevor Berens

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Thank you to:

Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host
Kate Imhoff, Marion Scott, Ushers
Jeff Brown, Coffee Host
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** - Ferry Beach weekend. We will still have class in the Vestry for our families who stay in town.
- **Coffee Hour** - After the service in Fellowship Hall

≧ Announcements ≦

Another huge thank you to all our FPC Auction volunteers, donors, and bidders.



Not only did we have a wonderful live event with great food, costumes, and fun, but we also raised about \$22,000 for the church from the live and online auctions. Visit the Auction table at coffee hour next Sunday, May 3 and Sunday, May 10 to pick up gift cards, jewelry, and other items listed on your auction statement.

You can also pay your Auctria bill at the table. There are still lots of open seats for various events. You can purchase event seats at the Auction table. There will also be items on sale from the Jewelry Table! Questions about claiming your items: auction@fpc-stow-acton.org or stop by the coffee hour table. Thank you all again for your help in making this a STELLAR event. - The Auction Committee

≧ Announcements ≦

➤ **Ice Cream Social** This coming Saturday, 5/2, 1-4 pm, Fellowship Hall
Sponsored by FPC's *Supporting Asylum Seekers Task Force* - Our Mission: To help those who are in need, who are seeking asylum or refuge, and who hope to build their lives locally.

Pay what you can for your ice cream sundae (suggested donation \$8, families \$25. All proceeds will be used to fund the increasing, urgent needs of asylum seekers, such as rent, food, and legal fees.



➤ **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. Visit <https://readyinspireact.org/> to learn more.

**Supporting Survivors,
Transforming Lives**

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.



≧ This Week at FPC ≦

➤ **Jazz Band Rehearsal** Monday, 4/27, 7-9 pm, Sanctuary
Any parishioner interested in sitting in with the band should contact Michael Paladini, Musical Director, at 508-633-3673 or mwpaladini@gmail.com.

➤ **Indigenous Justice Task Force** Tuesday, 4/28, 7-8 pm, Zoom

➤ **Documentary Screening: *The Quilters*** Friday, 5/1, 7-9 pm, Fellowship Hall
Join us for a special screening of an inspiring and award-winning Netflix short documentary. This powerful film tells the story of men in a Missouri maximum-security prison who pour their hearts into designing and sewing quilts for children in the foster care system. It's a moving reminder of creativity, healing, and the power of compassion in unexpected places. Come share an evening of film, reflection, and community.







Film at 7 pm, followed by dessert and discussion.

Co-sponsored by the FPC Arts Committee and the Racial Justice Task Force.

➤ **Ice Cream Social** Saturday, 5/2, 1-4 pm, Fellowship Hall
See Announcements section for details!

≧ 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 & 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> 34 Meeting House Ln, Main Entrance, Stow</p> 
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* In inclement weather, we meet at The Boston Bean House in Maynard, 102 Main Street

≧ Upcoming ≦

➤ Next Sunday's Service - May 3, 10 am - "Who is Our Neighbor?"



Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Director of Religious Education, Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson, and members of the Religious Education Committee

➤ Special Congregational Meeting - May 3, 12:00 pm following the service
FPC Members, your leadership team and many others have worked diligently to prepare for the formal merger vote on Sunday, May 3rd. Our UCMH friends will also participate in the service, then retire to Fellowship Hall to conduct their own formal merger vote.

The **merger agreement** is available on the FPC website using this link <https://tinyurl.com/merger-agreement> or QR code.



A **more formal summary** is available at this link <https://tinyurl.com/formal-summary> or QR code. This summary is also being shared with those members who requested a proxy vote; they will be contacted separately.



I look forward to this journey together with a community that I love.

- Brendon Chetwynd, Board President

➤ Plant and Jewelry Sales - Saturday, May 16, 9:30-11:30 am
Celebrate spring with something leafy or sparkly!

Plant Sale 🌱

FPC Parking Lot

Perennials, annuals, shrubs, vegetables, seedlings, and more!

Jewelry Sale 💎

Community Room

Silver and costume jewelry, vintage and modern pieces, necklaces, earrings, bracelets, watches, beading supplies

FPC & UCMH folks are welcome to come help set up on Friday any time between 4 and 7 pm OR at 9 am Saturday to shop with the early birds!

Art of Transformation and Change Exercise

<i>Letting Go:</i> Things I'm Losing	<i>Holding On:</i> Things I'm Keeping	<i>Looking Forward:</i> Things I'm Gaining