

Sunday, November 13, 2022, 10:00 AM

Gathering

Prelude *Arioso from Cantata BWV 156* Sanghee Kim, organ
J.S. Bach

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Sharon Brownfield, Board President

Introit *One Voice* FPC Adult Choir
The Wailin' Jennies

Opening Words

Chalice Lighting

* **Hymn #347** *Gather the Spirit*

***Covenant**

Love is the spirit of this church,
and service its law.
This is our great covenant:
To dwell together in peace,
to seek the truth in love,
and to help one another.

*** Affirmation**

From all that dwell below the skies
let words of love and peace arise.
Let joyful songs of praise be sung,
through every land,
by every tongue.

Centering

Message for All Ages The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Going Forth with the Light

Joys and Sorrows Marcia Rising, Lay Minister

* *Please rise in body or spirit*

Prayer or Meditation

* **Hymn #1012** *When I am Frightened*

Exploring

Growing Connections: Stewardship 2023-2024 Stewardship Committee

Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share our weekly offering with Supporting Asylum Seekers
Checks may be made to "First Parish Church" or donate online at
<https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate> or by text to (978) 310-3309.

Anthem *I Sing Because I'm Happy* FPC Adult Choir
arr. Rollo Dillworth

Sermon *Gathering the Spirit at FPC: Growing Connections*
The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Returning

* **Hymn #1021** *Lean on Me*

***Benediction**

* **Closing Song**

Peace be with you 'til we meet again!
As life lays its task before you,
keep love's banner floating o'er you.
Peace be with you 'till we meet again.

Postlude *Sweet, Sweet Spirit* Sanghee Kim, piano
D. Akers

* *Please rise in body or spirit*



Thank you to:

Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host
Rebecca and John MacNeill, Ushers
FPC Adult Choir, Song Leaders
Mark Koenig and Troy Liston, Coffee Hour Hosts
and to our staff and leadership

Our flowers today are given by
Nancy Cataldo, in remembrance of her sister Kathleen,
who passed away in November 2021.



Land Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge that this service is being held by a community that gathers on the stolen traditional lands of the Massachusett, Nipmuc, Pawtucket, and Wampanoag People. We pay respect to those Indigenous Peoples who lost their lives in the colonization of this land and recognize that these Indigenous tribes are still today facing violations of sovereignty, territory, and water. We also give thanks for the Earth we walk upon, the waters, the lifegiving plants, and all the Earth’s creatures, as well as the winds, sun, moon, and stars. We recognize this is just a first step in moving toward right relationship with Native peoples and healing of the Earth.

Connect with First Parish Church

Sign our visitor’s log at [tinyurl.com/visitfpc](https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org/visitfpc)
Services Sunday at 10 am, in person and online
Subscribe to

The Chronicle, our monthly emailed newsletter,
This Week at FPC, our weekly Friday email,
and our email groups FPC Announce and FPC Forum, all at
<https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org/subscribe-newsletters>



**FIRST PARISH
CHURCH
OF STOW &
ACTON**



Unitarian Universalist

Sunday, November 13, 2022

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum,
Minister
Marissa Evans, Acting Director of
Religious Education
Marie Egan, Temporary Parish
Administrator
Brad Dumont, Music Director
Sanghee Kim, Organist/Pianist

Mike Silkonis, Sexton
Ben Child, Tech Assistant
Janet Beatrice, External Publicity
Sharon Brownfield, President
Jenni Edgerton, 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.

To help everyone be a part of worship in the fullest way possible, the ushers can provide large print orders of service and hymnals or, for people who need to step out during the service for any reason, an assisted listening device (portable radio) which works throughout the building.

On the web at [fpc-stow-acton.org](https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org) and on Facebook.

ONLINE SUPPLEMENT PAGE

This page contains information specifically for folks joining us online!

FPC now has a closed captioning option in online services. If the Closed Captioning option is not turned on, you can use the button at the bottom of your screen to request that the host turn it on.



Today's Online Helpers Zoom Host: Kim Kinnear

Hymn Lyrics

Hymn #347

Gather the Spirit

1. Gather the spirit, harvest the power.
Our sep'rate fires will kindle one flame.
Witness the mystery of this hour.
Our trials in this light appear all the same.
(Chorus) Gather in peace, gather in thanks.
Gather in sympathy now and then.
Gather in hope, compassion and strength.
Gather to celebrate once again.
2. Gather the spirit of heart and mind.
Seeds for the sowing are laid in store.
Nurtured in love, and conscience refined,
with body and spirit united once more. (Chorus)
3. Gather the spirit growing in all,
drawn by the moon and fed by the sun.
Winter to spring, and summer to fall,
the chorus of life resounding as one. (Chorus)

Hymn #1012

When I am Frightened

1. When I am frightened, will you reassure me?
When I'm uncertain, will you hold my hand?
Will you be strong for me, sing to me quietly?
Will you share some of your stories with me?
If you will show me compassion, then I may learn to care as you do,
then I may learn to care.
2. When I am angry, will you still embrace me?
When I am thoughtless, will you understand?
Will you believe in me, stand by me willingly?
Will you share some of your questions with me?
If you will show me acceptance, then I may learn to give as you do,
then I may learn to give.
3. When I am troubled, will you listen to me?
When I am lonely, will you be my friend?
Will you be there for me, comfort me tenderly?
Will you share some of your feelings with me?
If you will show me commitment, then I may learn to love as you do,
then I may learn to love.

We switched to 8.5x14" paper and a larger font size for the OOS. If you want to print this on standard 8.5x11" paper and can't, email us at office@fpc-stow-action.org and we'll figure something else out next week.

Hymn 3 on next page.

Hymn #1021

Lean on Me

1. Sometimes in our lives we all have pain, we all have sorrow.
But if we are wise we know that there's always tomorrow.

Chorus: Lean on me when you're not strong
and I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on,
For it won't be long 'til I'm gonna need somebody to lean on.
Just call on me brother when you need a hand.
We all need somebody to lean on.
I just might have a problem that you'd understand.
We all need somebody to lean on.

2. Please swallow your pride if I have things you need to borrow,
For no one can fill those of your needs that you won't let show.
3. If there is a load you have to bear that you can't carry,
I'm right up the road, I'll share your load if you just call me.

Sharing Our Gifts

If you are mailing a pledge or a donation, here is the information:

Pledges: attn: Pledge Secretary, PO Box 215, Stow MA 01775

Donations: attn: Treasurer, 353 Great Rd, Stow MA 01775

Plate Sharing This Month: Supporting Asylum Seekers



The Supporting Asylum Seekers group is an active part of the Social Justice work of FPC. We work to support asylum seekers and refugees who seek a safe home in our surrounding communities. We greatly appreciate the Congregation's ongoing support and plate sharing!

This past year we have extensively helped a local family of 4 from Honduras. We raised money to hire a lawyer, who has filed and will represent them in their Asylum case. We have given funds for rent, and provided transportation, English language lessons, caring, advice, and friendship.

We also coordinate with UU Mass Action, the UU Service Committee, and UUSJ (UUs for Social Justice - UU Advocacy in the Nation's Capital) to work for political change toward our UU values, in our state and nation.

We have also expanded to help local Afghan evacuees/refugees and partnered with other area churches to sponsor and support these families. We meet by Zoom on the 1st Mondays of each month, and all are invited to join us for a meeting or for any of our actions. Contacts: Susie O'Brien or Steve Evans at asylumsupport@fpc-stow-acton.org

All are welcome to the following FPC weekly events

Coffee and Chat Tuesdays 10 - 11 am

Meet at the Town Park adjacent to FPC. Bring your own coffee!

Meditation Wednesdays 7:30-8:30 pm Hall and online

Contact meditation@fpc-stow-acton.org for more information

Peace Vigil Thursdays 5 – 6 pm

Meet between Common Road and Great Road in front of FPC.

Contact Neil Saunders neilsaund@verizon.net for more info.

Bridge Group Fridays 12:30-3:30 pm Community Room.

Contact Hector Constantzos Hconstantzos@gmail.com for more information.

FPC Announcements: November 13, 2022

Today at FPC

10 am Service, Sanctuary/online

10:15 Prek-5th, 6th-8th grade, High School RE dismissed from Sanctuary

11 am Coffee Hour, includes Christmas flower orders

11 am Net Zero Tour of Fellowship Hall's Kitchen

11:15 am Parent Discussion Group, Community Room

12 pm Spiritual Conversations, Parlor/on-line

4pm Online Discussion of Proposed Changes to UU Principles

This Week in Religious Education

PreK-1st & 2nd-5th grade (Lower Hall) explore how working for change in the world can be like playing music in a band: each person plays an instrument and the sound that is created is much bigger than just that instrument.

Junior Youth (Vestry Classroom) begin a month-long study of Christianity; we review the basic beliefs and play a game to understand a progressive view of sin as "missing the mark."

High School Discussion Group (Youth Room) talks about supporting friends with mental health challenges.

Parent Discussion Group: Sunday November 13, 11:15am-noon. Childcare provided. Join fellow parents for connection and support, hosted by Russ Hart.

Holiday Gift Drive for Residents of Domestic Violence Shelters

Once again, FPC will be fulfilling the holiday wishes of the guests of two domestic shelters: Renewal House and Voices Against Violence. What better way to celebrate the holidays than to make them special for someone else? Sign up now: <https://tinyurl.com/fpcgift2022> Unwrapped gifts due Dec 2nd or 3rd. There will not be a table at coffee hour. If you have any questions, contact Diane Miller at 978-897-5470 or our team of elves at gift-drive@fpc-stow-acton.org.

This Week at FPC: November 14-19

- Monday** Jazz Band Rehearsal, 7-9 pm, Sanctuary
Sounds of Stow Rehearsal, 7-9 pm, Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday** Coffee and Chat, 10-11 am, Town Gazebo
Boards of Trustees Meeting, 7-9:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday** Ukutarian Meetup, 7-9 pm, Community Room
Meditation, 7:30-8:30 pm, Hall/online
- Thursday** Archives, 9:30-11:30 am, Vestry
20th Anniversary Peace Vigil: Light a Path to Peace, 5-6 pm
Choir, 7:15-9 pm, Sanctuary
- Friday** Bridge Group, 12:30-3:30 pm, Community Room
Club UU Talent Show, 6:30-8:30 pm, Lower Hall
Parent Game Night, 6:30-8:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
Senior Youth Group Movie Night, 7-9:30 pm, Youth Room
- Saturday** Jr Youth Bread Making, 9:30 am – 1:30 pm, Hall/Kitchen

Next Sunday's Services

Sunday, November 20, 2002, 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary and Online Gratitude and Mourning: Understanding Thanksgiving as a Day of Sorrow – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Unitarian Universalists often wrestle with holidays and traditions that honor the colonizing behavior of our past, and especially can find Thanksgiving to be a difficult holiday. While we continue to share elements of our Thanksgiving service, like the tradition of our junior youth breaking bread, this year's service will focus more on the history of colonization and the treatment of Indigenous Peoples. We'll learn more about our Land Acknowledgement and our past efforts and future plans, as well, and be joined by members of the team that created it, Aimee Snyder Ledwell and Mary Evans.

Join us for a potluck after the service and stay for our Transgender Day of Remembrance afternoon service.

Sunday, November 20, 2002, 1:00 PM in the Sanctuary and Online Transgender Day of Remembrance Service,

Join us for a potluck after the morning service, and then for our annual service honoring the lives of Transgender people who died in acts of violence over the last year. We will be joined by other UU churches and clergy for this important remembrance.

Link for Both Services



Join Worship by Video: <https://tinyurl.com/22-23fpc>
Meeting ID: 9990 7077 00266 Passcode: 01775
Join Worship by Phone: (929) 205-6099 (toll call)



Ukutarians are Unitarians (and their friends) who like to jam on ukuleles. Join us Wednesday, November 16, 7-9 pm in the Community room

20th Anniversary Peace Vigil: Special Candlelight Vigil

Thursday, November 17, 5- 6pm. Our goal is to have enough people attending to spread out along the entire length of Stow Common on Great Road so that we can literally illuminate a path towards peace.

Club UU: Talent Show. Friday Nov 18, 6:30-8:30pm Lower Hall. Bring something special to share! All talents, skills, interests, and hobbies are welcome.

Senior Youth: Movie Night. Friday Nov 18, 7-9:30 pm Youth Room Join us for a movie, crafts, and popcorn. Youth will get to vote on the movie. (Email Marissa to submit a nomination: dre@fpc-stow-acton.org)

Game Night. Friday Nov 18, 6:30-8:30 pm. Fellowship Hall Join us in a night of game playing while the youth are busy elsewhere.

Junior Youth: Thanksgiving Bread Baking Sat Nov 19, 9:30am - 1:30pm Gather in the FPC kitchen to bake bread for the intergenerational Thanksgiving service on Sunday.

Save the Date

New Revival Coffee House. Saturday December 3, Fellowship Hall
7:30 pm, (Doors open at 7) \$17 advance, \$20 door
Performing songwriter Thea Hopkins will open the season. A member of the Aquinnah Wampanoag tribe of Martha's Vineyard, Thea calls her music Red Roots Americana. She first came to wider public notice when Peter, Paul & Mary recorded her song "Jesus Is On The Wire" in 2004, and then again in 2010 with the Prague Symphony Orchestra. It is considered one of their later signature songs. For more information, see www.theahopkins.com. For questions, call 978-274-2593, or email coffeehouse@fpc-stow-acton.org.

Carol Sing After the Service. Sunday December 4. Sanctuary

Women's Annual Cookie Swap. Sun Dec 13, 7 pm Community Rm
If you want to swap cookies, bring 3 dozen, NO NUTS. If you don't, join us for poems and stories read by Ann Sadler plus yummy appetizers (please bring some to share), hot mulled cider, seltzer, wine, and cookies. RSVP to Diane Miller at millerdiane@comcast.net

FPC Jazz Band. Saturday December 17, 1:30 pm
New Horizons, 400 Hemenway St. Marlborough

Christmas Eve Services at 4 pm and 7 pm in the Sanctuary and online
No service December 25th

Considering Matthew Shepard

4 pm Saturday,
November 19

Chapel of the Holy
Spirit
Assumption
University

500 Salisbury St,
Worcester, MA
01609

Our own Brad
Dumont is
directing.

The event is free
and will be
followed by a
discussion and
reflection panel.

CONSIDERING MATTHEW SHEPARD

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19th - 4:00 PM

Assumption University Chorale and VOCE
Brad Dumont, Director of Choral Activities
Chapel of the Holy Spirit
Free Admission

Join us following the concert for a discussion
and reflection panel with faculty and
students about the impact of this work.

Allies "Coming Out" Panel
Tuesday, November 15th - 6:30
Learn more online



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Stewardship Pledge to First Parish Church of Stow and Acton

Growing Connections: Stewardship Drive 2023

Yes, it is that time again. When we ask members and friends to indicate their financial intentions for the next church year. First Parish Church is a self-sustaining congregation that relies on the generosity of members and friends to fund about 70% of our budget. Our goal as always is 100% member participation in our annual stewardship campaign. Our focus for the upcoming year will be to:

- Strengthen our music, art, and worship.
- Nurture our new staff through development opportunities.
- Deepen our commitment to our children and youth via strong RE programming.

We are thankful for the FPC Community that sustains, supports, and celebrates with us. Join us in these goals by making a financial pledge at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/stewardship-pledge>

Or by submitting the slip to the right.

Our primary Stewardship goal this year is 100% member participation in the pledge drive.

Name _____ Date _____

I/We:

- Pledge \$_____ to First Parish Church for the next fiscal year (July 2023 - June 2024).
- Wish to make the above pledge a Renewing Pledge, which will carry over from year to year with an automatic annual increase of _____% per year.
- Request a Face-to-Face Stewardship meeting (especially recommended for those who are new to FPC).

Comments (optional): _____

Your pledge is a statement of intention to support FPC with a financial contribution. FPC establishes its annual budget based on amounts pledged by Members & Friends. However should circumstances change, you are free to amend your pledge at any time.

Thank-you for your Generosity to FPC!

Dear FPC Community,

The UU Principles are part of the UUA Bylaws (in Article II), and as such they are periodically reviewed. The Article II Commission has released a draft proposal for Article II revisions, and it is available here:

https://www.uua.org/files/2022-10/article2_draft_language_102022.pdf

There are several sessions for feedback to the Article II Commission from now until Nov. 14 listed here:

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>, as well as a form to submit with feedback for those who cannot make it to the feedback sessions. This will all result in a new draft that will be released in December. The final draft in January will go to the UUA General Assembly for a first vote this June, and a second vote, if the first is successful, the following year.

This draft is a revision of all of Article II, and it replaces the Principles with a section titled "Values and Covenant." As you might imagine, I have lots of opinions about it. I bet you will too! I've scheduled an online session Sunday at 4pm for us to learn more about this proposal and discuss it. The link is repeated in *This Week at FPC*, our Friday email.

Peace,
Cindy

Proposed Changes to UU Principles
Sunday, November 13, 4pm, online



Join Discussion by Video:

<https://tinyurl.com/fpc-uuprinciples-22>

Meeting ID: 9990 7077 00266 Passcode: 01775

