

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



Sunday, April 6, 2025  
*Morning Star Singers*

**The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L.  
Landrum**  
Minister

**Rev. Susan  
Suchocki Brown**  
Sabbatical Minister

**Meg Rivers-Wright**  
Administration, Publicity,  
Membership

**Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson**  
Director of Religious Education

**Chris Hossfeld**  
Music Director

**Trevor Berens**  
Accompanist

**Justin Marble**  
Nursery Care Coordinator

**Felix Freeman**  
Tech Assistant

**Mike Silkonis**  
Sexton

**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 6, 2025: 10:00

Gathering

\* **Gathering Song**

“Call to Our Relations”  
George Paul

Morning Star Singers

*All are invited to join in singing on the text in **bold**.*

Wejgwita’jig gnnngi’gmaq,  
Ula tet nige’ia

They are coming, my people,  
right here now.

Mawiomi wesgowa’s’g,  
Welta’ sualtultingewei

The gathering is on.  
We are very happy.

Wejgwita’jig niskamij,  
Ula tet nige’ia

They are coming, the ancestors,  
right here now.

Nenmi’tij ta’n elta’tij angap  
Tmi’tij ugtawtiwow

They know where they are going  
They look at their road

Wejgwwita’jig no’gmaq,  
Ula tet nige’ia

They are coming, my relations,  
right here now.

Pepgwejete’mati’gw newgititpa’q  
Way ha ya yo way

We are drumming all night long.

**Way ha way ha way ha ya**

**Way ha way ha ya**

**Way ha ya yo way**

**Way ha, way ha, way ha ya**

**Way ha way ha ya**

**Way ha ya yo way**

**Welcome**

Brendon Chetwynd  
Board President

**Opening Words**

“Four Direction Prayer”  
Johnny Paleface  
Navajo (Dineh) Native American

Peter Searching Owl  
(Mohawk)

**Chalice Lighting**

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson  
Director of Religious Education

\* *Please rise in body or in spirit*

\* Communal Song

“Water Song”  
Ancient Cherokee

Morning Star Singers

*Sung four times, all are invited to join in singing*

Wishita do ya do ya do ya  
Wishita do ya do ya hay  
Wishita do ya do ya do ya  
Wishita do ya do ya hay

Wisha teneya hay-a hay-a  
Wisha teneya hay-a hay  
Wisha teneya hay-a hay-a  
Wisha teneya hay-a hay

Centering

\* Covenant and Affirmation

Brendon Chetwynd

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.

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.

Land Acknowledgement

Aimeé Nicole Snyder Ledwell

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

Rev. Susan Suchocki Brown

\* Communal Song

“Humble Song”

Morning Star Singers

*All are invited to join in singing on the text in **bold**.*

1. We gotta humble ourselves  
in the eyes of our Creator  
**We gotta bend down low**  
**We gotta humble ourselves**  
in the eyes of our Creator  
We gotta know what she knows  
We can raise each other up –  
higher and higher  
We can raise each other up –

2. We gotta humble ourselves  
in the eyes of our Mishomis\*  
**We gotta bend down low**  
**We gotta humble ourselves**  
in the eyes of our Mishomis\*  
We gotta know what he knows  
We can raise each other up –  
higher and higher  
We can raise each other up –

3. We gotta humble ourselves  
in the eyes of our Nokomis\*\*  
**We gotta bend down low**  
**We gotta humble ourselves**  
in the eyes of our Nokomis\*\*  
**We gotta know what she knows**  
**We can raise each other up –**  
**higher and higher**  
**We can raise each other up –**
4. We gotta humble ourselves  
in the eyes of the Children  
**We gotta bend down low**  
**We gotta humble ourselves**  
in the eyes of the Children  
**We gotta know what they know**  
**We can raise each other up –**  
**higher and higher**  
**We can raise each other up –**
5. We gotta humble ourselves  
in the eyes of the Winged  
**We gotta bend down low**  
**We gotta humble ourselves**  
in the eyes of the Winged  
**We gotta know what they know**  
**We can raise each other up –**  
**higher and higher**  
**We can raise each other up –**
6. We gotta humble ourselves  
in the eyes of our Four Legged  
**We gotta bend down low**  
**We gotta humble ourselves**  
in the eyes of our Four Legged  
**We gotta know what they know**  
**We can raise each other up –**  
**higher and higher**  
**We can raise each other up –**
7. We gotta humble ourselves  
in the eyes of the Swimmers  
**We gotta bend down low**  
**We gotta humble ourselves**  
in the eyes of the Swimmers  
**We gotta know what they know**  
**We can raise each other up –**  
**higher and higher**  
**We can raise each other up –**
8. We gotta humble ourselves  
in the eyes of the Crawlers  
**We gotta bend down low**  
**We gotta humble ourselves**  
in the eyes of the Crawlers  
**We gotta know what they know**  
**We can raise each other up –**  
**higher and higher**  
**We can raise each other up –**

**Higher and higher, we can raise each other up**  
Higher and higher, we can raise each other up

*\*Grandfather in Ojibwe, \*\*Grandmother in Ojibwe*

*\* Please rise in body or in spirit*

## Exploring

Reading

“Remember”  
Joy Harjo

Spencer Morfit  
FPC Choir Member

## Sharing Our Gifts

This month FPC shares our weekly offering with the **Southeast India Project**. You may donate with a check made out to First Parish Church, online at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate>, or text (978) 310-3309.

Anthem

“Mahk-Jhi” Morning Star Singers  
*The only remaining song of the Tutelo-Saponi Sioux people*

*Translation:*

Our hearts are full and our minds are good,  
Our ancestors come and give us strength,  
Stand tall, sing, chant and never forget  
who you are or where you come from.

Story “Wabanaki Creation Story”

Aimeé Nicole Snyder Ledwell

## Returning

\* Communal Song

“Bear Song”  
Mi’kmaq song, sung in the fall and spring

Morningstar Singers

*All are invited to join in singing on the text in **bold**, sung five times:*

Ya way oh way oh hayhayhay ya way oh hay,  
**Ya way oh way oh hayhayhay ya way oh hay,**  
Ya way oh hayy, ya way oh hay ya,  
way oh hay ya, way oh hay ya hay oh,  
**Ya way oh hayy, ya way oh hay ya,**  
way oh hay ya, way oh hay ya hay oh.

\* Benediction

Rev. Susan Suchocki Brown

**\* 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 'til we meet again.

**Postlude**

“Strong Woman’s Song”

Morning Star Singers

Way hay a – way hay a hay o  
Way hay a – way hay a hay o  
Way hay a way hi yo  
Way hay ya, ho way hay ya,  
way hay ya, way hi yo  
Way hay a – way hay a way hi o  
Way hay ya, ho way hay ya,  
way hay ya, way hi yo

**Greet Your Neighbor**

*Thank you to:*

Heather Moretz and the Morning Star Singers  
UNACC Chief - Peter Searching Owl  
Aimeé Nicole Snyder Ledwell  
Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host  
Marcia Rising and Carolyn Zettler, Ushers  
Mark Koenig and Troy Liston, Coffee Hosts  
Our staff and leadership

*\* Please rise in body or in spirit*

## **United Native American Cultural Center (UNACC) – unacc.org**

UNACC's mission is to be a positive place for peoples of all cultures to gather, share and educate one another. Essential to this endeavor is a program of cultural enrichment, education and whole life strategies for Native American people; a place to learn and teach our crafts, artwork, voices and traditional ways. We welcome the entire community to share in the various programs and cultural experiences which we offer.

Our volunteer staff, board of directors, and members present cultural programs at surrounding schools, scout groups, libraries and various organizations. We are located in Devens, but we also serve the surrounding towns including Ayer, Pepperell, Shirley, Leominster, Fitchburg, Groton, and Harvard and expand out from there.

### **UNACC Morning Star Singers**

Jenn Beal, Doreen Benati, Anna-Celestrya Carr, Heidi Durrin,  
Maydelle Gamester, Cheney Harper, Barbara Jerome, Doria Kutrubes,  
Aimeé Nicole Snyder Ledwell, Lorena Novak, Heather Moretz, Naomi Newell,  
Janet Pare, Chere Piermarini, Jean Secovich, and Rita Wornham

UNACC Chief - Peter Searching Owl

The Morning Star Singers are a women's traditional hand drum group from the United Native American Cultural Center in Devens, MA. Founded under our former Chief, Ronald Jerome (Mi'kmaq), this group seeks to preserve and continue the tradition of women's singing in native culture.

The Morning Star Singers regularly participate in cultural outreach programs, events and Powwows in the Eastern United States. The group is intertribal and consists of members and descendants of multiple native native nations as well as non native women who wish to sing and participate in our beautiful traditions.

## UNACC's 28th ANNUAL UNITY DAYS POWWOW

Saturday, May 17, & Sunday, May 18, 12-5 pm

Vendors Open at 10:00 am • Grand Entry Begins at 12 noon

29 Antietam Street, Devens, MA 01434

*Sacred Earth Drum • Humble Spirit Drum • Morningstar Singers • Flutists  
UNACC Food Tent (Burgers, Dogs, Chips, Snacks, Soda, Water And Succotash)  
Fireworks on Saturday Night at 9 pm*

Bring lawn chairs/blankets to sit on

This is an alcohol/drug free event

**Next Sunday's Service** April 13, 10 am, Sanctuary and online

**"A Journey from Darkness to Faith"** - Our guest speaker is Anela Kruščica, Director of Equity and Belonging at The Derryfield School, who has over twenty-five years of service toward state and school-level DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging) initiatives. Before ethnic nationalism led to genocide against the Bosniak community, Anela's grandmother quietly and defiantly taught Anela to embrace her Muslim faith. Displaced during adolescence, she was overwhelmed and angered by the atrocities of war. Anela shares a window into how her merciful, compassionate faith connected her with community and healing.

### **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)
- 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