

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



Sunday, December 15, 2024
Where Is the Light?

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

Meg Rivers-Wright
Administration, Membership,
& Publicity Coordinator

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
Dir. of Religious Education

Chris Hossfeld
Music Director

Trevor Berens
Accompanist

Justin Marble
Nursery Care Coordinator

Mike Silkonis
Sexton

Felix Freeman
Tech Assistant

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.

December 15, 2024: 10:00

Gathering

Prelude

Trevor Berens, organ

Welcome and Announcements

Brendon Chetwynd, President
Board of Trustees

Opening Words

by Dana Worsnop Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Advent Candle & Chalice Lighting

*** Hymn #55**

“Dark of Winter”

*** Covenant and Affirmation**

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

Where Is the Light? Part One

Solstice Litany I

by Dana Warsnop Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum

Response: We move through the darkness and into the light

Sung Response

“Where Is the Light” (chorus)

Where is the light? Where is the light?

Where is the light? Oh, the light's in - side of me.

Music and Lyrics: Peter Mayer

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

Where Is the Light? Part Three

Story

Lucia and the Light Part Three: Narrator: Rev. Dr.
"Lucia Gets the Sun and Brings It Home" Cynthia Landrum

* Hymn

"Where Is the Light?"

Peter Mayer



1 When it's late De - cem - ber, dark and cold,
2 When it's dark each morn - ing when I rise, Where is the light?
3 When it's burn - ing bright like ker - o - sene



— When old___ man year is bend - ing low,
And it's dark___ when my eggs are fryin', Where is the light?
— I'm___ twink - ling like the Plei - a - des,



When the sun___ runs off to bed too soon,
And it's dark___ when off to work I go, Where is the light?
— I'm___ dan - cing like a can - dle flame,



And there's no - thing but a skin - ny moon,
And it's dark a - gain when I get home, Where is the light? Can you tell me,
And I'm flam - ing like a fruit flam - bé,



Where is the light? Where is the light?



Where is the light? Oh, the light's in - side of me.

Music and Lyrics: Peter Mayer

* Please rise in body or in spirit

Solstice Litany III

by Dana Warsnop

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson

Response: We move through the darkness and into the light

Returning

* **Benediction**

by Cathy Rion Starr

* **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

"December"

Fanny Mendelssohn

Trevor Berens, piano

Greet Your Neighbor



Thank you:

Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host

Rebecca and John MacNeill, Ushers

Coffee Brewer, Rick Lent and Sharon Brownfield 🍷♥

Our staff and leadership

A very special thank you to Ellen and Cynthia Anthony,
Jeff Brown, Peter Morrison, and the Iwamoto family,
Karen, Ken, Alden, and Grant for their generous help in
decorating FPC for the holidays! ♥





To our visitors, thank you for coming!

We hope you find what you're looking for and that you'll come back. Here's how to keep connecting with our people and programs:

♥ **Watch these pages** for information about fall & winter Newcomer Coffees to meet the minister and other newcomers, and UU Journey classes to learn about UU history, spirituality, mission, and traditions.

♥ **Fill out a Visitor Card in your pew** or scan the QR code to complete the same form online.

♥ **Subscribe to our e-newsletters and email groups**

♥ **Check out our website, www.fpc-stow-acton.org**
There is so much happening at FPC! Visit our homepage and the "Church Life" tab to learn about our events & programs.



Visiting & Learning
about FPC



Subscribe to
E-Newsletters

Today at FPC

- 9-9:45 am Pre-Service Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 10-11am Service, Sanctuary/Zoom
- 11am Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall; Collecting Donations of Vitamins, Toothpaste & Photos for the Southeast India Project
- 11:30 am UU Journey Class, Community Room
* You can still sign up! See details next page.
- 12 pm Spiritual Conversations through Poetry, Zoom
- 5 pm Luminous Night: A Solstice Celebration, Sanctuary



* Please rise in body or in spirit

Today at FPC, cont'd.

The UU Journey at FPC 11:30-2:00 pm, lunch provided

A *One-Session Whirlwind Class on UU History, Spirituality, Mission, and Traditions* led by Rev. Cindy Landrum. Share your own spiritual journey, ask questions about UU and FPC, and get to know others in the church. You do not need to be new to FPC to participate; all are welcome! Contact Meg Rivers-Wright, Parish Administrator, at office@fpc-stow-acton.org or [617-291-3351](tel:617-291-3351) or find her at church!

Spiritual Conversations through Poetry 12:00 pm, Zoom

Join Elizabeth Cobblah and Hector Constantzos online to engage with others through the sharing of a poem. Hear it, read it, see how you respond to it. Such conversations were inspired by, amongst others, our beloved Ilene Rudman. They have been going on at FPC for over a decade. We sincerely hope you will join us in this deeply satisfying time of connection. Contact one of us to attend: ecobblah@fenn.org or Hconstantzos@gmail.com.

Luminous Night: A Solstice Celebration 5 pm, Sanctuary

Music Director Chris Hossfeld conducts the FPC Choir with accompanist Trevor Berens, soprano Jessica Tunick Berens, and cellist Gary Hodges. The event will be a multi-faith service with seasonal music and will include a choral piece titled "Luminous Night of the Soul" by Ola Gjeilo, whose compositional style is often described as cinematic and evocative, with a lush, harmonious sound.



Every Week at FPC

Tue. 10AM

Coffee and Chat at the Town Center Park Gazebo



Wed. 6:40 PM

Meditation & Reading in the Hall & online



Thu. 5 PM

Peace Vigil on the Town Common in front of FPC



Thu. 7 PM

Choir Rehearsal in the Hall & Sanctuary - Join the choir!
music@fpc-stow-acton.org

Fri. 1 PM

Bridge Playing in the Community Room



Religious Education

Sunday, Dec 22nd - *Time for All Ages* during the worship service, after which we will head to the Community Room to practice for our Christmas Eve Service on Tuesday, the 24th. There will also be activities for those not wishing to participate in the rehearsal.

Sunday, Dec. 29th - No classes.

This Week and Upcoming at FPC

Ukulele Meet-up Wed 12/18, 7-9pm, Community Room

FPC hosts monthly ukulele gatherings for ukulele players wanting to practice with other players. All levels are invited to come and play! Beginners are welcome! We have extra ukes for anyone who'd like to try them out.

Contact Pat Sorn for more information: psorn@mailstarusa.com.

Games Night Fri, 12/20, 7-9pm, Fellowship Hall

Led by Chip Beauvais. All are welcome. Feel free to bring a game or join in and play one of ours!

High Tea at the New Revival Coffeehouse Sat 2/1, 7:30 pm, Hall

High Tea is a Massachusetts-based "y'alternative" folk-punk duo with a unique blend of soulful harmonies and powerful guitar riffs. Doors open at 7:00 and the concert starts at 7:30. Tickets are \$20 via [Eventbrite](#) and \$25 at the door.

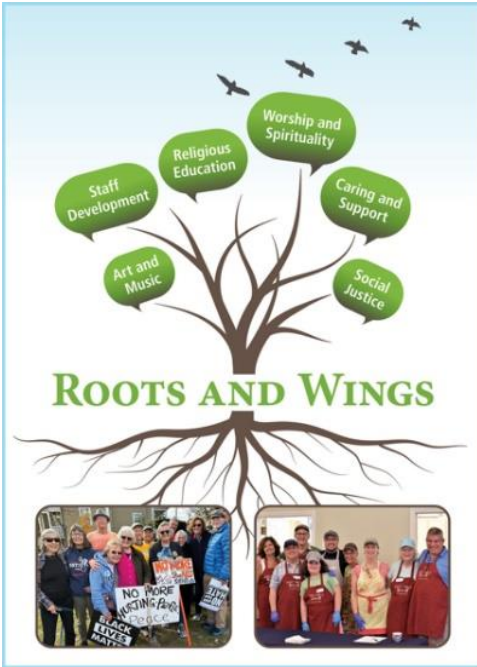
December Plate Sharing

FPC Guest Table has been offering a free monthly community dinner in Fellowship



Hall since November 2015. It is a sit-down meal consisting of salad, entree, and dessert. Volunteers plan, shop, set up, clean up, prepare, and serve the meal. After dinner, the leftovers are put in to-go containers and given to guests to take home. It costs about \$250 a month to put on a meal and the largest portion of that expense is food. Our primary sources of funding are the Stow Community Chest and the plate-share from this congregation. In addition to being a resource for those with food insecurity, we are also a resource for those who want a night off from planning and cooking a meal, and/or for those who typically dine alone in their homes. Guest Table is a welcoming community for ALL, and we invite you to come dine with us on the second Friday of every month.

Stewardship Drive



As Jenni Edgerton mentioned last Sunday, “To keep this community vibrant, we need each of you – we need your voice, we need your presence, we need your unique contributions, and yes, we need your financial support.”

During this busy holiday time, consider making your pledge for next year so we can maintain and strengthen our foundation and continue to grow our programs and outreach.

Our goals: 100% participation, 6% average pledge increase

Here’s how to pledge:

1) Online at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/pledge> or by scanning the QR code:



2) Fill out a pledge card at the Stewardship Table during coffee hour.

You can also ask a member of **our team** to discuss your pledge with you.

Thank you for your generosity!

- **The FPC Stewardship Team**: Carole Feldhusen, Andy Derr, Sharon Brownfield, Russ Hart, and Rick Gentilman

Southeast India Project Collecting Donations of Vitamins, Toothpaste and Family Photos

Twenty years ago, a tsunami hit the southeast coast of India, resulting in the loss of entire coastal fishing villages and thousands of lives. FPC congregant Bob



Tabor immediately went to India and worked with several non-governmental organizations to lend aid in this humanitarian crisis. His wife Vicky joined him later.

Having made several trips to the area myself, I know that Bob and Vicky have saved lives and provided hope by helping to build roads that reach remote villages, delivering rice to starving families, financing school building projects, and supplying micro loans to Dalit women (formerly Untouchables) who are now able to support themselves through organic farming, new computer skills, or purchasing cows. Bob also made contact with orphanages of Dalit children (*Mercy Home* and *WIDE Children's Home*) which resulted in an overseas connection with FPC families. We sent "friendship kits" of toys, art supplies, vitamins, and photos of our families and the orphanage sent back photos of their children. This has been enormously popular on both sides, and I have numerous pictures of these kids on my refrigerator.

Unfortunately, it's become difficult, expensive, and arduous to transport and travel to the orphanage with the five 50-pound friendship kits. We would like to make this easier by collecting the usual photos of families plus a year's worth of vitamins and toothpaste for each child. We will attempt to pick up some fun items once we're in India. We would also like it if you - children and adults - would include letters in which you tell a little about yourselves in order to get back a letter from a child in India. We will oversee the children's responses while we're in India.



When I was teaching RE to my daughter's class many years ago, we did a unit on the old time UU Heroes, but we have present-day heroes right here in our congregation. Bob and Vicky Tabor are among them.

-Russell Hart

We will collect items each Sunday at coffee hour until January 5th.

ONLINE SUPPLEMENT PAGE: Information for folks joining us online

1. Closed captioning is available for FPC's online services. If you don't see captions on your screen, you can use the button at the bottom of your screen to request that the host turn them on.
2. Today's Zoom Host: **Kim Kinnear**
3. Hymn lyrics will be in a slide presentation today.



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