

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



Sunday, December 29, 2024
Burning Bowl for the New Year

**The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L.
Landrum**
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 and on Facebook.

December 29, 2024: 10:00

Gathering

- Prelude** "Greensleeves" Trish Woods,
Traditional English Folk Song piano
- Welcome and Announcements** June McKnight, Worship Committee
- Opening Words** "Coming Together at Year's End"
by Paul Vachon
- Chalice Lighting** "Yesterday, Tomorrow, Today"
Unknown author
- * **Hymn #58** "Ring Out, Wild Bells"

Centering

* **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

Joys and Sorrows

Kate Hart, 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.

Meditation

"This New Year"
by Addae Ama Kraba

* *Please rise in body or in spirit*

* Hymn #123

“Spirit of Life”

Exploring

Reading

“The Passing of the Year”
by Robert William Service

Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share our weekly offering with the **FPC Guest Table**.
You may donate by check made out to First Parish Church,
at fpc-stow-acton.org/donate, or text (978) 310-3309.

Offering

“Star of Hope”
John Williams

Trish Woods, piano

Burning Bowl Ritual

Readings

“Hope is the Thing with Feathers”
Emily Dickinson

“Write it on Your Heart”
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Returning

* Hymn #346

“Come Sing a Song with Me”

* **Benediction**

“Hope Continues”
by Kevin Jagoe

* **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** (Please see next page)

* **Postlude**

"Auld Lang Syne"
Robert Burns

Trish Woods, piano

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
and never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
and auld lang syne?

And here's a hand, my trusty friend
And here's a hand o' thine!
And we'll take a cup of kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.

CHORUS: For auld lang syne, my dear,
for auld lang syne,
we'll take a kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.

Thank you to:

Zoom Host

Peter Fiske & Jeff Brown, Ushers

Mark Koenig, Troy Liston, & Kate Hart, Coffee Hosts ♥

Our staff and leadership

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 winter Newcomer Coffees to meet the minister and other newcomers, and UU Journey classes in the spring 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.



Visiting & Learning
about FPC



Subscribe to
E-Newsletters

♥ **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.

* *Please rise in body or in spirit*

Today at FPC

10-11am Service, Sanctuary and online

No RE classes this week

11am-12pm Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall

- Donate Vitamins, Toothpaste & Photos for the Southeast India Project

Next Sunday

January 5, 10 am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone-

"Love and I Had the Wit to Win " - Rev. Nannene Gowdy - The sermon title is a quote from a poem by Edwin Markham, a Unitarian.

Rev. Gowdy is Minister Emerita at the First Parish Church in Billerica, MA where she served for many years. Gowdy has served congregations in MA, NY, and IL, and for eight years she was the UUA Board Trustee for our district. She has authored RE curricula and served on many UUA anti-racism committees. Now in retirement, she volunteers for the UU Trauma Response Ministry.

December Plate Sharing

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



Fellowship Hall since November 2015. It's a sit-down meal of salad, entree, and dessert. Volunteers plan, prep, serve, and clean up. Guests take home leftovers. It costs about \$250 a month to put on a meal, the largest expense of which 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 for those who want a night off from planning and cooking, and/or for those who typically dine alone. Guest Table is a welcoming community for ALL, and we invite you to come dine with us on the second Friday of every month.

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

Stewardship Drive

End of Year Pledging

To all who have pledged already, thank you so much for your generosity. ♥ Pledging now is important so we can plan for next year's budget - a budget to sustain our home and community. For those of you who have not pledged yet, please consider pledging before the end of the year. Here's how:



- 1) Online at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/pledge> (easy & secure)
- 2) Scan the QR code here and pledge online
- 3) Fill out a pledge card at the Stewardship Table during coffee hour

In deep appreciation,

Your Stewardship Team: Carole Feldhusen, Andy Derr, Sharon Brownfield, Russ Hart, and Rick Gentilman

Upcoming Events

Line Dancing and Potluck Dinner Sat 1/25, 5:30 pm & 7-8:30 pm, Hall

Join family and friends at FPC for a chill-busting Arts Committee-sponsored evening of Dinner and Line Dancing led by the incomparable Paul Hughes! This will be a family-friendly event, open to all ability levels and friends from the community. Admission is free but please consider a small donation to help us pay for our teacher/caller. Potluck begins at 5:30, dancing from 7-8:30.



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.

