

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



Sunday, January 12, 2024
Guest Speaker, Rev. Laura Randall

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

Rev. Paul Langston-Daley
Sabbatical Minister
for January

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.

January 12, 2025: 10:00

Gathering

Prelude "You'll Never Walk Alone" Trevor Berens, piano
Hammerstein and Rodgers

Welcome and Announcements Ingrid Holcomb, SGM Facilitator

Opening Words "Sanctuary" by Megan Visser Rev. Laura Randall

Chalice Lighting "Vessels of Life-Saving Welcome"
by Michael Tino

*** Hymn #108** "My Life Flows on in Endless Song"

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

Susan Avery

Time for All Ages

Going Forth With the Light

Congregation sings

Our love surrounds you. Here joy has found you.
Let hope abound freely. Go in peace!

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.

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

Prayer "A Prayer for When Everything
Crumbles to Dust"
AJ Van Tine Rev. Laura Randall

* **Hymn #170** "We Are a Gentle, Angry People"

Exploring

Reading "In Case of Apocalypse(s)"
Rev. Julián Jamaica Soto

Sharing Our Gifts Susan Avery

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

Anthem "Show Us How To Love" FPC Choir
Mark Miller Trevor Berens, piano
Lyrics: Lindy Thompson

Hearts open, minds awake, Hearts open, souls awake,
change us now for heaven's sake. rules we made we now must break.
Leave us not alone in hatred's wake. With our very own lives at stake
Show us how to love. we must learn to love.

Eyes open, shocked awake,
much to learn from our mistakes.
Draw us closer in our heartache.
Show us how to love.

Sermon "Communities of Resistance and Resilience" Rev. Laura Randall

Returning

* **Hymn #1020** "Woyaya"

* **Benediction** "Blessing for Community"
Rev. Laura Randall

* 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

"Peace"
Horace Silver

Trevor Berens, piano

Greet Your Neighbor

Thank you:

Kim Kinnear, **Zoom Host**
Peter Fiske and Jamison House, **Ushers**
Kevin O'Brien, Susan O'Brien, & Rick Lent, **Coffee Hosts** ♥
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 show our events & programs.
- Subscribe to our e-newsletters and email groups.



Visitor Card



Subscribe to
E-Newsletters

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

Today at FPC

Religious Education - *Time for All Ages* during the worship service, followed by stations in the Community Room or learning more about the Baha'i Faith.

Next Sunday, Jan 19 - The children will begin in the Community Room for Chapel and then remain in the Community Room for more learning on the Baha'i Faith and stations.

Coffee Hour 11am-12pm, Fellowship Hall

- Small Group Ministry Registration
- Stewardship table

Elder Care/Memory Care Support Group 11am -12:30pm, Parlor

Are you or your family approaching, dealing with, or recovering from an elder/memory care crisis? It's exhausting and draining. There are all kinds of legal, financial, and caregiving or care-finding challenges. It can be overwhelming and lonely. And that's not to mention the *grief*. Join us for the FPC Peer-to-Peer Support Group for anyone dealing with elder/memory care issues for a loved one. We're here to support each other on this difficult journey and share resources.

DrUUm and Dance Circle 6:45-8:45 pm, Fellowship Hall

Come and drum! A collaborative venture between FPC and UCMH, the **drUUm-&-dance circle** meets on **Second Sundays**. Bring your joy and your open heart and join us for an evening of hand drumming and dancing around the "fire" circle. Facilitated by experienced drummers/dancers Jim Flavin and Nan Rogers, we'll circle up to experiment with various types of instruments and sustained rhythm sessions and see what we create together. Let's gather in sacred and healing community to lower our stress levels, plug into the energy, and raise some good vibes! *Drummers and dancers of all abilities are welcome; please bring your own drums, and we will have a few drums and other percussion instruments available to borrow. Questions? Contact Nan at nandancing@comcast.net.*



This Week at FPC

Parish Jazz Band Rehearsal Mon, 1/13, 7-9pm, Sanctuary

Please contact Michael Paladini mwpaladini@gmail.com for more information.

Ukulele Meet-up Wed 1/15, 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, 1/17, 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!

Next Sunday, Jan. 19

10 am Service Sanctuary/Online/Phone-

"Strengthening Democracy: the Power of the Civic Sphere" - Rev. Paul Langston-

Daley - Langston-Daley is a part-time minister of social justice at First Parish in

Concord, MA. A practicing Buddhist, Langston-Daley is a leader in ministerial ethics and ministry formation as a member of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, and has been in restorative justice work and LGBTQ+ justice as an early leader in our denomination's trans UU professionals group, TRUUST.

Spiritual Conversations through Poetry 12:00pm, 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.

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

Announcements

January Plate Sharing: Supporting Asylum Seekers - The SAS works to support asylum seekers and refugees who seek a safe home in our surrounding communities.

We help asylum seekers to...

- learn English
- write resumes
- find jobs
- navigate the medical system
- learn to ride a bike or the bus
- obtain a driver's license, housing, and health insurance

We provide them with...

- rides to medical appointments & job interviews
- legal fees for asylum cases
- political advocacy
- temporary food and housing in a hotel if they are waiting for MA Emergency Family System support

During this time of threats of mass deportations of immigrants, FPC is proud to have a task force working directly with immigrants. Over the past year and a half, we have lobbied for the successful passage of the driver's license law, supported numerous families seeking asylum in the greater Stow area, and worked with a seven-church partnership and a family in Lowell MA, and with the Acton Boxborough United Way. Please support this important work in the weekly plate share during January, and stop by our table during coffee hour on January 5th to learn more about our families and the work we do.

Small Group Ministry Registration

Resolved to do something for yourself this year? Consider joining a Small Group Ministry (SGM) group to make some new friends and grow your community. SGM groups of 8-11 people meet monthly for two hours starting in February. Registration is OPEN on fpc-stow-acton.org/sgm through January 19th. Stop by the SGM table at coffee hour to find out more or get help registering.

Stewardship

With the new year usually comes resolutions - things we want to accomplish and do in the coming year. We ask that one of those resolutions be to complete your pledge to FPC for the next fiscal year. A big thank you to the 42% of those who have pledged already that will help the Board budget and planning for the coming fiscal year. (Cont'd →)

(Stewardship cont'd) If you haven't pledged already, consider doing so now to ensure that the programs, services, music you love and the community you depend on is maintain for now and in the future. Here are several ways how:

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



In deep appreciation,
Your Stewardship Team (Andy Derr, Sharon Brownfield, Rick Gentilman, Carole Feldhusen and Russ Hart)

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.