

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



Sunday, January 26, 2025  
*World Religion Series: Bahá'í Faith*

**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](http://fpc-stow-acton.org) and on Facebook.

January 26, 2025: 10:00

Gathering

<b>Prelude</b>	“Genrebilder, Op. 13, No. 1” Hermann Goetz	Trevor Berens, piano
<b>Welcome and Announcements</b>		Kristen Chetwynd
<b>Opening Words</b>	Welcome	Frank Robinson Jr.
<b>Chalice Lighting</b>		Frank Robinson Jr.
<b>* Hymn #38</b>	“Morning Has Broken”	

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.
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**Land Acknowledgement** Shana Garr

**Time for All Ages** “Name Your Gem” Frank Robinson Jr.

**Joys and Sorrows** Ann Wickham, 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/Meditation** ‘Abdu’l-Bahá Frank Robinson Jr.

Exploring

**Hymn #123** “Spirit of Life”

*\* Please rise in body or in spirit*

**Reading** 'Abdu'l-Bahá Frank Robinson Jr.

**Sharing Our Gifts** Shana Garr

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](http://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate), or text (978) 310-3309.

**Anthem:** "Here Comes the Sun" FPC Choir  
George Harrison Chris Hossfeld, director

Here comes the sun  
Here comes the sun  
And I say, "It's all right."

Little darling, it's been a long,  
cold, lonely winter  
Little darling, it feels like years  
since it's been here

Here comes the sun...

Little darling, the smiles  
returning to their faces  
Little darling, it seems like  
years since it's been here

Here comes the sun...

Sun, sun, sun, here it comes

Little darling, I feel the ice is  
slowly melting

Little darling, it seems like  
years since it's been clear

Here comes the sun...

**Sermon** "Being a Protagonist for Peace" Frank Robinson Jr.

**Returning**

**Hymn #20** "Be Thou My Vision"

**\*Benediction** Bahá'u'lláh Frank Robinson Jr.

**Postlude** "Dream" Trevor Berens, piano  
John Cage

**Thank you to:**

Jenni Edgerton, **Zoom Host**

Marcia Alison and Jeff Brown, **Ushers**

Rick Lent and Johanna Pyle, **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](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)



## Today at FPC

**Religious Education** - *Time for All Ages* during the worship service, after which we will head to the Community Room for our stations and our continued learning about the Baha'i Faith.

11am-12pm Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall:

- Lost and Found table
- Tickets on sale for High Tea at New Revival Coffeehouse
- Small Group Ministry Registration LAST DAY!
- Stewardship Table

*\* Please rise in body or in spirit*

## Announcements

### **FPC Lost and Found Last Chance! Claim Your Items**

Stop by the lost and found table at coffee hour. There are hats, scarves, lunch bags, and water bottles. Remember it all goes away after this Sunday.

### **Small Group Ministry: Final Registration Deadline** is today, Sun 1/26

If you have enjoyed SGM, consider inviting a friend to give it a try.

If you have not yet tried it, we would love to have you be part of our new SGM groups forming.

Groups meet 2 hours monthly, starting in February, in groups of about 8-11 for a facilitated discussion. No preparation required. Show up as you are for an opportunity to get to know yourself and your group at a meaningful level.

Register TODAY to get in on the start of the SGM year at  
<https://fpc-stow-acton.org/sgm#Registration>  
or use the QR code.

For questions or paper registrations, stop by the SGM table at coffee hour OR email Karen Kinnear [sgm@fpc-stow-acton.org](mailto:sgm@fpc-stow-acton.org).



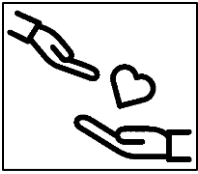
SGM Registration

### **January Plate Share: 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 and carry out a job search • 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.

## 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 49% of those who have pledged already that will help the Board budget and planning for the coming fiscal year. 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.

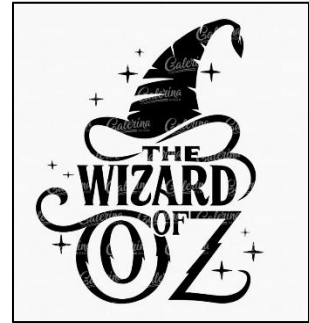


In deep appreciation,

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

## FPC Spring Auction Needs You!

On March 29, FPC's Live Auction-- part of our biggest annual fundraiser-- will be held with a *Wizard of Oz* theme. A lot of planning and help is needed to make this a fun, exciting, and successful event. Please come join the effort by signing up for one of the various subcommittees. These subcommittees are especially in need of help:



Food: What's a party without food? We have well-developed ideas for crowd-pleasing donations to keep auction goes happy and well-fed, but we need help coordinating food donations and food service at the live auction to make it a success!

MORE →

## **(Spring Auction subcommittees especially in need of help)**

Business Donations: Contact businesses in Maynard, Acton, Hudson, and Stow for donations. We have a list of businesses who have donated in the past as well as a letter with the details they would need.

Decorations: Need your creativity. Craft skills a plus. Goal is to transform the facility to match the theme.

If you want to be part of a subcommittee, or can help out with small tasks, we can find ways to suit your schedule and interests. Please contact one of us: Sue Stewart ([dnasue@gmail.com](mailto:dnasue@gmail.com)), Susan Avery ([susan.avery@verizon.net](mailto:susan.avery@verizon.net)), or Sharon Brownfield ([sharonbrownfield@gmail.com](mailto:sharonbrownfield@gmail.com)).

Let the magic begin!!!

## **This Week at FPC**

**Parish Jazz Band Rehearsal** Mon, 1/27, 7-9pm, Sanctuary  
Please contact Michael Paladini [mwpaladini@gmail.com](mailto:mwpaladini@gmail.com) for more information.

**Racial Justice Task Force Meeting** Tue 1/28, 7pm, Zoom  
For the Zoom link or more information on how to be involved with the RJTF, please contact Johanna Pyle at [johanna.pyle@gmail.com](mailto:johanna.pyle@gmail.com).

**High Tea at the New Revival Coffeehouse**  
Sat 2/1, 7:30 pm, Fellowship 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 at coffee hour today with no processing fee**, online at [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) for \$20 plus a fee, and \$25 at the door.



## Next Sunday

### February 2, 10 am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone-

"Cultivating Presence and Receptivity Through Posthumanism" - Shana Dumont Garr  
*Posthumanism* is a way of thinking that moves beyond humanism, a philosophy that blossomed during the Renaissance and positioned humans - rather than the whims of a divinity - at the center of the moral world. The humanist worldview still holds sway today over many of our political and social institutions, and posthumanist philosophy is emerging to reflect the changing world: a post-industrial, capitalist society where fossil fuels and other natural resources power our movement and technology, and most scientists and environmentalists believe we're in the midst of a sixth extinction. Posthumanism asks how humans might, while still considering ourselves with love and care, shift priorities to recognize ourselves not at the center of the universe, but as part of a complex web among countless other beings.

### Every Week at FPC

**Tues. 10AM**

**Coffee and Chat at  
the Town  
Center  
Park  
Gazebo**



**Wed. 6:40PM**

**Meditation in  
Fellowship Hall &  
Online**



**Thurs. 5PM**

**Peace Vigil on the  
Town Common in  
front of  
FPC**



**Thurs. 7:15 PM**

**Choir Rehearsal  
in the Community  
Room - Join the  
choir! [music@fpc-  
stow-acton.org](mailto:music@fpc-stow-acton.org)**

**Fri. 1PM**

**Bridge Playing in  
the Community  
Room**



## 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