

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



**Sunday, February 2, 2025**

*Cultivating Presence and Receptivity Through Posthumanism*

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

**Rev. Paul Langston-Daley**  
Sabbatical Minister  
Jan 1 - Feb 10

**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.

February 2, 2025: 10:00 AM

Gathering

- Prelude** "Do You Realize?" Chris Hossfeld, solo  
Wayne Coyne Trevor Berens, piano
- Welcome and Announcements** Meg Rivers-Wright  
Parish Administration and Membership
- Opening Words** Defining Posthumanism Shana Dumont Garr
- Chalice Lighting** A passage from *Utopia* Tommy Garr  
Thomas More
- \* **Hymn #326** "Let All the Beauty We Have Known"

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**

Ann Wickham, Worship Host

**Time for All Ages**

"Let's Talk to Rocks"

Shana D. Garr

**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**

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 from a lay minister or the minister, email [caring@fpc-stow-acton.org](mailto:caring@fpc-stow-acton.org).

\* Please rise in body or in spirit

**Prayer**            “A Prayer for When Everything Crumbles to Dust”      Shana Garr  
AJ van Tine

\* **Hymn #77**                            “Seek Not Afar For Beauty”

**Exploring**

**Responsive Reading**      “Our Journey is to Transform”                      Ann Wickham  
Elizabeth Nguyen

As Unitarian Universalists, our journey is to transform the big and the small, to transform ourselves, and to transform the world. Universalism means no one is outside of the circle of love, and no one is disposable.

**Response:** “No one is outside of the circle of love, and no one is disposable.”

We stubbornly seek out the spark of the divine in each other, no matter what. Interdependence means none of us is truly free until we are all free, and our thriving is bound up in the earth’s thriving.

**Response:** “None of us is truly free until we are all free.”

We struggle for liberation from the violence of white supremacy, sexism, ableism, classism, and heterosexism. Our covenants mean we make promises to our communities to honor love and justice above all else.

**Response:** “We make promises to honor love and justice above all else.”

**Plate Share Introduction**    Andy Derr, Racial Justice Task Force

**Sharing Our Gifts**

This month we share our weekly offering with the **UUUrban Ministry**. 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.

\* *Please rise in body or in spirit*

**Anthem**

“Yonder Come Day”  
St. Simons Island Spiritual  
Arr. Cliff Hardin

FPC Choir  
Chris Hossfeld, Music Director  
Trevor Berens, piano

Yonder come day, day is a-breaking,  
Yonder come day, oh my soul,  
Yonder come day, day is a-breaking,  
Sun is a-rising in my soul.  
Day is breaking all around,  
I’m singing, sun is rising in my soul.

**Sermon** “Cultivating Presence and Receptivity Through Posthumanism”

Shana Dumont Garr

**Returning**

\* **Hymn #205**

“Amazing Grace”

\* **Benediction**

“Love Holds You”  
Carrie Holley-Hurt

**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**

“Not While I’m Around”  
Stephen Sondheim, arr. Thomas Newman

Trevor Berens, piano

**Greet Your Neighbor**

**Thank you to:**

Kim Kinnear, **Zoom Host**  
Rick Lent and helpers, **Ushers**  
Kirsten Chetwynd, **Coffee Host ♥**  
Our staff and leadership

*\* Please rise in body or in spirit*

## **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**

**10 a.m. Religious Education** - *Time for All Ages* during the worship service, after which we will head to the Community Room for World Religions and stations. Coming of Age, Youth Group Room, 10:00-11:30AM

**This Friday, Feb 7 - Friday Friends** from 6:30-8:30pm. Meet in Vestry.

This week we will be working on Valentine's activities. This event is open to the public.

**11 a.m. Coffee Hour**, Fellowship Hall

**11 a.m. RJTF Drop-in Meeting**, Community Room

The Racial Justice Task Force here at FPC invites you to join us for a discussion about microaggressions: "What Is a Microaggression?" The current social climate and state of public discourse is concerning to many people. We believe that it is an important time to take a moment and educate ourselves about the way people of privilege communicate, both publicly and privately, with people in marginalized groups.

## **February Plate Share: UU Urban Ministry**

The UU Urban Ministry (UUUM) is a UU-based organization in Roxbury whose mission is to "work across race and place to dismantle racism and white supremacy culture, as



well as to advance racial, economic, and social justice." UUUM's vision is "a Greater Boston where all people live with freedom and dignity and have equitable access to resources and opportunity to shape the present and the future."

Founded 200 years ago by Rev. Joseph Tuckerman, today the UUUM focuses on providing services directly to the local community. This includes safe shelters and workforce development programming for survivors of domestic violence, specifically Renewal House. It also includes academic enrichment programs for youths of color through their Roxbury Youth Programs. And UUUM provides programming for various arts and humanities grounded in a social justice message, including providing exhibits of local artists' works. FPC is part of a group of over 40 local congregations who support the UUUM in its ministry.

## **Next Sunday's Service: February 9, 10 am Sanctuary/Online/Phone-**

**"Family Music Sunday: Songs from Disney's *Encanto*"** - Chris Hossfeld, Music Director - The whole family is invited to join the FPC Choir and RE program in presenting music from the hit Disney animated feature, *Encanto*. This Sunday morning service will explore the themes of love, family, and supporting each other as we develop our unique gifts. And yes, we *will* talk about Bruno! All are welcome! Please note that this service will be broadcast on Zoom as usual but *not* recorded and posted later on our YouTube channel.

## **FPC Elder/Memory Care Peer-to-Peer Support Group**

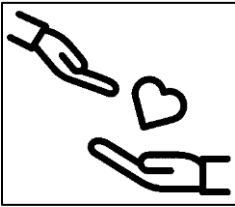
**Sunday, February 9, 11 am-12:30pm, Parlor**

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.

*\* Please rise in body or in spirit*

# Stewardship

## The Importance of Securing the Future of FPC through Pledging



As we approach this year of uncertainty, we find ourselves needing and looking to our community to sustain us and bring us joy - this community which helps us foster connections, celebrate our talents, educate our children, and nurture our souls. Collectively we bring joy and hope to others through our outreach.

This community not only thrives by your time and talent but also your treasure. If you have pledged already, thank you for your generosity. If you haven't yet, please consider doing so as soon as possible. Your pledge is critical for supporting FPC's programs, activities, and staff.



Please consider joining with the Stewardship Committee and the Board of Trustees in making a generous pledge. Both groups increased their pledges by 5%. Here are three ways you can pledge:

- 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.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee and the Board of Trustees

### 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



## 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 ones 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 goers happy and well-fed, but we need help coordinating food donations and food service at the live auction to make it a success!

### 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!