

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



Sunday, February 16, 2025
Vulnerabilities & Challenges Thriving Life & Love

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

Rev. Susan Suchoki Brown
Sabbatical
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.

February 16, 2025: 10:00

Gathering

Prelude

“All You Need Is Love”
Lennon–McCartney

Ukutarrians

Love, love, love
Love, love, love
Love, love, love

There's nothing you can do that can't
be done
Nothing you can sing that can't be
sung
Nothing you can say, but you can
learn
How to play the game
It's easy

Nothing you can make that can't be
made
No one you can save that can't be
saved
Nothing you can do, but you can
learn
How to be you in time
It's easy

All you need is love
All you need is love
All you need is love, love
Love is all you need

Nothing you can know that isn't
known
Nothing you can see that isn't shown
There's nowhere you can be that isn't
where
You're meant to be
It's easy

All you need is love
All you need is love
All you need is love, love
Love is all you need

All you need is love (all together
now!)
All you need is love (everybody!)
All you need is love, love
Love is all you need

Love is all you need
(love is all you need)
Love is all you need
(love is all you need)
Love is all you need
(love is all you need)

Welcome and Announcements

Meg Rivers-Wright,
Administration and Membership

Opening Words

Rev. Dr. Susan Suchocki Brown

Chalice Lighting

“A Spark of Hope”
Melanie Davis

*** Hymn**

“Put a Little Love in Your Heart”
DeShannon, Holiday, & Myers

Ukutarians

Think of your fellow man
Lend him a helping hand
Put a little love in your heart

You see it's getting late
Oh, please don't hesitate
Put a little love in your heart

And the world will be a better place
And the world will be a better place
For you and me, you just wait and see

Another day goes by -
and still the children cry
Put a little love in your heart

If you want the world to know
We won't let hatred grow

Put a little love in your heart
And the world will be a better place
All the world will be a better place
For you and me, you just wait and see
Wait and see!

Take a good look around
and if you're looking down
Put a little love in your heart
I hope when you decide
Kindness will be your guide
Put a little love in your heart

And the world will be a better place
All the world will be a better place
For you and me, you just wait and see

Put a little love in your heart x4

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

June McKnight

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.

Prayer or Meditation

Rev. Dr. Susan Suchocki Brown

* Hymn #352

“Find the Stillness”

Trevor Berens, piano

Find a stillness, hold a stillness, let the stillness carry me.
Find the silence, hold the silence, let the silence carry me.
In the spirit, by the spirit, with the spirit giving power,
I will find true harmony.

Seek the essence, hold the essence, let the essence carry me.
Let me flower, help me flower, watch me flower, carry me.
In the spirit, by the spirit, with the spirit giving power,
I will find true harmony.

Exploring

Reading

“When Death Comes”

Mary Oliver

Sharing Our Gifts

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

Anthem

“I Can’t Help Falling in Love with You”

Ukutarians

Peretti, Creatore, & Weiss

Wise men say
Only fools rush in
But I can't help falling in love with
you

Like a river flows
Surely to the sea
Darling, so it goes
Some things are meant to be

Shall I stay?

Take my hand
Take my whole life, too

Would it be a sin
If I can't help falling in love with you?

Like a river flows
Surely to the sea
Darling, so it goes
Some things are meant to be

For I can't help falling in love with
you.

Take my hand
Take my whole life, too
For I can't help falling in love with
you
For I can't help falling in love with
you

Ritual Sharing: A Chocolate Communion

Rev. Susan Suchocki Brown

Sermon “Vulnerabilities and Challenge of Living”

Rev. Dr. Susan Suchocki Brown

Returning

*** Hymn #1021**

“Lean on Me”

Ukutarrians

Sometimes in our lives we all have pain, we all have sorrow,
But if we are wise we know that there's always tomorrow

Lean on me, when you're not strong, and I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry
on...

For it won't be long 'til I'm gonna need somebody to lean on.

Please swallow your pride if I have things you need to borrow
For no one can fill those of your needs that you won't let show.

Lean on me, when you're not strong, and I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry
on...

For it won't be long 'til I'm gonna need somebody to lean on

If there is a load you have to bear that you can't carry
I'm right up the road I'll share your load If you just call me

Lean on me, when you're not strong, and I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry
on...

For it won't be long 'til I'm gonna need somebody to lean on

Acapella ↓

Just call on me brother when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'll understand
We all need somebody to lean on

*** Benediction**

*** Closing Song**

Trevor Berens, piano

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

“Can't Buy Me Love”
Lennon-McCartney

Ukutarrians

Can't buy me love, love
Can't buy me love

I'll buy you a diamond ring my friend
if it makes you feel alright
I'll get you anything my friend if it
makes you feel alright
'Cause I don't care too much for
money
But money can't buy me love

I'll give you all I got to give if you say
you'll love me too
I may not have a lot to give but what I
got I'll give to you
I don't care too much for money
But, money can't buy me love

Can't buy me love
Everybody tells me so
Can't buy me love

No no no, no

Say you don't need no diamond rings
and I'll be satisfied
Tell me that you want the kind of
things that money just can't buy
I don't care too much for money
Money can't buy me love

Can't buy me love, love
Can't buy me love.

Greet Your Neighbor

Thank you to:
Sharon Brownfield, **Zoom Host**
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 detail our events and programs.
- Subscribe to our e-newsletters & email groups (QR code)



Announcements

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.

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

FPC Spring Auction Needs You!

Auction Time - Donations to FPC Emerald City.

Date: March 29th 6:30 -9:30 pm

Join in FPC's biggest fundraiser - we need your help to make it a success.

Donations Needed!!! More donations make an exciting auction. **What can you donate?**



Physical item: A painting, baked goods, homemade maple syrup? Tickets to a concert. Offer a week at your vacation home. Let someone borrow your kayak! Unique hand-crafted items.

Services: host an event, offer lessons, loans of sporting equipment...all are popular and in demand. Open your home to a dinner for six or eight winners. Plan a picnic by a lake. Home fix-it services, or a cocktail party.

Gift Card Donations: You can purchase a gift card at one of your favorite businesses. Sign up at coffee hour. Note: an online sign-up will be available shortly.

There is no shortage of ideas. You can also partner with someone else to come up with an event. Sign up at coffee hour. Note: A donation form will be available shortly.

Coming soon - A volunteer and food donation sign up. Questions? Ask your anyone on the Action Steering Committee auction@fpc-stow-acton.org

Today at FPC

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.

Ukulele Meet-up Wed 2/19, 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.

Next Sunday's Service: 2/23, 10 am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone-

"World Religions Series: Hinduism"- Our world religions series continues with guest speaker, Deepika Prakash, a long-time Acton resident who founded Diwalifest in 2021. She will speak about the Hindu faith and the importance of community and creativity.

Deepika Prakash is the founder of PatternReview.com, a website she started in 2001 when she couldn't find any sewing resources online. It is a place of exchange, where people share and find sewing patterns and what they made with the patterns. She teaches sewing classes at Sargent Memorial Library and other venues.

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