

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



Sunday, March 23, 2025  
*The Joy in Living Authentically*

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

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

March 23, 2025: 10:00 a.m.

**Gathering**

**Prelude** "It's Not Easy Being Green" Sara Beauvais, voice  
Joe Raposo Chip Beauvais, saxophone  
Trish Woods, piano

**Welcome & Announcements** Ann Wickham, Worship Host

**Introit** "I Still Have Faith in You" Sara Beauvais, voice  
ABBA Trish Woods, piano

**Opening Words** Zr. Alex Kapitan

**Chalice Lighting**

**\* Hymn #170** "We Are a Gentle, Angry People" Chris Hossfeld  
Music Director

*New lyrics for verse 5:* We are all in this together,  
And we are singing, singing for our lives.

**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** Zr. Alex Kapitan

**Going Forth With the Light** Chris Hossfeld Congregation Sings

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

*\* Please rise in body or in spirit*

## 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](mailto:caring@fpc-stow-acton.org).

## Prayer or Meditation

Zr. Alex Kapitan

### \* Hymn #1053

“How could anyone?”

Chris Hossfeld

## Exploring

## Reading

“Prayer for Trans Day of Visibility”  
Rev. Mr. Barb Greve

Zr. Alex Kapitan

## Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share our weekly offering with **RIA House**. 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.

## Video

“This is Me” from *The Greatest Showman*  
Video by Queen of Cryptids

## Sermon

“The Joy in Living Authentically”

Zr. Alex Kapitan

## Returning

### \* Hymn #131

“Love Will Guide Us”

Chris Hossfeld

### \* **Benediction** “To the People Who Have Mistaken Freedom for Liberation”

Rev. Julian Jamaica Soto

### \* **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 'til we meet again.

## Postlude

“This is Me” from *The Greatest Showman*  
Benj Pasek and Justin Paul

Chris Hossfeld  
Piano

## Greet Your Neighbor

Thank you to:  
**Kim Kinnear**, Zoom Host  
**Marcia Allison** and **Lisa Rydin**, Ushers  
**Jeff Brown**, Coffee 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](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)



Visitor Card



E-Newsletters



**SPRING EQUINOX ART FAIR CONTINUES TODAY**

Sunday, March 23, 12 noon – 4 pm

*Works for sale from over 25 local artists from the Stow Area Guild of Artists and local community members. This event is sponsored by SAGA and the FPC Arts Committee.*

**2025 FPC AUCTION – THE WIZARD OF OZ!**

Saturday, March 29, 6:30–9:30 pm

*The auction is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and a wonderful time to buy that item you just can't live without, support the church, and join in fellowship with our community. Bid early and often to make sure you get that special item!*

*\* Please rise in body or in spirit*

