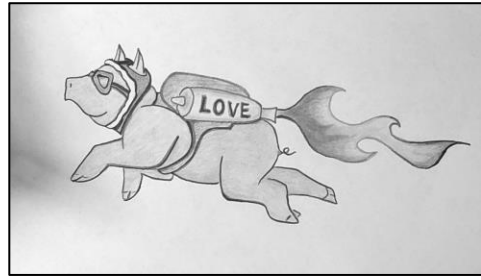


**FIRST PARISH  
CHURCH  
OF STOW & ACTON**  
*Unitarian Universalist*



Sunday, March 3, 2024

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

**Meg Rivers-Wright**  
Administration, Membership

**Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson**  
Dir. of Religious Education

**Chris Hossfeld**  
Music Director

**Trevor Berens**  
Accompanist

**Justin Marble**  
Nursery Care Coordinator

**Mike Silkonis**  
Sexton

**Janet Beatrice**  
External Publicity

**Felix Freeman**  
Tech Assistant

**Jenni Edgerton**  
President

**Brendon Chetwynd**  
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 3, 2024, 10:00 am

**Gathering**

**Prelude** "Jeux sur la Place #1" Trevor Berens, piano  
Frederic Mompou

**Welcome and Announcements** Meg Rivers-Wright,  
Administration and Membership

**Introit** *Love is Strong* FPC Adult Choir  
Ellen Oak Trevor Berens, piano

For love is strong as death,  
passion fierce as the grave.  
Its flashes are flashes of fire,  
its fires are raging flames.

No flood can quench love,  
no torments drown love.  
Come, my beloved,  
let me hear your voice!

-Song of Songs 8:6, 2:14

**Opening Words** Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

**Chalice Lighting** First Chalice Participant, Sage Mattson

\* **Hymn #305** *De Colores* (Verses: Spanish, 2, 3, Spanish)

**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** Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson  
Director of Religious Education

**Time for All Ages** Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson

**Going Forth With the Light**

**Joys and Sorrows** Ann Sadler, Lay Minister

**Prayer or Meditation**

\* **Hymn #1048** *Ubi Caritas*

**Exploring**

**Unison Reading #594** "Principles and Purposes for All of Us"

**Plate Sharing Introduction**

**Sharing Our Gifts**

This month we share our weekly offering with **UU Mass Action**.  
You may donate with a check made out to First Parish Church,  
online at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate>, or text (978) 310-3309.

**Anthem** "We Walk in Love" FPC Adult Choir  
Deanna Witkowski & Lemuel Colon Trevor Berens, piano

1. We walk in love, united in purpose.  
We join our hands and lift up one voice.  
We speak the truth with strength and  
compassion  
resounding with hope, with courage and joy.
2. We cry for peace and rights for all people.  
We welcome friends from far and near.  
We fight for those whose voices are silenced,  
resisting in faith until all are free.
3. We dream a world of justice and kindness.  
We build a bridge creating new paths.  
We march with joy as all walk together.  
Embracing each one, we boldly stand.

Sermon

“Centering on Love:  
A Look at Changes in the UUA”

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L.  
Landrum

**Returning**

\* Hymn #131

*Love Will Guide Us*

\* Benediction

\* 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

“Hermit Thrush at Morn”  
Amy Beach

Trevor Berens, piano

Greet Your Neighbor



**Thank you to:**

Jenni Edgerton, Zoom Host  
Marcia Rising, Carolyn Zettler, Ushers  
Kirsten Chetwynd and Rick Lent, Coffee Hosts  
Our staff and leadership



**How to Connect with First Parish Church:**

Sign our visitor log at [tinyurl.com/visitfpc](https://tinyurl.com/visitfpc) or scan the QR code:  
We’ll send you information on request.



Come to Sunday’s 10 am service and 11 am social hour, in person or online.

Subscribe to our publications...

*The Chronicle* - monthly e-newsletter

*This Week at FPC* - weekly e-newsletter

*FPCAnnounce & FPCForum* - e-mail groups

...all at <https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org/subscribe-newsletters>.

## Plate Sharing

UU Mass Action is our MA State Action Network organizing and mobilizing 25,000 UUs and 142 UU congregations to confront oppression and create equity in Massachusetts.

Founded in 2005 (its first two Executive Directors were from FPC Stow and Acton!), all of our work is grounded in racial justice and is in relationship with broader coalitions that center frontline communities, or those most impacted by an injustice.



UU Mass Action is FPC's partner in nearly ALL of our social justice work, uniting us with other neighboring churches for a bigger political impact. If you want to change anything in MA that coincides with a UU value, chances are you will find UU Mass Action trying to rally UU churches to DO something about it. Together, we confront systems of oppression and work to create a world where all people are honored and valued. Learn more at [uumassaction.org](http://uumassaction.org)

2023-2024 Campaigns: Climate & Environmental Justice, Indigenous Justice, Immigrant Justice, Decarceration & End Solitary Confinement, Economic And Housing Justice. Funding does NOT come from the UUA. Our funding comes from three main sources: individuals, congregations, and grants. We are an efficient organization that makes every donated dollar count! This is our shared, state action network - we are truly grateful for every dollar donated!

## Stewardship Campaign

Have you made a pledge? **Thank you.**  
Have you answered the call and let us know what your intentions are? **Thank you.**  
If not, please let us know as soon as possible. Our goal is 100% participation.  
We need to hear from you!

Pledge online. It's easy and secure.  
Go to  
<https://fpc-stow-acton.org/pledge>



...or scan the  
QR code:



...or fill out a pledge  
card by asking a  
member of our team to  
discuss your pledge  
with you.

Thank you!

- The FPC Stewardship Team:

Jenni Edgerton, Carole Feldhusen, Andy Derr,  
Rick Gentilman, Russ Hart, Sharon Brownfield

## Today at FPC

10-11 am Service, Sanctuary and online

11am- Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall

12pm \* Tickets for New Revival Coffeehouse's concert by The Clements Brothers on 3/9 will be on sale for the advance price of \$17, without a processing fee. Last chance to buy them in person at this price. \$20 at the door.

12-2:30 pm UU Journey Class, Fellowship Hall  
You can still sign up! See details below.

2:00 pm Craftivism (Craft + Activism), Vestry

## Religious Education

Today, 3/3 TFAA, followed by age-appropriate classes. After service, we will practice our Easter worship dance in the Community Room. No youth group this week.

Fri. 3/8 Club UU, Vestry and Youth Room

Sat. 3/9 Youth Con at First Unitarian Church in Worcester, MA; **Grades 6-12**

10am-5pm There will be a **Coming-of-Age** focused program led by Mandy from First U Providence!  
Please RSVP to Rayla 860-839-5001 (call or text) or email  
[dre@fpc-stow-acton.org](mailto:dre@fpc-stow-acton.org).

Sun 3/10 TFAA, followed by age-appropriate classes. The DRE is off this week.

**And for Adults...**

**It's Back! The UU Journey at FPC** Today 3/3 & 3/10, 12-2:30 pm, lunch provided

*A Two-Session Course on UU History, Spirituality, Mission, and Traditions*

Rev. Cindy Landrum leads class. Join us for this opportunity to...

- ▶ share your own spiritual journey
- ▶ ask questions about UU and FPC
- ▶ get to know others in the church

You do not need to be new to FPC to participate; all are welcome!

To sign up, please contact Meg Rivers-Wright, Parish Administrator, at [office@fpc-stow-acton.org](mailto:office@fpc-stow-acton.org) or [617-291-3351](tel:617-291-3351).



## This Week at FPC

5	MAR, TUE	● 10 – 11am	Coffee & Chat (Gazebo)
		● 7 – 8pm	Book Group (online)
6	MAR, WED	● 6:40 – 8:45pm	Meditation (Fellowship Hall & online)
7	MAR, THU	● 5 – 6pm	Peace Vigil (outside)
		● 7:15 – 9pm	Choir Practice (Hall)
8	MAR, FRI	● All day	*Submissions for Upcycled Art Show due*
		● 1 – 3:30pm	Bridge Group (Community Rm)
		● 5:30 – 6:30pm	Guest Table dinner served (Hall)
		● 6:30 – 8:30pm	Club UU (Vestry & Youth Rm)
9	MAR, SAT	● 7:30 – 9am	Saturday Morning Breakfast (Hall)
		● 9 – 11am	SGM: 2nd Saturday Group (Community Room)
		● 9 – 10am	Spanish Conversations (Vestry)
		● 10am – 5pm	Youth Con
		● 5 – 10pm	New Revival Coffeehouse (Hall and Youth Room)

**Next Sunday's Service:** March 10, 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone

**“The Sermon We Hope We Have to Cancel: Cease Fire & Peace Now”**

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum - Since the Hamas attacks on Israel on Oct. 7, there has been unrelenting destruction by Israel in Gaza, with tens of thousands of Palestinian deaths, and the number continues to rise. On Feb. 14 the UUA wrote, *“The Israeli government's forced displacement, punishment, and intentional inflicting of suffering and death upon children and civilians in Gaza is a moral catastrophe that our faith demands we condemn and resist.”* This Sunday we will call for peace once more and discuss what congregations and members can do.

## Upcoming Events

**Tue** **Book Group**, 7-8 pm, online

**3/5** Tracy Kidder's *Rough Sleepers: Dr. Jim O'Connell's Urgent Mission To Bring Healing To Homeless People*. Email [sharonbrownfield@gmail.com](mailto:sharonbrownfield@gmail.com) for link.

**Fri** **1) Guest Table**, 5:30-6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

**3/8** ~Doors open at 5 ~All are Welcome ~No Charge. **Menu:** lasagna, roasted vegetables, tossed salad, garlic bread; cookies and bars for dessert.

**2) Deadline to submit art** to FPC's visual arts show, *Upcycling: The Beauty of Making Something New from Something Old*.

The FPC Arts Committee encourages participants of ALL AGES to submit arts or crafts to this March's visual arts show,



▶ What can you make from that old plank of wood?

▶ That jar of old keys or nails?

▶ That piece of fabric or old clothing that's been lying around forever?

▶ That old canvas or that Clorox container?

See our ad in *This Week at FPC* for the link to submit by 3/8.

**Sat** **7:30 am Saturday Morning Breakfast**, Fellowship Hall (7:30 am Coffee,

**3/9** 8 am Breakfast) \$6, RSVP Jeff Brown, [jab.jeffbrown@gmail.com](mailto:jab.jeffbrown@gmail.com)

"Women Quilters are HERstorians"- Nancy Weston - Introducing the viewer to exhibits from the National Quilt Museum in Paducah, KY.

**7:30 pm New Revival Coffee House**, Fellowship Hall

The Clements Brothers are returning to the Coffeehouse, bringing their close harmonies and intimate sound. See more details at the New Revival webpage at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/music/coffeehouse>.

Tickets \$17 in advance today at coffee hour and on [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com); \$20 at door. Doors open 7 pm, concert begins 7:30. Masks are optional.



**ONLINE SUPPLEMENT PAGE:**  
**Information for folks joining us online**

1. Closed captioning is available for FPC's online services. If you don't see captions on your screen, you can use the button at the bottom of your screen to request that the host turn them on.
2. Today's Zoom Host: **Jenni Edgerton**
3. Hymn lyrics will be in a slide presentation today.



**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