

February 12, 2023 10:00 AM

Gathering

Prelude *We Are a Circle* by Rick Hamouris

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Susan Avery, Worship Committee

Greet Your Neighbor

Opening Words by YRUU Participant, Tyson F. Nuss

Chalice Lighting "To Worship" Read by members of the
by Jacob Trapp congregation

* **Hymn #389** *Gathered Here*

* **Covenant**

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.

* **Affirmation**

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.

Centering

Message for All Ages "Desmond Gets Free" Lindsay LaPointe
Adapted from a story written by
YRUU Participant, Matt Meyer

Going Forth with the Light *Go Now in Peace*

* Congregation will sing

Go now in peace
Go now in peace
May the spirit of love surround
Everywhere, everywhere
You may go

* *Rise in Body and Spirit*

Joys and Sorrows

Ingrid Holcomb, Lay Minister

Prayer or Meditation Bringing in words from Fred Rogers

* **Hymn** *Dear Friends*

Dear friends, Let me tell you You have given I love you so.
dear friends. how I feel. me such
treasures.

Exploring

Video *Why are You You?* Interview Highlight -
Laila Ibrahim

Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share our weekly offering with RIA, Inc. (Ready.Inspire.Act.)
Checks may be made to "First Parish Church" or donate online at
<https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate> or by text to (978) 310-3309.

Anthem *We Are Opening* FPC Adult Choir
Traditional

We are opening up in a sweet surrender
To the luminous love light of the one
We are opening we are opening.
We are rising up like a phoenix from the fire
Brothers and sisters spread your wings and fly higher
We are rising up we are rising up.

Sermon "Why are You You?" Lindsay LaPointe

Returning

* **Hymn #1023** *Building Bridges*

* **Benediction** from YRUU Youth Leader Scott Keeler

* *Rise in Body and Spirit*

*** 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

Video: *Why Are You
You?*- Interview and
youth reenactment
highlight

Jen Devine and Youth
Participants of the
Y.E.S. Conference on
Star Island (2022)



Thank you to:

Sharon Brownfield, Zoom Host

Marcia Allison and Marion Scott, Ushers

Sheryl LaFayette and Peter Fiske, Coffee Hour Hosts

Our staff and leadership



Land Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge that this service is being held by a community that gathers on the stolen traditional lands of the Massachusett, Nipmuc, Pawtucket, and Wampanoag People. We pay respect to those Indigenous Peoples who lost their lives in the colonization of this land and recognize that these Indigenous tribes are still today facing violations of sovereignty, territory, and water. We also give thanks for the Earth we walk upon, the waters, the lifegiving plants, and all the Earth's creatures, as well as the winds, sun, moon, and stars. We recognize this is just a first step in moving toward right relationship with Native peoples and healing of the Earth.

Connect with First Parish Church

Sign our visitor's log at [tinyurl.com/visitfpc](https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org/visitfpc)

Services Sunday at 10 am, in person and online

Subscribe to

The Chronicle, our monthly emailed newsletter,

This Week at FPC, our weekly Friday email,

and our email groups FPC Announce and FPC Forum, all at

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



**FIRST PARISH
CHURCH
OF STOW &
ACTON**

Unitarian Universalist



Sunday, February 12, 2023

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum,
Minister

Marissa Evans, Acting Director of
Religious Education

Meg Rivers-Wright, Administration
and Membership

Brad Dumont, Music Director

Sanghee Kim....Organist/Pianist

Mike Silkonis.....Sexton

Ben Child.....Tech Assistant

Janet Beatrice...External Publicity

Sharon Brownfield.....President

Jenni Edgerton.....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.*

To help everyone be a part of worship in the fullest way possible, the ushers can provide large print orders of service and hymnals or, for people who need to step out during the service for any reason, an assisted listening device (portable radio) which works throughout the building.

On the web at [fpc-stow-acton.org](https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org) and on Facebook.

ONLINE SUPPLEMENT PAGE

This page contains information specifically for folks joining us online!

FPC now has a closed captioning option in online services. If the Closed Captioning option is not turned on, you can use the button at the bottom of your screen to request that the host turn it on.



Today's Zoom Host: Sharon Brownfield

Hymn Lyrics

Hymn #389

Gathered Here

Gathered here in the mystery of the hour.
Gathered here in one strong body.
Gathered here in the struggle and the power.
Spirit, draw near.

Dear Friends

Dear Friends
Dear friends, dear friends.
Let me tell you how I feel.
You have given me such treasures.
I love you so.

Hymn #1023

Building Bridges

Building Bridges between our divisions,
I reach out to you, will you reach out to me?
With all of our voices and all of our visions,
friends, we could make such sweet harmony.

Sharing Our Gifts

If you are mailing a pledge or a donation, please mail them to:

Pledges	Donations
Attn: Pledge Secretary P.O. Box 215 Stow, MA 01775	Attn: Treasurer 353 Great Rd. Stow, MA 01775

Announcements begin on next page

Plate Sharing
This Month:
RIA, Inc.
(Ready.Inspire.Act)

RIA provides a range of community-based services to stand with and support people with experience in commercial sex and its associated exploitation, trafficking, and prostitution. Our vision is a world where people's bodies are not victimized, exploited, bought, or sold for the sexual gratification of another person. FPC has embraced and supported RIA House since its start 12 years ago.

Survivors tell us again and again that rent is their highest expense. Deciding between food, rent, and utilities is a decision they wrestle with every day. Our dream is to provide 12-24 months of rental assistance for every survivor of human trafficking and sexual exploitation we serve. Rental assistance is a gift of opportunity for someone in need. It means a survivor can take a breath, know she is trusted to manage her own life, and begin to plan how to improve her life and the lives of her children. Together we are supporting one woman at a time. We thank each and every one of you for believing and trusting RIA to be here in this way with others.



This Week in Religious Education

PreK-1st Grade and 2nd-5th Grade: Continuing our theme of love, we will focus on love for family and friends, and look at Valentine's Day through a social justice lens of love *and* equality. We'll also continue making art for the FPC art show!

Junior Youth and **High School Youth** are invited to stay in worship for this special service about youth empowerment. Many of you know Lindsay LaPointe from youth group or RE class. She'll talk about how being part of a thriving UU youth movement changed people's lives and the documentary film she is making about it.

FPC Announcements: Sunday, February 12, 2023

Today at FPC

10 am Service, Sanctuary/Online
11 am Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
11:20 am FINAL Cottage Meeting, Community Room
12:00 pm Spiritual Conversations, on-line <https://tinyurl.com/FPC-SCTP>

Spiritual Conversations: Sunday, February 12 and 26, online

You don't need to know anything about poetry to join Elizabeth Cobblah, Ilene Rudman, and Hector Constantzos for Spiritual Conversations Through Poetry. Come and engage with others through the sharing of a poem – read it, listen to it, let it take you to possible new insights, and respond to it.

Such conversations have been going on at FPC twice a month for over a decade. We sincerely hope you will join us in this deeply satisfying time of connection. Contact Hector Hconstantzos@gmail.com for the link.

Final Religious Education Cottage Meeting

We are looking for at least 10 more people to sign up for a cottage meeting and take the accompanying survey...

Today
after service.

The meeting runs about an hour. The survey takes five minutes.

You do NOT need to be a parent of a youth in RE to provide useful information! *Everyone* at FPC can. RE is a vital part of our community and we are all affected by its strengths and weaknesses. Please consider giving a little time and energy to help us improve our programming.

- 1) Attend the cottage meeting after worship today in the Community Room. Childcare is provided; sign your child in downstairs in the RE space.
- 2) Fill out this Religious Education survey by 2/12: bit.ly/fpc-re-survey

This Week at FPC: February 13-18

- Mon 2/13** SGM: 2nd Monday Group, 7-9pm, online
Jazz Band Rehearsal, 7-9 pm, Sanctuary
- Tue 2/14** Valentine's Day
Coffee and Chat* 10-11 am, Town Gazebo
Town Park, adjacent to FPC. Bring your own coffee!
- Wed 2/15** UU Journey Class #1, 7-9 pm, Community Room
SGM: 3rd Wednesday Group, 7:30-9:30 pm, online
Meditation* 7:30-8:30 pm, Hall/Online
Contact meditation@fpc-stow-acton.org for more info.
- Thu 2/16** SGM: 3rd Thursday Group, 7:30-9:30 pm, online
Peace Vigil* 5-6 pm, in front of FPC, btwn Common & Great Rds
Contact Neil Saunders neilsaund@verizon.net for more info.
Choir Rehearsal, 7:15-9 pm, Sanctuary
- Fri 2/17** Bridge Group* 1-3:30 pm, Community Room
Contact Hector Hconstantzos@gmail.com for more info.
- Sat 2/18** Garden Conversations, 9-10 am, online

*All are welcome to these [weekly FPC events](#)

Next Sunday's Service: February 19, 2023
10:00 AM in the Sanctuary and online/phone
"Stardust to Life" - Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

This is an intergenerational Darwin Day service about Darwin, space, evolution, humanity, and animals created together by our minister Rev. Cynthia Landrum and Cherilyn Reno, the Director of Religious Education for the UU Society of Grafton and Upton, a friend of Rev. Cindy's since high school! Interactive and story-based, this service will celebrate with spirit and fun! Bring your stuffed animals, and wear animal ears or animal outfits if you desire!



Join Worship by Video: <https://tinyurl.com/2223fpc>
Meeting ID: 999 7077 0266 Passcode: 01775
Join Worship by Phone: (929) 205-6099 (toll call)



Additional Announcements Live links in *This Week at FPC* Friday email

The First Annual FPC Community Art Show: CALL FOR ART

The FPC Arts Coalition is thrilled to announce the first annual FPC Community Art Show. We are so excited to show the unique talents of our congregation and members.



ALL are welcome to participate. This is not a juried show, but a 'booth-based' show; we will assign you a section of the room where you set up and display. We're looking forward to seeing a broad spectrum of our community artists, even those of you who might not usually refer to

yourself with that label! More details about the event and the registration form to sign up for space at the show are in the latest *This Week at FPC*. Submissions are due by February 17 and the show will take place March 17-19.

Repairing the UUA's Approach to Racial Justice: A Convocation of the UU Multiracial Unity Action Council, UUMUAC.org, Saturday, February 18, 12:00-2:30 pm. To register, send an email to UUMUAC@gmail.com; Zoom codes will be sent the day before.

The UU Journey at FPC: NEW STARTING DATE!

A 4-Session Course on UU History, Spirituality, Mission, and Traditions
Wednesdays, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
February 15 & 22, March 1 & 8

Our Minister, Rev. Cindy Landrum, will lead classes. There will be opportunities to share your own personal spiritual journey, ask questions, and get to know others in the church. You do not need to be new to FPC to participate. All are welcome! In the event of bad weather/road conditions, we will still offer the course virtually. Registration Required for link access.



If you are interested in participating, **please contact Meg Rivers-Wright**, Parish Administration & Membership, at office@fpc-stow-acton.org or **617-291-3351**.