

February 5, 2023: 10:00 AM

Gathering

Prelude *Prelude in D major* Sanghee Kim, organ
by J. K. F. Fischer

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome
Sharon Brownfield, Board President

Greet Your Neighbor

Introit *Standing Stone*
Melanie DeMore

Opening Words “Sacred Unknowing” by Amy Carol Webb

Chalice Lighting

* **Hymn #360** *Here We Have Gathered*

* **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 *Loving Energy* Marissa Evans,
Acting Director of Religious Education

Going Forth with the Light

Joys and Sorrows Marcia Rising, Lay Minister

Prayer or Meditation

* *Rise in Body and Spirit*

* **Hymn #95** *There is More Love Somewhere*

Exploring

Reading “Humans’ Core Function is Love” by Adrienne Maree
Brown

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 *A Time for All Things* FPC Adult Choir
Douglas Wagner
Adapted from Ecclesiastes

To ev'rything there is a season, there is a time for all good things;
A time to plant and a time to reap, a time to lose, a time to keep;
A time to weep, a time to laugh, a time to mourn, a time to dance.
To ev'rything there is a season, there is a time for all good things.

A time to follow, a time to lead, a time to speak and a time to heed;
A time to sleep, a time to wake, a time to give and a time to take.
For all the blessings of our God, are given us that we might have,
A time to live and a time to share, a time to love and a time to care.
A time for all good things.

Sermon “Love: What Does a Theology of Love Mean? (Universalism)”
The Rev. Cynthia L. Landrum

Returning

* **Hymn #131** *Love Will Guide Us*

* **Benediction** “Even When Our Hearts Are Broken” by Rebecca Parker

* *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

Kiss the Rain
by Yiruma

Sanghee Kim, piano



Thank you to:

Jenni Edgerton, Zoom Host,
Rebecca and John MacNeill, Ushers
and to 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 5, 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: Jenni Edgerton

Hymn Lyrics

Hymn #360 *Here We Have Gathered*

1. Here we have gathered, gathered side by side;
circle of kinship, come and step inside!
May all who seek here find a kindly word;
may all who speak here feel they have been heard.
Sing now together this, our hearts' own song.
2. Here we have gathered, called to celebrate
days of our lifetime, matters small and great:
we of all ages, women, children, men,
infants and sages, sharing what we can.
Sing now together this, our hearts' own song.
3. Life has its battles, sorrows, and regret:
but in the shadows, let us not forget:
we who now gather know each other's pain;
kindness can heal us: as we give, we gain.
Sing now in friendship this, our hearts' own song.

Hymn #95 *There is More Love Somewhere*

1. There is more love somewhere. There is more love somewhere.
I'm gonna keep on 'til I find it. There is more love somewhere.
2. There is more hope somewhere...
3. There is more peace somewhere...
4. There is more joy somewhere...

Hymn #131 *Love Will Guide Us*

1. Love will guide us, peace has tried us,
hope inside us will lead the way
on the road from greed to giving.
Love will guide us through the hard night.
2. If you cannot sing like angels,
if you cannot speak before thousands,
you can give from deep within you.
You can change the world with your love.
3. Love will guide us, peace has tried us,
hope inside us will lead the way
on the road from greed to giving.
Love will guide us through the hard night

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: This month our theme is love, and this Sunday we are exploring self-love!

Junior Youth (6th-8th Grade): We wrap up our unit on Islam! How did we do with the 8 Practices of Welcoming Difference? What stands out to us from everything we've discussed?

Senior Youth (9th-12th Grade): Coming of Age meets from 10am-noon. This month our theme is "self-knowledge" and exploring who we are becoming.

RE Social Events in February

* Club UU (K-5th) - Friday February 10th, 6:30-8:30pm

* Parent Social Night - Friday February 10th, 6:30-8:30pm

* CONTinuum Youth Con in Worcester (6th-12th grade) - all day Saturday, Feb 11th (email dre@fpc-stow-acton.org to register)

FPC Announcements: Sunday, February 5, 2023

Today at FPC

9-9:40 am Rehearsal for Open Choir, Sanctuary

10 am Service, Sanctuary/Online

11 am Social Hour, Fellowship Hall

11:20 am RE Cottage Meeting, Community Room

FPC Guest Table Fri Jan 13, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall. Doors open at 5. All are welcome – no charge

11th Hour for Climate Change Sat Feb 11, 11 am. Churches and communities across the Commonwealth are ringing bells for 11 minutes to signify the climate crisis we face. Meet us in front of the church.

Saturday Morning Breakfast Sat Feb 11, Fellowship Hall. 7:30 am Coffee, 8 am breakfast. \$6. Amy Meltzer gives a talk, *Gardening with Native Plants: Why and How*. RSVP jab.jeffbrown@gmail.com

Religious Education Cottage Meetings:

We want to hear from you about our programming for children, youth, and families! *What do you value most about the church and RE program, and what might enhance their vitality? What elements of worship and RE classes would your children be most excited about?* FPC's hour-long Cottage Meetings will pose these kinds of questions to generate reflection and visioning.

- 1) **Please sign up here to join a meeting:** <https://bit.ly/recottage> **and**
- 2) **Fill out this Religious Education survey by 2/6:** bit.ly/fpc-re-survey.

Everyone in the FPC community is encouraged to complete this survey!

Final
Cottage Meetings:
Today 2/5
after service
and
Monday 2/6
at 7pm online

This Week at FPC: February 6-11

- Mon 2/6** RE Final Cottage Meeting, 7-8 pm, online
- Tue 2/7** Coffee and Chat* 10-11 am, Town Gazebo
Town Park, adjacent to FPC. Bring your own coffee!
Book Group, 7-8 pm, online
- Wed 2/8** UU Journey Class, 7-9 pm, Community Room
Meditation* 7:30-8:30 pm, Hall/Online
Contact meditation@fpc-stow-acton.org for more info.
- Thu 2/9** 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 2/10** Bridge Group* 1-3:30 pm, Community Room
Contact Hector Hconstantzos@gmail.com for more info.
Small Group Ministry, 2nd Friday group 9:30-11:30 am
(Mallon/Chetwynd)

*All are welcome to these weekly FPC events

Next Sunday's Service: February 12, 2023

10:00 AM in the Sanctuary and online

"Why Are You You" – Lindsay LaPointe

A religious youth-empowerment program reveals how teen empowerment is nothing to mess with. When we find a sense of belonging at the most tender times in our lives, we thrive as adults. Join FPC member Lindsay LaPointe as she offers an inside look at the process and themes that have emerged during her creation of the documentary *Why Are You You?*



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.

The UU Journey at FPC:

A 4-Session Course on UU History, Spirituality,
Mission, and Traditions

Wednesdays, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

February 8 & 15, March 1 & 8, 2023



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**.