

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



Sunday, April 20, 2025
Easter Sunday

**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 and on Facebook.

April 20, 2025: 10:00 a.m.

Gathering

Prelude

*"Drum sing' ich mit meinem Liede
ewig dein Lob, du treuer Gott!"*
Felix Mendelssohn

Trevor Berens, Accompanist
Jessica Tunick Berens
and Chris Hossfeld, soloists

Therefore, I sing your praises forever, faithful God!
And thank you for all the good you have done for me.
Though I wander in deepest night and enemies are all around me,
I will call upon your name, and you will save me by your goodness.

Welcome & Announcements

Meg Rivers-Wright,
Administration & Membership

Opening Words

Rev. Susan Suchocki Brown
Sabbatical Minister

Introit

“i thank You God”
Music: Christopher Hossfeld
Lyrics: e. e. cummings

FPC Choir
Chris Hossfeld,
Music Director
Jessica Tunick Berens, soloist

i thank You God for most this amazing
day:for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky;and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

(i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday;this is the birth
day of life and of love and wings:and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any – lifted from the no
of all nothing – human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

Chalice Lighting

by Rev. Susan

June Mc Knight

* Please rise in body or in spirit

*** Hymn #61**

“Lo, the Earth Awakes Again”

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
Worship Committee Chair

A Time for All Ages

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
Director of Religious Education

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!

Joys and Sorrows

Ann Sadler, 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/Meditation

“Spring Housecleaning of the Spirit”
by Rev. Richard Gilbert

*** Hymn #266**

“Now the Green Blade Riseth”

Exploring

Reading

adapted from Rev. Janet Bowering

June McKnight

Sharing Our Gifts

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

Anthem

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Music: John Rutter

Lyrics: F.S. Pierpoint, alt.

FPC Choir

Chris Hossfeld

Music Director

For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies:
Source of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light:
Source of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love,
Partner, sibling, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild:
Source of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.

For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight:
Source of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.

Sermon “Look to this Day”

Rev. Susan Suchocki Brown

Sabbatical Minister

Returning

*** Hymn #163**

“For the Earth Forever Turning”

*** Benediction**

by Rev. Judith Meyer

May the spirit of life, a gift of the earth's renewal,
come awake inside us again. And may we find it hold!

*** 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

“Wayside Flowers”

John K. Paine

Trevor Berens

Greet Your Neighbor

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

Thank you to:

Sharon Brownfield, Zoom Host
Kate Imhoff, Marcia Allison, Ushers
Sharon Brownfield and Rick Lent, Coffee Hosts ♥ ☕
Our staff and leadership

Our Easter plants today are given by:

John Kendrick**, in memory of his parents, Maxine Fillyaw Kendrick and
John Whitefield Kendrick
Liz & Phil Moseley, in celebration of the birth of their great-grandson,
Theodore Augustus Zolla
Jeff & Linda Brown***, in memory of our parents
Marcia Rising**, in memory of Donald Rising and Ilene Rudman
Martha Morrison, in honor of Helen Jones
Sharon Brownfield ****
Ann Sadler***
Skip Warren****
Marcia & Richard Allison
** Indicates quantity of plants*

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)



Visitor Card



E-Newsletters

Today at FPC

Religious Education The young people will begin in the Sanctuary where they'll judge the hat and bonnet contest during our *Time For All Ages*. Then they'll proceed to the front lawn for an Easter Egg Hunt and lawn games.

Next Sunday, April 27- Ferry Beach Weekend in Maine - We hope our families will attend this time for rest and community. Please see Margaret Tucker for more information or to register. There will be no RE classes at FPC that day.

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.

Announcements

Lead a Summer Service

The Worship Committee has started the planning process for this year's lay-led summer services, which will begin on June 15th and end on September 7th. If you are interested in leading one of these services, please let us know what you have in mind. We will assign a worship host, who will help you with the process. Please send your request by May 1st to junebmcknight@yahoo.com or call me at 978-844-3214. We look forward to hearing from you!

2025

JUNE						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Plate Sharing for April: Southeast India Project



For 21 years FPC has fostered and supported the Southeast India Project, which works with poor villages in the tsunami-affected area of Tamil Nadu, India, as well as WIDE Orphanage for dalit (the caste formerly known as Untouchables) children, provides micro-lending for financing new opportunities for

women, and establishes Self Help Organizations for women. More children are being sponsored by FPC families, providing these children with a healthy, safe, caring environment, as well as an education. Plate Sharing contributions have also helped us drill a bore well for a village, build pre-schools, a tailoring school with foot-treadle sewing machines for women in a tribal village, fund herds of dairy cows managed by Women Self Help Groups, and to reclaim arable land for organic farming in dalit villages. We also fund micro-lending projects and a seed bank for farmers. Thank you for your generous and continued support.

The FPC Auction is closed, but there's still more!

There are still available seats for several auction events.

Contact Sue Stewart at dnasue@gmail.com.

First come, first served. Thank you, everyone!

Beginner Zentangle Workshop Sun 5/11, 3-5pm, FPC. 9 seats at \$25.

Canasta with Cindy & Rayla Sun 5/18, 1-3pm, FPC. 10 seats at \$15.

Mexican Dinner on the Lake Sat 6/21, Moses', Ashburnham. 1 seat at \$140.

Chuck Wagon Dinner Marlborough. 4 seats at \$35, children free

Luscious Belgian Beer Tasting Sat 8/2, 3pm, FPC. 1 seat at \$35.

FPC Disco Party Sat 8/16, FPC. 32 seats for individ at \$20; 30 seats for fam at \$50.

New Year's Bread & Soup Gathering Thu 1/1/26, 1-4pm, Rick & Sharon's, Stow
1 seat at \$35.

Sat. Morning Meditation Retreat 1/10/26, 9am - 12pm, FPC. 11 seats at \$20.

Nanny's Old Fashioned Chicken Curry Dinner Sat 2/7/26, 6pm, Rick & Lynda,
Marlborough. 2 seats at \$50.

Not Your Boston Tea Party Sat 4/14/26, 10am-12pm, Evans', Acton. 1 seat \$85.

The Auction Committee is also looking for feedback.

What worked? What didn't? Ideas? Want to join the Committee for next year? Let us know! Reply to auction@fpc-stow-acton.org.

This Week at FPC

Ferry Beach Retreat Fri 4/25 - Sun 4/27 (last weekend of April school vacation) Our annual church retreat takes place at Ferry Beach Retreat and Conference Center in Saco, Maine - about a two hour drive from Stow. FPC has been coming to Ferry Beach for a number of years and we always enjoy being in community in this beautiful location. We usually offer a schedule of activities and workshops. **Questions:** Margaret Tucker, mstucker@mac.com



Supporting Asylum Seekers Community Dinner



Purchase tickets by Sat 4/26 for the dinner on Sat 5/3,
5:30-8:00 pm.

Join us for a time of good food, good stories, and round table discussions about what we can do to support our immigrant neighbors. Dinner is prepared by a local business and features classic Afghan food, which will delight your senses and satisfy your appetite! \$10.00 per adult for a 3-course meal and beverages. Children under 16 eat free.

DEADLINE: In order to give us a sense of numbers, please purchase tickets online by Sat, April 26 using the QR code above or tiny url: bit.ly/SASdinner.



Next Sunday 4/27, 10am in the Sanctuary and online

"Moving On" - Rev. Susan Suchoki Brown - The impact we have on others - and others on us - lasts a lifetime.

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

Fri. 1PM

Bridge Playing in the Community Room

