

August 17, 2025

10:00 am

Gathering

Welcome & Announcements

Land Acknowledgement

Marcia Allison

Opening Words

Susan Avery

Chalice Lighting

Marcia Allison &
Ingrid Holcomb

*Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted
the flame within us. - Albert Schweitzer*

*** Hymn #188** "Come, Come Whoever You Are"
Led by The Uketarians

Centering

*** Covenant and Affirmation**

(Spoken in unison)

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.

(Sung in unison)

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.

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.

Acknowledging those Pets who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge

*** Hymn** "This Little Dog of Mine"
Led by The Uketarians

Exploring

Reading

Susan Avery

Poem "We Give Thanks for the Animals"
Gary Kowalski

Sharing Our Gifts

In July and August we share our weekly offering with four
recipients, **UU Trauma Response Ministry, UU Mass Action,
Native Plant Trust, and Groton Hill Music Center.** You may
donate with a check made out to First Parish Church, online at
<https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate>, or text to (978) 310-3309.

Offertory "What a Wonderful World" The Uketarians
Bob Thiele & George David Weiss

Blessing of the Animals

We will go around the circle. For each pet, their person will
identify the pet and briefly describe how their pet brings more joy
to the world. We will all then say,

*"[Name of Pet], we bless you and are grateful for your presence in [Name
of Person]'s life."*

After all pets have been blessed we will close by saying,

*"We bless all pets, acknowledging how they enrich our souls and bring
joy to the world."*

Returning

*** Hymn** "All God's Critters" Led by The Uketarians

*** Benediction** Susan Avery

*** Closing Song** Led by The Uketarians

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.

With help today from
Worship Host: Marcia Allison
Lay Minister: Ingrid Holcomb
The Uketarians: Pat Sorn, Sue Stewart, Emmeline Jones

To our visitors, thank you for coming!

We hope you find 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)
- Visit our website, www.fpc-stow-acton.org. There is so much happening at FPC! Our homepage and the "Church Life" tab detail our events and programs.
- Subscribe to our e-newsletters and email groups (QR Code)



Visitor Card



E-Newsletters

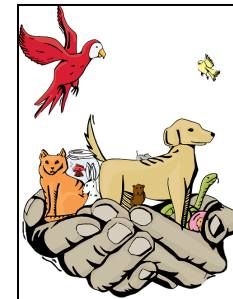
July/August Plate Sharing

- **UU Trauma Response Ministry** Provides culturally sensitive spiritual care to congregations after critical and traumatic events.
- **UU Mass Action** Organizes and mobilizes UUs in Massachusetts to confront oppression.
- **Native Plant Trust** Conserves and promotes New England's native plants to ensure healthy, biologically diverse landscapes.
- **Groton Hill Music Center** A community music school and performing arts venue hosting lessons, lectures, concerts, and recitals.

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

Sunday, August 17, 2025

*Until one has loved an animal,
a part of one's soul remains unawakened.*
Anatole France



The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister
Rayla Baldwin-Mattson, Director of Religious Education
Meg Rivers-Wright, Parish Administrator
Chris Hossfeld, Music Director
Trevor Berens, Accompanist
Justin Marble, Nursery Care Coordinator
Mike Silkonis, Sexton
Brendon Chetwynd, President,
Trisha Guditz, Vice President
Bill Froberg, Treasurer
Johanna Pyle, Clerk

*First Parish is a UU Association Welcoming Congregation. We warmly welcome
gay, lesbian, bisexual, & 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, back rows with accessible seating are "mask-required."

On the web at fpc-stow-acton.org and on Facebook.