

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



Sunday, September 7, 2025
Ingathering Sunday

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

Yaakov Trek Reef
Intern Minister

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

Meg Rivers-Wright
Parish Administrator

Chris Hossfeld
Music Director

Trevor Berens
Accompanist

Bradshaw Mattson
Tech Assistant

Mike Silkonis
Sexton

Justin Marble
Nursery Care Coordinator

Brendon Chetwynd
President

Trisha Guditiz
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.

September 7, 2025: 10:00 a.m.

Gathering

Prelude

“Cornet Voluntary”
John Travers (1703-1758)

Trevor Berens
Organ

Welcome & Announcements

Meg Rivers-Wright
Parish Administrator

Opening Words

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Chalice Lighting

“Thirsty”
by Gregory Pelley

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson

*** Hymn**

“We Will Carry Each Other”

Sing Out Love (New!)

I am look - ing for shel - ter in a friend. We can build a be -
(There are) prayers I___ don't know how to say. But I still find -
gin - ning but I do not know the end— I am scared of break - ing when I
sol - ace when I close my eyes to pray What I've lost and what I hope can
bend. stay We will car - ry each o - ther on the way:___ My
cour - age is your cour - age when the jour - ney is on - ly get - ting lon - ger. My
strength is your strength: we will car - ry each oth - er on the way.___ There are
I am

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

full and I am run-ning out, I'm a flood - ing
 peo - ple I have ne - ver met, There is some - thing

ri - ver and I'm liv-ing through the drought, I have firm con - vic-tion and my
 spe-cial, and I have-n't found it yet, There's a - bund-ance, giv-en free - ly,

heart is full of doubt. We will car - ry each oth-er on the way:___ My
 tak-en with no debt!

cour - age is your cour - age when the jour-ney is on - ly get-ting

lon - ger. My strength is your strength: we will

car - ry each oth-er on the way.___ There are — My

cour-age is your cour-age when the jour-ney is on-ly get-ting lon-ger. My

strength is your strength: we will car-ry each oth-er on the way.___

Words & Music: *We Will Carry Each Other*, Soren Austenfeld, b.1993

© 2023, Soren Austenfeld—Sing Out Love expiration July 2028

Centering

* **Covenant and Affirmation**

Chris Hossfeld

Love is the spirit of this church,
and service its law.

From all that dwell below the skies
let words of love and peace arise.

This is our great covenant:
To dwell together in peace,
to seek the truth in love,
and to help one another.

Let joyful songs of praise be sung.
through every land, by every tongue.

Land Acknowledgement

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson

Internship Commissionings

Inspired by Words
by Michelle Buheit

Rev. Cindy: A ministerial internship in a congregation has many pieces – the role of intern, the role of supervisor, the role of the internship committee, and the role of the congregation as a whole, including our children and youth. Let us begin with commissioning our new Intern Minister, Yaakov Trek Reef. Trek, you have heard the call to Unitarian Universalist ministry and you have answered with your heart and mind, entering Meadville Lombard Theological School as a Master of Divinity student, and now beginning your internship in the context of a congregation's life and work, as required by our faith. Here, among us, as a leader and student as our intern minister, you will learn and practice the arts of preaching and pastoral care, teaching and leading, discernment and compassion. Do you accept this calling to serve among us as our Intern Minister, to learn and to grow with humility and courage, centering love in all you do?

Trek: I accept this call to serve and to learn among you with great rejoicing!

Congregation: Trek, we welcome you and commission you as our Intern Minister, with great rejoicing!

Rev. Cindy: Ministry is never a solitary endeavor. To guide and companion Trek in this journey, we commission our Internship Committee: Sharon Brownfield, Lisa Fagerstrom, Mark Koenig, June

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

Peoples Mallon, and Johanna Pyle. Committee members, do you covenant to offer your time, your wisdom, and your compassion, supporting Trek with constructive feedback, enthusiastic encouragement, and deep care, centering love in all you do?

Internship Committee: We do, with great rejoicing!

Trek: (To Rev. Cindy) This ministry of teaching and learning is shared.
Rev. Cindy, together with this congregation, let us offer you a blessing:

Congregation & Trek: Rev. Cindy, we commission and bless you in this work of ministerial supervision. May this year deepen your own ministry as you guide the learning journey of a future minister of our living tradition.

Rev. Cindy: (To Congregation) FPC, this work is yours as well – we now take up the mantle of a Teaching Congregation together. To be a Teaching Congregation is to risk, to experiment, to stretch, and to grow together. To be a Teaching Congregation is also to take up a role in guiding the future of our faith through nurturing its future leadership. Will you open your hearts to Trek’s ministry with honesty and grace, and to your role as a teaching congregation, centering love in all you do?

Congregation: We will, with great rejoicing.

All: With great rejoicing and centering love, we begin our work together!
Blessed be. Amen.

Blessing of the Backpacks

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
Director of Religious Education
& Trek Reef, Intern Minister

Reflections

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Introduction to Plate Sharing Organization

Sharing Our Gifts

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

Anthem

"Seasons of Love" Words and Music: Jonathan Larson, Arranged by Roger Emerson

FPC Choir

525,600 minutes
525,600 moments so dear
525,600 minutes
How do you measure,
measure a year?

In daylights, in sunsets,
in midnights, in cups of coffee
In inches, in miles, in laughter,
in strife
In 525,600 minutes
How do you measure a year
in the life?

How about love? Measure in love
Seasons of love

525,600 minutes
525,600 journeys to plan
525,600 minutes
How do you measure the life
of a woman or man?

In truths that she learned
Or in times that he cried
In bridges he burned
Or the way that she died

It's time now to sing out
Though the story never ends
Let's celebrate, remember a year
In the life of friends

Remember the love
Measure in love
Seasons of love

525,600 minutes
525,600 moments so dear
525,600 minutes
How do you measure,
measure a year?

In daylights, in sunsets,
in midnights, in cups of coffee
In inches, in miles, in laughter,
in strife
In 525,600 minutes
How do you measure a year
in the life?

Remember the love
Measure in love

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

Exploring

Reading

"River Call"
by Manish K. Mishra-Marzetti

Trek Reef, Intern Minister

* Hymn

"This Boat"

Sing Out Love (New!)

Refrain



This boat is stead-y This boat is sure. When you're read - y
climb a - board When you're read - y grab an_
_ oar. This boat will car - ry us to the far - thest shore.

Words & Music: This Boat, Laura Zucker, 1958

© 2014, Laura Zucker—Sing Out Love expiration July 2028

Solo: Verse 1

We all know hardship
We all know pain.
But nothing ventured
means nothing gained
And every rainbow
needs the rain
you're not alone try again.

Solo: Verse 2

Even if you've been tempest tossed
Even if you feel that all is lost
you've heard the thunder roar,
had a look at heaven's door
If you're sinking like a stone,
This boat will carry you home.

Solo: Bridge

In this boat there's nothing we can't do together
no matter the weather.
No matter that the charts aren't ours,
we will navigate by our stars.

Water Communion

Our Water Communion is a time to share our Joys and Sorrows, the things on our hearts and minds, in gathered community, in ways connected to the waters of the earth. If you would like a follow-up call by a lay minister or the minister, email caring@fpc-stow-acton.org.

Prayer or Meditation

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Returning

* Hymn #1064

"Blue Boat Home"

Singing the Journey

* Benediction

Trek Reef, Intern Minister

* 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

"Mazurka Op 17, No 1"
Fryderyk Chopin

Trevor Berens

Greet Your Neighbor

* * *

Thank you to:

Hector Constantzos, Zoom Host
Marion Scott, Kate Imhoff, Ushers
Jeff Brown, Rick Lent, Coffee Host
Our staff and leadership

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

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 ≦

11 am Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall

11:30 am General Information Meeting about the Possible FPC-UCMH Merger - Sanctuary and Zoom

The FPC members of the FPC-UCMH Exploratory Team will hold the discussion.

- Rev. Cindy and Brendon Chetwynd, our Board President, will start the meeting with a history of UCMH's relationship with FPC and their request to join FPC
- Trisha Guditz will provide an update on the exploratory team's work to date
- Bob Glorioso will summarize UCMH's financials and discuss the legal work that has occurred to date.
- This is a hybrid meeting and the Zoom link is inside this month's *Chronicle* and an email from FPC Announce. We hope you can join us. We are ready to answer your questions!

≧ Religious Education ≦

We are looking forward to the beginning of this program year and to seeing all of you!

Fri. 9/12 – Our first **Friday Friends** (formally Club UU) - 6:30-8:30pm - Vestry - Please bring a friend!

Sun. 9/14 - **RE Teacher/Volunteer Training** - 1-3 pm - Community Room

Sun. 9/21 - **First day of RE classes** for this program year!!

≧ Announcements ≦

Plate Sharing for September:

The UU Urban Ministry (UUUM) is a UU-based organization in Roxbury whose mission is to "work across race and place to dismantle racism and white supremacy culture, as well as to advance racial, economic, and social justice." UUUM's vision is "a Greater Boston where all people live with freedom and dignity and have equitable access to resources and opportunity to shape the present and the future."



Founded 200 years ago by Rev. Joseph Tuckerman, today the UUUM focuses on providing services directly to the local community. This includes safe shelters and workforce development programming for survivors of domestic violence, specifically Renewal House. It also includes academic enrichment programs for youths of color through their Roxbury Youth Programs. And UUUM provides programming for various arts and humanities grounded in a social justice message, including providing exhibits of local artists' works. FPC is part of a group of over 40 local congregations who support the UUUM in its ministry.

FPC Yard Sale Sat. 9/13 - Set-up 7:30 am; Sale 8:30 am-1 pm - FPC parking lot



All are invited to participate in FPC's annual yard sale. It's a great opportunity to declutter and release items you no longer need to a new home. It's also a fun community event! All sales from the FPC table go to FPC programs.

You may reserve/rent a table for yourself OR contribute items to FPC's table.

➤ If you are renting - You are responsible for your own set-up, sales, and clean-up. One table for \$25. Email sharonbrownfield@gmail.com to reserve.

➤ If you are contributing to FPC's table - Please contact susan.avery@verizon.net or text 978-844-1181; psorn@mailstarusa.com or text 508-641-4369 with any questions, or see details in *The Chronicle* and *FPC Announce*.

Bake Sale: The Supporting Asylum Seekers Task Force will be holding a fundraiser bake sale at the pie shed during the FPC yard sale. Money raised will be used to pay for the increasing needs of the immigrants we serve, both on a regular and ad hoc basis.

The Apple Pie Project Begins the Week of 9/15/25!

Please sign up at the link on the bottom of the main FPC website page

We need your help to make the 300+ pies for our Apple Pie Fundraiser! No experience necessary...training and camaraderie will be provided! FPC's apple pies are a long-standing tradition as a fundraiser, fun group project, and culinary delight and require lots of volunteers to make it successful. You can sign up for:

Tuesday: Dough making (9/16, 9/23, 9/30, and 10/7) usually between 4 and 6 pm but the day and time are flexible; 2-3 people are needed each week.

Tuesday or Wednesday: Apple collecting (9/16-17, 9/23-24, 9/30-10/1, and 10/7-8) during orchard hours; Contact Steve Evans (steve.pies@fpc-stow-acton.org) for information and to get official bags and directions. Please deposit your bags of apples into the bins located IN FRONT OF THE CARRIAGE SHED.

Wednesday/Thursday: Apple peeling/prep (9/17-18, 9/24-25, 10/1-2, and 10/8-9) timing flexible

- ★ When you sign up, please indicate how many bags of apples you intend to peel and **be sure to take that many bags.**
- ★ **Apples can be picked up after 4 pm on Wednesday** from the bins located IN FRONT OF THE CARRIAGE SHED.
- ★ Take the apples, wash them, peel them, core them, and cut them into pie slices. It is important to remove ALL skin, seeds, and tough bits around the seeds. Slices should be between ½ inch and 1 inch wide (i.e., if you use a device that cores and slices at the same time, you will need to divide each slice created to be small enough). Bags will be provided for storage of the cleaned apple slices.
- ★ **The Vestry has been reserved from 4 to 9 pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays** each week for folks who want to peel with other people at church. The group can divide up the tasks, so if you can wash apples but not peel, you can share the labor with the group!
- ★ Drop off bags of prepared apple slices in the refrigerators at church or on Thursday in the bins at the carriage shed before 9 pm. (NOTE: If you peel your apples on Wednesday, please refrigerate them until you deliver them on Thursday.)
- ★ We also have sign-ups for someone to set up the Vestry for peeling and for someone else to put things away at the end of the evening.

Friday Morning: Baking (9/19, 9/26, 10/3, and 10/10) any time after 6:30 am until 11 am or so; sign up and come as early as you are able (baking set up starts at 6:30 am and work continues until the pies are all assembled...usually around 10-11 am). If you can only come for part of the shift, that's ok...every bit helps. All TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED.

Friday Evening: Bagging (9/19, 9/26, 10/3, and 10/10) 7pm or later; bagging will take place in the Fellowship Hall (or in the vestry classroom, depending on events scheduled at church) after 7 pm, when the pies are fully cooled. New folks will be trained and gloves will be provided.

Saturday/Sunday Selling (9/20-21, 9/27-28, 10/4-5, and 10/11-12); from 9:45 am until the pies are sold (or 1 pm, whichever comes first) at the pie shed. Pies will be \$20 and tarts will be \$10.

Questions/Comments/Concerns? Please reach out to the Pie Project Coordinators, Rebecca Stadolnik and Rebecca MacNeil, at applepies@fpc-stow-acton.org. **THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING!!**

≧ This Week at FPC ≦

Tue. 9/9 - Racial Justice Task Force Meeting - 7 pm

Want to be a part of the RJTF? For more information on how to be involved, please contact Jessica Batsford at Marie.Batsford@gmail.com or Johanna Pyle at johanna.pyle@gmail.com.

Thu. 9/11 - Themed Discussion on Worship and Culture (Culture piece continued)

12-1 pm, Zoom. The meeting link is inside the September *Chronicle* and will be sent via FPC Announce.

Fri. 9/12 - Guest Table - 5:30-6:30 pm - Fellowship Hall

Our free community dinner on the second Friday of each month. Doors open 5 PM ~ Dinner starts 5:30 ~ All are Welcome ~ No Charge!

Fri. 9/12 - Friday Friends - 6:30-8:30 pm - Vestry/Hall/Sanctuary

This event is open to the public. Youth ages 4-11 are invited to join Pat Sorn, Justin Marble, and another adult for a night of games, snacks, and fun. Drop off and pick up is in the Vestry as usual.

Sat. 9/13 - FPC Yard Sale - 8:30am - 1 pm - FPC parking lot & Fellowship Hall - See the Announcements section for details!

≧ Next Sunday 9/14/25 ≦

10 am "Mischievous in the Midst of Mayhem" (Intergenerational) - Sanctuary & Zoom

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum - As our world constantly changes around us in ways that are often spirit-quenching, how can we bring humor and play into the work of resistance, to bring lightness of spirit into the heaviness of these times? Bring your ideas and your open spirit to this exploration.

11 am -12:30 pm - Elder Care/Memory Care Support Group - Parlor

11:30 am-1 pm - RJTF & LGBTQ Task Force Drop-in Meeting - Community Room

A continued exploration of microaggressions.

1-3 pm Religious Education Teacher/Volunteer Training - Community Room

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

