

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



September 14
Mischief in the Midst of Mayhem

**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 14, 2025: 10:00 a.m.

Gathering

Prelude

"Puck"
Edvard Grieg

Trevor Berens
Accompanist

Welcome & Announcements

Brendon Chetwynd
Board President

Introit

"There Is a Love"
Lyrics: Rebecca Parker
Music: Elizabeth Norton

FPC Choir
Chris Hossfeld
Music Director

There is a Love holding me/us.
There is a Love holding all that I/we love.
There is a Love holding all.
I/we rest in this Love.

Opening Words

Chalice Lighting

*** Hymn**

"Joy in the Morning"

Sing Out Love (New!)

Gospel feel, swing



Pno.

1. We'll find joy_____	in the mor-nin'	Joy_____	in the
2. We find hope_____	in our chil-dren	Hope_____	in our
3. We find strength_____	in each-oth-er	Strength_____	in each-
4. There is love_____	all a-round us	Love_____	all a-

mor-nin'	Joy_____	in the mor-nin'	in the mor-nin'
chil-dren	Hope_____	in our chil-dren	In our chil-dren
oth-er	Strength_____	in each-oth-er	In each oth-er
round us	Love_____	all a-round us	All a round us

** Please rise in body or in spirit*



Words & Music: *Joy in the Morning*, Adam Podd, b.1986
 © Adam Podd—Sing Out Love expiration July 2028

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

Brendon Chetwynd

Joys and Sorrows

Hector Constantzos, 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

Making Mischief in the Midst of Mayhem

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
 Director of Religious Education
 & Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

* Hymn #123

“Spirit of Life”

Singing the Living Tradition

Exploring

Religious Education Teacher Recognition & Blessing

Making Mischief in the Midst of Mayhem

Plate Sharing Introduction

Andy Derr
 Racial Justice Task Force

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

“A Place in the Choir”
Bill Staines

FPC Choir

Chorus: All God’s critters got a place in the choir
Some sing low, some sing higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wires
And some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they got now
Listen to the bass, he’s the one on the bottom
Where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus
Moans and groans with a big ta-doo
And the old cow just goes moo. *Repeat Chorus.*
The dogs and the cats they take up the middle
While the honeybee hums and the cricket fiddles
The donkey brays and the pony neighs
And the old coyote howls. *Repeat Chorus.*
Listen to the top where the little birds sing
On the melodies with the high notes ringing
The hoot owl hollers over everything
And the jaybird disagrees. *Repeat Chorus.*
Singin’ in the night time, singin’ in the day
The little duck quacks, then he’s on his way
The possum ain’t got much to say
And the porcupine talks to himself. *Repeat Chorus.*
It’s a simple song of love that’s sung everywhere
By the ox and the fox and the grizzly bear
The grumpy alligator the the hawk above
The sly raccoon and the turtle dove. *Repeat Chorus.*

Making Mischief in the Midst of Mayhem

* Please rise in body or in spirit

Returning

* Hymn #1060

"No Ordinary Song," vv. 1, 2, 4

Singing the Journey



1. As we lift our voic - es on this day man - y hearts are
2. If a wound - ed world we wish to heal we must sing no
4. Sing of hope while ham - mer - ing each nail. Sing of joy while



hea - vy with de - spair. How can our lift - ed voic - es find a
or - di - na - ry song. Make it a ca - dence re - le - vant and
pull - ing ev - 'ry weed. Sing to re - new a co - ve - nant grown



way to bring us one step clo - ser to re - pair?
real, its ev - 'ry mea - sure pur - pose - ful and strong.
frail. May ev - 'ry al - le - lu - ia bear a seed.

Music: "No Ordinary Song" © 1995, 2005 by Elizabeth Alexander

Lyrics © 2020 by Elizabeth Alexander

Sing Out Love expiration September 2028

* **Benediction**

* **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

"Le Danse de Puck"
Claude Debussy

Trevor Berens

Greet Your Neighbor

* * *

Thank you to:
Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host
Rebecca and John MacNeill, Ushers
Rick Lent, Kathy Haberle, Coffee Hosts ♥
Our staff and leadership

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 ≦

11-11:30 am Coffee Hour - Fellowship Hall

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

Are you or your family approaching, dealing with, or recovering from an elder/memory care crisis? It's exhausting and draining. There are all kinds of legal, financial, and caregiving or care-finding challenges. It can be overwhelming and lonely. And that's not to mention the grief. Join us for the FPC Peer-to-Peer Support Group for anyone dealing with elder/memory care issues for a loved one. We're here to support each other on this difficult journey and share resources.

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

A continued exploration of addressing microaggressions, focussing this session on the concept of "Welcome is a Verb."

1-3:00 pm Religious Education Teacher/Volunteer Training - Community Room
(First day of RE classes for this program year begin next Sunday, 9/21!)

≧ Announcements ≦

Plate Sharing for September:

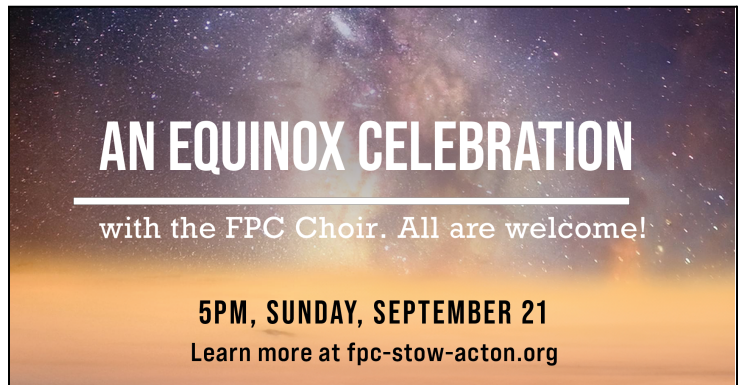
The UU Urban Ministry (UUUM) is a UU-based organization in Roxbury whose mission is to "work across race and place to dismantle racism and white supremacy culture, as well as to advance racial, economic, and social justice." UUUM's vision is "a Greater Boston where all people live with freedom and dignity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

Fall Equinox Vespers: Sunday, 9/21, 5 pm, Sanctuary

Next weekend, the FPC Choir presents a Fall Equinox Vespers at 5pm on Sunday, 9/21. The music will focus on finding peace in a time of change and feature the poem "Say Yes" by Andrea Gibson. The service begins at 5 p.m. All are welcome!



The Apple Pie Project

Please sign up using the QR code below or 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 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 ≦

Wed. 9/17 - Deadline for October Chronicle submissions - 5 pm

Please email your submissions to Meg at office@fpc-stow-acton.org.

Wed. 9/17 - Ukulele Meetup - 7-9 pm - Community Room

Pat Sorn and Sue Stewart, Coordinators - FPC hosts monthly ukulele gatherings for Ukulele players wanting to practice with other players. Uke lovers of all levels (including beginners!) are welcome to come and play, sing, and share music with the group. We have extra ukes for anyone who'd like to try them out. If not, you can just come and sing along!

Fri. 9/19 Large Group Summary Meeting with More Q&A - 7-9 pm - Sanctuary

Please join Erica Baron from the UUA and members of UCMH to hear the results of the first two thematic meetings and have the chance for more Q + A. Location of the meeting and other details are still under discussion, so please stay tuned to FPC Announce.

Sat. 9/20 - Apple Pie Sale - 10 am-1 pm - Pie Shed

Come taste what all the fuss is about. ♥

WCVB recently filmed a segment about FPC's Pie Project for a mid-September episode of *Chronicle*! It will air just as our full pie project is launched, so it should help us sell our pies and get a lovely informational piece about our church out into the world.



≧ Every Week at FPC ≦

Tue. 10 AM <u>Coffee and Chat</u> Town Center Park Gazebo 	Wed. 6:40 PM <u>Meditation & Reading</u> Fellowship Hall & Online 	Thu. 5 PM <u>Peace Vigil</u> Town Common in front of FPC 	Thu. 7:15 PM <u>Choir Rehearsal</u> Fellowship Hall - Join the choir! music@fpc-stow-acton.org	Fri. 1 PM <u>Bridge Playing</u> Community Room 
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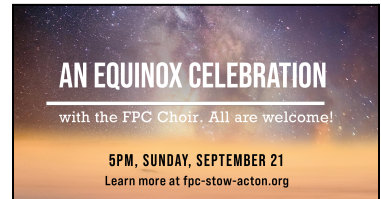
≧ Next Sunday 9/21/25 ≦

10 am - "Francis Ellen Watkins Harper" - Sanctuary & Zoom

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum - On this week of the 200th anniversary of her birth, we'll learn more about Francis Ellen Watkins Harper, Unitarian abolitionist, suffragist, teacher and poet, and one of the first African-American women to be published in the United States.

5 pm - "An Equinox Celebration" - Sanctuary & Zoom

The Choir of the First Parish Church of Stow & Acton will present a multi-faith equinox celebration. The music will focus on finding peace in a time of change and feature the poem "Say Yes" by Andrea Gibson. All are welcome! Admission is free.



≧ Upcoming at FPC ≦

Sat. 9/27 - Music Workshop: Embodied Awareness in Singing - 10 am-12 pm - Hall

Singers of all abilities are invited to an interactive workshop in which we will explore our voices and bodies as instruments of creative expression and social connection. Using tools from the Alexander technique and other somatic practices, learn how to reduce physical tension, find your natural balance, and free up your breath for greater resonance and clarity. Through gentle movements, experiential anatomy, and hands-on touch, we will explore how singing together can foster joy, peace, and

Workshop:
***Embodied Awareness
in Singing***



Register: Embodied
Awareness in Singing

wholeness. Sheet music will be

provided. This event is free and open to the public. All are welcome to attend! **Registration is requested, using the QR code or the link on the FPC website.**

Hannah Greene is an Alexander Technique Teacher in Training at Boston Conservatory at Berklee, expecting to graduate at the end of 2025. She lives in Acton with her family and enjoys singing with Nashoba Valley Choir, hiking, camping, meditation, and supporting social justice causes.

≧ Upcoming at FPC ≦

Sun. 9/28 - RJTF Video & Discussion - 11:30 am-12:45 pm - Community Room
A video and discussion of Dr. Reverend William Barber's work.

Sat. 10/4 - WHY ARE YOU YOU? - 7-10 pm - Hall & Community Room
An Arts Committee-hosted film made by our very own Lindsay LaPointe

Why Are You You? is a feature documentary that explores the history of the Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU), a now-defunct youth empowerment program that ran from 1983 to 2008. YRUU shaped and saved the lives of countless teens by helping them build emotional resilience and giving them a sense of belonging at the most tender time in their lives. Former participants reflect on how being a part of the program shaped them and still informs their lives.

Connective Director, Executive Producer, & Editor Lindsay Caddle LaPointe grew up in the program and realized that no concrete documentation existed for it. By telling the full story of those unique years, she hopes to rekindle the feelings former participants had and inspire empowerment and acceptance in new generations. Read about the film and her team of producers at www.whyyareyouyou.org.

Why Are You You? premiered on June 12, 2025 at the Coolidge Corner Theatre to a standing ovation.



Sat. 10/11 - New Revival Coffeehouse: David Dodson - 7:30-9:30 pm - Hall



The New Revival Coffeehouse is back with a full season of great music for you to enjoy. For more information on each artist, and to buy tickets, go to www.fpc-stow-acton.org/music/coffeehouse

David Dodson writes great songs that run the gamut of American styles – folk, rock, blues, jazz and country. They cover a variety of topics and range from poignant to hilarious. He plays a mean guitar, tells a good story, sings like a bird, and he's got rhythm. Who could ask for anything more?

"The Farthest Field," a favorite among singing groups of all kinds, has been included in "Rise Again" (the second edition of "Rise Up Singing") and other song books. David was inspired to write this song by a gathering of friends, singing, high up in a beautiful field in northern Vermont.



David, who lives in Camden ME, was also a New Folk winner at the Kerrville Folk Festival. Learn more about David at daviddodsonmusic.com

"An eyes-twinkling, word-twisting, pretension-shattering wit that delighted and surprised the crowd all night." ~ Boston Globe

"David Dodson is without a doubt one of the most entertaining performers on the folk scene today. A versatile songwriter, David's songs range from witty and hilarious, to romantic and poignant.

But what sets him apart is his uninhibited physicality. You will go home smiling." ~ Paul Hoffman, The Rug Room Coffeehouse



Tickets are \$20 in advance at Eventbrite.com, and \$25 on the day of the show. Doors open at 7 PM and music begins at 7:30.

Tickets: David Dodson