

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



September 28, 2025
Sharing the Journey

**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

Hector Constantzos
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 28, 2025: 10:00 a.m.

Gathering

Prelude	“Air”	Trevor Berens
	Jonathan Battishill	Accompanist

Welcome & Announcements	Johanna Pyle, Board Secretary & Intern Minister Committee
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Introit	“Keep Me”	FPC Choir
	Molly Bajgot	Chris Hossfeld Music Director

Keep me in the arms of my beloved, oh God.
Planted where I stand, grounded by the land
Carry me back to the sea from dust to dust again
Perfect as I am, grounded by the land
Carry me back to the sea from dust to dust again
No matter where I go, always keep me close

Opening Words	Yaakov Trek Reef Intern Minister
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Chalice Lighting

* Hymn #298	“Wake, Now, My Senses”	<i>Singing the Living Tradition</i>
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Centering

*** Covenant and Affirmation**

Greet Your Neighbor

A Time for All Ages	Yaakov Trek Reef
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Going Forth With the Light	“Our Love Surrounds You”	<i>Sing Out Love (New!)</i>
	Chris Hossfeld	

Our love surrounds you. Here joy has found you.
Let hope abound freely. Go in peace!

Land Acknowledgement	Johanna Pyle, Board Clerk
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** Please rise in body or in spirit*

Joys and Sorrows

Ann Wickham, 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

Lyn Cox

Yaakov Trek Reef

* Hymn #1011

“Return Again”

Singing the Journey

Exploring

Reading

Yaakov Trek Reef

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

“Gevurah (Strength)”

FPC Choir

Molly Bajgot

Peter Fiske, drums

Michael Merrill, bass

You wake us up from our sleep
to fight for our humanity/community/solidarity
‘Til everyone is free
Guided by our biggest light
Love is part of how we fight
Mechayei meitim (translation: returning to life)
And I pray pray pray for our
Strength, strength, strength
And I pray, pray, pray for our
Strength

Sermon

“Sharing the Journey”

Yaakov Trek Reef

Intern Minister

Sharing the Journey Communion

Apples & Honey

Returning

* **Hymn #295** “Sing Out Praises for the Journey” *Singing the Living Tradition*

* **Benediction** Yaakov Trek Reef

* **Closing Song**

Postlude Improvisation Trevor Berens

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Thank you to:

Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host

Marion Scott, Peter Fiske, Ushers

Kirsten and Brendon Chetwynd, 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

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

≧ Today at FPC ≦

- 10 am** **Apple Pie Sale** - Pie Shed in front of the church. Ends at 1 pm.
- 11 am** **Coffee Hour** - Fellowship Hall
Today at coffee hour you can pick up one of the neat timeline handouts Chris Hossfeld created for the next Marlborough-Hudson/FPC potential merger "theme" discussion on our church histories.
- 11 am** **Newcomer Coffee** - Parlor (directly across the hall from the Sanctuary)
Meet the minister and intern minister, other newcomers, and other staff.
Ask questions, have a coffee, come say hello!
- 11:30 am** **Video Discussion: An RJTF Drop-In Session** - Community Rm.
The Racial Justice Task Force presents a video and discussion of Dr. Reverend William Barber's work. Ends 12:45 pm.

≧ Announcements ≦

Plate Sharing for September: Andy Derr, Liaison

The UU Urban Ministry (UUUM) is a 200-year old non-sectarian, non-profit social justice organization in the Roxbury neighborhood of Boston 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." Their work focuses in 3 areas:



- 1) Safer shelter and workforce development programming for survivors of domestic violence
- 2) Academic enrichment for Boston-area youth of color
- 3) Arts and Humanities programming grounded in a social justice message that amplifies artists and historians of color in our neighborhood.

FPC is one of about 20 member congregations who support the UUUM. We used to be more involved with UUUM under Rev. Tom Rosiello's tenure. Recently the Racial Justice Task Force decided to reinvigorate this relationship, and we have already started building a stronger bridge to the UUUM. Starting this fall, we plan to organize trips to Roxbury for several programs including...

- viewing public art in and near Nubian Square
- learning about the Trees of John Eliot Square
- participating in the Economic Pilot by checking out Nubian Square shops, meeting local entrepreneurs, and contributing by "buying local"
- participating in other events as they arise

≧ This Week at FPC ≦

Sat. 10/4 - Apple Pie Sale - 10 am-1pm - Pie Shed

Pies are \$20 and mini pies are \$10.

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.whyaireyouyou.org.

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



≧ 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 ≦

10/5, 10 am - Service - "YRUU? Answer: Youth Empowerment & Spirituality" - Sanctuary / Zoom / phone

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum with Lindsay LaPointe - Drawing from personal experience of the "YRUU" days in Unitarian Universalism as shared in the documentary "Why Are You You?" (screening Saturday, October 4 at 7pm at FPC), Rev. Cindy, along with Lindsay LaPointe, will share how this life-changing movement affected them in ways of leadership, justice, spirituality, and connection.

≧ Upcoming ≦

Tue. 10/7 - The Next Conversation about FPC's Possible Merger with UCMH
Bring your stories about your church and join us for another of our "theme" discussions as we explore the potential merger with the Unitarian Church of Marlborough Hudson! This meeting will focus on our churches' histories, and will have more of a presentation feel than our other meetings. Also, pick up one of the neat comparative timeline handouts Chris Hossfeld created! They'll be available in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour today and next Sunday.

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: David Dodson

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.