

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



October 5, 2025

Why Are You You? Youth Empowerment & Spirituality

**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 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 and Instagram.

October 5, 2025: 10:00 a.m.

Gathering

Prelude	"The Attraction of the Pedalling Ankle" Michael Nyman	Trevor Berens Accompanist
Welcome & Announcements	Josh Ledwell, Membership Committee	
Opening Words	YRUU Con Rules	Lindsay LaPointe
Chalice Lighting	Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum	
* Hymn	"We Are Opening Up in Sweet Surrender"	<i>Rainbow Spirit Song Book</i>

Centering

*** Covenant and Affirmation**

Land Acknowledgement	Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson Director of Religious Education	
Time for All Ages	"Words of Affirmation"	Lindsay LaPointe, RE Committee Chair
Going Forth With the Light	"Our Love Surrounds You" Chris Hossfeld	<i>Sing Out Love</i>

Exploring

Reading	Untitled Poem E. Peterson	Lindsay LaPointe
Introduction to Plate Sharing	Roy Miller, Supporting Asylum Seekers	

Sharing Our Gifts

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

Anthem	"Alleluia Super-Round" William Albright	FPC Choir Chris Hossfeld Music Director
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** Please rise in body or in spirit*

Key of E Reflections

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Worship in the Key of E

Sermon

“YRUU? Answer: Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
Youth Empowerment & Spirituality”

A Time Outside

pick up a rock from basket outside

Greet Your Neighbor

Singing Back In

“Dear Friends”

Plum Village

*Dear friends, dear friends,
Let me tell you how I feel.
You have given me such treasure.
I love you so.*

Joys and Sorrows

placing rocks in water

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 or Meditation

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Returning

*** Hymn #1011**

“Lean on Me”

Singing the Journey

*** Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

*** Closing Song**

Postlude

“Improvisation”

Trevor Berens

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Thank you to:

Sharon Brownfield, Zoom Host
Marcia Rising, Carolyn Zettler, Ushers
Rick Lent, Coffee Host
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 ≦

- 10 am Apple Pie Sale** - Pie Shed in front of the church. Ends 1 pm or when pies are gone.
- 11 am Coffee Hour** - Fellowship Hall
Today at coffee hour you can pick up one of the neat timeline handouts Chris Hossfeld created for this coming Tuesday’s Marlborough-Hudson/FPC potential merger "theme" discussion on our church histories (10/7, 7pm online).

≧ 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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Plate Sharing for October:



FPC Supporting Asylum Seekers helps those seeking asylum or refuge who hope to build their lives locally. We have directly supported families from the countries of Afghanistan, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Myanmar, Uganda, and Venezuela.

We help asylum seekers to learn English • write resumes • find jobs • navigate the medical system • learn to ride a bike or the bus • obtain a driver's license, housing, and health insurance

We provide asylum seekers with rides to medical appointments & job interviews • legal fees for asylum cases • political advocacy • temporary food and housing in a hotel if they are waiting for support from MA Emergency Family System

FPC is proud to have a task force working directly with immigrants during this time of threats of mass deportations. We have lobbied for the successful passage of the driver's license law and worked with a seven-church partnership and a family in Lowell MA, and with the Acton Boxborough United Way. Please support this important work in the weekly plate share and stop by our table during coffee hour to learn more about our families and the work we do. We greatly appreciate the Congregation's ongoing support!

- Ann Wickham, Member and Liaison

Next Sunday's Service, October 12 - 10 am - Sanctuary/Zoom



"A Wibbly-Wobbly Feast of Booths"

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum & Yaakov Trek Reef, Intern Minister - Our ministry team will go trekking through time and space (maybe in a TARDIS...) to understand how the Jewish harvest festival and "Feast of Booths," Sukkot, began and what it says to us today.



≧ This Week at FPC ≦

➤ **Book Group** - Tue. 10/7, 7-8pm - Online: email sharonbrownfield@gmail.com

The book we'll discuss is *An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of 1960's* by Doris Kearns Goodwin: "One of America's most beloved historians artfully weaves together biography, memoir, and history. She takes you along on the emotional journey she and her husband, Richard (Dick) Goodwin embarked upon in the last years of his life." [amazon.com]

➤ **The Next Conversation about FPC's Possible Merger with UCMH** - Tue. 10/7, 7-8 pm - online - 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.

➤ **Guest Table** - Fri. 10/10, 5:30-6:30 pm - 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!

➤ **Apple Pie Sale** - Sat. 10/11, 10 am-1pm - Pie Shed

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

Thanks so much to everyone who continues to help with the Apple Pie Project. Last week we made 95 full size pies and 25 mini pies! We have just one more week to go. There are still slots available for next week in most areas. Please sign up using the QR code in today's insert or online on the FPC website.

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

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. A resident of Camden ME, David 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.

➤ **Elder Care/Memory Care Support Group - Sun. 10/12, 11-12:30 pm - 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.

≧ Upcoming ≦

➤ **Fri. 10/24 - The Quilters Documentary Screening** - 6 pm meal, 7 pm film

An inspiring and award-winning short documentary from Netflix about men in a Missouri maximum-security prison who design and sew quilts for children in the foster care system. A simple supper of soup and bread at 6 pm, followed by the film at 7 pm and discussion afterwards. Co-sponsored with the Racial Justice Task Force.

➤ **Sat. 11/15 New Revival Coffeehouse: House of Hamil** - Upcycled Celtic Folk

Pennsylvania-based House of Hamil is a fixture on festival stages across the US, and have shared their music and stories on the country's premier folk stages. Their original song "Banks of the Brandywine" was a Grand Prize winner in the 2024 John Lennon Songwriting Contest, and the video for their all-violin cover of "Sweet Child O'Mine" amassed over 16 million views on Facebook, where it was shared over 400,000 times.



The band's newest release, "Wildfire" marks House of Hamil's most compelling work to date. Featuring their strongest and most exciting songwriting, "Wildfire" is filled with lyrical depth, sophisticated vocal and instrumental arrangements, and hooks that are simply irresistible. This album captures the vibrant energy and creativity that have become the hallmarks of a House of Hamil live show.

Whether they're ripping through a set of original jigs and reels, adding lush three-part harmonies into traditional folk ballads, or cracking up an audience with stories from the road, House of Hamil puts on a show that captivates audiences from the very first note.

"Great hooks, eclectic arrangements and tuneful melodies that will certainly reach listeners from all walks of life." - Jeff Goble, Folk N Rock

"Their songs are always on the edge of tradition and innovation... their performances are electrifying." - Sarah MacArthur – Highlander Radio

See houseofhamil.com for more information. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 on the day of the concert. Doors open at 7:00 and the show begins at 7:30. Go to Eventbrite to purchase tickets.