

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist

September 21, 2025
Frances Ellen Watkins Harper



**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.

September 21, 2025: 10:00 a.m.

Gathering

Prelude “Scenes from an Imaginary Ballet, II” Trevor Berens
 Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Accompanist

Welcome & Announcements Bill Froberg, Treasurer
 FPC Board of Trustees

Opening Words “Prayer for the Morning” Rev. Dr. Cynthia L.
 Audette Fulbright Fulson Landrum

Chalice Lighting “May our dim and longing vision
 Then be blessed with light, more light”
 Frances Ellen Watkins Harper

*** Hymn #38** “Morning Has Broken” *Singing the Living Tradition*

Centering

*** Covenant and Affirmation**

Land Acknowledgement

Greet Your Neighbor

A Time for All Ages Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
 Director of Religious Education

Going Forth With the Light “Our Love Surrounds You” *Sing Out Love (New!)*
 Chris Hossfeld

Joys and Sorrows Mark Koenig, 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

Music for Meditation Improvisation Trevor Berens

Exploring

Reading “We Are All Bound Up Together” (Excerpt)
 Eleventh National Women’s Rights Convention, 1866
 Frances Ellen Watkins Harper

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

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.

* **Hymn #108** "How Can I Keep from Singing?" *Singing the Living Tradition*

Sermon "UU Untold Stories: Rev. Dr. Cynthia L.
Frances Ellen Watkins Harper" Landrum

Returning

* **Hymn** "Songs for the People"



1. Let me make the songs for the peo - ple, songs for the old and young; —
2. Let me make the songs for the wea - ry, 'mid life's fe - ver and fret, —
3. This our world, so wea - ry and worn, needs mu - sic, pure and strong, to



songs to stir like a bat - tle cry wher - ev - er they are sung.
till all hearts shall re - lax their ten - sion, care-worn brows for - get.
hush the jan - gle and dis - cords of sor - row, pain, and wrong.



Not for the clash - ing of sa - bers, for car - nage nor for strife; but
Sing for the poor and the a - ged, when shad - ows dim their way; sweet
Mu - sic to soothe all its sor - row, till war and crime shall cease; and



songs to thrill the hearts of all with more a - bun - dant life.
an-thems of love and du - ty, to float o'er life's high-way.
hearts of all grown ten - der shall gir - dle the world with peace.

Music: *Songs for the People*, Christopher Hossfeld (b. 1980)

Lyrics: "Songs for the People," Frances Ellen Watkins Harper (1825-1911), alt.

* **Benediction**

* **Closing Song**

Postlude

"Scenes from an Imaginary Ballet, I"
Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

Trevor Berens

* * *

Thank you to:

Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host
Lisa Rydin, Marcia Allison, Ushers
Mark Koenig, Troy Liston, 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 ≤

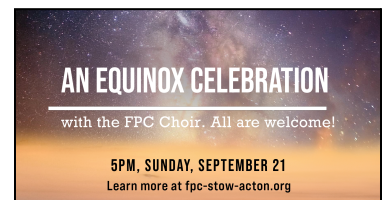
10 am-1 pm Apple Pie Sale - Pie Shed in front of the church

11-11:30 am Coffee Hour - Fellowship Hall

* * Please note that the Mandatory Orientation for parents of 7th-9th graders in Our Whole Lives (OWL) will not take place today. We will let you know the new date and the OWL start date as soon as possible. - Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson, DRE

3:30-5 pm - Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary

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.



≧ Announcements ≦

Plate Sharing for September:

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



- Safer shelter and workforce development programming for survivors of domestic violence
- Academic enrichment for Boston-area youth of color
- 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, and participating in the Economic Pilot by checking out Nubian Square shops, meeting the local entrepreneurs and contributing by "buying local", as well as participating in other events as they arise.

≧ 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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≧ This Week at FPC ≦

Mon. 9/22 - Jazz Band Rehearsal - 7-9 pm - Sanctuary

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.

Sat. 9/27 - Apple Pie Sale - 10 am-1pm - Pie Shed

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

≧ Next Sunday 9/28/25 ≦

10 am - Service - "Sharing the Journey" - Sanctuary & Zoom

Trek Reef will share some thoughts and theology about his journey into Unitarian Universalist ministry and some hopes for the shared journey over these next two years as Intern Minister and Teaching Congregation.

11:30 am-12:45 pm - RJTF Video & Discussion - Community Room

A video and discussion of Dr. Reverend William Barber's work.

≧ Upcoming ≦

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