

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network
Faith

First Parish Church of Stow and Acton, MA. May 2026

Opening Words and Chalice Lighting

“We are whole and holy: we are loved beyond all measure. And in our refusal to accept anything less, may we know we are rooted in the infinite divinity.” — *Jami Yandle*

Check-in/Sharing: Let’s each take a couple minutes to check in with how we are feeling and anything we would like to share. Community Service follow-up or vote.

Topic: Faith

When we use the word Faith, we don’t mean a single belief, doctrine or certainty that we all share. For some, faith is rooted in a religious tradition; for others it may lie in values, relationships, justice, nature, reason, or the quiet hope that things can bend toward goodness. Faith can be something we hold tightly, something we question, something we’ve lost or are still negotiating with, or something we practice without ever naming it at all. Today, we’re using the word broadly and generously- as whatever gives meaning, grounding, courage, or direction to your life - knowing that each of us may hear and experience it differently.

“Faith is an activity that occupies the vast territory between certainty and guesswork” — *Vance Morgan*

“Faith is an oasis in the heart which will never be revealed by the caravan of thinking.” — *Khalil Gibran*

“True faith is not a leap into the dark. It’s a leap into the light.” — *Eric Metoxis*

“Faith is reason grown courageousness.” — *Sherwood Eddy*

“Faith is not something to grasp. It is a state to grow into.” — *Mohandas Gandhi*

‘Belief clings but faith lets go.’ — *Alan Watts*

“Jesus take the wheel.” — *Carrie Underwood*

“At the end of every hard earned day people find some reason to believe.”
— *Bruce Springsteen*

Possible Questions for Discussion

- Have you ever had, or wished that you had, a specific guiding religious faith? Have you ever heard a voice from the past or an inner voice that has guided you? Did you follow it?
- Who or what do you have a strong allegiance to? Have you ever been let down or betrayed by an allegiance?
- Who or what do you have confidence in? Have there been times when you lost your confidence? Have there been times when you lost your confidence regarding someone/someplace/something?
- Have you ever decided to take a leap of faith and what was that experience like?
- Are there certain statements or mottos that are particularly meaningful to you? Is there an overarching philosophy that guides you and you trust? Has that changed over time?
- Have you or someone you know ever had a faith or belief that was a healing practice?
- Are there any sources, such as books or movies, religious or secular, that hold some special meaning for you regarding faith?

Closing Words

‘Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable and receives the impossible.’ — *Corrie Ten Boom*