

**FIRST PARISH
CHURCH
OF STOW & ACTON**
Unitarian Universalist



Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024

**The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L.
Landrum**
Minister

Meg Rivers-Wright
Administration,
Membership

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
Dir. of Religious Education

Chris Hossfeld
Music Director

Trevor Berens
Accompanist

Justin Marble
Nursery Care Coordinator

Mike Silkonis
Sexton

Janet Beatrice
External Publicity

Felix Freeman
Tech Assistant

Jenni Edgerton
President

Brendon Chetwynd
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.

March 31, 2024: 10:00

Gathering

Prelude "What Wondrous Love Is This?" Trevor Berens, piano
Folk Hymn Jessica Tunick Berens, soprano

Welcome Johanna Pyle, Board Clerk

Introit "Sicut Cervus" FPC Adult Choir
G.P. da Palestrina Trevor Berens, piano

Sicut cervus Like the deer
desiderat ad fontes aquarium, longs for the water brooks,
ita desiderat anima mea so longs my soul
ad te, Deus. for you, God.

Opening Words "Call to Worship on Easter" Rev. Dr. Cynthia
Elizabeth M. Strong Landrum

Chalice Lighting "Budding Green" First Chalice Participant
C.L. Landrum

* **Hymn #61** "Lo, the Earth Awakes Again" FPC Band
John MacNeill, soprano sax; Michael Paladini, guitar;
Michael Merrill, bass; Trevor Berens, piano; Peter Fiske, bass

Centering

* **Covenant and Affirmation**

Love is the spirit of this church, From all that dwell below the skies
and service its law. let words of love and peace arise.
This is our great covenant: Let joyful songs of praise be sung.
To dwell together in peace, through every land, by every tongue.
to seek the truth in love,
and to help one another.

Land Acknowledgement Johanna Pyle, Board Clerk

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

Going Forth with the Light

Joys and Sorrows Ingrid Holcomb, Lay Minister

Prayer or Meditation "Easter Is Breaking"
Kathleen Rolenz

* **Hymn #266** "Now the Green Blade Riseth"

Exploring

Readings

"Easter Morning"
Mark 16: 1-8

Excerpt from *Deutsche Mythologie*
Jacob Grimm

Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share our weekly offering with UU Mass Action.
You may donate with a check made out to First Parish Church,
online at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate>, or text (978) 310-3309.

Anthem

"i thank You God"
Chris Hossfeld

FPC Adult Choir
Jessica Tunick Berens, soprano
Trevor Berens, piano

i thank You God for most this amazing
day:for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky;and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

(i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday;this is the birth
day of life and of love and wings:and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any – lifted from the no
of all nothing – human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

– e.e. cummings

Sermon

"Bunnies, Eggs, & the Pagan Roots of Easter"
Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Returning

* Hymn #163

"For the Earth Forever Turning"

* Benediction

"i thank You God"
e.e. cummings

* 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 'till we meet again.

Liturgical Dance

"Melodies from Heaven"

Kirk Franklin

R.E. Program
FPC Choir & Band

Melodies from heaven, rain down on me
Take me in Your arms and hold me close, rain down on me
Fill me with Your precious Holy Ghost, rain down on me

Greet Your Neighbor

Join Us for the Easter Egg Hunt Outside!

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Thank you to:

Jenni Edgerton, Zoom Host
Jeff Brown, Marcia Allison, Ushers
Rick Lent and Sharon Brownfield, Coffee Hosts ♥
Our staff and leadership

Our Easter plants today are given by

Laurie Proulx**, in memory of Lawrence Proulx, and for Beacon
Francis "Skip" Warren****, in memory of church friends and family members
Linda Campo, in memory of Michael Campo
Martha Morrison, remembering D.C.
Liz & Phil Mosely
Marcia & Richard Allison

* Indicates quantity of plants

Announcements

March Plate Sharing: UU Mass Action is our MA State Action Network that organizes and mobilizes 25,000 UUs and 142 UU congregations to confront oppression and create equity in Massachusetts. Founded in 2005 (its first two Executive Directors were from FPC Stow and Acton!), all of our work is grounded in racial justice and is in relationship with broader coalitions that center frontline communities or those most impacted by an injustice.



UU Mass Action is FPC's partner in nearly ALL of our social justice work, uniting us with other neighboring churches for a bigger political impact. If you want to change anything in MA that coincides with a UU value, chances are you will find UU Mass Action trying to rally UU churches to DO something about it. Together, we confront systems of oppression and work to create a world where all people are honored and valued. Our funding does NOT come from the UUA, but from individuals, congregations, and grants. We are an efficient organization that makes every donated dollar count, and we are truly grateful for every dollar donated! Learn more at uumassaction.org.

Would you like to lead or contribute to a Sunday service this summer?

The Worship Committee has started planning for FPC's summer services which run between 6/16 and 9/1. If you're interested in leading one of these services, now is the time to let us know. Maybe you have an idea for a service you'd like to work on with a member of our committee, or you want to suggest someone from our congregation or an outside speaker to lead a service. Please contact any of us on the Worship Committee with your ideas, suggestions, or questions:

- Neil Saunders, Chair (neilsaund@verizon.net)
- Susan Avery (susan.avery@verizon.net)
- June McKnight (junebmcknight@yahoo.com)
- Ann Wickham (wickham_0112@yahoo.com)
- Lindsay LaPointe (lindsay.lapointe@gmail.com)
- Rev. Cindy Landrum (minister@fpc-stow-acton.org)

2024 JUNE				
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
26	27	28	29	30
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	1	2	3	4

2024 JULY				
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
30	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	1
8	9	10	11	12

2024 AUGUST				
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
25	26	27	28	29
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29
1	2	3	4	5

Printable Calendar From Aeonet.com

Today at FPC

- 10-11 am Service, Sanctuary and online
11 am Easter Egg hunt for children
Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall

Religious Education

- Sun, 3/31 There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for children immediately following the morning worship service. Youth, please come for morning worship to help hide Easter Eggs for our children!
Fri 4/5 Club UU, 6:30-8:30 pm, Vestry and Youth Room
Sat 4/20 Youth Group: Sleep Out in Boxes overnight. Stay tuned!
4/26-28 Youth Group: Activities at Ferry Beach w/the Lynn Congregation

Start Planning for the FPC Plant Sale – An Important Fundraiser!

This year's Plant Sale is Saturday, May 18, 9:30-11:30 am. If there's leftover stock from that live sale, we'll hold an honor system sale, too (time TBD). As we do every year, we're asking FPC earth lovers for plants – lots of plants – from your yards and gardens!



Consider which plants to donate:

shrubs
small trees
ground cover
herbs
perennials
vegetables
flowering plants you've already started
(different/unusual ones are especially desirable)

Dig them up and pot them ASAP:

Early-season transplanting is less stressful on plants. Put them in a good spot where they can grow strong and look their very best for delivery and Sale Day.

We're also looking for help with gathering, organizing, and labeling plants, and setting up and running the sale. Please email peggypaladini@gmail.com.

This Week at FPC

2	APR, TUE	● 10 – 11am	Coffee & Chat (Gazebo)
		● 7 – 8pm	Book Group (online)
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3	APR, WED	● 6:40 – 8:45pm	Meditation (Fellowship Hall & online)
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4	APR, THU	● 5 – 6pm	Peace Vigil (outside)
		● 7:15 – 9pm	Choir Practice (Hall)
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5	APR, FRI	● 1 – 3:30pm	Bridge Group (Community Rm)
		● 6:30 – 8:30pm	Club UU (Vestry & Youth Rm)
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6	APR, SAT	● 9 – 10am	Spanish Conversations (Vestry)
		● 1 – 5pm	UU Kids Con - RESCHEDULED TO FALL '24

Next Sunday's Service 4/7, 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone

“Principles and Values, Part II” - The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum - As the second year of the process of revising Article II of the UUA Bylaws is underway, it's worth looking at the meaning behind and the reasons for the shifts we're undergoing. Why are we talking about replacing Principles with Values? This service will continue the exploration of the issues at stake in the upcoming vote in June.

FOLLOWED BY...

Newcomer Coffee Gathering, 11:00 am following the service, in FPC's Parlor

Are you recently new to FPC? Please join our minister, Cindy Landrum, and our Membership Coordinator, Meg Rivers-Wright, for a coffee hour where you'll meet other people who are relatively new to First Parish Church (FPC). It's an opportunity to ask the minister questions and learn more about FPC in an informal setting. Please contact Meg Rivers-Wright at office.fpestowacton@gmail.com or 617-291-3351.

Events

MON 4/1 - DONATION DEADLINE for the FPC AUCTION

It's our biggest fundraiser and it's just around the corner on Sat, 4/13!
We need your **donation help** ♥ to make it a success – the more the better for an exciting event!



Gift Cards:

An easy donation idea!

Purchase a gift card from your favorite place or ask the owner to donate one. We have a business letter with our tax-exempt number you can use to ask the proprietor. Email the auction committee for a copy: auction@fpc-stow-acton.org

Services

- host an event
- poetry readings
- lessons in knitting or crocheting
- host dinner for 6-8
- plan a picnic by a lake
- home fix-it services
- host a cocktail party

Goods

- a painting
- baked goods
- homemade maple syrup
- tickets to a concert
- week at your vacation home
- lend your kayak
- unique hand-crafted items
- meals for home delivery

Food & Dessert Donations: The Olympics are international and to feed the bidders we're looking for appetizers and desserts with an international flavor, if possible. Sign up using the tinyurl or QR code below.

Other volunteer opportunities coming soon! Questions? auction@fpc-stow-acton.org

TO DONATE: <https://tinyurl.com/ez27v4wf> or use the QR code to...

- donate your goods & services
- sign up to donate a Gift Card
- pre-register for the Online Auction
- donate food & dessert



FRI 4/5 - Club UU, 6:30-8:30 pm, Vestry and Youth Room

SAT 4/6 - Spanish Conversations, 9-10 am, Vestry
Contact Roy Miller at millerroy@comcast.net

ONLINE SUPPLEMENT PAGE:
Information for folks joining us online

1. Closed captioning is available for FPC's online services. If you don't see captions on your screen, you can use the button at the bottom of your screen to request that the host turn them on.
2. Today's Zoom Host: **Jenni Edgerton**
3. Hymn lyrics will be in a slide presentation today.



Sharing Our Gifts

If you are mailing a pledge or a donation, here is the information:

Pledges:

Attn: Pledge Secretary
PO Box 215
Stow, MA 01775

Donations:

Attn: Treasurer
353 Great Rd
Stow, MA 01775