

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



Sunday, April 14, 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.

April 14, 2024: 10:00

Gathering

Prelude "Fur Alina" Trevor Berens, piano
Arvo Part

Welcome June McKnight, Worship Committee

Opening Words "somewhere i have never travelled" Chris Hossfeld
e. e. cummings

Chalice Lighting "Light of Our Creative Spirits"
Tracy Johnson

* **Hymn #1003** "Where Do We Come From?"

Centering

* **Covenant and Affirmation**

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

Moment of Silence Ann Sadler, Lay Minister

Joys and Sorrows

Prayer or Meditation "What Gives Us Life" June McKnight
Vanessa Rush Southern and Alyson Jacks

Exploring

Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share our weekly offering with **Southeast India Project**.
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 "Nearer, My God, to Thee" FPC Adult Choir
Music: Lowell Mason Trevor Berens, piano
Text: Sarah F. Adams Pat Sorn, solo

Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee! E'en though it be a loss that raiseth me; Still all my song shall be nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!	There let the way appear steps unto heaven; All that Thou sendest me in mercy given; Angels to beckon me nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!
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Or if on joyful wing, cleaving the sky,
Sun, moon, and stars forgot, upwards I fly,
Still all my song shall be,
nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!

Reading "Ars Poetica as the Maker" Chris Hossfeld
Ocean Vuong

* **Hymn #297** "The Star of Truth"

Sermon "Searching the Heavens for God" Chris Hossfeld

Returning

* **Hymn #1064** "Blue Boat Home"

* **Benediction** "Shine" Chris Hossfeld
Mary Edes

* **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.

Postlude Improvisation Trevor Berens, piano
Trevor Berens

Greet Your Neighbor

Thank you to:
Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host
Rick Lent, Lisa Rydin, Ushers
Joshua Ledwell and Robin, Coffee
Hosts ♥
Our staff and leadership



Announcements

April Plate Sharing: Southeast India Project – FPC has fostered and supported the Southeast India Project for twenty years.

We work with poor villages in the tsunami-affected area of Tamil Nadu, India and WIDE Children's Home for *dalit* children (*the caste formerly known as Untouchables*) to provide micro-lending to finance and establish new opportunities and self-help organizations for women.



FPC Members Bob Tabor (18th journey), Vicky Tabor (6th), Russ Hart (5th), and Neil Saunders (1st) were all in Tamil Nadu this January and February to revisit the villages and children's home, and FPC sent a year's worth of Children's Vitamins and toothpaste to WIDE Orphanage, which was greatly appreciated by the children. We thank you for your generous and continued support!

Support from FPC and other individuals and organizations has allowed us to...

- distribute food to the villages
- build balwadis (pre-schools)
- build a tailoring school with foot-treadle sewing machines
- provide sponsored children with a healthy, safe, caring environment and education
- fund herds of dairy cows and a seed bank
- reclaim arable land for organic farming

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

The Worship Committee is 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 Neil Saunders, Chair (neilsaund@verizon.net) with your ideas, suggestions, or questions.

Shoe Drive – FPC front hall until April 30th The Interfaith Partnership for Refugee Resettlement is collecting shoes as a fundraiser to benefit our Rohingya family in Lowell:

- New or gently used, clean, no rips or tears
- Women's, men's, children's, all sizes
- Any type of shoes, but no winter boots - flip flops, cleats, high heels, work boots, sneakers, etc.

Shoes are shared with Funds2orgs, micro entrepreneurs in developing countries. We receive a donation, which we will use to benefit our family of nine.



Today at FPC

11 am Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)

► **Windborne Quartet concert tickets on sale** New Revival Coffeehouse: Windborne is the widely praised a cappella group that BBC Traveling Folk described as “*subverting expectations and redefining the genre... just absolutely phenomenal!*”



More information - <https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org/music/coffeehouse>

Tickets: \$20 in advance at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com); \$25 at the door.

Doors open: 7:00 pm; Concert: 7:30 pm

► **Ferry Beach Annual Retreat Registration** Fri 4/26 - Sun 4/28

Our Annual Retreat at the Ferry Beach Retreat and Conference Center in Saco, Maine is a time for connection with other FPC members, meditation before breakfast, a thoughtful discussion, a workshop on writing poetry, a bocce tournament, kite flying, sharing a delicious meal in the dining hall, gathering around the fireplace in Quillen, yoga on the beach, board games and puzzles, roasting marshmallows around a bonfire, or simply sitting in a rocking chair listening to the waves. Registration is open for this magical weekend, and we hope you'll join us! Margaret Tucker will be available - with her Ferry Beach hat on - for questions and registration.

12 pm Spiritual Conversations Through Poetry (online)

You don't need to know anything about poetry to join us for this deeply satisfying time of engaging with others through a poem. Contact one of us to attend: ecobblah@fenn.org, irudman@aol.com, or Hconstantzos@gmail.com.

Religious Education

Sun 4/14 Children's Chapel

Sat 4/20 Still hoping to have our Sleep Out on Boxes with the youth

Sun 4/21 Joint service with the Marlborough/Hudson congregation for Earth Day.

Sun 4/28 We will be at Ferry Beach with the Lynn congregation from Fri to Sun, April 26-28. There will be no RE that week at FPC, but there will be group activities all weekend at Ferry Beach for children and youth. Please let Rayla know if you are planning to attend.

Upcoming

Next Sunday's Service 4/21, 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone

“Earth Day Service: Orca Resistance! - The Rev. Alice Anacheka-Nasemann, Minister of the Unitarian Church of Marlborough & Hudson and Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, FPC We're saving resources by joining together two churches on Earth Day for this special service celebrating stories of animals that are fighting back against the destruction of the earth. The Unitarian Society of Marlborough & Hudson will be joining us once again in Stow!

FPC Plant Sale, an important fundraiser – Sat. May 18, 9:30-11:30 am

As we do every year, we're asking FPC earth lovers for plants – lots of them – from your yards and gardens! Last year we sold practically all our stock in the first hour. (If there is leftover stock from that live sale, we'll hold an honor system sale, too.)



Consider which plants to donate:
shrubs
small trees
ground cover
herbs
perennials
vegetables
flowering plants that you've already started
Different/unusual ones are especially desirable!



Dig them up & pot them ASAP:
even though it's still chilly, right now is the best time of year to divide perennials - early-season transplanting is less stressful on plants. If you need pots, contact Peggy Paladini:
peggyaladini@gmail.com.



Put them in a 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-labeling plants and setting up & running the sale. Please email peggyaladini@gmail.com with questions or to help.

This Week at FPC

WED 4/17

▶ **6:40 pm Reading and Meditation**, Fellowship Hall and online



6:40 - 7:20 pm Read & discuss *A Path with Heart*, by Jack Kornfield

7:20 - 7:30 pm Transition break

7:30 - 8:45 pm Meditation

▶ **7-9 pm Ukulele Meet-up**, Community Room

Ukulele group monthly meeting. Come and play!

SAT 4/20

▶ **9-10 am Garden Conversations**, online

Please join us the 3rd Saturday of every month to share questions, tips, and sometimes resources for the gardening season. Gardeners with all levels of experience are invited to join the conversation. Email rickmlent@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

▶ **9-10 am Spanish Conversations**, Vestry

Contact Roy Miller at millerroy@comcast.net

▶ **7:30-9:30 pm Common Ground** (film)

Celebrate Earth Day with FPC's Climate Task Force by joining them for a screening and discussion of a great new movie, *Common Ground*. This film is about how regenerating the world's soils has the potential to rapidly stabilize Earth's climate, restore lost ecosystems, and create abundant food supplies. The film explains why transitioning to regenerative agriculture could be key in rehabilitating the planet while simultaneously invigorating a new sense of hope and inspiration in viewers.



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: **Kim Kinnear**
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