

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



Sunday, April 21, 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](http://fpc-stow-acton.org) and on Facebook.

April 21, 2024: 10:00

Gathering

**Prelude** "Iris" Trevor Berens, piano  
Jean Sibelius

**Welcome** Ruth Lull, Board Member

**Opening Words** Rev. Alice Anacheke-Nasemann

**Chalice Lighting**

\* **Hymn #38** "Morning Has Broken"

Centering

\* **Covenant**

Love is the spirit of this church,  
the quest for truth is its sacrament,  
and service is its prayer.  
This is our great covenant:  
to dwell together in peace,  
to seek the truth in love,  
and to help one another.

\* **Affirmation #377**

In greening lands begins the song  
which deep in living hearts is strong.  
In cheerful strains your voices raise,  
To fill the whole spring world with praise!

**Land Acknowledgement** Ruth Lull, Board Member

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

**Going Forth with the Light**

**Joys and Sorrows** Ingrid Holcomb, Lay Minister

\* *Rise in Body and Spirit*

**Prayer or Meditation** Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

\* **Hymn #15** "The Lone, Wild Bird"

Exploring

**Story** "Orca Fads & the Resistance"  
Rev. Alice Anacheke-Nasemann

**Reflections**

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

**Sharing Our Gifts**

This month FPC shares 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.

Checks to UCMH should be made out to UCMH and donations can be made  
online using the Givelify app.

**Anthem**

“Great Trees”

FPC Adult Choir

Music: Mary Alice Amidon, arr. Peter Amidon

Words: Wendell Berry

Slowly, slowly, they return	Downcomings of the distant light
To the small woodland let alone:	They are the advent they await.
Great trees, outspreading and upright,	Receiving sun and giving shade,
apostles of the living light.	Their life’s a benefaction made,
Patient as stars, they build in air	And is a benediction said
Tier after tier a timbered choir,	Over the living and the dead.
Stout beams upholding weightless grace	In fall their brightened leaves, released,
of song, a blessing on this place.	Fly down the wind and we are pleased
They stand in waiting all around,	To walk on radiance, amazed.
Uprisings of their native ground,	Oh light come down to earth, be praised!

**Story**

“Mama Otter Takes to Surfing”

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum

**Reflections**

Rev. Alice Anacheka-Nasemann

**Returning**

\* **Hymn #1068**

“Rising Green”

\* **Benediction**

Rev. Alice Anacheka-Nasemann

\* **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**

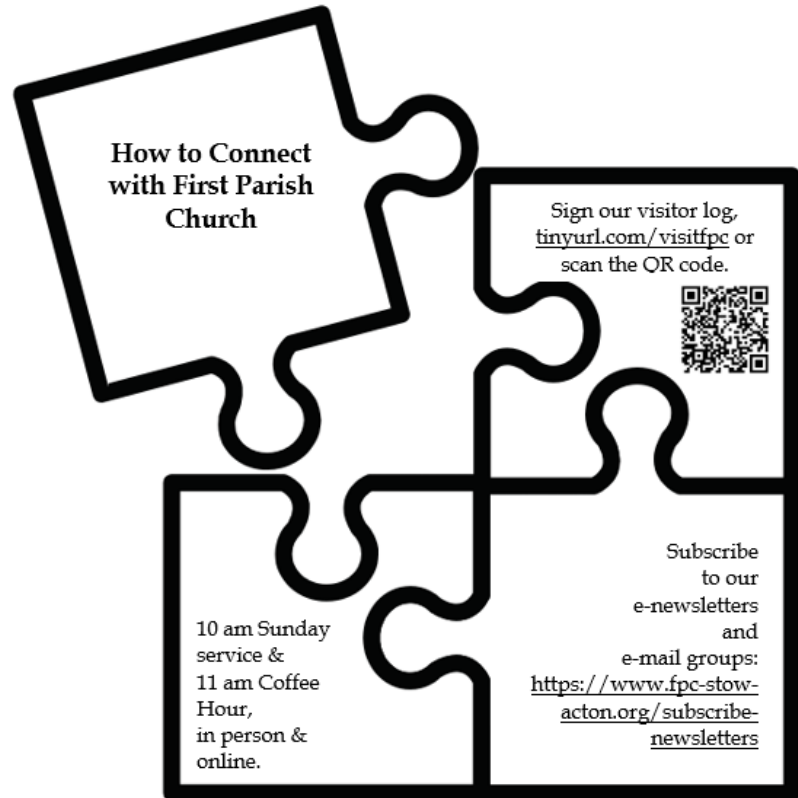
“The Birch Tree”

Trevor Berens, piano

Jean Sibelius

**Greet Your Neighbor**

**Thank you to:**  
Jenni Edgerton, Zoom Host  
Rebecca & John MacNeill,  
Ushers  
Mark Koenig & Troy Liston,  
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 (18<sup>th</sup> journey), Vicky Tabor (6<sup>th</sup>), Russ Hart (5<sup>th</sup>), and Neil Saunders (1<sup>st</sup>) 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

### **Can you make a dessert for Saturday's New Revival Coffeehouse?**

Friends, our last coffeehouse of the season is this coming Saturday, April 27, and we are once again looking for delicious homemade desserts to serve to our loyal customers.

If you'll be away at Ferry Beach that weekend, you can still bake and contribute! I am happy to arrange a pickup at your house before you leave. If you've never been able to contribute a dessert before but will be around on the 27th, now is your opportunity!



Please use this QR code to sign up or email Johanna at [johanna.pyle@gmail.com](mailto:johanna.pyle@gmail.com).

Thanks so much in advance for your generosity,

Johanna

## Today at FPC, 11 am

### ► **Newcomer Coffee Gathering**, Parlor

Are you 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. You may also become a member by signing our membership book.

### ► **Coffee Hour**, Fellowship Hall

#### **Windborne Quartet tickets on sale for our New Revival Coffeehouse concert on Sat, 4/27 at 7:30pm.**

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.

## Religious Education

TODAY 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.

## This Week at FPC

22	APR, MON	● 8am – 1pm	AssabetFoodCoop (Vestry)
		● 7 – 9pm	Jazz Band Rhrl (Sanctuary)
23	APR, TUE	● 10 – 11am	Coffee & Chat (Gazebo)
		● 7 – 8pm	Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF) mtg (online)
24	APR, WED	● 6:40 – 8:45pm	Meditation (Fellowship Hall & online)
25	APR, THU	● 5 – 6pm	Lay Ministers meeting (online)
		● 5 – 6pm	Peace Vigil (outside)
		● 7:15 – 9pm	Choir Practice (Hall)
26	APR, FRI	● All day	Ferry Beach Retreat (Day 1/3)
		● 1 – 3:30pm	Bridge Group (Community Rm)
27	APR, SAT	● All day	Ferry Beach Retreat (Day 2/3)
		● 5 – 10pm	New Revival Coffeehouse (Hall and Youth Room)

**Next Sunday's Service** 4/28, 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone

**“Ministry as Improv” - Rev. Darrick Jackson, Ministerial Credentialing Director, Unitarian Universalist Association**

So much is changing in our world, faith, and congregational lives. As we engage this changing reality, we need tools to help us meet the needs of this liminal time. Improvisation can provide us with a framework for ministry in these times.



The Rev. Darrick Jackson (he/him) is one of the authors in the book “Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity and Power in Ministry.” He is active in DRUUMM (the UU ministry for people of color) and is the treasurer for Healing Moments (a ministry for caregivers of people with Alzheimer’s). He is pursuing his D.Min in Theology and the Arts at the United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. Rev. Darrick and his husband, Dr. James Olson, live with their two cats, Merlin and Morgana.

## Coming Up at FPC

### **Shoe Drive – FPC front hall until April 30<sup>th</sup>**

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.



### **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:  
[peggypaladini@gmail.com](mailto:peggypaladini@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 [peggypaladini@gmail.com](mailto:peggypaladini@gmail.com) with questions or to help.



**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