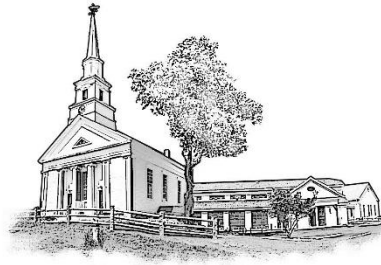


**FIRST PARISH  
CHURCH  
OF STOW & ACTON**  
*Unitarian Universalist*



Sunday, April 28, 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.



Anthem                                      Improvisation                                      Trevor Berens, piano  
Sermon                                      "Ministry as Improv"                                      Rev. Darrick Jackson

**Returning**

\* Hymn #1024                                      *When the Spirit Says Do*  
\* Benediction                                      "An Improv Spirit"  
Rev. Darrick Jackson

\* 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, pian  
Greet Your Neighbor

∞

**Thank you:**

Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host  
Brendon Chetwynd, Tech Helper  
Kate Imhoff and Nick Francis, Ushers  
Coffee Hosts ☕❤  
Our staff and leadership

**Visitors, thank you for coming!**

We hope you found something you're looking for in our service and congregation, and  
that you'll come back if it feels like a fit.

Here's how to keep connecting with our people and programs:

1) **Come to coffee hour** right after the service, downstairs in Fellowship Hall.



2) **Fill out a Visitor Card** in your pew and hand it to an usher **OR** scan this QR code and complete a similar form online.

3) **Subscribe to our e-newsletters** and e-mail groups:



## 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

## Today at FPC

- All day Ferry Beach Retreat (Day 3/3)
- 10 – 11am Service (Sanctuary, online)
- 11am – 12pm Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)
- 12 – 1pm Spiritual Conversations about Poetry (online)

### **12 pm Spiritual Conversations Through Poetry** (online)

You don't need to know anything about poetry to join Elizabeth Cobblah, Ilene Rudman, and Hector Constantzos for this deeply satisfying time of engaging with others through a poem. Contact one of us to attend: [ecobblah@fenn.org](mailto:ecobblah@fenn.org), [irudman@aol.com](mailto:irudman@aol.com), or [Hconstantzos@gmail.com](mailto:Hconstantzos@gmail.com).

### **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.



## Religious Education

TODAY No RE classes today at FPC. We are at Ferry Beach with the Lynn congregation from April 26-28. RE will take place there, and there are group activities there all weekend for children and youth.

Sun 5/5 InterGen service with Morning Star Singers.

## This Week at FPC

30	APR, TUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 10 – 11am</li> <li>● 5:30 – 6:30pm</li> </ul>	<p>Coffee &amp; Chat (Gazebo)</p> <p>BOT Meeting via Zoom</p>
1	MAY, WED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All day</li> <li>● 6:40 – 8:45pm</li> </ul>	<p>First Day of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month</p> <p>Meditation (Fellowship Hall &amp; online)</p>
2	MAY, THU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 5 – 6pm</li> <li>● 7:15 – 9pm</li> </ul>	<p>Peace Vigil (outside)</p> <p>Choir Practice (Hall)</p>
3	MAY, FRI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1 – 3:30pm</li> </ul>	<p>Bridge Group (Community Rm)</p>
4	MAY, SAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 9 – 10am</li> </ul>	<p>Spanish Conversations (Vestry)</p>

**Next Sunday's Service** 5/5, 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone  
 “Building Connection: One Song, One Strawberry, at a Time” with...

The Morningstar Singers

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

FPC member Aimee Ledwell

Director of Religious Education Rayla Baldwin-Mattson

Music Director Chris Hossfeld

Location: Lawn behind the church (come through Atrium doors and head through doors directly across). Rain

location: Fellowship Hall.



FPC hosts the Morningstar Singers in this special service about building community and beginning reparations. The Morningstar Singers are a women’s traditional hand drum group from the United Native American Cultural Center in Devens, MA, that seeks to preserve and continue the beautiful tradition of women’s singing in native culture.

## Upcoming Fundraisers at FPC

### **Vinny Pendergast and the Sons of Blarney, Sat. 5/11, 7 pm, Fellowship Hall**

Presented by the Asylum Seekers Task Force

A lively, energetic group that plays your favorite Irish tunes. Seasoned musicians who have performed extensively in Massachusetts and beyond, their toe tapping music will have you singing along, even dancing. They'll bring a tear to your eye and a smile to your face!



Doors Open at 6:30 pm. \$20 per adult, children free. Scan the QR code to purchase at Eventbrite. Tasty sweet and savory refreshments and beverages will be served; cash donations are appreciated. Proceeds from this fundraiser will cover some of the legal costs of one of our families in their quest for asylum.

### **FPC Plant Sale, an important fundraiser – Sat. 5/18, 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