

July 14, 2024: 10:00 am

**Gathering**

**Prelude** "Stone to Sand" Michael Merrill &  
Cahalen Morrison Quinci Sprague

**Land Acknowledgement, Welcome, & Announcements** Andy Derr, Worship Leader

**Opening Words** "We gather in reverence" (439) Andy Derr  
Sophia Lyon Fahs

**Chalice Lighting** "We gather this hour..." (448) Andy Derr  
Christine Robinson

\* **Hymn #123** *Spirit of Life*

**Centering**

\* **Covenant**

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.

\* **Affirmation**

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.

**Joys and Sorrows** Kate Hart, Lay Minister

Joys and sorrows is a time for the things on our hearts and  
minds to be heard by the gathered community. If you  
would like a follow-up call by a lay minister or the minister,  
email [caring@fpc-stow-acton.org](mailto:caring@fpc-stow-acton.org).

\* *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

\* **Hymn #159**

*This is My Song*

**Exploring**

**Reading** "To live in this world..." (696) Andy Derr  
Mary Oliver

**Sharing Our Gifts**

In July and August we share our weekly offering with two recipients, the documentary **WHY ARE YOU YOU?** and the **Interfaith Partnership for Refugee Resettlement**. 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.

**Offering** "Mole in the Ground" Michael Merrill &  
Joe K. Walsh Quinci Sprague

**Sermon** "The Laws of Evolution?" Andy Derr

**Returning**

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

\* **Benediction** "If there is to be peace" (602) Andy Derr  
Lao-Tse

\* **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** "All for the Sake of Day" Michael Merrill &  
Cahalen Morrison Quinci Sprague



**Thank you:**

Hector Constantzos, Zoom Host & Tech Helper  
Ushers and helpers  
Our staff and leadership

**To our visitors, thank you for coming!**

We hope you find what you're looking for in our service and congregation, and that you'll come back again.



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

- **Fill out a Visitor Card in your pew**  
Hand it to an usher or scan the QR code → to complete the form online.



Visiting & Learning  
about FPC

- **Subscribe to our e-newsletters** and e-mail groups with the QR code. →



Subscribe to  
E-Newsletters

- **Come to coffee hour**  
It's right after the service, downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

- **Check out our website**  
There is so much happening at FPC! Visit our website's homepage and the "Church Life" tab to learn about events & programs  
at  
FPC:  
spirituality and worship  
religious education  
social justice  
arts  
and  
music  
interest groups  
social events & fundraisers



Getting involved  
at FPC

**FIRST PARISH CHURCH  
OF STOW & ACTON**

*Unitarian Universalist*

**Sunday, July 14, 2024**



**The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum**, Minister  
**Rayla Baldwin-Mattson**, Director of Religious Education  
**Meg Rivers-Wright**, Parish Administration & Membership  
**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 Pres. and President-Elect  
**Bill Froberg**, Treasurer  
**Johanna Pyle**, Clerk

*First Parish is a UU Association Welcoming Congregation. We warmly welcome gay, lesbian, bisexual, & transgender people into our community.*

Large print orders of service and hymnals are available from an usher. Assisted Listening Devices are also available in the Sanctuary.

On the web at [fpc-stow-acton.org](http://fpc-stow-acton.org) and on Facebook.

## July/August Plate Sharing

**Why Are You You?** is a feature documentary that explores the history of the Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) community that ran from 1983 to 2008. Empowerment, acceptance, tolerance, and commitment to social justice were the cornerstones of YRUU, and the lessons its youth learned remain relevant and important today. Lindsay Caddle LaPointe grew up in the program and realized that no concrete documentation existed for it. By telling the full story of those unique years, she hopes to rekindle the feelings former participants had and inspire empowerment and acceptance in new generations. FPC's donations from the plate will be matched by the Unitarian Universalist Funding Program. [www.whyaireyouyou.org](http://www.whyaireyouyou.org)

**The Interfaith Partnership for Refugee Resettlement** is a group of seven local area churches that work together to help resettle refugees. FPC has been in partnership with the IPRR for almost three years. At our June 30 service, several members of the Asylum Seekers Task Force described our success with two Afghan families, allowing them to gain full independence. We are now assisting a large extended family from Rohingya (formerly Burma) who had been living in exile in Bangladesh for many years before their recent move to Lowell.

## Upcoming Events at FPC



### **Assabet Craft Beer and Food Truck Festival**

Sat. 9/2, 12-4 pm

A fun, family fundraiser in front of the church to benefit the First Parish Church of Stow & Acton

### **Ingathering Sunday Potluck Lunch & Ice Cream** Sun. 9/8, 11 am

Our fall kicks off with the traditional ice cream social, and this year with a potluck lunch to start us off. Join us at FPC to support a local ice cream business and socialize with other FPC members and friends!

## Upcoming 10 am Sunday Services

All services are in the Sanctuary and online, unless otherwise noted. Visit <https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org/services> for service descriptions.

- 7/21 **"The Songs of Bruce Springsteen: A Ministry of Community and Redemption"** - Dave Sansone
- 7/28 **"Blessing of the Animals"** outside on the FPC grounds - Susan Avery with your animal(s) or representations of them (photos, drawings, etc.)
- 8/4 **"Joint Summer Service"** at Littleton & online - Rev. Lara Hoke
- 8/11 **"Starstuff"** (Sermon Rerun) - Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
- 8/18 **"#realtalkwithrayla!"** - Director of Religious Education, Rayla Baldwin-Mattson
- 8/25 **"Eyes on the Prize: Traveling the Long-Arcing Road towards Racial Justice"** - members of FPC's Racial Justice Task Force
- 9/1 **"Popcorn Theology"** - Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

## Rev. Cindy's Summer Schedule and Lay Ministers on call for pastoral needs

- 7/8-14 Vacation Week 2 (Ingrid)
- 7/15-21 Vacation Week 3 (Hector)
- 7/22-28 Study Leave Week 1 - Cindy traveling to Virginia for SUUSI 7/20-28 (Kate H.)
- 7/29-8/4 Study Leave Week 2 - Cindy out of town with Rayla for some joint planning time, location TBD (Ann S.)
- 8/5-8/11 Study Leave Week 3 (Ann S.) (Partial week - preaching)
- 8/12-18 Study Leave Week 4 (Hector) (Partial week - planning time with staff)
- 8/19-25 Vacation Week 4 (Kate H.)
- 8/26-9/1 Partial Study Leave week - make up days for weeks 3 & 4 - Cindy preaching (Ingrid)