FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist

Sunday, July 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 MarbleNursery Care Coordinator

Mike Silkonis Sexton

Janet Beatrice External Publicity

Felix Freeman Tech Assistant

Brendon Chetwynd

President

Trisha Guditz 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.

July 21, 2024: 10:00

Gathering

Prelude "Waitin' on a Sunny Day" Bruce Springsteen

Welcome, Announcements, and Land AcknowledgmentNeil Saunders
We would like to acknowledge that First Parish Church is located on the traditional and
ancestral territory of Massachusett, Nipmuc, Pawtucket, and Wampanoag People. We
thank them for their hospitality and stewardship of this land.

Music "Out in the Street" Bruce Springsteen

Opening Words Dave Sansone, Worship Leader

Chalice Lighting "The Promised Land" → Bruce Springsteen

Sharing

* 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.

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.

Exploring

Reflections on Social Justice

Dave Sansone

^{*} Please rise in body or in spirit.

[□] *Please see insert for song lyrics.*

Sharing Our Gifts

Neil Saunders

In July and August we share our weekly offering with two recipients, <u>WHY ARE</u> <u>YOU YOU?</u> a feature documentary, and the <u>Interfaith Partnership for Refugee</u> <u>Resettlement</u>. 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	"My City of Ruins"♪	Bruce Springsteen

Reflections on Community Dave Sansone

Music "Tucson Train" ☐ Bruce Springsteen

Reflections on Redemption Dave Sansone

Returning

Music "Land of Hope & Dreams" → Bruce Springsteen

Closing Words Dave Sansone

Postlude "Oh Mary Don't You Weep" Bruce Springsteen

CB

Thank you to:

Brendon Chetwynd, Zoom Host & Tech Helper Ushers and helpers Our staff and leadership

"The Promised Land"

On a rattlesnake speedway in the Utah desert I pick up my money and head back into town Driving 'cross the Waynesboro county line I got the radio on, and I'm just killing time Working all day in my daddy's garage Driving all night, chasing some mirage But pretty soon little girl, I'm gonna take charge

The dogs on Main Street howl 'cause they understand If I could take one moment into my hands Mister, I ain't a boy, no, I'm a man And I believe in a promised land

I've done my best to live the right way
I get up every morning and go to work each day
But your eyes go blind and your blood runs cold
Sometimes I feel so weak, I just wanna explode
Explode and tear this ol' town apart
Take a knife and cut this pain from my heart
Find somebody itching for something to start

The dogs on Main Street howl 'cause they understand If I could reach one moment into my hands Mister, I ain't a boy, no, I'm a man And I believe in a promised land

Well, there's a dark cloud rising from the desert floor I packed my bags, and I'm heading straight into the storm Gonna be a twister to blow everything down That ain't got the faith to stand its ground

Blow away the dreams that tear you apart Blow away the dreams that break your heart Blow away the lies that leave you nothing But lost and brokenhearted Well, the dogs on Main Street howl 'cause they understand If I could take one moment into my hands Mister, I ain't a boy, no, I'm a man And I believe in a promised land (x3)

"My City of Ruins"

There's a blood red circle on the cold dark ground
And the rain is falling down
The church door's thrown open, I can hear the organ's song
But the congregation's gone
My city of ruins
My city of ruins

Now the sweet bells of mercy drift through the evening trees Young men on the corner like scattered leaves The boarded up windows, the empty streets While my brother's down on his knees My city of ruins My city of ruins

Come on rise up Come on rise up

Come on rise up

Now there's tears on the pillow, darling, where we slept And you took my heart when you left Without your sweet kiss my soul is lost, my friend Tell me how do I begin again My city's in ruins My city's in ruins Now with these hands, with these hands

With these hands, with these hands

I pray, Lord (with these hands, with these hands)

I pray for the strength, Lord (with these hands, with these hands)

I pray for the faith, Lord (with these hands, with these hands)

I pray for your love, Lord (with these hands, with these hands)

I pray for the strength, Lord (with these hands, with these hands)

I pray for your love, Lord (with these hands, with these hands)

I pray for the faith, Lord (with these hands), alright (with these hands)

I pray for the strength, Lord (with these hands), come on (with these hands), come on

Come on rise up

"Tucson Train"

I got so down and out in 'Frisco
Tired of the pills and the rain
I picked up, headed for the sunshine
I left a good thing behind
Seemed all of our love was in vain
My baby's coming in on the Tucson train

I come here looking for a new life One I wouldn't have to explain To that voice that keeps me awake at night When a little peace would make everything right If I could just turn off my brain Now my baby's coming in on the Tucson train

We fought hard over nothing
We fought till nothing remained
I've carried that nothing for a long time
Now I carry my operator's license
And spend my days just running this crane
My baby's coming in on the Tucson train

Hard work'll clear your mind and body
The hot sun will burn out the pain
If they're looking for me, tell 'em buddy
I'm waiting down at the station
Just praying to the five-fifteen
I'll wait on God's creation
Just to show her a man can change
Now my baby's coming in on the Tucson train

On the Tucson train
On the Tucson train
Waiting on the five-fifteen
Here she comes

"Land of Hope and Dreams"

(Whoaaa whoa-whoaaa, this train)
(I'm calling this train)
(Don't you wanna ride)
(This train, this train)
(This train, this train)
(Whoa-whoa, get on, get on, get on, get on, get on)

Grab your ticket and your suitcase, thunder's rolling down this track
Well, you don't know where you're going now, but you know you won't be back
Well, darling, if you're weary, lay your head upon my chest
We'll take what we can carry, yeah, and we'll leave the rest

Well, big wheels roll through the fields where sunlight streams Meet me in a land of hope and dreams

I will provide for you and I'll stand by your side You'll need a good companion now for this part of the ride Yeah, leave behind your sorrows, let this day be the last Well, tomorrow there'll be sunshine and all this darkness past

Well, big wheels roll through fields where sunlight streams Oh, meet me in a land of hope and dreams

Well, this train carries saints and sinners This train carries losers and winners This train carries whores and gamblers This train carries lost souls

I said, this train, dreams will not be thwarted This train, faith will be rewarded This train, hear the steel wheels singing This train, bells of freedom ringing

[Clarence Clemons sax solo]

Yes, this train carries saints and sinners This train carries losers and winners This train carries whores and gamblers This train carries lost souls

I said, this train carries broken-hearted This train, thieves and sweet souls departed This train carries fools and kings thrown This train, all aboard I said, now this train, dreams will not be thwarted This train, faith will be rewarded This train, the steel wheels singing This train, bells of freedom ringing

Come on this train
People get ready
You don't need no ticket
All you gotta do is
Just get onboard
Onboard this train (this train, now)
People get ready
You don't need no ticket (oh now, no you don't)
You don't need no ticket
You just get onboard (people get ready)
You just thank the Lord (people get ready)
(Come on this train, people get ready) [fades]

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 The <u>Interfaith Partnership for</u>
<u>Refugee Resettlement</u> 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.

inspire empowerment and acceptance in new generations. FPC's donations from the plate will be matched by the Unitarian Universalist Funding Program. www.whyareyouyou.org

Upcoming Events at FPC



Assabet Craft Beer and Food Truck Festival

Sat. 8/31, 12-4 pm

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

<u>Ingathering Sunday Potluck Lunch & Ice Cream</u> 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 <u>otherwise noted</u>. Visit <u>https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org/services</u> for service descriptions.

- July 28 "Blessing of the Animals" <u>outside on the FPC grounds</u>Susan Avery with your animal(s) or photos, drawings, etc. of them
- Aug 4 "Joint Summer Service" at Littleton & online Rev. Lara Hoke
- Aug 11 "Starstuff" (Sermon Rerun) Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
- Aug 18 "#realtalkwithrayla!" Dir. of Religious Ed., Rayla Baldwin-Mattson
- Aug 25 "Eyes on the Prize: Traveling the Long-Arcing Road towards Racial Justice" members of FPC's Racial Justice Task Force
- Sept 1 "Popcorn Theology" Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Rev. Cindy's Summer Schedule

(w/Lay Ministers on call for pastoral needs)

- 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)

ASSABET



Food Truck

FESTIVAL

Saturday AUG. 31, 2024 12-4 PM 353 Great Road, Stow · First Parish Church

CRAFT BREWS from Amory's Tomb Brewing, Dirigible Brewing, Flying Dreams, Redemption Rock, Start Line Brewing. Plus soft drinks and water.

FOOD TRUCKS from Bird's Nest Italian Street Food, Braised, Juniper Farms, Kith and Kin, Start Line BBQ, Twizted Pickle, and FPC Baked Goods.

LIVE MUSIC by Becky and the Swingin' Bards.

GAMES + CRAFTS + FUN for all ages.

ADMISSION

\$5-10 donation Under 12 FREE \$5 drink tickets

Certified Service Animals Only





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