

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



Sunday, March 15, 2020

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister
Michelle Cote, Director of Religious Education

Deedee Perkins, Parish Administrator

Dr. Mike Pfitzer, Director of Music

Sanghee Kim, Organist/Pianist

Joleen Trotta, Welcoming & Membership Coordinator

Whitney Granger, Sexton

Paul Spanagel, Youth Coordinator

Janet Beatrice, External Publicity

Katy Weeks, President

Sharon Brownfield, Vice President

Lee Coopridner, Treasurer

Liz Moseley, Clerk

First Parish is a Unitarian Universalist Association Welcoming Congregation. We warmly welcome gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people into our community.

Assistive listening devices and large print orders of service and hymnals are available in the vestibule from an usher to help everyone be a part of worship in the fullest way possible.

On the web at fpc-stow-acton.org and on Facebook.

March 15, 2020
10 AM

Gathering

Prelude

Prelude

Jay Boybin
Sanghee Kim, piano

Welcome & Announcements

Katy Weeks, Board President

Call to Worship

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Chalice Lighting

Hymn #347

Gather the Spirit

Mike Pfitzer, voice

1. Gather the spirit, harvest the power.
Our sep'rate fires will kindle one flame.
Witness the mystery of this hour.
Our trials in this light appear all the same.

(Chorus) Gather in peace, gather in thanks.
Gather in sympathy now and then.
Gather in hope, compassion and strength.
Gather to celebrate once again.
2. Gather the spirit of heart and mind.
Seeds for the sowing are laid in store.
Nurtured in love, and conscience refined,
with body and spirit united once more. (Chorus)
3. Gather the spirit growing in all,
drawn by the moon and fed by the sun.
Winter to spring, and summer to fall,
the chorus of life resounding as one. (Chorus)

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.

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.

Message for All Ages

Michelle Coté,
Director of Religious Education

Joys and Sorrows**Prayer or Meditation****Hymn #123**

Spirit of Life

Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

Exploring**Reading**

Pandemic

by Lynn Ungar

Sharing Our Gifts

Mike Pfitzer, voice

Invention No.1

J.S. Bach
Sanghee Kim, piano

This month we share our weekly offering with
UU Mass Action

We invite you to drop off donations with
Nancy Cataldo, 9 Nash Road, Acton;
donate by text to (978) 310-3309; or
donate online at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate>.

Pledge checks should be sent to:
Julie Weeks at 66 Summer Street in Acton, MA 01720.

Sermon

Strengthening Faith in Uncertain Times

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Returning

Hymn #131

Love Will Guide Us

1. Love will guide us, peace has tried us,
hope inside us will lead the way
on the road from greed to giving.
Love will guide us through the hard night.
2. If you cannot sing like angels,
if you cannot speak before thousands,
you can give from deep within you.
You can change the world with your love.
3. You are like no other beings.
What you can give, no other can give
to the future of our precious children,
to the future of the world where we live.
4. Hear the song of peace with in you.
Heed the song of peace in your heart.
Spring's new beginning shall lead to harvest.
Love will guide us on our way.

Benediction

Sung Benediction

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 11 am

Pass Me Not

W. H. Doane
Sanghee Kim, piano



Those who are on Zoom may remain
for a virtual “coffee hour” following the postlude.
If you're in the “drive-in church”, honk and wave to each other!

Thank you to all those who helped with this service,
and to our staff, board, and other leaders.

SUNDAY AT CHURCH MARCH 15

MARCH PLATE SHARING: UU MASS ACTION

UU Mass Action is the State Action Network for UUs in Massachusetts and is the organization that will share one half of non-pledge plate donations for the month of March. UU Mass action is one of 23 national, UU State Action Networks. UU Mass Action's mission is to organize and mobilize Unitarian Universalists across the state to confront injustice in Massachusetts. UU Mass Action is a 501c3 organization funded by congregations, individuals and grant foundations. This is our UU shared, State Action Network working for justice. UU Mass Action serves in a leadership capacity in the Mass Power Forward Coalition (Climate Justice and Action), the Safe Communities Coalition (Immigrant Justice) and Massachusetts Against Solitary Confinement (Criminal Justice Reform). In addition, UU Mass Action is a voting member of the Raise Up Mass Coalition (Economic Justice) and a member of the Criminal Justice Reform Coalition. UU Mass Action works, along with coalition partners, to develop the strategy to achieve campaign goals and to engage UUs in the campaigns that fight oppression here in Massachusetts.

Stewardship Meeting 12:30 pm (check with committee to see if this will still meet & where)

Sunday in our Religious Education Program

Our High School Discussion Team meets this Sunday
Zoom instructions will be emailed to participants.

THE WEEK AT CHURCH MARCH 16-22, 2020

Please check with committee head to see where, when & if these will be held, unless indicated.

Program Council Tuesday 7:00pm

SGM Tuesday 7:00pm

Mindfulness in Recovery (OA Group) Wednesday 7:30am-8:30am,

SGM Wednesday 7:00pm

Meditation Wednesday, 7:30pm

Peace Vigil Thursday 5:00pm, outside in front of Church

Worship Committee Thursday 6:00pm

Choir Rehearsal Cancelled

SGM Thursday, 7:15pm

Guest Table Meeting Thursday, 7:30pm

Sunday, March 22, 10AM: "Creative Justice" – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

As people are more and more limited to their own homes and close circles, how do we still continue to do the work of justice, individually and as a faith community? This service will share some creative options for continuing to bend the arc of the universe.

Come to worship at our "Drive-In Church" in our parking lot by tuning to 107.7 FM, via Zoom online video: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/216909004>, or by phone: 646-876-9923

Meeting ID: 216 909 004

Common Read: Meet by Zoom

Who: This activity is supported by the social Justice Council and will be facilitated by Sharon Brownfield and Mary Evans. We welcome our congregants, friends from the community, and other congregations.

What: Join us in reading and discussing the UUA's Common Read for 2019-2020:
An Indigenous Peoples history of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

When: Saturday, April 18 9:00 – 10:30am

We will use the UUA discussion guideline to examine this book FOR our next and final Saturday morning, via ZOOM. Zoom info to be sent by Sharon Brownfield through FPC announce closer to the April date

Why: Just as we believe in the interconnected web of life, it is helpful to envision how all our social actions are interconnected, and how U.S. colonialism has affected the current state of living for us all.

Note: Read more about this upcoming common read experience in the Chronicle. Consider the youth version for an abbreviated text. Find either book at your library, or online at:
<https://www.uuabookstore.org/An-Indigenous-Peoples-History-of-the-United-States-P17699.aspx>

**Our Annual Auction is
POSTPONED UNTIL May 16**



TULIPS FOR EASTER



Easter will be here April 12th and tulips are needed for the two services (only tulips as there are allergy issues to consider.) Each plant is \$8 and may be ordered at d.glorioso@me.com.

If paying by check, please make check out to Dee Glorioso and send to 70 Birch Hill Road, Stow, MA 01775. Please take your plant(s) after the two Easter services. The tulips made a lovely showing last year. Thanks so much



ANNOUNCING A MAJOR NEW FPC FUNDRAISING EVENT...

**The Assabet Craft Beer & Food Truck Festival
at First Parish Church of Stow & Acton**

**Saturday, May 30, 2020 12 noon to 4pm
(rain or shine)**

Craft brews from Amory's Tomb Brewing (Maynard), Bull Spit Brewing (Lancaster), Ground Effect Brewing (Hudson), and Saltbox Kitchen Brewery (Concord) plus cider, wine, and soft drinks

Food from Meat@Slim's (BBQ), PRKD Pizza, and Zapata (Mexican, including gluten-free)

Desserts by our very own congregation

Music provided by Polarized Guru, the Parish Jazz Band, and Snow Crows

Children's games (including cornhole) and face painting

Admission \$5 per person (free for children 12 and under) with drink tickets \$5 each

We still need lots of help with set-up, admission entry, guest relations, parking, desserts/coffee making, and cleanup. And as our way of saying thank you, we have a special gift for everyone who signs up. You can also contact any of the four organizers: Neil Saunders, Hector Constantzos, Dave Sansone, and Scott Feldhusen. Cheers!