

July 30, 2023
10:00 AM

**Land Acknowledgement, Welcome,
& Announcements** Susan Avery

Opening Words Susan Avery

Chalice Lighting Neil Saunders

*Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have
lighted the flame within us. - Albert Schweitzer*

* **Hymn #361** *Enter, Rejoice and Come In* See insert for lyrics

* **Covenant & Affirmation** Sue Stewart, Emmeline Jones

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.	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.
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Joys and Sorrows Ingrid Holcomb

Acknowledging those pets who are no longer with us

Reading Poem - "We Give Thanks for the Animals" Susan Avery
by Gary Kowalski

Sharing Our Gifts

In July and August we share our weekly offering with two organizations,
Horizons at LMS and **Libros Para Todos**. (See insert for descriptions.)
You may donate with a check made out to "First Parish Church,"
online at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate>, or text to (978) 310-3309.

Anthem *I Love My Dog* Pat Sorn, Sue Stewart,
by Cat Stevens Emmeline Jones

Reading Adapted from Susan Avery
"Medicine Cat"
by Joan M. Walker

Blessing of the Animals

We will go around the circle. For each pet, their person will identify the
pet and briefly describe how their pet brings them joy. We will all
respond with, "[Name of pet], we bless you and are grateful for your
presence in [Name of person]'s life."

After all pets have been blessed we will close by saying: "We bless all
pets, acknowledging how they enrich our souls."

* **Hymn** *All God's Critters* Pat Sorn, Sue Stewart,
by Bill Staines Emmeline Jones
See insert for lyrics

* **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.

☪

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Masking Policy

As of July 1, 2023, FPC has moved to a mask-optional policy throughout the church and has designated several rows in the back of the Sanctuary as “mask-required”. These are a greater distance from unmasked speakers and the choir and include accessible seating.

Land Acknowledgement

✦ We would like to acknowledge that this service is being held by a community that gathers on the stolen traditional lands of the Massachusett, Nipmuc, Pawtucket, and Wampanoag People.

✦ We pay respect to those Indigenous Peoples who lost their lives in the colonization of this land and recognize that these Indigenous tribes are still today facing violations of sovereignty, territory, and water.

✦ We also give thanks for the Earth we walk upon, the waters, the lifegiving plants, and all the Earth’s creatures, as well as the winds, sun, moon, and stars.

✦ We recognize that this is just a first step in moving toward right relationship with Native peoples and healing of the Earth.

How to Connect with First Parish Church:

- ❑ Sign our visitor log at tinyurl.com/visitfpc. We'll send you information if you request it.
- ❑ Come to Sunday service and coffee hour 10 & 11 am, in person or online.
- ❑ Subscribe to our publications
The Chronicle - monthly e-newsletter
This Week at FPC - weekly e-newsletter
FPCAnnounce & FPCForum - e-mail groups
at <https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org/subscribe-newsletters>



FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON *Unitarian Universalist*

Sunday, July 30, 2023

Blessing of the Animals



*Until one has loved an animal
a part of one's soul remains unawakened.*
Anatole France

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister
Meg Rivers-Wright, Administration and Membership
Mike Silkonis, Sexton
Janet Beatrice, External Publicity
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.*

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

Plate Sharing This Summer

JULY/AUGUST: Horizons at LMS and Libros Para Todos



Horizons at LMS is part of a national program for under-served

youth. It is a summer program, but they stay in touch with the children throughout the year and invite them to return every year. It creates community, exposes children to nature, provides food and swimming lessons, and fills gaps in their education.

Libros Para Todos offers teacher training workshops to teachers in and around San Miguel to nurture students' literacy, provides literature to students, and arranges for school visits by the authors of books featured.



Every Week at FPC

All are welcome to these weekly FPC events

Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Coffee & Chat 10-11 am Town Gazebo at Town Park, adjacent to FPC. Bring your own coffee!	Meditation 7:30-8:30 pm Fellowship Hall and Online. Contact: meditation@fpc-stow-acton.org	Peace Vigil 5-6 pm in front of FPC, btwn Common & Great Roads. Contact: Neil Saunders neilsaund@verizon.net	Bridge Group 1-3:30 pm Community Rm. Contact: Hector Hconstantzos@gmail.com

Upcoming 10 am Sunday Services

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

8/6	"20 th Annual Joint Summer Service" Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
8/13	"Circle Worship" Lindsay LaPointe, <u>Fellowship Hall</u>
8/20	"Superheroes" Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
8/27	"Spiritual Conversations Through Poetry" <u>Community Room</u>
9/3	"Meditation" Joe Stadolnik, <u>Fellowship Hall</u>

Join Worship by Video: <https://tinyurl.com/2223fpc>

Meeting ID: 999 7077 0266; Passcode: 01775

Join Worship by Phone: (929) 205-6099 (toll call)



FPC Summer Announcements

Assabet Craft Beer and Food Truck Festival Sat. 9/2, 12-4 pm in front of the church

Rev. Cindy's Summer Schedule and Lay Minister Coverage:

7/24-7/30	Study Leave - home	Ann
7/31-8/06	At FPC; leading joint summer service 8/6	Susie
8/07-8/13	Study Leave - staff	Ingrid
8/14-8/20	At FPC; preaching 8/20	Ann
8/21-8/27	Study Leave - staff	Hector
8/28-9/03	Vacation – college?	Susie

All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir

CHORUS:

All God's critters got a place in the choir
Some sing low, some singer higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire and
Some just clap their hands or paws or anything they got now.

Listen to the bass, it's the one on the bottom
Where the bullfrog groans and the hippopotamus
Moans and groans with a big to-do
The old cow just goes moo.

The dogs and cats, they take up the middle
The hummingbird hums and the cricket fiddles
The donkey brays and the pony neighs
The Old Coyote Howls

CHORUS

Listen to the top where the little birds sing
On the melody with the high note ringing
The hoot owl hollers over everything
And the jay bird disagrees

Singing in the nighttime, singing in the day
The little duck quacks and is on his way
The possum ain't got much to say
And the porcupine talks to himself.

CHORUS

It's a simple song, a living song everywhere
By the ox and the fox and the grizzly bear
The grumpy alligator and the hawk above
The sly raccoon and the turtle dove.

Everybody here is a part of the plan
We all get to play in the great critter band
From the eagle in the sky to the whale in the sea
It's one great symphony.

CHORUS

#361

Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

1. Enter, rejoice, and come in. Enter, rejoice, and come in.
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.
2. Open your ears to the song. Open your ears to the song.
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.
3. Open your hearts ev'ryone. Open your hearts ev'ryone.
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.
4. Don't be afraid of some change. Don't be afraid of some change.
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.
5. Enter, rejoice, and come in. Enter, rejoice, and come in.
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.