



Sunday, April 19, 2020

First Parish Church of Stow & Acton

INSERT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

10 AM ONLY

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Sanctuary closed. Virtual Service by video or phone or at 107.7 FM in the FPC parking lot.

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

It's the 50th anniversary of Earth Day this year. In this celebratory service, we will share our love for the earth and its creatures, and focus on what we need to do as individuals, as a faith community, and as a society for the health of our earth.

Join by Video:

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/3562380253?pwd=TnhkQzgwdHh2UmEzbGc3RnQ2SGdudz09>

Join by phone: 1-646-876-9923

Meeting ID: 356 238 0253

Password: 37201775 (On your keypad, that's FPC, followed by our zip code 01775)

APRIL PLATE SHARING

RIA House

So what and who is RIA House? We started in 2013 as a group of women wanting to support other women who have been trafficked, victimized, bought and SOLD for the gratification of another - mostly men. The key word here is "SOLD." Yes, "SOLD." Here we are in 2020 and still need to admit that a woman can be "SOLD." I believe this may be called Modern Day Slavery.

In the year 2019, RIA House has supported over 200 women by offering them clinical care, peer mentor ship as well as support groups in the MetroWest Prison for Women.

ALL these women have been traumatized and most suffer PTSD as well as drug and alcohol addiction. Some have had their identity stolen along with their cell phone, license and credit cards.

RIA House walks and stands with women who are trying to be a better citizen and give back. We ask that you stand with us as we continue to support these women.

NO Adult Choir Rehearsal

VIRTUAL Coffee Hour

News from Our Religious Education Program

There is a family worship packet being sent out to all families on Friday, April 17th. This week the packet focuses on recycling and regenerating.

We will continue to offer a zoom RE session **each Monday at 1pm** (please note the time change-this allows children taking part in school to participate)
This session will be geared for children in grades K-6. The zoom link will be sent out each week.

Our 6-8th graders are invited to join Paul Spanagel, our youth coordinator, for a zoom gathering each Sunday from 6:30-7. The link will be sent out soon.

Our High School Discussion Group will meet this Sunday at 11:15. We encourage all High School Students to join this Zoom group.

If you need to connect with Michelle Cote, our Director of Religious Education, her email is dre@fpc-stow-acton.org.

Paul Spanagel, our youth coordinator can be reached at youth@fpc-stow-acton.org

THE WEEK at Church APRIL 20-25, 2020

Tuesday SGM 7:00pm ZOOM

Tuesday Climate Discussion Group with the Congregation 7:00-8:00pm ZOOM

Wednesday Stress Management with Ilene Rudman 12pm-12:45pm ZOOM

Wednesday Meditation 7:25pm ZOOM

Thursday **ANNUAL REPORTS DUE TO KATY WEEKS~FINAL CALL**

Thursday Staff Meeting 9:30am ZOOM

Thursday Peace Vigil 5-6pm outside in front of church

Saturday Spiritual Conversations 9:00am-10:45am with I. Rudman & E. Cobblah ZOOM

Saturday Celebration of Life~Maddy Harvey #:00pm-5:00pm ZOOM

Sunday, April 26, 2020

10 AM ONLY

Sanctuary closed. Virtual Service by video or phone or at 107.7 FM in the FPC parking lot.

“Preemptive Radical Inclusion” **ZOOM LINK** <https://zoom.us/j/8058275324>

CB Beal ~ Guest Speaker

CB will share reflections on the idea of PRI as an entryway to increase justice and equity among ourselves and in the world, a way to embody beloved community in a time of physical isolation and social connection.

CB Beal, M.Div. (they, them, theirs) specializes in the facilitation of learning experiences that involve issues of marginalization, oppression, and privilege; to help participants hold the complexities of our lives in perspective, and co-create a safe[r] brave[r] space where people are challenged to learn and grow. They are a nationally known story-teller, presenter and consultant for congregations, schools, social service agencies. Their focus is in the intersections of Preemptive Radical Inclusion, safer communities/congregations, supporting gender creative and trans/non-binary children and youth in youth-serving organizations, and sexuality/consent education. They are an Our Whole Lives Trainer and Trainer of Trainers and teach sexuality and consent education classes to elementary and middle school students around Massachusetts.

Previous to doing their work at Justice and Peace Consulting full time, they were the Director of Religious Education at the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence for 16 years after holding several different educational and training positions in adjacent fields. CB received a Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in New York in 1991 and is the Unitarian Universalist Association's 2019 Angus H. MacLean Award for Excellence in Religious Education.

CB is a white, non-binary/genderqueer, mostly able-bodied fat person of sturdy farmer stock.

For a taste of what CB is like in person, you can view their acceptance of the Angus H. MacLean Award at this year's General Assembly [here](https://tinyurl.com/uyr4o4k). <https://tinyurl.com/uyr4o4k> or this QR Code.

It begins at the 6-minute mark. If you are interested in the award presentation text preceding that, move the cursor to the beginning.



Their website is available at justiceandpeaceconsulting.com. This QR code will get you there.

ANNUAL REPORTS

DUE THURSDAY, APRIL 23 ~ Last Call

Annual Reports are due by Thursday April 23 this year.

Email your report to me at katy@brightleafenergy.com, with the words: "FPC Annual Report [Title of your report]" in the subject line of your email.

- Who does this? Committee Chairs, certain staff and Officers
- What is it? A report of what your committee did over the past year. Many reports are about one page long, but if your group did a lot of work, we'd be more than happy to read about it!
- How to send it? Write the report in a Word (or other text-style) document and attach the file to your email. Again, send the report to katy@brightleafenergy.com with the report title in the subject line.

Thank you, Katy Weeks for the Board of Trustees



FPC ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Well, we're not sure exactly when at the moment, but we are hopeful for some date in mid-May.

We also hope that while you're social distancing, you're also still gardening.

As we do every year around this time, we ask First Parish earth lovers for plants – lots of plants – from your yards and gardens! Please take a moment to consider plants you'd like to donate to the Sale, which is an important fundraiser for the Church. Please note that plants that are different or unusual in some way are especially desirable, the kinds of plants that if they weren't already in your yard or garden, you yourself would like to buy.

We seek shrubs, small trees, ground cover, herbs, perennials, and vegetables or flowering plants you may have started.

Please dig up and pot the plants you'd like to donate as soon as possible. Right now is the best time of year to do this!

Early-season transplanting is less stressful on plants. Please put them in a good spot where they can grow strong until it's time for delivery. That way, the plants will be well-established and looking their very best on Plant Sale day!

We're also looking for help with gathering, organizing, and labeling plants, and setting up and running the Sale. Please email peggypaladini@gmail.com with questions, or if you'd like to help.

As in past years, we will hold the Plant Sale in front of the Carriage Shed. **Final date, TBD!**

We Need Your Help with FPC's Summer Services



Is there something that you're particularly passionate about? Something that you think your fellow FPC members and friends would really like to learn more about at one of our summer services? Would you be interested in leading such a service? If so, the Worship Committee wants to hear from you. We have just started planning our services this summer and have settled upon the theme of Passion. If you have an idea for a summer service that focuses on something you feel strongly about and you think deserves a wider audience, please let us know. Also, is there someone in our congregation who you think has just such an idea that you believe we would all benefit from hearing? If so, we are inviting you to nominate that person, especially if you think they may be hesitant to come forward themselves.

The Worship Committee is available to help shape any of these services, so please contact one of us if you have an idea, you would like to suggest someone, or you would just like more information:

Neil Saunders, Chair (neilsaund@verizon.net)

Lisa Martino (griffmomma@gmail.com)

Kevin O'Brien (kjobrien2@verizon.net)

Rick Gentilman (rgentilman1@aol.com)

Aimee Ledwell (redshoegirl@gmail.com)

Meg Costello (margaretmcostello@gmail.com)

Trish Guditz (guditz@verizon.net)

Rev. Cindy Landrum (minister@fpc-stow-acton.org)

The Worship Committee needs your help to provide a meaningful program for this year's summer services, and we thank you, in advance, for your consideration and support. We can't do it without you!

NEWS FROM THE AUCTION COMMITTEE

The Auction Committee met via Zoom on April 8th to discuss how to go forward with our annual auction given concerns about the COVID 19 virus and social gatherings. After much discussion, we have decided to move the auction on-line. *We are planning to run the on-line auction during the first two weeks in June, **culminating on June 13th**.* At this point we are exploring several on-line auction platforms. After we select a platform, we will be able to provide more information about how the auction will work, so hold tight! We are exploring options for offering some of the dinners and perhaps a few other items through an on-line Zoom auction on the 13th. Options for how this would work are being evaluated - more information to come on that.

We talked in depth about how COVID 19 has affected numerous aspects of our lives. We are very aware that the economic impacts of the virus may make it very difficult or impossible for some members of our community to participate in the auction. We decided to go forward with an on-line event in hopes that it can still allow a means for us to "gather" in support of the church, and provide financial support for our staff and church operations as we are able.

Stay tuned! We are charting new waters, so bear with us as we forge ahead.