

Trevor Berens, piano

Thank you to:
Brendon Chetwynd, Zoom Host, Tech Helper
Marcia Rising, Carolyn Zettler, Ushers
Coffee Hour Hosts
and our staff and leadership



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 upon request.
- ❑ 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
...all at <https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org/subscribe-newsletters>.



**FIRST PARISH
CHURCH
OF STOW &
ACTON**
Unitarian Universalist



Sunday, September 10, 2023

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
Minister
Meg Rivers-Wright
Administration and Membership
Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
Director of Religious Education
Chris Hossfeld
Music Director
Trevor Berens
Accompanist

Cindy Kogler.....Youth Coordinator
Mike Silkonis.....Sexton
Janet Beatrice.....External Publicity
Jenni EdgertonPresident
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.*

Large print orders of service and hymnals are available from an usher to help everyone be a part of worship in the fullest way possible. Assisted Listening Devices are available when worship is in the Sanctuary.

FPC currently has a masks-optional policy throughout the church. We have designated several rows in the back of the Sanctuary as “mask-required”. They are a greater distance from unmasked speakers and the choir and include accessible seating.

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

ONLINE SUPPLEMENT PAGE: Information for folks joining us online

1. Closed captioning is available for FPC’s online services. If you don’t see captions on your screen, you can use the button at the bottom of your screen to request that the host turn them on.
2. Today’s Zoom Host is **Brendon Chetwynd**
3. Hymn lyrics are below.



Hymn #188 *Come, Come Whoever You Are*

Come, come, whoever you are,
wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving.
Ours is no caravan of despair.
Come, yet again come.

Anthem

Swimming to the Other Side
Pat Humphries

Chorus:
We are living ‘neath the great big dipper
We are washed by the very same rain
We are swimming in this stream together
Some in power and some in pain
We can worship this ground we walk on
Cherishing the beings that we live beside
Loving spirits will live forever
We’re all swimming to the other side

1. I am alone and I am searching
Hungering for answers in my time
I am balanced at the brink of wisdom
I’m impatient to receive a sign
I move forward with my senses open
Imperfection, it be my crime
In humility I will listen
We’re all swimming to the other side

Chorus
2. On this journey through thoughts and feelings
Binding intuition, my head, my heart
I am gathering the tools together
I’m preparing to do my part
All of those who have come before me

Band together and be my guide
Loving lessons that I will follow
We’re all swimming to the other side

Chorus

3. When we get there, we’ll discover
All of the gifts we’ve been given to share
Have been with us since life’s beginning
And we never noticed they were there
We can balance at the brink of wisdom
Never recognizing that we’ve arrived
Loving spirits will live together
We’re all swimming to the other side

Chorus

Hymn #1064 *Blue Boat Home*

Though below me, I feel no motion
standing on these mountains and plains.
Far away from the rolling ocean
still my dry land heart can say:
I've been sailing all my life now,
never harbor or port have I known.
The wide universe is the ocean I travel
and the earth is my blue boat home.

Sun my sail and moon my rudder
as I ply the starry sea,
leaning over the edge in wonder,
casting questions into the deep.
Drifting here with my ship's companions,
all we kindred pilgrim souls,
making our way by the lights of the heavens in our beautiful blue boat home.

I give thanks to the waves upholding me,
hail the great winds urging me on,
greet the infinite sea before me,
sing the sky my sailor's song:
I was born up on the fathoms,
never harbor or port have I known.
The wide universe is the ocean I travel,
and the earth is my blue boat home.

Sharing Our Gifts

If you are mailing a pledge or a donation, here is the information:

Pledges:
Attn: Pledge Secretary
PO Box 215
Stow, MA 01775

Donations:
Attn: Treasurer
353 Great Rd
Stow, MA 01775

Introit Lyrics

Down in the River to Pray

African-American Spiritual and Appalachian folk song

Refrain:

As I went down in the river to pray,
Studying about that good old way
And who shall wear the starry crown,
Good Lord, show me the way.

1. O seekers, let's go down,
Let's go down, don't you wanna go down.
Come on, seekers, let's go down,
Down in the river to pray.

Refrain

2. O mourners, let's go down,
Let's go down, don't you wanna go down.
Come on, mourners, let's go down,
Down in the river to pray.

Refrain

3. By and by, we'll all go down,
Let's go down, don't you wanna go down.
By and by, we'll all go down,
Down in the river to pray.

Refrain

Hymn #188

Come, Come Whoever You Are

Come, come, whoever you are,
wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving.
Ours is no caravan of despair.
Come, yet again come.

Commissioning of New Staff Members: Adapted from words by Christian Schmidt

President: We at the First Parish Church of Stow and Acton welcome you into your new roles here in our community this morning. You have come here as working professionals, but we also invite you to worship, play, and grow among us. Ours is a free faith; we have no creeds and I invite you to join with us in the religious search for meaning and purpose in life, informed by your individual beliefs and the traditions of Unitarian Universalism.

Minister: Thank you all for joining the staff of our church in these roles. This morning, I invite you to celebrate that commitment in worship and in our other activities as your energies and interests call you. In this gathering, we lift up our voices in shared song, we bring ourselves before the holy in silence and in speech, we search together for meaning and truth in life, and we share the joys and sorrows of our lives with one another. Working here means being part of this gathered community and affecting and changing the future of our congregation by bringing yourself to it. If you will join us in this mission and work, please say “I will.”

Staff: I will.

Minister: Will the congregation please rise, and respond with the words printed in your order of service?

Congregation (All): We join with you and partner with you in the work of the congregation. We celebrate your joining us with open hands and hearts. As you join us, we once again renew our own commitment to this religious community. We are proud and happy to have you among us. Welcome – *with great rejoicing!*

Anthem Lyrics

Swimming to the Other Side

Pat Humphries

Chorus:

We are living ‘neath the great big dipper
We are washed by the very same rain
We are swimming in this stream together
Some in power and some in pain
We can worship this ground we walk on
Cherishing the beings that we live beside
Loving spirits will live forever
We’re all swimming to the other side

4. I am alone and I am searching
Hungering for answers in my time
I am balanced at the brink of wisdom
I’m impatient to receive a sign
I move forward with my senses open
Imperfection, it be my crime
In humility I will listen
We’re all swimming to the other side

Chorus

5. On this journey through thoughts and feelings
Binding intuition, my head, my heart
I am gathering the tools together
I’m preparing to do my part
All of those who have come before me
Band together and be my guide
Loving lessons that I will follow
We’re all swimming to the other side

Chorus

6. When we get there, we’ll discover
All of the gifts we’ve been given to share
Have been with us since life’s beginning
And we never noticed they were there

We can balance at the brink of wisdom
Never recognizing that we’ve arrived
Loving spirits will live together
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Chorus

Hymn #1064

Blue Boat Home

Though below me, I feel no motion
standing on these mountains and plains.
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The wide universe is the ocean I travel
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and the earth is my blue boat

September Plate Sharing:

Concord Prison Outreach (CPO) is a 501(c)(3) organization composed of a coalition of individuals and faith communities committed to helping people who are incarcerated build better lives for themselves and their families. Since its founding in 1968, when its first volunteers helped to support people in a local prison infirmary, CPO has developed into the largest organization of its kind in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Concord Prison Outreach partners with the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) to provide programming across eight sites.



CPO currently has twenty active programs in eight prisons and one jail. These programs cover a wide range of subjects that fall into five categories: Vocational Skills • Socio-Emotional • Families and Children • Arts and Humanities • Education

In addition to these programs taking place inside their facilities, CPO runs outside projects, including the Holiday Gift Bag program and Caroling at Northeastern Correctional Center. This year, in partnership with the Middlesex Jail & House of Correction, Concord Prison Outreach will be providing over 100 back-to-school backpacks for the children of incarcerated parents.



Today at FPC

- 10:00 am Intergenerational service
- 11:00 am Social Hour in Fellowship Hall
- 3:00 pm **Ice Cream Social at Erikson’s in Maynard**
Our fall kicks off with this traditional event. Please join us at Erikson’s at 12 Great Road in Maynard to support a local business and socialize with FPC members and friends!



This Week in Religious Education

Please note that masks are optional in some Religious Education classes, but required in others, based on family needs. Nursery care is available for all services, provided by a trained nursery care staff member and a volunteer.

Today’s service is intergenerational. Children and youth will remain in the Sanctuary with their families, rather than leave for Religious Education classes. There will be an RE table set up for coffee hour and a search-and-find activity for children. Classes begin September 17!

Teacher Orientation will take place from 11:15 to 12:15 with childcare available during that hour.

Club UU and Parent & Adult Social w/ Zentangle Time
Friday, September 15, 6:30-8:30pm

Our K-5 kids have a monthly social event just for them! Kids will enjoy fun science activities and games together in our lower social hall. Parents are free to leave, but we encourage you to stay for our adult social gathering of Zentangle with Rev. Cindy!

This Week at FPC: September 11–16

Mon 9/11	7-9 pm	SGM: 2nd Monday Group , Parlor
	7-9 pm	Jazz Band Rehearsal , Sanctuary - Please contact Michael Paladini mwpaladini@gmail.com for info.
Tue 9/12	10-11 am	Coffee and Chat* , Town Gazebo at Town Park, adjacent to FPC. Bring your own coffee!
	7:30-9:30 pm	Climate Task Force Meeting , Online
Wed 9/13	7:30-8:30 pm	Meditation* , Fellowship Hall/Online Contact: meditation@fpc-stow-acton.org
Thu 9/14	5-6 pm	Peace Vigil* , in front of FPC, btwn Common & Great Rds, Contact: Neil Saunders neilsaund@verizon.net Choir Rehearsal 7:15-9 pm, Sanctuary
Fri 9/15	1-3:30 pm	Bridge Group* , Community Room Contact: Hector Hconstantzos@gmail.com
Sat 9/16	9-10 am	Garden Conversations , Online Please join us to share questions, tips and sometimes resources for the gardening season. Gardeners with all levels of experience are invited to join the conversation. Contact Rick Lent at rickmlent@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Sun 6/10 **Next Sunday's Service:** 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone

“Fall Sermon Series on Spiritual Practice Types Part 1: Devotion”

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

In this four-part series, Rev. Cindy will delve into understanding different spiritual practices and how they may be correlated with personality types.

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

Meeting ID: 999 7077 0266; Passcode: 01775

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



*All are welcome to these weekly FPC events

FPC Events

Yard Sale!

Get ready for the fabulous annual FPC Yard Sale **September 23, 8:30 am-1:00 pm**

It's a fun morning to connect with others while sending some of your unwanted "treasures" out into the community to be used and enjoyed again!



Two Ways to Participate

Have several boxes of great stuff?

Rent a table!

- Contact Sharon Brownfield to reserve a table and send a check for \$25, payable to FPC with “yard sale” in the memo line, to Sharon Brownfield at 154 Taylor Rd. Stow, MA 01775
- Pack in/carry out arrangement: Each person or group manages their own table, makes their own change, and takes any unsold items away at the end of the sale.
- Set-up begins at 7:30 am.
- We handle publicity and provide a table
- Questions? Contact Sharon Brownfield (sharonbrownfield@gmail.com) or Ellen Kisslinger (e.kisslinger@gmail.com)

Have just one or two boxes?

Contribute to FPC's Table!

- All proceeds benefit FPC
- Only donate items in good condition
- Price your items before donating (Dollar Store in Hudson has stickers).
- Items should be priced at \$2 or more; bundle small, like items to reach \$2 minimum as needed
- No books (save for fpc book sale in Oct.)
- No clothing except for Halloween costumes
- Drop-off times are Thu: 2-4pm, Fri: 4-7pm, Sat: before 8am
- If you have more than 1-2 boxes, please plan to volunteer to help at the FPC table
- Set-up begins at 7:00 am.
- All unsold items will be taken to Savers at the end of the day, so please check their website for acceptable items *
- Volunteer sign-ups will be on Sign-Up Genius
- FPC Q's: Contact organizers: Susan Avery (susan.avery@verizon.net) or Pat Sorn (psorn@mailstarusa.com)

The Apple Pie Project Begins the Week of 9/17/23! Please sign up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044AA9AC2DA5F49-apple6>

We need your help to make the 300+ pies for this fall's Apple Pie Fundraiser! No experience necessary...training and camaraderie will be provided! FPC's apple pies are a long-standing tradition as a fundraiser, fun group project, and culinary delight and require lots of volunteers to make it successful.



Volunteering opportunities:

Wednesday: Dough making (9/20, 9/27, 10/4, and 10/11)

Contact June Mallon - june.pies@fpc-stow-acton.org – if you are interested. We prefer 2-3 members of a single family unit sign up together. Volunteers will be asked to wear masks while in the building.

Tuesday or Wednesday: Apple collecting (9/19-20, 9/26-27, 10/3-4, and 10/10-11)

Contact Steve Evans (steve.pies@fpc-stow-acton.org) for information and to get official bags and directions. Please deposit your bags of apples into the bins located IN FRONT OF THE CARRIAGE SHED.

Wednesday/Thursday: Apple peeling/prep (9/20-21, 9/27-28, 10/4-5, and 10/11-12)

- Please sign up online and indicate how many bags of apples you intend to peel.
- Apples can be picked up on Wednesday afternoons after 4 pm or Thursdays. PLEASE ONLY TAKE AS MANY BAGS AS YOU SIGNED UP TO TAKE.
- The apples will be located in bins located IN FRONT OF THE CARRIAGE SHED.
- Volunteers are asked to take the apples home, wash them, peel them, core them, and cut them into pie slices. It is important to remove ALL skin, inner tough membranes, and seeds (otherwise the bakers have to do further work and baking is slowed down). Bags will be provided for storage of the cleaned apple slices.
- The Vestry has been reserved from 6 to 9 pm each week for folks who want to peel with other people at church.

- Drop off bags of prepared apple slices in the bins at the church before 9 pm Thursday. (NOTE: If you peel your apples on Wednesday, please refrigerate them until you deliver them on Thursday.)

Friday Morning: Baking (9/22, 9/29, 10/6, and 10/13)

Sign up and come as early as you are able (baking set up starts at 6:30 am and volunteer work continues until the pies are all assembled...usually around 10-11 am). If you can only come for part of the shift, that's ok...every bit helps. All TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED.

Friday Evening: Bagging (9/22, 9/29, 10/6, and 10/13)

Bagging will take place in the Fellowship Hall after 7 pm, when the pies are fully cooled. New folks will be trained and gloves will be provided.

Selling (9/23-24, 9/30-10/1, 10/7-8, and 10/14-15)

- We will sell out of our pie shed again this year. Pies will be \$18.
- The first week of sales will coincide with our Yard Sale on Sat. 9/23/23; the second with a baked goods event on Sat. 9/30/23; and the third with a book sale on Sat. 10/7/23.

Questions/Comments/Concerns

If you have questions, comments, or concerns regarding the plans for the apple pie project this year, please reach out to the Pie Project Coordinator, Rebecca Stadolnik, at applepies@fpc-stow-acton.org.