

First Parish Church of Stow & Acton



SUNDAY DECEMBER 13, 2020 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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10 AM ONLY VIDEO

Sanctuary closed. Virtual Service by video or phone.

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

“Stillness of Winter “

This service will focus on finding beauty and awe in the still, cold, dark of winter.

The Order of Service & the FPC Announcements will be posted on the First Parish Church of Stow & Acton Website under “Services” for download by the Friday evening before the service.

*On Sunday you can go directly to the FPC Website by **CLICKING** the below address for the video link, phone number, Order of Service (OOS) & FPC Announcements:*

<https://fpc-stow-acton.org/services>

FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO CONNECT BY PHONE:

1. **You’ll need three pieces of information: The phone number, the meeting ID and password.**

These change each week, so they can be found in the newsletter under

the Sunday service. Occasionally zoom changes this information at a last minute, but you can always call an FPC member or staff member for them. We post them on the website under the Sunday service information if you have web access, and we update the information there when problems arise.

2. Dial the phone number provided.

It is a long-distance number, so your carrier rates will apply.

3. Enter the meeting ID when prompted, followed by #.

Enter # again if prompted to. If you join too early (before 9:35ish), you'll either be told that it hasn't started and to come back later, or told to press # to wait.

4. Enter the passcode when prompted followed by a #.

You may be in a "waiting room" where you won't hear much until shortly before the service

5. When you hear people introducing themselves, and at joys and sorrows, you can use *6 to unmute yourself and tell people who you are or share your joy or sorrow.

For Sunday December 13 at 10AM

Meeting ID: 912 4075 6812

Passcode: 62117

Join by phone: 1-646-876-9923

DECEMBER PLATE SHARING

CONCORD PRISON OUTREACH

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.

CPO works cooperatively with the [Massachusetts Department of](#)

Correction (DOC), offering educational programs that focus on skill-building and personal growth, essentials to help support people in prison to achieve success while incarcerated or post-incarceration. Hundreds of individuals and nearly forty faith communities join CPO in its mission to offer high-quality, transformative programs that focus on education, personal growth and increased opportunity for incarcerated people and their families.

Although the current pandemic has interrupted volunteer led programs, CPO continues to provide some services, and planning future programs is ongoing.

The Holiday Gift Bag program will continue this year, thanks to many volunteers who met recently, with masks and social distancing, and filled the gift bags to be distributed during the holidays.

Two of our FPC members, Aimee Ledwell and Linda Campo are volunteering in this event.

A new program was implemented called Welcome back packs. The backpacks include items designed to help incarcerated men and women as they return to life outside the prison, and includes a list of resources to help with that transition.

For more information about Concord Prison Outreach, please visit the website concordprisonoutreach.org, or contact June McKnight at junebmcknight@yahoo.com

Spiritual Conversations Through Poetry 11:15 zoom
Virtual Coffee Hour following the Service

This Week in our Religious Education Program

This is the final week of our RE workshops until January
Please see listings below for our current set of workshops.

Holiday Happenings (grades PreK-4) 9:15-9:50
Building on our Beliefs (Grades 2-5) 9:15-9:50
Chillin out Holiday Crafting (Grades 5-8) 11:30-12:30
Videos and Values (Grades 5-8) 11:30-12:30

Please contact Michelle Cote, our Director of Religious Education for more information at dre@fpc-stow-acton.org

THE WEEK AT CHURCH – DECEMBER 14-19

Monday SGM 7:00pm zoom
Changing Nature Discussion 7:30-9:30pm zoom

Tuesday Coffee & Chat at the Gazebo 10am-11am
SGM 7:00pm
Climate Task Force Meeting 8:00-9:00pm

Wednesday SGM 7:00pm zoom
Meditation 7:25pm zoom

Thursday Peace Vigil 5:00PM in front of FPC
Worship Committee 6:00pm zoom
Virtual Choir Rehearsal 7- 8:00PM
SGM 7:17pm zoom



TUESDAYS

COFFEE AND CHAT

bring your coffee

10AM ~ 11AM AT THE GAZEBO

~Ann Sadler

Christmas Eve Gift Bags



Drive up to the atrium doors of First Parish Church on

Saturday December 19th between 10am and 12noon

***to pick up your Christmas Eve gift bag
from the FPC staff!***

In it you will find your Christmas Eve order of service and candle, and a little Christmas treat.

If you cannot be there on Saturday December 19th, please email Joleen Trotta at mdc@fpc-stow-acton.org, and we'll get one delivered to you.

Please stay in your car and wear a mask, and a staff member will come out with your gift bag.





graphic: Rebecca MacNeill

My FPC: On the Side of Love

Support. Love. Caring. Generosity. Community. These are just a few terms FPCers used to describe what stewardship means during the service on generosity Sunday, November 22. These words represent what FPC means to so many of us. To keep our church strong, supporting our community, and nurturing our spirit, we ask you to make a financial commitment to FPC with a Stewardship pledge for fiscal year July 2021-June 2022.

First Parish Church is a self-sustaining congregation that relies on the generosity of us all for about 70% of our budget. We cannot do it without you! We are requesting your Stewardship pledge by December 22. If you are unable to make a financial commitment this year, just let us know.

We are grateful to have already received over 45 responses – Thank You! Watch our progress towards 100% member participation with our Participation Thermometer.

For our next fiscal year which begins in July 2021, our Board of Trustees seeks to present a budget that continues to sustain our ministries and a wide range of exciting programs. In addition, we specifically wish to:

- Provide our staff with a fair and well deserved salary increase
- Increase our support to the UUA closer to our Fair Share level, and
- Increase our Capital Fund to maintain our beautiful building

Pledging on line is easy and secure. Just click this link to our on-line

Pledging page:

<https://fpc-stow-acton.org/pledge>

Giving. Nurturing. Togetherness. Responsibility. This is FPC. Let's keep the spirit alive with a financial pledge for the future. Thank you for your generosity.

*In gratitude, **FPC Stewardship Team:** Rachelle Reisberg and Rick Gentilman, co-chairs, Roy Miller, Steve Evans, Ruth Ann Murray, Kate Imhoff, Sharon Brownfield, Helen Ham, Sue Moses, Mark Koenig.*

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**The Racial Justice Task force is offering a three-part workshop that we are calling
“Dismantling Racism as a Spiritual Practice.”**

Lisa Fagerstrom will be the facilitator, and each workshop will begin at 7 pm and be approximately 90 minutes.

**The dates and topics are as follows
7:00PM ZOOM**

Monday, October 26th - “Journeying Toward Spiritual Wholeness”

Monday, November 23rd- “Dismantling Racism and Other Isms in Ourselves”.

Monday, January 25th - “Dismantling Racism and Other Isms in Our Institutions”

Zoom links and details will be sent closer to each event.
We hope you will mark your calendar and join us on this journey!

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CHANGING NATURE DISCUSSIONS

Our next movie for the Changing Nature discussion is:

The Biggest Little Farm

Watch it over the next few days and
join us for discussion on

Monday

December 14 at 7:30pm zoom

"The Biggest Little Farm" chronicles the eight-year quest of John and Molly Chester as they trade city living for 200 acres of barren farmland and a dream to harvest in harmony with nature."

Here is the official trailer for
the film. You can watch the film on demand from a variety of platforms.
Click on demand to see the platforms.
Also available through Amazon Prime.

This is an uplifting story ...perfect for this season.

the zoom link

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87921323432?pwd=eGpvOE9OMWNnYTZmNERgOXoxZkFKUT09>

Meeting ID: 879 2132 3432 Passcode: 247680
Rick Lent and Sharon Brownfield

Coming Soon - Green Marketplace

A New Fundraising Initiative at FPC

Within the next few weeks, FPC will launch a new, year-round fundraiser that reaches beyond our friends and family. **Green Marketplace** will sell good quality used items on Facebook Marketplace and eBay. These platforms allow us to reach a market that will bring in revenues to FPC from far and wide. This effort is in addition to the current FPC Marketplace, where goods are offered for free or for sale only to the FPC community. **All proceeds** from sales of goods will go directly to FPC to help support our operations and mission.

As we finalize establishing our eBay account and developing a web page for the FPC web site, start putting aside any items that are in new or gently used condition that you would like to donate. We would be happy to take a look at them to see if we feel they will sell. We have already raised \$150 with items such as stools, pottery bowls and vases, and a Brio wooden train set.

Look for further information through FPC Announce. In the meantime, if you would like to volunteer for the committee or if you have items you would like to donate, **please contact**

Sue Moses at susanjmoses@comcast.net.