

First Parish Church of Stow & Acton



SUNDAY DECEMBER 20, 2020 ANNOUNCEMENTS



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020

10AM ONLY VIDEO

Sanctuary closed. Service by Video or Phone.

The Mummer's Play: St. George and the Dragon

Pat Sorn, Director, with the FPC Mummers

That's right! We've reinterpreted our traditional Mummer's Play of St. George and the Dragon for the virtual age! Come hear FPC children recreate the historic play in a new way!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020 7PM VESPERS

Sanctuary closed. Service by Video or Phone.

7 PM Solstice Vespers

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Come for an evening of poetry and song as we celebrate the turning of the wheel and the days beginning to lengthen again.

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 20 at 10AM BY PHONE

Meeting ID: 929 9560 9747

Passcode: 01775

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.

Virtual Coffee Hour following the Service

This Week in our Religious Education Program
THE MUMMERS' PLAY for All To Enjoy

THE WEEK AT CHURCH DECEMBER 21-26

Monday Strategic Planning 7:00pm zoom

Tuesday Coffee & Chat at the Gazebo 10am-11am

Wednesday Meditation 7:25pm zoom

Thursday **DECEMBER 24, 2020**

5:00PM ONLY VIDEO

Sanctuary closed. Service by Video or Phone.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Our zoom room has more space than our sanctuary, so we can all be together for one Christmas Eve service. Where we usually have one pageant service and one service packed full of choir music, this service will feature elements from both -- we'll tell the Christmas story using images and words, and we'll have lots of music to enjoy. The whole service is designed to be intergenerational, but we will feature a point mid-way through where the service will become more solemn and serious, and so young children may choose to engage in other activities at this point, being called back in if they want to experience the candle lighting.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2020

10 AM ONLY. VIDEO

Sanctuary closed. Service by Video or Phone.

Kwanzaa Service at the Unitarian Society of Hartford

Dianne Daniels, USH Intern Minister

Just as other congregations have joined us at FPC for worship in October and November, now it's our time to let another congregation host us! We'll be joining the Unitarian Society of Hartford where we'll join with three additional Connecticut churches in a worship service led by USH's intern minister, Dianne Daniels, who celebrates Kwanzaa.

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For Sunday December 27 at 10AM

Sanctuary closed. Virtual Service by video only this Sunday.

Link to Join by Video: <https://tinyurl.com/ctkwanzaa>

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TUESDAYS

COFFEE AND CHAT

bring your coffee

10AM ~ 11AM AT THE GAZEBO

~Ann Sadler

The Week of December 21 You Will Receive

- **Your January 2021 Chronicle**

DECEMBER 25 ~ JANUARY 4

- **The FPC Staff will be on their Christmas Break**

**WISHING YOU ALL HAPPY HOLIDAYS,
GOOD HEALTH, AND HOPE FOR A
JOYOUS 2021**





My FPC: On the Side of Love

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.*

graphic: Rebecca MacNeill

MASKS ON EVERYONE PLEASE

One important note/update for everyone: If you come into the church buildings, please wear a good fitting mask

(not a loose mask, bandana, gaiter or anything else as a face covering).

Studies have shown that only a good fitting mask effectively reduces transmission of viral aerosols, and since many of our bakers and some of our staff are in the high risk categories, we really need to do our best to protect them. Now that our buildings are busier, folks need to make every effort to be masked AT ALL TIMES they are in the building.

If you do not have a mask...you're in luck! There are a variety of donated masks in bins behind lower Fellowship Hall on the small plastic picnic tables. If you don't find one there in your size...let Rebecca know and she will try to procure one or make one for you.



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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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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.