

First Parish Church of Stow & Acton



SUNDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2021

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021

10 AM ONLY

*Sanctuary closed. Service by **Video or Phone***

"CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY AND TODAY"

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

This year we're taking several looks back into Unitarian Universalist history. This week we'll look at our religious response to the civil rights movement, and what it tells us for today.

Join by Video:

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/99700811564?pwd=VXZZbnBYZzIDUFpwUDFyOESzSE1HUT09>

<https://tinyurl.com/fpcrights>

Meeting ID: 997 0081 1564

Passcode: 11762

Join by phone: (646) 876-9923 US (long distance rates will apply)

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.

FEBRUARY PLATE SHARING

URBAN MINISTRY

Headquartered at the First Church in Roxbury campus, the UU Urban Ministry operates programs that provide education and

enrichment programming for children and youth, emergency shelter for individuals and families fleeing from domestic violence, and job- and education-readiness training for survivors of domestic violence. We make use of an extensive pool of volunteers from Boston-area UU congregations, colleges/universities, and the Roxbury community to offer a greater level of programming than our staff alone could provide. An important part of our mission is bringing together people from different walks of life to work together toward justice and equality.

RYP Afterschool provides a safe, enriching environment for young people during out-of-school hours. Our highest priority is promoting academic success, and we make use of more than 50 dedicated volunteers to provide a wide spectrum of academic support to students.

RYP Summer provides summer camperships for more than 25 elementary-school-age children, and offers an “earn and learn” employment program for up to 15 neighborhood teens.

Virtual Coffee Hour following the Service

This Week in our Religious Education Program

This Sunday-February 21st we will complete our winter RE Workshops.

At 9:15 we will offer Games and Goals for grades PreK-5 where we will play some games that will help us explore the topic of helping others.

At 11:30 we will have our final session of our workshop called Videos and Values-Exploring Racism for grades 5-8

developed by Sharon Webb and Amy Osenar.

Links will be sent out on Friday for these workshops.

PLEASE NOTE: We are so excited to be able to offer two new workshops highlighting the social justice work we do here at FPC!

Beginning next Sunday, February 28th through March 28th children and youth will have opportunities to take part in hands on activities and/or discussions in collaboration with varying social justice groups. Be on the lookout for more info at the beginning of next week.

THE WEEK AT CHURCH FEBRUARY 21-28

Monday Racial Justice Task Force book “Caste” 7-8:30pm
zoom

Tuesday Coffee & Chat at the Gazebo 10-11AM



VESPERS 7:00PM zoom

"Black Lives Matter Banner 5th Anniversary Commitment"

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Join us for a special service honoring the fifth anniversary of our display of our Black Lives Matter banner and our continuing commitment to racial justice.

Join by Video:

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/93367342253?pwd=Q1RZWWo0YjFkWCsrd09XU1hQb2qrZz09>

<https://tinyurl.com/fpcblm>

Meeting ID: 933 6734 2253

Passcode: 11762

Join by phone: (646) 876-9923 US (long distance rates will apply)

Wednesday UU Journey 7:00PM zoom
Meditation 7:25PM zoom

Thursday Peace Vigil 5:00PM in front of FPC
Virtual Choir Rehearsal 7:00-8:00PM

Saturday Grow Victory Gardens 9-10:00AM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2021

10 AM ONLY

Sanctuary closed. Service by Video or Phone

"COVENANT"

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Unitarian Universalists sometimes say when explaining that we're a non-creedal religion, that we are a "covenantal religion." What does it mean to be a religion based in covenant? What is the covenant between us? This service will explore the meaning of covenant in our faith.

Join by Video:

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/94338673454?pwd=U0dLc1VvbG1sQmVWV2pRRDJqcU5BQT09>

<https://tinyurl.com/fpcovenant>

Meeting ID: 943 3867 3454

Passcode: 11762

Join by phone: (646) 876-9923 US (long distance rates will apply)

Virtual Coffee

Religious Education

RE Parent Meeting 12:30 zoom



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.

The UU Journey at FPC (aka New2UU)

*A **Virtual** 4-Session Course on UU History, Spirituality, Mission, and Traditions*

Theology, Worship, & Spiritual Journeys

Wednesday, February 10, 7:00 – 9:00pm

(skipping school vacation week)

Unitarian, Universalist, UU, & FPC History

Wednesday, February 24, 7:00 – 9:00pm

Polity, Governance, & Social Justice

Wednesday, March 3, 7:00 – 9:00pm

FPC Traditions, Involvement, & Membership

Wednesday, March 10, 7:00 – 9:00pm

Our Minister, Rev. Cindy Landrum will lead the virtual classes.

There will be opportunities to share
your own personal spiritual journey,
ask questions, and get to know others in the church.

You do not need to be new to FPC to participate.

All are welcome!

Registration Required (for link access)

Please contact Joleen Trotta if you are interested in participating.

mdc@fpc-stow-acton.org or **call/text** 774-276-0272



Saturday Morning Breakfast

Upcoming talks:

March 20. Jim Edlehauser has worked in the nuclear energy field his entire career. He will speak to us via zoom from his home in Bourne, MA. Jim is an avid proponent of nuclear power and will tell us how he thinks the nuclear industry can be restarted in this country.

April 17. Jan Turnquist is the director of Louisa May Alcott's Orchard House in Concord. She will entertain us by playing Louisa May in full costume LIVE from the Orchard House via zoom. There will be a question and answer period after the performance

Coffee and Chat 10-11AM at the Gazebo TUESDAY MORNINGS

Coffee and chat continues, weather permitting. Dress warmly, ***bring your own coffee and wear a mask***. We gather near the

gazebo in the Town Park, adjacent to FPC,
from 10-11am on Tuesday mornings.

~Ann Sadler

Community Conversations Continue with the Climate Task Force

FPC's Climate Task Force is hosting a series of activities for our community this winter. Please join us for one or more...

Changing Nature: Movies and Conversation

Each month on the **second Monday night we meet on Zoom at 7:30 pm** to share reactions to a selected movie that tells stories around some aspect of nature and climate change. We announce the movie and where to view the film. The following conversation gives us an opportunity for us to share and build our understanding of changing nature...one of the most important and complex subjects confronting us as a community. Here is the schedule.

- **Monday, March 15 "Chasing Ice"**

Watch for more information and a zoom link.

Growing Climate Victory Gardens Saturday Feb 27, 9:00 am:
Planning and preparing a new garden: composting, and seed ordering

In January we started a series of monthly conversations on tips and resources to help us all grow more vegetables *and hopefully*

contribute to area food pantries. Some tips will work for flowers and even be relevant for porch and patio gardens. We have many experienced gardeners at FPC. We are learning from each other and sharing our tips and resources! The session is good for beginners and seasoned gardeners, alike.

Subsequent sessions (on Saturday mornings at 9AM on zoom):

Feb 27: *Seed starting*

March 27: *Growing healthy seedlings and container gardening*

April 24: *Hardening off your plants and garden bed prep*

May 26: *Planting out your beds*

June 24: *Organic growing tips and delivery to Food Pantries*

Racial Justice Task Force

The FPC Racial Justice Task Force invites you to an evening of discussion of the book Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents, by Isabel Wilkerson,

Monday evening, February 22, 2021

7 P.M. via Zoom

In this book Caste, "...Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores, through an immersive and deeply researched narrative and stories about real people, how America today and throughout its history has been

shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings." (book jacket) In late December of 2020, Caste was proclaimed to be "the No. 1 book across all genres...based on a tabulation of all publications, awards, and nominations..." with "Publishers' Marketplace declaring Caste the 'book of the year' from start to finish." (Wilkerson's blog) The Chicago Tribune says "It should be at the top of every American's reading list."

Please plan to join us on a cold wintry evening from the comfort of your own home as we discuss this important book via Zoom.

Thanks to those who already RSVP'd, but we decided that

NO RSVP is needed after all.

Depending on the number of participants, we will have breakout rooms of 10 to 12, with facilitators, in order to ensure that everyone can fully participate. For that reason, please sign into the zoom link *no later*

than 7 P.M. if possible, so that we can divide into smaller groups if needed by 7:05.

If you need to come in later, we will still plug you into a group, however. The Zoom link will be sent out closer to that February 22nd date. We hope you can join us!

--Sharon Webb

On behalf of the FPC Racial Justice Task Force

AUCTION

It's that time again! The FPC Auction Committee is starting work on this year's auction and we would love your help and auction donations! If you are interested in joining the Auction Committee, our *next meeting will be held February 15 at 7 pm via - you*

guessed it! - Zoom.

If you are interested in participating in making this very important event a success, [please contact \(cont'd\)](#)

[Jen Atkins](#) at j_atkins@comcast.net A link for the Zoom meeting will be sent out closer to the date.

The auction will be held virtually again this year. We will **have an on-line auction on Auctria again this year that will run from May 3 - May 15.**

**On May 15,
we will hold a live Zoom auction
for the big ticket items.**

You won't want to miss this event, so mark your calendars.

We are also asking that everyone start thinking about items and events you can offer in the age of COVID. We hope that some live events will be possible as folks get vaccines, but also think outside the box - what might you offer that can be loads of fun while still offered remotely? What kinds of services could you offer that would not require up close and personal contacts?

Keep your eyes peeled for more auction announcements as we get deep into the planning process. ***And please consider joining the auction team - new ideas are always welcome!***

The Auction Committee