

First Parish Church of Stow & Acton



SUNDAY JANUARY 17, 2021 ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2021
10 AM ONLY VIDEO

Sanctuary closed. Service by Video or Phone

'Before the Song at the Sea'
Matt Meyer, Guest Speaker

As people of faith we're called to work together to create the world as it might be, but living the change we wish to see can bring us through discomfort and troubled water. In the midst of a status quo that can push us down, join us this Sunday for a service of rhythm, song, and a challenge to live our values and lift each other up.

Matt Meyer is musician, worship leader, and community organizer, as well as a lifelong Unitarian Universalist. He graduated from Berklee College of Music in 2004, where he studied hand drumming and world music. During that time, he also studied abroad in Cuba, Ghana, and Central America. Since then, Matt has led music and worship for hundreds of services in congregations all over the country, as well as at numerous UU conferences and General Assemblies, and has performed with

Ysaye Barnwell (of Sweet Honey in the Rock), Pete Seeger, Emma's Revolution, Peter Mayer, Jim Scott, Nick Page, The Halalisa Singers, Samba Tremeterra, and Bloco de Afrobrasil.. His website is www.RhythmRevelations.com.

Hosted on the Programs @FPC Account.

Join by

Video: <https://tinyurl.com/fpcshanty> <https://zoom.us/j/97398996837?pwd=MXF1LzNmVJLUkdwYThnTm1TdmdmFXQT09>

Join by phone: 1-929-205-6099 (long distance charges may apply)

Please note that this week has a different phone number

Meeting ID: 973 9899 6837

Passcode: 01775

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.

JANUARY PLATE SHARING ~ RIA HOUSE

Thanks to all for again voting for RIA House to be a part of our Plate Sharing.

Covid 19 has shut down so many things that we've taken for granted. What is not shut down is the continued need for women (and some men) to be trafficked. What is that?? It's our version of Modern Day Slavery where a person can be bought for the satisfaction of another. Yes, that still exists and RIA House is fighting every day to help women find their way out of this horrific web.

11AM *Community ByLaw Discussion zoom*

Virtual Coffee Hour following the Service

This Week in our Religious Education Program

We welcome all Prek-Grade 5 to join in an RE Games and Goals Workshop at 9:15 via zoom. Log in info will be sent out on Friday.

There are no programs for youth in grades 6-12 so that all youth can attend the Sunday service led by musician Matt Meyer.

THE WEEK AT CHURCH JANUARY 18-24

Monday **MLK TRIBUTE zoom** **New evening time: 7:00 – 9:00 PM**
Register to receive Zoom link and order a catered take-out dinner at www.bethelohim.org/event/MLK-2021 *(read full description further down)*

Tuesday **COFFEE & CHAT 10-11AM** Gazebo bring your coffee
SGM 7:00PM zoom

Wednesday **Community Bylaw Discussion zoom 7:00PM**
SGM 7:00PM zoom
Meditation 7:25PM zoom

Thursday **Peace Vigil 5:00PM** in front of FPC
Choir Rehearsal 7:00-8:00PM zoom
SGM 7:15PM zoom

Saturday **Planning & Preparing a Garden 9:00-10:00AM zoom**
(see article further down)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2021

10 AM ONLY VIDEO

Sanctuary closed. Service by Video or Phone

"FREE SPEECH AND CANCEL CULTURE"

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Are there limits to free speech? Is there really a cancel culture?

Rev. Cindy will explore her thoughts.

Special Note: *Our church will be the host for the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Stamford, CT this week.*

Sanctuary closed. Service by Video or Phone

Online Information:

People are encouraged to arrive ten minutes early to facilitate the process of being cleared through our "waiting room." Please note that microphones will be muted, screen sharing will be disabled, and chatting (except to host) will be disabled for this service. *The room will also be locked to new participants about 15 minutes into the service. We apologize for any inconvenience this causes.*

Please note all our links for joining by video/audio are different each week.

Join by video: <https://tinyurl.com/fpcspeech>

Meeting ID: 915 2229 9666

Passcode: 01775

Join by phone: 1-646-876-9923 (long distance charges may apply)

FPC Small Group Ministry 2021 Registration

BY THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 17 online: <http://fpc-stow-acton.org/sgm> or email sgm@fpc-stow-acton.org

Do something for yourself this year. Get to know yourself and a small circle of 8-10 people better through our SGM program. The groups meet two hours monthly for one year, starting in February. Groups have trained facilitators who lead discussion topics designed to strengthen our awareness of ourselves and our connections to each other. No preparation required, just come as you are.

We are forming new groups for the 2021 season. Please register by January 17, 2020, THIS SUNDAY
online: <http://fpc-stow-acton.org/sgm> or email sgm@fpc-stow-acton.org.

To ask questions of SGM facilitators stay in the main room during the post-service breakout room time.



TUESDAYS

COFFEE AND CHAT

bring your coffee

10AM ~ 11AM AT THE GAZEBO

~Ann Sadler

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 has been 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 last topic will be
7:00PM ZOOM**

Sunday, 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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COVID PANDEMIC RESPONSE UPDATE

January 2021 Update

As I noted last month, the COVID Planning Task Force has put our protocols and guidelines up on FPC’s website. Please check them out when you get a chance. And please review them if you would like to consider holding any kind of event on FPC’s grounds in the coming months.

FPC's buildings are essentially closed and we will conduct no in-building worship services through June 30, 2021, except as approved by the task force.

The policies, protocols, and recommendations available through our FPC website are “living” documents, and will be updated depending on the current conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic. They include:

- An introduction to FPC's protocols and guidelines for FPC activities under the pandemic;
- Protocols for gathering in the FPC buildings;
- Protocols for gathering outside the FPC buildings yet still on FPC grounds;
- Recommendations for off-site gatherings of FPC member and friends;
- Videos showing proper masking procedures, hand washing, use of the permitted FPC bathroom, and social distancing; and
- Other resources you may find interesting regarding the COVID pandemic.

The COVID Planning Task Force is taking over the responsibility from Rev. Cindy and me for reviewing and approving any gatherings inside the building and on the FPC campus. I will continue to receive requests and then pass them along to the team.

Please thank the following folks on the COVID team, who are working hard to keep us all safe during the pandemic: Rebecca Stadolnik, Leah Abraham, Bill Froberg, Deb O'Connell Brunelle, and Scott Feldhusen, with continued advice from Rev. Cindy.

~Katy Weeks, for the team and the Board

Revised Bylaws & Community Meetings

In January of 2019 (wow, almost two years ago!), following my term as Board President I began working with Hector Constantzos, Brendon Chetwynd, Kevin O'Brien and Katy Weeks on much needed revisions to the Bylaws. Rev. Cindy Landrum served as an advisor. Our task was to streamline the Bylaws, to make them nimbler to changing structures and volunteerism and to align them with current practices. We started to wordsmith the current bylaws and quickly discovered that too much needed to be brought up to date to simply wordsmith so we went for a rewrite. So, therefore, you will not find a copy of the Bylaws with "track changes" as those familiar with Microsoft Word might expect. Instead, we provide an "Executive Summary" of the changes. The Executive Summary ([Click Here](#)) and Revised Bylaws ([Click Here](#)) have been posted to the website under the Members and Friends section. The current Bylaws can be found there ([Click Here](#)) as well if you choose to do a comparison.

We will be holding three community meetings to discuss, and answer questions related to the revisions we are recommending to the Bylaws.

These community meetings will be held on

THIS Sunday, January 17th at 11:00 am
immediately following the service;
and Wednesday, January 20 at 7:00 pm; and
and Monday, January 25 at 7:00 pm.

There will then be a Special Congregational Meeting called by the Board of Trustees to vote on the revised Bylaws.

Please also note that the Board of Trustees is now working on a Policies and Procedures Compendium to go along with the revised Bylaws and to cover any items that were removed from the Bylaws. Please let me or the other members of the Bylaws Task Force know if you have any questions. We are happy to answer them in advance of the community meetings.

Thank you,

Lynda Layer, Brendon Chetwynd, Hector Constantzos, Kevin O'Brien, Katy Weeks.

19th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute

Monday, January 18, 2021

What Martin Luther King, Jr. Can Teach Us About Race and Equity in the Suburbs

Moderated by AB School Committee member, Evelyn Abayaah-Issah Music by the ABRHS Madrigals

New evening time: 7:00 – 9:00 PM ZOOM see below

Register to receive Zoom link and order a catered take-out dinner at

www.bethelohim.org/event/MLK-2021



A panel discussion featuring representatives of local grassroots organizations working for racial justice

Racial Justice for Black Lives (RJ4BL)

**Acton-Boxborough Students for Equity & Justice (ABSEJ)
Educators Committed to Anti-Racism, Equity and Justice (ECARES)**

Moderated by AB School Committee member, Evelyn Abayaah-Issah Music by the ABRHS Madrigals

New evening time: 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Register to receive Zoom link and order a catered take-out dinner at

www.bethelohim.org/event/MLK-2021

This program is co-hosted by Na'aseh, the social justice committee of Congregation Beth Elohim, RJ4BL and ABSEJ



**Saturday Morning
Breakfast**

Upcoming talks:

February 20. Ingrid Gunther grew up in Acton, went to college to study nursing, and settled in New York City. She works as an acute care nurse practitioner at NYU Langone Hospital and teaches at Pace University and NYU Meyers College of Nursing. When Covid-19 slammed New York City she was on the front

lines. A year later ***we will hear how Ingrid coped with the pandemic and how she and her profession are doing now.***

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

Community Conversations 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, Books and Conversation

On selected Monday nights each month we meet on Zoom to share reactions to a selected movie or book on some aspect of nature and climate change. The conversation will give 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.

January's selection will be announced by early January in time for you to prepare and join us on **Monday January 11** to share your reactions and questions. **We will meet at 7:30PM on zoom.** Watch for more information and a zoom link.

Saturday Morning Breakfast on Jan 16 with: “**Our Journey: Learning to Work with Nature.** Seventeen years ago, Rick Lent & Sharon Brownfield moved to Stow and started gardening. There have been a lot of challenges and good lessons over the years. In this session, they share their journey and what they learned as they worked to change their yard to be more productive and attuned to the environment.

Growing Climate Victory Gardens Saturday Jan 23, 9:00 am:
Planning and preparing a new garden: composting, and seed ordering

This begins a series of monthly conversations on tips and resources to help us all grow more vegetables garden *and 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. Let's learn from each other and share our tips and resources! The session will be good for beginners and seasoned gardeners, alike.

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

Feb 27: *Bed preparation and 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*

MUSICAL PRESENTATION



“DEEPER THAN THE SKIN”

SATURDAY JANUARY 30, 2021

7:00 PM streaming concert

Coming Jan. 30, 2021, a musical presentation on Race in America titled *Deeper Than The Skin*, by Reggie Harris and Greg Greenway.

Two friends, one Black, one White, born three days apart. The racial divisions that are the reality of America started them in two different worlds, but the amazing bonds of music, respect, admiration and shared vision have brought them together as

friends and colleagues.

“Deeper Than The Skin” is an experience of singing and listening, It is an invitation to open your heart and mind to a story of shared humanity that resonates with your own.

As Reggie and Greg reach across the racial divide, they encourage others to foster the relationships that are, in the end, a path to healing.

“Deeper Than The Skin is an absolutely amazing experience. Not a performance (although these are two fine performers) but an experience. If you are anywhere within reach of this, don’t miss it.” **Selma Civil Rights activist Rev. Gordon Gibson, author of *Southern Witness*, Knoxville TN.**

This will be a streaming concert, presented free of charge on Saturday, Jan. 30, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Information on how to watch the concert will be publicized closer to the event.

The concert is sponsored by First Church Unitarian in Littleton, First Parish Church of Stow & Acton, First Parish in Concord, Greater Littleton Interfaith Council (GLIC), Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church, and Maynard Anti-Racism Alliance (MARA).

See DeeperThanTheSkin.com for more information.