



Sunday, April 26, 2020
First Parish Church of Stow & Acton

INSERT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

10 AM ONLY

"PREEMPTIVE RADICAL INCLUSION"

Sanctuary closed. Virtual Service by video or phone or at 107.7 FM in the FPC parking lot.

Guest Speaker: CB Beal

CB will share reflections on the idea of Preemptive Radical Inclusion as an entryway to increase justice and equity among ourselves and in the world, a way to embody beloved community in a time of physical isolation and social connection.

CB Beal, M.Div. (they, them, theirs) specializes in the facilitation of learning experiences that involve issues of marginalization, oppression, and privilege. Their focus is in the intersections of Preemptive Radical Inclusion, safer communities/congregations, supporting gender creative and trans/non-binary children and youth in youth-serving organizations, and sexuality/consent education. CB is the Unitarian Universalist Association's 2019 Angus H. MacLean Award for Excellence in Religious Education.

CB is a white, non-binary/genderqueer, mostly able-bodied fat person of sturdy farmer stock.

Dear Friends,

Zoom has been changing security parameters and other settings, frequently on weekends when they have lower traffic, and this has sometimes affected our links we have distributed, as it did last weekend. Because of this, we're only posting the link to our website, where we can make sure it is correct and change it if needed. This will avoid scenarios where you have an outdated link.

Thanks, Cindy

The Order of Service & the Announcements will be posted on the website under "Services" for download by the Friday evening before the service. GO TO:

CLICK <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/services/service/preemptive-radical-inclusion>

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 have changed. Information will be posted by 24 hours before the service:

CLICK <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/services/service/preemptive-radical-inclusion>

APRIL PLATE SHARING

RIA House

So what and who is RIA House? We started in 2013 as a group of women wanting to support other women who have been trafficked, victimized, bought and SOLD for the gratification of another - mostly men. The key word here is "SOLD." Yes, "SOLD." Here we are in 2020 and still need to admit that a woman can be "SOLD." I believe this may be called Modern Day Slavery.

In the year 2019, RIA House has supported over 200 women by offering them clinical care, peer mentor ship as well as support groups in the MetroWest Prison for Women.

ALL these women have been traumatized and most suffer PTSD as well as drug and alcohol addiction. Some have had their identity stolen along with their cell phone, license and credit cards.

RIA House walks and stands with women who are trying to be a better citizen and give back. We ask that you stand with us as we continue to support these women.

NO Adult Choir Rehearsal

VIRTUAL Coffee Hour

News from Our Religious Education Program

There is a family worship packet being sent out to all families on Friday, April 24th. This week the packet focuses on hope.

FPC Kids Gathering is *zoom meeting offered each Monday at 1pm.*

This session will be geared for children in grades K-6. The zoom link will be sent out each week.

Junior Youth Group meets each Sunday for a zoom gathering from 6:30-7. The link will be sent out each week.

Our COA group will meet this Sunday from 11:15-12:30

Parent Discussion Group this Sunday: In the age of Covid 19 all caregivers are being heavily impacted and this is no less so for parents of children of all ages. This Sunday the 26th via zoom from 11:15 to noon the Religious Education Committee will again host a parent's group conversation around the topic of coping with covid or any other topic of interest to the group. Look for further instructions regarding the Zoom link. Hope to see many of you there!

If you need to connect with Michelle Cote, our Director of Religious Education, her email is dre@fpc-stow-acton.org.

Paul Spanagel, our youth coordinator can be reached at youth@fpc-stow-acton.org

THE WEEK at Church APRIL 27- MAY 2, 2020

Tuesday Communications 7:30-9:30pm

Tuesday Climate Discussion Group with the Congregation 7:00-8:00pm ZOOM

Wednesday Stress Management with Ilene Rudman 12pm-12:45pm ZOOM

Wednesday Meditation 7:25pm ZOOM

Thursday Staff Meeting 9:30am ZOOM

Thursday Climate Congregation Discussion 10:00am ZOOM

Thursday Peace Vigil 5-6pm outside in front of church

Thursday TRUSTEE MEETING 7:00pm Zoom

Saturday Climate Congregation Discussion 10:00am ZOOM

Sunday, MAY 3, 2020

10 AM ONLY

"WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR?"

Sanctuary closed. Virtual Service by video or phone or at 107.7 FM in the FPC parking lot.

The Rev. Mary Margaret Earl, Guest Minister

Who is Our Neighbor? A reflection on how we connect across racial and economic divides, especially in times of crisis.

The Rev. Mary Margaret Earl is Executive Director and Senior Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry. In this ministry, she has worked to strengthen bonds between UUs and the Roxbury neighborhood where the UUUM operates. She is on the Faith in Solidarity leadership team, which works to connect faith leaders with those impacted by poverty. Prior to her arrival at the UU Urban Ministry, she spent 10 years at a faith-based nonprofit in RI serving the homeless community. She is past president of the Board of the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless, recipient of the Heroes of Faith Award from the Rhode Island State Council of Churches for her interfaith work, and is a longtime vegan committed to standing up for nonhuman animals.

Online Information: Please note all our links for joining by video/audio are different each week. Information will be posted by 24 hours before the service.



FPC ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Well, we're not sure exactly when at the moment, but we are hopeful for some date in mid-May.

We also hope that while you're social distancing, you're also still gardening.

As we do every year around this time, we ask First Parish earth lovers for plants – lots of plants – from your yards and gardens! Please take a moment to consider plants you'd like to donate to the Sale, which is an important fundraiser for the Church. Please note that plants that are different or unusual in some way are especially desirable, the kinds of plants that if they weren't already in your yard or garden, you yourself would like to buy.

We seek shrubs, small trees, ground cover, herbs, perennials, and vegetables or flowering plants you may have started. Please dig up and pot the plants you'd like to donate as soon as possible. Right now is the best time of year to do this! Early-season transplanting is less stressful on plants. Please put them in a good spot where they can grow strong until it's time for delivery. That way, the plants will be well-established and looking their very best on Plant Sale day!

We're also looking for help with gathering, organizing, and labeling plants, and setting up and running the Sale. Please email peggypaladini@gmail.com with questions, or if you'd like to help.

As in past years, we will hold the Plant Sale in front of the Carriage Shed. Final date, TBD!

We Need Your Help with FPC's Summer Services



Is there something that you're particularly passionate about? Something that you think your fellow FPC members and friends would really like to learn more about at one of our summer services? Would you be interested in leading such a service? If so, the Worship Committee wants to hear from you. We have just started planning our services this summer and have settled upon the theme of Passion. If you have an idea for a summer service that focuses on something you feel strongly about and you think deserves a wider audience, please let us know. Also, is there is someone in our congregation who you think has just such an idea that you believe we would all benefit from hearing? If so, we are inviting you to nominate that person, especially if you think they may be hesitant to come forward themselves.

The Worship Committee is available to help shape any of these services, so please contact one of us if you have an idea, you would like to suggest someone, or you would just like more information:

Neil Saunders, Chair (neilsaund@verizon.net)

Lisa Martino (griffmomma@gmail.com)

Kevin O'Brien (kjobrien2@verizon.net)

Rick Gentilman (rgentilman1@aol.com)

Aimee Ledwell (redshoegirl@gmail.com)

Meg Costello (margaretmcostello@gmail.com)

Trish Guditz (guditz@verizon.net)

Rev. Cindy Landrum (minister@fpc-stow-acton.org)

The Worship Committee needs your help to provide a meaningful program for this year's summer services, and we thank you, in advance, for your consideration and support. We can't do it without you!

Coming May 30-June 13

FPC's on-line spring auction! Strange times call for new ways of supporting our beloved community. The Auction Committee is hard at work preparing a roaring good time via an on-line auction of many favorite auction items and some new and exciting choices. We have a Moroccan Dinner for ten, an escape room adventure for four, and a salt room treatment for two. We have several gift cards for restaurants and massages. We have a St. Patrick's Day corned beef dinner. Lighting of the Lake; Books, Brunch and Booze; and Kevin O'Brien's handyman services are all returning. And we will have over sixty jewelry items.

We understand that some of our members may be suffering economically in these uncertain times, and that not everyone will be able to participate in the auction. However, for those who are able, we hope you will bid often and generously, as we try to support the operation of the church and our wonderful staff. We also hope that this on-line format, spread over two weeks, will allow more participation by those who might be shy about attending an in-person gala. Let's strive to make this year's auction a big success!