

September 17, 2023: 10:00 am

Gathering

Prelude *Intermezzo in A, op. 118, no. 2* Chris Hossfeld, piano
Johannes Brahms

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Brendon Chetwynd, Board VP

Opening Words by Gordon B. McKeeman Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Chalice Lighting

* **Hymn #1003** *Where Do We Come From?*

Centering

* **Covenant and Affirmation**

Love is the spirit of this church, and service its law. This is our great covenant: To dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.	From all that dwell below the skies let words of love and peace arise. Let joyful songs of praise be sung. through every land, by every tongue.
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Teacher Commissioning *See insert*

Time for All Ages Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
Director of Religious Education

Going Forth With the Light

Joys and Sorrows Kate Hart, Lay Minister

Prayer or Meditation “If We Do Not Venture Out”
from *Exaltation* by Marni Harmony

* **Hymn #1068** *Rising Green*

Exploring

Reading Excerpt from “General Prologue”
from the *Canterbury Tales*
by Geoffrey Chaucer

Plate Sharing Introduction June McKnight

Sharing Our Gifts
This month we share our weekly offering with **Concord Prison Outreach**.
Checks may be made to “First Parish Church” or donate online at
<https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate> or by text to (978) 310-3309.

Anthem *The Call* FPC Adult Choir
Music by Ralph Vaughan Williams Chris Hossfeld, piano
Words by George Herbert

Sermon “Spiritual Types Part I: Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
The Journey of Devotion”

Returning

* **Hymn #295** *Sing Out Praises for the Journey*

* **Benediction** by Mark Mosher DeWolfe

* **Closing Song**
Peace be with you ‘til we meet again!
As life lays its task before you,
keep love’s banner floating o’er you.
Peace be with you ‘till we meet again.

Postlude *Fugue in E Major, BWV 878* Chris Hossfeld, organ
JS Bach

Thank you to:
Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host
Tech Helper
Lisa Rydin, Marcia Allison, Ushers
Coffee Hour Hosts
and our staff and leadership




Land Acknowledgement

- ‡ We would like to acknowledge that this service is being held by a community that gathers on the stolen traditional lands of the Massachusetts, Nipmuc, Pawtucket, and Wampanoag People.
- ‡ We pay respect to those Indigenous Peoples who lost their lives in the colonization of this land and recognize that these Indigenous tribes are still today facing violations of sovereignty, territory, and water.
- ‡ We also give thanks for the Earth we walk upon, the waters, the lifegiving plants, and all the Earth's creatures, as well as the winds, sun, moon, and stars.
- ‡ We recognize that this is just a first step in moving toward right relationship with Native peoples and healing of the Earth.



How to Connect with First Parish Church:

- Sign our visitor log at tinyurl.com/visitfpc:  We'll send you information on request.
- Come to Sunday's 10 am service and 11 am social hour, in person or online.
- Subscribe to our publications...
The Chronicle - monthly e-newsletter
This Week at FPC - weekly e-newsletter
FPCAnnounce & FPCForum - e-mail groups
...all at <https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org/subscribe-newsletters>.

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



Sunday, September 17, 2023

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
Minister
Meg Rivers-Wright
Administration and Membership
Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
Director of Religious Education
Chris Hossfeld
Music Director
Trevor Berens
Accompanist

Cindy Koegler.....Youth Coordinator
Mike Silkonis.....Sexton
Janet Beatrice.....External Publicity
Jenni EdgertonPresident
Brendon Chetwynd....Vice President
Bill Froberg.....Treasurer
Johanna Pyle.....Clerk

*First Parish is a Unitarian Universalist Association Welcoming Congregation.
We warmly welcome gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender
people into our community.*

Large print orders of service and hymnals are available from an usher to help everyone be a part of worship in the fullest way possible. Assisted Listening Devices are available when worship is in the Sanctuary.

FPC currently has a masks-optional policy throughout the church. We have designated several rows in the back of the Sanctuary as "mask-required". They are a greater distance from unmasked speakers and the choir and include accessible seating.

On the web at [fpc-stow-acton.org](https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org) and on Facebook.

ONLINE SUPPLEMENT PAGE: Information for folks joining us online

1. Closed captioning is available for FPC's online services. If you don't see captions on your screen, you can use the button at the bottom of your screen to request that the host turn them on.
2. Today's Zoom Host is **Kim Kinnear**.
3. Hymn lyrics will be in a slide presentation today.



Sharing Our Gifts

If you are mailing a pledge or a donation, here is the information:

Pledges:

Attn: Pledge Secretary
PO Box 215
Stow, MA 01775

Donations:

Attn: Treasurer
353 Great Rd
Stow, MA 01775

RE Volunteer Commissioning

Minister: We come together here today to install our Religious Education volunteers for this year and to celebrate the beginning of another year of being a learning community in our living tradition, where we learn about and celebrate our Unitarian Universalist faith, our Jewish and Christian heritage, world religions, and the work of social justice.

Director of Religious Education: We recognize the importance of each of you who volunteer in our program and honor you for sharing your time and talents with our children and youth knowing that their lives will be enriched by the time you spend with them. Here our children and youth will learn about our liberal religious heritage and about the ways we interact with the world with love and justice and compassion.

Parents, Children and Youth: We come today with trust and joy as our children and youth take their next steps on their religious education road map with you. We pledge to respect you, learn from you, and have fun with you.

Religious Education Volunteers: We are grateful for the trust placed in us, and for the opportunity to share our passions, our faith, our heritage, and our living tradition with the next generation, encouraging wonder and bending the arc of the universe towards love and justice.

Minister: Will the congregation please rise, and respond with the words printed in your order of service?

Congregation: We pledge to be teachers and learners along with you as we create this beloved community. In gratitude, trust, respect, and support, we commission you as our religious education teachers for this year – *with great rejoicing!*

Yard Sale!

Get ready for the fabulous annual FPC Yard Sale on **September 23, 8:30 am-1:00 pm in the FPC parking lot.**

It's a fun morning to connect with others while sending some of your unwanted "treasures" out into the community to be used and enjoyed again!



Two Ways to Participate

Have several boxes of great stuff?

Rent a table!

- Contact Sharon Brownfield to reserve a table and send a check for \$25, payable to FPC with "yard sale" in the memo line, to Sharon Brownfield at 154 Taylor Rd. Stow, MA 01775
- Pack in/carry out arrangement: Each person or group manages their own table, makes their own change, and takes any unsold items away at the end of the sale.
- Set-up begins at 7:30 am.
- We handle publicity and provide a table
- Questions? Contact Sharon Brownfield (sharonbrownfield@gmail.com) or Ellen Kisslinger (e.kisslinger@gmail.com)

Have just one or two boxes?

Contribute to FPC's Table!

- All proceeds benefit FPC
- Only donate items in good condition
- Price your items before donating (Dollar Store in Hudson has stickers).
- Items should be priced at \$2 or more; bundle small, like items to reach \$2 minimum as needed
- No books (save for fpc book sale in Oct.)
- No clothing except for Halloween costumes
- Drop-off times are Thu: 2-4pm, Fri: 4-7pm, Sat: before 8am
- If you have more than 1-2 boxes, please plan to volunteer to help at the FPC table
- Set-up begins at 7:00 am.
- All unsold items will be taken to Savers at the end of the day, so please check their website for acceptable items *
- Volunteer sign-ups will be on Sign-Up Genius
- FPC Q's: Contact organizers: Susan Avery (susan.avery@verizon.net) or Pat Sorn (psorn@mailstarusa.com)

September Plate Sharing:

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. Concord Prison Outreach partners with the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) to provide programming across eight sites.



CPO currently has twenty active programs in eight prisons and one jail. These programs cover a wide range of subjects that fall into five categories: Vocational Skills • Socio-Emotional • Families and Children • Arts and Humanities • Education

In addition to these programs taking place inside their facilities, CPO runs outside projects, including the Holiday Gift Bag program and Caroling at Northeastern Correctional Center. This year, in partnership with the Middlesex Jail & House of Correction, Concord Prison Outreach will be providing over 100 back-to-school backpacks for the children of incarcerated parents.

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Attn: Pledge Secretary
PO Box 215
Stow, MA 01775

Donations:

Attn: Treasurer
353 Great Rd
Stow, MA 01775

Today at FPC

10:00 am Service

11:00 am Social Hour in Fellowship Hall

11:15 am **Community Event in the Memorial Garden** (please see inside this insert for details)

This Week in Religious Education

RE classes begin today *Please note that masks are optional in some Religious Education classes, but required in others, based on family needs. Nursery care is available for all services, provided by a trained nursery care staff member and a volunteer.*

Children (PreK-1st & 2nd-5th Graders) will share in a lesson about our weekly opening words which help teach that we are “The church of the Open Mind, The Helping Hand, and the Open Heart.” We will hear the story of the blindfolded men and the elephant and reflect on what it means to have an open and thinking mind. We will also create “Who Am I” posters to display at the RE Table during Coffee Hour.

Junior Youth (6th-8th graders) will be learning about our Memorial Garden and how they might help out.

High School Youth Group will meet to reconnect and brainstorm ideas for the coming year. We’ll create programs and discussions based on those interests throughout the year.

Youth Group at Davis Farm Corn Maze

Saturday, September 23, 10am-1pm

All Middle- and High-school youth are invited to join in this time of fun and adventure. We will explore the maze and have some lunch.

Contact our Youth Director, Cindy Koegler for more youth events and details:
youth@fpc-stow-acton.org.

This Week at FPC: September 18–23

Tue 9/19	10-11 am	Coffee and Chat* , Town Gazebo at Town Park, adjacent to FPC. Bring your own coffee!
	11:30am-1 pm	Membership Committee Meeting , online via Zoom
	7-9 pm	3rd Tuesday Group , SGM, Community Room
	7:30-9:30 pm	Climate Task Force , online via Zoom Contact: Rick Lent rickmlent@gmail.com
Wed 9/20	12-1 pm	Worship Committee , online via Zoom
	7:30-8:30 pm	Meditation* , Fellowship Hall/Online Contact: meditation@fpc-stow-acton.org
Thu 9/21	1:30-2:30pm	Arts Committee Meeting , online via Zoom
	5-6 pm	Peace Vigil* , in front of FPC, btwn Common & Great Rds, Contact: Neil Saunders neilsaund@verizon.net
	6-9 pm	Apple Pie Project: Peeling , Vestry
	7:15-9 pm	Choir Rehearsal , Fellowship Hall
	7:30-9:30 pm	3rd Thursday Group , SGM, Community Room
Fri 9/22	all day	Apple Pie Project , Fellowship Hall and Kitchen
	1-3:30 pm	Bridge Group* , Community Room Contact: Hector Hconstantzos@gmail.com
	6-8 pm	Dessert, Snacks, and Games Night , Community Room
Sat 9/23	8:30 am-1 pm	Annual FPC Yard Sale , FPC parking lot
	10 am-1 pm	Apple Pie Sales , Pie Shed
	10 am-1 pm	Youth Group at Davis Farm Corn Maze , Sterling

Sun 9/24 Next Sunday's Service: 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone

“Radical Welcome!” Bring-a-Friend Sunday followed by an Open House

Rev. Cindy asks, *How do we create a community of radical welcome?* Members of our congregation - including young ones - are invited to bring a friend to the service and/or Open House that follows!

Join Worship by Video: <https://tinyurl.com/2223fpc>

Meeting ID: 999 7077 0266; Passcode: 01775

Join Worship by Phone: (929) 205-6099 (toll call)



*All are welcome to these weekly FPC events

FPC Events

Come one, come all! After church today, the Memorial Garden Committee will be hosting an event in the Memorial Garden.

Available activities:

Bring some Pachysandra from your garden and plant it in our sacred bed - Some of you expressed sorrow in missing our Memorial Weekend planting event. Even if you attended, please bring more pachysandra and plant more. We already have people signing up for our services, so we need our sacred bed well planted.



Weeding Fun - Yes, fun! We will have some non-latex gloves and weed bins, but please bring your own as well. We have a large area to weed so the more hands the better. Dress accordingly+ to really pitch in or just come and pick a handful. All are welcome. The more hands, the more we can accomplish.

Washing - The granite walls and benches are up! One might think that all the rain we've had washed them, but they still need a good scrub. Scrubber and cloth will be provided, but if it's your bench feel free to bring additional supplies.

Spectators - All welcome to come chat with those working and stroll the garden. There are places to sit and your conversation with those weeding would be appreciated.

The Memorial Garden is going live on November 3rd and our planned dedication is Sunday, November 5th! We welcome any and all to help us make this sacred space a reflection of our community. 🙏

~ The Memorial Garden Committee

Please contact Sonja Furneaux with any questions at sonja.furneaux@gmail.com.

The Apple Pie Project Begins the Week of 9/17/23! Please sign up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044AA9AC2DA5F49-apple6>

We need your help to make the 300+ pies for this fall's Apple Pie Fundraiser! No experience necessary...training and camaraderie will be provided! FPC's apple pies are a long-standing tradition as a fundraiser, fun group project, and culinary delight and require lots of volunteers to make it successful.



Volunteering opportunities:

Wednesday: Dough making (9/20, 9/27, 10/4, and 10/11)

Contact June Mallon - june.pies@fpc-stow-acton.org – if you are interested. We prefer 2-3 members of a single family unit sign up together. Volunteers will be asked to wear masks while in the building.

Tuesday or Wednesday: Apple collecting (9/19-20, 9/26-27, 10/3-4, and 10/10-11)

Contact Steve Evans (steve.pies@fpc-stow-acton.org) for information and to get official bags and directions. Please deposit your bags of apples into the bins located IN FRONT OF THE CARRIAGE SHED.

Wednesday/Thursday: Apple peeling/prep (9/20-21, 9/27-28, 10/4-5, and 10/11-12)

- Please sign up online and indicate how many bags of apples you intend to peel.
- Apples can be picked up on Wednesday afternoons after 4 pm or Thursdays. PLEASE ONLY TAKE AS MANY BAGS AS YOU SIGNED UP TO TAKE.
- The apples will be located in bins located IN FRONT OF THE CARRIAGE SHED.
- Volunteers are asked to take the apples home, wash them, peel them, core them, and cut them into pie slices. It is important to remove ALL skin, inner tough membranes, and seeds (otherwise the bakers have to do further work and baking is slowed down). Bags will be provided for storage of the cleaned apple slices.
- The Vestry has been reserved from 6 to 9 pm each week for folks who want to peel with other people at church.
- Drop off bags of prepared apple slices in the bins at the church before 9 pm Thursday. (NOTE: If you peel your apples on Wednesday, please refrigerate them until you deliver them on Thursday.)

Friday Morning: Baking (9/22, 9/29, 10/6, and 10/13)

Sign up and come as early as you are able (baking set up starts at 6:30 am and volunteer work continues until the pies are all assembled...usually around 10-11 am). If you can only come for part of the shift, that's ok...every bit helps. All TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED.

Friday Evening: Bagging (9/22, 9/29, 10/6, and 10/13)

Bagging will take place in the Fellowship Hall after 7 pm, when the pies are fully cooled. New folks will be trained and gloves will be provided.

Selling (9/23-24, 9/30-10/1, 10/7-8, and 10/14-15)

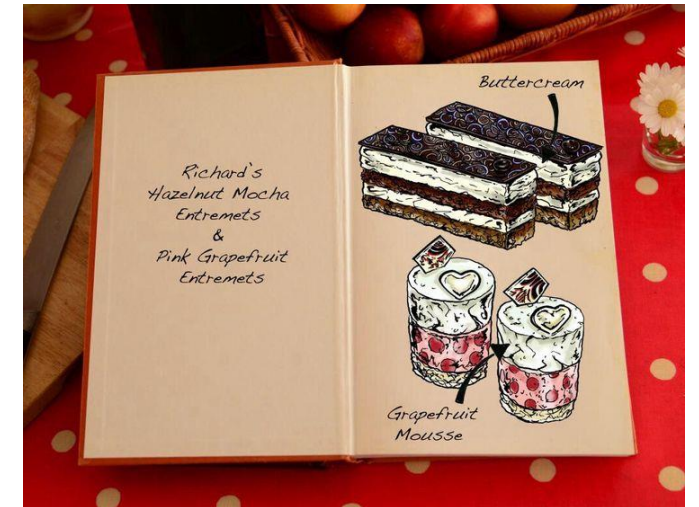
- We will sell out of our pie shed again this year. Pies will be \$18.
- The first week of sales will coincide with our Yard Sale on Sat. 9/23/23; the second with a baked goods event on Sat. 9/30/23; and the third with a book sale on Sat. 10/7/23.

Questions/Comments/Concerns

If you have questions, comments, or concerns regarding the plans for the apple pie project this year, please reach out to the Pie Project Coordinator, Rebecca Stadlnik, at applepies@fpc-stow-acton.org.

NB: On Saturday, September 30, in addition to Apple Pies, we will move the world-renowned Bake Table outside by the pies and sell our "made from scratch" muffins, cookies, cakes, jams and jellies, and pickles and relish.

The selling of the pies and baked goods starts at 10:00 am and ends whenever we sell out or by 1:00 pm.



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