

September 24, 2023: 10:00 am

**Gathering**

**Prelude** *With a Little Help from My Friends* Trevor Berens, piano  
by John Lennon and Paul McCartney

**Land Acknowledgement & Welcome** Johanna Pyle,  
Clerk, Board of Trustees

**Greet Your Neighbor**

**Introit** *Oh, Be Swift to Love* FPC Adult Choir  
Words by Henri-Frédéric Amiel Trevor Berens, piano  
Music by Nancy Grundahl

**Opening Words** “Welcome and Listen” Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum  
by Natalie Maxwell Fenimore  
from *To Wake, to Rise:*  
*Meditations on Justice and Resilience*

**Chalice Lighting**

\* **Hymn #38** *Morning Has Broken*  
(With Cat Stevens piano)

**Centering**

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

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

**Going Forth With the Light**

**Joys and Sorrows** Hector Constantzos, Lay Minister

**Prayer or Meditation** “The Longing for Home”  
from *Dreaming the Dark: Magic, Sex, and Politics*  
by Starhawk

\* **Hymn #346** *Come, Sing a Song with Me* v.1,2,4

**Exploring**

**Video** “Tony Award Acceptance Speech” (2015)  
Lisa Kron

**Sharing Our Gifts**  
This month we share our weekly offering with \_\_\_\_\_.  
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** *I thank You God* FPC Adult Choir  
Music by Chris Hossfeld Lisa Fagerstrom, soloist  
Lyrics by e.e. cummings Trevor Berens, piano

**Sermon** “Radical Welcome” Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

**Returning**

\* **Hymn #1028** *The Fire of Commitment*

\* **Benediction** “Fitted for This Day”  
by Kimberley Quinn Johnson

\* **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** *Takk (Gratitude)* Trevor Berens, piano  
Edvard Grieg

**Thank you to:**  
Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host  
Hector Constantzos, Tech Helper  
Rebecca and John MacNeill, Ushers  
Jeff Brown, Coffee Hour Host  
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 Massachusett, 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](https://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 24, 2023**  
**Bring-a-Friend Sunday and Open House**

**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 Edgerton .....President  
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. Several rows in the back of the Sanctuary are designated "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

**Announcements begin on next page**

## September Plate Sharing:

A special note of appreciation from  
Concord Prison Outreach's  
Sam Williams, Executive Director



Dear Friends,

I hope this message finds you well. As we reflect on the past year, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for your unwavering support of Concord Prison Outreach (CPO) and our mission to provide educational programming and opportunities to incarcerated individuals and their families.

One of our proudest achievements has been the expansion of our families and children programming. This year, we were able to provide 120 back-to-school backpacks to the families of incarcerated individuals at the Middlesex House of Corrections and the young father's unit at MCI-Concord. Included in these backpacks were museum passes donated by the Discovery Museum in Acton, enabling families to have access to educational resources on the outside as well. Your contributions had a direct impact on these families, offering hope and support during challenging times.

As we approach the holiday season, we are gearing up for our annual holiday gift bag project. These thoughtful gift bags filled with hygiene and sanitary products provide comfort and a reminder to those on the inside that their neighbors on the outside are thinking of them. Your continued support will help us bring warmth and care to those who need it most during this special time of year.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the generosity and commitment of groups like yours. We want to express our deepest gratitude to the members of First Parish Church of Stow & Acton for standing with us in our mission. Your dedication to our cause fuels our determination to make a difference in the lives of those impacted by incarceration. Your support is a testament to the power of community and compassion. Please know that it has a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve.

We are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead and look forward to continuing this journey together. Thank you for being an essential part of Concord Prison Outreach's success.

With heartfelt appreciation and warm regards,  
The staff of Concord Prison Outreach

## Today at FPC

10:00 am Service, Sanctuary and online  
11:00 am Coffee Hour, Refreshments, and **Open House**, Fellowship Hall  
1:00 pm **Free seminar**, "Estate Planning for Massachusetts Residents."

Please join us today at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for a free seminar, "Estate Planning for Massachusetts Residents."

- Was your will made before 2018 when major tax legislation was enacted that made many estate plans become out-of-date, or do you not *yet* have a will?
- Do you want to provide support for one or more non-profit organizations after your lifetime and want to know the best ways for doing this quickly without having to pay a lawyer?
- Do you have questions about whether to set up a trust, how to ensure your wishes for care will be followed, how to protect your loved ones, or how to minimize the steep Massachusetts state estate tax? Then this seminar can be helpful for you!

Our presenter, Barbara Epstein, is an attorney with Scheier, Katin & Epstein. She will provide an overview of the key elements of creating and updating an estate plan, including a will, trust (if needed), durable power of attorney, and health care directives. Her remarks will also address the implications of the Massachusetts Estate Tax and the benefits and techniques of effective charitable giving.

Upcoming:

**October 1, 1-3 p.m. Medicare and Social Security Programs**

**October 8, 1-3 p.m. Senior Living Options in the MetroWest Area**

**October 15, 1-3 p.m. Local Services Available to Seniors**

This seminar series is sponsored by the FPC Endowment Committee. Please direct questions to John Kendrick: 202-368-6790 or [johnburkskendrick@gmail.com](mailto:johnburkskendrick@gmail.com).

## This Week at FPC: September 25-30

25	SEP, MON	● 7 – 9pm	Jazz Band Rhrl(Sanctuary)
26	SEP, TUE	● 10 – 11am	COFFEE & CHAT GAZEBO
		● 7 – 9pm	TRUSTEE MTG(Hall)
27	SEP, WED	● 5 – 7pm	Apple Pie Project: Dough Making (Hall Kitchen)
		● 7:30 – 8:30pm	Meditation (Fellowship Hall & online)
28	SEP, THU	● 5 – 6pm	Peace Vigil-outside
		● 6 – 9pm	Apple Pie Project: Peeling (Vestry)
		● 6 – 6:45pm	Equinox Vespers (Community Room)
		● 7:15 – 9pm	Choir Practice (Hall)
29	SEP, FRI	● 6am – 1pm	Apple Pie Project: Baking (Hall AND Hall Kitchen)
		● 1 – 3:30pm	Bridge group (Comm Rm/Vestry)
		● 6 – 8pm	Apple Pie Project: Bagging (Hall)
30	SEP, SAT	● 10am – 1pm	Apple Pie Project: Pie & Bake Table Sales (Pie Shed)
2	SEP, SUN	10 - 11am	Next Sunday's Service, (Sanctuary)

**“Partnership on the Journey”** Guest Rev. Alice Anacheka-Nasemann, our own Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum, and Musical Guest Joe Jencks

Two neighboring churches come together with folk musician Joe Jencks for this special service on how we as UUs support each other on our journeys.

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

Meeting ID: 999 7077 0266; Passcode: 01775

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



## FPC Events

**Parish Jazz Band** performances:

Saturday, September 30 Hudson Town Hall, 78 Main St. in Hudson, 3-6 p.m.

Saturday, November 11 New Horizons, 400 Hemenway in Marlborough, 2-4 p.m.

The band includes Sara Beauvais, vocals; Nick Bundy, tenor sax; Paul Chastell, trombone; Peter Fiske, drums; Peggy Langley, flute; Lindsay Lozeau, trumpet; Dave Mercure on bass September 30; Michael Paladini, guitar; Quinci Sprague on bass November 11 and Steve Warnick, piano.

**Spiritual Conversations Through Poetry** Sunday, Oct. 8

Our first SCTP of the 23-24 service year! Come and engage with others through the sharing of a poem – read it, listen to it, let it take you to possible new insights, and respond to it. We’ll continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, thru June. Please let Elizabeth, Ilene, or Hector know if you have any questions or poems to suggest.

## This Week in Religious Education

*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 hear the story “Stone Soup” and reflect on what it means to have helping hands and a loving heart. We will also make friendship rocks to give out during Coffee Hour.

**Junior Youth (6th-8th graders)** will learn about the church grounds, the “Memorial Garden,” the spirit of giving, and community service.

**Explorations for High School** will look at the topic: What Would You Do?

Contact our Youth Director, Cindy Koegler for youth events and details:

[youth@fpc-stow-acton.org](mailto:youth@fpc-stow-acton.org).

## FPC's Apple Pie Project Continues through the Week of 10/8/23!

Please sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044AA9AC2DA5F49-apple6>

The Apple Pie Project is a fundraiser, and we need your help to make the 300+ pies. No experience is 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** (9/27, 10/4, and 10/11)

Contact June Mallon - [june.pies@fpc-stow-acton.org](mailto: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** (9/26-27, 10/3-4, and 10/10-11)

Contact Steve Evans ([steve.pies@fpc-stow-acton.org](mailto: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** (9/27-28, 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** (9/29, 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** (9/29, 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.

**Saturday/Sunday: Selling** (9/30-10/1, 10/7-8, and 10/14-15)

- We sell our pies for \$18 each out of our pie shed in front of FPC.
- The second week of sales will coincide with a baked goods event on Sat. 9/30/23; 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 Stadolnik, at [applepies@fpc-stow-acton.org](mailto: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 is from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm (sooner if we sell out).

