

First Parish Church of Stow & Acton



EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 4, 2021

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, EASTER APRIL 4, 2021
10 AM ONLY

Sanctuary closed. Service by Video or Phone

Embracing the Alleluias - Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Join us for our Easter Sunday service! We'll sing the Hallelujah Chorus together, go on a virtual egg hunt, remember those we've lost this year, and remember the sorrow of Eastertide, but embrace the Alleluias! Bring an egg to hide in your screen area for our virtual egg hunt, and watch your FPC Announce for details on how to share names for remembrance.

Join by Video: <https://tinyurl.com/fpcalleluia>

Meeting ID: 939 6466 4257

Passcode: 11762

Join by Phone: 1-646-876-9923 (long distance rates will apply)

Dear FPC Community,

We used to have a tradition of planting daffodils on All Souls Day, and then reprinting names of those we'd lost as a remembrance on

Easter Sunday, the time of year when our daffodils tend to bloom. As our daffodil population grew and we went through ministerial transition, this tradition was changed, but **we still try to find ways to honor our loved ones who have passed both at All Souls Day and at Easter.** This past All Souls Day I created a virtual slide show with pictures you submitted. I want to invite you to again submit pictures via this link: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/gOtDxjLtwfssiRT4VorX> If you label the picture with the name of the person who has passed, I can include that. Otherwise, I'll label it as "remembered by [name of person submitting file], and that will be fine, which is what I did on All Souls Day. I will be showing an abbreviated slide show of the faces of those we've lost both from the photos from All Souls Day and the new photos you submit this week (probably a few pictures per slide), *and inviting you to share names in the chat and to light a candle wherever you are using the ones you've received in your Easter gift bags or a candle of your own from home.* If you can't figure out how to use the dropbox link, it's okay to email me, but emails can get lost easier, so I prefer the dropbox method. Thank you!



***Peace,
Cindy***

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

APRIL PLATE SHARING

SOUTHEAST INDIA FOUNDATION

Since the tsunami of 2004, FPC has supported the rural dalit villages and children of southeast India. This January would have been Bob Tabor's 17 trip (Russ Hart's 3rd, Vicky Tabor's

APRIL PLATE SHARING

SOUTHEAST INDIA FOUNDATION

Since the tsunami of 2004, FPC has supported the rural dalit villages and children of southeast India. This January would have been Bob Tabor's 17 trip (Russ Hart's 3rd, Vicky Tabor's 5th) to the villages and Orphanage. The pandemic caused a 3 month stringent lockdown and revocation of all tourist visas. We had to forgo the Friendship Kits that FPC families generously assemble each year for the children at the orphanage.

This year Covid has drastically changed the lives at WIDE orphanage. The government mandated that all children at orphanages must be returned to their guardians. This is very difficult for the children, emotionally and physically, since if the guardians had wanted the children (and been able to feed and clothe them) they wouldn't be at an orphanage. Kumari, who operates WIDE with her husband and daughter, has been delivering food each month to each of the villages where the children are now dispersed, supporting their entire families.

This has incurred extra expenses, and we have been sending her additional funding to support her efforts, as well as to supply food (rice, dal, spices, vegetables, milk) to a destitute Gypsy village and a refugee camp for Tamils who fled the civil war in Sri Lanka.

Last week all the children were required to be back at the Orphanage for a day, for mandatory health check and government reporting. We were able to share in a video call with them, and virtually share a special meal together. The children send their thanks to FPC for the support we give them. They were happy to be reunited, and get extra bananas as well as food to return to their villages. But they were very sad to leave after being together for a day. These 32 children have lived together as a family, for up to 12 years, and it is difficult for them to be separated. The government has announced plans for the children to return permanently, but not for several more months.

Michelle Cote and the RE classes have initiated letter writing to children at WIDE, and hopefully they will be long term penpals. Your continued support for these children and villages with April Plate Sharing makes a great difference, and we appreciate your generosity.

Virtual Coffee Hour

This Week in our Religious Education

Happy Easter! There are no religious education meetings this Sunday. We invite all children and youth to attend the special Easter service.

THE WEEK AT CHURCH APRIL 5 ~ APRIL 10, 2021

Monday Asylum Meeting 7:00-9:00pm zoom
Changing Nature Discussion 7:30-9:30pm zoom

Tuesday Coffee & Chat 10:00-11:00am Gazebo
Book Group 7:00-9:00pm zoom
RE Meeting 7:00-9:00pm zoom

Wednesday Membership Meeting 7:00pm zoom
Meditation 7:25PM zoom

Thursday SGM 9:30am zoom
Peace Vigil 5:00PM in front of FPC
TRUSTEE MEETING 7PM zoom
Virtual Singing Meditation with Ken Langer 7-8pm

Friday **SGM 9:30am zoom**

*** ANNUAL REPORTS DUE TO KATY WEEKS**

TODAY FRIDAY APRIL 9

(see article further down)

Saturday SGM 9:00am zoom
"Bridging Chasm" 9:00-10:30am zoom
"Undocumented" virtual screening 7:00pm
(see article further down)

SUNDAY APRIL 11, 2021

10 AM ONLY

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"Creation" - Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

In a service chosen by the highest bidder on her topic donation to last year's auction, Rev. Cindy will explore creation stories from several cultures and explore what they have in common and what we can learn from them.



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).

**PLEASE WEAR YOUR FACE MASK
EVEN IF YOU HAVE
RECEIVED YOUR VACCINES. Thank you**

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.



Saturday Morning Breakfasts

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.

MAY 15 has changed to below:

May 15. "The Botanary" is a new Stow business started by Stow native Elisabeth Mattieu along with her mother and sister. She currently has retail space at the newly opened Nan's Rustic Kitchen and Market, 271 Great Road, right down the street from our church. Elisabeth specializes in the sale and care of indoor plants. She will talk about good plant choices for our area and how to address common problems with your plants. Follow her on Facebook (@thebotanry) and Instagram (thebotanryMA) and visit her website: thebotanary.com.

The "European River Cruise" talk will be heard at a later date.

June 19. Ingrid Gunther, an Acton native, and a nurse living in New York City, will tell of her experiences during the pandemic and how the vaccination process played out. This talk was originally scheduled for February.

Let's hope that the above talks will be our last Zoom meetings and in September we can enjoy each other's company in Fellowship Hall!

**TUESDAY MORNINGS ~ Coffee and Chat will continue
from 10-11AM**

Meet at the Town Park adjacent to FPC.

Wear a mask, dress for the weather,
and bring your own coffee!

*If the weather is poor an FPC Announce will be posted with a link for a
Zoom meetup instead.* ~Ann Sadler

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE FRIDAY APRIL 9

Our FPC Annual Meeting is May 23

Email your report to me at katy@brightleafenergy.com with the words:

"FPC Annual Report [**Title of your report**]" in the subject line of your email.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND IN PDF Format

PLEASE SEND IN TEXT FORMAT MS WORD IS FINE

- Who does this?

Committee Chairs, certain staff and Officers

- What is it?

A report of what your committee did over the past year. Many reports are about one page long, but if your group did a lot of work, we'd be more than happy to read about it!

- How to send it?

Write the report in a Word (or other text-style) document and attach the file to your email.

Again, **send the report to katy@brightleafenergy.com** with the report title in the subject line **AND IN MS WORD.....NOT PDF**

Like last year, the Annual Report will be available a week or two before the annual meeting. I will send out a file that contains the complete report AND will make it available at our FPC website.

Don't worry, the few folks who are not electronically plugged in will get paper copies.

If you have any questions feel free to email me and we can figure out what you need to do ... or don't need to do. katy@brightleafenergy.com

Thank you, Katy Weeks for the Board of Trustees

FPC AUCTION

FPC Spring Auction 2021 - **Pajama Party!**



The SILENT auction will run from May 3-May 15
The LIVE auction will be held on the evening of May 15

FPC Spring Auction 2021 - **Pajama Party!**

Start making the popcorn and order the pizza! The FPC Spring Auction Pajama Party is in full planning mode!

The auction will be in two parts: a silent auction will run on Auctria from May 3-May15, to be followed by a live auction event via Zoom on May 15th. We are brainstorming some ways to bring some pizzazz to the auction, so make sure to stay tuned AND mark your calendar.

But before the fun begins, we need YOU to donate items, services and gift cards so we have lots of great auction bidding opportunities for everyone. Do you have a green thumb? Provide some gardening services! Are you a culinary wizard? Offer a dinner or party at your home or in your backyard (with a socially distanced

backup if possible). Can you host a game night (virtual or live)? Can you share produce from your COVID Victory Garden? Cast your dream catcher wide - who knows what great ideas you might come up with? Auction donation forms are now available at the FPC auction page on the FPC website - <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/article/fpc-auction-2021---its-pajama-party-time>

This year we will not be asking most businesses for gift cards and other donations, as many have been hit hard by the pandemic. Instead, we are putting together a list of businesses that have contributed to the auction in the past, and are asking that folks consider buying a gift card from these folks for the auction. The list should be ready on Signup Genius this week, with a link to the signup sheet on the auction page of the FPC web site. Take a look and help us support those who have supported us in the past. Feel free to purchase a gift card or item from any business, whether listed or not - perhaps your favorite restaurant, gift shop, art store, or wherever you want to lend some support. Gift cards always bring in a lot of revenue for the auction, so we want to keep them active this year!

We would also like to hear from you about items or services you would like to see offered - what might you like to bid on if you had the chance? We will publicize items on this “dream list” over the course of the next month or so, and maybe your dream item will appear in the auction. If you have ideas, please email them to <mailto:auction@fpc-stow-acton.org>. Also contact us if you need help coming up with a donation idea. We are here to help!

So fluff up your sleeping bag, pack up your tooth brush, and start thinking pajama party!

The Auction Committee
auction@fpc-stow-acton.org

The Social Justice Council will offer a showing of the documentary *Maxima* on Sunday, April 18th at 4 via Zoom, followed by a discussion with the Filmmaker Claudia Sparrow.

MAXIMA follows Peruvian indigenous farmer Máxima Acuña in her fight to protect her land as she stands up to the largest gold producer in the world: US-based Newmont Mining Corporation.

Through Máxima's fight for justice, the film provides an illustrative case study in the tactics used by transnational corporations to commit human rights violations and environmental crimes, the role played by non-profits and The World Bank, and, ultimately, the resilience of one woman who refuses to back down.

Note: We would gladly accept donations to help fund this film presentation and discussion with the filmmaker.

Sue Moses

LOOKING AHEAD TO SUMMER SERVICES AT FPC

The Worship Committee has just started the planning process for our summer services, which will begin on June 20 and run each Sunday for 12 weeks until September 5. All the services will be take place online via ZOOM but we hope to hold at least two of them

outdoors weather permitting and following all necessary COVID guidelines.

Do you have an idea for a summer service that focuses on a topic that you think our congregation would be particularly interested in? Or perhaps you would like to nominate someone else who you believe we would all benefit from hearing but 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)

Rick Gentilman (rgentilman1@aol.com)

Aimee Ledwell (redshoegirl@gmail.com)

Trish Guditz (guditz@verizon.net)

Susan Avery (susan.avery@verizon.net)

Sharon Webb (marysharonwebb@gmail.com)

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