

First Parish Church of Stow & Acton

Unitarian Universalist
Sunday, June 16, 2024
10:00 AM



Painting by an artist of the Kanō school, Muromachi period, 16th century.
Courtesy of the Tokyo National Museum.

“The Paradox of Suffering”

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum, Minister
Meg Rivers-Wright, Administration, Membership
Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson, Dir. of Religious Education
Chris Hossfeld, Music Director
Trevor Berens, Accompanist
Justin Marble, Nursery Care Coordinator
Mike Silkonis, Sexton
Janet Beatrice, External Publicity
Felix Freeman, Tech Assistant
Jenni Edgerton, President
Brendon Chetwynd, Vice Pres. and President-Elect
Bill Froberg, Treasurer
Johanna Pyle, Clerk

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

Summer Worship

June 16, 2024

The Paradox of Suffering

Living is like licking honey off a thorn. – Louis Adamic

Preludes

“Mood Indigo”

by Duke Ellington et al.

“Black Coffee”

by Paul Webster & Sonny Burke

Welcome & Announcements

Susan Avery

Chalice Lighting/Opening Words

Quinci Sprague

“The Guest House”

by Jalāl ad-Dīn Muhammad Rūmī

Reading

Lindsay Lozeau

“To everything there is a season...”

Ecclesiastes 3

*** Covenant**

Led by Peter Fiske

Please join us in reciting our covenant:

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.

*** Affirmation**

Led by Peter Fiske & Sara Beauvais

Please join us in singing our affirmation:

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.

Interlude

“Triste (Sadness)”

by Antônio Carlos Jobim

* Please rise in body or in spirit

Sharing of Joys and Sorrows

Led by Ann Sadler

Joys and Sorrows is a time for the things on our hearts and minds to be heard by the gathered community. If you would like a follow-up call by a lay minister or the minister, send an email to caring@fpc-stow-acton.org.

*** Hymn**

Sara Beauvais and Congregation

"Now the Green Blade Riseth"

#266, Gray Hymnal

Meditation/Reading

Lindsay Lozeau

"The Desert We Wander"

by Charlotte Joko Beck,

from *Nothing Special*

"Round Midnight"

by Thelonious Monk

Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share our weekly offering with **Supporting Asylum Seekers Task Force**. Ways to donate to FPC are listed on the reverse of this program.

"Gentle Rain"

by Luiz Bonfá & Matt Dubey

Homily

by Michael Paladini

"The Paradox of Suffering"

(Or: "In Defense of Yin")

(Or: « *Ce que le jour doit à la nuit* »)

*** Hymn**

Sara Beauvais and Congregation

"Spirit of Life"

#123, Gray Hymnal

Closing Words

Michael Paladini

"Wild Geese"

by Mary Oliver

*** Benediction**

Led by Sara Beauvais & Michael Paladini

"Peace Be with You 'Til We Meet Again"

Postludes

"Well, You Needn't"

by Thelonious Monk

"Freddie the Freeloader"

by Miles Davis

Allow

by Danna Faulds

There is no controlling life.
Try corralling a lightning bolt,
containing a tornado. Dam a
stream and it will create a new
channel. Resist, and the tide
will sweep you off your feet.
Allow, and grace will carry
you to higher ground. The only
safety lies in letting it all in –
the wild and the weak; fear,
fantasies, failures and success.
When loss rips off the doors of
the heart, or sadness veils your
vision with despair, practice
becomes simply bearing the truth.
In the choice to let go of your
known way of being, the whole
world is revealed to your new eyes.

The Parish Jazz Band

Nick Bundy, tenor saxophone
Paul Chastell, trombone
Peter Fiske, drums/percussion
Margaret “Peggy” Langley, flute
Lindsay Lozeau, trumpet
Michael Paladini, guitar
Quinci Sprague, bass
Stephen Warnick, piano
and Sara Beauvais, vocals

Sharing Our Gifts

You may donate with a check made out to “First Parish Church,”
online at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate>, or send a text to
(978) 310-3309.

Send checks to:

Pledges: *Attn*: Pledge Secretary, PO Box 215, Stow MA 01775

Donations: *Attn*: Treasurer, 353 Great Rd, Stow MA 01775

Thank you to:
Sharon Brownfield, Zoom Helper
Tech Helper
our ushers and helpers
our staff and leadership



June Plate Sharing: The Supporting Asylum Seekers group is an active part of the Social Justice work of FPC. We work to support asylum seekers and refugees who seek a safe home in our surrounding communities.

We help asylum seekers...

-find jobs
hotel

-learn English
System

-navigate the medical system
-ride a bike or the buses

And we provide...

-temporary food & housing in a

while waiting for MA ER Fam

-rides to medical appts. &
job interviews

-legal fees for asylum cases
-political advocacy

To our visitors, thank you for coming!

We hope you find something you're looking for in our service and congregation, and that you'll come back if it feels like a fit.



Here's how to keep connecting with our people and programs:

- **Fill out a Visitor Card** in your pew and hand it to an usher or scan the QR code and complete the form online.
- **Subscribe to our e-newsletters** and e-mail groups with the QR code.
- **Come to coffee hour** right after the service, downstairs in Fellowship Hall.



Visiting & Learning
about FPC



Subscribe to
E-Newsletters

Upcoming Events at FPC

Assabet Craft Beer and Food Truck Festival

Sat. 9/2, 12-4 pm

A fundraiser in front of the church to benefit the First Parish Church of Stow & Acton



Ingathering Sunday Potluck Lunch & Ice Cream Sun. 9/8, 11 am

Our fall kicks off with the traditional ice cream social, and this year with a potluck lunch to start us off. Join us at FPC to support a local ice cream business and socialize with other FPC members and friends!

Rev. Cindy's Summer Schedule

Week (Mon-Sun) Needs	Cindy's Schedule	Lay Minister on Call for Pastoral
6/17-23	"Gone" for virtual Denominational Leave: General Assembly & UUMA/LREDA days	Ingrid
6/24-30	Regular work year - out of town 6/27-30 to preach in New York	Hector
7/1-7	Vacation Week 1	Ingrid
7/8-14	Vacation Week 2	Ingrid
7/15-21	Vacation Week 3	Hector
7/22-28	Study Leave Week 1 - Cindy traveling to Virginia for SUUSI 7/20-28	Kate H
7/29-8/4	Study Leave Week 2 - Cindy out of town with Rayla for some joint planning time, location TBD	Ann S
8/5-8/11	Study Leave Week 3 (Partial week - preaching)	Ann S
8/12-18	Study Leave Week 4 (Partial week - joint planning time with staff)	Hector
8/19-25	Vacation Week 4	Kate H
8/26-9/1	Partial Study Leave week - make up days for weeks 3 & 4 - Cindy preaching	Ingrid