

Plate Sharing This Month: Acton and Stow Area Interfaith Partnership to Support Afghan Refugees

It was just over a year ago that FPC's Asylum Seekers Task Force learned of a group of churches who were organizing to help Afghans being evacuated en masse. We joined the group to form the ASAIPSAR. Our first activity was to provide food and make deliveries to newly arrived Afghan families. There is now an ongoing food pantry in Lowell.

The Partnership then aligned with the IINE (International Institute of New England) in Lowell. Through them, we were able to 'support' a family of six, the Habibi Family in Lowell. They are now paying a portion of their rent, as some are working. The family is making progress with ESL, receiving health aid, advancing in education, and preparing for Mass driver's licensing. But there is more: We learned of another family of six living in Maynard, the Karimi Family. This family is well on its way to independence, in part due to the help from FPC.

Within the Partnership, we are now asking, *How do we sustain the Interfaith effort?* and as we learn more about the atrocities in Haiti, *Is there a role for the Partnership there?*

All are welcome to the following FPC weekly events

Coffee and Chat Tuesdays 10 - 11 am

Meet at the Town Park adjacent to FPC. Bring your own coffee!

Meditation Wednesdays 7:30-8:30 pm Hall and online

Contact meditation@fpc-stow-acton.org for more information

Peace Vigil Thursdays 5 – 6 pm

Meet between Common Road and Great Road in front of FPC.

Contact Neil Saunders neilsaund@verizon.net for more info.

Bridge Group Fridays 1-3:30 pm Community Room. Contact Hector

Constantzos Hconstantzos@gmail.com for more information.

FPC Announcements: Sunday, January 1, 2023, 2022

10 am Quaker Service **Community Room**

11 am Coffee Hour, **Vestry**

This Week in Religious Education

There are no Religious Education classes today; childcare is provided downstairs in the nursery for children up to 5th grade. Jan 8, 2023, is deadline for Jr/Sr Youth to RSVP for rock climbing. Join us on Sunday January 15th for the start of a new RE trimester.

Religious Education Cottage Meetings

We want to hear from you about our programming for children, youth, and families! These hour-long meetings will pose discussion questions to generate reflection and visioning. What do you value most about the church and the RE program? What elements of worship and RE classes do you think your children would be most excited to participate in? What would enhance the life and vitality of our RE programs? Sign up now to join a meeting:

<https://bit.ly/recottage>

There will also be an accompanying online survey for parents, caregivers, grandparents, RE volunteers, and any community members who wish to participate.

Please pass this on to any young adults who have graduated from the RE program - we have a special virtual cottage meeting for youth and young adults! Participants will be entered into a raffle for \$25 gift cards when they sign up.

This Week at FPC: January 2-7

Monday

Tuesday Coffee and Chat 10 – 11 am. Town Gazebo

Wednesday Meditation, 7:30-8:30 pm, Hall/Online

Thursday Peace Vigil, 5-6 pm, in front of FPC
Choir Rehearsal, 7:15-9 pm, Sanctuary

Friday Bridge Group 1-3:30 pm, Community Room/Vestry

Saturday

Next Sunday's Service in the Sanctuary or online

“Centering” – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum. Intergenerational

Join us for a service about finding our center through spiritual practice.



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

Meeting ID: 9990 7077 00266 Passcode: 01775

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



Coming in 2023

Quaker Style Service. Sun Jan 1, 10 am Community Room.

Book Group. Jan. 3, 7pm online. *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles.

Open Choir. Sun Jan 8. Practice at 9 am. Sing at 10. Childcare provided.

Spiritual Conversations Through Poetry. Jan 8 & 22. Noon. online.

11th Hour for Climate Change. Wed Jan 11, 11 am. Churches and communities across the Commonwealth are ringing bells for 11 minutes to signify the climate crisis we face. Meet us in front of the church.

FPC Guest Table. Fri Jan 13, Fellowship Hall 5:30 pm. Doors open at 5. All are welcome – no charge.

Saturday Morning Breakfast. Sat Jan 14, Fellowship Hall. 7:30 am Coffee, 8 am breakfast. \$6. Mike Block discusses “A Year Sailing the East Coast of the USA”. RSVP Jeff Brown, jab.jeffbrown@gmail.com

Acton Chorus Concert: Snow Angel. Sat. Jan 14, Fellowship Hall. 7:30 pm. Tickets at www.actoncommunitychorus.org/events

Small Group Ministry Registration. Due Sun Jan 15. SGM is a network of groups of 8-10, led by a trained facilitator, who meet for two hours monthly for one year. SGM's purpose: promote the spiritual growth of participants and strengthen connections between members. Meeting format: chalice-lighting, general check-in, presentation of topic, discussion.

RJTF Tour of Jackson Homestead in Newton. Sun Jan 15. Carpool after service. Learn more about the homestead's ties to the underground railroad. Open to everyone in the community. RSVP junebmcknight@yahoo.com.

CityReach Clothing Drive. Sun Jan 15. See article in *The Chronicle* for needed (and not needed) items or go to <https://tinyurl.com/fpc23cityreach>.

Senior Youth will be participating in the overnight CityReach program in March. CityReach gives young people and adults a chance to learn about homelessness from people who have experienced it. Youth participate in CityReach's ministry by learning from unhoused mentors and offering hospitality (including food and clothing) to guests on Saturday morning.

Please bring clean, seasonally-appropriate donations of clothing and supplies to church on Sunday, January 15th. We will be collecting these items in the Fellowship Hall during coffee hour after worship.

Refresh, Renew, Revitalize: Vespers Service. Thu Jan 26, 6pm Comm Rm