

**FIRST PARISH
CHURCH
OF STOW & ACTON**
Unitarian Universalist

Sunday, June 2, 2024

**The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L.
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 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.
Assisted Listening Devices are available when worship is in the Sanctuary.

FPC currently has a masks-optional policy throughout the church.
In the Sanctuary, several back rows with accessible seating are "mask-required."

FPC is on the web at fpc-stow-acton.org and on Facebook.

June 2, 2024: 10:00

Gathering

Prelude

“Flame in the Darkness”

Joe Jencks

There's a flame in the darkness
Burning deep within our hearts
In the love that grows between us
This is where the journey starts
There is hope in the stillness
There is solace in our friends
In the love that grows between us
This is where the isolation ends

Come full circle in a moment
Hold no shame in what you feel
This old world will keep on turning
And our broken hearts will heal

When the rain falls around you
Like your solitary tear
In the love that flows between us
Know that thunder holds no fear

In the struggle you hold sacred
When the arrows pierce you through
In the love that flows between us
May your courage be renewed

There is music in each silence
There is promise in each day
In the love that holds between us
May we always find our way

Welcome

Elizabeth Michaud, Board of Trustees

Introit

“All Will Be Well”

FPC Adult Choir

Joe Jencks

Trevor Berens, piano

Chorus:

All will be well, all will be well, all manner of things will be well
Wherever life may call you, wherever you may dwell
All will be well, all will be well

We gather here to witness and affirm
The harmony of spirit and of heart
Manifest within you,
Brought forth from deepest hope
To be a force of healing in this world
Chorus

You'll find your purpose in service to a light
That emanates from each and every
being that is life
We see the gifts that blossom in your care
The people who are nourished by your love
Chorus

May you go forth to mend what has been broken
To feed those who are hungry, to quench the ones who thirst
For a world of compassion, for mercy that abounds
And the place to dwell in sacred gentleness *Chorus*

Opening Words

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

*** Hymn**

“Let It Breathe”

Joe Jencks

Lay down your weapons
Love has you surrounded
There is no easy way out
Lay down your shield, and
Let your heart break, just a little
Let Love remove all doubt

There is no reason
To play this charade
You can be loved for who you are
And for every troubled thought
That crosses your mind, please hold that
You are someone else's shining star

You go through the world
Everybody's sweetheart
Keeping up a front that wears you down
But in a quiet moment
The truth comes out, Somedays you
Feel like you're about to drown

What do you need?
By what measure would you know, that
You are more than what you achieve
When you look in the mirror, Is it
Possible to see that
You are enough, so let it breathe

First Chalice Recognition

Presentation of the Program

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
Director of Religious Education

Introducing the First Chalice Class Sharon Brownfield, First Chalice Teacher

Dante • Delia • Eve • Harrison • Quinn • Sage • Tommy

Chalice Lighting & Lighting of the Flames Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Responsive Blessing

Director of Religious Education: In religious education, we recognize many milestones on the path to adulthood. In this church, First Chalice is one such milestone for us, for the children in our K-5 classes.

Minister: This year is a time when you learn more about this church and more about Unitarian Universalism. Together you have explored our UU values this year and learned more about what it means to call yourself a Unitarian Universalist. Because of this, we recognize you as having achieved a new level within our church.

First Chalice Teacher: You have worked hard and done many things this year. We're proud of your accomplishments and dedication. One of the most important things, since we're a religion with the symbol of the flaming chalice, and why we call this rite of passage "First Chalice" is the knowledge of how to safely light the chalice.

Class: We have grown and changed this year. We know it is important to tend and guard the flame responsibly.

Congregation: We celebrate you and honor your achievement this year... with great rejoicing!

Presentation of Gifts

Sharing

Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share our weekly offering with Supporting Asylum Seekers Task Force. You may donate with a check made out to First Parish Church, online at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate>, or text (978) 310-3309.

Song

"For the Singing"

Joe Jencks

As I was walking down the only road I knew
I came upon a place where one road turned to two
I took the one that seemed less worn I did the best I could
'Til I happened on a wise man all alone out in the wood

He looked at me a moment, He looked up at the sky
He turned as if about to speak but all he did was sigh
So I ventured forth the question I said "Surely you must know
Will the road that I now travel take me where I want to go?" And he said:

Chorus:

"Do it for the power and you'll surely be a slave
Do it for the glory and you'll find an early grave
Do it for the laughter and you'll surely find your smile
Do it for the singing and you've gone the extra mile."

I still had some questions I thought would clear the air
I turned around to ask and found he was no longer there
I thought maybe this was God I saw as I got down on my knees
But soon enough I heard my answer in the wind blowing through the trees

Chorus

Many moons have come and gone, now and then I go astray
But I come back to the path 'cause for me it's the only way
Well I do not have much money but I find I have more time
To seek the answers that I need in the eyes of those I find. And they say:

Chorus

*** Covenant, Affirmation & Land Acknowledgement** Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson

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.

Joys and Sorrows

Kate Hart, Lay Minister

Prayer or Meditation

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

*** Hymn 1053: "How Could Anyone"**

Exploring

Reflections

"Transformation" Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Returning

*** Hymn**

Come With Me
Joe Jencks

FPC Adult Choir
Trevor Berens, piano

I feel the current raging around me
Try to summon up my strength once more
I am weary on this journey
Afraid I will not reach that distant shore

I cry for help feel like I'm sinking
There is no one near me I can see
But there you are in the water with me
You take my hand and guide me graciously

Chorus:

Will you come with me on this journey
With every breath we take keep reaching for the dawn

I know alone that I will falter
But with a good friend near me I will carry on

There is a kindness in your smile It's an illusion we carry with us
And gentleness within your speech As we wade on thru the waters of our lives
You reassure me your love surrounds me That we must be strong & hold our own here
And I know safety is at last within my reach But a helping hand will save us by and by

*** Benediction**

*** 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 'til we meet again.

Postlude

"I Wish You Peace"

Joe Jencks

I wish you peace, and every blessing on your journey
As you learn to cherish each and every day.
May your tears be those of healing,
May your laughter bring you joy,
And may true love be your companion on the way.

Invitation to Coffee Hour - Greet Your Neighbor!



Thank you:

Hector Constantzos, Zoom Host
Marcia Allison, Marion Scott, Ushers
Kirsten Chetwynd, Coffee Host 🍷❤
Our staff and leadership



To our visitors, thank you for coming!

We hope you found 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:

1) Come to coffee hour right after the service, downstairs in Fellowship Hall.



2) Fill out a Visitor Card in your pew and hand it to an usher **OR** scan this QR code and complete a similar form online.

3) Subscribe to our e-newsletters and e-mail groups here:



Today at FPC

10 am Service, Sanctuary and online

11 am Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall:

- Missing a water bottle? From today until June 9th, items from our Lost & Found as well as containers left in the kitchen will be on display on a table in Fellowship Hall. Feel free to reclaim your treasure! After June 9th, all items will be recycled.
- Sign-ups to volunteer* at The Assabet Craft Beer & Food Truck Festival, held this year on Saturday, August 31, 12-4 pm at FPC (rain or shine).
* Sign up in person today and get a complimentary bottle of First Parish Dunkel, a German-style dark lager freshly brewed for our volunteers!

12:30 pm Becoming an LGBTQ+ Ally Workshop - *Optional potluck at noon*
Presented by FPC Stow and Acton LGBTQ+ task force.

This Week at FPC

WED, 6/5, 7:00 pm - Listening & Caring Circle, Fellowship Hall
Presented by the UU Trauma Response Ministry

Come for this special time to share our struggles, pain, sorrow, and confusion over recent deaths of teens in our communities of Stow and Acton.

FRI, 6/7, 7:00 pm - Becoming an LGBTQ+ Ally Workshop, Community Rm.
Presented by FPC Stow and Acton LGBTQ+ task force.
Optional potluck dinner at 6:30 pm.

For Ages: Middle school through adult. Children may join potluck before childcare
Potluck: Vegetarian meal will be provided. Please bring nut-free desserts or drinks.

Registration is required. Please register and send questions for the workshop with your RSVP and they will remain anonymous to lgbtq@fpc-stow-acton.org.

Next Sunday's Service, 6/9, 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone
"The Flower Ceremony" - Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum -

The Flower Ceremony, sometimes called Flower Communion, is a Unitarian Universalist ritual celebrated now in its 51st year, where everyone is invited to bring a flower that goes into a group bouquet. The flowers represent the glorious diversity of humanity, so it's particularly appropriate that we celebrate this in the midst of Pride Month, as our beautiful LGBTQ+ diversity is part of what we celebrate in the rainbow of flowers that are gathered. We'll have our annual church picnic following the service -- pack and lunch and lawn games and picnic blankets or folding chairs! This year we may have our picnic at the park next door, so stay tuned for details!

Every Week at FPC

Tues. 10AM

Coffee and Chat at the Town Center Park Gazebo



Wed. 6:40PM

Meditation in Fellowship Hall & Online



Thurs. 5PM

Peace Vigil on the Town Common in front of FPC



Thurs. 7:15 PM

Choir Rehearsal in the Community Room - Join the choir! music@fpc-stow-acton.org

Fri. 1PM

Bridge Playing in the Community Room



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. Some of our activities, like political advocacy or helping asylum seekers find jobs, learn English, navigate the medical system, ride a bike or the buses, don't need money. Other help does take money:

Providing food and housing in a motel for a family while they are waiting for entry to the Massachusetts Emergency Family Shelter system; rides to medical appointments and job interviews when one of us is not available to drive; legal fees for asylum cases.



We greatly appreciate the Congregation's ongoing support and plate sharing! The Supporting Asylum Seekers group meets by Zoom on the 1st Monday of each month, and all are invited to join us for a meeting or for any of our actions. Contacts: Susie O'Brien or Steve Evans at asylumsupport@fpc-stow-acton.org.

Religious Education

June 2 - During service, we will recognize and celebrate our 2nd-5th graders (and some 1st graders) for completing their First Chalice class.

A reminder to our First Chalice class: If you have not gone to the pottery place to glaze your chalice, a group of us will be going this Sunday after service. We hope you can go with us! Our Religious Education program year has concluded and will resume again in September. Contact our Director of Religious Education, Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson, with any questions: dre@fpc-stow-acton.org. Register your children & youth or register to volunteer for Fall using the QR codes below!

Registration



Volunteers



Information for folks joining us online:

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.



Today's Zoom Host: Hector Constantzos

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