

March 26, 2023 10:00 AM

Gathering

Prelude *A Child is Born* Trish Woods, piano
Thad Jones

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Marcia Rising, Lay Minister

Greet Your Neighbor

Opening Words

Chalice Lighting

* **Hymn #1067** *Mother Earth, Beloved Garden*

* **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**
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.

Centering

Message for All Ages "A Story of Three Witches" Rebecca Stadolnik
by Marissa Evans, ADRE

Going Forth with the Light

Joys and Sorrows Susie O'Brien, Lay Minister

Prayer or Meditation

* **Hymn #123** *Spirit of Life*

Exploring

Reading

Sharing Our Gifts

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

Offertory *Sonata in F minor - Andante* Susan Avery, bassoon
Trish Woods, piano

* *Rise in Body and Spirit*

Sermon "Women, Witches, and Beer"

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Returning

* **Hymn #51** *Lady of the Season's Laughter*

* **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 *Soon It's Gonna Rain* Trish Woods, Piano
Harvey Schmidt



Thank you to:
Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host
Mark Koenig and Troy Liston, Ushers
Brendon Chetwynd and Kirsten Chetwynd, Coffee Hour Hosts
and to our staff and leadership

Our flowers today are given by
Marcia Rising in memory of her mom's passing



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 Massachusetts, 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 this is just a first step in moving toward right relationship with Native peoples and healing of the Earth.

* *Rise in Body and Spirit*

Connect with First Parish Church

Sign our visitor's log at tinyurl.com/visitfpc

Services Sunday at 10 am, in person and online

Subscribe to

The Chronicle, our monthly emailed newsletter,

This Week at FPC, our weekly Friday email,

and our email groups FPC Announce and FPC Forum, all at

<https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org/subscribe-newsletters>



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



Sunday, March 26, 2023

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
Minister

Marissa Evans
Acting Director, Religious Education

Meg Rivers-Wright
Administration and Membership

Brad Dumont
Music Director

Sanghee Kim.....Organist/Pianist

Mike Silkonis.....Sexton

Ben Child.....Tech Assistant

Janet Beatrice.....External Publicity

Sharon Brownfield.....President

Jenni Edgerton.....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.*

To help everyone be a part of worship in the fullest way possible, the ushers can provide large print orders of service and hymnals or, for people who need to step out during the service for any reason, an assisted listening device (portable radio) which works throughout the building.

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 are below.



Hymn #1067 *Mother Earth, Beloved Garden*

1. Mother Earth, beloved garden, living treasure under foot,
All our days you ground our being: sage and thistle, grass and root.
Herbs to heal us, plants to feed us, land to till and tend and plow.
With the pendant, deep as midnight, North we ask you: be here now.
2. Father Air, your inspiration holds together all that lives.
As we breathe, our minds see clearly, leading us to love and give.
Raging whirlwind, whispered breezes, violent gale and gentle cloud.
With the blade as sharp as morning, East we ask you: be here now.
3. Brother Fire, great transformer, share the passion of the sun.
In our hearths, your warmth revives us, cooks our food and heats our homes.
Flaming candle, blood within us, blazing desert, will to grow.
With the wand, directing power, South we ask you: be here now.
4. Sister Water, ever flowing, ocean, river, pond and rain.
Drink we now and quench our thirsting, cleanse us, we begin again.
Mist and ice, a host of changes, all that courage will allow.
With the cup, the holy chalice, West we ask you, be here now.
5. Lover Spirit, intuition in the center of our souls.
In your love we find relation. All connected, we are whole.
Timeless mystery, quiet conscience, deepest values, voice inside.
With the drum and with the cauldron, this we ask you, be our guide.

Hymn #123 *Spirit of Life*

Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

Hymn #51 *Lady of the Season's Laughter*

1. Lady of the seasons' laughter, in the summer's warmth be near;
when the winter follows after, teach our spirits not to fear.
Hold us in your steady mercy, Lady of the turning year.
2. Sister of the evening starlight, in the falling shadows stay
here among us till the far light of tomorrow's dawning ray.
Hold us in your steady mercy, Lady of the turning day.
3. Mother of the generations, in whose love all life is worth
everlasting celebrations, bring our labors safe to birth.
Hold us in your steady mercy, Lady of the turning earth.
4. Goddess of all times' progression, stand with us when we engage
hands and hearts to end oppression, writing history's fairer page.
Hold us in your steady mercy, Lady of the turning age.

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

March Plate
Sharing:
Southeast India
Foundation

For 18 years FPC has fostered and supported the Southeast India Project, which works with poor villages in the tsunami-affected area of Tamil Nadu, India, with WIDE Orphanage for dalit children (children of the caste formerly known as Untouchables), provides micro-lending for financing new opportunities for women, and establishes self-help organizations for women. Bob Tabor (17th journey),

Vicky Tabor (5th year), and Russ Hart (4th year) were there this January, revisiting WIDE Children's Home and the dalit villages. With support from FPC and other individuals and organizations we are continuing to...

- provide sponsored children with a healthy, safe, caring environment and an education
- distribute food to the villages
- build balwadis (pre-schools) and toilets and drill a bore well
- reclaim arable land for organic farming
- support women's groups to manage herds of dairy cows
- build a tailoring school for women in a tribal village



We thank you for your generous and continued support!

This Week in Religious Education:

Children (PreK-1st & 2nd-5th Graders):

Vulnerability: Showing Our True Selves

Junior Youth (6th-8th graders):

Connections between Reflections on Paganism

High School Discussion Group: Careers and Majors

RE is Hiring! Help us find a Family Programs Assistant

In response to a resounding desire from the FPC community to maintain and grow our programs for children, youth, and families, we have created this temporary 3-month position. The Family Programs Assistant will work with Marissa Evans through the remainder of the church year. Learn more here: <https://bit.ly/familyprogramsassistant>. If you are interested or know someone who may be, please email dre@fpc-stow-acton.org

FPC Announcements

Today

10 am Service, Sanctuary/Online

11 am Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall

12 pm Spiritual Conversations Through Poetry, Online

12 am Online Auction Begins on Auctria!



The Auction Train is here! We're about to pass GO!

Here's what you need to know:

ONLINE AUCTION

TONIGHT AT
MIDNIGHT
through April 5th

Pre-register for the online AND live auctions on the Auctria website:

At www.fpc-stow-acton.org, click the Monopoly picture, scroll down the auction page, click "Auctria SignIn."

LIVE AUCTION

THIS SATURDAY, 4/1
AT FPC, 6:30-9:30 pm

Finger foods, wine & beer, games, community ♥, silent auction food items, jewelry offered through the online auction, and the chance to bid on 28 different live auction items from vacation getaways to group dinners to help around the house!

RAFFLE

50-50 raffle with
two winners:

FPC gets 50% of the pot, each winner gets 25%

Buy tickets online when you register or at the live auction.

Winners drawn at the end of the live auction. (You don't need to be present to win, but we hope you are!)



We still need volunteers! Please go to fpc-stow-acton.org, click the Monopoly picture, scroll down the auction page, and click "Volunteer Sign-Up Form." Your help is very much appreciated!

This Week at FPC: March 27 – April 1

- Mon 3/27** **Racial Justice Task Force drop-in**, 7-7:30 pm, Online
We will be discussing the killing by police of yet another unarmed black man, Tyre Nichols. We'll reflect on the overall impact of this event, why these events continue to happen, and what we can do to effect change. Contact June McKnight junebmcknight@yahoo.com for the Zoom link or find live link in *This Week at FPC*.
Auction Committee Auctioneer Training, 7-9 pm, Community Room
Jazz Band Rehearsal, 7-9 pm, Sanctuary
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- Tue 3/28** **Coffee and Chat*** 10-11 am, Town Gazebo at Town Park, adjacent to FPC. Bring your own coffee!
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- Wed 3/29** **Meditation*** 7:30-8:30 pm, Fellowship Hall/Online
Contact: meditation@fpc-stow-acton.org
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- Thu 3/30** **Peace Vigil*** 5-6 pm, in front of FPC, btwn Common & Great Rds
Contact: Neil Saunders neilsaund@verizon.net
Choir Rehearsal, 7:15-9 pm, Sanctuary
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- Fri 3/31** **Bridge Group*** 1-3:30 pm, Community Room
Contact: Hector Hconstantzos@gmail.com
Youth Group Bowling Night
Decorating for Auction 7-9 pm, Hall/Community Room/Vestry
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- Sat 4/1** **FPC Live Auction** 6:30-9:30 pm, FPC
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- Sun 4/2** **Next Sunday's Service:** 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone
"Resistance" - Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
Our theme for the month of April is "Resistance" and as March 31st is Transgender Day of Visibility, we'll begin by sharing our resistance to the anti-trans legislations sweeping the country. Trans ribbons will be available for your nametag at the service and in coffee hour, thanks to one of our members!



Join Worship by Video: <https://tinyurl.com/2223fpc>
Meeting ID: 999 7077 0266 Passcode: 01775
Join Worship by Phone: (929) 205-6099 (toll call)



*All are welcome to these **weekly FPC events**.

Additional Announcements

Spiritual Conversations Through Poetry: TODAY, 12:00 pm, Online

You don't need to know anything about poetry to join Ilene Rudman for this deeply satisfying time of connection that's been going on at FPC for over a decade! Engage with others through a poem – read, listen, let it take you to new insights, respond. Please contact Ilene irudman@aol.com to attend.

Jazz Band Rehearsal 3/27, 7-9 pm, Sanctuary

Please contact Michael Paladini mwpaladini@gmail.com for more information.

Snacks, Desserts, & Games Night: 4/7, 6:30-8:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Come play some old games. Come learn some new games. Come meet some fun people to play board games, card games, dice games, or any game that doesn't require a power source other than you. There will be snacks, desserts, soft drinks, and water available to keep the action going.

Would you like to lead or contribute to a Sunday Service this summer? (And can you say that five times fast..? 😊)
FPC's Worship Committee would like to hear from any member of the congregation interested. Please contact Neil Saunders, Chair (neilsaund@verizon.net).

June 18, 25
July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Aug 6, 13, 20, 27
Sept 3

Do you know a teen interested in babysitting?

We are looking to supplement our core group of paid FPC-affiliated teen childcare providers with a few new individuals from the Stow/Acton/Maynard area who are in 8th grade or beyond that you would personally recommend. Teens don't necessarily have to have babysitting experience. They need to be responsible and have some interest in connecting with children. We pay \$15/hr. and have occasional weekend openings, especially Sunday mornings in the summer. If you know someone to recommend, please email Justin Marble at justin.a.marble@gmail.com.