

# First Parish Church of Stow & Acton



**SUNDAY APRIL 11, 2021**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SUNDAY APRIL 11, 2021**

**10 AM ONLY**

***Sanctuary closed. Service by Video or Phone***

**"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.

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***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 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 Program**

**Our 9:15 group (Grades Prek-4)** will meet again with Bob Tabor to learn more about his work in India and will learn about how to be a

penpal.

**Our 11:30 Group (Grades 5-8)** is doing a special activity run by Nathan Marble. He will be hosting a Junior Youth Jackbox game event in place of our regular 11:30 RE session .We feel as if our Junior Youth need to just connect and have fun so we encourage all 5-8th graders to join in at 11:30!

**Our High School Discussion Group** will meet at 11:30 to discuss: **1001 things to know before you leave home.**

*Please note that there will be no RE programs next week as it is April School Vacation. Please enjoy the day with your family!*

## **THE WEEK AT CHURCH APRIL 12 ~ APRIL 17, 2021**

**Monday** SGM 7:00pm zoom

**Tuesday** Coffee & Chat 10-11:00am Gazebo  
Racial Task Force Mtg 7:00-9:00pm zoom  
Climate Change Task Force 7:30-8:30pm zoom

**Wednesday** **CHRONICLE ARTICLES DUE FOR MAY ISSUE**  
Virtual Meditation 7:25PM zoom

**Thursday** Archives 10am-12pm  
Peace Vigil 5:00PM in front of FPC  
Virtual Choir 7:00PM zoom  
SGM 7:15pm zoom

**Saturday** **School Break April 17- 25**

### **Saturday Morning Breakfast**

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.

**SUNDAY APRIL 18, 2021**

**10 AM ONLY**

*Sanctuary closed. Service by Video or Phone*

**"Becoming Myself" - Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum**

In her poem "Now I Become Myself," the poet May Sarton wrote, "O, in this single hour I live / All of myself and do not move." In our single hour, we'll explore what it means to become ourselves.

**Join by Video:** <https://tinyurl.com/fpcbecome>

Meeting ID: 917 2350 8824

Passcode: 11762

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

**On Sunday, April 18th at 4 pm**

**The Social Justice Council will offer a showing of the documentary, "Maxima"**

**via Zoom,**

**followed by a discussion with the**

**Filmmaker, Claudia Sparrow.**

**(SEE ARTICLE WAY BELOW)**

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## **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.

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## **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 (@the botanry) and Instagram (the botanryMA) and visit her website: [thebotanary.com](http://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!

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**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

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**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!**

Hello All You FPCers!

Are you ready for a Pajama Party? It's time for our Spring Auction,

so don your slippers and robe and get the popcorn ready!

This year's auction will be held in two parts: *The Silent Auction will run on Auctria from May 3 until May 15.*

*The Live Auction will be held on May 15 via Zoom, starting at 7 PM.* As always, we will offer a range of items donated by our community, guaranteed to make your dreams come true!

*But don't hit the snooze button yet! We need donations, donations, donations!* Do you have a favorite restaurant or store that you would like to support during this strange time? Buy a gift card and donate it to the auction. Or buy one from a business that has supported us in the past. *Visit the Signup Genius link at our Auction web page (listed below) to find past supporters who could use our support this year and sign up to buy a gift card or item for the auction!* Do you have a favorite cuisine you cook? Offer a dinner for your fellow congregants! Are you a painter, photographer, gardener, candlestick maker? Offer one of your masterpieces or some of your time. Your imagination is the only limit to what you can offer, so dream big! *Is there an item you would like to see offered? Contact the Auction Team and we will add it to our Donations Suggestions, also found on the website.*

**Please note that, since you won't have to stay up until midnight this April 15th finishing those pesky taxes, we ask that instead you *make April 15th your deadline for making a donation to the auction.***

This will leave your friendly Auction Team enough time to finish our on-line catalogue and tend to last minute details before the party begins! **BELOW is the link** to the Website, where you will find a link to:

- The Business Donation Form
- The Business Gift Card Solicitation Signup Genius Link

- Donation Suggestions
- *A link in the website banner to register for the auction and receive your auction number (it's never too early!)*

### **Here's the Action Website**

**Link:** <https://event.auctria.com/d611bcbd-87e3-434c-bdda-5dad1f23c3f5/>

You can also find **an auction donation form** *at the FPC website:* <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/article/fpc-auction-2021---its-pajama-party-time>

*And don't close your eyes yet - keep them peeled for an upcoming announcement about our special, party-themed gift basket raffle.*

Until next time,

Your Auction Team  
[auction@fpc.groups.io](mailto:auction@fpc.groups.io)

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**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**

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## **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](mailto:neilsaund@verizon.net))*

Rick Gentilman ([rgentilman1@aol.com](mailto:rgentilman1@aol.com))  
Aimee Ledwell ([redshoegirl@gmail.com](mailto:redshoegirl@gmail.com))  
Trish Guditiz ([guditiz@verizon.net](mailto:guditiz@verizon.net))  
Susan Avery ([susan.avery@verizon.net](mailto:susan.avery@verizon.net))  
Sharon Webb ([marysharonwebb@gmail.com](mailto:marysharonwebb@gmail.com))  
Rev. Cindy Landrum ([minister@fpc-stow-acton.org](mailto:minister@fpc-stow-acton.org))

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**Award winning writer and poet  
Carla Panciera  
is coming to FPC Zoom on  
April 26th at 7 pm**

She will discuss her writing process and read from her short story collection *Bewildered*, which won the prestigious Grace Paley award in 2013. Carla grew up on a dairy farm in Rhode Island and her writing often captures her rural life experiences. When asked, "What is the best thing about being a writer," she responded:

"I used to think it was about being different than other people. Especially when I was a kid, I thought: Well, I'm awkward and shy and etc. etc, but at least I have this going for me.

Now, the best thing about being a writer is that I get to tell stories that my family and friends, especially, feel some connection to. I remember reading *A Day No Pigs Would Die* by Robert Newton Peck when I was in junior high. The book opens with the protagonist delivering a pair of Holstein calves. I was blown away: finally! A book about my life!

I've written quite a few things at this point, but the ones that matter most to me are those that make someone I love say: God, I remember that." - from Carla's Goodreads page.

Questions for Carla? Send them to Sue Moses at [susanjmoses@comcast.net](mailto:susanjmoses@comcast.net), and she will forward them to Carla

before the event. Don't miss this special opportunity to chat with a writer about her craft and inspirations.

Hector

Adult Programs Moonpod