

First Parish Church of Stow & Acton



SUNDAY APRIL 25, 2021

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY APRIL 25, 2021

10 AM ONLY

Sanctuary closed. Service by Video or Phone

"LISTENING TO THE EARTH/SPEAKING FOR THE EARTH ~
EARTH DAY SERVICE"

Climate Change Task Force

Change is urgent! There is no question that the earth's atmosphere is heating up. As a result there is rapid deterioration in the Interconnected Web of Life....the disastrously melting glaciers, extinction of so many species of plants and animals and ever increasing destruction of human habitat as well. What will we do? Will we finally learn to tread lightly and with respect for the earth? Will we wake up??

Join by Video: <https://tinyurl.com/fpc-eco>

Meeting ID: 952 5454 4814

Passcode: 01775

Join by Phone: 1-929-205-6099 (long distance rates will apply)

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.

Spiritual Conversations 11:15 zoom

Virtual Coffee Hour

This Week in our Religious Education Program

As it is the last day of school vacation we will be hosting a game day at both RE sessions!

The 9:15 session will be games for Prek-Grade 4.

The 11:30 session will be games for grades 5-8.

There is no High School Discussion Group this Sunday.

THE WEEK AT CHURCH APRIL 26 - May 1, 2021

Monday Carla Panciera, author 7:00PM

(see article way below) zoom

Parents as Sexual Educators 8:00-9:30pm zoom

Tuesday Coffee & Chat 10-11:00am Gazebo

Dismantling Racism 7:00-8:30pm zoom

Racial Justice Task Force Drop-In 7:00-8:30 zoom

Wednesday **Worship Committee 12:30pm zoom**
Social Justice Meeting 7:00pm zoom
Virtual Meditation 7:25PM zoom

Thursday **Archives 10am-11:30am Vestry**
Peace Vigil 5:00PM in front of FPC
Virtual Choir 7:00PM zoom

Saturday **Bridging Chasm 9:00-10:30am zoom**

SUNDAY MAY 2, 2021

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Story, Part 1: Fiction & Legend

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

In this week leading up to “Free Comics Day,” Rev. Cindy will talk about her love of literature, which of course will include some discussion of the power of science fiction, fantasy, and graphic novels. This sermon will also explore the power of legends to define a culture, telling who we are, and why certain legends endure across the centuries and still fascinate us today. What does this have to do with religion? Come and find out.

Join by Video: <https://tinyurl.com/fpcstory1>

Meeting ID: 917 2350 8824

Passcode: 01775

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



MASKS ON EVERYONE PLEASE

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**



Saturday Morning Breakfasts

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.

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!

**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

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

Are you wondering if you heard about a fabulous, upcoming way to help support FPC and have a blast doing it? Well, you are not dreaming! The FPC Spring Auction - Pajama Party - starts with an on-line silent auction via Auctria from May 3 through May 15. The finale will be the live auction, held on Saturday, May 15, starting at 7 PM. Keep your eyes open for a future message with the link to the silent auction and more details about how to participate in the live auction.

BUT - in the meantime, we could sure use your help. We need pillow cases full of donations to make this auction a success. We are hoping to get most donations in by THIS THURSDAY, APRIL 15. You can find the donation form at the FPC website (<https://fpc-stow-acton.org/article/fpc-auction-2021---its-pajama-party-time>) or at our Atria auction page (<https://event.auctria.com/d611bcbd-87e3-434c-bdda-5dad1f23c3f5/>). At the Atria page you will also find a link to Signup Genius, where you can sign up to donate a gift card for the auction from a local business that has supported our auction in the past. This is our way of saying thanks to businesses that may be struggling due to the Pandemic. And there is also a “wish list” of items that folks have told us they would like to see offered at the auction. Choose one and make at least one bidder very happy.

AND - if you want to help out for just an hour to prime yourself for the live event, have we got a fun opportunity for you! Come to the Live Auction Pajama Party Dress Rehearsal, on May 12 at high noon. We need any or all practice bidders, kibbitzers, gadflies, pundits, and pajama people to help us run through the live auction to make sure we have all our sheep in a row! Just let the Auction Committee know in advance to get the zoom link by sending a message to auction@fpc-stow-acton.org.

So make sure to rest up so you are ready to party down at the best family pajama party ever! There will be something for everyone, including YOU! Language lessons, cottage rentals, a batch of cookies every month, dinners, yard work, handyman services and more, much more. And look for our super Pajama Party Gift basket that you can win in our new on-line raffle.

Sweet Dreams,

Your Auction Committee

auction@fpc-stow-acton.org

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)

Rick Gentilman (rgentilman1@aol.com)

Aimee Ledwell (redshoegirl@gmail.com)

Trish Guditz (guditz@verizon.net)

Susan Avery (susan.avery@verizon.net)

Sharon Webb (marysharonwebb@gmail.com)

Rev. Cindy Landrum (minister@fpc-stow-acton.org)

**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, 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

FPC SPRING SPRUCING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED SHORT AND QUICK

Warm days are here and our Church campus needs a little TLC. We are asking for people to help spruce up garden areas by removing leaves, cutting back dead debree, and making the beds look nice nice. We combined the gardens for this because no one garden would take much time.

Here is the sign up to help -

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49A4AB22A4FAC07-spring>

As part of the experience, we invite you look around, breath in the campus, feel its pulse, and consider adopting a garden as a Caretaker. Here is the signup genius for that: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49A4AB22A4FAC07-adopt>

Thanks in advance for all your efforts,

Sonja

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