

First Parish Church of Stow & Acton



SUNDAY MARCH 21, 2021

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY MARCH 21, 2021

10 AM ONLY

Sanctuary closed. Service by Video or Phone

The Music of Protest”

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum & Dr. Mike Pfitzer

Music has been an integral part of social reform across cultures and decades. This service will share music and thoughts about the role of music in creating social change.

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.

MARCH PLATE SHARING

The Food Project

The Food Project was founded on the belief that everyone has the right to fresh, healthy, affordable food. Their goal is to transform the food system into a more just, community-engaged model that supports food security for all while connecting diverse communities to each other and to the land.

Young people from diverse communities are the driving force of The

Food Project. They work on its farms, garden plots with community members to grow fresh food that nourishes their communities. Each year, The Food Project employs 120 teenagers in this vital work on 70 acres of urban and suburban farmland across eastern Massachusetts where they grow 200,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables and use this food to enact innovative food system initiatives that increase access to fresh, healthy food for all. This work is focused in the two communities it is deeply connected to: Boston's Dudley neighborhood and the City of Lynn.

Virtual Coffee Hour following the Service

This Week in our Religious Education Program

We continue with our month long collaboration with our social justice groups here at FPC.

The 9:15 group will be joined again by Bob Tabor who will continue to share his journey and work in India.

The 11:30 group is invited to attend the service to take part in hearing the music. They then can join together at 11:30 to discuss what music they think carries important messages.

9:15 for kids in grades Prek-4

11:30 for youth in grades 5-8

High School Youth are invited to attend the service.

~Michelle Cote

THE WEEK AT CHURCH MARCH 22-27 2021

Tuesday Coffee & Chat 10-11:00am Gazebo

Wednesday Worship Committee 12:30pm zoom
Meditation 7:25PM zoom

Thursday Peace Vigil 5:00PM in front of FPC
Virtual Choir 7:00PM zoom

Saturday Bed prep & seed starting 9am zoom
Pick up Easter Bag in front of the FPC Atrium between 9 & 11AM
(see Easter article scroll down)

Saturday, [Joe Jencks](#) 7:30pm New Revival Coffeehouse

A Live Streaming Concert! See the [New Revival Coffeehouse website](#) for a link to this concert

(scroll all the way down for full article)

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

10 AM ONLY

Sanctuary closed. Service by Video or Phone

“Commitment”

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum

Theologian Henry Nelson Weiman wrote, “Inevitably in our lives we commit ourselves to something, whether worthy or not. The direction and intensity of our loyalties give shape and meaning to our lives.” This service will explore our our lives, and our faith, is shaped by our commitments.



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 ourbakers 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.

If you do not have a mask...you're in luck! There are a variety of donated masks in bins behind lower Fellowship Hall on the small plastic picnic tables. If you don't find one there in your size...let Rebecca know and she will try to procure one or make one for you.



Saturday Morning Breakfast

Upcoming talk:

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

**Coffee and Chat will continue on Tuesday mornings
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

Coffeehouse ...March 27

March 27, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. Live-stream on Youtube LIVE
Check <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/music/coffeehouse> on how to join the concert.
Information will be available closer to the concert date.



Joe Jencks, a 20-year veteran of the international folk circuit, an award-winning songwriter, and celebrated vocalist based in Chicago.

Having penned several #1 folksongs, including the ever-relevant Lady of the Harbor, Jencks is also co-founder of the harmony trio, Brother Sun. Merging conservatory training with his Irish roots and working class upbringing, Joe delivers engaged musical narratives filled with heart, soul, groove and grit.

He is noted for his unique merging of musical beauty, social consciousness, and spiritual exploration. "The key to the future is people joining in. The music of Joe Jencks captures this essential spirit.

Joe is a fantastic singer who carries on the traditions." -Pete Seeger
"Joe Jencks is the type of musician that will cause you to drop that

morning newspaper or pull your car to the side of the road when you hear his songs. He is the type of artist that will turn heads in his direction when he walks onto a stage. His voice will instantly draw you into his passionate songs. He is the type of musician whose music will become part of you.

His craft and artistry will remind you of the best efforts of Phil Ochs, Stan Rogers, and Woody Guthrie. The troubadour tradition is alive and well in the 21st century with the music of Joe Jencks." - Ron Olesko, WFDU FM Teaneck, NJ

This concert will live-stream on Youtube Live on Mar. 27, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. Check <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/music/coffeehouse> on how to join the concert. Information will be available closer to the concert date.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE THURSDAY APRIL 9

Our FPC Annual Meeting is May 23

To prepare for this, Annual Reports for committees and staff and officers are due by Thursday April 9 this year.

Email your report to me at katy@brightleafenergy.com with the words

"FPC Annual Report [**Title of your report**]" in the subject line of your email.

- Who does this?

Committee Chairs, certain staff and Officers

- What is it?

A report of what your committee did over the past year. Many reports are about one page long, but if your group did a lot of work, we'd be more than happy to read about it!

- How to send it?

Write the report in a Word (or other text-style) document and attach the file to your email.

Again, **send the report to katy@brightleafenergy.com** with the report title in the subject line.

Like last year, the Annual Report will be available a week or two before the annual meeting. I will send out a file that contains the complete report AND will make it available at our FPC website.

Don't worry, the few folks who are not electronically plugged in will get paper copies.

If you have any questions feel free to email me and we can figure out what you need to do ... or don't need to do.

Thank you, Katy Weeks for the Board of Trustees

Climate Task Force Community Activities

for FPC in March

Meanwhile..FPC's Climate Task Force is hosting a series of conversations for our community this winter. Please join us for one or more...

Changing Nature: Movies and Conversation

Each month on the *third* Monday night we meet on Zoom at 7:30 pm to share reactions to a selected movie that tells stories around some aspect of nature and climate change. We announce the movie and where to view the film.

The following conversation gives us an opportunity for us to share and build our understanding of changing nature...one of the most important and complex subjects confronting us as a community. Here is the schedule.

April movie: Kiss the Ground

Watch for more information and a zoom link.

We are hosting a series of monthly conversations on tips and resources to help us all grow more vegetables *and hopefully contribute to area food pantries*. Some tips will work for flowers and even be relevant for porch and patio gardens. We have many experienced gardeners at FPC. We are learning from each other and sharing our tips and resources! The session is good for beginners and seasoned gardeners, alike.

All sessions on Saturday mornings at 9AM on zoom:

March 27: *Growing healthy seedlings and container gardening*

April 24: *Hardening off your plants and garden bed prep*

May 26: *Planting out your beds*

June 24: *Organic growing tips and delivery to Food Pantries*

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

Start making the popcorn and order the pizza! The FPC Spring Auction Pajama Party is in full planning mode!

The auction will be in two parts: a silent auction will run on Auctria from May 3-May15, to be followed by a live auction event via Zoom on May 15th. We are brainstorming some ways to bring some pizzazz to the auction, so make sure to stay tuned AND mark your calendar.

But before the fun begins, we need YOU to donate items, services and gift cards so we have lots of great auction bidding opportunities for everyone. Do you have a green thumb? Provide some gardening services! Are you a culinary wizard? Offer a dinner or party at your home or in your backyard (with a socially distanced backup if possible). Can you host a game night (virtual or live)? Can you share produce from your COVID Victory Garden? Cast your dream catcher wide - who knows what great ideas you might come up with? Auction donation forms are now available at the

FPC auction page on the FPC website - <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/article/fpc-auction-2021---its-pajama-party-time>

This year we will not be asking most businesses for gift cards and other donations, as many have been hit hard by the pandemic. Instead, we are putting together a list of businesses that have contributed to the auction in the past, and are asking that folks consider buying a gift card from these folks for the auction. The list should be ready on Signup Genius this week, with a link to the signup sheet on the auction page of the FPC web site. Take a look and help us support those who have supported us in the past. Feel free to purchase a gift card or item from any business, whether listed or not - perhaps your favorite restaurant, gift shop, art store, or wherever you want to lend some support. Gift cards always bring in a lot of revenue for the auction, so we want to keep them active this year!

We would also like to hear from you about items or services you would like to see offered - what might you like to bid on if you had the chance? We will publicize items on this “dream list” over the course of the next month or so, and maybe your dream item will appear in the auction. If you have ideas, please email them to <mailto:auction@fpc-stow-acton.org>. Also contact us if you need help coming up with a donation idea. We are here to help!

So fluff up your sleeping bag, pack up your tooth brush, and start thinking pajama party!

(cont'd)



Dear FPC Community,

**The staff and I would like to invite you
to a special event next
Saturday, March 27 from 9-11 at the church**

Similar to what we did at Christmas time, this will be a time for you to drop by and pick up an Easter gift bag from the church containing your Easter order of service and some other items.

We will also have a very special egg hunt during this same time for the children, and parents should watch for a note from Michelle about the details about this.

Each child will be hunting one at a time for one (larger-sized) egg with treats inside, with their own name on it. In this way we plan to have an Easter Egg Hunt that is safely socially distanced. Please contact Michelle so that she knows to have your child's name ready on a hidden egg!

I also encourage you while you're at the church to take a video of you and your family saying our covenant and send it to me, or ask one of the staff to record you.

Please remember that masks are required at this event, and that our social distancing rules apply!

The rain date for this event is
Sunday, March 28th from 2-4pm.

If you cannot come to the church and would like to have a bag delivered to you, please contact Joleen Trotta at mdc@fpc-stow-acton.org.

Thank you!

Cindy & the Staff

