



SUNDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2020 ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2020**

*Sanctuary closed. Virtual Service by video or phone.*

**Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum**

**"On the Side of Love"**

On this Sunday before Thanksgiving, we'll talk about gratitude and the "side of love" at FPC as encompassing community, spirituality, social justice, education, music and art, and generosity. ***This service will also mark the beginning of our 2021-2022 Stewardship Drive.***

***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>**

## **NOVEMBER PLATE SHARING**

### **FPC GUEST TABLE**

FPC Guest Table has served a free community dinner on the first Friday of the month in Fellowship Hall for more than 4 years. We have not been serving since March, when the church was closed due to COVID. For that reason we are sharing whatever we receive through the plate sharing with the local food pantries. They are still operating and are in more demand now, during this pandemic.

**Spiritual Conversations Through Poetry 11:15 following the Service zoom**

**Virtual Coffee Hour following the Service**

### **This Week in our Religious Education Program**

We begin our second set of RE- Connection virtual workshops this Sunday, Nov. 22nd-Dec. 13th

Holiday Happenings (grades PreK-4) 9:15-9:50

Building on our Beliefs (Grades 2-5) 9:15-9:50

Chillin out with Baking and Crafting (Grades 5-8) 11:30-12:30

Videos and Values (Grades 5-8) 11:30-12:30

*Zoom links will be sent out on Saturday morning for Sunday's workshops*

Please contact Michelle Cote, our Director of Religious Education for more information at [dre@fpc-stow-acton.org](mailto:dre@fpc-stow-acton.org)

## THE WEEK AT CHURCH NOVEMBER 23-28

**Monday** "Dismantling Racism and Other Isms in Ourselves" 7PM Video (info further down in this newsletter)

**Tuesday** Coffee & Chat at the Gazebo 10am-11am

**Wednesday** Meditation 7:35 pm Video

**Thursday** THANKSGIVING

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**Sunday, November 29, 2020**

**10 AM ONLY zoom**

*Sanctuary closed. Virtual Service by video or phone.*

**Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum**

**"History and Legacy"**

Earlier this fall we looked at our Universalist heritage at FPC. What messages does our Unitarian history at FPC have as we look to the future? What can we learn by delving into our religious past as an individual church and as a denomination?

**Virtual Coffee Hour following the Service**

**Virtual Religious Education**

## ***My FPC "On the Side of Love"***

We recall the ways FPC becomes My FPC with our Spirituality exhibited through Community, Education, Social Justice and Music & Art. Generosity is the anchor for all of our efforts. This year more than ever with our outreach via: Plate Sharing, Open Table, Thanksgiving and Christmas programs, discretionary support, and more. These are some of the ways of FPC being "On the Side of Love".



*Graphic created by Rebecca MacNeill*

## ***Generosity Sunday November 22nd***

We kick-off this year's campaign with an inspiring Service led by Rev. Dr. Cindy Landrum. She will lead us through an interactive program. Members will verbalize their statement of support. And we will hear from Mark Ewert, a Friend of FPC, via Zoom video. Many of us recall Mark Ewert from his work with us on the most recent Capital Campaign. Mark your calendar and plan on attending the worship service to participate.

### ***In gratitude from the Stewardship Team:***

*Rachelle Reisberg and Rick Gentilman, co-chairs  
Team Members: Roy Miller, Steve Evans, Helen Ham  
Ruth Ann Murray, Kate Imhoff, Sharon Brownfield,  
Sue Moses, Mark Koenig*

## Coffee and Chat

Coffee and chat will continue through December, weather permitting. Dress warmly, bring your own coffee and wear a mask. We gather near the gazebo in the Town Park, adjacent to FPC, from 10-11am on Tuesday mornings.



~Ann Sadler

## **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).**

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.

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.



## **THE FPC HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE**

**SOS from Santa! Our Holiday Gift Drive has many gifts yet to be claimed!**

**Santa needs help!** We still have over **36 Gift Card and 9 gifts** that need to be claimed for guests of Renewal House and Voices Against Violence. Each year generous FPCers fulfill the wish lists for about 34 moms, children and men at these domestic violence shelters.

**You have only two weeks left to sign up! PLEASE HELP!**

Think about the mom who has fled domestic violence with her young children and faces the holidays with no means to provide gifts for her kids. Think of the woman who fled violence and now has no winter coat, boots or gloves as the cold weather sets in. Let's help these folks have a happy holiday. Your generosity is guaranteed to bring immense joy to those less fortunate.

For those of you thinking that gift cards lack a personal touch, be assured that they are truly a special way to bring joy to others during this pandemic. The gift cards

allow the guests of these shelters the autonomy and power to select gifts for their loved ones. **Please watch this message from the UU Urban Ministry and Renewal House to better understand how a gift card truly makes a difference in the lives of their guests.** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mLWm1S7s-Ns&feature=youtu.be>

**We will be collecting gifts at FPC on Friday, December 4 from 3-5 pm, and Saturday, December 5, from 10 am to 2 pm.**

All gifts should be returned unwrapped, with a gift receipt if possible, and with the recipients name attached. If possible, print out the email you received from SignUp Genius and attach it to your donations. This will really help the elves sort gifts and make sure they get to the right people. Your generosity will bring such joy to so many deserving people!

To participate in this heartwarming event, visit the FPC web site where you will find the **Holiday Gift Giving page** <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/article/holiday-gift-drive>

**There you can learn a bit about the history of this event, as well as this link to SignUp Genius:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49A5A82DABFEC34-holiday>

where you can select gifts to buy. The SignUp Genius will have all the information on what gifts have been requested.

If you have any questions, please contact Diane Miller (9780-897-5470) or at



[gift-drive@fpc-stow-acton.org](mailto:gift-drive@fpc-stow-acton.org)

If you have any questions, please contact Diane Miller (9780-897-5470)

Or at [millerdiane@comcast.net](mailto:millerdiane@comcast.net)

**The Racial Justice Task force is offering a three-part workshop that we are calling “Dismantling Racism as a Spiritual Practice.”**

Lisa Fagerstrom will be the facilitator, and each workshop will begin at 7 pm and be approximately 90 minutes.

**The dates and topics are as follows  
7:00PM ZOOM**

**Monday, October 26th - “Journeying Toward Spiritual Wholeness”**

**Monday, November 23rd- “Dismantling Racism and Other Isms in Ourselves”.**

**Monday, January 25th - “Dismantling Racism and Other Isms in Our Institutions”**

Zoom links and details will be sent closer to each event.

We hope you will mark your calendar and join us on this journey!



New Revival  
Coffeehouse

**COFFEEHOUSE CONCERT DECEMBER 5 at 7:30pm**

**The concert will be streamed on Facebook Live and  
the link will be posted on FPC Announce and on the  
New Revival Coffeehouse Facebook page**

***The New Revival Coffeehouse is back!***



New Revival will present a streaming concert on Saturday  
Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. featuring two fine musicians -  
Celia Woodsmith & Joe K. Walsh.

Celia is a Grammy-nominated vocalist, performer and

songwriter. The Bluegrass Situation described her vocal style as “one of a kind: gritty, muscular, folksy and intimate sometimes all at once.”

(cont'd)

The Boston Globe said she is “unvarnished and intimate...but then sounds like she’s about to part the Dead Sea.”

She is a member of the all-women Nashville-based bluegrass band Della Mae. In 2014 Della Mae was nominated for a Grammy for Best Bluegrass Album for their record “This World Oft Can Be.”

Mandolinist and songwriter Joe K. Walsh comes out of the New England roots music scene. A musician’s musician, he has played with a number of prominent artists like Darol Anger and the Gibson Brothers.

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His new album “Borderland” features roots musicians like fiddlers Bruce Molsky and Brittany Haas, and banjo player Gabe Hershfeld. The songs include Joe’s own lyrics, as well as poems by W.B. Yeats that he set to music.

**The concert will be streamed on Facebook Live and the link will be posted on FPC Announce and on the New Revival Coffeehouse Facebook page.**

**A donation of \$5 to \$10 is suggested for this concert, and can be paid directly to the artists during the event.**

**JANUARY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES  
(The Chronicle)**

**DUE**

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9, 2020**

**(due to the Holidays)**

**FOR THE**

**JANUARY 2021 ISSUE**

**MANY THANKS**

**[OFFICE@FPC-STOW-ACTON.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@FPC-STOW-ACTON.ORG)**

*Happy*

*Thanksgiving  
To One and All*