

FIRST PARISH CHUCH OF STOW & ACTON

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2021 ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Service Times for September! by Rev. Cindy

We're not quite ready yet, due to both the delta variant's spread and the technology and training we need to put into place, to move back into our sanctuary just yet. But we want to move forward into a new year with a new model, and not just start the year doing what we've been doing for the last eighteen months.

So for September, here's what it will look like:

9:30:AM

- Outside Worship, weather permitting. The worship service may be a shorter 45-minute service on most Sundays.
- Outside K-8 Religious Education programming and Nursery Care, weather permitting.

Follow FPC Announce and our FPC Facebook page when the weather looks rainy to make sure things are happening!

Following the 9:30 service:

- Outside "Connections Time" (with no coffee served) following the service.
- The choir will rehearse, with distance and masks, during this time in Fellowship Hall

11:15AM:

- Zoom Worship with live choir and live music broadcasting from Fellowship Hall and the Sunday Speaker broadcasting from the sanctuary. This service will include some elements that the 9:30 service does not, such as choir and a time for all ages, so may be a little longer than the 9:30 service.

- Outside High School Discussion Group on scheduled weeks. High School Discussion Group may gather at 11:00 to allow parents time to return home if desired for the 11:15 service.

Following the 11:15 service:

- Zoom “Connections Time” similar to what’s happened over the last year.
- Outside “Connections Time” for Choir and worship participants, if desired.

Why are we making this change and not just doing services at 9 and 11 or everything at 10?

There are a number of factors, including the needs of our RE parents, the nocturnal leanings of teenagers, the desire to move outside with the uncertainty of weather, the technological set-up with the difficulty of doing it outdoors, tent set-ups and other outdoor details, the rehearsal needs of the choir and what sounds best for choir, how many people the parking lot holds, and the transition time needed to move from in-person to zoom worship every Sunday! There are quite a lot of competing needs and difficulties to overcome to make this work. We’re not positive this will work better for us, but this year is going to be a year where we’re going to be making changes and trying new things to see what works best for us.

This is the plan for September only, and we’ll reassess mid-month to see what October will bring, both from a pandemic standpoint and a scheduling standpoint.

SEPTEMBER PLATE SHARING OPEN TABLE

Open Table's Mission is to end hunger in the local community by providing healthy food in ways that respect the dignity and diversity of those served.

Open Table achieves this mission by:

- Offering a wide variety of healthy and culturally appropriate food choices in the pantry and meal programs.
- Engaging a team of diverse, committed and passionate staff and volunteers

Value Statement:

- We believe that people should not be hungry. We recognize that economic, racial and gender inequality are the main drivers of food insecurity. We welcome our neighbors in need with compassion and respect.
- **Vision Statement:** We strive to end hunger by removing the barriers to food caused by race, gender, sexual orientation, income and age

OPEN TABLE

33 Main Street, Maynard, MA 01754 contact person Jeanine Calabria.

Executive Director

phone number: 978-808-4103

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**Choir in Fellowship Hall 11:00-12:00
sing on zoom**

This Week in our Religious Education Program

We will finally be able to gather in-person for our Religious Education sessions!!

We meet outside, maintain social distancing and ask that all wear a mask.

9:30 Outdoor Service

Children and youth in grades PreK-8 will meet during this service . All children and youth will go directly to RE and will not join in the service to help with social distancing. Children

up to grade 5 will meet in the area right next to the playground off of the lower parking lot. Youth in grades 6-8 will meet behind Fellowship Hall near the back door of the kitchen. There will be signs directing everyone to their right spot.

High School Youth will meet at 11 (giving parents time to return home to zoom the 11:15 service if they wish) **till 12:30**. They will meet behind the Fellowship Hall,

Please contact Michelle Cote, our Director of Religious Education, at dre@fpc-stow-acton.org if you have any questions or concerns.

Meet at Erickson's
THIS Sunday, September 12,
3:00pm - everyone - for Ice Cream

THE WEEK OF September 13-18

Monday SGM 7:-9:00 pm zoom
Climate Task Force 7:30-8:30pm
Sounds of Stow (Hall) 7:00-8:30pm

Tuesday Coffee & Chat 10-11 :00am
at the Gazebo town park
Racial Task Force 7:00-8:15pm

Wednesday SGM 7:00-9:00pm zoom
Virtual Meditation
7:25pm zoom

Thursday Peace Vigil 5:00 pm in front of FPC
Choir rehearsal 7:15-9:15pm (Hall)

Friday 2 external rentals
8am Fri - 2am Sat (Hall)

Saturday Fall Yard Sale 8:00-2:00pm
FPC Parking lot
Auction Item - IPA Beer Tasting
2:00-5:00pm outside back of church

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021
Embracing Possibility
Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

What does it mean to embrace possibility in the midst of a time of uncertainty? How do we let go of expectations and preconceived notions and be open to an emerging future? This service will explore the spiritual path of embracing possibility.

MASKS ON EVERYONE PLEASE

One important note/update for everyone: If you come into the church buildings, please wear a good fitting mask and outside as well.

Masks for the 9:30am outside Sunday Service.

Spiritual Retreat for the New Year with Rev. Cindy & Lisa Fagerstrom

Saturday, September 25, 1:30-4:30pm outside at FPC

Join Rev. Cindy and Lisa Fagerstrom for a spiritual retreat where we'll work on letting go of some of our sorrows from the past year and not being where we hoped we'd be in regards to the pandemic, and then look at how we embrace the moment and set a course for the future. We'll have a variety of spiritual exercises that you can pick and choose from that embrace different spiritual types – verbal, kinesthetic, ritual, and artistic.

Please watch FPC Announce if there is rain, as this event may get cancelled or postponed.

Please RSVP

at <https://forms.gle/VxS62qp53yrnUP2e7> and let us know you're coming! We want to make sure we have enough supplies for everyone.

Climate change won't wait and neither should we! The Climate Task Force has many plans for this year...

To begin, we want to acknowledge a substantial bequest to the church's Net Zero project from the whole Jones family in honor of Greg Jones. This gift will make a significant contribution to our efforts to achieve the goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions for all of the FPC campus. Thank you!

In the coming year we will be;

- holding focused meetings on changes/upgrades to specific parts of the church's infrastructure as we develop plans for reaching net zero
- developing a "road map" for our plan to transition the church off fossil fuel use and achieve our goal of "net zero" emissions by 2035.
- implementing our first steps along the road to net zero
- learning about the new climate legislation on Beacon Hill and advocating for specific policies and bills
- creating materials and programs to educate and inform our community about climate concerns

The Climate Change Task Force will be working on these and other activities this year and we need your help.

Our regular meetings will be on the second Tuesday at 7:30.

The first *regular* meeting will be on September 14 at 7:30.

We welcome new members of all ages because we all bring different skills and perspectives to the activities ahead. Among the skills and interests we need are *graphic design, writing, social media and research*. You do not have to have expertise in the environment or in various climate technologies. We are all learning as we go.

Look for our table at FPC's Make a Difference Day on Sept 11. We will have activities and information...and a drawing for some special items to improve the local ecology of your yard!

Write to Rick Lent to learn more and join our September 14 meeting
rickmlent@gmail.com.

WELCOME TO FPC'S NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR ~ BRAD DUMONT

Brad Dumont is a passionate arts advocate working to create and support artistic projects that contribute to cultural improvement and community-based arts education. As a conductor, he believes in the power of

choral singing to build empathetic communities — providing space for those who may otherwise not be heard. Brad is committed to a process-oriented approach of music-making which allows for artists to explore broad themes within the topics of equity and justice.

Brad is the new Director of Music here at FPC. He also serves as Director of Choral Activities at Assumption University, and Music Director of the Salisbury Singers in Worcester, MA. Additionally, Brad serves on the artistic planning team for the Boston-based choir VOICES 21C where he helps develop creative staging and narrative driven programs. Brad is also an orchestra contractor for ensembles throughout New England, vice chair of the Greater Boston Choral Consortium, and a producer for The Choral Commons co-leading *Engender*, a podcast focusing on gender diversity in choral music. He has previously served organizations like Emmanuel Music, Boston Lyric Opera, New Hampshire Master Chorale, and New Hampshire Music Festival as an executive & artistic producer, special projects & production manager, and/or artistic consultant and advisor.

Brad is currently working towards a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in choral conducting at the University of Hartford's Hartt School studying with Dr. Anthony Trecek-King. Learn more about Brad at www.bradforddumont.com.

"Music & Arts Vision Forum"

Sunday, September 26 at 7:00pm
zoom

Come share your thoughts and ideas for the vibrant future of Music & Arts at FPC with new Music Director Brad Dumont, Music Chair Peter Fiske, Arts Chair Sharon Webb, and Rev. Dr. Cindy Landrum in an open forum for all FPC members. Youth are welcome!

We will hear from members of the committee about the arts at FPC and then split out into groups to hear your ideas and interests related to growing our robust arts community. For questions, email Brad Dumont at music@fpc-stow-acton.org

.Zoom Link: <https://assumption.zoom.us/j/8443249741>

WELCOME TO FPC'S YOUTH COORDINATOR

MARISSA EVANS

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Marissa Evans (she/her) grew up at FPC Stow Acton and is excited to return as the Youth Coordinator.

Marissa has a Bachelors of Science from Gaia University
and Master of Arts in Social Transformation from
Pacific School of Religion.

She is a certified life coach specializing in working with
teens and young adults

Her other interests include rollerskating, creative writing,
Earth-based spirituality, and social justice work.

WELCOME TO FPC'S SEXTON ~ MIKE SILKONIS

We have a new sexton. His name is Mike Silkonis. He comes to us from having spent the last seven years as head custodian for the Wayland Public schools. He is now retired and lives in Maynard. He loves to garden, ride mountain bikes, and hunt.

He will be starting September 1st. I want to thank our Sexton Interview team: Ellen Kisslinger, Bill Froberg, Scott Feldhusen and Kevin O'Brien for their work.

~Sharon Brownfield
Chair, Sexton Interview Team

**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

SATURDAY MORNING Breakfasts

Breakfast OCTOBER 16 (ZOOM)

We return this fall via Zoom. October 16 will be the first program, TBD, watch for updates in the various church publications.

On **November 13th**, Paul Franceschi, Outreach Coordinator for the Boston Area Gleaners, will speak about the organization's activities. They recently bought Stonefield Farm in Acton to use as a staging area for their packaging and distributing of local crops including the ones grown on site. In July several members of FPC

picked green beans that were later brought to area food banks.

Hopefully we will be in Fellowship Hall in January to enjoy each other's company and eat a church cooked breakfast.

~Jeff Brown