





Thank you to:  
our Zoom Host,  
Pat Sorn & Jeff Brown, Ushers  
and to our participants, staff and leadership

Our flowers today are given by  
Sharon Brownfield  
In memory of:  
Rollin & Mary Lee Smith



## FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

*Unitarian Universalist*



**Sunday, April 24, 2022**

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister  
Michelle Cote, Director of Religious Education  
Deedee Perkins, Parish Administrator  
Brad Dumont, Music Director  
Sanghee Kim, Organist/Pianist  
Joleen Trotta, Welcoming & Membership Coordinator  
Mike Silkonis, Sexton  
Marissa Evans, Youth Coordinator  
Janet Beatrice, External Publicity  
Sharon Brownfield, President  
Jenni Edgerton, Vice President  
Bill Froberg, Treasurer  
Johanna Pyle, Clerk

*First Parish is a Unitarian Universalist Association Welcoming Congregation.  
We warmly welcome gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender  
people into our community.*

Large print orders of service and hymnals are available from an usher to help everyone be a part of worship in the fullest way possible. Assisted Listening Devices are available when worship is in the sanctuary.

On the web at [fpc-stow-acton.org](http://fpc-stow-acton.org) and on Facebook.

*\* Please rise in body or in spirit.*

## ONLINE SUPPLEMENT PAGE

This page contains information specifically for folks joining us online!

### Hymn Lyrics

#### Hymn #38 *Morning Has Broken*

1. Morning has broken like the first morning,  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!
2. Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.
3. Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning  
born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!

#### Hymn #123 *Spirit of Life*

Spirit of Life, come unto me.  
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.  
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;  
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.  
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;  
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

#### Hymn #1064 *Blue Boat Home*

1. Though below me, I feel no motion  
standing on these mountains and plains.  
Far away from the rolling ocean

still my dry land heart can say:  
I've been sailing all my life now,  
never harbor or port have I known.  
The wide universe is the ocean I travel  
and the earth is my blue boat home.

2. Sun my sail and moon my rudder  
as I ply the starry sea,  
leaning over the edge in wonder,  
casting questions into the deep.  
Drifting here with my ship's companions,  
all we kindred pilgrim souls,  
making our way by the lights of the heavens in our  
beautiful blue boat home.
3. I give thanks to the waves up holding me,  
hail the great winds urging me on,  
greet the infinite sea before me,  
sing the sky my sailor's song:  
I was born up on the fathoms,  
never harbor or port have I known.  
The wide universe is the ocean I travel,  
and the earth is my blue boat home.

### Sharing Our Gifts

If you are mailing a pledge or a donation, here is the information:

Pledges: attn: Pledge Secretary, PO Box 215, Stow MA 01775  
Donations: attn: Treasurer, 353 Great Rd, Stow MA 01775

## SOUTHEAST INDIA PROJECT

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 17th trip (Russ Hart's 3rd, Vicky Tabor's 5th) to the villages and Orphanage. The pandemic caused us to cancel our scheduled visit again this year. We had to forgo the Friendship Kits that FPC families generously assemble each year for the children at the orphanage. Covid has drastically changed the lives at WIDE orphanage. We have helped fund a new building to increase the number of girls who can live at WIDE and enjoy a safe, healthy life and an education. All the children have recently been allowed by the government to return to the Orphanage and resume their education. Kumari, who operates WIDE with her husband and daughter, had 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.

We also continue to support Women's Self-Help Groups in dalit villages as well as micro-loans to women for dairy herds, tailoring training and foot treadle sewing machines, and organic farming. Your continued generous support is greatly appreciated.

### ANNUAL REPORT ARTICLES

#### ARE DUE

TO Sharon Brownfield  
[sharonbrownfield@gmail.com](mailto:sharonbrownfield@gmail.com)

(NO PDFs please)

Thanks so much!

## SUNDAY APRIL 24, 2022

### This week April 24 in our Religious Education Program:

**Children in grades Prek-Grade 5** will gather after the Message for All Ages to continue discussing Transformation by exploring seeds and plant growth.

**Junior Youth** - After the Message for all ages Junior Youth (grades 6-8) will head outside to celebrate Earth Day with an earth-honoring ritual and games.

**Senior Youth:** Join us from 11:30am-1pm for an outdoor brunch! In addition to reconnecting and enjoying each other's company, we will talk about the youth worship service on May 15. Youth get to decide the theme and pick out readings, music, and creative direction. There is no pressure for any youth to stand up in front of the congregation, but we need your input to make this a great service!

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### THE FPC JAZZ BAND PLAYS AT FPC AND OTHER VENUES

- **Sunday, May 22**, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m., FPC church services
- **Sunday, July 10**, 10:00 a.m., FPC church service
- **Saturday, Sept. 3**, noon to 4:00 p.m. along with other performers, Assabet Craft Beer Festival at FPC
- **Saturday, Sept. 17** at 4:30 p.m., public concert outdoors at Hudson Town Hall, 78 Main St, Hudson

Add these new dates to your calendars and bring a friend

## THE WEEK OF APRIL 25 - 30, 2022

- Monday** Assabet Food Vestry 8:00am  
Racial JTF drop In zoom 7:00pm  
Stow Chorus 7:00pm Hall  
Jazz Band 7:00pm Sanctuary
- Tuesday** Coffee at the Gazebo 10am-11am  
TRUSTEE MEETING Hall 7:00pm
- Wednesday** Worship Committee 12:30 zoom  
Meditation 7:25 pm zoom
- Thursday** Arts Coalition 3:00pm zoom  
Peace Vigil 5:00pm front of church  
Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm Hall
- Friday** Ferry Beach Weekend
- Saturday** Ferry Beach Weekend  
Growing Victory Garden 9:00am Zoom

## SUNDAY May 1, 2022

*10:00 am in the sanctuary and online*

"Beltane and May Day"

**Ken Langer,**

*3rd year UU seminary student*

May 1 is known as Beltane for many earth-centered spiritualities and there are several holidays that come near to that date for a reason. May 1 marks the beginning of the season of light. It is a time of impending warmth and brightness. It is also the time when nature prepares to reproduce. Join with us as we celebrate this earth celebration.

## SUMMER SERVICES June 19-September 4

This is a reminder that the Worship Committee is now actively looking for people interested in either leading or participating in one of our summer services, which will begin on **June 19 and run each Sunday for 12 weeks through September 4.**

**Do you have an idea for a summer service? A member of the Worship Committee would be happy to be a resource for you and make sure your service conforms to any guidelines (such as Covid) we might have. Alternatively, is there someone you think the Worship Committee should approach about leading a service of their own?**

While we are not prescribing an overarching theme for this year's services, we are particularly aware of the connections we are making with others in our broader community, and we would love to have a few services that focus on extending those bridges and possibly introducing us to other local organizations with compatible missions.

**Please contact any of us on the Worship Committee with your ideas, suggestions, or questions:**

Neil Saunders, Chair ([neilsaund@verizon.net](mailto:neilsaund@verizon.net))

Marcia Allison ([marrich86@hotmail.com](mailto:marrich86@hotmail.com))

Susan Avery ([susan.avery@verizon.net](mailto:susan.avery@verizon.net))

Aimee Ledwell ([redshoegirl@gmail.com](mailto:redshoegirl@gmail.com))

Sharon Webb ([marysharonwebb@gmail.com](mailto:marysharonwebb@gmail.com))

Rev. Cindy Landrum ([minister@fpc-stow-acton.org](mailto:minister@fpc-stow-acton.org))

We look forward to hearing from you!

Hello FPC Community!

Our Garden Party Spring Auction is coming together nicely and you can now read all about it on our auction web page here <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/article/fpc-auction-2022---garden-party>. Go to this page to:

- Fill out a donation form for items, services, events etc. that you are donating to the auction. Help seed our garden with all your creative ideas!
- Sign up to purchase a gift card from local businesses to donate to the auction. This is a great way to support businesses that have donated to us in the past, participate in the auction with little effort, and offer auction items that are affordable to many members and friends.

Look for future emails about volunteering for pre- and day-of auction activities. We will need help from everyone to make our garden grow!

New this year! TWO fun Live Auction Garden Party contests! Can you win for best Garden Party hat? Or best flower arrangement? These contests will be expertly judged and you may win gloating rights, so get out your sun bonnets, tams, straw hats, ribbons, flowers and more, and start planning your contest entry.

Remember: The auction will be held in two parts:

- An **on-line silent auction will be held on Auctria from June 8th through June 22nd**. More to come on how to participate in late May.
- A live event on **June 18th starting at 2 pm**. We will start with an opportunity to socialize among the blooms of our on-campus gardens, where you can partake in light snacks, beer, wine and soft drinks. We will have jewelry items and some silent auctions available to bid on. The live auction will follow at about 3:30 in Fellowship Hall.

Come join us for this annual extravaganza!

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



**FPC Auction 2022**  
**Garden Party**  
*Have a Wild Thyme!*

**Live Auction at FPC: June 18, 2022**  
**Beginning at 2:00 PM (Outside)**  
**Live Bidding inside**

Light snacks and beverages served outside  
~Childcare will be provided~

**Silent Auction Online Begins June 8, 2022**

Check out the FPC website for updates  
[www.fpc-stow-acton.org](http://www.fpc-stow-acton.org)

## Strategic Plan Service Announcements April 24th

### Membership

We are nothing without our community of members. Just like a garden, our membership needs both nurturing and growth. We must always strive to ensure that our current members are engaged with and invested in our church and its mission. We should never take our church family for granted and must work to provide a safe, inviting and energizing environment for all. Concurrently, we need to expand our membership by appealing to the broader



community and offering a spiritual life and programs of interest to a diverse range of people. Only through maintaining and growing our membership can we spread our important goals of social justice, inclusion, environmental sustainability, peace, and the worth of all individuals.

**Vision:** Continue to support and meet the spiritual needs of our existing members, and to attract new members to our community so we can expand the reach of our mission.

**Plans to date:** The Membership Committee is developing plans for reaching out to existing members to identify how we can increase member involvement in the church and identify areas where we can improve member engagement through spiritual, social and social justice activities. The Committee is identifying events in the greater Stow and Acton area where FPC may want to have a presence, and is developing materials that can easily be used at such events. Plans are also underway to better use social media to improve our exposure in the broader community.

## Strategic Plan Service Announcements April 24th

### Net Zero

The climate crisis is real, and the church wants to do its part to mitigate the worst impact of climate change. In 2020, the congregation voted to work to have our church become Net Zero by 2035.

**Vision:** By 2035 or sooner, First Parish Church of Stow and Acton will achieve net carbon emissions and total sustainability from all congregation activities.

**Plans to date:** All lights and lightbulbs in the church have been replaced with LEDs. The Climate Change Task Force has selected 4 priority areas: kitchen, sanctuary windows, solar panels and landscaping. Detailed plans and cost estimates have been developed and with the approval of the congregation begin work in those areas next year.



**LOOKING FORWARD TO A MAJOR NEW FPC  
FUNDRAISING EVENT...**



**The Assabet Craft Beer  
& Food Truck Festival  
at First Parish Church of Stow & Acton  
on Saturday, September 3, 2022  
from 12 noon to 4pm (rain or shine)**

**with**

**Craft brews from Amory's Tomb Brewing (Maynard), Bull  
Spit Brewing (Lancaster), and Sterling Street Brewery  
(Clinton)**

**plus cider, wine, and soft drinks**

**Food from Meat@Slim's (BBQ), Lala's Neapolitan-ish Pizza,  
Kith & Kin (including gluten-free & vegetarian), and  
New City Microcreamery**

**Music provided by the Parish Jazz Band and others TBD**

**Children's games (including cornhole) and face painting**

**Admission \$5 per person (free for children 12 and under) with  
drink tickets \$5 each**

***Please stop by our table at coffee hour today and sign  
up to volunteer at the Festival. We still need lots of help  
with set-up, admission entry, guest relations, parking, cleanup,  
first aid, marketing, and TIPS certification. And as our way of  
saying thank you, we have a special gift for everyone who signs  
up.***

For more details, contact any of our organizers: Neil Saunders,  
Hector Constantzos, Dave Sansone, Scott Feldhusen, Rebecca  
Stadolnik, and Margaret Tucker. Cheers!

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**It's time to start planning for this year's Plant Sale**



***Date: Saturday, May 21***

***Time: 9:30-11:30***

As we do every year around this time, we ask First Parish earth lovers for plants – lots of plants – from your yards and gardens! Please take a moment to consider plants you'd like to donate to the Sale, which is an important fundraiser for the Church. Please note that plants that are different or unusual in some way are especially desirable, the kinds of plants that if they weren't already in your yard or garden, you yourself would like to buy.

We seek shrubs, small trees, ground cover, herbs, perennials, and vegetables or flowering plants you may have started.

Please dig up and pot the plants you'd like to donate as soon as possible. Right now is the best time of year to do this! Early-season transplanting is less stressful on plants. Please put them in a good spot where they can grow strong until it's time for delivery. That way, the plants will be well-established and looking their very best on Plant Sale day!

We're also looking for help with gathering, organizing, and labeling plants, and setting up and running the Sale. Please email [peggyaladini@gmail.com](mailto:peggyaladini@gmail.com) with questions, or if you'd like to help.



