

**FIRST PARISH  
CHURCH  
OF STOW & ACTON**  
*Unitarian Universalist*

Sunday, May 5, 2024

**The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L.  
Landrum**  
Minister

**Meg Rivers-Wright**  
Administration, Membership

**Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson**  
Dir. of Religious Education

**Chris Hossfeld**  
Music Director

**Trevor Berens**  
Accompanist

**Justin Marble**  
Nursery Care Coordinator

**Mike Silkonis**  
Sexton

**Janet Beatrice**  
External Publicity

**Felix Freeman**  
Tech Assistant

**Jenni Edgerton**  
President

**Brendon Chetwynd**  
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.  
Assisted Listening Devices are available when worship is in the Sanctuary.

FPC currently has a masks-optional policy throughout the church.  
In the Sanctuary, several back rows with accessible seating are "mask-  
required."

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

May 5, 2024: 10:00

Gathering

\* **Gathering Song** "Call to Our Relations" Morning Star Singers  
George Paul

All are invited to join singing on the text in **bold**.

Wejgwita'jig gnngi' gmaq, Ula tet nige'ia	They are coming, my people, right here now.
Mawiomi wesgowa's'g, Welta' sualtultimgewei	The gathering is on. We are very happy.
Wejgwita'jig niskamij, Ula tet nige'ia	They are coming, the ancestors, right here now.
Nenmi'tij ta'n elta'tij angap Tmi'tij ugtawtiwow	They know where they are going They look at their road
Wejgwwita'jig no' gmaq, Ula tet nige'ia	They are coming, my relations, right here now.
Pepgwejete'mati'gw newgititpa'q Way ha ya yo way	We are drumming all night long.

**Way ha way ha way ha ya  
Way ha way ha ya  
Way ha ya yo way  
Way ha, way ha, way ha ya  
Way ha way ha ya  
Way ha ya yo way**

**Welcome** Brendon Chetwynd

**Opening Words** "Four Direction Prayer" Peter Searching Owl  
Johnny Paleface (Mohawk)  
Navajo (Dineh) Native American

**Chalice Lighting** Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

\* **Communal Song** "Water Song" Morning Star Singers  
Ancient Cherokee

*Sung four times, all are invited to join in singing*

<b>Wishita do ya do ya do ya Wishita do ya do ya hay Wishita do ya do ya do ya Wishita do ya do ya hay</b>	<b>Wisha teneya hay-a hay-a Wisha teneya hay-a hay Wisha teneya hay-a hay-a Wisha teneya hay-a hay</b>
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## Centering

### \* **Covenant and Affirmation**

Love is the spirit of this church,  
and service its law.

This is our great covenant:  
To dwell together in peace,  
to seek the truth in love,  
and to help one another.

From all that dwell below the skies  
let words of love and peace arise.  
Let joyful songs of praise be sung,  
through every land, by every tongue.

### **Land Acknowledgement**

#### **Time for All Ages**

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson  
Director of Religious Education

#### **Candle of Recognition**

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

#### **Joys and Sorrows**

Lay Minister

#### **Prayer or Meditation**

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

### \* **Communal Song**

“Humble Song”

Morning Star Singers

1. We gotta humble ourselves  
in the eyes of our Creator  
**We gotta bend down low**  
**We gotta humble ourselves**  
in the eyes of our Creator  
**We gotta know what she knows**  
**We can raise each other up –**  
higher and higher  
**We can raise each other up –**

2. We gotta humble ourselves  
in the eyes of our Mishomis\*  
**We gotta bend down low**  
**We gotta humble ourselves**  
in the eyes of our Mishomis\*  
**We gotta know what he knows**  
**We can raise each other up –**  
higher and higher  
**We can raise each other up –**

*\*Grandfather in Ojibwe*

3. We gotta humble ourselves  
in the eyes of our Nokomis\*  
**We gotta bend down low**  
**We gotta humble ourselves**  
in the eyes of our Nokomis\*  
**We gotta know what she knows**  
**We can raise each other up –**  
higher and higher  
**We can raise each other up –**

6. We gotta humble ourselves  
in the eyes of our Four Legged  
**We gotta bend down low**  
**We gotta humble ourselves**  
in the eyes of our Four Legged  
**We gotta know what they know**  
**We can raise each other up –**  
higher and higher  
**We can raise each other up –**

4. We gotta humble ourselves  
in the eyes of the Children  
**We gotta bend down low**  
**We gotta humble ourselves**  
in the eyes of the Children

7. We gotta humble ourselves  
in the eyes of the Swimmers  
**We gotta bend down low**  
**We gotta humble ourselves**  
in the eyes of the Swimmers

We gotta know what they know  
We can raise each other up –  
higher and higher  
We can raise each other up –

5. We gotta humble ourselves  
in the eyes of the Winged  
We gotta bend down low  
We gotta humble ourselves  
in the eyes of the Winged  
We gotta know what they know  
We can raise each other up –  
higher and higher  
We can raise each other up –

We gotta know what they know  
We can raise each other up –  
higher and higher  
We can raise each other up –

8. We gotta humble ourselves  
in the eyes of the Crawlers  
We gotta bend down low  
We gotta humble ourselves  
in the eyes of the Crawlers  
We gotta know what they know  
We can raise each other up –  
higher and higher  
We can raise each other up –

Higher and higher, we can raise each other up  
Higher and higher, we can raise each other up

*\*Grandmother in Ojibwe*

### Exploring

**Story**

“The First Strawberries”  
Cherokee Story  
as retold by Joseph Bruchac

Aimeé Nicole  
Snyder Ledwell

### **Sharing Our Gifts**

This month FPC shares our weekly offering with Boston Area Gleaners.  
You may donate with a check made out to First Parish Church,  
online at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate>, or text (978) 310-3309.

**Anthem**

“Mahk-Jhi” Morning Star Singers  
The only remaining song of the Tutelo-Saponi Sioux people

*Translation:*

Our hearts are full and our minds are good,  
Our ancestors come and give us strength,  
Stand tall, sing, chant and never forget  
who you are or where you come from.

**Reflections**

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

### Returning

\* **Communal Song**

“Bear Song”  
Mi’kmaq song, sung in the fall and spring

Morningstar Singers

All are invited to join singing on the text in **bold**, sung five times:

Ya way oh way oh hayhayhay ya way oh hay,  
**Ya way oh way oh hayhayhay ya way oh hay,**  
Ya way oh hayy, ya way oh hay ya,  
way oh hay ya, way oh hay ya hay oh,  
**Ya way oh hayy, ya way oh hay ya,**  
**way oh hay ya, way oh hay ya hay oh.**

\* **Benediction**

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson

\* **Closing Song**

Peace be with you 'til we meet again!  
As life lays its task before you,  
keep love's banner floating o'er you.  
Peace be with you 'till we meet again.

**Postlude**

“Strong Woman’s Song”

Morning Star Singers

Way hay a – way hay a hay o  
Way hay a – way hay a hay o  
Way hay a way hi yo  
Way hay ya, ho way hay ya,  
way hay ya, way hi yo  
Way hay a – way hay a way hi o  
Way hay ya, ho way hay ya,  
way hay ya, way hi yo

**Greet Your Neighbor**

**UNACC Morning Star Singers**

Jenn Beal, Doreen Benati, Heidi Durrin, Maydelle Gamester, Cheney Harper, Barbara Jerome, Doria Kutrubes, Lorena Novak, Heather Moretz, Naomi Newell, Janet Pare, Chere Piermarini, Jean Secovich, and Rita Wornham

UNACC Chief - Peter Searching Owl

The Morning Star Singers are a women’s traditional hand drum group from the United Native American Cultural Center in Devens, MA. Founded under our former Chief, Ronald Jerome (Mi’kmaq), this group seeks to preserve and continue the tradition of women’s singing in native culture.

The Morning Star Singers regularly participate in cultural outreach programs, events and Powwows in the Eastern United States. The group is intertribal and consists of members and descendants of multiple native nations as well as non native women who wish to sing and participate in our beautiful traditions.

**Thank you:**

Sharon Brownfield, Zoom Host  
Marcia Rising and Carolyn Zettler, Ushers  
Kirsten Chetwynd, Coffee Host ☕♥  
Our staff and leadership

**...and to our visitors, thank you for coming!**

We hope you found something you're looking for in our service and congregation, and that you'll come back if it feels like a fit.

Here's how to keep connecting with our people and programs:

1) **Come to coffee hour** right after the service, downstairs in Fellowship Hall.



2) **Fill out a Visitor Card** in your pew and hand it to an usher **OR** scan this QR code and complete a similar form online.

3) **Subscribe to our e-newsletters** and e-mail groups:



**May Plate Sharing:**



**Boston Area Gleaners (BAG)** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting a more equitable, just, and sustainable food system. Please see *The Chronicle, This Week at FPC*, and [www.bostonareagleaners.org](http://www.bostonareagleaners.org) to learn more about BAG's mission and how to volunteer. Your support is deeply appreciated.

**Next Sunday's Service** 5/12, 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone

**"Faith of Our Foremothers"** - The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Rev. Cindy will profile several women or groups of women who have made a difference in Unitarian and Universalist history.

## Today at FPC

10 am Service, Outside and online (Rain location: Fellowship Hall)

11 am Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall:

### **The Auction has closed but the Games aren't over! See what's still available!**

There will be 30+ jewelry and other items available for purchase and pick-up this week at coffee hour. All jewelry is marked down below the auction minimum bids! Jewelry won in the auction will also be available for pick-up! **Get in on some of the open seats for events - bring your cash or checks and get some great deals!**

## Religious Education

**TODAY:** InterGen service with Morning Star Singers

**5/12:** Time for All Ages followed by age-appropriate classes. The DRE is off.

## This Week at FPC

**Book Group** Tue. 5/7, 7 pm, online

*Finding Me: A Memoir* by Viola Davis. "[A] fulfilling narrative of struggle and success....Her gorgeous storytelling will inspire anyone wishing to shed old labels." – Los Angeles Times. Contact [sharonbrownfield@gmail.com](mailto:sharonbrownfield@gmail.com) for the link.

**Guest Table** Fri. 5/10, 5:30-6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

~Doors open at 5 ~ Dinner starts at 5:30 pm ~ All are Welcome ~No Charge. **Menu:** Salad, taco pasta, cornbread, dessert. A vegetarian, dairy free, and gluten free option will be available.

**Club UU** Fri, 5/10, 6:30-8:30 pm, Vestry and Youth Room

Our K-5 kids have a monthly social event just for them! They'll enjoy fun science activities and games together in our Community Room.

**Vinny Pendergast and the Sons of Blarney** Sat. 5/11, 7 pm, Fellowship Hall

**Presented by the Asylum Seekers Task Force** - Proceeds from this fundraiser will cover some of the legal costs of one of our families in their quest for asylum.

A lively, energetic group that plays your favorite Irish tunes. Seasoned musicians who have performed extensively in Massachusetts and beyond, their toe tapping music will have you singing along, even dancing. They'll bring a tear to your eye and a smile to your face!



Doors Open at 6:30 pm. \$20 per adult, children free.

Scan the QR code to purchase tickets at Eventbrite.

Tasty sweet and savory refreshments and beverages will be served; cash donations are appreciated.