

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



**Sunday, May 12, 2024**

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

**Trevor Berens**  
Accompanist

**Jenni Edgerton**  
President

**Meg Rivers-Wright**  
Administration,  
Membership

**Justin Marble**  
Nursery Care Coordinator

**Brendon Chetwynd**  
Vice President

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

**Mike Silkonis**  
Sexton

**Bill Froberg**  
Treasurer

**Chris Hossfeld**  
Music Director

**Janet Beatrice**  
External Publicity

**Johanna Pyle**  
Clerk

**Felix Freeman**  
Tech Assistant

*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 12, 2024: 10:00 am**

**Gathering**

**Prelude**                                  Improvisation #1                                  Trevor Berens, piano  
Amy Beach

**Welcome & Announcements**                                  Elizabeth Michaud, Board of Trustees

**Introit**                                  *Sing and Rejoice*                                  FPC Adult Choir  
Traditional Round                                  Trevor Berens, piano  
(Lyrics are Hymn 395)

**Opening Words**    Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

**Chalice Lighting**

**\* Hymn #1026**                                  *If Every Woman in the World*

**Centering**

**\* Covenant and Affirmation**

Love is the spirit of this church, and service its law.	From all that dwell below the skies let words of love and peace arise.
This is our great covenant: To dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.	Let joyful songs of praise be sung. through every land, by every tongue.

**Land Acknowledgement**    Elizabeth Michaud

**Time for All Ages**    Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

**Going Forth With the Light**

**Joys and Sorrows**    Hector Constantzos, Lay Minister

**Prayer or Meditation**

**\* Hymn #1009**                                  *Meditation on Breathing*

**Exploring**

**Responsive Reading #573 "Mother's Day Proclamation"**  
Julia Ward Howe

**Plate Sharing Introduction**                                  video                                  Ellen Kisslinger

*\* Rise in Body and Spirit*

## Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share 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

*My Eyes for Beauty Pine*  
Lyrics: Robert Bridges  
Music: Herbert Howells

FPC Adult Choir  
Trevor Berens, piano

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 My eyes for beauty pine,<br>My soul for Goddës grace:<br>No other care nor hope is mine,<br>to heaven I turn my face.          | 3 And every gentle heart,<br>That burns with true desire,<br>Is lit from eyes that mirror part<br>Of that celestial fire. |
| 2 One splendor thence is shed<br>From all the stars above:<br>Tis named when God's name is said,<br>Tis Love, tis heavenly Love. |   |

### Sermon

"Faith of Our Foremothers"

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

### Returning

\* Hymn #1051

*We Are...*

\* Benediction

\* 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

*May*  
Fanny Mendelssohn

Trevor Berens, piano

### Greet Your Neighbor

**Thank you:**

Hector Constantzos, Zoom Host  
Rick Lent, Jamison House, Ushers

Coffee Hosts ☕♥

Our staff and leadership

Today's flowers were donated by Sandra Mika:

*Happy Birthday to Allison Dana Mika Lukacic  
and in Memory of Teresa Chepla, Frances Mika*

**...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:



## Announcements

### **May Plate Sharing: Boston Area Gleaners (BAG)**

is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting a more equitable, just, and sustainable food system.



With the support of the Town of Acton, Acton Conservation Trust, Sudbury Valley Trustees, and individuals, BAG purchased Stonefield Farm in July of 2021. This enabled them to develop the Food Hub-- a wholesale market for local produce – providing income opportunities for farmers, and a much-needed farm-to-institution supply line for local universities, hospitals, and food banks. Their vision is to sustain a permanent agricultural supply chain that will improve the viability of local farms and the health of communities in the Boston metro area who have

historically suffered from inequity in the food system.

As the pandemic government programs to ease food insecurity have ended, BAG is expanding its efforts at the farm itself. This summer they will grow produce such as collards, ochra and callaloo that are in high demand but difficult to source locally. They invite community members to join them for volunteer gleaning “trips”, and to attend the community gathering at the farm on June 22 where there will be music, food trucks, and an opportunity to enjoy the farm.

Please visit [www.bostonareagleaners.org](http://www.bostonareagleaners.org) to learn more about BAG’s mission and how to volunteer. Your support is deeply appreciated.

**FPC’s Annual Report will be available** on the FPC website at <https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org/members-friends/documents> if you would like to read it before Friday’s meeting. Paper copies will also be available to pick up at the church. See Meg for details.

## Today at FPC

10 am Service, Sanctuary and online

11 am Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall

FREE BEER! \*

**The Assabet Craft Beer & Food Truck Festival**  
is returning to FPC, and you can help *today* by signing up to volunteer for  
Saturday, August 31, 2024, 12-4 pm (rain or shine):

Craft Brews

Food Trucks

Music (a band)

Fun activities for kids

Admission: \$5-10 donation

Kids 12 & under free

Drink tickets: \$5

**Lots of volunteers are needed!**

We have 18 signed up so far...

Please come help with what will be another really fun family event  
for both FPC and our wider community.

\* **Sign up in person during Coffee Hour**  
**and get a complimentary bottle of**  
**First Parish Dunkel,**

a German-style dark lager freshly brewed especially for our volunteers by Neil  
Saunders, Dave Sansone, and Scott Feldhusen!



We'd like to firm up the volunteer positions before the end of the church  
year so that we can better plan for this festival.

If not at coffee hour, please sign up using this SignUpGenius QR Code.

## Religious Education

TODAY *Time for All Ages*, followed by age-appropriate classes.  
The DRE will be off this week.

5/19 InterGen. service where we will recognize our Bridging seniors,  
recognize our 8th graders who are moving up and have our RE  
Extravaganza! It will be a fun filled service.

5/26 Our last Chapel service of the year, followed by age-appropriate classes.

## Every Week at FPC

**Tuesdays**     **Coffee and Chat** 10-11 am  
Town Gazebo at Town Park, adjacent to FPC  
Bring your own coffee!



**Wednesdays**     **Meditation & Reading** 6:40 pm  
Fellowship Hall and online  
6:40 - 7:20 pm *A Path with Heart*, Jack Kornfield  
7:20 - 7:30 pm Transition break  
7:30 - 8:45 pm Meditation  
Contact [meditation@fpc-stow-acton.org](mailto:meditation@fpc-stow-acton.org) for info.



**Thursdays**     **1) Peace Vigil** 5-6 pm  
in front of FPC on the Stow Common  
Contact [neilsaund@verizon.net](mailto:neilsaund@verizon.net) for info.



**2) Choir Rehearsal**, 7:15-9 pm  
Sanctuary  
Join the Choir!

**Fridays**     **Bridge Group** 1-3:30 pm,  
Community Room  
Contact [Hconstantzos@gmail.com](mailto:Hconstantzos@gmail.com) for info.



**Next Sunday's Service** 5/19, 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone

**Religious Education Sunday and Bridging - Rayla Baldwin-Mattson and members of the RE Program, along with the Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum**

Come join us for this special service celebrating our religious education program with our recognition of graduating high school seniors "bridging" to adulthood. The service will also feature our annual "RE Extravaganza"!

## This Week at FPC

**MON, 5/13 Parish Jazz Band Rehearsal**, 7 pm, Sanctuary

Please contact Michael Paladini [mwpaladini@gmail.com](mailto:mwpaladini@gmail.com) for more information.

**FRI, 5/17 FPC's Annual Meeting** Registration begins at 6:45 pm.

It will be hybrid again, enabling all to participate.

**SAT, 5/18**

► **Saturday Morning Breakfast**, 7:30-9 am, Fellowship Hall

Fellowship Hall, 7:30 am Coffee, 8 am Breakfast

\$6, RSVP Jeff Brown, [jab.jeffbrown@gmail.com](mailto:jab.jeffbrown@gmail.com)

*The Concord Bridge*, a weekly newspaper, just celebrated its first anniversary. A group of townspeople, including our speakers Dinny McIntyre and Alice Kaufman, started the newspaper, and they'll tell us how they did it.

► **FPC Plant Sale, an important fundraiser** - 9:30-11:30 am

Our annual **Plant Sale** takes place in front of the Carriage Shed, rain or shine.

Drop off plants in the bays in front of the Carriage Shed any time on Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

so we have a chance to sort and price. I can also take donations at my house during the coming week. Set up tables for the sale at 3pm.

Email

[peggypaladini@gmail.com](mailto:peggypaladini@gmail.com)

with questions or to help.



We will also be hosting our famous **Jewelry Sale** during the same hours in our Community Room.

Gently used jewelry make great gifts!

You can also shop at the sale on Fri. 5/17, 4-7 pm  
and after service next Sun 5/19.



**ONLINE SUPPLEMENT PAGE:**  
**Information for folks joining us online**

1. Closed captioning is available for FPC's online services. If you don't see captions on your screen, you can use the button at the bottom of your screen to request that the host turn them on.
2. Today's Zoom Host: **Felix Freeman**
3. Hymn lyrics will be in a slide presentation today.



**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