

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist

Sunday, May 1, 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 and on Facebook.

May 1, 2022

10:00 AM

Gathering

Prelude -- *Fanfare for the Common Man* -- by Aaron Copland -- (recording)

Land Acknowledgement, Welcome & Announcements
-- Johanna Pyle, Board Clerk

Greet Your Neighbor

Introit -- *Now Is the Month of Maying* -- Thomas Morley
-- FPC Adult Choir

Opening Words -- *Let Us Gather* -- Ken Langer

Chalice Lighting -- *The Fire of Beltane* -- Ken Langer

*** Hymn #63** -- *Spring Has Now Unwrapped the Flowers*

1. Spring has now unwrapped the flowers,
day is fast reviving,
life in all her growing powers toward the light is striving.
Gone the iron touch of cold, winter time and frost time,
seedlings working through the mold
now make up for lost time.
2. Herb and plant that, winter long, slumbered at their
leisure,
now bestirring green and strong,
find in growth their pleasure.
All the world with beauty fills, gold the green enhancing;
flowers make glee among the hills,
set the meadows dancing.

*** Covenant**

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.

*** Affirmation**

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.

Centering

Message for All Ages -- Michelle Coté, Director of
Religious Education

Going Forth with the Light

Joys and Sorrows -- Ingrid Holcomb, Lay Minister

Prayer or Meditation -- *Prayer of Co-Creation* by Lyn Cox

*** Hymn #175** -- *When All the Peoples on This Earth*

1. We celebrate the web of life, its magnitude we sing;
for we can see divinity in every living thing.
2. A fragment of the perfect whole in cactus and in quail,
as much in tiny barnacle as in the great blue whale.
3. Of ancient dreams we are the sum;
our bones link stone to star,
and bind our future worlds
to come with worlds that were and are.
4. Respect the water, land, and air
which gave all creatures birth;
protect the lives of all that share the glory of the earth.

Exploring

Readings –

The May Queen -- by William Harrison Ainsworth

From “*Two Tramps In Mud-Time*” -- by Robert Frost

From “*Summer Longings*” -- by Denis Florence -- McCarthy

Sharing Our Gifts --

This month we share our weekly offering with

the Boston Area Gleaners. Checks may be made to “First

Parish Church” or donate online at [https://fpc-stow-](https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate)

[acton.org/donate](https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate) or by text to (978) 310-3309.

Offertory -- *The Flowers* -- Arr. K. Langer

-- FPC Choir

Sermon -- *Beltane and May Day* -- Ken Langer

Returning

* **Hymn #66** -- *When the Summer Sun Is Shining*

1. When the summer sun is shining over golden land and
sea,

and the flowers in the hedgerow

welcome butterfly and bee;

then my open heart is glowing, full of warmth for
everyone,

and I feel an inner beauty which reflects the summer
sun.

2. When the summer clouds of thought

bring the long-awaited rain,

and the thirsty soil is moistened

and the grass is green again;

then I long for summer sunshine,

but I know that clouds and tears

are a part of life's refreshment,
like the rainbow's hopes and fears.

3. In the cool of summer evening,
when the dancing insects play,
and in garden, street, and meadow
linger echoes of the day;
then my heart is full of yearning;
hopes and mem'ries flood the whole
of my being, reaching inwards to the corners of my soul.

* **Benediction** -- by Martin Luther King, Jr.

* **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 -- *Rondeau* -- by J. Mouret

-- Sanghee Kim, organ

Thank you to: Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host; our ushers, Marcia Allison & Lisa Rydin; and to our participants, staff and leadership

Our flowers today are given by: John Kendrick in celebration of the splendor and wonders of Springtime in New England

FPC Announcements

May 1, 2022

Today at FPC

- FPC's Ferry Beach Retreat concludes
- 10:00am - Worship in the Sanctuary & on-line & Religious Education
- "Connections" Time in the Fellowship Hall following the service
- 11:15am - Strategic Plan Mtg(Community Rm)
- 3:00pm - Salon Concert (Sanctuary)

This Week in Our Religious Education Program:

- **Children in grades Pre-K - Grade 5** will gather after the Message for All Ages to continue discussing Transformation by exploring evolution of people.
- **Junior Youth (Grades 6-8)** will begin in the 10am worship then head outside to celebrate Earth Day/Beltane with a ritual and games.
- **High School Discussion Group (grades 9-12)** will begin in the 10am worship then meet to take part in a discussion.

Masks are required for all inside activities at FPC except in small groups of under 20, not including children's religious education. Small groups should find consensus in their groups and announce the decision if possible prior to unmasking. Thank you!

This Week at FPC

Mon., May 2 --

6:45pm: SGM (Hall)

7:00pm: Sounds of Stow (Hall)

Tues., May 3

10:00am – Coffee and Chat - the Park's Gazebo

5:45pm - SGM - Community Rm

7:00pm - Book Group - Zoom

7:00pm - RE Mtg - Zoom

7:00pm - Beerfest group - Youth Rm

Wed., May 4

7:00pm - Membership Comm zoom

7:25pm - Meditation zoom & comm rm

Thurs., May 5

12:00pm - Staff Meeting (Zoom)

5:00pm - Peace Vigil-outside

6:00pm - SGM Facilitators(zoom)

7:15pm - Choir(Hall)

Fri., May 6

Guest Table - Hall, HK, Commun Rm, Vestry

6:30pm - Club UU Lower Hall

Next Sunday's Service:

"Nurturing Peace" - Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

10 AM in the Sanctuary or by video/phone (see website for link)

Before our current incarnation of Mother's Day, Unitarian Julia Ward Howe conceived of a Mother's Day that would be dedicated towards peace. On this Mother's Day we will live out Julia Ward Howe's vision by focusing on how we can nurture peace.

Plate Sharing This Month



BOSTON AREA
GLEANERS

Boston Area Gleaners (BAG) is a community-supported 501 (c) (3) organization whose core commitment is bringing food to those in need. The Gleaners do this in part by rescuing surplus crops from local farms, such as Applefield and Small Farm in Stow and Cucurbit Farm in Acton, that would otherwise go to waste and distributing the surplus to hunger relief organizations, such as area food banks, shelters, meal programs, and low-income markets that provide food to agencies with a social justice mission. Boston Area

Gleaners relies on the efforts of many volunteers to harvest during the season and to distribute perishables to hunger relief organizations during the winter months.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, BAG has re-engineered their volunteer operation to increase the distribution of emergency food to relief organizations serving food-insecure populations. They've participated in the USDA Farm to Families initiative and collaborated with Food for Free, Just Eats Grocery Box program, to distribute family-size boxes of food each week during the winter to residents of Greater Boston.

As part of BAG's vision to expand its impact from farms to families, it has agreed to purchase Stonefield Farm in Acton. To fund this, it is selling an Agricultural Preservation Restriction on the property to the Town of Acton and Sudbury Valley Trustees. This will ensure the land will remain undeveloped and open space in perpetuity.

Please visit the website www.bostonareagleaners.org to learn more about BAG's mission and how to volunteer.

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)

Marcia Allison (marrich86@hotmail.com)

Susan Avery (susan.avery@verizon.net)

Aimee Ledwell (redshoegirl@gmail.com)

Sharon Webb (marysharonwebb@gmail.com)

Rev. Cindy Landrum (minister@fpc-stow-acton.org)

We look forward to hearing from you!

**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!

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 peggypaladini@gmail.com with questions, or to help.

THE FPC JAZZ BAND PLAYS AT FPC AND OTHR VENUES

**Add these new dates to your
calendars
and bring a friend**



- **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

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



Hi FPCers!

As we hope you are aware by now, our Garden Party Auction is coming! Here are the dates:

- .The **Silent Auction** will be held on-line on Auctria (same format as last year) **starting on June 8 and ending on June 22.**
- .A **Live Auction** event will be held on **June 18 starting at 2PM.** We will socialize in the Kitchen Garden (the site of last summer's outdoor services), where we will have light snacks, beverages and time to chat with each other. There will be some silent auction items and jewelry to bid on. After we socialize, we will head into Fellowship Hall for the live auction. You won't want to miss the chance to bid on some exciting dinners, getaways and more.

We will also have **two contests** to be judged by experts from the congregation: A **garden hat contest** and a **floral arrangement contest.** Start

planning your entries! You are only limited by your own imagination!

Donate! Donate! Donate! Head on over to the FPC website auction page - <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/article/fpc-auction-2022---garden-party> - where you will find two ways to donate. If you have an item, service, event or other donation you would like to make, fill out the donation form you will find on the web page. Also make sure to send photos of your item for inclusion in the Auction Catalogue. Or, if you would like to donate a business gift card, please check up the Signup Genius link on the web page and sign up to donate.

As we get closer, we will need volunteers for all kinds of pre-auction and day-of-auction activities, so keep an eye open for a notice about signing up to volunteer. In the meantime, we are soliciting business donations from some restaurants and services, and we could really, really use some help approaching businesses. If you are willing to help, please contact Sue Moses at susanjmoses@comcast.net.

Buds are popping and the bees are out! Make sure to enjoy the flowers at our Garden Party! And come ready to bid!

Your Auction Committee

auction@fpc.groups.io