

**FIRST PARISH CHURCH
OF STOW & ACTON**

Unitarian Universalist

Sunday, May 15, 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 15, 2022

10:00 AM

Gathering

Prelude -- Sonata -- by Jacob Schmitt --
As Long as He Needs Me from *Oliver* -- by
L. Bart -- Matteo Faso, piano

*Today we welcome Matteo Faso as our
prelude musician who is a 20-year old
student at Perkins School for the Blind and
a former FPC RE participant.*

**Land Acknowledgement, Welcome &
Announcements** -- Marissa Evans, Youth
Coordinator

Greet Your Neighbor

Opening Words -- *Community Means
Strength* -- by Starhawk -- Michelle Coté,
Director of Religious Education

Chalice Lighting -- *Chalice Lighting for
Children's Sunday* -- by Christian Schmidt
and by Alexis Capen -- Alex MacNeill

*** Hymn #354 -- *We Laugh, We Cry***

1. We laugh, we cry, we live, we die;
we dance, we sing our song.

We need to feel there's something here
to which we can belong.

We need to feel the freedom just to have
some time alone.

But most of all we need close friends
we can call our very own.

And we believe in life, and in the strength of
love;

and we have found a need to be together.

We have our hearts to give,

we have our thoughts to receive;

and we believe that sharing is an answer.

2. A child is born among us and we feel a
special glow.

We see time's endless journey as we watch
the baby grow.

We thrill to hear imagination freely running
wild.

We dedicate our minds and heart to the

spirit of this child.

And we believe in life, and in the strength of love;

and we have found a time to be together.

And with the grace of age, we share the wonder of youth,

and we believe that growing is an answer.

3. Our lives are full of wonder and our time is very brief.

The death of one among us fills us all with pain and grief.

But as we live, so shall we die, and when our lives are done

the memories we shared with friends, they will linger on and on.

And we believe in life, and in the strength of love;

and we have found a place to be together.

We have the right to grow, we have the gift to believe

that peace within our living is an answer.

4. We seek elusive answers to the questions of this life.
We seek to put an end to all the waste of human strife.
We search for truth, equality, and blessed peace of mind.
And then, we come together here, to make sense of what we find.
And we believe in life, and in the strength of love,
and we have found a joy being together.
And in our search for peace, maybe we'll finally see:
even to question, truly is an answer.

*** Covenant – Robin Ledwell**
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 -- Yoong Heffner-
Wong; Devin Sugioka; Marissa Evans,
Youth Coordinator; Lindsay LaPointe, RE
Committee

Going Forth with the Light

Joys and Sorrows -- Susie O'Brien, Lay
Minister

Prayer or Meditation -- *We Need One
Another* -by George E. Odell -- Freya
Wilcox and Cathleen Landrum Larkin

* **Hymn #146** -- *Soon the Day Will Arrive*

1. Soon the day will arrive when we will be
together,
and no longer will we live in fear.

And the children will smile without
wondering whether
on that day thunderclouds will appear.

(Chorus) -- Wait and see, wait and see
what a world there can be
if we share, if we care, you and me.
Wait and see, wait and see
what a world there can be
if we share, if we care, you and me.

2. Some have dreamed, some have died
to make a bright tomorrow,
and our vision remains in our hearts.
Now the torch must be passed
with new hope, not in sorrow,
and a promise to make a new start.
(Chorus)

Exploring

Responsive Reading #646 -- *The
Larger Circle* -- by Wendell Berry -- led by
Junior Youth member

We clasp the hands of those that go before
us,

And the hands of those who come after us.

We enter the little circle of each other's
arms

*And the larger circle of lovers,
whose hands are joined in a dance,*

And the larger circle of all creatures,

*Passing in and out of life,
who move also in a dance,*

To a music so subtle and vast that no ear
hears it

Except in fragments.

Reflections -- Remote Learning -- Emmet
Powers -- *Connection* -- Cathleen Landrum
Larkin

Sharing Our Gifts -- Cathleen Landrum
Larkin
and The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

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-acton.org/donate> or by text to (978) 310-3309.

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

Anthem -- *Crowded Table* -- The
Highwomen
FPC Adult Choir

Graduating Senior Recognition --

Introduction -- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L.
Landrum

Presentation of Seniors -- Michelle Coté

Marissa Evans, Youth Coordinator

Graduating Seniors

Faye Cordone

Liz Freeman

Henry Gordon-Ozaydin

Cathleen Landrum Larkin

Emmett Powers

Blessing -- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Returning

* **Hymn #1021** -- *Lean On Me*

1. Sometimes in our lives we all have pain,
we all have sorrow.

But if we are wise we know that there's
always tomorrow.

Chorus: Lean on me when you're not strong
and I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on,
For it won't be long 'til I'm gonna need
somebody to lean on.

Just call on me brother when you need a
hand.

We all need somebody to lean on.

I just might have a problem that you'd understand.

We all need somebody to lean on.

2. Please swallow your pride if I have things

you need to borrow,

For no one can fill those of your needs that you won't let show.

3. If there is a load you have to bear that you can't carry,

I'm right up the road, I'll share your load if you just call me.

* **Benediction** -- by Anonymous -- Emmett Powers

* **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 -- *Presto in C Major op. 102 no.*

3 from *Songs without Words* -- by F.

Mendelssohn

-- Sanghee Kim, piano



Thank you to:

Sheryl LaFayette, Zoom Helper,
Kevin O'Brien & Lisa Rydin, Ushers
and to our participants, staff and leadership

Our flowers today are given by Dave
Sansone
in loving memory of Ellen Sansone



FPC Announcements

May 15, 2022

Today at FPC:

Join us in the social hall after the service to celebrate our youth and our graduating seniors!

Learn about the Budget. Ask your questions! Today after the service in the Community Room and tonight at 7:00 pm on zoom: <https://bit.ly/39aTaow>

This Week in Our Religious Education Program

We will not be offering an RE Session this week as all children and youth will remain in the sanctuary to be part of our Youth Service!

We will return to our regular RE Sessions next Sunday, May 22nd.

This Week at FPC: MAY 16-21, 2022

- Mon.** Stow Chorus 7:00pm Hall
Jazz Band 7:00pm Sanctuary
Budget Hearing 7:00 pm, zoom:
<https://bit.ly/3srczIG>
- Tues.** Coffee at the Gazebo 10am-11am
SGM 6:45pm Hall
- Wed.** SGM 9:15am Hall
Racial Justice TF 7:00pm zoom
Ukulele Meeting 7:00pm zoom
SGM 7:15 Hall
Meditation 7:25 zoom &
community room
- Thurs.** Peace Vigil 5:00pm front of church
Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm Hall
SGM 7:00pm zoom
- Fri.** ANNUAL MEETING, Sanctuary &
Zoom 7:00 pm

Sat. Saturday Morning Breakfast 8:00
zoom
Growing Victory Garden 9:00am
Zoom
Plant Sale outside FPC 9:30-11:30
(see below)
Stow Concert Rehearsal in the
Sanctuary, PM

SUNDAY May 22, 2022, 10:00am
“Improvisation: Spirit and Practice”
Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum with FPC’s
Parish Jazz Band

Listening in the moment when you suddenly have to pivot from your plans is a time when the spirit can shine through, but that improvisation requires not just openness to the moment, but practice as well. This service will explore the spirit and practice of improvisation.

Masks are required for FPC’s worship services in-person. Thank you! Join by Video: <https://tinyurl.com/fpcspring>
See our website for information on joining worship online.

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

Sunday, May 22, 10:00 a.m., FPC church service

Sunday, July 10, 10:00 a.m., FPC church service

Saturday, Sept. 17 at 4:30 p.m., public concert outdoors at Hudson Town Hall, 78 Main St, Hudson

Add these new dates and venues to your calendars and bring a friend!

Hybrid Annual Meeting

Friday, May 20 starting at 7:00 pm,

Check in at 6:45 pm

In the sanctuary and on zoom.

Zoom link <https://bit.ly/3FyfiFL>

Learn about the Budget. Ask your questions.

Today after the service in the Community Room

Tonight at 7:00 pm on

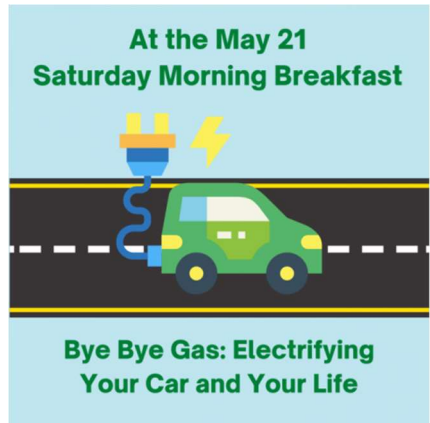
zoom <https://bit.ly/39aTaow>

Monday night at 7:00 pm on

zoom: <https://bit.ly/3srczIG>

SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

Saturday, May 21st, 2022 - 8:05 AM



Have you considered buying an electric car? At the next virtual Saturday Morning Breakfast, FPC member, Paul Reisberg, will share his thoughts on 9 years of electric driving with a Nissan Leaf, a Tesla Model 3, and a Specialized E-bike. This virtual talk will take place on **Saturday, May 21, at 8:05 a.m.**

The Saturday Morning Breakfast series is led by FPC member Jeff Brown. To enter the virtual room, visit <http://tiny.cc/MaySMB>.
(submitted by Janet Beatrice)

SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

June 18, 2022, 8:05am



Henry Patterson of Concord, started the restaurant Bel Canto when he was twenty-four and has been in the restaurant business ever since. In March he flew to Poland. He writes:

“Cooking at the border for Ukrainian refugees was both profoundly sad and exhilarating, as I will describe.

World Central Kitchen is a brilliant example of what is possible when ordinary people decide to defy life's challenges.

In our case, we are foodservice people doing what we do - expressing our caring by feeding people - finding the place to do it where it truly matters. “

This meeting will probably be by zoom, starting at 8:05.

~Jeff Brown



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

**The Assabet Craft Beer &
Food Truck Festival at First Parish
Church of Stow & Acton**

**Saturday, September 3, 2022
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 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!

Hello FPC Community!

The Auction Committee is planning a wonderful Spring Auction event - two actually!

- **The on-line silent auction will run from June 8th-22nd on Auctria.**
- **Our Gala Garden Party Live Auction will be held on June 18th at FPC starting at 2 PM.**

All are guaranteed to have a good time! However, what's an auction with lots of goodies to bid on?

Donations are coming in slowly and we (your Auction Committee) urge you to seed your ideas and get them planted in our auction catalogue! Can you donate a service like a morning of weeding or knife sharpening, or access to equipment like kayaks, or perhaps you would like to host a

lovely afternoon cheese tasting or gourmet dinner? What about some of your art work (we saw how talented our community is at the recent pop-up art show!) or some baked goods? Our garden is huge! We have lots of space for all your creative ideas and lots of bidders just waiting to harvest that special something.

To donate, go to our FPC Auction website here <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/article/fpc-auction-2022---garden-party> and fill out a donation form. Make sure to send pictures of your item to the Auction Committee (email below). Or use the Signup Genius link to purchase a gift card from a local business and donate it to the auction. Gift cards are very popular and an easy way for everyone to contribute to the auction.

We would like all auction donations by May 18.

Finally, we will have two wonderful contests this year: a **garden hat contest** and a **floral arrangement contest**. The contest judging criteria are coming to the website soon, so keep checking back!

Let's all help our garden bloom!
Your Auction Committee --
auction@fpc.groups.io

Looking Ahead to FPC's Summer Services

June 19 through September 4

Do You Want to Be Part of FPC's Summer Services?

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!

**It's time to start planning
for this year's Plant Sale!
Saturday, May 21, 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 if you'd like to help.

Thanks!
Peggy Paladini



Coffee and Chat...

... will continue on Tuesday mornings, 10AM-11AM. Meet at the Town Park adjacent to FPC. Wear a mask, dress for the weather, and bring your

own coffee!
~Ann Sadler

Plate Sharing This Month



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.