

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



Sunday, May 4, 2025
BRIDGING

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

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

Meg Rivers-Wright
Administration, Publicity,
Membership

Chris Hossfeld
Music Director

Trevor Berens
Accompanist

Felix Freeman
Tech Assistant

Mike Silkonis
Sexton

Justin Marble
Nursery Care Coordinator

Brendon Chetwynd
President

Trisha Gudit
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 and on Facebook.

May 4, 2025: 10:00 a.m.

Gathering

Prelude Largo from Symphony No. 9 Angela J. Quatrini, oboe
 Antonín Dvořák, arr. Diego Marani Trevor Berens, piano

Welcome & Announcements Ann Sadler, Sabbatical Committee

Opening Words Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson

Chalice Lighting Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson

*** Hymn #38** “Morning Has Broken”

Centering

*** Covenant and Affirmation** Meg Rivers-Wright,
 Administrator and Welcomer

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

Land Acknowledgement Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Teacher Recognition Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
 Director of Religious Education

Invitation to RE Extravaganza Lindsay LaPointe
 RE Committee Chair

Bridging Ceremony Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
 & Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Elliot Chetwynd Felix Freeman
Benji Edgerton Freyja Wilcox

Going Forth With the Light Chris Hossfeld Congregation Sings
Our love surrounds you. Here joy has found you.
Let hope abound freely. Go in peace!

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

Joys and Sorrows

Kate Hart, Lay Minister

Joys and Sorrows is a time for the things on our hearts and minds to be heard by the gathered community. If you would like a follow-up call by a lay minister or the minister, email caring@fpc-stow-acton.org.

Prayer or Meditation

“May We Look with Gratitude
Upon This Day” by Michale LeDuc

Rev. Dr. Cynthia
L. Landrum

* Hymn

“Loosen, Loosen” by Aly Halpert

Exploring

Reading

“Passion and Gratitude” by Molly Hollibaugh

Ann Sadler

Plate Sharing Introduction (Video)

Boston Area Gleaners

Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share our weekly offering with **Boston Area Gleaners**.
You may donate by check made out to First Parish Church,
online at fpc-stow-acton.org/donate, or text (978) 310-3309.

Anthem

“The Door”
Music: Carson Cooman
Lyrics: Jane Hirshfield

FPC Choir, Chris Hossfeld,
Music Director
Angela J. Quatrini, oboe
Trevor Berens, piano

Commissioned by FPC for the installation of the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum, May 5, 2019

A note waterfalls steadily
through us,
just below hearing.

Or this early light
streaming through dusty glass:
what enters, enters like that,
unstoppable gift.

And yet there is also the other,
the breath-space held between
any call
and its answer —

In the querying
first scuff of footstep,
the wood owls’ repeating,
the two-counting heart:

A little sabbath,
minnow whose brightness
silvers past time.

The rest-note,
unwritten,
hinged between worlds,
that precedes change and allows it.

Sermon

“Step One: Gratitude” Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Returning

* **Hymn #1064**

“Blue Boat Home”

* **Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

* **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 'til we meet again.

Postlude

“Welcome Back”
John Sebastian

Trevor Berens

Greet Your Neighbor

* * *

Thank you to:

Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host
Rebecca MacNeill, Carolyn Zettler, Ushers
Mark Koenig, Troy Liston, Kate Hart, Coffee Hosts ♥ ☑
Our staff and leadership

To our visitors, thank you for coming!

We hope you found what you're looking for and that you'll return. Here's how to keep connecting with our people and programs:

- Fill out a Visitor Card in your pew or online (QR code)
- Watch these pages for newcomer events:
 - **Newcomer Coffees** - Meet the minister and other newcomers
 - **UU Journey classes** - Learn about UU history, spirituality, mission, and traditions
- Check out our website, www.fpc-stow-acton.org
There is so much happening at FPC! Our homepage and “Church Life” tab detail our events and programs.
- Subscribe to our e-newsletters & email groups (QR code)



Visitor Card



E-Newsletters

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

Today at FPC

Religious Education After the Bridging Ceremony, the children will leave the Sanctuary and decorate the Vestry for our RE Extravaganza that begins after the service: music, fresh popcorn, and the RE Committee will unveil the Vestry's renovations and introduce you all to the Cozy Corner, which will be open to all! We will also be accepting registrations for RE next year for children, youth and volunteers. Come celebrate with us!

Volunteer Drive: The Assabet Craft Beer & Food Truck Festival



Our much beloved Craft Beer & Food Truck Festival is returning this fall, and you can start helping today by signing up to volunteer for this popular event that takes place on Saturday, August 30, 2025, 12-4 pm (rain or shine).

Lots of volunteers are needed to help with what will be another really fun family event for both FPC and our wider community. After each Sunday

service in May and June **at coffee hour**, you can sign up and **get a complimentary bottle of Unitarian Special Bitter (USB)** that has been brewed for us by Amory's Tomb in Maynard!



You can also register directly on SignupGenius by scanning the QR code or following the link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084DA8AD29AAFBCF8-56337100-craftbeer>

Racial Justice/LGBTQ+ Drop-in Session 11:30am-1pm, Community Rm.

"Responding to Microaggressions" A co-hosted drop-in session that will include a short video from Alex Kapitan's course, "Responding to the Anti-Trans Movement" that focuses on how to be an effective "Active Bystander." The examples from Alex's course come from the trans/nonbinary community, but are applicable to any microaggression situation. The sessions on Microaggressions held in February and April were very well attended and fruitful. This is not intended as a repeat session, but a continuation with a focus on **things you could actually do** when witnessing a microaggression. Everyone is welcome.

Announcements

Plate Sharing for May: **Boston Area Gleaners** (BAG) is a nonprofit regional food systems organization working at the intersection of farming, food waste, and food access in order to support a more equitable, just, and sustainable food system. We focus on meeting the immediate needs of families who lack access to affordable, healthy food while addressing the systemic causes of food



insecurity. We fulfill our mission by building innovative partnerships with local organizations and businesses in order to bridge food distribution gaps, improve healthy food access, prevent on-farm food waste, and create new markets for locally grown produce. Visit www.bostonareagleaners.org to learn more. Your support is deeply appreciated.



FPC Plant Sale Sat, 5/17, 9:30-11:30 am

As we do every year, we're asking FPC earth lovers for plants – lots of them – from your yards and gardens! Last year we sold practically all our stock in the first hour.



Consider which plants to donate:

- shrubs
- small trees
- ground cover
- herbs
- perennials
- vegetables

flowering plants that you've already started

Different/unusual ones are especially desirable!



Dig them up & pot them ASAP: even though it's still chilly, right now is the best time of year to divide perennials - early-season transplanting is less stressful on plants. If you need pots, contact Peggy Paladini: peggypaladini@gmail.com.



Put them in a spot where they can grow strong and look their very best for delivery and 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.

This Week

Guest Table Fri, 5/9, 5:30-6:30pm, Fellowship Hall

Our free community dinner on the second Friday of each month
Doors open 5 PM ~ Dinner starts 5:30 ~ All are Welcome ~ No Charge! Menu: TBA. We offer options made with vegetarian and gluten-free ingredients. There will also be a dairy free option available. All meals are nut-free. Come join us for our next Guest Table Community Supper. As always, there are many volunteer opportunities open!

Singer's Tune-Up Workshop Sat 5/10, 11:00 am -1 pm, Fellowship Hall

Come be re-energized, refresh your singing skills, and add a few new tools to your singing tool kit. The focus is on learning to care for your voice, avoiding over-tiring vocal practices, breathing well and effectively to support pitch, and creating uniform vowel production.



Our workshop clinician is soprano Jessica Tunick-Berens. She brings a broad range of musical experience, performing music including Medieval chant, experimental music, standards, folk, Balkan, musical theater, and opera. She has performed at many varied venues such as the Greek Theater, the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles,

Christchurch in Dublin, UMass Boston, and Helmut List Halle in Graz, Austria. Jessica is a graduate of the California Institute of the Arts and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in vocal performance, and is a Transformational Voice Institute certified voice teacher.

All are welcome to attend! Suggested donation is \$20.
Registration is requested, using the link or QR code.
Questions? Chris Hossfeld at music@fpc-stow-acton.org.



REGISTER: <https://fpcosna.breezechms.com/form/singers-tune-up-workshop>

Next Sunday

"Creating a Caring Community or, What I Learned on Sabbatical"

5/11, 10am, Sanctuary/online - Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum -- Rev. Cindy's sabbatical was like none other, with family and personal struggles of illness, surgery, and loss. Throughout it, our community showed what we've learned about how to be supportive and caring. In this sermon, Rev. Cindy will share some of her learnings from this time.

Upcoming

Mother's Day Annual Walk for Peace Sun 5/11, 8-11:30 am, Dorchester

Members of the Racial Justice Task Force will be participating in this walk organized by the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute:

"The Mother's Day Walk for Peace (MDW4P) is a beloved Boston tradition honoring the lives of our loved ones who have been murdered. It is LDBPI's largest fundraising event to grow and sustain our services, advocacy, and training." [website]



There are two ways you can participate:

- 1) **Contribute to this cause!** Go to www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/Donate and click on the "Team" button to donate to a team. Type in our team's name, *FPC for Peace*.
- 2) **Walk with us!** Our team is *FPC for Peace*, and can be found here: <https://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/Team/View/204483/FPC-for-Peace> Navigate to the lower right half of the page and click on "JOIN OUR TEAM". Everyone is welcome!

Please reach out to June McKnight or Johanna Pyle if you have any questions. Thank you so much for your generosity! - The Racial Justice Task Force

Every Week at FPC

Tues. 10AM

Coffee and Chat at the Town Center Park Gazebo



Wed. 6:40PM

Meditation in Fellowship Hall & Online



Thurs. 5PM

Peace Vigil on the Town Common in front of FPC



Thurs. 7:15 PM

Choir Rehearsal in the Community Room - Join the choir! music@fpc-stow-acton.org

Fri. 1PM

Bridge Playing in the Community Room

