

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



Sunday, May 11, 2025
Creating a Caring Community
(or "What I Learned on Sabbatical")

**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 Guditz
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 11, 2025: 10:00 a.m.

Gathering

Prelude	"Bridge Over Troubled Water"	Trevor Berens
	Simon/Garfunkel	Accompanist

Welcome & Announcements

Introit	"May Round: Sweet as a dream, swift-fleeting May"	FPC Choir
	Catherine Young	Chris Hossfeld
		Music Director

How long does beauty last?	Bees in the plum blossoms
Only for a day.	humming,
Spring ephemerals pass,	bees in the apple trees.
lilacs, please stay.	Tulips and daffodils, trillium,
Sweet as a dream,	bluebirds, bluebells, phoebe.
sweet fleeting May!	

Opening Words	"Come In, Be Among Us"
	by Shari Woodbury Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Chalice Lighting	"Flame of Our Faith" Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
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* Hymn #1051	"We Are"
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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

A Time for All Ages	Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
	Director of Religious Education

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

Congregation Sings

Our love surrounds you. Here joy has found you.

Let hope abound freely. Go in peace!

Honoring Mothering and Parenting

Joys and Sorrows

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 “Prayer for Caregivers and Ancestors”

Sara Goodman

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

*** Hymn #8**

“Mother Spirit, Father Spirit”

Exploring

Reading

“Surviving through Reciprocity”

from *Braiding Sweetgrass*

by Robin Wall Kimmerer

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

“Put Your Roots Down”

FPC Choir

Molly Hartwell, arr. Heather Houston

Put your roots down, put your feet on the ground,
can you hear what she says when you listen?

Cause the sound of the river
as it moves across the stones
is the same sound as the blood in your body
as it moves across your bones.

Are you listening?

Sermon

Creating a Caring Community (or “What I Learned on Sabbatical”) Rev.

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Returning

* Hymn #1021

“Lean on Me”

* Benediction

by Kathy A. Huff 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

“With a little Help From my Friends”
Lennon/McCartney

Trevor Berens

Greet Your Neighbor

* * *

Thank you to:

Zoom Host

Marion Scott, Lisa Rydin, Ushers

Sharon Brownfield, Rick Lent, Coffee Host

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 -There will be a *Time for All Ages* during the morning worship service followed by stations in the Community Room.

...And **next Sunday, May 18** - A multigenerational service where our Coming of Age Youth share their Credo statements with the congregation. Please come support these youth who have been working hard all year.

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>

Elder Care/Memory Care Support Group 11am -12:30pm, Parlor

Are you or your family approaching, dealing with, or recovering from an elder/memory care crisis? It's exhausting and draining. There are all kinds of legal, financial, and caregiving or care-finding challenges. It can be overwhelming and lonely. And that's not to mention the *grief*. Join us for the FPC Peer-to-Peer Support Group for anyone dealing with elder/memory care issues for a loved one. We're here to support each other on this difficult journey and share resources.

DrUUm and Dance Circle is on hiatus until the fall. Check the FPC website for updates!

Mother's Day Annual Walk for Peace is happening right now (8-11:30 am) in Dorchester, and members of the **Racial Justice Task Force** are 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]



It's too late to walk with FPC's team today, but it's not too late to contribute to the cause. If you'd like to donate, go to www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/Donate and click on the middle "Team" button. Type in our team's name, *FPC for Peace*.

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

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.

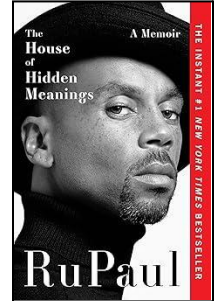


This Week

Parish Jazz Band Rehearsal Mon, 5/12, 7-9pm, Sanctuary
Please contact Michael Paladini mwpaladini@gmail.com for more information.

FPC Book Group Wed, 5/14, 7-8 pm on Zoom

RuPaul's autobiography, *The House of Hidden Meanings*. From international drag superstar and pop culture icon RuPaul, comes his most revealing and personal work to date--a deeply intimate memoir of discovery, found family, and self-acceptance. *The House of Hidden Meanings* is a self-portrait of the legendary icon on the road to global fame and changing the way the world thinks about drag. Read a synopsis [HERE](#). Please email Sharon Brownfield sharonbrownfield@gmail.com for the link. Our last book for the church year is *Backyard Bird Chronicles* by Amy Tan. She also does all the artwork in the book.



FPC Annual Meeting Fri, 5/16, 7 pm

The Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, May 16, 2025 at 7:00 PM in-person (Sanctuary) and via electronic (virtual) communications. **FPC's Annual Report** will be available at www.fpc-stow-acton.org by Thu, 5/15, before Friday's meeting: Click "MEMBERS & FRIENDS AREA" at the tippy top in the black strip, then scroll to the bottom under "Documents: FPC Annual Report 2024-2025 (PDF)." Paper copies may be available to pick up at the church, as well. See Meg for details.

Game Night Fri, 5/16, 7-9pm, Vestry

Led by Chip Beauvais. All are welcome. Feel free to bring a game or join in and play one of ours! Fun, community, and snacks.

Annual Unity Days Powwow at Devens Sat, 5/17, 11 am - 3:30 pm

FPC Arts Committee and Social Justice Council will co-sponsor a field trip to the United Native American Cultural Center (UNACC) for their Annual Unity Days Powwow at Devens. Meet in the church parking lot at 11 am to leave no later than 11:10 am to carpool to Devens (near Ayer and Shirley, MA). Event begins at noon. Bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on. Some limited food options available for purchase.



Return to FPC around 3-3:30 pm. In case of inclement weather, please watch for a cancellation notice through FPC Announce or contact me if you have any questions about whether or not we are still going. - Sharon Webb, Arts Comm. Chair, Cell: 978-621-2092.

FPC Plant and Jewelry Sales 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. 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.



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.

The 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 16th 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 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 makes a great gift!

"Coming of Age Ceremony" Next Sun, 5/18, 10am, Sanctuary/online - Join us as our Coming of Age class shares their credo statements in this cherished ceremony that marks being received as an adult in our faith community.

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](mailto:music@fpc-stow-acton.org)**

Fri. 1PM

**Bridge Playing in
the Community
Room**

