

*Unitarian Church of Marlborough and Hudson
A welcoming and love-affirming congregation*

Visit us at www.ucmh.org

Sunday, April 19, 2026

Order of Service

Welcome

Prelude: *Andante (Sicilienne) from Sonata No. 1 in E minor by Johann Christoph Schultze (early 18th Century)*

Chalice Lighting

Responsive Affirmation and Covenant

Gathering Words

*Hymn: “*Morning Has Broken*” #38

New Name Announcement

Jennifer Rambridge, UCMH President
& Brendon Chetwynd, FPC President

Story for All Ages

Cynthia Menard,
UCMH Director of Religious Education

Parting Song: “*Our Love Surrounds You*”
by Chris Hossfeld

Our love surrounds you;

Here joy has found you;

Let hope abound freely. Go in peace!

Offertory: *Adagio from Sonata No1 in E minor by Michel Blavet (1700-1768)*

Stones and Candles of Joy and Sorrow

Cost of War Candle

Meditation ·

● In Words: “*In Her Honor*”

By Maria Rutzmoser

● In Silence ·

● In Song: “*Spirit of Life*” #123

Reading

Worship Participants: Minister: Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum, First Parish Church of Stow & Acton; Yaakov Trek Reef, Intern Minister, First Parish Church of Stow & Acton; Worship Associate: ____; Cynthia Menard, Director of Religious Education; Maria Rutzmoser; Music Directors: Carolyn McCreary and Christopher Hossfeld, First Parish Church of Stow & Acton; Flute Duet: Leslie Bryant and Tom Hanlon; and the combined UCMH and FPC Choir

Anthem: “*Grace for Pollinators*” by Nancy Schimmel

Sermon: “*Green Revolution: A Celebration in Rhyme*”

*Hymn: “*Keepers of the Earth*” (insert)

Extinguishing the Chalice

Benediction

Postlude: *Adagio from Sonata No1 in A minor by Jean Baptiste Loeillet (1688-1720)*

Announcements

*Please rise in body or spirit

**UCMH and FPC Responsive
Covenant and Affirmation**

ALL: Love is

UCMH: the doctrine of this church.

FPC: the spirit of this church.

UCMH: The quest for truth is its sacrament

ALL: And service is

FPC: its law.

UCMH: its prayer.

ALL: This is our great covenant:

To dwell together in peace.

To seek the truth in love,

And to help one other.

UCMH: To the end that all souls

shall grow in harmony with the divine.

Extinguishing the Chalice

We have gathered in love, worshiped in hope and lifted our hearts in peace. We go now to share these blessings with the world.

In Her Honor

By Maria Rutzmoser

The Earth is not my mother. The Earth.

I left home years ago and, independent now, I feed myself.
Milk and honey flows not from the earth's dry rocky bosom.
And where is there comfort in the icy indifference of winter?

The Earth is not my friend. The Earth.

Chill March rains do not equate a shared cup of tea,
And trees offer no advice when asked.
No friend of mine would send me black flies.

The Earth is not a goddess. The Earth.

This lump of molten rock is no appeasable Gaia.
Harridan hurricanes uproot both palm trees and people.
And prayers quell neither pain nor terror when that rough skin twitches.

Yet, I am comforted by the indifference of mountains,
And healed by the promise of inevitable change.
From comrade hemlocks I hear whispered confidences.
The silence of stone is my teacher.

My fleshly elements interchange with yesterday's cow and tomorrow's fungus.

I am brought forth with seawater in my veins.
I breathe in the exhaust gases of algae and pond scum.
My bones are the skeletons of long dead sea creatures.

I can not leave this body without dying.
I can not leave this planet without dying.

Flesh of my flesh/
Blood of my blood/
Bone of my bone/
Transubstantiated,
In/of/ and through

The Earth. I Am. The Earth.

≧ Today at UCMH ≦

- **Religious Education** - Downstairs after *Story for All Ages*
- **Coffee Hour** - After the service, downstairs

≧ Today at FPC ≦

- 1:30-3:30 pm - **Transgender Rights 2026 Panel**

Fellowship Hall - Free & Open to Public

Join **Senator Jamie Eldridge**, **Representative Kate Hogan**, and a panel of experts and neighbors who will discuss transgender and nonbinary legislation, examining both the legal policies and how they affect real people. **Rebecca Minor**, therapist and author of *Raising Trans Kids*, will be signing her book. Send your questions in advance: lgbtqevents@fpc.groups.io

- FPC LGBTQ+ Task Force

≧ This Week at FPC ≦

- **Annual Reports** due by Wed 4/22: office@fpc-stow-acton.org

- **Ferry Beach Retreat** - Fri, 4/24 - Sun, 4/26, Saco, ME

Every year we gather on the beautiful coast of Maine for our annual Retreat at Ferry Beach Retreat &



Conference Center. Over the weekend, you can participate in some of our scheduled group activities like early morning meditation, yoga on the beach, crafts, or a pick-up choir (which performs at the Sunday service). There are trails through the woods and the beach to explore. It's great for families, couples, and individuals. See FPC Announce for pricing and the registration link, and e-mail Margaret Tucker (mstucker@mac.com) or Josh Ledwell (jledwell@gmail.com) for more information.

≧ Every Week at FPC ≦

<p>Tue 10 am Coffee and Chat Town Center Park Gazebo*</p>	<p>Wed 6:40 pm Meditation and Reading Fellowship Hall & online</p>	<p>Thu 5 pm Peace Vigil Town Common in front of FPC</p>	<p>Thu 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal Fellowship Hall Join the choir! music@fpc-stow-acton.org</p>	<p>Fri 1 pm Bridge Playing Community Room</p>
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*In inclement weather, we meet at The Boston Bean House in Maynard, 102 Main Street.

≧ Upcoming ≦

Next Sunday's Service - April 26, 10 am -"Coming Together"

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum - Our history as a church and as a faith have many moments of merging - of union, of coming together, of changing in different ways. As we face an upcoming time of potential large change, what does that mean? What is the joy and possibility to be found in merging? What might we lose? Though it's Ferry Beach weekend, we will still have Religious Education class in the Vestry for our families who stay in town.

Plant and Jewelry Sales - Saturday, May 16, 9:30-11:30 am

Celebrate spring with something leafy or sparkly!

➤ Plant Sale

FPC Parking Lot

Perennials, annuals, shrubs, vegetables, seedlings, and more!

➤ Jewelry Sale

Community Room

Silver and costume jewelry, vintage and modern pieces, necklaces, earrings, bracelets, watches, beading supplies

FPC & UCMH folks are welcome to come help set up on Friday any time between 4 and 7 pm OR at 9 am Saturday to shop with the early birds!