

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



May 24, 2026

*Keeping My Celestial Relations Fresh:
Belonging and Becoming with Thoreau*

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

Yaakov Trek Reef
Intern Minister

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

Meg Rivers-Wright
Parish Administrator

Chris Hossfeld
Music Director

Trevor Berens
Accompanist

Bradshaw Mattson
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 24, 2026: 10:00 a.m.

Gathering

Prelude	“Prelude for Meditation” John Cage	Trevor Berens Prepared Piano
Welcome & Announcements		Susan Avery, Worship Host
Opening Words	Thinking Through Place	Shana Dumont Garr
Chalice Lighting	Poem from <i>Walden</i> Henry David Thoreau	Tommy Garr
* Hymn #44	“We Sing of Golden Mornings”	<i>SLT</i>

Centering

* Covenant and Affirmation		Shana Dumont Garr
Land Acknowledgement		Susan Avery
A Time for All Ages		Shana and Tommy Garr
Going Forth With the Light	“Our Love Surrounds You” Chris Hossfeld	<i>Sing Out Love</i>

Joys and Sorrows Hector Costanzos, 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

In Words

In Silence

***In Song #123**

“Spirit of Life”

SLT

Exploring

Sharing Our Gifts

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



Make a Donation
Online

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

Anthem "Tom Bowling" Trever Berens
Charles Dibdin

Sermon "Keeping My Celestial Relations Fresh" Shana Dumont Garr

Returning

* **Hymn #345** "With Joy We Claim the Growing Light" *SLT*

* **Benediction** Passage from Walden Shana Dumont Garr
Henry David Thoreau

* **Closing Song**

Postlude "Walking – Hommage à Thoreau" Trevor Berens
Lars Aksel Bisgaard

Greet Your Neighbor

* * *

Thank you to:

Zoom Host

Peter Fiske, Kate Imhoff, Ushers

Katy Weeks, 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

≧ Today at FPC ≦

- **Religious Education** - *Time for All Ages* in the service followed by class in the Vestry and Vestry classroom.
- **Coffee Hour** - After the service in Fellowship Hall

Recruitment Drive for the Assabet Craft Beer & Food Truck Festival

We've opened sign-ups to volunteer at this summer's festival that takes place on Saturday, September 5, 12-4 pm. Lots of volunteers are needed to help with what will be another really fun family event for both FPC and our wider community.



Beer & Food Truck Fest

Please sign up at our special table at coffee hour where you can learn more about all the different opportunities available. You can

also register online at SignUpGenius. Scan the QR code or go to <https://tinyurl.com/beerandfoodtruck>.



≧ Next Sunday ≦

- **An Introduction to UCMH's Spiritual Growth & Community Center (SGCC)**
After the service next Sunday, May 31 at FPC, join Cynthia Menard for an overview of UCMH's outreach arm for adult programming:

"[The SGCC] provides high-quality, inspirational programs, classes, and events to awaken peace, joy, love, compassion, personal growth, and creativity. All programs are open to the community – people of all faiths, including atheists, can participate."
(www.ucmh.org/spiritual-growth-center/)

Programs include Meditation, Pub Theology, SoulCollage®, Spirituality and Internal Family Systems (IFS), and more. You can read about this year's offerings using the QR code or URL.

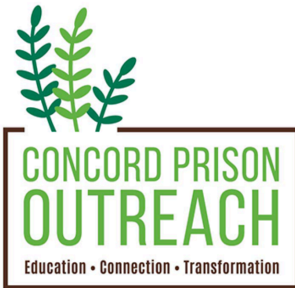


SGCC Programs

≧ Announcements ≦

➤ **Plate Share for May: Concord Prison Outreach** is a non-profit organization of individuals and faith communities committed to helping people who are incarcerated build better lives for themselves and their families. Since its formation in 1968, it has grown into the largest organization of its kind in Massachusetts, serving the prison population in eight facilities in this part of the state. It offers programs in Vocational and Socio-Emotional Skills, Arts and Humanities, and Families and Children. It also offers opportunities for people on the outside to participate in. Last year we assembled CPO Holiday Gift Bags in Fellowship Hall for the first time!

Liaisons June McKnight and Johanna Pyle are both active volunteers with CPO, currently participating in eight-week Restorative Justice reading classes and “Read to Me Dad,” a 3-4 week program which culminates in fathers being filmed reading to their children. They are also both members of the CPO Advisory Council.



Funding is crucial for CPO to continue offering their programs and expanding their mission. They hope you will consider CPO for a plate sharing month. You may donate by check made out to First Parish Church, text to (978) 310-3309, or online using the QR code or fpc-stow-acton.org/donate.

➤ **The LGBTQ+ Task Force** will be at three local Pride events this week and next month:
Nashoba Valley (5/30)
Maynard (6/7)
Acton (6/27)

We give out ribbons and buttons and have lots of fun, so stop by! If you want to join us, you can sign up to help using the QR code or go to <https://tinyurl.com/help-at-Pride>.







≧ This Week at FPC ≦

➤ **Indigenous Justice Task Force** Tuesday, 5/26, 7-8 pm, Zoom

➤ **FPC Annual Meeting** Friday, 5/29, 7-9 pm, Sanctuary and online
Copies of the Annual Report will be available in the office this week.

➤ **Next Sunday's Service: "A Celebration of Days to Come"** 5/31, 10 am
- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, with Intern Minister Yaakov Trek Reef and
Minister Emeritus Rev. Tom Rosiello
The Unitarian Church of Marlborough and Hudson joins us for the last time this
year in a joint worship service celebrating our days to come.

≧ Every Week at FPC ≦

<p>Tue. 10 AM <u>Coffee and Chat</u> Town Center Park Gazebo*</p> 	<p>Wed. 6:40 PM <u>Meditation & Reading</u> Fellowship Hall & Online</p> 	<p>Thu. 5 PM <u>Peace Vigil</u> Town Common in front of FPC</p> 	<p>Thu. 7:15 PM <u>Choir Rehearsal</u> Fellowship Hall - Join the choir! music@fpc-stow-acton.org</p>	<p>Fri. 1 PM <u>Bridge Playing</u> 34 Meeting House Ln, Main Entrance, Stow</p> 
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* In inclement weather, we meet at The Boston Bean House in Maynard, 102 Main Street