



THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH
OF STOW & ACTON
Unitarian Universalist
&
THE UNITARIAN CHURCH
OF MARLBOROUGH & HUDSON



May 31, 2026
Celebration of Days to Come

Participants & Leaders of Today's Service & Meetings

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

Yaakov Trek Reef
FPC Intern Minister

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

Cynthia Menard
UCMH Director of Religious
Education

Chris Hossfeld
FPC Music Director

Trevor Berens
FPC Accompanist

Meg Rivers-Wright
FPC Parish Administrator

Justin Marble
FPC Nursery Care
Coordinator

Bradshaw Mattson
FPC Tech Assistant

Brendon Chetwynd
FPC President

Jennifer Rambridge
UCMH President

Trisha Guditz
FPC Vice President

Bill Froberg
FPC Treasurer

Johanna Pyle
FPC Clerk

*FPC & UCMH are Unitarian Universalist Association Welcoming Congregations.
We warmly welcome gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people into our community.*

Large print hymnals and Assisted Listening Devices are available from an usher.
To request a large print order of service for a future Sunday,
email office@fpc-stow-acton.org

FPC currently has a masks-optional policy throughout the church.
In the Sanctuary, several back rows with accessible seating are "mask-required."

Find us on Facebook and on the web at fpc-stow-acton.org & ucmh.org.

May 31, 2026: 10:00 a.m.

Gathering

Prelude

“Song without Words”
Florence B. Price

Trevor Berens
Accompanist

Welcome & Announcements

Meg Rivers-Wright,
Parish Administrator

Opening Words

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Chalice Lighting

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
Director of Religious Education

* Hymn

“There Is a Spirit”
Heidi Singer

Sing Out Love



There is a spi - rit flow - ing 'round me, flow - ing with me, flow - ing in me
I feel its pow - er ev - er chang - ing, ev - er lift - ing, ev - er grow ing.
Now let it guide me, teach - ing pa - tience, teach - ing mer - cy, teach - ing wis - dom.



It's the spi - rit, ho - ly spi - rit of life and love, _____
It's the spi - rit, ho - ly spi - rit of life and love, _____
It's the spi - rit, ho - ly spi - rit of life and love, _____



Just like a ri - ver mov - ing on - ward, mov - ing bold - ly, mov - ing sure - ly.
Just like a foun - tain bring - ing jus - tice, bring - ing heal - ing, bring - ing peace —
Just like a cir - cle al - ways hold - ing, al - ways danc ing, al - ways sing - ing.



Ho - ly spi - rit, the bless - ed spi - rit of life and love, of life and love.
Ho - ly spi - rit, trans - form - ing spi - rit of life and love, of life and love.
Ho - ly spi - rit, the gent - le spi - rit of life and love, of life and love.

© 2024 Heidi Singer. Sing Out Love expiration July 2028.

* Please rise in body or in spirit

Centering

* Responsive Covenant and Affirmation

Cynthia Menard,
Incoming SGCC Director

Love is the doctrine and the spirit of this church.

The quest for truth is its sacrament,
and service is its law and prayer.

This is our great covenant:

To dwell together in peace,

to seek the truth in love,

and to help one another

to the end that all souls shall grow in harmony with the divine.

Land Acknowledgement

Greet Your Neighbor

A Time for All Ages

“RE Extravaganza”

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
Director of Religious Education
& the Religious Education Committee

Joys and Sorrows

Mark Koenig, 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

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

In Silence

In Song #16

“’Tis a Gift to be Simple” *Singing the Living Tradition*

Exploring

Story

Yaakov Trek Reef,
Intern Minister

Reflections

“Celebrating Days to Come”

Rev. Dr. Landrum

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.



Anthem

“The Gift of Love”
Music: Gerald Near

FPC Choir

Lyrics: Hal Hopson (vv. 1-3) and Charles H. Lyttle (v. 4)

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain
as sounding brass and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

Rejoice in love we know and share,
in love and beauty everywhere;
rejoice in truth that makes us free,
and in the good that yet shall be.

Introduction to Bridging

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
Director of Religious Education
& Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Bridging

Annadelia Ruminski

Congregational Blessing

“Your Time Is Now”

Adapted by Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
from words by Jaynn Truran

ALL: Today we honor this youth
And encourage their discovery

Life-Long UUs: Today we
welcome your energy, and offer
you a safe place to grow.

Rev. Cindy: Today marks an
ending, but also a new beginning.

Rayla: Today you cross this
bridge. Explore with wonder,
and know that we remain in
support of you. You are the future.

Bridger(s): Today I cross this bridge,
and join in fellowship.
Let me grow but don't let me go.

ALL: Together we share a special
place. Together we learn. Together we
love. Together we grow.

Reading

“This Milestone of Your Life”
Rita Capezzi

* Please rise in body or in spirit

Bridging With the Light “Our Love Surrounds You”
Chris Hossfeld

Sing Out Love

Returning

* **Hymn #1028**

“Fire of Commitment”

Singing the Journey

* **Benediction**

Yaakov Trek Reef,
Intern Minister

* **Closing Song**

Postlude

“Vienna”
Billy Joel

Trevor Berens

* * *

Thank you to:

Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host
Rebecca and John MacNeill, Ushers
Mark Koenig and Troy Liston, 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 - Today's service is Intergenerational, so there will be a *Time for All Ages* in the service, then children will return to their seats.

After the Service

➤ **Coffee Hour** - 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>.

➤ **Introduction to UCMH's Spiritual Growth & Community Center (SGCC)**

- 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.



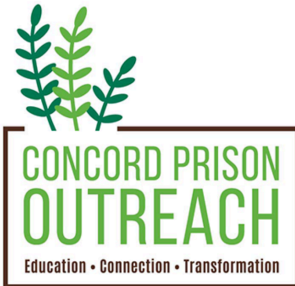
SGCC Programs

➤ **Dedication of the Plaque in Memory of Ilene Rudman**, 12:30 in the Memorial Garden.

≧ 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 two more local Pride events in June:
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>.



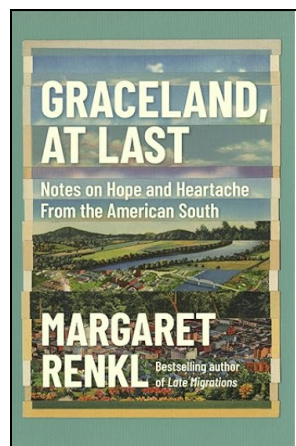
≧ This Week at FPC ≦

➤ **Book Group** Tuesday, 6/2, 7-8 pm, Zoom

Our last meeting of the FPC Book Club (Soon to be UUCAV Book Club). We will be discussing *Graceland at Last: Notes on Hope and Heartache from the American South* by Margaret Renkle. This is a nonfiction series of essays about one author's reflection on her joys and concerns about the American South.

The zoom link is <https://tinyurl.com/FPCbookgroup>





We will be taking the summer off and will start back with a new list of reads starting in September. Enjoy the summer.



➤ **Next Sunday's Service: "Flower Communion & Pride Sunday"** - 6/7, 10 am

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, with Intern Minister Yaakov Trek Reef
Bring a flower for our annual Pride and flower communion Sunday featuring special choir music. The flower communion represents the rainbow of diversity of humanity through an exchange of flowers.

≧ Every Week at FPC ≦

<p>Tue. 10 AM Coffee and Chat Town Center Park Gazebo*</p> 	<p>Wed. 6:40 PM Meditation & 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 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