

**FIRST PARISH  
CHURCH  
OF STOW & ACTON**  
*Unitarian Universalist*



June 7, 2026  
*Pride and Flower Communion*

**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](http://fpc-stow-acton.org) and on Facebook.

June 7, 2026: 10:00 a.m.

**Gathering**

**Prelude**

“Wayside Flowers”  
John K Paine

Trevor Berens  
Accompanist

**Welcome & Announcements**

Yaakov Trek Reef

**Introit**

“We Will Not Be Erased”  
Kathryn Denney

FPC Choir  
Chris Hossfeld  
Music Director

I wanna see your mind,  
your soul, your spirit.  
We have wisdom to share,  
but they can't hear it.  
They can say what they want,  
but we've always been here!  
And we will not be erased.  
Love is always near,  
wherever we may go,  
Life is full when our many colors show.  
Let them shine, let them bend,  
let them grow.  
Don't you know,  
we all reap what we sow.  
We will rise. We will cheer.  
No one should have to live in fear,  
And we are on the right side of history.  
Our resistance should not be a mystery  
And we will not be erased.  
I wanna see your mind,  
your soul, your spirit.

Harmony is clear.  
If you listen, you'll hear it.  
We will gain strength  
as we gather every day.  
From every corner  
no matter what they say.  
We are on the right side of history.  
Our resistance should not be a mystery.  
Listen closely. This is key:  
There has never been a world  
without people like you and me.  
There will never be a world  
where there are not people like me.  
So, respect my existence,  
or expect my resistance.  
We are here. We are queer.  
No one should have to live in fear,  
So get yourself on the right side  
of history.  
Our resistance leads us to victory!  
We will not be erased!

**Opening Words**

by Thomas M. Rhodes

Rev. Dr. Landrum

**Chalice Lighting**

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson,  
Director of Religious Education

*\* Please rise in body or in spirit*

\* Hymn #78

“Color and Fragrance” *Singing the Living Tradition*  
N. F. Čapek

**Connecting**

\* Covenant and Affirmation

Yaakov Trek Reef, Intern Minister

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Stories for All Ages**

The Story of Norbert Čapek  
and Maja Čapek

Rev. Dr. Landrum  
& Yaakov Trek Reef

The Story of Marsha P. Johnson  
and Sylvia Rivera

**Plate Sharing Introduction**

**Sharing Our Gifts**

This month we share our weekly offering with **OUT MetroWest**.  
You may donate by a check to First Parish Church, online using the  
QR code or [fpc-stow-acton.org/donate](http://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate), or texting (978) 310-3309.



**Anthem**

“Message Out to Sea”

FPC Choir

Saunder Choi, music; Brian Sonia-Wallace, lyrics

Dear mom, you were always my  
refuge when I didn't know which way  
to turn. Now my ship has left those  
placid waters, there's still so much to  
do, to be, to learn

Dear mom, you welcome me on each  
return. Beyond understanding there  
lives laughter, a torch that does not  
flicker as it burns. There's still so  
much I lack the words to tell you,

A hopeful silence, staring at the sea  
as memories of angry voices churn  
against the queer joy that's knocking  
at my door. You saw my worth before  
it could be earned.

Dear mom, you made my heart your  
first concern. For every wave, you  
became my safe shore. Dear mom, you  
taught me what it means to yearn and  
how an ocean lives in me.

—

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Refuge in a time of storm  
Fix our hearts in humble dwelling;  
In love's harbor, keep us warm.

Spirit, boundless with compassion,  
Pure and endless love compart;  
All across your vast creation;  
Open every shielded heart.

**Flower Communion & Glitter Blessing**

**Introduction to Flower Communion**

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

**Meditation Over the Flowers** N. F. Čapek  
tr. Rev. Dr. Petr Samojký

Yaakov Trek Reef  
Intern Minister

**Blessing Over the Glitter**

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson  
& Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum  
& Yaakov Trek Reef

*Made of stardust, you are holy and loved.  
With this blessing may you sparkle and shine as you bless the world.*

**Flower Communion & Glitter Blessing**

**Flower Anthem**

*Jen Dal*  
N. F. Čapek

FPC Choir

Jen dál, jen dál, jen dál,  
za pluhem pospíchám,  
než den se s nocí políbí,  
svou brázdu vyorám.

Onward, onward, onward,  
I press on behind the plow,  
before day kisses night,  
I am plowing my own furrow.

Jen dál, jen dál, jen dál,  
ať půdu kypří pluh,  
kde zvyků starých úhor byl,  
ať vládne tvůrčí duch.

Onward, onward, onward,  
let the plow loosen the soil,  
where there was a wasteland of old habits,  
the creative spirit now reigns.

Jen dál, jen dál, jen dál,  
a hloub ať ryje pluh,  
je věčnost v každé vteřině –  
a z brázdy mluví Bůh.

Onward, onward, onward,  
and wherever the plow digs deep,  
there is eternity in every moment –  
and God speaks from the furrow.

### Centering

**Milestone Joys and Sorrows**

Ann Sadler, 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](mailto:caring@fpc-stow-acton.org).

**Prayer or Meditation**

**In Words**  
**In Silence**

by Victoria Safford

Yaakov Trek Reef

*\* Please rise in body or in spirit*

## Returning

### \* Hymn

“The Rainbow Connection”

Paul Williams and Kenneth Ascher

Why are there so many  
songs about rainbows  
And what’s on the other side?  
Rainbows are visions,  
but only illusions  
And rainbows have nothing to hide  
So we’ve been told,  
and some choose to believe it  
I know they’re wrong, wait and see  
Someday we’ll find it,  
the rainbow connection  
The lovers, the dreamers, and me  
Who said that every wish  
would be heard and answered  
When wished on the morning star?  
Somebody thought of that,  
and someone believed it  
Look what it’s done so far  
What’s so amazing  
that keeps us stargazing  
And what do we think we might see?

Someday we’ll find it,  
the rainbow connection  
The lovers, the dreamers, and me  
All of us under its spell  
We know that it’s probably magic  
Have you been half asleep,  
and have you heard voices?  
I’ve heard them calling my name  
Is this the sweet sound  
that calls the young sailors?  
The voice might be one and the same  
I’ve heard it too many times to ignore it  
It’s something that I’m supposed to be  
Someday we’ll find it,  
the rainbow connection  
The lovers, the dreamers, and me  
La-da-da de-da-da dee  
Da da-da-da dee-da-da doo

### \* Benediction

by Elizabeth M. Strong Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson

### \* Closing Song

### Postlude

“Carnation”

Jean Sibelius

Trevor Berens

\* \* \*

*Thank you to:*

Sharon Brownfield, Zoom Host  
Marcia Rising, Rick Lent, Ushers  
Jeff Brown, Coffee Host  
Our staff and leadership

*About Today's Music:  
"Message Out to Sea" by Saunder Choi*

Saunder Choi is a Los Angeles-based Filipino-Chinese composer and choral artist whose music often engages themes of immigration, racial justice, LGBTQ+ advocacy, climate justice, and identity. "Message Out to Sea," with text by poet Brian Sonia-Wallace, was written for the Sanctuary Choir of First Presbyterian Church of Davenport, a congregation committed to openness, inclusion, and support for LGBTQ+ people and refugees.

Choi describes the piece as one that "celebrates and examines love and acceptance in a nuanced way." The text takes the form of a heartfelt letter to loving mothers who remain places of refuge for their LGBTQ+ children. The line "Beyond understanding, there lives laughter" was inspired by a conversation Choi had with his own mother after he came out. Though she did not fully understand his journey, she remained a safe and loving presence as he learned "how to thrive as a gay immigrant."

Near the end of the piece, Choi quotes the hymn tune Hyfrodol, familiar to many in the hymn "Blue Boat Home." Drawing on the water and harbor imagery of that hymn, the piece invites us to imagine love as refuge, home, and a message carried across the sea.

**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](http://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, and then children will return to their seats.

➤ **Coffee Hour** - After the Service in Fellowship Hall

Sign up to volunteer at the Assabet Craft Beer & Food Truck Festival!

➤ **The LGBTQ+ Task Force** will be at two more local Pride events in June:

TODAY, 6/7 - Maynard

SUNDAY, 6/27 - Acton

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 by going to

<https://tinyurl.com/help-at-Pride>.



**3RD ANNUAL MAYNARD PRIDE FEST 2026**  
**LIVE MUSIC**  
**FOOD/BEER**  
**VENDORS**  
**SUNDAY**  
**JUNE 7TH**  
**VETERANS**  
**MEMORIAL PARK**  
**NOON-4 PM**

Scan QR code for info about our event  
[maynardpride.org](https://maynardpride.org)

Well-Balanced Dog Training  
**OUR RAINBOW SPONSOR**

➤ **“Sail Away – Songs from the Salt Sea”** - 4:00 pm, Sanctuary

Later today, the Sounds of Stow will present a choral program in our Sanctuary. A number of members from our church choir and from our congregation at large are members of this chorus. It is a joyful concert which also includes special musical presentations by other performers. Come and enjoy!



**SOUNDS of STOW**  
Barbara Jones, Artistic Director

**4:00 pm Sunday, June 7, 2026**  
First Parish Church of Acton & Stow  
353 Great Road, Stow, MA

**SAIL AWAY**  
SONGS FROM THE SALT SEA  
directed by CHRISTINA KENNEDY

FEATURING THE SOUNDS OF STOW CHORUS AND THE ARCEMIS CIRCLE CHORAL PROJECT WITH GUEST ARTISTS KEITH MURPHY & BECKY TRACY OFFERING THEIR OWN SETS AND LEADING A SEA CRANCY SINGALONG

In support of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Visit [soundsofstow.org](https://soundsofstow.org) for tickets & more info

Mass Cultural Council  
Sounds of Stow is supported in part by grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council administered by the Local Cultural Councils of Acton-Bosborough, Bolton, Hudson, Littleton and Stow

Visit [soundsofstow.org](https://soundsofstow.org) for tickets & more info.

## ≧ Announcements ≦

➤ **Plate Share for June:** **OUT MetroWest** is a non-profit organization that builds communities in which LGBTQ+ youth can thrive. They offer FREE drop-in and structured programs for LGBTQ+ and allied youth, from pre-K through age 29. They offer programs for families of these youth as well as more general LGBTQ+ trainings and community events. You may donate by check made out to First Parish Church, text to (978) 310-3309, or online at [fpc-stow-acton.org/donate](http://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate).



## ≧ This Week at FPC ≦

- Mon 6/8, 7-9 pm     **Jazz Band Rehearsal** - Sanctuary
- Tue 6/9, 7 pm     **Honoring Grief and Loss Vespers** - Sanctuary  
Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, with Intern Minister Yaakov Trek Reef - Join us in the Sanctuary for a candlelight vespers focusing on honoring grief, loss, and the nature of change.
- Fri 6/12, 5:30 pm     **Guest Table** - Fellowship Hall  
Doors open 5 pm ~ Dinner starts 5:30 ~ All are Welcome ~ No Charge! Menu: Beans and Mexican rice, southwest veggies (with/without chicken), salad, dessert; Vegetarian, gluten-free, and dairy-free options available. All meals nut-free.
- Sun 6/14, 10 am     **Next Sunday's Service** - Sanctuary/online/phone  
**"Reflections from an Intern Minister"** - Yaakov Trek Reef, Intern Minister - Join Trek Reef in reflection and song on this last Sunday of our first (of two!) years together.

## ≧ Every Week at FPC ≦

<p><b>Tue. 10 AM</b> <b><u>Coffee and Chat</u></b> Town Center Park Gazebo*</p>	<p><b>Wed. 6:40 PM</b> <b><u>Meditation &amp; Reading</u></b> Fellowship Hall &amp; Online</p>	<p><b>Thu. 5 PM</b> <b><u>Peace Vigil</u></b> Town Common in front of FPC</p>	<p><b>Thu. 7:15 PM</b> <b><u>Choir Rehearsal</u></b> Fellowship Hall - Join the choir! <a href="mailto:music@fpc-stow-acton.org">music@fpc-stow-acton.org</a></p>	<p><b>Fri. 1 PM</b> <b><u>Bridge Playing</u></b> 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