

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



Sunday, May 26, 2024

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

Minister

**Meg Rivers-Wright**

Administration, Membership

**Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson**

Dir. of Religious Education

**Chris Hossfeld**

Music Director

**Trevor Berens**

Accompanist

**Justin Marble**

Nursery Care Coordinator

**Mike Silkonis**

Sexton

**Janet Beatrice**

External Publicity

**Felix Freeman**

Tech Assistant

**Jenni Edgerton**

President

**Brendon Chetwynd**

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.

May 26, 2024: 10:00

**Gathering**

**Prelude** "Prelude in B flat major" Trevor Berens, piano  
Chopin

**Welcome** June McKnight, Worship Committee

**Opening Words** Rev. Jo Murphy

**Chalice Lighting**

\* Hymn #354 *We Laugh, We Cry*

**Centering**

\* **Covenant and Affirmation**

Love is the spirit of this church, and service its law. This is our great covenant: To dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.	From all that dwell below the skies let words of love and peace arise. Let joyful songs of praise be sung. through every land, by every tongue.
--	--

**Land Acknowledgement** June McKnight

**Time for All Ages** Rev. Jo Murphy

**Going Forth With the Light**

**Joys and Sorrows** Kate Hart, Lay Minister

**Prayer or Meditation** Rev. Jo Murphy

\* Hymn #1007 *There's a River Flowin' in My Soul*

**Exploring**

**Reading** "Perhaps the World Ends Here" Rev. Jo Murphy  
Joy Harso

**May Plate Sharing Video** Ellen Kisslinger

**Sharing Our Gifts**

This month we share our weekly offering with **Boston Area Gleaners**.  
You may donate with a check made out to First Parish Church,  
online at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate>, or text (978) 310-3309.

**Offering** "Prelude in F sharp major" Trevor Berens, piano  
Chopin

**Sermon** "Packing a Spiritual Backpack" Rev. Jo Murphy

## Returning

\* Hymn #1028 *The Fire of Commitment*

\* Benediction

\* 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 'till we meet again.

Postlude "Prelude in G major" Trevor Berens, piano  
Chopin

Greet Your Neighbor



### Thank you:

Katy Weeks, Zoom Host  
Peter Fiske, Lisa Rydin, Ushers  
Coffee Hosts ☕♥  
Our staff and leadership



### To our visitors, thank you for coming!

We hope you found something you're looking for in our service and congregation, and that you'll come back if it feels like a fit.

Here's how to keep connecting with our people and programs:

1) Come to coffee hour right after the service, downstairs in Fellowship Hall.



2) Fill out a Visitor Card in your pew and hand it to an usher OR scan this QR code and complete a similar form online.

3) Subscribe to our e-newsletters and e-mail groups here:



## Announcements

**May Plate Sharing:** Boston Area Gleaners (BAG) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting a more equitable, just, and sustainable food system.



With the support of the Town of Acton, Acton Conservation Trust, Sudbury Valley Trustees, and individuals, BAG purchased Stonefield Farm in July of 2021. This enabled them to develop the Food Hub-- a wholesale market for local produce – providing income opportunities for farmers, and a much-needed farm-to-institution supply line for local universities, hospitals, and food banks. Their vision is to sustain a permanent agricultural supply chain that will improve the viability of local farms and the health of communities in the Boston metro area who have historically suffered from inequity in the food system.

As the pandemic government programs to ease food insecurity have ended, BAG is expanding its efforts at the farm itself. This summer they will grow produce such as collards, okra and callaloo that are in high demand but difficult to source locally. They invite community members to join them for volunteer gleaning “trips”, and to attend the community gathering at the farm on June 22 where there will be music, food trucks, and an opportunity to enjoy the farm.

Please visit [www.bostonareagleaners.org](http://www.bostonareagleaners.org) to learn more about BAG’s mission and how to volunteer. Your support is deeply appreciated.

## Religious Education

**Today:** Our official last day of Religious Education for this program year. There will also be a *Time for All Ages* followed by an end-of-the-year celebration in the Community Room for the remainder of the service. There will be snacks, games and prizes. Please join us!

**June 2** - During service, we will recognize and celebrate our 2nd-5th graders (and some 1st graders) for completing their First Chalice class. A reminder to our First Chalice class: If you have not gone to the pottery place to glaze your chalice, a group of us will be going this Sunday after service. We hope you can go with us!

## Today at FPC

**10 am** Service, Sanctuary and online

**11 am** Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall:

▶ Missing a water bottle? From today until June 9th, items from our Lost & Found as well as containers left in the kitchen will be on display on a table in Fellowship Hall. Feel free to reclaim your treasure! After June 9th, all items will be recycled.

▶ Sign-ups to volunteer\* at The Assabet Craft Beer & Food Truck Festival, held this year on Saturday, August 31, 12-4 pm at FPC (rain or shine).

\* Sign up in person today and get a complimentary bottle of First Parish Dunkel, a German-style dark lager freshly brewed for our volunteers by Neil Saunders, Dave Sansone, and Scott Feldhusen!

Craft Beer

Amory's Tomb Brewing

Dirigible Brewing

Redemption Rock

Flying Dreams

Pony Shack craft cider  
seltzer & soft drinks

Food Trucks

Kith & Kin

Twisted Pickle

Start Line BBQ

Braised tacos & bowls

Bird's Nest Italian Street Food

Juniper Farms ice cream

FPC cookies & pretzels

Music by Becky and the Swingin' Bards

Activities for kids carnival games, face painting, crafts

Admission \$5-10 donation per person, kids 12 & under free, drink tix \$5

▶ Sign-ups for Becoming an LGBTQ+ Ally Workshop  
presented by FPC Stow and Acton LGBTQ+ task force, whose members will be available to answer questions and sign you up.

**12 pm** Spiritual Conversations about Poetry, online

You don't need to know anything about poetry to join Elizabeth Cobblah, Ilene Rudman, and Hector Constantzos for this deeply satisfying time of engaging with others through a poem.

Contact one of us to attend: [ecobblah@fenn.org](mailto:ecobblah@fenn.org), [irudman@aol.com](mailto:irudman@aol.com), or

[Hconstantzos@gmail.com](mailto:Hconstantzos@gmail.com).

## This Week at FPC

27	MAY, MON	●	All day	Memorial Day
<hr/>				
28	MAY, TUE	●	10 – 11am	Coffee & Chat (Gazebo)
		●	7 – 8pm	Racial Justice Task Force mtg (Parlor)
<hr/>				
29	MAY, WED	●	6:40 – 8:45pm	Meditation (Fellowship Hall & online)
<hr/>				
30	MAY, THU	●	9:30 – 11am	Archives Committee (Vestry)
		●	12 – 4pm	Piano Tuning (Comm Rm & Sanctuary)
		●	5 – 6pm	Peace Vigil (outside)
		●	7:15 – 9pm	Choir Practice (Hall)
<hr/>				
31	MAY, FRI	●	1 – 3:30pm	Bridge Group (Community Rm)
<hr/>				
1	JUN, SAT	●	All day	First Day of LGBTQ+ Pride Month
		●	7:30 – 9am	Saturday Morning Breakfast (Hall)
		●	9 – 10am	Spanish Conversations (Vestry)

**Next Sunday's Service** 6/2, 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone

**"Transformation" - Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum with guest musician Joe Jencks -** Summer is a time of shifting, as school years end and begin, and in our church and larger denomination as we vote new officers in, and current ones finish their tenure. Right now, too, much of our society is transforming, with new models emerging, and church life is no exception. This service will mark the transition of the completion of our first "First Chalice" class that we've had since 2019 and talk about how we learn to embrace transformation and change. All this supplemented with the fabulous music of musician Joe Jencks!

## Coming up at FPC

**WED, 5/29 Reading and Meditation** 6:40 pm-8:45 pm, Fellowship Hall and online



6:40 - 7:20 pm Read & discuss *A Path with Heart*, by Jack Kornfield  
7:20 - 7:30 pm Transition break  
7:30 - 8:45 pm Meditation

**SAT, 6/1 ► Saturday Morning Breakfast**, 7:30 am, Fellowship Hall, 7:30 am Coffee, 8 am Breakfast. \$6, RSVP Jeff Brown, [jab.jeffbrown@gmail.com](mailto:jab.jeffbrown@gmail.com)

Gordon Donkoh-Halm, Founder and Executive of The African Community Center of Lowell (ACCL). Donkoh-Halm, an immigrant himself, knows first-hand significant hardships involved in trying to adapt in a different environment. There is the language barrier general loss as to where to go for basic services and foods, as well as not knowing where to go to offer services to the new community. With continued support from the community, ACCL hopes to fulfill its vision of helping new immigrants and refugees settle and be responsible community members, successful leaders and role models for future generations.



Director  
the  
and a  
ethnic  
one's

► **Spanish Conversations**, 9:00 am – Vestry; Contact Roy Miller at [millerroy@comcast.net](mailto:millerroy@comcast.net)

**SUN, 6/2 and FRI, 6/7 Becoming an LGBTQ+ Ally Workshop**, Community Rm.

Presented by FPC Stow and Acton LGBTQ+ task force.

This workshop is being offered twice:

SUN, 6/2, 12:30-2:30 pm. *Optional potluck lunch at noon.*

FRI, 6/7, 7-9 pm. *Optional potluck dinner at 6:30 pm.*

For Ages: Middle school through adult. Children may join potluck before childcare.

Potluck: Vegetarian meal will be provided. Please bring nut-free desserts or drinks.

RSVP to [lgbtq@fpc-stow-acton.org](mailto:lgbtq@fpc-stow-acton.org) by May 29 with your name, date you wish to attend, if you need childcare, whether in person or via zoom (sessions will not be recorded). Please send questions for the workshop with RSVP and they will remain anonymous.

The task force will be at coffee hour today and 5/26 to answer questions and/or assist you with signing up. **We are only admitting those who RSVP in advance.**

**ONLINE SUPPLEMENT PAGE:**  
**Information for folks joining us online**

1. Closed captioning is available for FPC's online services. If you captions on your screen, you can use the button at the bottom of screen to request that the host turn them on.
2. Today's Zoom Host: **Katy Weeks**
3. Hymn lyrics will be in a slide presentation today.



don't see  
your

**Sharing Our Gifts**

If you are mailing a pledge or a donation, here is the information:

Pledges:

Attn: Pledge Secretary  
PO Box 215  
Stow, MA 01775

Donations:

Attn: Treasurer  
353 Great Rd  
Stow, MA 01775