



Sunday, MAY 3, 2020
First Parish Church of Stow & Acton

INSERT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

10 AM ONLY

Sanctuary closed. Virtual Service by video or phone or at 107.7 FM in the FPC parking lot.

The Rev. Mary Margaret Earl, Guest Minister

Who is Our Neighbor? A reflection on how we connect across racial and economic divides, especially in times of crisis.

The Rev. Mary Margaret Earl is Executive Director and Senior Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry. In this ministry, she has worked to strengthen bonds between UUs and the Roxbury neighborhood where the UUUM operates. She is on the Faith in Solidarity leadership team, which works to connect faith leaders with those impacted by poverty. Prior to her arrival at the UU Urban Ministry, she spent 10 years at a faith-based nonprofit in RI serving the homeless community. She is past president of the Board of the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless, recipient of the Heroes of Faith Award from the Rhode Island State Council of Churches for her interfaith work, and is a longtime vegan committed to standing up for nonhuman animals.

Dear Friends,

Zoom has been changing security parameters and other settings, frequently on weekends when they have lower traffic, and this has sometimes affected our links we have distributed, as it did last weekend. **Because of this, we're posting the zoom link only to our website,** where we can make sure it is correct and change it if needed. This will avoid scenarios where you have an outdated link.

Thanks, Cindy

The Order of Service & the Announcements will be posted on the website under "Services" for download by the Friday evening before the service. GO TO:

CLICK <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/services/service/who-our-neighbor>

People are encouraged to arrive ten minutes early to facilitate the process of being cleared through our "waiting room." Please note that microphones will be muted, screen sharing will be disabled, and chatting (except to host) will be disabled for this service. The room will also be locked to new participants about 15 minutes into the service. We apologize for any inconvenience this causes.

Please note all our links for joining by video/audio have changed. Information will be posted only on our website 24 hours before the service:

CLICK <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/services/service/who-our-neighbor>

MAY PLATE SHARING

Boston Area Gleaners



Boston Area Gleaners (BAG) is a community-supported 501 (c) (3) organization whose core commitment is bringing food to those in need. The Gleaners do this by rescuing surplus crops from local farms that would otherwise go to waste. When crops flourish, farmers can't always harvest and sell all of the food; up to 20% is wasted. To reduce food waste and to address food insecurity, BAG harvests the donated surplus, and then distributes it to hunger relief organizations, such as area food banks, shelters, meal programs, low-income markets, and wholesale food access programs that provide food to agencies with a social justice mission.

Boston Area Gleaners relies on the efforts of many volunteers to harvest during the season and to repack stored produce to provide hunger relief during the winter months. Local farms that partner with the Boston Area Gleaners include Applefield in Bolton, Small Farm in Stow, the Food Project in Lincoln, and Verrill Farm in Concord.

As the 2020 season approaches and the need for basic services is skyrocketing, these farms are expanding their efforts to grow more food for BAG so that it can in turn bring it to those in need through regional food banks.

During the current Covid pandemic, BAG is helping with emergency response efforts by partnering to provide logistics support through trucking, and aggregation and storage of produce for emergency food distribution in the Boston area. They are also responding to a range of ad hoc requests both from existing hunger relief partners, such as the Dorchester Food Coop, and Community Servings who have increased their capacity for making medically tailored meals.

Please visit the website www.bostonareagleaners.org to learn more about BAG's mission and how to volunteer. The link below is to a volunteer shared album of the joys of participating!
<https://www.icloud.com/sharedalbum/#B095oqs3qHBhmdX>

NO Adult Choir Rehearsal

VIRTUAL Coffee Hour

News from Our Religious Education Program

There is a family worship packet being sent out to all families on Friday, May 1st. This week the packet focuses on honoring and upholding differences.

FPC Kids Gathering is a zoom meeting offered each Monday at 1pm. This session will be geared for children in grades K-6. The zoom link will be sent out each week.

Junior Youth Group meets each Sunday for a zoom gathering from 6:30-7. The link will be sent out each week.

Our COA group will meet this Sunday from 11:15-12:30. It will use the same link as last week's class.

If you need to connect with Michelle Cote, our Director of Religious Education, her email is dre@fpc-stow-acton.org.

Paul Spanagel, our youth coordinator can be reached at youth@fpc-stow-acton.org

THE WEEK at Church MAY 4 – MAY 9 2020

Tuesday Asylum Meeting 7:00pm Zoom

Tuesday Book Group 7:00pm Zoom

Tuesday RE Meeting 7:00pm Zoom

Wednesday Membership Meeting 7:00pm Zoom

Wednesday Meditation 7:25pm Zoom

Thursday Staff Meeting 9:30am Zoom

Thursday Peace Vigil outside in front of church 5:30pm

Thursday SGM Facilitator Meeting 6:00pm Zoom

Friday SGM 9:30am Zoom

Saturday SGM 9:00am Zoom

Sunday MAY 10, 2020

"HONORING PARENTING"

10 AM ONLY

Sanctuary closed. Virtual Service by video or phone or at 107.7 FM in the FPC parking lot.

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

This Mother's Day we will honor the hard work that parents are doing right now in raising children, recognizing how quarantine has given us a special time together, but a difficult

Online Information: Please note all our links for joining by video/audio are different each week. Information will be posted by 24 hours before the service.



**ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY AFTERNOON MAY 31, 2020 AT 4:00PM
ZOOM**

The Board has changed the date of the Annual Meeting to Sunday afternoon May 31 at 4:00pm. It is going to be *a virtual meeting, using a similar Zoom system we use for the Sunday services.* The Board feels that because the meeting needs to be a Zoom meeting, we wanted to have as much time up front for the congregation to review the budget and any other major agenda items beforehand. So, *we will have at least two Zoom meetings to review the budget before the Annual meeting.*



**Coming May 30-June 13
FPC's on-line spring auction!**

FPC's on-line spring auction! Strange times call for new ways of supporting our beloved community. The Auction Committee is hard at work preparing a roaring good time via an on-line auction of many favorite auction items and some new and exciting choices. We have a Moroccan Dinner for ten, an escape room adventure for four, and a salt room treatment for two. We have several gift cards for restaurants and massages. We have a St. Patrick's Day corned beef dinner. Lighting of the Lake; Books, Brunch and Booze; and Kevin O'Brien's handyman services are all returning. And we will have over sixty jewelry items.

We understand that some of our members may be suffering economically in these uncertain times, and that not everyone will be able to participate in the auction. However, for those who are able, we hope you will bid often and generously, as we try to support the operation of the church and our wonderful staff. We also hope that this on-line format, spread over two weeks, will allow more participation by those who might be shy about attending an in-person gala. Let's

We Need Your Help with FPC's Summer Services



Is there something that you're particularly passionate about? Something that you think your fellow FPC members and friends would really like to learn more about at one of our summer services? Would you be interested in leading such a service? If so, the Worship Committee wants to hear from you. We have just started planning our services this summer and have settled upon the theme of Passion. If you have an idea for a summer service that focuses on something you feel strongly about and you think deserves a wider audience, please let us know. Also, is there someone in our congregation who you think has just such an idea that you believe we would all benefit from hearing? If so, we are inviting you to nominate that person, especially if you think they may be hesitant to come forward themselves.

The Worship Committee is available to help shape any of these services, so please contact one of us if you have an idea, you would like to suggest someone, or you would just like more information:

Neil Saunders, Chair (neilsaund@verizon.net)
Lisa Martino (griffmomma@gmail.com)
Kevin O'Brien (kjobrien2@verizon.net)
Rick Gentilman (rgentilman1@aol.com)
Aimee Ledwell (redshoegirl@gmail.com)
Meg Costello (margaretmcostello@gmail.com)
Trish Guditz (guditz@verizon.net)
Rev. Cindy Landrum (minister@fpc-stow-acton.org)

The Worship Committee needs your help to provide a meaningful program for this year's summer services, and we thank you, in advance, for your consideration and support. We can't do it without you!



Well, we're not sure exactly when at the moment, but we are hopeful for some date in mid-May.

We also hope that while you're social distancing, you're also still gardening.

As we do every year around this time, we ask First Parish earth lovers for plants – lots of plants – from your yards and gardens! Please take a moment to consider plants you'd like to donate to the Sale, which is an important fundraiser for the Church. Please note that plants that are different or unusual in some way are especially desirable, the kinds of plants that if they weren't already in your yard or garden, you yourself would like to buy.

We seek shrubs, small trees, ground cover, herbs, perennials, and vegetables or flowering plants you may have started. Please dig up and pot the plants you'd like to donate as soon as possible. Right now is the best time of year to do this! Early-season transplanting is less stressful on plants. Please put them in a good spot where they can grow strong until it's time for delivery. That way, the plants will be well-established and looking their very best on Plant Sale day!

We're also looking for help with gathering, organizing, and labeling plants, and setting up and running the Sale. Please email peggypaladini@gmail.com with questions, or if you'd like to help.

As in past years, we will hold the Plant Sale in front of the Carriage Shed. Final date, TBD!