





Thank you to:  
 Sharon Brownfield, Zoom Host  
 Mark Koenig & Troy Liston, Ushers  
 Jeff Brown, Coffee Hour Host  
 and to our staff and leadership



**Land Acknowledgement**

We would like to acknowledge that this service is being held by a community that gathers on the stolen traditional lands of the Massachusett, Nipmuc, Pawtucket, and Wampanoag People. We pay respect to those Indigenous Peoples who lost their lives in the colonization of this land and recognize that these Indigenous tribes are still today facing violations of sovereignty, territory, and water. We also give thanks for the Earth we walk upon, the waters, the lifegiving plants, and all the Earth’s creatures, as well as the winds, sun, moon, and stars. We recognize this is just a first step in moving toward right relationship with Native peoples and healing of the Earth.



**Ways to Connect with First Parish Church**

**Sign our visitor log**  
[tinyurl.com/visitfpc](https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org/visitfpc)



We’ll send you information if you request it.

**Come to Sunday service and/or coffee hour**  
 10 am  
 in person  
 or online

**Subscribe to our publications**

*The Chronicle* - monthly e-newsletter  
*This Week at FPC* - weekly e-newsletter  
*FPCAnnounce & FPCForum* - email groups

**at**

<https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org/subscribe-newsletters>

**FIRST PARISH  
 CHURCH  
 OF STOW &  
 ACTON**



*Unitarian Universalist*

Sunday, May 14, 2023

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

**Marissa Evans**  
 Acting Director, Religious Education

**Meg Rivers-Wright**  
 Administration and Membership

**Brad Dumont**  
 Music Director

**Trish Woods**.....Interim Pianist  
**Mike Silkonis**.....Sexton  
**Ben Child**.....Tech Assistant  
**Janet Beatrice**.....External Publicity  
**Sharon Brownfield**.....President  
**Jenni Edgerton**.....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.*

To help everyone be a part of worship in the fullest way possible, the ushers can provide large print orders of service and hymnals or, for people who need to step out during the service for any reason, an assisted listening device (portable radio) which works throughout the building.

**Masking Policy:** Masking is required in the sanctuary except at the pulpit, for soloists, and in the balcony. Masking is also required in religious education classrooms, and staff offices upon request.

On the web at [fpc-stow-acton.org](https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org) and on Facebook.

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

1. Closed captioning is available for FPC's online services. If you don't see captions on your screen, you can use the button at the bottom of your screen to request that the host turn them on.
2. Today's Zoom Host is Sharon Brownfield.
3. Hymn lyrics are below.



**Hymn #357**

*Bright Morning Stars*

1. Bright morning stars are rising. Bright morning stars are rising.  
Bright morning stars are rising. Day is a-breaking in my soul.
2. Oh, where are our dear mothers? Oh, where are our dear mothers?  
Oh, where are our dear mothers? Day is a-breaking in my soul.
3. They are sowing seeds of gladness. They are sowing seeds of gladness.  
They are sowing seeds of gladness. Day is a-breaking in my soul.
4. Oh, where are our dear fathers? Oh, where are our dear fathers?  
Oh, where are our dear fathers? Day is a-breaking in my soul.
5. They are in the fields a-plowing. They are in the fields a-plowing.  
They are in the fields a-plowing. Day is a-breaking in my soul.

**Hymn #29**

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,  
God of glory, God of love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
hail thee as the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
drive the pain of doubt away;  
giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the joy of day.

2. All thy works with joy surround thee,  
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,  
stars and planets sing around thee,  
center of unbroken praise;  
field and forest, vale and mountain,  
blossoming meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain  
call us to rejoice in thee.
3. Thou art giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest;  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean-depth of happy rest.  
Ever singing march we onward,  
victors in the midst of strife;  
joyful music lifts us sunward  
in the triumph song of life.

**Hymn #395**

*Sing and Rejoice*

Sing and rejoice.  
Sing and rejoice.  
Let all things living now sing and rejoice.

**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

Announcements begin on next page

**May Plate Sharing:**  
**Boston Area Gleaners**

BAG began as a small volunteer effort focused on gleaning as a way to address food insecurity: harvesting surplus crops that would otherwise go to waste, and distributing them to people without access to healthy food. Since the early 2000's, it has grown to become the largest gleaning organization in the northeast, and through their distribution program they deliver fresh food to a network of local food pantries, shelters, and meal programs, and provide trucking support to partner non-profits and farms in need of resources.

With the support of other organizations, BAG purchased Stonefield Farm in 2021 and developed 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. You can read more about BAG's plans for addressing ongoing nutritional challenges in our state, and volunteer gleaning "trips" at local farms such as Applefield Farm in Bolton: [www.bostonareagleaners.org](http://www.bostonareagleaners.org) Your support is deeply appreciated.



**This Week in Religious Education**

**Children (PreK-1st & 2nd-5th Graders):**  
We explore how creative thinking can help us expand the culture around Mother's Day. One organization seeking justice decided to create a new angle on Mother's Day and call it "Mama's Day" to honor all the Mamas in the world.

**Junior Youth (6th-8th graders):** Planning the service for the following week, which is a Youth Service featuring Coming of Age and Senior Graduation Recognition.

**Coming-of-Age:** The Coming-of-Age class youth are welcome to come down to the youth room at 10:00-10:30 and 11:30-12:00 to work on their credos if they wish. As the Junior Youth come down following the lantern, the Senior Youth will join the Junior Youth in planning the Youth Service.

**Announcements**

**Today at FPC**

- 10 am Service, Sanctuary/Online
- 11 am Information meeting re. conferring RE emerita on Michelle Cote, Comm Rm.
- 11 am Coffee Hour and Beer Fest sign-ups, Fellowship Hall
- 12 pm Spiritual Conversations, online (see inside pages for details)

**Information Meeting Today** Community Room

The Religious Education Committee will be presenting a motion at FPC's Annual Meeting on Friday, May 19th to confer upon our past Director of Religious Education, Michelle Cote, the honor of Religious Educator emerita, after serving this church for 14 years. This process requires a vote of the entire congregation at Annual Meeting similar to what was done for Minister Emeritus, Rev. Tom Rosiello. There will be an informational meeting regarding the conferring of this honorarium immediately after service today.

**FPC's Annual Report is available today on the FPC website at**

**<https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org/members-friends/documents>** if you would like to read it before Friday's meeting. Paper copies will also be available to pick up at the church by Monday afternoon.

**The Assabet Craft Beer & Food Truck Festival is returning to FPC, and you can help today by signing up to volunteer\***

Saturday, September 2, 2023 12-4 pm (rain or shine)

<p><u>Craft Brews</u> Amory's Tomb Brewing (Maynard) Bull Spit Brewing (Lancaster) Dirigible Brewing (Littleton) Redemption Rock (Worcester) cider, seltzer, kombucha, soft drinks</p>	<p><u>Food</u> Kith &amp; Kin, Twizted Pickle, Big T's BBQ, Braised tacos and bowls New City Microcreamery, Our very own FPC cookie table!  <u>Music</u> by Sugar High</p>
<p><u>Fun activities for kids</u> carnival games, face painting, crafts table, and more.</p>	<p><u>Admission</u> is \$5-10 donation, kids 12 &amp; under free, drink tickets \$5.</p>

**\* Lots of volunteers are needed**

to help with what will be another really fun family event for both FPC and our wider community. **Each Sunday in May you can sign up during Coffee Hour and get a complimentary bottle of First Parish Lager,** brewed especially for our volunteers by Neil Saunders, Dave Sansone, and Scott Feldhusen!

## This Week at FPC: May 15 – 20

**Tue 5/16**    **Coffee and Chat\*** 10-11 am, Town Gazebo at Town Park, adjacent to FPC. Bring your own coffee!  
**Membership Committee mtg.** 11:30 am -1 pm, Online  
**Trustee Mtg.** 7-9:30 pm, Fellowship Hall  
**SGM:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday Group 7-9 pm, Online

**Wed 5/17**    **Worship Committee** 12-1pm, Online  
**SGM: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Group** 7:30-9:30 am, Online  
**Meditation\*** 7:30-8:30 pm, Fellowship Hall/Online  
 Contact: [meditation@fpc-stow-acton.org](mailto:meditation@fpc-stow-acton.org)

**Thu 5/18**    **Archives Committee** 9:30-11:30 am, Vestry  
**Peace Vigil\*** 5-6 pm, in front of FPC, btwn Common & Great Rds  
 Contact: Neil Saunders [neilsaund@verizon.net](mailto:neilsaund@verizon.net)  
**Choir Rehearsal** 7:15-9 pm, Sanctuary  
**SGM: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Group** 9:30-11:30 am, Online

**Fri 5/19**    **Bridge Group\*** 1-3:30 pm, Community Room  
 Contact: Hector [Hconstantzos@gmail.com](mailto:Hconstantzos@gmail.com)  
**FPC Annual Meeting** 5:30-9:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

**Sat 5/20**    **Garden Conversations** 9-10 am, Online  
**FPC Plant Sale** 9:30-11:30 am, In front of church  
**FPC Rental Space Open House** 9:30-11:30 am, FPC Spaces

**Sun 5/21**    **Next Sunday's Service:** 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone

### Coming-of-Age, Youth Sunday, and Senior Graduations

Come join us for a service celebrating our youth and recognizing their transitions, as our Coming-of-Age class shares their credos.

**Join Worship by Video:** <https://tinyurl.com/2223fpc>

Meeting ID: 999 7077 0266; Passcode: 01775

**Join Worship by Phone:** (929) 205-6099 (toll call)



\*All are welcome to these weekly FPC events

## Events at FPC

### FPC's Plant Sale and Rental Space Open House

Supply your garden and tour our spaces in the same trip!

Sat 5/20, 9:30-11:30 am

Setting up tables for the sale starting at 3pm on Friday, May 19th. If possible please drop off your donations on that Friday so we have a chance to sort and price. Plants can be dropped off anytime that day. If they need to be dropped off earlier, please email me so I can properly care for them. I can also take donations at my house during the coming week. Email [peggyaladini@gmail.com](mailto:peggyaladini@gmail.com). Memorial Garden is looking for donations of pachysandra from your garden, too. These donations can be dropped off at the plant sale!

If someone you know is planning a graduation, shower, or birthday, FPC's Fellowship Hall, Community Room, and Sanctuary can all be rented for events.

### Community Planting Event for FPC's Memorial Garden – Join us May 28!



FPC's Memorial Garden, located at the northeast corner of the property, is to be a place of memorialization and rest for our church community, and a space of peace and contemplation for the larger community.

On Sunday, May 28 after Tom Rosiello's service, please join us to plant the Garden's sacred bed of pachysandra, the place of rest for ashes and interned members of our community.

It is our hope that this expanse of pachysandra be gathered from and planted by our community, so we are calling for pachysandra from any and all gardens!

- The bed is fully prepared, so the work will be very light.
- Bring your donations to the plant sale on the previous Saturday, 5/20, or contact [sonja.furneaux@gmail.com](mailto:sonja.furneaux@gmail.com).

Like our faith, this sacred bed is a large and welcoming space. Its creation from plants sourced from many yards, planted by many hands, will be a testament and true reflection of our community. ♥