

April 30, 2023
10:00 AM

For those online and at FPC, **our service is being broadcast from Ferry Beach Camp and Conference Center in Maine today**, where many of our church members are gathered for our annual camp weekend. Due to technological limitations, it will be less participatory in the Sanctuary this week, but we hope you enjoy!

Gathering

Gathering Music

Land Acknowledgement, Welcome, & Announcements

Greet Your Neighbor

Opening Words

Chalice Lighting

- * **Hymn #188** *Come, Come, Whoever You Are*

Come, come, whoever you are
wanderer, worshipper, lover of leaving.
Ours is no caravan of despair.
Come, yet again, come.

- * **Covenant**
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.

- * **Affirmation**
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.

Centering

Time for All Ages

Lighting the Lantern

Joys and Sorrows

Prayer or Meditation

Ingrid Holcomb (Ferry Beach)

* *Rise in Body and Spirit*

- * **Hymn #123** *Spirit of Life*

Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

Exploring

Reading

Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share our weekly offering with **Concord Prison Outreach**. You may donate during the service by writing a check to "First Parish Church," online at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate>, or by text to (978) 310-3309.

- Sermon** *I Brought My Spirit to the Sea*

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Returning

- * **Hymn #159** *This is My Song*

1. This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
2. My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;
but other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

- * **Benediction**
Closing Music

* *Rise in Body and Spirit*



Thank you to:
 Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host
 Lisa Rydin and Hector Constantzos, Ushers
 Brendon Chetwynd and Kirsten Chetwynd, Coffee Hour Hosts
 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



We'll send you information if you request it.

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

**FIRST PARISH
 CHURCH
 OF STOW &
 ACTON**



Unitarian Universalist

Sunday, April 30, 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 Kim Kinnear.
3. Hymn lyrics are below.



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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

**April Plate
Sharing:**

**Concord Prison
Outreach**

Concord Prison Outreach (CPO) is a 501(c)(3) organization composed of a coalition of individuals and faith communities committed to helping people who are incarcerated build better lives for themselves and their families. Since its founding in 1968, when its first volunteers helped to support people in a local prison infirmary, CPO has developed into the largest organization of its kind in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. CPO works cooperatively with the

Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC), offering educational programs that focus on skill-building and personal growth, essentials to help support people in prison to achieve success while incarcerated or post-incarceration.

Recently, CPO has restarted programming in the BRAVE (Building Responsible Adults through Validation and Education) Unit to house 45 young fathers at MCI-Concord. Many of the young fathers have no relationships with their own fathers, or positive role models. Mentors will support these younger men as they work at being fathers themselves, navigate the stressors of prison life, and participate in programming to bolster other areas of their lives. Programming includes mentoring to guide fathers to have healthier relationships with their children. For information about CPO programs and volunteer opportunities, please visit concordprisonoutreach.org.

This Week in Religious Education

At Ferry Beach: Intergenerational service. No RE.

At FPC: RE is offered in one classroom for all ages, focused on 'camp activities' of fun and games.

Do you know a teen interested in babysitting?

We are looking to supplement our core group of paid FPC-affiliated teen childcare providers with a few new individuals from the Stow/Acton/Maynard area who are in 8th grade or beyond that you would personally recommend. Teens don't necessarily have to have babysitting experience, just be responsible and have interest in connecting with children. We pay \$15/hr. and have occasional weekend openings, especially Sunday mornings in the summer. If you know someone to recommend, please email Justin Marble at justin.a.marble@gmail.com.



Announcements

Today

10 am Service, Sanctuary/Online
11 am Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall

May 7 Buy a Mother's Day card AND support the UU Urban Ministry!

Mother's Day is May 14, just two weeks away. When you buy one of these special cards you'll help the UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury, MA to expand opportunities and programming for students in their Roxbury Youth Programs.



FPC has been a member of the UUUM for over 20 years. Please join us in supporting them!

1. Buy a card at FPC on May 7

Bring \$25* cash or check to coffee hour on Sunday 5/7.

*suggested donation

2. Buy a card online

Customize your card with a note and it will be sent by UUUM to the recipient of your choice, now through May 4.

<https://www.uuum.org/mothers-day-2023>

May 28 Memorial Garden Community Planting Event

FPC's Memorial Garden, located at the northeast corner of the church 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.



Please join us on Sunday, May 28 after Tom Rosiello's service 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. Donations are being collected at the plant sale on the previous Saturday, May 20, or you can contact 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. ♥



This Week at FPC: May 1 - 6

Tue 5/2 **Coffee and Chat*** 10-11 am, Town Gazebo at Town Park, adjacent to FPC. Bring your own coffee!
Book Group 7-8 pm, online
RE Committee Meeting 7-9, Community Room

Wed 5/3 **SGM Facilitators Meeting** 7-9 pm, Community Room
Meditation* 7:30-8:30 pm, Fellowship Hall/Online
 Contact: meditation@fpc-stow-acton.org

Thu 5/4 **Peace Vigil*** 5-6 pm, in front of FPC, btwn Common & Great Rds
 Contact: Neil Saunders neilsaund@verizon.net
Choir Rehearsal 7:15-9 pm, Sanctuary

Fri 5/5 **Bridge Group*** 1-3:30 pm, Community Room
 Contact: Hector Hconstantzos@gmail.com

Sun 5/7 **Next Sunday's Service:** 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone

“Outside the Box and Following the Spark” – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
 Thinking creatively about vocation, about worship, about life — this service will talk about how creativity can be generated when we have the need for freshness and innovation in life.

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 Book Group Tue 5/2, 7-8 pm, online

The Midnight Library: Matt Haig’s enchanting blockbuster novel that asks the question, “If you made other decisions, what would your life have been like?” Email sharonbrownfield@gmail.com for the link to discuss this intriguing question.

Parent Discussion Group Sun 5/7, 11:15 am, Location TBD

The Religious Education Committee is offering another Parent Discussion Group. This is an opportunity for parents to come together to share knowledge and wisdom and discuss relevant parenting issues. Discussion is open to any topic. Additionally, given that a recent Pew Research study shows 76% of parents are worried, to some degree, about their children struggling with anxiety and depression in the age of COVID, specific information will be provided about recognizing signs of anxiety and depression in your child. Facilitated by Russell Hart.

FPC’s Plant Sale: An Important Fundraiser Sat 5/21, 9:30-11:30 am

As we do every year, we’re asking FPC earth lovers for lots of plants from your yards and gardens. We’re also looking for help with gathering, organizing, and labeling plants, and with setting up and running the sale. Email peggyaladini@gmail.com.



Plants we’re seeking:
 shrubs, small trees,
 ground cover, herbs,
 perennials, vegetables,
 flowering plants you
 may have started
 (different/unusual ones
 especially desirable)



Dig up and pot ASAP:
 Early-season
 transplanting is less
 stressful on plants.
 Put them in a good spot
 where they can grow
 strong and look their
 very best for delivery
 and Sale Day.



Plant lovers, if someone you know is planning a graduation, shower, or birthday, **FPC’s Rental Space Open House** coincides with the Plant Sale! Fellowship Hall, the Community Room, and the sanctuary can all be rented for events. Tour our spaces and supply your garden in the same trip!