

# First Parish Church of Stow & Acton



**SUNDAY MAY 16, 2021**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SUNDAY MAY 16, 2021**

**10 AM ONLY**

*Sanctuary closed. Service by Video or Phone*

**Gender Effects in the Time of Pandemic**

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

For Mother's Day this year, Rev. Cindy will look at how the effects of the pandemic have fallen unequally onto the shoulders of people identified as women, as well as trans and non-binary peoples.

**Join by Video:** <https://tinyurl.com/fpcmom2021>

Meeting ID: 982 4550 6038

Passcode: 01775

**Join by Phone:** (646) 876-9923 (long distance rates will apply)

**\*\*There will be a budget hearing for the budget to be voted on at the annual meeting after the service this Sunday May 16.**

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***The Order of Service & the FPC Announcements will be posted on the First Parish Church of Stow & Acton Website under***

***“Services” for download by the Friday evening before the service.***

***On Sunday you can go directly to the FPC Website by CLICKING the below address for the video link, phone number, Order of Service (OOS) & FPC Announcements:***

***<https://fpc-stow-acton.org/services>***

## **FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO CONNECT BY PHONE:**

- 1. You’ll need three pieces of information: The phone number, the meeting ID and password. These change each week, so they can be found in the newsletter under the Sunday service. Occasionally zoom changes this information at a last minute, but you can always call an FPC member or staff member for them. We post them on the website under the Sunday service information if you have web access, and we update the information there when problems arise.**
- 2. Dial the phone number provided. It is a long-distance number, so your carrier rates will apply.**
- 3. Enter the meeting ID when prompted, followed by #. Enter # again if prompted to. If you join too early (before 9:35ish), you’ll either be told that it hasn’t started and to come back later, or told to press # to wait.**
- 4. Enter the passcode when prompted followed by a #. You may be in a “waiting room” where you won’t hear much until shortly before the service**
- 5. When you hear people introducing themselves, and at joys and sorrows, you can use \*6 to unmute yourself and tell people who you are or share your joy or sorrow**

## **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 in part by rescuing surplus crops from local farms, such as Applefield and Small Farm in Stow and Cucurbit Farm in Acton, that would otherwise go to waste and distributing the surplus to hunger relief organizations, such as area food banks, shelters, meal programs, and low-income markets 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 distribute perishables to hunger relief organizations during the winter months.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, BAG has re-engineered their volunteer operation to increase the distribution of emergency food to relief organizations serving food-insecure populations. They've participated in the USDA Farm to Families initiative and collaborated with Food for Free, Just Eats Grocery Box program, to distribute family-size boxes of food each week during the winter to residents of Greater Boston.

As part of BAG's vision to expand its impact from farms to families, it has agreed to purchase Stonefield Farm in Acton. To fund this, it is selling an Agricultural Preservation Restriction on the property to the Town of Acton and Sudbury Valley Trustees. This will ensure the land will remain undeveloped and open space in perpetuity.

Please visit the website [www.bostonareagleaners.org](http://www.bostonareagleaners.org) to learn more about BAG's mission and how to volunteer.

## **Virtual Coffee Hour**

## **This Week in our Religious Education Program**

This week our 9:15 class for grades PreK-4 will meet and play some games that make us think about others and how to help them.

Our 11:30 class will not be meeting this week as many youth have current conflicts in that time frame.

Instead we are planning a Junior Youth (grades 5-8) get together for Friday May 21st from 6:30-8 in the lower FPC field.

## **THE WEEK AT CHURCH May 17 - 22 2021**

**Monday** Memorial Garden Mtg 6:30-8:00pm ~ *Open to All* zoom

Changing Nature Discussion 7:00pm zoom

Finance Committee Mtg 8:00pm zoom *Open to All*

**Tuesday** Coffee & Chat 10-11:00am Gazebo  
Tour of the Memorial Garden 11AM *Open to All*  
SGM 7:00pm zoom

**Wednesday** Virtual Meditation 7:25pm zoom

**Thursday** Peace Vigil 5:00 pm in front of FPC  
Virtual Choir Meditation with Ken Langer 7:00pm  
SGM 7:15 zoom

**Friday** RE youth grades 5-8 outside  
on lower field 6:30 - 8pm

**Saturday** Growing a Victory Garden 9am zoom

**SUNDAY MAY 23, 2020**

**10 AM ONLY**

*Sanctuary closed. Service by Video or Phone*

**Question Box Sermon**

**Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum**

On the Sunday of the Annual Meeting, come with all your questions! Rev. Cindy will spontaneously answer questions, getting to as many as she can during the sermon time. Sometimes unanswered questions from Question Box Sunday can even become whole sermons in the future.

**Join by Video:** <https://tinyurl.com/fpcquestion>

Meeting ID: 912 0580 7489

Passcode: 01775

**Join by Phone:** (646) 876-9923 (long distance rates will apply)

**THE ANNUAL MEETING IS SUNDAY, MAY 23**

**AT 4:00PM ZOOM**



**MASKS ON EVERYONE PLEASE**

**If you come into the church buildings, please wear a mask.**



## **Saturday Morning Breakfasts**

**June 19.** This Saturday, June 19, Elisabeth Mathieu and her mother and her sister, will tell us about their new venture, “The Botanary” which specializes in indoor plants and how to care for them. They have set up shop in a corner of the newly opened “Nan’s Market”, down the street from our church.

**Music and slideshow at 7:45**, and the **program begins at 8:05**. Join us and then head over to the plant sale that begins at nine. **Here’s the Zoom link:**

<https://zoom.us/j/92536160892?pwd=RmhMK0JVNW9vTis4dk9uRy93UkRmZz09>

~Jeff Brown

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## **TUESDAY MORNINGS ~ Coffee and Chat will continue from 10-11AM**

Meet at the Gazebo at Town Park adjacent to FPC.

Wear a mask, dress for the weather,  
and bring your own coffee!

***If the weather is poor an FPC Announce will be posted with a link for a Zoom meetup instead.*** ~Ann Sadler



## SHORT AND QUICK

Warm days are here and our Church campus needs a little TLC. We are asking for people to help spruce up garden areas by removing leaves, cutting back dead debris, and making the beds look nice. We combined the gardens for this because no one garden would take much time.

Here is the sign up to help -

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49A4AB22A4FAC07-spring>

As part of the experience, we invite you look around, breathe in the campus, feel its pulse, and consider adopting a garden as a Caretaker. Here is the signup genius for that: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49A4AB22A4FAC07-adopt>

Thanks in advance for all your efforts,

Sonja Furneaux  
Ground Committee  
[sonja.furneaux@gmail.com](mailto:sonja.furneaux@gmail.com)  
617-901-4148

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## **APPLICATIONS FOR SHARE THE PLATE DUE BY JUNE 3**

The Social Justice Council is now accepting applications for Share the Plate recipients for the 2021-2022 church year.

Nominations for organizations to share half of non-pledge donations collected at services throughout the church year can be submitted by email through **June 3, 2021.**

The plate sharing program is open to all for nominations, you do not need to be part of the current social justice programs at FPC. We ask that nominators be personally involved with the organization and be able to bring actions or education to FPC about the work of the organization.

**To nominate an organization, please send an email to Josh Ledwell [jledwell@gmail.com](mailto:jledwell@gmail.com) including the following:**

- A short description of the organization that will be
- included in a survey to the congregation for voting on the organizations to share the plate.
  - 
  - Your involvement with the organization.
  - 
  - Ideas for how you will educate and involve the congregation in the work of the organization.
  - 
  - If you have a preference for a specific month.

The Social Justice Council will review nominations to be sure they align to our Social Justice mission and our principles. The SJC will send a survey to the congregation which will include the nominated organizations. The SJC will review survey results and present the slate for the plate share to the Board of Trustees for final approval.

**Those that submit proposals will be notified of the results by the middle of August.** *If selected, you will be asked to provide a description of your project to be included in the Chronicle newsletter and the Order of Service in the month your project will share the plate.*

Please contact me with any questions. We look forward to hearing from you about the social justice projects that you would like to nominate to share our plate.

Thank you,  
Josh Ledwell  
On behalf of the Social Justice Council

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**PS - If you didn't know this, you can donate every week**  
**at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/>,**  
**using the Donate! link at the bottom of the page. Put "Plate**  
**share" into the Comments field of the form!**

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**On May 17th, 6:30-8:00PM,**

**there will be a Zoom meeting with the  
Memorial Garden Committee**

**to present our plans, and answer your questions prior to the  
annual meeting. At the annual meeting, there will be a motion  
to proceed with the Memorial garden plan.**

**On May 18th around 10:45AM, there will be a tour given of the  
proposed site by  
Sonja Furneaux.**

**This will be in conjunction with the Tuesday morning coffee at  
the Stow Town Park Center at the Gazebo**

**On the FPC website:**

**-Click on Members and Friends.  
*Scroll down to Committee Pages.***

**-Click on Buildings & Grounds.  
*Scroll down to FPC Memorial Garden.***

**We have created this site to show members and friends our  
thoughts and plans for this wonderful Memorial Garden  
addition to FPC.**

**For the Committee,  
Marcia Rising**

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## IMPORTANT FPC CALENDAR INFORMATION

Dear program and committee leaders,

1. At this time, we're still working on our plans for how our building will be used on Sunday mornings when we return to the building. At this time, we think it is likely that worship, RE, and social hour will be using different and multiple spaces to allow for distancing, in ways that require set-up time in those spaces. Because we are not sure what our room needs will be for these important Sunday morning events, **we are not currently allowing room reservations for Sundays 8am-1pm for the next church year.** This will likely change in August or in the fall as things evolve. In the meantime, we encourage groups wishing to meet on Sunday mornings to look at Zoom and outside options.

And, as always, we encourage committees and task forces to avoid Sunday meetings whenever possible, so that Sunday at church can be a sabbath and not a work day for our members and friends (this doesn't apply to things that are programs, such as spiritual groups and intergenerational programs). We want the Sunday morning experience at FPC to be something that feeds the spirit! Thank you! And we apologize for the inconvenience.

In faith, Cindy (continue below)

## **2. CALENDAR ITEMS FOR THIS COMING CHURCH YEAR**

**KEEPING THE ABOVE INFORMATION IN MIND  
REGARDING SUNDAYS...**

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CALENDAR REQUESTS TO**

**Deedee Perkins**

**[OFFICE@FPC-STOW-ACTON.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@FPC-STOW-ACTON.ORG)**

**BY JUNE 1**

**WE MAY HAVE THE ROOMS YOU WANT IF**

**THAT IS HOW WE BEGIN THE YEAR,  
*.....ie Church fully open***

**OR WE MAY ZOOM AGAIN ... TBD**

**CINDY MAKES THE FINAL DECISION IF WE FIND  
THEREARE TOO MANY "HAPPENINGS" ON A  
GIVEN WEEKEND, FOR INSTANCE, OR  
AN UNPLANNED CONFLICT**

**Many thanks to all...send info anytime up until June 1.**

**[OFFICE@FPC-STOW-ACTON.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@FPC-STOW-ACTON.ORG)**