

# First Parish Church of Stow & Acton



**SUNDAY MAY 2, 2021**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SUNDAY MAY 2, 2021**

**10 AM ONLY**

*Sanctuary closed. Service by Video or Phone*

**Story, Part 1: Fiction & Legend**

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

In this week leading up to “Free Comics Day,” Rev. Cindy will talk about her love of literature, which of course will include some discussion of the power of science fiction, fantasy, and graphic novels. This sermon will also explore the power of legends to define a culture, telling who we are, and why certain legends endure across the centuries and still fascinate us today. What does this have to do with religion? Come and find out.

**Join by Video:** <https://tinyurl.com/fpcstory1>

Meeting ID: 917 2350 8824

Passcode: 01775

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

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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**

**Auction:** *We will be holding a help session for registration after the service on May 2. Just go to the main Zoom breakout room and you will be redirected to the registration help session.*

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

**This Sunday, May 2nd, in our Religious Education Program:**

**Our 9:15 group (Grades Prek-4)** will meet on zoom to take part in a special game and project day.

**Our 11:30 Group (Grades 5-8)** will be taking part in one final zoom game day and will plan out the last month of their RE workshops.

**Our High School Discussion Group** will meet at 11:30 to discuss: **Looking back at Jan 6<sup>th</sup> – first 100 days of Biden presidency**

## **THE WEEK AT CHURCH May 3 - 8 2021**

**Monday** Asylum Meeting 7:00pm zoom  
Changing Nature Discussion 7:30pm zoom

**Tuesday** Coffee & Chat 10-11:00am Gazebo  
Racial Justice Task Force 7:00pm zoom  
RE Meeting 7:00pm zoom  
Racial Justice Drop In 7:00pm zoom

**Wednesday** Membership Committee 7:00pm zoom  
Virtual Meditation 7:25PM zoom

**Thursday** Peace Vigil 5:00PM in front of FPC  
SGM Facilitators 6:00PM zoom  
Virtual Rehearsal Opera on Tap 7:00PM zoom

**Saturday** SGM 9AM  
Women Warriors 7:30pm zoom (see article way below)

**SUNDAY MAY 9, 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)



**MASKS ON EVERYONE PLEASE**

**If you come into the church buildings, please wear a good fitting mask (not a loose mask, bandana, gaiter or anything else as a face covering).**

**PLEASE WEAR YOUR FACE MASK  
EVEN IF YOU HAVE  
RECEIVED YOUR VACCINES. Thank you**



## **Saturday Morning Breakfasts**

***MAY 15 has changed to below:***

**May 15.** “The Botanary” is a new Stow business started by Stow native Elisabeth Mattieu along with her mother and sister. She currently has retail space at the newly opened Nan’s Rustic Kitchen and Market, 271 Great Road, right down the street from our church. Elisabeth specializes in the sale and care of indoor plants. She will talk about good plant choices for our area and how to address common problems with your plants. Follow her on Facebook(@the botanry) and Instagram (the botanryMA) and visit her website: [thebotanary.com](http://thebotanary.com).

The “European River Cruise” talk will be heard at a later date.

**June 19.** Ingrid Gunther, an Acton native, and a nurse living in New York City, will tell of her experiences during the pandemic and how the vaccination process played out. This talk was originally scheduled for February. Let’s hope that the above talks will be our last Zoom meetings and in September we can enjoy each other’s company in Fellowship Hall!

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

Meet at the 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

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**FPC AUCTION**

FPC Spring Auction 2021 - **Pajama Party!**



Hello All -

The FPC Spring Auction is here! ***At 12:01 AM on May 3, the  
silent auction opens on Auctria and we have over 200 items for  
your bidding pleasure.***

***The silent auction will remain open until May 16 at 1 PM.***

But wait, there's more! The main event, the Live Auction  
Pajama Party, will start at 7PM on May 15. We have a wide array

of live auction items this year, ranging from a week in Hawaii to hand-made wooden blocks. We've also added a few lower priced items to the live auction, just for the fun of it!

**Here are the things you need to know:**

- **You *must* register to participate** in the auction. To do so, **go to the Auctria website** at [FPCAcharityauction.bid/ucion2021](https://FPCAcharityauction.bid/ucion2021).
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- **Scroll down just below the countdown clock on the Auction home page**, and you will see a **green “Register Here” button**.
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- ***Click on the button, enter the information requested (we need at least your name and either a phone number or email so that we can contact winners.), and submit your registration. You will receive a bidder number and you will be ready to party!***
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- ***We will be holding a help session for registration after the service on May 2. Just go to the main Zoom breakout room and you will be redirected to the registration help session.*** It will be a huge help if people register prior to the opening of the Live Auction. There is no cost to register, and you are not committed to attend or bid. But you cannot bid on items in either the live or silent auctions without a bidder registration number.
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- If you have donated an item, please make sure you have submitted photos for inclusion in the on-line catalogue.
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- We have items for everyone - chess and Portuguese lessons, all kinds of baked goods and home delivered meals, wall

hangings made from repurposed slate from the old FPC roof, business gift cards, bowls handmade from recycled materials, and much, much more. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, so come to spend, start your Christmas shopping early, and help support our church.

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- The RE Committee will be distributing party favor bags at the church on May 8. More to come on the time for pick-up. Don't miss out!

Questions? Contact the Auction Committee at the email below. And get out your flannels and lace! Pop the popcorn! Make your favorite libation! This is the social event of the season. Be there or be square.

The Auction Committee  
[auction@fpc.groups.io](mailto:auction@fpc.groups.io)

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## **LOOKING AHEAD TO SUMMER SERVICES AT FPC**

The Worship Committee has just started the planning process for our summer services, which will begin on June 20 and run each Sunday for 12 weeks until September 5. All the services will be take place online via ZOOM but we hope to hold at least two of them outdoors weather permitting and following all necessary COVID guidelines.

Do you have an idea for a summer service that focuses on a topic that you think our congregation would be particularly interested in? Or perhaps you would like to nominate someone else who you

believe we would all benefit from hearing but 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](mailto:neilsaund@verizon.net))

Rick Gentilman ([rgentilman1@aol.com](mailto:rgentilman1@aol.com))

Aimee Ledwell ([redshoegirl@gmail.com](mailto:redshoegirl@gmail.com))

Trish Guditz ([guditz@verizon.net](mailto:guditz@verizon.net))

Susan Avery ([susan.avery@verizon.net](mailto:susan.avery@verizon.net))

Sharon Webb ([marysharonwebb@gmail.com](mailto:marysharonwebb@gmail.com))

Rev. Cindy Landrum ([minister@fpc-stow-acton.org](mailto:minister@fpc-stow-acton.org))

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## **The Board of Trustees met on April 22**

Lee Coopriider our Finance Committee Chair joined us to complete the discussion and approve next year's budget. Ilene Rudman, Marcia Rising, and Sonja Furneaux joined us later in the evening to talk about the Memorial Garden

**Policies.** The Board approved an updated Archive Committee Policy. We will get this up on the church website in the next week or so.

**COVID Planning.** The COVID Planning Task Force presented a plan for when and how we can start returning to our FPC buildings, hopefully starting this fall. The Board will look at these plans more closely and come to a decision at our May meeting. I'll let you know the plans as soon as the Board approves them.

**Social Justice.** The Social Justice Council asked the Board to

approve the Acton-Boxborough Safer Homes, Safer Communities Gun Buyback Program. We donated the totality of the Board's own line item in the budget of a whopping \$100 to support this effort.

FY2022 Budget. The Board spent a brief amount of time revisiting the proposed FY2022 budget (July 1 2021 – June 30 2022) with Lee Coopriider, and approved the budget. Please refer to my April 11 FPC Announcement from the April 8 meeting on the budget; there is nothing new to add. Rev. Cindy said this was the quickest she's ever seen a Board review and approve a budget. I hope that's a good thing. Just kidding, we seriously think this is a great budget, and many thanks to Lee and the Finance Committee for helping us balance the needs of the church! Lee and the Finance team will hold two community meetings regarding the budget before the Annual Meeting.

Memorial Garden. Members of the Memorial Garden Committee (Ilene Rudman, Sonja Furneaux, Marcia Rising, Lee Coopriider, and Bill Froberg) presented a great set of plans and cost estimates for the garden and asked the Board's approval to make a proposal for the location of the garden to the congregation at the Annual Meeting. The Board quickly approved this request. We appreciate the great effort the team has put into making this idea come to life. The team will be presenting the plans in a couple of community meetings before the Annual Meeting. Please go to a meeting if you can and check out the plans as they are well conceived and beautifully laid out.

Staff Appreciation. The Board has been pondering how to thank our minister and staff for not only working with no raise this year, but also working extra hard to help us be in community with each other throughout the pandemic. We are really blessed to have such wonderful people who are so dedicated to FPC. The Board voted unanimously to award a bonus to the minister and all staff, of a total

of approximately \$6,000 when you include FICA and pension requirements. The funds were fortunately available in non-budget, non-restricted areas (for example, our surplus from last year) which means we don't have to dip into the budget for this. Please congratulate and thank Michelle, Deedee, Mike, Joleen, Sanghee, Janet, and of course Rev. Cindy the next time you talk with them.

2021 Annual Meeting I know, I have said this before, and you're going to see this again in May. Please mark your calendars for the **Annual Meeting Sunday May 23, 2021 at 4:00pm. The meeting will also be a Zoom meeting, similar to 2020's annual meeting.** Please attend the separate community meetings prior to the Annual Meeting to discuss: (a) the FY2022 budget, presented the Finance Committee; (b) the Climate Change Task Force proposal; and (c) the Memorial Garden proposal. Here is the wording for the Climate Action and Memorial Garden proposals:

**Climate Change proposal:** "The members of the First Parish Church of Stow and Acton support the Town of Acton warrant article requiring new construction and major gut renovation projects to use clean energy technologies."

**Memorial Garden proposal:** "The Memorial Garden Committee is authorized to establish a Memorial Garden on the church property, in the location shown on the accompanying plans [KWeeks note: the plan will be provided at the community meetings and the Annual Meeting], following the intent of the design presented to the congregation. The Garden will be self-funded by prepayment for interment and/or memorialization."

Next meeting: **Our next Board meeting is on May 13 at 7:00pm.** If you are interested in attending, please contact me so I can send you the Zoom link.

In continuing gratitude for all you do, Katy Weeks for the Board of

Trustees (President – [katy@brightleafenegy.com](mailto:katy@brightleafenegy.com)), Sharon Brownfield (Vice President – [sharonbrownfield@gmail.com](mailto:sharonbrownfield@gmail.com)), Bill Froberg (Treasurer), Helen Ham (Clerk), Wiley Cordone, Jenni Edgerton, Sue Moses, Deb O’Connell Brunelle, and Jamison House (members at large).

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## **Hello fellow Plant lovers!**

It’s time to start planning for this year’s Plant Sale. This year’s sale is getting back to our customary format with a few pandemic twists. Masks will be required and the tables will be set up to encourage social distancing. Instead of being held on a Sunday after church we will be having the sale on a Saturday. There will be both a live sale with an honor system sale (time to be determined). This year's live sale will be held:

**Date: Saturday, May 15**

**Time: 9-11**

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](mailto:peggypaladini@gmail.com) with questions, or if you'd like to help.

Thanks!  
Peggy Paladini

## **FPC SPRING SPRUCING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**



### **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, breath 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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## **Women Warriors and Social Justice**

A Virtual Event sponsored by the First Parish Church of Stow and Acton with generous support provided by the Stow Cultural Council and the Acton/Boxborough Cultural Council,

**Saturday May 8th @ 7:30pm- 9pm**

**[Register in advance for this virtual event.](#)**

Two local Artists, Donna Dodson and Trina Baker will present their work and discuss its influences, the process of creating their art, and their experience as women artists, followed by a Q&A. Free and open to the public.

