

# First Parish Church of Stow & Acton



**SUNDAY MAY 9, 2021**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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)

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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**

**Spiritual Conversations 11:15 zoom**

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

**Our 9:15 group (Grades Prek-4)** will meet on zoom and make a special project.

**Our 11:30 Group (Grades 5-8)** will be watching a video and discussing it's message.

**Our High School Discussion Group** will meet at 11:30 to discuss: Left brain, Right Brain

## **THE WEEK AT CHURCH May10 - 15 2021**

**Monday** SGM 7:00pm-9:00pm zoom  
Parents as Sexuality Educators 8:00-9:30pm

**Tuesday** Coffee & Chat 10-11:00am Gazebo  
*Tour of FPC Memorial Garden site with a Garden Leader after Gazebo Morning Meet-up.*  
*Meet at Gazebo in Stow Center Town Park*  
Racial Justice Task Force 7:00-9:00pm zoom  
ClimateTask Force 7:30-9:30pm zoom

**Wednesday** **CHRONICLE ARTICLES DUE**  
Virtual Meditation 7:25pm zoom

**Thursday** SGM 9:30am Zoom  
Memorial Garden 3:30 Zoom Meeting  
Peace Vigil 5:00 pm in front of FPC  
TRUSTEE MEETING 7:00pm zoom  
Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm

**Saturday** Saturday Morning Breakfast zoom (see article below)  
Plant Sale 9-11:00am FPC driveway (see article)  
**AUCTION PAJAMA PARTY 7:00pm Zoom**

**SUNDAY MAY 16, 2020**

**10 AM ONLY**

*Sanctuary closed. Service by Video or Phone*

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



**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 botanary) and Instagram (the botanaryMA) 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!

~Jeff Brown

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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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## 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 debree, and making the beds look nice 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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**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

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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.
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- Your involvement with the organization.
- 
- Ideas for how you will educate and involve the congregation in the work of the organization.
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- 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!**