



**Sunday, MAY 10, 2020**  
**First Parish Church of Stow & Acton**

## **INSERT/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **10 AM ONLY**

**Sanctuary closed. Virtual Service by video or phone or at 107.7 FM in the FPC parking lot.**

### **"HONORING PARENTING"**

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

This Mother's Day we will honor the hard work that parents are doing right now in raising children, recognizing how quarantine has given us a special time together, but a difficult one.

Dear Friends,

**Zoom** has been changing security parameters and other settings, frequently on weekends when they have lower traffic, and this has sometimes affected our links we have distributed, as it did last weekend. Because of this, **we're posting the zoom link only to our website**, where we can make sure it is correct and change it if needed. This will avoid scenarios where you have an outdated link.

Thanks, Cindy

People are encouraged to arrive ten minutes early to facilitate the process of being cleared through our "waiting room." Please note that microphones will be muted, screen sharing will be disabled, and chatting (except to host) will be disabled for this service. The room will also be locked to new participants about 15 minutes into the service. We apologize for any inconvenience this causes.

***Please note all our links for joining by video/audio have changed. Information will be posted only on our website 24 hours before the service:***

**CLICK** <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/services/service/honoring-parenting>

## MAY PLATE SHARING



**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 by rescuing surplus crops from local farms that would otherwise go to waste. When crops flourish, farmers can't always harvest and sell all of the food; up to 20% is wasted. To reduce food waste and to address food insecurity, BAG harvests the donated surplus, and then distributes it to hunger relief organizations, such as area food banks, shelters, meal programs, low-income markets, and wholesale food access programs 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 repack stored produce to provide hunger relief during the winter months. Local farms that partner with the Boston Area Gleaners include Applefield in Bolton, Small Farm in Stow, the Food Project in Lincoln, and Verrill Farm in Concord.

As the 2020 season approaches and the need for basic services is skyrocketing, these farms are expanding their efforts to grow more food for BAG so that it can in turn bring it to those in need through regional food banks.

During the current Covid pandemic, BAG is helping with emergency response efforts by partnering to provide logistics support through trucking, and aggregation and storage of produce for emergency food distribution in the Boston area. They are also responding to a range of ad hoc requests both from existing hunger relief partners, such as the Dorchester Food Coop, and Community Servings who have increased their capacity for making medically tailored meals.

Please visit the website [www.bostonareagleaners.org](http://www.bostonareagleaners.org) to learn more about BAG's mission and how to volunteer. The link below is to a volunteer shared album of the joys of participating!  
<https://www.icloud.com/sharedalbum/#B095oqs3qHBhmdX>

### **NO Adult Choir Rehearsal**

### **VIRTUAL Coffee Hour**

### **News from Our Religious Education Program**

There is a family worship packet being sent out to all families on Friday, May 8th. This week the packet will focus on families.

**FPC Kids Gathering** will be offered starting at **1:30**. Please note the time change.

This session will be geared for children in grades K-6. The zoom link will be sent out each week.

**Junior Youth Group** meets each Sunday for a zoom gathering from 6:30-7. The link will be sent out each week.

**Our High School Discussion Group** will meet this Sunday from 11:15-1230. It will use the same link as the last class.

### **WEEK AT CHURCH MAY 11-16, 2020**

**Monday** SGM 7:30pm Zoom

**Wednesday** Meditation 7:25pm ZOOM

**Thursday** Staff Meeting 9:30am ZOOM

**Thursday** SGM Meeting 9:30am ZOOM

**Thursday** Peace Vigil 5-6pm outside in front of church

**Thursday** TRUSTEE Meeting 7:00pm, ZOOM

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### **SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2020**

#### **10 AM ONLY**

*Sanctuary closed. Virtual Service by video or phone or at 107.7 FM in the FPC parking lot.*

#### **BLESSING ALL ANIMALS**

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

This Sunday we honor all the creatures that fly, swim, and walk on the earth. Bring your own pet to your screen or phone for a blessing, or a picture of an endangered animal you wish us care for.



### **ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY AFTERNOON MAY 31, 2020 AT 4:00PM ZOOM**

**The Board has changed the date of the Annual Meeting to Sunday afternoon May 31 at 4:00pm.** It is going to be ***a virtual meeting, using a similar Zoom system we use for the Sunday services.*** The Board feels that because the meeting needs to be a Zoom meeting, we wanted to have as much time up front for the congregation to review the budget and any other major agenda items beforehand. So, ***we will have at least two Zoom meetings to review the budget before the Annual meeting.***



**Coming May 30-June 13**  
**FPC's on-line spring auction!**

**FPC's on-line spring auction!** Strange times call for new ways of supporting our beloved community. The Auction Committee is hard at work preparing a roaring good time via an on-line auction of many favorite auction items and some new and exciting choices. We have a Moroccan Dinner for ten, an escape room adventure for four, and a salt room treatment for two. We have several gift cards for restaurants and massages. We have a St. Patrick's Day corned beef dinner. Lighting of the Lake; Books, Brunch and Booze; and Kevin O'Brien's handyman services are all returning. And we will have over sixty jewelry items.

We understand that some of our members may be suffering economically in these uncertain times, and that not everyone will be able to participate in the auction. However, for those who are able, we hope you will bid often and generously, as we try to support the operation of the church and our wonderful staff. We also hope that this on-line format, spread over two weeks, will allow more participation by those who might be shy about attending an in-person gala. Let's strive to make this year's auction a big success!

We continue to work out the final details about how the auction will work. Our plan is to cap the on-line auction with a live, Zoom auction for items such as dinners and other big ticket items. We are forging ahead into the unknown, so keep an eye out for more announcements about how to participate. Community makes us strong! Join in the fun as you are able!

## We Need Your Help with FPC's Summer Services



Is there something that you're particularly passionate about? Something that you think your fellow FPC members and friends would really like to learn more about at one of our summer services? Would you be interested in leading such a service? If so, the Worship Committee wants to hear from you. We have just started planning our services this summer and have settled upon the theme of Passion. If you have an idea for a summer service that focuses on something you feel strongly about and you think deserves a wider audience, please let us know. Also, is there someone in our congregation who you think has just such an idea that you believe we would all benefit from hearing? If so, we are inviting you to nominate that person, especially if you think they 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))  
*Lisa Martino* ([griffnomma@gmail.com](mailto:griffnomma@gmail.com))  
*Kevin O'Brien* ([kjobrien2@verizon.net](mailto:kjobrien2@verizon.net))  
*Rick Gentilman* ([rgentilman1@aol.com](mailto:rgentilman1@aol.com))  
*Aimee Ledwell* ([redshoegirl@gmail.com](mailto:redshoegirl@gmail.com))  
*Meg Costello* ([margaretmcostello@gmail.com](mailto:margaretmcostello@gmail.com))  
*Trish Guditz* ([guditz@verizon.net](mailto:guditz@verizon.net))  
*Rev. Cindy Landrum* ([minister@fpc-stow-acton.org](mailto:minister@fpc-stow-acton.org))

The Worship Committee needs your help to provide a meaningful program for this year's summer services, and we thank you, in advance, for your consideration and support. We can't do it without you!



## FPC ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Well, we're not sure exactly when at the moment, but we are hopeful for some date in mid-May.

We also hope that while you're social distancing, you're also still gardening.

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

As in past years, we will hold the Plant Sale in front of the Carriage Shed. Final date, TBD!