

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



Sunday, May 25, 2025
200th Anniversary of the AUA

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

**Rayla D.
Baldwin-Mattson**
Director of Religious
Education

Meg Rivers-Wright
Administration, Publicity,
Membership

Chris Hossfeld
Music Director

Trevor Berens
Accompanist

Felix Freeman
Tech Assistant

Mike Silkonis
Sexton

Justin Marble
Nursery Care Coordinator

Brendon Chetwynd
President

Trisha Guditiz
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.*

Large print orders of service and hymnals are available from an usher.
Assisted Listening Devices are available when worship is in the Sanctuary.

FPC currently has a masks-optional policy throughout the church.
In the Sanctuary, several back rows with accessible seating are
“mask-required.”

FPC is on the web at fpc-stow-acton.org and on Facebook.

May 25, 2025: 10:00 a.m.

Gathering

Prelude	"Song Without Words" Anthony Philip Heinrich	Trevor Berens Accompanist
Welcome & Announcements		Meg Rivers-Wright
Opening Words #438	"Morning" by Clinton Lee Scott (1887-1985)	Susan Avery
Chalice Lighting	by Margaret Fuller (1810-1850)	Susan Avery & Kirsten Chetwynd
* Hymn #287	"Faith of the Larger Liberty" Words by Vincent B. Silliman (1894-1979)	

Centering

* Covenant and Affirmation		Marcia Rising
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.	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.	

Land Acknowledgement		Willard Hunter
A Time for All Ages	"What the Turtle Taught Theodore" a story about Theodore Parker (1810-1860) by Gary Kowalski	Ingrid Holcomb

Going Forth With the Light	Chris Hossfeld	Congregation Sings
Our love surrounds you. Here joy has found you. Let hope abound freely. Go in peace!		

Joys and Sorrows	Ingrid Holcomb, Lay Minister
Joys and Sorrows is a time for the things on our hearts and minds to be heard by the gathered community. If you would like a follow-up call by a lay minister or the minister, email caring@fpc-stow-acton.org .	

Prayer or Meditation	"Dandelions" by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper (1825-1911)	Lisa Fagerstrom
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** Please rise in body or in spirit*

* Hymn #12

“O Life That Maketh All Things New”
Words by Samuel Longfellow (1819-1892)

Exploring

Reading

“The Power of Free Associations”
by Cynthia L. Landrum

Marcia Rising

Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share our weekly offering with **the Boston Area Gleaners**.
You may donate by check made out to First Parish Church,
online at fpc-stow-acton.org/donate, or text (978) 310-3309.

Anthem

“mprovisation”

Trevor Berens

Chancel Drama

“‘He Said, He Said’: A (Slightly) Dramatic
Retelling of the American Unitarian Association Founding”
by Nancy McDonald Ladd

Dramatis Personae:

The Parliamentarian: reader of resolutions,
speaks in a stentorian voice, has good posture.

Sharon Brownfield

Andrews Norton: Harvard Professor of Sacred
Literature. Known to friends and enemies alike as
“the Unitarian Pope;” means business.

Roza Anthony

William Ellery Channing: the father of American
Unitarianism. The one guy in the room everyone
wants to impress.

Paul Reisberg

Henry Ware: the younger, not the elder. (These
guys tend to recycle names like the royal families
in Game of Thrones.) Young, organized, possessed
of many ideas.

Lisa Fagerstrom

Judge Jackson: an esteemed member of the MA
Supreme Court, which is kind of a big deal.

Willard Hunter

Rev. Dr. Pierce (of Brookline): a gentleman who is
having a bit of trouble containing himself.

Susan Avery

Mr. George Bond: a Boston merchant of some
renown. Has skipped breakfast.

Kirsten Chetwynd

Returning

* Hymn #187

"It Sounds Along the Ages"
by William Channing Gannett (1840-1923)

* Benediction #683

by Theodore Parker (1810-1860)

Roza Anthony

* Closing Song

Peace be with you 'til we meet again!
As life lays its task before you,
keep love's banner floating o'er you.
Peace be with you 'til we meet again.

Postlude

"Homeward"
Edvard Grieg

Trevor Berens

Greet Your Neighbor

* * *

Thank you to:

Hector Constantzos, Zoom Host
Lisa Rydin, Marcia Allison, Ushers
Jeff Brown, Coffee Host
Our staff and leadership

To our visitors, thank you for coming! ♥

We hope you found what you're looking for and that you'll return. Here's how to keep connecting with our people and programs:

- Fill out a Visitor Card in your pew or online (QR code)
- Watch these pages for newcomer events:
 - **Newcomer Coffees** - Meet the minister and other newcomers
 - **UU Journey classes** - Learn about UU history, spirituality, mission, and traditions
- Check out our website, www.fpc-stow-acton.org
There is so much happening at FPC! Our homepage and "Church Life" tab detail our events and programs.
- Subscribe to our e-newsletters & email groups (QR code)



Visitor Card



E-Newsletters

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

Today at FPC

Religious Education: There will be a *Time for All Ages* followed by preparation in the Community Room for the following Sunday's Flower Communion.

Coffee Hour:



Volunteer Drive for the Assabet Craft Beer & Food Truck Festival

Our much beloved Craft Beer & Food Truck Festival is returning this fall, and you can start helping today by signing up to volunteer for this popular event that takes place on Saturday, August 30, 2025, 12-4 pm (rain or shine).

Lots of volunteers are needed to help with what will be another really fun family event for both FPC and our wider community. After each Sunday service in May and June **at coffee hour**, you can sign up and get a complimentary bottle of Unitarian Special Bitter (USB) that has been brewed for us by Amory's Tomb in Maynard!

You can also register directly on SignupGenius by scanning the QR code or following the link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084DA8AD29AAFBCF8-56337100-craftbeer>



4th Annual Assabet Craft Beer & Food Truck Festival

Craft brews

Amory's Tomb Brewing (Maynard)
Dirigible Brewing (Littleton)
Flying Dreams (Marlborough)
Murder Hill Brewery (Whitinsville)
craft cider from Pony Shack (Ayer)
seltzer, nonalcoholic beers, soft drinks

Food

Twizted Pickle
Braised tacos and bowls
Bird's Nest Italian Street Food
Eggroll Café
Trolley Dogs
Juniper Farms ice cream
FPC cookies & pretzels

Music by Sugar High

Fun activities for kids Carnival games, face painting, crafts table and more

Arts & Crafts vendors from Stow Area Guild of Artists and FPC's Arts Committee

Admission \$10-15 donation per person, free for children 12 and under
drink tickets \$6/ea.

Plate Sharing for May: Boston Area Gleaners (BAG) is a nonprofit regional



food systems organization working at the intersection of farming, food waste, and food access in order to support a more equitable, just, and sustainable food system. We focus on meeting the immediate needs of

families who lack access to affordable, healthy food while addressing the systemic causes of food insecurity. We fulfill our mission by building innovative partnerships with local organizations and businesses in order to bridge food distribution gaps, improve healthy food access, prevent on-farm food waste, and create new markets for locally grown produce. Visit www.bostonareagleaners.org to learn more. Your support is deeply appreciated.



Sharing Our Gifts

If you are mailing a pledge or a donation, please mail to:

Pledges:

Attn: Pledge Secretary
PO Box 215
Stow, MA 01775

Donations:

Attn: Treasurer
353 Great Rd.
Stow, MA 01775

This Week

Parish Jazz Band Rehearsal Mon, 5/26, 7-9pm, Sanctuary

Please contact Michael Paladini mwpaladini@gmail.com for more information.

Every Week at FPC

Tues. 10AM

**Coffee and Chat at
the Town
Center
Park
Gazebo**



Wed. 6:40PM

**Meditation in
Fellowship Hall &
Online**



Thurs. 5PM

**Peace Vigil on the
Town Common in
front of
FPC**



Thurs. 7:15 PM

**Choir Rehearsal
in the Community
Room - Join the
choir! [music@fpc-
stow-acton.org](mailto:music@fpc-stow-acton.org)**

Fri. 1PM

**Bridge Playing in
the Community
Room**



Next Sunday, 6/1/25

“The Flower Ceremony” 10am, Sanctuary/online

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum - The Flower Ceremony, sometimes called Flower Communion, is a Unitarian Universalist ritual celebrated now in its 51st year, where everyone is invited to bring a flower that goes into a group bouquet. The flowers represent the glorious diversity of humanity, so it's particularly appropriate that we celebrate this in the midst of Pride Month, as our beautiful LGBTQ+ diversity is part of what we celebrate in the rainbow of flowers that are gathered.

What You Need to Know About the Anti-Trans Movement

Sun 6/1, 11:15 am - 1 pm, Community Room

Have you been wondering why there is a major Anti-Trans Movement right now?

- What is it intended to accomplish?
- What it is intended to distract you from?
- What false information is being spread?
- What are the real facts?
- How can you more effectively reframe affirming the rights of people of all genders?

Come join the Racial Justice and LGBTQ+ Task Forces after Sunday service. The discussion will include a short video from Alex Kapitan's Transforming Hearts Collective, followed by an interactive discussion. This is part of a series of videos/discussions on becoming a more welcoming congregation for all marginalized people. Please feel free to bring questions and concerns.

Upcoming

Saturday Morning Breakfast 6/7, 7:30am, Fellowship Hall

Dr. Brian Lissee of Stow will speak about the organization he founded, Bridges to Malawi: "We are a small, committed group of American health care professionals and extraordinary Malawians. With your help, we are making a difference in Malawi, one of the poorest countries in the world." [bridgestomalawi.org]

Dr. Lissee plans a 45-minute talk followed by questions.

Coffee at 7:30, breakfast at 8:00

Speaker 8:20-9:00

RSVP to jab.jeffbrown@gmail.com

\$8 donation to cover food



(If you forget to RSVP or the \$8 is a hardship, come anyway and enjoy a free breakfast - we always make extra!)

RJTF Field Trip to Community Walk in NH Thu, 6/19, 7:15 am

The Racial Justice Task Force is sponsoring a field trip to Portsmouth, NH to celebrate Juneteenth. It begins with a .8 mile (8/10ths) Freedom Walk (9:30 am) and continues with African Drumming and celebration (11:00 am) at the African Burying Ground.



Portsmouth is a 90-minute drive from FPC, so we'll leave from the church no later than 7:15 am. Please contact Johanna Pyle at johanna.pyle@gmail.com if you are interested in joining!



Juneteenth Celebration
Black Heritage Trail NH

For information about the walk and drumming celebration, please use the QR code or the link below and scroll down the page to events of Thursday, June 19:
<https://blackheritagetrailnh.org/juneteenth-celebration-2025/>