

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



Sunday, June 1, 2025
Flower Communion

**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 Gudit
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.

June 1, 2025: 10:00 a.m.

Gathering

Prelude

“Air”
Samuel Wesley

Trevor Berens
Accompanist

Welcome & Announcements

Meg Rivers-Wright,
Parish Administration & Membership

Opening Words

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Chalice Lighting

Amy Zucker Morgenstern

*** Hymn #305**

“De Colores”

Centering

*** Covenant and Affirmation**

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson

Love is the spirit of this church,
and service its law.

From all that dwell below the skies
let words of love and peace arise.

This is our great covenant:
To dwell together in peace,
to seek the truth in love,
and to help one another.

Let joyful songs of praise be sung,
through every land, by every tongue.

Land Acknowledgement

Meg Rivers-Wright

Family Dedication

Adi Budencea

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
Director of Religious Education
& Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

*** Hymn #78**

“Color and Fragrance”
N. F. Čapek

Flower Communion

Introduction to Flower Communion

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

“Dialogue About Flowers and Men” Brendon Chetwynd
An imaginary conversation between & Elieen Kramer
the Rev. Dr. Norbert Čapek & a German Guard
the Rev. ‘Don Kafka and Cliff Feakes

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

*“Dialogue About Flowers and Folx”
An imaginary conversation between
the Rev. Maja Čapek & an ICE Agent
the Rev. Cynthia Landrum*

Emmeline Jones
& Sue Stewart

Meditation over the Flowers

N. F. Čapek
tr. Rev. Dr. Petr Samojský

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum

Flower Communion

Sharing Our Gifts

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

Anthem

Jen Dal
N. F. Čapek

Adult Choir

Jen dál, jen dál, jen dál,
za pluhem pospíchám,
než den se s nocí políbí,
svou brázdu vyorám.

Onward, onward, onward,
I press on behind the plow,
before day kisses night,
I am plowing my own furrow.

Jen dál, jen dál, jen dál,
ať půdu kypří pluh,
kde zvyků starých úhor byl,
ať vládne tvůrčí duch.

Onward, onward, onward,
let the plow loosen the soil,
where there was a wasteland of old habits,
the creative spirit now reigns.

Jen dál, jen dál, jen dál,
a hloub ať ryje pluh,
je věčnost v každé vteřině—
a z brázdy mluví Bůh.

Onward, onward, onward,
and wherever the plow digs deep,
there is eternity in every moment—
and God speaks from the furrow.

Pastoral Prayer or Meditation

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Glitter Blessing

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
Director of Religious Education
& Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

*Made of stardust, you are holy and loved.
With this blessing may you sparkle and shine as you bless the world.*

Returning

* Hymn

“Rainbow Connection”

* Benediction

Elizabeth M. Strong Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

* 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

“Intermezzo, Op. 118, No. 2”
Johannes Brahms

Trevor Berens

Greet Your Neighbor

* * *

Thank you to:

Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host
Peter Fiske, Marion Scott, Ushers
Kate Hart, Johanna Pyle, Coffee Hosts
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)

* *Please rise in body or in spirit*



Visitor Card



E-Newsletters

Today at FPC

11 am Coffee Hour:

- 1) **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).

♥ **The Assabet Craft Beer and Food Truck Festival organizers are really grateful to everyone who has already signed up to help out FPC with the festival this year! We have a few more shifts to fill, and would love your help.** After each Sunday service in May and June 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>

- 2) **Missing Something?** This week and next, FPC's Lost and Found will be at coffee hour. Coats, backpacks, and water bottles are among the items. Please look and see if any of the items are yours. After June 8 the items will then be taken to be recycled.

11:15 am What You Need to Know About the Anti-Trans Movement

Until 1 pm, Community Room

Please join the RJTF & LGBTQ+ Task forces for an interaction discussion after a short video from Alex Kapitan's *Transforming Hearts Collective*:

- How are women's rights and men's rights tied up with the current anti-trans movement?
- What false information is being spread and how might you counter that?

Come join us to share your concerns and find out more.

Announcements

Plate Sharing for June: OUT MetroWest



OUT MetroWest is a non-profit organization that offers free programs for LGBTQ+ young people from pre-K through high school, including specific programs for trans and gender expansive children and youth. OUT MetroWest offers a safe and welcoming physical space for youth and their families to find friends and support so they can be themselves and thrive. Our trans and non-binary youth need all the support they can get

right now. OUT MetroWest offers nearly 20 programs each month at 6 locations including their center in Framingham and satellite locations in Acton, Medway, Needham, Waltham and Westborough. For more information see OUTMetrowest.org.

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 at FPC

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

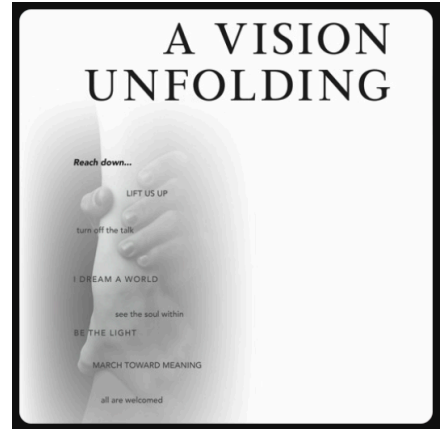


(If you forget to RSVP or the \$8 is a hardship, come anyway and enjoy a free breakfast - we always make extra!)

Next Sunday, 6/8/25

“A Vision Unfolding” 10am, Sanctuary/online

Join the FPC Choir and guest instrumentalists for a special music service featuring the work “A Vision Unfolding” by composer Kyle Pederson and poet/singer Shanelle Gabriel. The work invites us to reach out to build bridges of care and connection, standing in solidarity with those whose voices are too often dismissed, regardless of their skin color, sexual orientation, faith background, or other characteristic. It explores what our country has stood for in its best moments, drawing on the powerful declarations of a nation rooted in equality, freedom, justice, and inclusion. The choir has been rehearsing the music for the past two months and is excited to share it with you!



Confronting the History of Housing Discrimination

11:45am -1:15pm, Fellowship Hall

As Stow, Massachusetts and other Massachusetts communities work to reform local zoning to allow multifamily housing, this session offers a primer on the 20th century history of housing discrimination both nationally and here in the Commonwealth. This history and these policies produced our divided and unequal region and we are still living with that legacy. It also explores what can be done to redress this history.

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

Fri. 1PM

Bridge Playing in the Community Room



Upcoming at FPC

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/>

4th Annual Assabet Craft Beer & Food Truck Festival Sat, 8/30, 12-4pm. A really fun family event for both FPC and our wider community!

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.