



First Parish Church of Stow & Acton
SUNDAY JUNE 7, 2020

INSERT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

10 AM ONLY

“Flower Community”

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

We're unable with social distancing to do Flower Communion in the same way, but the heart of flower communion is about our love for community. So we invite you to put up a flower on your screen in whatever way you choose as we remember the history of flower communion and create a new ritual for our age that captures the core meaning of flower communion. This service will include a special time for focusing on our RE program (what we've called “RE Extravaganza”) and information on how to register for next year.

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 below:

CLICK:: ["FLOWER COMMUNITY"](#)

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, June 5th . This week's theme is: Courage- Look in Your Heart (my apologies for not sending this out last week!)

FPC Kids Gathering will be offered starting at **1:30 each Monday. We will offer this program through Monday June 15th**

This session will be geared for children in grades K-6. The zoom link will be sent out each week. Please note that zoom now requires a password to take part in a session.

Junior Youth Group will meet this weekend on June 7th from 6:30-7.

Senior Youth are strongly encouraged to attend the service as we will be saying good-bye to our Graduating Seniors as well as to our Youth Coordinator, Paul Spanagel.

THE WEEK AT CHURCH JUNE 8-13, 2020

Monday SGM 7:00PM ZOOM

Tuesday The FPC Climate Change Task force 7:30pm will meet by zoom to discuss next steps to the goal of having the church reach NetZero by 2035 and other activities. All are welcome. Contact Rick or Sharon for the zoom link.

Wednesday Meditation 7:25pm, Zoom

Thursday Staff Meeting 9:30am Zoom
Peace Vigil 5:00pm in front of church 5:00pm
TRUSTEE MEETING 7:00pm Zoom

Friday SGM 7:00pm Zoom

Saturday SGM 9am Zoom
AUCTION BEGINS 6:45 PM ZOOM

See directions and information below in Auction Article..the Roaring 20's

SUNDAY JUNE 14 , 2020

10 AM ONLY

“PRIDE CELEBRATION”

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Pride Parades and in-person Pride gatherings have been cancelled, but we can still celebrate our faith's commitment to diversity and inclusion with style! Wear your rainbow gear, make virtual rainbow backgrounds, or cover your actual walls with rainbows as we celebrate Pride FPC-style! Rev. Cindy will talk about our faith's history of commitment to LGBT rights.



may 30-June 13

How to have a Roaring Good Time!

Want some fun? Visit the FPC on-line auction at <https://event.auctria.com/fe4aabf7-edba-4d74-9b3d-e51c878a7b1d> . And don't waste any tie - things are going fast. Three group events are already sold out! If you've already visited the auction, make sure to revisit! New items have been added.

And there are a number of items flying under the radar. Do you have young kids? Don't miss out on some excellent child care and a basket of games from the 1920s! Do you love jewelry? Have we got some gems for you! Do you like to really celebrate special occasions? How about a made-to-order celebratory cake made to your specifications?

Finally, don't miss out on the live auction on June 13th.

- The auction will start at 7 pm, with "doors" opening at 6:45, and should wrap up by 8:30.
- The auction will be held via Zoom, with an option to join by phone. Watch for the link in an email a day or two before the event.
- We ask that you arrive early to sign in.
- When you sign into Zoom, we ask that you add your bidder number to your name. THIS WILL REALLY HELP US MOVE THINGS ALONG. IF YOU DON'T DO IT, WE WILL NEED TO DO IT. WE NEED YOUR BIDDER NUMBER SO WE CAN BE SURE YOU GET THE ITEMS YOU WIN!
- If you do not already have an auction number, please sign into Auctria to get one before the auction. (We can get you a number when you sign in, but it would make things run so much smoother if everyone arrives with a number.) To do this, follow these instructions:
 1. Click on the "Participants" icon at the bottom of the window.
 2. A Participants window will appear. Click the "Rename" button.
 3. Enter your new name in the "New Screen Name" field in this format: # - name (# is your bidder number, for example "100 - Jane Smith")
- There will be 12 live auction items, from dinners to get-a-ways to yard work and handyman services.
- You can preview these items at the on-line auction site.

- Make sure to check your calendars to ensure you are free on the dates for group events, but in this era of COVID 19, please be flexible!
 - Keep an eye out for additional announcements with instructions on how to participate
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- If you need help, you can contact the Auction Committee here auction@fpc-stow-acton.org.

See you on the 13th!

The Auction Committee

2020 Summer Services at FPC

This summer's theme is Passion. All services start at 10am and, with our church building shut through the end of summer, they will take place online via ZOOM.

June 21 "Supporting Asylum Seekers"

Members of the Asylum Seekers Task Force will discuss the group's passionate mission to support asylum seekers, immigrants, and refugees. Since last summer much work has been done, from offering rides for medical and other appointments to providing food, face masks, and other essentials to those in need. Guest speaker Yanneth Bermudez Camp, an immigration and family law attorney, will delve into the lives and aspirations of these deserving people.

June 28 "UUA General Assembly"

Join us for a livestream of the service from this year's virtual General Assembly, the largest annual gathering of dedicated UUs joined together in worship. We will host the livestream in our Zoom room, posting the link in the same manner as the other Sunday services on our website.

July 5 “Loosen, Loosen”

Our minister Rev. Cindy Landrum has been singing a song by Aly Halpert that says “Loosen, loosen baby, you don’t have to carry the weight of the world in your muscles and bones. Let go, let go, let go.” What are you carrying that you need to let go of? How do we loosen? This service will be about putting down the weight of the world for a while.

July 12 “The Purpose Derived Life”

For most people, the idea of a purpose to life is directly linked to religious doctrine, but for Unitarian Universalists and others there is a desire to find purpose without dogma. This service, led by Ken Langer, will look at finding purpose by exploring human nature and the condition of the universe itself.

July 19 “Choosing Radical Optimism in the Face of Two Crises”

Members of the Climate Task Force discuss how their passion for combating global warming and promoting environmental change can be based upon a positive view of the future along with some lessons from the coronavirus pandemic.

July 26 “A Passion for Justice”

The inequities that exist in our country have been highlighted by the impact of coronavirus on different levels of society. Join members of the Racial Justice Task Force as they spotlight the ways the pandemic has disproportionately affected communities of color. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Michelle Holmes, associate professor of epidemiology at Harvard’s School of Public Health.

August 2 “17th Annual Joint Summer Service hosted by First Parish Church of Stow and Acton”

Our very own Rev. Cindy Landrum will lead online worship for the 17th annual Joint Summer Service of the Harvard, Littleton, Lancaster/Fitchburg, Bolton, Marlborough/Hudson and Stow/Acton UU churches. More details to follow.

August 9 “Welcoming Folks with Mental Health Challenges”

Earlier this year Joleen Trotta and Ingrid Holcomb attended a seminar presented by our local NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) chapter along with Rev. Cindy Landrum. Joleen and Ingrid will convey some of their take-aways from that seminar, and they hope to be able to bring the voice of a NAMI speaker, too. The service will include best practices on welcoming a person to our community when it's unclear what that person needs or how we can offer to help and have them feel comfortable with us.

August 16 “Loss of Passion”

What's it like to lose your passion, especially while living in a world where we are fed platitudes about the importance of passion? Janet Beatrice will discuss ways of coping with this problem and helping others who are struggling to deal with a lack of passion.

August 23 “Earthseed”

The time we're living through has been compared, sometimes jokingly and sometimes not, to many dystopian novels. *The Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler suggests, in verses called “Earthseed,” that the only constant in our lives is change, that everything changes us, and we change everything. To sum it up, “God is change.” Rev. Cindy Landrum will explore the helpful messages dystopian works give us for how we will not just survive this time but turn the world around.

August 30 “Wasting Time”

“Any time not spent on love is wasted,” remarked the 16th century Italian poet Torquato Tasso. Michael Paladini will explore this passionate declaration with the wonderful musical support and ardor of the Parish Jazz Band.

September 6 “Grounded in Faith”

Some passions, like gardening and interacting with nature, can be integral to a spiritual or healing journey. Sonja Furneaux and members of FPC's Grounds Committee will share and explore how personal connection with nature engages our mind, frees our body, touches our heart, feeds our soul, and strengthens our faith.