



Sunday, MAY 24, 2020
First Parish Church of Stow & Acton

INSERT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

“THIS I BELIEVE”

10 AM ONLY

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

FPC members Hector Constantzos, Lisa Fagerstrom, and Kirsten Chetwynd will share their personal beliefs.

*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/i-believe-1>

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.bostonarealeaners.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

News About Our Religious Education Program:

There is a family worship packet being sent out to all families on Friday, May 22nd. This week the packet will focus on Sacred Rest: The Beauty and Purpose of the dark.

FPC Kids Gathering will be offered starting at **1:30 each Monday**. 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. Please note that zoom now requires a password to take part in a session.

Junior Youth Group will not meet this weekend on May 24th.

High School youth are encouraged to join the services as discussion group is over for the year.

FPC's Treasurer Lee Coopridier (assisted by me, Katy Weeks) invites you to discuss the **Fiscal Year 2021 (FY2021) Budget** at either of the following two Zoom meetings:

- **First Meeting: TODAY Sunday, May 24th** right after the service. When Cindy breaks up the groups for virtual coffee hour, we invite you to stay in the main room to discuss the budget. You do not need a separate Zoom invitation for this first meeting. However, you do need to attend the service to come to the meeting.

- **Second Meeting: Monday, May 25th at 7:30pm.** Here is the [Zoom access information for this meeting](#):
 - Time: May 25, 2020 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
<https://zoom.us/j/99651453212?pwd=RWJBYU9KSmc3dVByVk5FV0YzOVRVUT09>
Meeting ID: 996 5145 3212
Password: 496349
One tap mobile: +19292056099,,99651453212#,,1#,496349#
US (New York)
Dial by your location: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

At these meetings, we will discuss the FY2021 budget. We will also discuss two other items that will be considered for the Annual Meeting, which I discussed previously on FPCAnnounce in the notes from the April 16 Board meeting.

The first item is a motion to approve a government loan under the Small Business Administration, called the Paycheck Protection Program. Our application, made in the second round of loan offerings, has been approved. The loan is a 1% loan, almost all of which will be forgiven since of course we are planning to keep the staff positions that we had at the time we made the loan application. This will be free money, and we need your support in accepting this loan. The remaining portion, if we can't find a suitable place to use it, will have to be returned; but it is a small portion of the total loan, likely 20% or less.

The second item is a motion that we will only bring to the floor if the congregation does not approve the SBA loan. This will be a motion to take only enough funds from the Endowment to cover THIS year's (FY2020) costs that we won't be able to cover due to the impacts of the Coronavirus. These costs include the probable reduction in income from the Auction, Drag Bingo, the Plant Sale, the Yard Sale, and pledges due to our FPC households' financial situations. As I said in the April 16 Board notes, while I understand many of us are loathe to take funds from the Endowment, we think it's essential to support the campus and the wonderful work our staff is doing.

We look forward to seeing you at the meetings,

Lee Coopriders and Katy Weeks

THE WEEK AT CHURCH MAY 25-30, 2020

Monday Budget Meeting 7:30pm Zoom

Tuesday Communications 7:30pm Zoom

Wednesday Meditation 7:25pm ZOOM

Thursday Staff Meeting 9:30am ZOOM

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

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2020

"COMING OF AGE"

10 AM ONLY

Our Coming of Age class presents their credos in this special service.



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

For the Annual Meeting itself, we will of course send out the warrant before the meeting. We will also send out detailed instructions via FPCAnnounce. If you need me to contact you separately on the instructions, please feel free to email me katy@brightleafenergy.com or call/text me at 508-328-2645. just a regular telephone.

You should have received the Annual Report, either electronically or via US mail. Please read the report and the preparatory emails from the organizers, and come to the meeting. If you plan to Zoom in, here's the access information:

<https://zoom.us/j/96566215670?pwd=c1RObVdCdWEjSFdtTENWbll6SFhhQT09>

Meeting ID: 965 6621 5670

Password: 995712

One tap mobile: +19292056099,,96566215670#,,1#,995712#

Regular phone: 1- 929- 205- 6099

Meeting ID: 965 6621 5670

Password: 995712



Coming May 30-June 13

The Auction is Coming! SOON!

We are less than a week and a half until we launch the on-line auction! Starting on May 30th and running through June 13th, we can all enjoy shopping in support of our beloved community. Many old favorites will be returning, such as Kirsten Chenwynd's homemade cake or cupcakes for your celebration and yard work from the Board of Trustees. Some new offerings include a 15 person "Spirt"ual Tea, and a Suburban Speakeasy. You'll have to visit the auction site to see what these entail. We have gift baskets, dinners, barbecues and organic eggs. There is definitely something for everyone at every price point. Even if you don't *think* you want to purchase something, at least set aside some time to peruse the offerings.

It should be lots of fun to watch the bidding progress over the two weeks the auction runs. The Committee is completing instructions for how to participate, so make sure to keep an eye out for future announcements over the next week. We will be accepting credit cards (paid through our Breeze portal at the FPC web site), as well as checks. We are hoping to offer the fifty-fifty raffle, silent auction items, including our ever-popular jewelry items, and a limited number of live auction items on June 13th. We will also have an option to just make a donation to FPC in the unlikely event you don't find anything to purchase. And the Auction Committee is available to help you navigate the auction site if you have trouble. We want everyone to enjoy this virtual event!

We know this may be a hard year for some to participate, so if you are able, we hope you will be as generous as possible. The auction brings in much needed resources to fund our staff and programs. Every little bit helps keep us chugging along during these surreal times.

This will be a Roaring Good Time, so don't miss out!

With Gratitude,

The Auction Committee