



Sunday, MAY 31, 2020
First Parish Church of Stow & Acton

INSERT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

“COMING OF AGE”

10 AM ONLY

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

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: <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/services/service/coming-age>

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

There is a family worship packet being sent out to all families on Friday, May 29th. This week's theme is: Courage Look in Your Heart

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 meet this weekend on May 31st from 6:30-7.

THE WEEK AT CHURCH JUNE 1-6 , 2020

Tuesday Book Group 7:00pm ZOOM

Tuesday Asylum Meeting 7:00pm ZOOM

Tuesday RE Meeting 7:00pm ZOOM

Wednesday Meditation 7:25pm ZOOM

Thursday Staff Meeting 9:30am ZOOM

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

SUNDAY JUNE 7, 2020

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.



ANNUAL MEETING THIS SUNDAY AFTERNOON MAY 31, 2020

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=c1RObVdCdWFjSFdtTENWbll6SFhhQT09>

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



May 30-June 13

Hey all you cool cats and dames! It's here! Time to get a wiggle on for the FPC Spring Auction, this year brought to you on Auctria, an on-line auction website. Starting at 12:01 am THIS Saturday, May 30th, get your mazuma (money) together and pull back the curtain at the FPC speakeasy at this secret web address <https://www.auctria.com/auction/FPC-Stow-Acton-2020-Auction>. (Bidding will go live at that time, not before. You will find instruction on how to register, how to bid, and payment options when you go to the site.) We have old favorites like a truckload of wood and an Italian Dinner, new gems like escape rooms and a "spirit"-ual Tea. And, as always, loads of gorgeous jewelry. Every item is the elephant's eyebrows.

The on-line auction will run for two weeks until 10 pm on Saturday, June 13th. Just before the on-line auction ends, we will hold a live auction via Zoom with some wonderful and exciting dinners and get-a-ways and who knows what else? You can even dress in your zoot suit or flapper dress if your sweat pants are getting old.

Throughout the next two weeks, keep your eyes peeled for announcements about what's selling like hot cakes, what treasures are flying under the radar, and how to join the live event.! We promise this event will be better than anything you've been binging on Netflix. Join the fun! It's promised to be a keen time!

If you have any questions about how to access Auctria or how the auction is being run this year, please email the Auction Committee at auction@fpc-stow-acton.org.

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.