




In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
 Between the crosses, row on row,
 That mark our place; and in the sky
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly
 Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
 We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
 Loved and were loved, and now we lie
 In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
 To you from failing hands we throw
 The torch; be yours to hold it high.
 If ye break faith with us who die
 We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
 In Flanders fields.

- Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae



Public Memory, Creative Art, and Theology
May 24, 2026 - Order of Service



Our Unitarian Universalist Faith Values

Land and Labor Acknowledgement

The First Parish Unitarian Universalist-Canton, MA
[Adopted at the FPUU Annual Meeting on 6/4/24]

The First Parish Unitarian Universalist-Canton is proud to be a major historical church of Canton, representing a consolidation of two of Canton's oldest churches – the First Parish Unitarian, founded in the 18th century and the First Universalist Church, founded in the 19th century. We recognize that our church's history is complicated by the combined legacies of colonialism and slavery in the United States context. We acknowledge the history of Indigenous peoples and the dispossession of their lands, including that these original lands in Canton and neighboring towns were named Ponkapoag by indigenous peoples. We pay our respects to the Neponset Band, among other bands, of the Massachusetts Tribe, who have stewarded this land throughout generations. We honor their continued presence here and throughout their diaspora. We also acknowledge that we in Canton do not exist independently from centuries of forced labor and economic extraction from enslaved and indentured Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC), including children, as well as poor white immigrants/residents suffering abusive child labor and economic exploitation. And we want to affirm that although we cannot change history, we can and will work for justice, and that justice first begins in direct relationship with mutual recognition and acknowledgment of our shared history, experiences, and interactions. We celebrate and work in solidarity with BIPOC organizations leading the movement for our collective liberation, and we choose to build a diverse, multicultural Beloved Community casting out racism and oppression in ourselves and our institutions.

Our Vision and Purpose

FPUU Canton is a welcoming, caring, and diverse faith community that seeks to nurture and inspire each person's spiritual journey while serving others in our commitment to peace and justice.

Minister & Staff

The Rev. Dr. Michelle Walsh, *Lead Minister*
The Rev. Dr. Clyde Grubbs, *Affiliate Community Minister*
The Rev. Dr. Anita Farber-Robertson, *Minister Emerita*
James Chubet, *Music Director*
Carol Smith, *Office Administrator*

Parish Committee 2025-2026

Kitty McGregor, *President*
Dave Williams, *Vice President of Administration*
Debbie Radovsky, *Vice President of Member Services*
Larry Cotton, *Treasurer*
Jonette Nagai, *Clerk*
Felisa White, *Member-at-Large*
Don Seaman, *Member-at-Large*

Vision Ministry 2025-2026

Dave Williams and Kitty McGregor, *Co-Chairs*

Congregational Life and Stewardship Ministry 2025-2026

Don Seaman and Ashton Krasnow, *Co-Chairs*

Building Project Ministry 2025-2026

Kitty McGregor and Debbie Radovsky, *Co-Chairs*

Stewardship Ministry 2025-2026

Kitty McGregor

Contact Us

Phone: 781-828-0296 / Office Email: office@fpuucanton.org
Ministers' Email: minister@fpuucanton.org



<https://fpuucanton.org>

Public Memory, Creative Art, and Theology
Led by Rev. Michelle Walsh
May 24, 2026

Gathering Music Rita Corey

Centering Bell Rev. Michelle

Prelude *Trio No. 10 in F Major (Joseph Rheinburger)*
Rita Corey, Organ

Welcome & Announcements Jonette Nagai

Call to Worship words by Rev. Heather K. Janules
Rev. Michelle

Unison Chalice Lighting Jonette Nagai & Congregation
Written by Rev. Charles F. Flagg

In honor of those we have known and loved in the past,
In recognition of the gifts and sacrifices they have made
on our behalf,

And in our sincere hopes that we may be worthy of their memory,
We light our *[chalice]*,
We give our thanks,
And we offer our prayers. AMEN.

Covenant Jonette Nagai & Congregation

Love is the doctrine of this congregation. The quest for truth is its sacrament, and service is its prayer. To dwell together in peace with respect and understanding; to seek knowledge in freedom; to serve our fellows and humankind to the end that all souls shall grow together in harmony. Thus do we covenant with each other and with our God, by whatsoever name we worship.

***Opening Hymn**

#96 – *I Cannot Think of Them as Dead*
First Parish Choir & Congregation

Responsive Reading #583

Rev. Michelle & Congregation

“The Young Dead Soldiers,” *Singing the Living Tradition*
Written by Archibald MacLeish

The young dead soldiers do not speak.
*Nevertheless, they are heard in the still houses:
who has not heard them?*

They have a silence that speaks for them at night and when the clock
counts.

They say: We were young. We have died. Remember us.

They say: We have done what we could,
but until it is finished, it is not done.

*They say: We have given our lives but until it is finished,
no one can know what our lives gave.*

They say: Our deaths are not ours; they are yours;
they will mean what you make them.

*They say: Whether our lives and our deaths were for peace and a new
hope or for nothing, we cannot say; it is you who must say this.*

They say: We leave you our deaths. Give them their meaning.
We were young, they say. We have died. Remember us.

Invitation to the Offering

Jonette Nagai

Offertory

Now Thank We All Our God (Georg F. Kaufmann)
Rita Corey, Organ

Joys and Sorrows

Rev. Michelle & Jonette Nagai

Meditation

Rev. Michelle

Memorial Day Prayer

written by Rev. Barbara J. Pescan
read by Rev. Michelle

Musical Interlude

#352 – Find a Stillness
First Parish Choir & Congregation

Sermon

Public Memory, Creative Art, and Theology
Rev. Michelle

***Closing Hymn**

#144 – Now Is the Time Approaching
First Parish Choir & Congregation

Benediction

words by Rev. Gregory Jones – Rev. Michelle

Unison Chalice Extinguishing

Jonette Nagai & Congregation
Written by Rev. Elizabeth Selle Jones, SLT #456

We extinguish this flame,
but not the light of truth, the warmth of community,
or the fire of commitment.
These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.

Postlude

Voluntary in G (Henry Heron)
Rita Corey, Organ

***Please rise in body and/or in spirit.
Please join us for Coffee Social Hour after the Service**

**We send our added welcome today to members of our Five Points Cluster
sibling congregations who are joining us for this shared service!**

MAY Faith in Action

The UU Urban Ministry (UUUM) is a non-sectarian, non-profit social justice organization that has its offices at the historic First Church in Roxbury – a Boston landmark. Their **Mission** is to work across race and place to dismantle racism and white supremacy culture and to advance racial, social and economic justice. Their **Vision** is to envision a greater Boston where all people live with freedom and dignity and have equitable access to resources and opportunity to shape the present and the future.

To donate, use the envelopes in the pews, the PayPal Donate button on our website, or write a check. Be sure to add a note stating that the money is for Faith in Action (FIA). Please give as generously as you are able. Thank you!

Parish Committee Board Meeting & Today's Designated Representative

Parish Committee meetings are open to members and friends, and meetings generally are now on the second Thursdays – *next meeting June 11th, 1-2:30PM*. See **Kitty McGregor**, President during coffee social hours if you would like to attend a meeting. Today's Parish Committee representative for questions is **Jonette Nagai**.

Opportunities for Community Meals with FPUU Friends

Sunday Brunch Potluck - First Sunday of the month, **June 7**; *Lunch With Friends* – will resume on the third Thursdays of the month in the fall. Help with setup/cleanup appreciated! See Barbara Foley for more info. Watch for news coming of summer plans!

Covenant Group Invitations

Contact **Linda Hamaker** at lindahamaker324@gmail.com if interested in joining a monthly Tuesday evening covenant group, open to all genders, or **Elaine Goldstein** at 781-784-5210 if interested in a Thursday morning women's group. Both occur on Zoom.

MAJOR SAVE THE DATES!

FPUU Annual Meeting: Tuesday, **June 2**, 7pm via zoom, see information sent out or see Parish Committee Representative

Rev. Clyde's UUA Award and Celebration Party!: Tuesday, **June 16**, 5PM-8PM, all are welcome! See Rev. Michelle

GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEIGHBORHOOD SITE AT FPUU! We are a neighborhood site for our Five Points Cluster siblings for GA this year, **June 14th thru June 21st**. See Rev. Michelle & your newsletter!

FPUU SUMMER PLANS IN DEVELOPMENT!

We will be sending out a summer supplement newsletter soon! In the meantime, here's some save the dates that are definite (all Sunday summer activities are being moved to the afternoon FYI): We will have a **weekly meditation group**, date/time TBD; Barbara Foley is considering which night/dates to host the **Evening on the Lawn; Let's Laugh Today** will be Sundays June 7th and July 5th, 4-5PM; **Matt Meyer**, Sunday, July 19th (time TBD); Crystal Thorpe and **Conversational Games**, Sunday, July 26th (3PM); **Sanctuary Band**, Sunday, August 23rd, (time TBD).

We are in further coordination with the Five Points Cluster, and we know that Matt Meyer and Sanctuary Band will be two of four planned to be advertised shared events (there will be some concert opportunities in North Easton as well). However, we also know that we want to show **the musical "Suffs"** on a Sunday here for an additional activity, have a **Soul Matters** conversation on the booklet "Flourishing Together," **and some of us are interested in a trip to do ax throwing as well as to Canton Tree Tops**. So stay tuned, lots of possibilities! Something every Sunday!

Neponset River Mind-Body-Spirit Center (May)

(a program of FPUU Canton: A Neponset River UU Community)

Zen Buddhist Meditation Hour! (with Rev. Michelle)

Feeling stressed? Meditation is known to help stress – join us for a combination of sitting and walking and mindful eating combined with a Buddhist reading and sharing. Thursdays online, bring a snack!

Weekly Tuesdays, 1:30PM (in person):

next May 26th

Weekly Thursdays, 5:30PM (online):

next May 28th

Let's Laugh Today Hour! (with Bill & Linda)

Finding it hard to laugh these days? Come join Bill and Linda Hamaker, Certified Laughter Yoga Master Trainers, as they help you to de-stress and decompress with some good hearty laughing practices. See <https://www.letslaughtoday.com> for more information (and to register for free 45 minute on-line Wednesday night groups, 7:30PM).

First Sundays, 4-5PM (except August)

June 7th and July 5th