



LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD

April 24, 2025



Easter Morning Sunrise in York County Maine

Photo by Stephen Fox

Revolutions happen not only in grand moments in public view but also in spaces where people are coming together to inhabit a new way of being. We birth the beloved community, by becoming the beloved community.

From See No Stranger, by Valerie Kaur

“Flourishing is Mutual”

Worship Service: April 27, 2025, 10 a.m.

Led by: Rev. Tori Rosati

Religious Exploration welcomes children ages 4-13.

Come in person or click below to join the service!

<https://uukennebunk.org/Sunday-Service-Access>

Or by cell phone (audio only) 929-205-6099, meeting ID 734 887 010,

Password:02448

upcoming EVENTS

- Fri. April 25, 5:30 p.m. NPR Potluck
- Sat. April 26, 10 a.m. Earth Day Program at KLT. See poster
- Sat. April 26, 7 p.m. Concert to benefit FPUU heating system. Details below
- Sat. April 26, Beyond the Binary, all-day workshop at Allen Ave. UU
- Sun. April 27, 11:30 a.m. Reflection Circle
- Sat. May 3, 1:30 p.m. May Day Parade, FPUU participating

This Sunday: *Flourishing is Mutual*

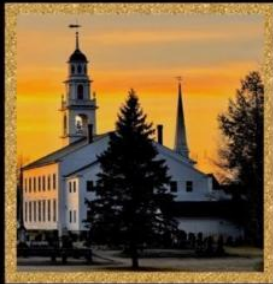
Join us this Sunday as we honor Earth Day and revive our love and commitment to our common home. We'll reflect on the spiritual and ethical call to reciprocity and explore what it means to live in ways that honor the deep interdependence at the heart of all life. As the Earth offers its gifts this season—buds unfurling, birds returning, fruit beginning to form—we pause to receive with gratitude and to recommit ourselves to lives of care and justice: a quiet revival rooted in our relationship to the Earth, to one another, and to the future we share. Rev. Tori Rosati leading worship with Mark Gallup, the Social Justice Network, and music from Chris Staknys and the First Parish Choir.



Reflection circle

Join us after the service on Sunday as we reflect together on how inclusion and justice can become daily practices—infusing purpose and meaning into our interactions, decisions, and presence in the world. With curiosity and creativity, we'll explore how to live our values not just in extraordinary moments but woven throughout the fabric of our days.





Benefit Concert

Sat. April 26

7:00 to 9:00

First Parish

Unitarian Universalist Church

114 Main St, Kennebunk

Two of a Kind

Janet Wentworth & Mark Gunter

Jazz
Blues
Originals
Country



Torch
Rock & Roll
Gospel
Soul

With Special Guest
Percussionist
Jeff Wentworth



PROCEEDS TO ASSIST WITH A NEW ENERGY EFFICIENT
HEATING SYSTEM FOR THE CHURCH

\$20.00 per person. children under 12 free

for tickets, uukennebunk.org/april-concert

ACE BASSIST JOHN KUMNICK JOINING US AS WELL!

Mark Gunter and Janet Wentworth, the "two" of "Two of a Kind," are seasoned human beings, musicians, and friends. Mark is an accomplished pianist and organist, and Janet is an award-winning vocalist. Together, with their frequent guest, drummer/percussionist/vocalist Jeff Wentworth, their repertoire includes jazz, blues, country, originals, rock and roll, and soul. All local to the area, the historical and community value of the Unitarian Church is important to them, and they look forward to helping out. They bring you great talent and songs, presented with warmth and authenticity, that will make you rejoice, reflect, and sometimes dance. \$20 – to help keep our church warm in more ways than one!

RELATE, ENGAGE & CONNECT WITH NATURE

Come explore concepts of Co-creating with nature through the eyes of two practitioners. you will be guided through exercises allowing you to discover and delight in your unique way of relating and connecting.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH 10 AM - NOON

BRING A BAG LUNCH IF YOU WANT TO EXTEND YOUR EXPLORING
INTO THE AFTERNOON WHICH WILL INCLUDE A LABYRINTH WALK
ALL FREE & INTENDED FOR TEENS & ADULTS.

JOIN US AT THE KENNEBUNKPORT CONSERVATION TRUST
57 GRAVELLY BROOK ROAD, KENNEBUNKPORT

RSVP TO SOMEPLANETEERS@YAHOO.COM

WORKSHOP LEADERS ARE:

Martha Fishback: BS PharmD, Shamanic practitioner & teacher, Flower essence & Plant Spirit Medicine practitioner, herbalist and retired clinical pharmacist &

Meghan McCrillis: LCPC as Therapist, Healing Arts Facilitator, Shamanic Reiki teacher & herbalist passionate about helping people connect with nature.



Share Your Joy!

This month we've seen a beautiful slide show created by our Worship Committee featuring things that bring them joy. Throughout April, we'll keep adding to it—and we need *your* joy! Send a photo to Rev. Tori at uukennebunkminister@gmail.com of something that is bringing you joy these days, and we will include it in the slideshow that will accompany our services in April. Let's grow this joy together.

Listen to Joy!

Did you know that our monthly Soul Matters themes come with suggested music? [HERE](#) is a link to playlists put together by the Soul Matters teams with theme-related music that accompany each month's theme. **EnJOY!**



Indivisible Rally Saturday, April 19, in Kennebunk



Indivisible Team to meet at First Parish

Do you want to take productive action to push back against the Trump administration's attack on individual rights, the rule of law and democracy? Indivisible Team Southern Maine (ITSME) has been formed as a local group of the national organization Indivisible.org to accomplish this. We are holding both Zoom and in-person meetings at FPUU. Please join us if you want to be heard through this growing and very active organization. You can contact our membership coordinator Rich Nowak at: itsme04043@yahoo.com or visit the websites listed below for more information.

Mission Statement

Indivisible Team Southern Maine's mission is to be a powerful force to protect and sustain democracy in our country. We are an action-oriented group, using our voices to defend individual rights and the rule of law. We work in our communities from South Portland to Kittery, to support our elected representatives and create integrity, real equality, and justice for ALL.

Andrew Proulx

Upcoming ITSME Meetings:

Zoom Meetings: the 1st Thursday of every month, 6:30 - 8 p.m. The next four: April 3, May 1, June 5, July 3.

In-Person Meetings: the 3rd Tuesday of every month, 6 - 8 p.m. First Parish UU Church of Kennebunk, The next four: April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15.

<https://bsky.app/profile/indivisibletsme.bsky.social>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/949345027330581/>

<https://indivisible.org/>

On Main Street in Kennebunk every Thursday

Locals are gathering to demonstrate their concerns about state and national issues every Thursday from 4 - 5 p.m. on the sidewalks of upper Main St. Kennebunk. Signs are available Thursday from 3-4 p.m. at the Democracy Co-op, Lafayette Center, first floor, Kennebunk. *Side with Love* posters are



SIDE WITH LOVE

available to use for demonstrations. They will be available on Thursday

afternoons for the rally from 4-5 on Main St. Those who wish may hold them on the church steps together to broadcast our values centered on love.

What Now Infrastructure Team launched

Several members of the FPUU community have met twice with Reverend Tori to create an infrastructure network for the What Now discussion sessions that are taking place after church. We are calling ourselves the What Now Infrastructure Team (WNIT). We will provide information, resources, and a way to connect rapidly with the church community when events related to protecting our democracy are needed.

Some of the proposed actions include a list of resource library material; an upcoming events list; notice of trainings on non-violent and positive responses to opposition viewpoints, which should be useful when engaging with people who disagree. All information will be available on a table in the church hall to be in place by May 18.

The Team welcomes input and invites anyone who would like to join us. Please contact Reverend Tory.

See MUUSAN recommended actions below



Merideth Norris, Alyson and Ian Durham march in the May Day Parade '24 for the Wild Blueberry Drop.

May Day Parade coming up

Come One, Come All! It's time to fulfill your lifelong dream of marching in the annual Kennebunk May Day Parade! This is the third year First Parish will participate in the parade, and it is great fun. All are welcome, including families and friends. Wear your brightest and most spring-like garments, and a festive hat if you have one. The parade is on **Saturday, May 3, and begins at 1:30 pm.** Our group gathers on Water Street near Rotary Park around 12:45. Look for the church banner. This year

we will be giving artificial flowers and real candy to the children along the route. If you'd like to join us, please let Mary Gelfand know (marygelf@gmail.com). Or you can just show up.

JOIN US TO MARCH IN THE ANNUAL

Kennebunk



May Day Parade



Saturday, May 3rd

Meet on Water Street near
Rotary Park at 12:45 p.m.

Parade begins at 1:30 p.m.,
just a short walk down Main Street

*Help us represent our UU Church and
promote our values and outreach with
the community!*

Notice: Our 5th Wednesday Vespers service scheduled for 4/30 has been canceled. Please stay tuned for our next offering for this connective time of quiet, reflection, and community later this fall.



For No Particular Reason (NPR)

Women gather for a potluck supper Friday April 25 at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Ann Boyce (207) 332-0830. email annhboyce@yahoo.com

Legislation notes & rally for voting rights Maine UU Social Action Network

Save the date for a Defend our Voting Rights Rally! Saturday May 10, 2 pm at the Augusta State House. [Sign up here.](#) Find out more about the campaign [here.](#)

DEMOCRACY

[LD 1666 An Act to Include in the Rank-Choice Election Method for General and Special Elections, the offices of Governor, State Senator and State Representatives](#)

Summary:

This bill provides for ranked-choice voting for general and special elections for the offices of Governor, State Senator and State Representative and clarifies the definition of "ranked-choice voting" by changing the use of the terms "vote" and "ballot," and provides that the winner of an election in which ranked-choice voting is conducted is the winner by a plurality of the votes.

Public Hearing: April 24, 2 pm, State House, Rm 437

Call to Action:

- Email your legislators, especially if they are the on the [VLA Committee](#)
- [Testify](#) in person, Zoom, or submit written testimony

Talking Points:

- [Talking Points on RCV expansion](#)

Committee: [Veteran's and Legal Affairs](#)

Sponsors and cosponsors

Presented by Senator Reny of Lincoln.

Cosponsored by Representative Supica of Bangor and

Senators: President Daughtry of Cumberland, Grohoski of Hancock, Hickman of Kennebec, Pierce of Cumberland, Tipping of Penobscot, Representative: Moonen of Portland.

Wabanaki Sovereignty

[LD 1747 An Act to Strengthen the Teaching of Wabanaki Studies in Maine Schools](#)

Summary:

This bill creates the position of Wabanaki Studies Specialist within the Maine Department of Education to oversee compliance with the 2001 Wabanaki Studies Law, which requires the inclusion of Wabanaki history, economic and political systems, and culture in the curricula of all public K-12 schools. LD 1474 requires ongoing funding.

Public Hearing: Tuesday, April 22, at 1 pm, Cross Building Rm 208

Call to Action:

- Email legislators, especially if they sit on the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee
- [Testify](#) in person on April 22 or submit testimony in writing.

Talking Points

[From the Wabanaki Alliance](#)

[From a News Center Five Report](#)

[Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs](#)

Sponsors and Cosponsors

Presented by Rep. Osher of Orono.

Cosponsored by Senator Talbot Ross of Cumberland and

Representatives: Beck of South Portland, Dana of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, Speaker Fecteau of Biddeford, Mitchell of Cumberland, Satoof Gorham,

Senators: President Daughtry of Cumberland, Hickman of Kennebec, Moore of Washington.

[Link to Legislative Contacts:](#)

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UNWOmm4aNO9Uh2Kv-EYTdO8MKoPP3xXNG2i5vgVrS2Q/edit?tab=t.0>

Janine Coy and Jerry David

Maine UU State Action Network (MUUSAN) representatives for FPUU,

The folks who help support our building to answer questions and provide info.

The **First Parish Preservation Foundation Board** will set up a table in the Parish Hall, so that we can share information with church members, friends and visitors during coffee hour and other events. Would you like to sit with us at our table to help hand out our recently updated brochure, along with other flyers and pamphlets explaining many of our building's special features, legacy and other funding opportunities. This will take no more than 30 minutes of your time.

We plan to set up on Saturday evening, April 26, just before and following the upcoming concert, which begins at 7 p.m. and Sunday morning, April 27, during coffee hour at 11 a.m. Please let us know if you can help at the table.

The First Parish Preservation Foundation focuses its fundraising solely on our 1773 buildings and grounds. The musicians performing on April 26 are dedicated to raising funds for our new Heating and Conversion System at First Parish and therefore share the Foundation's goals. See the poster and details about the concert below.

For more information and/or to sign up for the table, contact Jim Thompson, who will be most appreciative of your interest.



Do you have an interest in church personnel matters?

We are looking for one or two individuals to join the Personnel Committee in time for our June annual meeting. This committee meets as needed — it does not require regular meetings or evening commitments. Instead, it comes into play during staff hiring, termination, annual reviews, and when called upon

by our Minister, Board of Directors, or other church officials. Committee roles include maintaining the Employee Handbook and offering advice and/or shared opinions when personnel matters arise. If you are interested, please contact Joan Wuerthner or Jim Thompson, of the Personnel Committee.



Welcoming New Members, May 18th

We'll be joyfully welcoming new members during the service on Sunday, May 18. If you're interested in becoming a member or learning more, please reach out to Rev. Tori. We'd love to share this journey of belonging together as we grow in community and connection.

Last chance: committee job descriptions!

Several months ago, the By-laws Task Force distributed a notebook to all of the standing committees which included a copy of your present job descriptions. Please review the job descriptions with your committee and make any changes or updates you feel are appropriate by the end of April. Send your replies to Tom Veronesi.

Community needs and requests:

Off-season rental available

I rent all my house out for 10 summer weeks. The rent for the other time is not high, \$400 a month including everything but not heat. Someone might want a fall time and another spring period. I live on Harts Road near Parsons Beach Road. It's a 6-minute walk to the water. If you come down Harts Road for 1/2 mile it's the two connected blue houses on the hill. The one with two stories is for rent. Let me know if you are interested and I will show you around. Helen
Helen Rivas-Rose Helycres@yahoo.com 207-604-3903

Our members now in rehabilitation enjoy having people call or visit

Joan Phipps, after experiencing another fall, is now undergoing rehabilitation at Summer Commons, 21 June St. Sanford, Maine 04073. She has a phone in her room: 207-206-1953. She would love to have her friends from First Parish call or visit. The Commons is near Goodall Hospital.

Bob Lown is currently in Room 41 of The Edgewood Center, 928 South St., Portsmouth NH. His mobility is limited but he is in good spirits and would love visitors. The best way is to just drop in any morning between 9-11. Or you can send a letter or card to the above address.

Spring Rummage Sale a Success!

Thank you to all that donated, helped set-up, clean-up and shop, the Rummage Sale was a great success. First Parish raised \$950.50!

Reviving the Heart:

Rev. Tori's Easter Sermon, excerpt

Growing up Catholic, Easter was a ... celebration—my sister and I in new dresses and bonnets (maybe even gloves if we were lucky), the promise of candy, easter egg hunts, and togetherness filling the day with joy and festivity.

But beneath all that, the story itself was complicated with lent and holy week full of as much pain and hardship as there was joy – I remember sitting in church, staring at the stations of the cross, watching Jesus move from betrayal to death to resurrection—it all felt very rushed and I wanted to get through the hard parts of the story to Easter Sunday as quickly as possible.

And certainly, in these days, the parallels to our own time are striking—we, too, live amidst betrayal, birth, life, and death. Our era echoes many aspects of Jesus' time: the criminalization of immigrants, truth-tellers, and upstarts, the idolization of wealth and power, and oppression at the hands of the state. We are all longing to reach that final moment in the story when all is redeemed.

But, as we see in the natural world around us, resurrection is slow. Spring comes, but it comes in bursts and pops – not all at once. Much is still waiting beneath the earth, forming and growing in the soft comfort of fertile soil. Yet,

the revival of color and vibrancy that pushes up through the muddy ground is a source of life and hope, and maybe even joy.

And that's the kind of resurrection I find myself clinging to these days—not just the miracle of a stone rolled away, which feels so far off, but an ongoing revival that calls us to rise in a world that keeps wearing us down, that keeps falling short, that risks everything we hold close to our hearts. A revival, that like joy, doesn't turn away from the realities of our time, but emerges out of them.

You can hear the entire sermon through our website: uukennebunk.org under Sermon Archive

Community Events:



April 26, 2025

9:00 am - 4:00 pm EDT

Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church

524 Allen Ave. Portland, ME

Lunch Provided!

Building Beloved Community Beyond the Binary is a gathering hosted by Allen Avenue UU partnering with UU Church of Brunswick and First Parish UU of Portland and others as a gift of support to the trans and nonbinary community. BBCBB is a program originated by the First UU Society of Syracuse as an annual event based on radical welcome which has expanded to include satellite locations across the country.

In addition to a program provided via Zoom – a keynote and at least one track of additional workshops – we may add workshops and/or activities of our own from and for the trans community with a separate offering for cisgender people who are ready to learn more about how to be an ally.



Scan to Register

**The First Parish Wabanaki Ally Team invites to
A program presented by Wabanaki R.E.A.C.H.**

Interacting with Wabanaki-Maine History

**Sunday, May 18, 2025, 1 to 3 p.m. at First Parish Portland, Unitarian Universalist
425 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101, Parish Hall (right side entrance)**

Limited to 40 participants. We ask for a \$20 suggested donation to cover program costs.



"This program is an interactive experience in which we engage in a story of particular events in the history of 400 years of colonization of Wabanaki people by Europeans in this territory now called the state of Maine. This highly engaging experience requires our full participation in order to genuinely increase our understanding of colonization and what it means for current descendants and future generations; to reflect on what story we are writing for our grandchildren."

Please register on the Google registration form, and – separately – donate on the donation form:

QR code to Registration form:



QR code to Donation form:



The donation link brings you to the First Parish donation form. Scroll down to "Social Justice Fundraiser: Wabanaki REACH program" and make a one-time donation. For 1st timers, you'll have to create a login.

[Link to Registration form](#)

[Link to Donation form](#)

- Please bring a bag lunch if you plan to attend the worship service from 10 to 11 a.m..
- FMI and questions, contact the Wabanaki Ally Team:
Meret merethainbridge@gmail.com or Jake jkulaw62@gmail.com.

What's happening in R.E.?

Click on this link to learn more about our monthly Religious Exploration highlights.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/10xocLKtAsQuI3mTysI2uYfh-xNIj_a7YjG0PQ20R14/edit?usp=sharing

For more information on our Religious Education program, contact our office administrator, Allison at (207) 985-3700 or email at uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com and she will connect you with the team.



The children in R.E. prepare Easter Baskets for those less fortunate.

Sunday Morning Bookcase

- *Revive Us Again: Vision and Action in Moral Organizing*, Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II and Rev. Dr. Rick Lowery
- *Inciting Joy*, Ross Gay
- *Book of Delights*, Ross Gay
- *How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith*, Mariann Edgar Budde



The Office is open Monday-Friday 9a.m.- 12 p.m. Rev. Tori's office hours are mostly Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the church.

Due to other obligations her schedule may change. Please email the office to set a time if you wish to speak with her.

One of the important duties of a minister is pastoral care for those in need. Our minister, Tori Rosati, is available to any congregation in need. Tori can best be reached at uukennebunkminister@gmail.com. For pastoral emergencies, please contact Rev. Tori on her cell phone.



Correction: Our bell, which has been ringing faithfully for well over 200 years, it did indeed come from Paul Revere's foundry in Boston, but he was not on hand to install it in our steeple.

First Parish UU Church Kennebunk

APRIL 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
UU Online Auction 3/30-4/11		1 5:15 p.m. Sangha 7 p.m. Properties	2 6:30 p.m. Worship Committee 7 p.m. Evening Discussion	3 3:30 p.m. Choir	4	5
6 10 a.m. Worship Service led Rev. Tori "Joy is Resistance" 11:30 a.m. New to UU lunch 4 p.m. Good News Film	7 10 a.m. RE Team	8 10 a.m. Membership Committee 5:15 p.m. Sangha 6:30 p.m. W.F.A.S. 6:30 p.m. M.O.G.	9 7 p.m. Evening Discussion	10 3:30 p.m. Choir	11 6:30 p.m. Song Swap UU Auction Ends	12 Rummage Sale 8am-11am
13 8 am Rummage Sale 10 a.m. Worship Service led Rev. Art McDonald 11:30 a.m. Now What? - Social Justice Organizing 4 p.m. Good News Film	14 7 p.m. Finance Committee	15 5:15 p.m. Sangha	16 5:30 p.m. B.O.D. Meeting	17 3:30 p.m. Choir	18	19
20 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Tori "Reviving the Heart"	21	22 5:15 p.m. Sangha 6:30 p.m. W.F.A.S. 6:30 p.m. M.O.G.	23 7 p.m. Evening Discussion Group	24 3:30 p.m. Choir	25 5:30 p.m. NPR Potluck	26 7 p.m. Janet Wentworth concert
27 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Tori 11:30 a.m. Service Reflection Circle	28	29 9 a.m. Small Group Ministry 5:15 p.m. Sangha	30 5:30 p.m. Small Group Ministry			