



April 2, 2026

LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD

Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark. In our obscurity, in all this vastness, there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves. ... To me, it underscores our responsibility to deal more kindly with one another and to preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known.

Carl Sagan, Pale Blue
Dot: A Vision of the
Human Future in Space



Photo by Bob Wuerthner

“Renewing the Kin-dom”

Worship Service: April 5, 2026, 10 a.m.

Led by: Rev Tori Rosati

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

First Parish and Community

- Every Thursday, 4-5 p.m. Demonstration, Kennebunk, note time change
- Fri. April 10, 5:30 p.m. Video and Discussion: Understanding Separation of Church and State — and Why It Matters Now*
- April 19 - 30, Online Auction*
- Sat. April 25 & Sun. April 26, Annual Spring Rummage Sale

*see below for more information

This Sunday:

Join us Sunday as we reflect on Jesus' prophetic vision that the divine lives within each of us. We'll explore how the early Jesus movement resisted the powers of their time by carrying that inner spark of divinity forward through networks of mutual aid, kinship, and radical care — and how we might renew that ancient call today. Mary Gelfand and Rev. Tori Rosati leading with music from Chris Staknys and the First Parish Choir. We'll also carry on our annual tradition of planting seeds and have an egg hunt for our children!

A loss of one of our own

It is with a heavy heart that I share the news that our beloved member and dear friend, Joan O'Hara died peacefully early this morning. Joan's legacy at First Parish spanned 35 years and her impact was deep and lasting. Her presence shaped countless ministries at the church including being one of the founding forces for Women for All Seasons. She will be deeply missed. A service will be planned for a later date.



Condolences can be sent to her sons, James and Evan O'Hara at:
James O'Hara, P.O. Box 142, Litchfield, ME 04050

Please join me in holding Joan's family, friends, and all who loved her close to our hearts. May the love we have shared abide within, around, and beyond us in this tender time and always.

Rev. Tori Rosati



Would you like to contribute to the smooth running of a Church service? Helen Rousseau is looking for new ushers and will gladly explain the responsibilities. For first time ushers, you will be paired with someone with experience. I would like to increase our usher pool by four more people so the present ushers will not always be called.

Spring Rummage Sale

Save the Date! Our annual **Spring Rummage Sale** will take place Saturday, April 25th from 8-11 am and Sunday April 26th 8-10 am. Set-up will begin Friday, April 24th. As you pack up items for sale, please follow these guideline: no shoes, computers, moldy books or clothes, text books, magazines, mattresses/box springs, out-of-date sports equipment, torn or stained clothes, please check all electrical items before donating. **You may drop off your items beginning on April 18th**. If you are able to lend a hand either before, during or after the sale, please contact Jacky Peters at jpkrf@roadrunner.com

**Fabulous online auction:
Moved to April 19-30
Donations still welcome!**



Given the short time for doing proper advertising, the Fabulous FPUU Online Auction is being moved to Thurs. April 19 - Thurs. April 30 with pick up on Sun. May 3. We still need 40 more items for this to be a *Cracker Jack* auction so send your donation descriptions to Lisa Slaughter: lisaaslaughter@gmail.com or Marylyn Wentworth: marylyn.wentworth@tnsk.org

There are some great offerings in the Auction. You can check the auction out at <https://charityauctions.com/event/auction/1085> or scan the QR Code:

Thank you everybody for working to help make this auction a success!



Understanding Separation of Church and State and Why It Matters Now

Your Social Justice Network invites you to attend a video showing and discussion on the relationship between faith and democracy, and what's at stake when authoritarian movements exploit religion for political power.

We'll watch it together on Friday, April 10 at 5:30 p.m. A make-your-own sandwich buffet and discussion led by Rev. Tori will follow. If you would like to bring something for the finger-food buffet, email Vicki: vickigatesadams@gmail.com.

This training titled, *Democracy not Theocracy* was created by our national partners at Interfaith Alliance, Maine Council of Churches, and Multifaith Justice Maine. We will leave with the knowledge we need to speak and act with moral clarity, concrete tools for interfaith resistance, and a clearer sense of the unique role faith communities play in this moment. If you are unable to attend, an online video will be available.

Social Justice Action

"No one can do everything, but everyone can do something!"

For a complete list of **Social Justice Advocacy and Resources**, click [here](#). If you have an organization or information regarding social justice advocacy that you would like to have included, please send to Allison at uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com

MUUSAN's Weekly Action Points

Immigrant Justice: Urgent!

Action: This is the most significant legislation pending to support our immigrant neighbors against ICE intrusions, so let the voice of people of faith be heard! Please take a minute to do this [easy click and send action request](#) from ILAP on [LD 2106](#) even if you already testified on the bill in January.

Also:

Action on AI and Data Centers: electricity waste etc.

Check out the [Top 10 Reasons Data Centers Must Be Stopped!](#)
And take action to [support the AI Data Center Moratorium Act!](#)

A into last week at First Parish



No Kings Protest stretches from beyond First Parish all the way down both sides of Main St., Kennebunk.



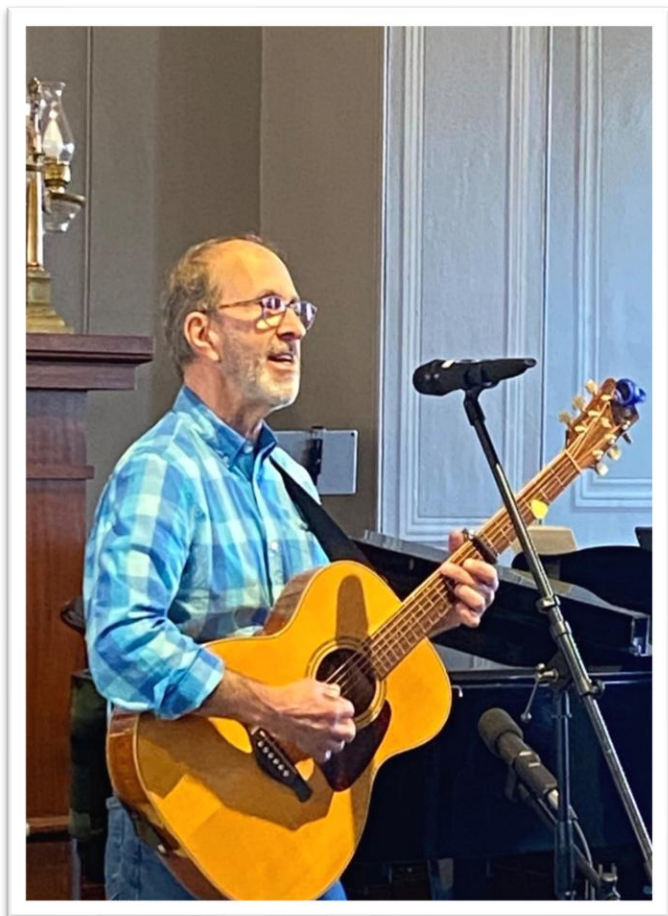
Ceridwen Lowry (left) gets a bird's eye view of the **No Kings** Protest Saturday.

Photos by Vicki Adams



Eric Howell (below right) and Gerard Cary (bottom left) are among the many musicians playing for us on Music Sunday, March 29.

Photos by Vicki Adams



Community

Are cell phones bad for our brains, our kids?

"Healthy Screens, Healthy Brains," is the topic of a presentation coming up a week from Sunday. Neuroscience educator Juliana Costa will share information on the impact of digital media. She will talk about health risks from screen

exposure and ideas for empowering families and teens to be in control of their screens. Followed by Q & A.

Sunday, April 12, 2 p.m. at The New School, Route 1, Kennebunk. Reservations at TNSK.org

WHATS UP IN APRIL

By Bernie Reim

The month of April is named after the Latin “Aprilis”, which means “to open”. That is exactly what this part of the northern hemisphere will be doing later this month as the earth and the flowers and trees awaken once more. ... Many seasonal birds will also return from the south throughout this month. ... Every point of light we see in the night sky has many interesting stories to tell us, whether it be a planet or star, galaxy or nebula, or comet or asteroid.



Lyrid meteor shower peak 2024. Photo courtesy of WCSH News center Maine

The highlights this month include brilliant Venus getting a little higher and brighter each evening as our sister planet is catching up with us in space during its faster orbit around the sun; Jupiter still shining brightly in Gemini; ... a nice close conjunction of Venus and Uranus near the Pleiades open star cluster in Taurus; a rare triple conjunction of Mercury, Saturn, and Mars low in the

morning sky on April 20. ... The last and perhaps the best highlight this month will be the Lyrid meteor shower. It takes place from April 14th to 30th, but it will peak on Wednesday, April 22, Earth Day. Caused by the earth passing through dust and debris left in the trail of Comet Thatcher each year on this day, you can expect up to 20 meteors per hour from a dark sky site with an open view to the sky. Comet Thatcher was discovered in 1861.

You can read Bernie's entire “What's Up” column in the Astronomical Society of Northern New England newsletter at asnne.org.

Every Week at First Parish

All Are Welcome Table

Sundays, 11–11:30 a.m. in the Parlor

Looking to connect, meet new people, or learn more about what's happening at FPUU? Join members of the Membership Committee, in the Parlor during coffee hour for relaxed conversation and community. Everyone is welcome—just pull up a chair! For more information, contact Heidi at uuheidi@gmail.com, or simply stop by—no RSVP needed!

Sunday Bookcase & Links

- *Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom*, John O'Donohue
- *Tao Te Ching: A New English Version*, Stephen Mitchell
- *Tao Te Ching: A Book about the Way and the Power of the Way*, Ursula K. Le Guin
- "[Seven reasons why hosting a silly little potluck...](#)," Garrett Bucks



If you are the last one in the building, please make sure to turn off the lights. There have been many times, the sanctuary and front hallway lights have been left on overnight. Help us conserve energy and money, thank you!

Church Directory

The updated Church Directory has been sent out. There are a few hard copies available. If you would like one, please let Allison know by email or a phone call: uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com or by calling 207-985-3700.

Please do not share our church directory, even amongst yourselves. There are many scammers out there seeking contact information. Please point people to the front office for copies.



Listen Up!

You can listen to entire reflections given at our Sunday services at uukennebunk.org. See Sundays at FPUU–Sermon archive.

Our monthly Soul Matters themes come with a musical playlist to help us deepen into the messages. Playlists are organized as a journey, so you can listen from beginning to end and use them as a musical meditation.

- Click [here](#) for the April Spotify playlist on, Embracing Possibility
- Click [here](#) for the April YouTube playlist on Embracing Possibility

Minister's Discretionary Fund

In light of the ongoing delays in programs such as SNAP and other forms of assistance, many in our community are facing unexpected financial hardship. The Minister's Discretionary Fund is available to help members of our congregation and the wider community who are struggling to make ends meet, particularly during this difficult time. If you, or someone you know, could use some support, please reach out to Rev. Tori. All requests are received with care and handled in strict confidence. Contact: uukennebunkminister@gmail.com or 978-238-8210

Note from the Editors

What's on your mind or in your camera? Send a picture, write an article or letter, for First Parish News! Email the FPUU Office:

uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com

FPUU News Crew:

Vicki Adams, editor

Allegra Highsmith, photo editor

Allison Lazos, production

Rev. Tori Rosati, advisor

First Parish UU Church Kennebunk

APRIL 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Worship Committee	2 9-12 Office Open 5:00p.m. Choir	3 9-12 Office Open	4
5 10 a.m. Worship Service led Rev. Tori	6 9-12 Office Open	7 9-12 Office Open 10:30 a.m. Pastoral Care 5:15 p.m. Sangha 7 p.m. Properties	8 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Soup Vespers led by Rev. Tori	9 9-12 Office Open 5:00p.m. Choir	10 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Social Justice discussion: <i>Democracy not Theocracy</i>	11
12 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Tori 11:30 a.m. Worship Reflection	13 9-12 Office Open 7 p.m. Finance 5:30 p.m. Stewardship Team	14 9-12 Office Open 5:15 p.m. Sangha 5:30 p.m. Family Small Group Ministry 6:30 p.m. W.F.A.S. 6:30 p.m. M.O.G.	15 9-12 Office Open 6 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting	16 9-12 Office Open 5:00 p.m. Choir	17 9-12 Office Open	18
19 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Tori 11:30 a.m. What Now? Social Justice Discussion Online Auction Opens	20 9-12 Office CLOSED	21 9-12 Office Open	22 9-12 Office Open 10 a.m. R.E. Meeting 5:30 p.m. Small Group Ministry	23 9-12 Office Open 5:00 p.m. Choir	24 9-12 Office Open	25 Spring Rummage Sale 8-11 a.m.
26 Spring Rummage Sale 8-10 a.m. 10 a.m. Earth Day Worship Service led by Social Justice Network 11:30 a.m. Worship Reflection	27 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Membership Committee	28 9-12 Office Open 10 a.m. Small Group Ministry 5:15 p.m. Sangha 6:30 p.m. W.F.A.S. 6:30 p.m. M.O.G.	29 9-12 Office Open	30 9-12 Office Open 5:00 p.m. Choir Online Auction Closes		

Please note, calendar is subject to change.