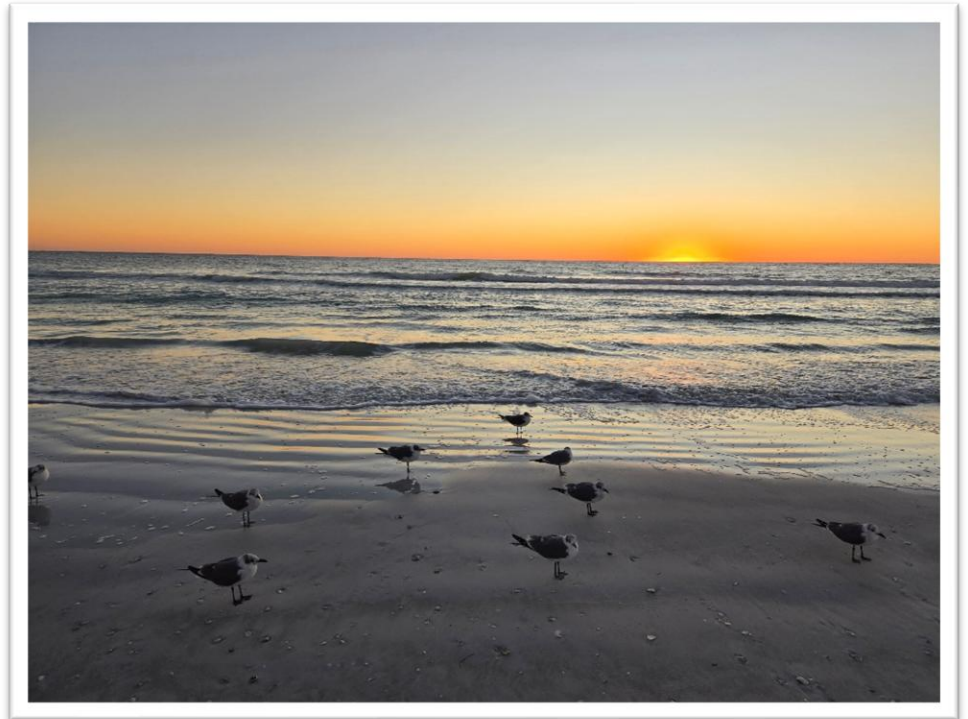




LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD

February 19, 2026

*How lovely to think that no one need wait a moment, we can start now, start slowly changing the world! How lovely that everyone, great and small, can make their contribution toward introducing justice straightaway...even if it is only kindness! – Anne Frank*



*Resilient Sunset, photo by Allegra Highsmith*

## **“Rising Kindness”**

Worship Service: Feb. 22, 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



## First Parish and Community

- Every Thursday, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Demonstration, Main Street, Kennebunk
- Sun. Feb. 22, 11:30 a.m. Worship Reflection Circle
- Tues. Feb. 24, 10 a.m., Small Group Ministry
- Tues. Feb. 24, 6:30 p.m. Women for All Seasons & Men's Open Group
- Wed. Feb. 25, 5:30 p.m. Small Group Ministry
- Fri. Feb. 27, Winter Dinner & Cabaret Fundraiser\*

\*see newsletter for more information

## This Sunday: Rising Kindness

As we continue our conversation on the ways that resilience is something we build between us, this Sunday we reflect on how kindness is one of the things that rises in that space in between - restoring our humanity, strengthening our connections, and reminding us that we do not carry life's burdens alone. Rev. Tori leading worship with Kathe Wright and music from Chris Staknys, Jaylene Summers, Karen Badger, and the First Parish Choir featuring Chris Wells.

## Don't miss our Dinner & Classics Cabaret

There are only 18 seats left available for our annual winter-blues-busting, fun-raiser dinner and talent show on Friday Feb. 27th (snow date, Saturday Feb. 28th). **THE CLASSICS CABARET** will showcase a classic comfort-food dinner followed by classic comedy, classic tunes from the great American songbook, and likely even some classical music to round things out. You can only make reservations during coffee hour on Sunday or by emailing Al Adams at [alanwoodadams@gmail.com](mailto:alanwoodadams@gmail.com). This event usually sells out. Adults \$30, Teens \$15, Kids free. Childcare available.

First Parish Church presents the 25th Annual  
Winter Blues "fun-raising" dinner and talent show

# the Classics cabaret

MC'd by the legendary French "B movie" actor, Henri LePew \*

## **Classic comfort-food dinner & Classic stage show**

featuring classic comedy, tunes from the  
Great American Songbook, stories, classical music and more!

**When:** Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> (snow date Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>)

**Time:** Doors open at 5 p.m., Dinner at 6 p.m. Show at 7 p.m.

**Where:** FPUU Church, 114 Main Street, Kennebunk

Adults \$30, Teens \$15, Children free. Sliding fee available  
Reservations can be made at Sunday coffee hour or by email:  
[alanwoodadams@gmail.com](mailto:alanwoodadams@gmail.com)



**order tickets early**  
**childcare available upon request**

*\*Disclaimer: Henri LePew is an annoying distant cousin of Al Adams and  
Billy Whizbang (nobody knows how these people get this gig)*



## Mousam River fish passage

The Kennebunk Light and Power Co. is currently considering how best to provide fish passage up the Mousam River. This and other dams are preventing fish passage and causing the degradation of water quality. Last Sunday, Bill Grabin led a discussion of this issue at our "What Now?" group after coffee hour. "What Now" is an opportunity for our congregation to share ideas and possible actions regarding current events in our state and country.



Mousam River dam, Main St. Kennebunk  
Photo by Lynn DuPont.



## Women for All Season

On Tuesday, February 24th, Women for All Seasons will meet in the Parlor at 6:30 pm. The program will be led by Allegra Highsmith and Mary Gelfand and will revolve around the Wheel of the Year and the 8 sacred days that celebrate nature's cycles, solstices, and equinoxes.

## From our Music Director

Want to Perform in a Service? I'm looking for musicians to play during our Music Sunday service – Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. If your piece has lyrics, they should be related to the March theme of Paying Attention. If you are interested, please email Chris Staknys at [uukennebunkmusic@gmail.com](mailto:uukennebunkmusic@gmail.com)



**The FPUU Music Team** is looking to expand! No musical talent is required! We welcome anyone interested in assisting in the planning of two fundraising concerts per year, and Music Sundays.

Please speak to Chris Staknys, Jaylene Summers or Margaret Jones for more information.

## Welcoming Ministry Updates

This month we started an experimental change in how we greet folks on Sunday mornings. You may have noticed that the Visitor Welcome Table has moved inside the Parish Hall and that we now have two adult greeters, one at the door and one at the Table. We are exploring ways of improving the Sunday morning flow that makes it easier for new folks to stop at the table, fill out a name tag and a blue visitor card without causing an awkward traffic jam at the door. The Membership Committee is collaborating with the newly formed Safety Committee to create a Greeter Training to be offered this Spring and will adopt final changes at that time.

## Coffee Hour & Greeting



Our Coffee Hour is hosted by 11 teams of at least three people who are assigned a Sunday every quarter by the Membership Committee. Each team is responsible for setting up and breaking down Coffee Hour tables, making coffee, providing snacks and greeting folks at the Visitor Welcome Table. Being a part of a Coffee Hour Team is an excellent way to meet folks and contribute to an important part of our Sunday Worship. If you are interested in joining a Coffee Hour Team please contact Heidi Parmenter at [uuheidi@gmail.com](mailto:uuheidi@gmail.com).

## All Are Welcome Table

**When:** Sundays, 11:00–11:30 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](mailto:uuheidi@gmail.com), or simply stop by—no RSVP needed!

Look for the sign in the parlor and pull up a chair.

## Weekly Social Justice Action

*There are many ways to get involved!*

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 be included, please send to Allison at [uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com](mailto:uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com)

## From MUUSAN (Maine UU State Action Network)

Both [LD 395](#), which would restore federal benefits to Wabanaki tribes and

[LD 785](#), the omnibus sovereignty bill, have now been scheduled for a public hearing on **Thursday, February 19th, at 10:00am and 1:00pm** respectively. Please follow the links to write testimony to submit or deliver in person.

## CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

Update: Two of our bills [LD 1730, the plug-in solar bill](#) and [LD 1966](#)– *An Act to Improve Access to Community Solar Programs in the State*, will likely be voted on this week. Please contact your legislators in support if you haven't done so already and sign the petition for [LD 1966](#).

- **Call to Action:** Email your representatives to let them know you support this bill and thank them for their support.



## Strengthening Our Shared Ministries

*In September, many of you participated in our Shared Ministry Café where members and friends had a chance to reflect together on the many ministries going on at First Parish, what they mean to us, and how we might support and nurture them. Over the next few months, we will be featuring feedback from each table conversation and how our church leaders are integrating those conversations into their work.*

## Ministry of Worship and Music

At First Parish, ours is a shared ministry. No one person or committee is responsible for doing it all. This applies to worship as much as it does to all of the good work being done here at our church. Participants in the Shared Ministry Café offered their thoughts about FPUU's Ministry of Worship.

Where do you see sacred work happening in Worship?

Since our UU Our Unitarian Universalist faith is based on welcoming and celebrating many different spiritualities, it should not come as a surprise that folks participants saw sacred work happening in worship in many different ways and in many different places. Responses were as varied as the individuals drawn to our church, a church where there is, almost never, one single right answer. What stood out most among the many, many positive responses from folks were:

- Sermons by our Minister and others, that are applicable to our own personal world, the outside world and our times.
- Silent meditation and breathing. The spacing and timing is done well.

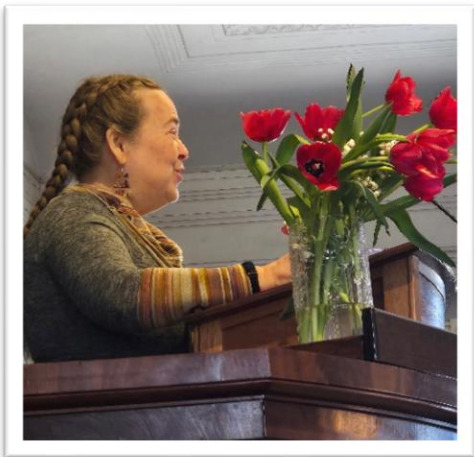
What aspects of Worship speak to your spirit?

- FPUU's Music Ministry is held in high regard. The consistent presence, kindness and talent of our Music Director is very much appreciated. Guest musicians, small group singing-duets and trios. People liked the variety of different people offering music.
- Making Connections through rituals such as Joys and Sorrows and the Water Blessing. Many values rituals, even as some said they wanted less ritual.
- Our Minister is loving and joyous. She embodies the message, speaking from experience, making it personal. Always better and better.
- The theme of Community: We're all here together and we choose to be here.

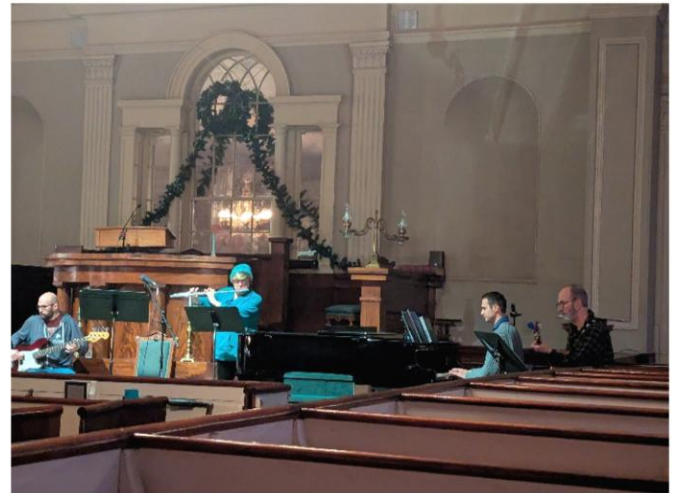
There were many other valuable comments from those attending the workshop that are too many to be listed here. Our Minister, Worship Committee and Music Program will take all this input into consideration as they build services for the congregation every Sunday of the year and at other significant times.



# Photos from the Week



*Nikki Starcat Shields speaks about Circles of Resilience with beautiful flowers from Cynthia Howard. Photo by Allegra Highsmith*



*The FPUU Church Band performs at 2/11 Vespers Service. Photo by Karen Carey*



*RIGHT: Guest Service allows Rev. Tori to attend R.E. Pictured (L-R) Rev. Tori, Susie Desantis, Nikki Shields, Allegra Highsmith. Photo by Allegra Highsmith*



*Church Band and Congregation singing "Everyone is Welcome Here". Photo by Allegra Highsmith*

# Hearse House to be restored

The Kennebunk Historical Commission recently granted our church a permit to move ahead with the restoration of the Hearse House starting in May. This structure, just behind the side ramp to the church, dates back to the time our church was constructed (1773). It remains only one of the two well-known buildings in the State of Maine.

While this project will fall under the guidance of our Property Committee, the major funding will come from the First Parish Preservation Foundation (FPPF). The purpose of this foundation, which is independent from our church operations, is to raise funds and accept donations only for the maintenance of our church building and land.

The foundation Board consists of three church members, along with four community members, meeting as needed.

Thus, the Foundations funding role and purpose is exclusively for building and land needs, which makes it attractive to those who care about this historic landmark, but do not wish to donate to the church for spiritual reasons.

On the other hand, our annual pledges support our congregation, staff, and programs, which are the very heart and soul of First Parish.

Jim Thompson, Property Committee and Foundation Board member



## Listen Up!

You can listen to this year's Martin Luther King keynote speech as well as entire reflections given at our Sunday services at [uukennebunk.org](http://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 Spotify playlist on Embodying Resilience
- Click [here](#) for the YouTube playlist on Embodying Resilience

# Weather Events

In the event of stormy weather, unless the electricity and/or internet is down, church service will be held on Zoom. The building will not be open. The decision to close will be made by 5 p.m. the day before or by 7 a.m. on Sunday at the latest.

If we have your email, you will receive an announcement, including the Zoom link for the service. Information will also be posted on the website, and a message will be on the office phone: 207-985-3700.

If you have any questions, contact Tory Leuteman, Worship Committee Chair.



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](mailto: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.

# Sunday Bookcase & Links



- [“Seven reasons why hosting a silly little potluck...,”](#)  
Garrett Bucks
- [Gee's Bend Quiltmakers](#)
- *Social Change Now: A Guide for Reflection and Connection*, by Deepa Iyer
- *The Silent Cry: Mysticism and Resistance*, Dorothee Soelle
- *Ordinary Mysticism: Your Life as Sacred Ground*, Mirabai Starr

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

## FEBRUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 a.m. Worship Service led Margaret Jones	2 9-12 Office Open	3 9-12 Office Open 10:30 a.m. Pastoral Care 5:15 p.m. Sangha 6:30 p.m. W.F.A.S. 7 p.m. Properties Committee	4 9-12 Office Open  5:30 p.m. Worship Committee	5 9-12 Office Open  5:00p.m. Choir	6 9-12 Office Open	7
8 10 a.m. Worship Service led Rev. Tori	9 9-12 Office Open  7 p.m. Finance Committee	10 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.	11 9-12 Office Open 5 p.m. Soup Vespers led by Rev. Tori	12 9-12 Office Open  5:00p.m. Choir	13 9-12 Office Open	14
15 10 a.m. Worship Service led Susie Desantis, Nikki Shields & Allegra High- smith  11:30 a.m. What Now? Social Justice Discussion	16 Office CLOSED	17 9-12 Office Open  5:15 p.m. Sangha	18 9-12 Office Open  6 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting	19 9-12 Office Open  5:00 p.m. Choir	20 9-12 Office Open	21
22 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Tori 11:30 a.m. Reflection Circle	23 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Membership Committee	24 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 M.O.G.	25 9-12 Office Open 10 a.m. R.E. Meeting 5:30 p.m. Small Group Ministry	26 9-12 Office Open 5:00 p.m. Choir	27 9-12 Office Open 6 p.m. Winter Blues Buster Fundraiser	28 SNOW DATE: 6 p.m. Winter Blues Buster Fundraiser