



Nov. 14, 2024

LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD

*Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.*

Robert Frost

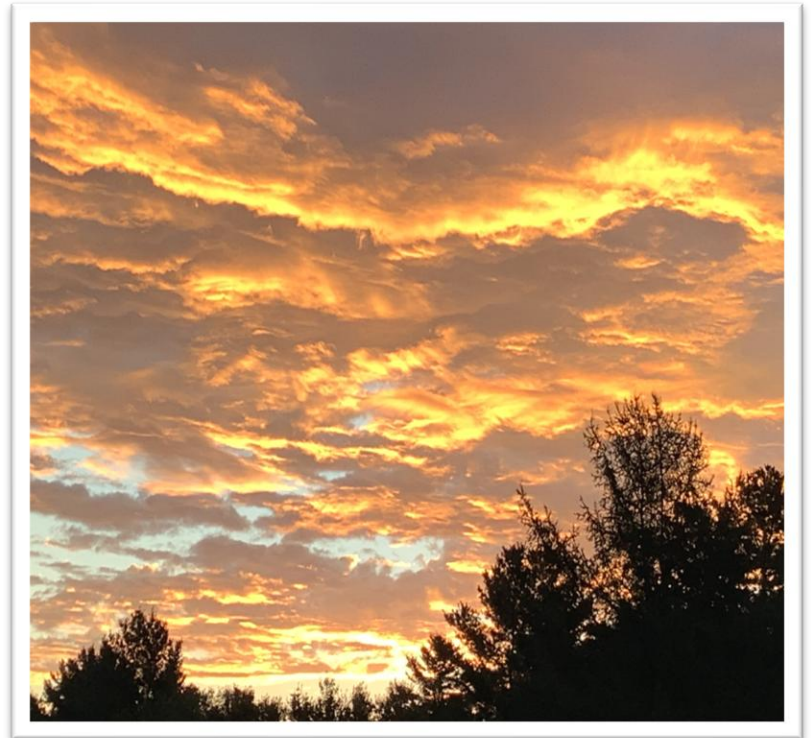


Photo by Al Adams

“Mosaic of Song”

Worship Service, Nov. 17, 2024, 10 a.m.

Worship Leader: Susie Desantis

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

- Sun. Nov. 17, Food Drive, bring in your non-perishables
- Now to Nov. 25: Holiday Food Auction, make your bids!
- Wed. Nov. 20, 5:30 p.m.: Board of Directors meeting
- Sun. Nov. 24, 11:30 a.m. June Barrier Remembrance Circle

Circle of Remembrance

Join us for the rescheduled Circle of Remembrance after the service on November 24th to honor our beloved June Barrier who died on September 2nd. This will be a space for quiet, reflection and sharing as we remember together with gratitude the light she brought to us all.

Holiday Food Auction: just in time for your holiday tables!

Get your bids in from now until Nov. 25! Click the link to browse and put in your bid: www.charityauctionstoday.com/bid/2929



Children are learning along with us

During Religious Exploration, our children are following the *Soul Matters* program with the larger congregation. In November we will be exploring the theme of Repair:

Sunday Nov. 17: Food drive collection/decorating

Sunday Nov. 24: Intergeneration service. Food drive offering.



Repairing Our Community: Join Our Food Drive

This month, as part of our *Soul Matters* "Repair" program, the First Parish Religious Exploration program will be holding a food drive to help "Repair Community." Beginning this Sunday, we invite you to bring non-perishable food items and place them in the designated boxes in the Parish Hall that our young people will be creating. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of others in our community. After collecting the items, we will deliver the boxes to Community Outreach Services.

Thank you for your support. - The RE Team

The Bread of Community

Join us for a special intergenerational service on Sunday, November 24th where you are invited to bring a loaf of bread with special meaning to you: a family recipe, a traditional favorite, or simply a bread that holds a story. This communal ritual will celebrate the strength of community, the warmth of sharing, and the sweetness of gathering together.



Rummage Sale a Success

Thank you to all that organized, set-up, donated, cleaned-up and shopped! The FPUU Fall Rummage sale raised \$1,285.16!



Mosaic of Song

Join us this Sunday as we celebrate the power of music and the strength of singing together, especially in challenging times. We'll lift our voices in songs of *hope and joy, justice and courage, and love and community*. You'll have the chance to call out your favorite hymns, so come with a song in mind! Whether you sing along or simply listen, be part of this moving experience as we unite in harmony and song. Worship will be led by Susie Desantis, Chris Staknys, and Deirdre Drennen, with every voice adding to the mosaic of song we'll create together.

“Re-member, Re-pair, Re-turn”

Excerpts from Rev. Tori Rosati's sermon Nov. 10

Last week, during our service, we spent time to honor and recognize what we were calling “the pieces” — pieces of pain, hope, joy, fear, and anxiety that are gathering around us in these days. We wrote down some of our prayers and intentions ahead of Tuesday's election and enclosed them in tiny envelopes and laid them down on the table up here. [This week we wrote them on small pieces of paper cut in different shapes, and created the mosaic you see in the photo.]

We drew wisdom and sustenance from author Terry Tempest Williams' book, *Finding Beauty in a Broken World* and heard her story of going to the Maine seacoast at a time of national tragedy and crying out to the sea – what to do with the pieces? She asked, “Give me one wild word.” ... “Mosaic,” the sea called back.

... Even in our uncertainty and the myriad ways we are holding this moment, we are a mosaic, aren't we? Each of us carrying a piece of something that matters to the greater whole of the moment we find ourselves in.

... And in that spirit, this morning's message of re-member, re-pair, re-turn, is a mosaic of sorts – incomplete, jagged, and in process, yet one that calls us to root in our values, move closer to that wholeness that we can only now begin to imagine, and trust in love. Always love.

First, we re-member.

We are not starting from scratch. While we do not know how this moment is going to unfold, ... We know how to put a pot of soup on the stove – lentils and split pea. We know the power of coming together as a community and showing up for one another – the blessed harmony of one people with one voice. We know we will have work to do in our continued fight for justice, liberation and peace, and most importantly, we know that in this work, we are not alone.

... our re-membering calls us to love each other more deeply than ever before, to take care of each other, to restore, strengthen and nurture our relationships with our communities, our partners, and each other — seek out companions who have stories of resilience and resistance to



share – acts of faith and heart and commitment to offer. ...We re-pair.

... repairing is not about fixing or restoring something to the way it was. Like a mosaicist, we learn how to work with fragments, the pieces, the shards –

honoring them as essential and precious even as we bring them together to create something new.

This means that we don't know when we start off what the final form will be. Re-pairing asks us to see beyond the perfect, to be messy and open and so very very human. We place one piece down then another. Listen to what they are saying as we discern how to place the next and the next.

... Our world has fractured, broken apart, and dispersed hundreds of thousands of times throughout our history as a species and long before that – and it has found its way back together each time in ways the people at the time could never have imagined. Repair isn't about going back to the way things were because that is impossible – every new moment has new configuration, new pairings of commitment, resistance, and tension that create new shapes and patterns to guide us – a wholeness we are still imagining.

We re-turn.

In this great turning, we will learn to lead in love, as we sang. To re-turn is to come together and turn ourselves toward love again and again and again.

These pieces up here [in our mosaic] – the pieces and feelings and emotions swirling around right now, they aren't falling off into space. Something holds them. Turns them over and over again. For the mosaicist, they are held in soft clay, cement or glue. For us, UUs' our container is Love and the ongoing creation of community. ... [We] Create spaces that connect us and call us to care for each other, to safeguard the vulnerable, and resist what threatens to divide us —transforming fragile, broken pieces into a unified strength that can withstand pressure and hold its form. A sacred container we can turn ourselves toward when times get tough.

... We don't know how this will all turn out but that's ok. ... The “Re” in front of -member, -pair, and -turn is the truth that there is so much already here. And ... this sacred container of community will be here steady and receiving for each one of you to lean into – for all you might need to lay down or pick up along the way.

Wabanaki and Black history come alive at event in York

You are invited to an important day of history in York, Maine Saturday, Nov. 16, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Welcome gathering: 10 a.m. at First Parish Church, York

Two-mile history walk through York Village: 11 a.m.

Malaga Ship performance: 1 p.m. The story of Maine and the Middle Passage by Antonio Rocha

Registration is now open for the upcoming walking tour in the [WHERE 2024](#) series. This event is organized by [Atlantic Black Box](#), in partnership with the [York History Group](#), [York Diversity Forum](#), [Historic New England](#), and the [York Land Trust](#). Here's the link for details and to register:

<https://www.walkwhere.org/walks/york>. The [Wabanaki Alliance](#) will also be tabling at this event.

This event is recommended by Many Towns One Circle: Challenging Racism and Injustice. MTOC was founded by our own Social Justice Network

Join discussion on poverty at library with Many Towns, One Circle

All are invited to participate in the continuing conversations about Matthew Desmond's book, "Poverty, By America."

What: Community Discussions on Matthew Desmond's book, "Poverty, By America": register [here](#)

Where: Kennebunk Free Library (KFL), 112 Main Street in Kennebunk

When: First Wednesday of the month, 6-7:30 p.m. (Nov. 6) Dec. 4, 2024, Jan. 8, and Feb. 8, 2025.

Who: Led by Kennebunk High School history teacher Greg Smith and Select Board member Karen Plattes.

Sponsored by Many Towns, One Circle and Kennebunk Free Library.

Message from Side with Love, UUA

We are excited to invite you to join us for [Forward Together: Anchoring in Community Post Election](#), a virtual series designed to offer space for reflection, spiritual grounding, and practical organizing in response to the evolving political landscape.

We should be aware of the rising disinformation and increasing political violence. While Unitarian Universalist congregations may not be primary targets, we have a moral obligation to be in solidarity with our neighbors—particularly minority groups. In these times, we have the opportunity to embody the highest aspirations of our faith. Together, through our care and preparedness, we can take faithful action to respond to the threats facing democracy and our communities.

We recognize the sacred work many of you are doing—taking action, providing care and bearing witness within your communities. Though the path ahead may be uncertain, our faith calls us to move forward with clarity and courage, trusting in our shared power to shape a more just and compassionate world.

Letters

Are you reluctant to write to the newspaper? Then, write to us, your friends here at First Parish, about your hopes and fears as we embark on a new direction in our country. Sharing feels good.

Sunday Morning Bookcase



- *Finding Beauty in a Broken World*, by Terry Tempest Williams
- *Jesus and the Disinherited*, by Howard Thurman
- *Meditations of the Heart*, by Howard Thurman
- UUA Actions of Immediate Witness: click [HERE](#).
- *See No Stranger, A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love*, by Valerie Kaur

OFFICE hours

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 congregante in need. Tori can best be reached at uukennebunkminister@gmail.com. For pastoral emergencies, please use Tori's cell: (978) 238-8210.

First Parish UU Church Kennebunk

November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Tori Rosati 11:30 a.m. June Barrier Remembrance Circle	4	5 10:30 a.m. RE Team Meeting 5:15 p.m. Sangha 7 p.m. Properties	6 6 p.m. Yespers, with meal to follow 7 p.m. Discussion Grp.	7 3:30 p.m. Choir	8 Fall Rummage Sale set-up 6:30 p.m. Song Swap	9 8 a.m. Fall Rummage Sale
10 8 a.m. Rummage Sale 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Tori Rosati 11:30 a.m. Reflection Circle	11 7 p.m. Finance	12 10 a.m. Membership Com. 5:15 p.m. Sangha 6:30 p.m. WFAS 6:30 p.m. Men's Open Group	13 11 a.m. Music Com 6 p.m. Worship Com. 7 p.m. Discussion Grp.	14 3:30 p.m. Choir	15	16
17 10 a.m. Worship Service	18	19 5:15 p.m. Sangha 5:30 p.m. Small Grp. Ministry	20 5:30 p.m. B.O.D	21 3:30 p.m. Choir	22	23
24 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Tori Rosati 11 a.m. June Barrier Remembrance Circle	25 4 p.m. Small Grp. Ministry	26 5:15 p.m. Sangha 6:30 p.m. WFAS 6:30 p.m. Men's Open Group	27	28 Thanksgiving Holiday Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30

FPUU Staff/Leadership and Committee Contacts

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