



June 4, 2026

LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD

*Drifting here with my ship's
companions,
all we kindred pilgrim souls*

Peter Mayer from *Blue Boat Home*



Photo by Al Adams

“Friendship”

Worship Leaders: Al Adams and Merideth Norris

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
- Tues. June 9, 5:30-7 p.m. Family Matters supper and discussion
- Sat. June 13, 10 a.m. Joan O'Hara's Service
- Sat. June 13, 12-3 p.m. Pride in the Bunks *
- Sun. June 14, 10:00 a.m. Flower Sunday
- Sun. June 14, 11:30 a.m. Worship Reflection Circle
- Fri. June 19, Juneteenth, a week of events, Portsmouth NH *

*see below for more information

Religious Exploration

Our children will be spending time outdoors for the remainder of the church year. Please make sure your kids have jackets with them.

June is **PRIDE** Month,
look out for special
events in our area



Photo by Tom Socha

Congregation elects new leaders and bylaws

At our Annual Meeting last Sunday, we elected the new FPUU Board of Directors. New members are Kate Howell, Dave Terricciano, and Tory Leuteman, who jumped right in and are excited to be representing the Congregation on the BOD. In addition, our Clerk, Karen Carey and Treasurer, Chris Wells, were also elected for another term. All were graciously welcomed by continuing Board members Tom Veronesi and Amy Wood, and Rev. Tori Rosati.

The Congregation also passed the updated bylaws that were finalized after a two-year review process and elected a great selection of new and experienced leaders, as presented by the Nominating Committee.

At a special meeting following the Annual Meeting, Tom Veronesi was elected Chair and David Terricciano, Vice Chair of the Board.

First Parish Welcomes our newest Members

In a service all about gratitude, our congregation gratefully celebrated and accepted four new members on Sunday. From left, Jim Thompson welcomes Tricia Weyand, Bart Weyand, Lynn Dupont, and Gerard Carey.



Photo by Allegra Highsmith

Reflection

From Sunday, May 31, Rev. Tori Rosati with Allegra Highsmith, David Terricciano, and Heidi Parmenter

There are those of us who serve on [our] Board, teams, task forces and workgroups, ...

And to you we say, "Thank you!"

There are those of us who show up, ... who make music, ... help us worship. ...

There are those of us who take care of us, ... and remind us we need not hold what we carry alone. ... who ask for help, ...

There are those of us who teach, who hold space for learning and ... questions and guide our way, ... who love fiercely and publicly, ... who speak out, advocate and disrupt, ...

There are those of us who inspire, who laugh ... and remind us to slow down and wonder, ... who welcome, ... and remind us that we belong, ... who are simply and blessedly here, ... who remind us that community is possible ... that we are not alone, ... And a thousand other things that we may have missed. All of this is ministry - ours and yours. All are practices of generosity, ...

And to you we say, "Thank you!"

And we have one more of us to thank - someone who has taught each of us that we are musicians, ...

And to you we say, "Thank you!"

You can listen to the entire reflection at UUkennebunk.org. See Sundays at FPUU, Sermon archive.



Gratitude of Music

Last Sunday's service was filled with beautiful music including some surprise celebrations of gratitude for Chris Staknys as we prepare to bid him farewell and he takes off for new

adventures. To the right, Ginny Lawrence played a duet on the piano with him. Everyone enjoyed some cake made especially for Chris at Coffee Hour.



Photos by Allegra Highsmith

Coming Up...

Vespers

Join us on June 10th at 5:30 pm for our last vespers service before we take a break for the summer. This will also be Chris Staknys's last vespers service before his departure at the end of the month. He has been offering breathtaking music to this space all year to bring us into a place of silence and contemplation. If you haven't attended one of these simple services before, and with all that is going on in our lives and world, it will be a time to pause and center amidst the demands of this busy season. The service will be followed by a soup meal and fellowship.

Sunday in the Park with Flowers

Join us on June 14th for our annual intergenerational flower ceremony tradition where each of us brings a flower from home to contribute to a shared bouquet, symbolizing a community made vibrant by the unique gifts of all its members. At the end of the service, we each take home a different flower, representing the blessings we receive from one another.

In the spirit of this ritual of color and life, we will also celebrate Pride with decorations made by our children. And, our own Crow Lowry will offer a reflection inspired by Stephen Sondheim's famous play, "Sundays in the Park with George."



Worship Reflection Circle: June 14th

Also, on June 14th following the service, join Rev. Tori and others for our last Worship Reflection Circle before the summer. We will reflect on the morning's message as well as our highlights from the last months of the church program year. What were some services that lingered? What were messages that you are longing to hear in the future? What moves you the most on Sunday morning? As always, this is a more personal setting to continue reflecting on and honoring what matters most to us on our individual and collective spiritual journeys.

FAMILY MATTERS DROP-IN FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

*A welcoming space to share the ups, downs,
and everything in between of family life*

**The second Tuesday of the month
at 5:30 - 7 p.m.**

June 9th



**5:30-6p.m. fellowship & dinner
6-7 p.m. parent/caregiver discussion,
childcare provided**

Please contact Rev. Tori for more information at
uukennebunkminister@gmail.com

Blueberry Festival and Craft Fair on a roll

Save the gelato, the vegan wraps, the recycling!

Do you love our famous lemon gelato and best-ever vegan wraps? We have the recipes, the signage, the space—but we need people to manage these booths. Many opportunities only involve Sat. July 25.

Positions include managing the recycle & waste bins, ticket sales at our raffle tables, helping with set up or taker down. Are you quick with a calculator? The Food court needs cashiers.

Will you be away July 25 but would still like to help? You can donate jewelry through June (contact Linda Thompson).



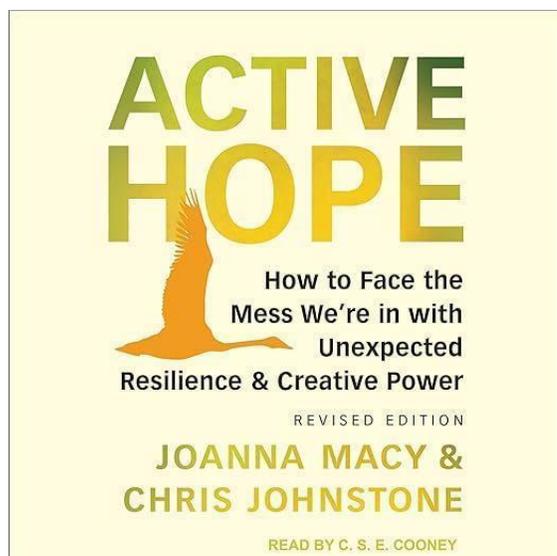
Kim Lord and Karen Carey peddle blueberry treats at a recent Blueberry Festival

The Craft Booth is looking for homemade blueberry jam or jelly (contact Marylyn Wentworth or Mary Zachery-Lang). The Baked Goods table needs buckle bakers and a pie team. We provide the time-tested recipes (contact Cynthia Riley for Buckles and Kate Howell to help with pies).

We now have 25 volunteers—many planning the activities. We'll need about 25 more to help carry it all out! A full list of volunteer roles is located in the Parish Hall. Chat with friends and current festival volunteers, then join in the fun!

Our current leadership team, in addition to those already mentioned, includes; Alicia Soliman (chair), Karen Carey (vendor coordinator), Herve' Lavoie (Set up and tear down), Bernie Rheim (Music entertainment), Chris Wells (cashiers), Linda Thompson (jewelry), Heidi Parmenter (UU info), Christine Burgess (crabmeat lunch), Al Adams (Hotdog lunch), Jim Thompson (purchasing), also Marylyn Wentworth, Mary Fortune, Greg Sanford, David Reece, Bart & Tricia Weyand, Susan Griggs, Tom Veronesi, Kathy McGuire, Mary Gelfand, Vicki Adams, Marty Burgess.

A book to read this summer



Rev. Tori suggested that some of us might like to share a “Common Read” over the summer and share our thoughts in the fall. She chose the book, *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We’re in ...* by Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone. Several people in our congregation have already expressed interest. The authors guide us through a transformational process informed by mythic journeys, modern psychology, spirituality, and holistic science.

Social Justice Action

“No one can do everything, but everyone can do something!”

Juneteenth:

Black Heritage Trail, Portsmouth, NH

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation declared

that as of Jan. 1, 1863, all slaves of the states in rebellion “shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free.” However, it was not until June 19, 1865, when the US Army took possession of Galveston Island, TX, and began a campaign against the defenders of slavery, that the enslaved people in Galveston could begin their journey towards freedom.

Freedom Walk, Fri. June 19, 9 a.m. Kittery to Portsmouth

The Healing Rhythm of the Drums, Fri. June 19, 11 a.m. African Burying Ground

Meet NH Five to Know, Living History, Sun. June 21, 11 a.m.

What to the Slave is Your Fourth of July: Frederick Douglass Reading, Sat. June 27, noon, throughout NH.

Guided Bus Tour to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of our Declaration of Independence, Sun. June 28, 10 a.m. Portsmouth City Hall.

For specific information see <http://blackheritagetrailnh.org/events>



Social Justice Advocacy and Resources

For information click [here](#).

If you have an organization or information regarding social justice advocacy that you would like to have included in this link, please send to Allison at uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com

Letters

LETTERS: If you have a message you'd like to share with our newsletter community, please send it to our editor: vickigatesadams@gmail.com to be placed here.



Save the Date

Our beloved Joan O'Hara's memorial service has been scheduled for June 13th at 10 a.m.

Classified Notices

Rental Wanted service offered: We've heard from a woman, with excellent references, who is looking for a place to live and rent in Kennebunk. She is willing to help her landlord in a number of possible ways including caretaking. If you are interested in renting a space to her, Vicki Adams (see directory) can put you in touch with her for details.

SERVICES: Adult Psychologist and Executive Coach. Achieve more and stress less. Contact amywoodpsyd.com

WANTED TO HIRE: Wallpaper hanger and general handyman.

Contact amywoodpsyd.com I thought it was important to put "wanted to hire" instead of "help wanted", because it is not for free and may avoid confusion. Thank you so much.

You may list your item or service, its cost, and a contact phone number or email, or if you need an item or service, you may list it including your contact information, with payment to be negotiated. Send your submission to nanawood390@gmail.com.

Community

What's Up in June, by Bernie Reim

The month of June is named for Juno, the powerful Roman goddess who had many roles including being the goddess of marriage and childbirth, a special counselor for the state, and a protector of Roman people. ... Juno was also the mother of Mars. ...

Try to get outside as often as possible to enjoy the warmer and shorter nights. ...

June always marks the beginning of summer for us in the northern hemisphere. This year that will happen at exactly 4:25 a.m. EDT on Sunday morning June 21. That is the highest point that the sun will reach in our sky for the whole year. ... The sun will rise at 4:59 am that morning and not set until 8:26 pm, giving us nearly 15 and a half hours of daylight. ... At the Arctic circle ... the sun will not set at all on that day. ... By contrast, on December 21, the sun will not rise at all at the Arctic circle for that one day. ...

The main highlight this month will be a wonderful close conjunction of our two brightest planets, Venus and Jupiter. ... on the evening of June 9 in Gemini just below Castor and Pollux, the two brightest stars marking the heads of the twins. ... Notice that Venus is about 7 times brighter than Jupiter. There will be a minor meteor shower, the Bootids, which will peak on June 27 and last from June 22 to July 2.

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

Ongoing 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!

Church Directory

A new church directory will be coming your way tomorrow, if you would like a hard copy, please contact Allison at uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com.

Sunday Bookcase & Links

- *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in*, Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone. (Our Common Read)
- *Awakening Loving Kindness*, Pema Chödrön
- [Walking for Peace, Marching Together from Love](#), Bhikkhu Bodhi
- [Living the Questions, Krista Tippett](#)



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 May Spotify playlist on **Flourishing Together**
- Click [here](#) for the May YouTube playlist on **Flourishing Together**

Minister's Discretionary Fund

In light of rising prices and increased economic pressures, 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

JUNE 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9-12 Office Open	2 9-12 Office Open 5:15 p.m. Sangha 7 p.m. Properties	3 9-12 Office Open	4 9-12 Office Open 5 p.m. Choir 5:30 p.m. Worship	5 9-12 Office Open	6
7 10 a.m. Worship Service led Al Adams & Meredith Norris	8 9-12 Office Open 7 p.m. Finance	9 9-12 Office Open 10:30 a.m. Pastoral Care 5:15 p.m. Sangha 5:30 p.m. Family Small Group Ministry 6:30 p.m. M.O.G.	10 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Vespers	11 9-12 Office Open 5:00p.m. Choir	12 9-12 Office Open 6:30 p.m. Song Swop	13 10 a.m. Joan O'Hara's Memorial Service
14 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Crow Lowry & Rev. Tori 11:30 a.m. Worship Reflection	15 9-12 Office Open	16 9-12 Office Open 5:15 p.m. Sangha 6:30 p.m. W.F.A.S.	17 9-12 Office Open 6 p.m. Board of Directors	18 9-12 Office Open 5:00 p.m. Choir	19 9-12 Office Open	20
21 10 a.m. Worship Service Led by Mark Gallup 11:30 a.m. What Now? Social Justice Discussion	22 Office Summer Hours Begin 5:30 p.m. Membership Team	23 9-12 Office Open 10 a.m. Small Group Ministry 5:15 Sangha 6:30 p.m. W.F.A.S. 6:30 p.m. M.O.G.	24 10 a.m. R.E. 5:30 p.m. Small Group Ministry	25 9-12 Office Open 5:00 p.m. Choir	26	27
28 10 a.m. Worship Service Led by Jason McLin	29	30 9-12 Office Open 5:15 p.m. Sangha				

Please note, the calendar is subject to change.