



LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD

September 25, 2025

*I believe every inch of  
America is sacred, from sea  
to shining sea. I believe we  
make it holy by who we  
welcome and by how we  
relate to each other.*

- Eboo Patel



*Equinox sunrise, photo by Al Adams*

## **“Gifts and Blessings”**

Worship Service: September 28, 2025, 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



- Sun. Sept. 28, 11:30 - 2 p.m. Shared Ministry Cafe (childcare & lunch) see below for more information
- Sun. Oct. 5, 11 a.m. New to First Parish session
- Wed. Oct. 8, 5:30 p.m. Evening Vespers

## Religious Exploration (RE)

- To register your children, please take a moment to fill out the RE Registration Form [HERE](#)
- Consider helping as an assistant on a few Sundays, call Jacky Peters or Gray Hirshfield
- Apply to serve as our childcare provider. If you'd like to learn more about this paid position, please reach out to Allison Lazos at [uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com](mailto:uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com) with your interest and the best way to be in touch.

## This Sunday: Of Gifts and Blessings

Church life invites us to offer our hands and hearts to build communities of belonging. Whether gathering in joy, walking alongside one another in times of need, working for justice, planning for the future, or creating spaces for worship and connection — all of this “work” becomes something more when we center and cultivate it as our gift. This Sunday, we’ll reflect on how our shared work becomes ministry, and how the gifts we each offer become blessings for the whole. Rev. Tori Rosati is leading with Andrea Rhode and music from Ginny Lawrence, Rebecca Petrick and Deirdre Drennen. Come be part of this celebration of shared ministry and blessing.

# Come to the Shared Ministry Cafe & lunch

## An opportunity to share, listen, and reflect

**Sunday Sept. 28, 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

*"This cafe is intended for all members and friends of First Parish. It is different from "small group ministries."*

Please join in this opportunity to reflect on how we are called to give and receive gifts in this community. The sacred, collaborative work of our community is a living expression of our faith in action. Shared ministry gives each of us the opportunity to enrich our spiritual life as we participate in the life of First Parish.

Small groups of participants will move together through several facilitated tables, each reflecting a different ministry. The key points from brief conversations initiated by questions will be recorded. Upon moving to your next table, you will see the accumulated comments and add to them.

Childcare and lunch will be provided. **Please RSVP to the office 985-3700 or [uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com](mailto:uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com)**

Sponsored by our Transitional Ministry Team and Board of Directors

*Welcome*  
**Ushers needed!**

Greeting congregants and welcoming them to our sacred space is an important job, and an easy one. The commitment is about 90 minutes one Sunday a month. You will have an orientation and be paired with an experienced usher the first couple of times you volunteer. At the end

of each month, you will receive an email asking which Sunday of next month you are available. If you can sign up, great! If not, that's ok, there's always another month with another opportunity. Please consider volunteering for this fun, easy and important job! FMI: contact Tory Leuteman, [toryleuteman@yahoo.com](mailto:toryleuteman@yahoo.com)--please put "usher" in the subject line. Or call/text: 207-468-9547. Thank you!



# First Parish Choir sings to the residents of Bradford House



Photos by Bernie Reim



# Exploring Membership and Belonging at First Parish

Interested in Learning More About Unitarian Universalism, First Parish, and Membership?

Join us on **October 5th from 11:30-1:00** for a gathering for those who want to explore Unitarian Universalism, the history and values of First Parish, and how you might make a deeper commitment to this community. While membership may be one path, this gathering is a chance to reflect on what belonging means here—whether that's through active participation, shared ministry, or simply learning more about how to live our values together. Whether you're new to UUism and First Parish, or have been attending for a while, we invite you to come with your questions, explore your own spiritual journey, and consider how you might be called to engage more fully in the life of our congregation. Childcare will be provided upon request.

Please contact Heidi Parmenter ([uuheidi@gmail.com](mailto:uuheidi@gmail.com)) or Rev. Tori ([uukennebunkminister@gmail.com](mailto:uukennebunkminister@gmail.com))

## Evening Vespers

Through these painful and tumultuous times—our hearts heavy with the weight of it all - finding space for quiet, reflection, and the presence of companions can be a nourishing and sustaining practice.



Join us Wednesday, October 8th at 5:30 p.m. for an evening Vespers service: a simple time of silence, readings, meditation, and music. As evening draws near, this sacred pause invites us to lean into solace and peace, to rest together in community, and to steady our spirits for all that lies ahead.

Afterward, we'll linger for a simple supper of soup and bread. You are welcome to bring a pot of soup to share. Rev. Tori leading with Tory Leuteman and music from Chris Staknys. All are welcome.

Reach out to Rev. Tori with any questions ([uukennebunkminister@gmail.com](mailto:uukennebunkminister@gmail.com)). Hope to see you there!

# New to the church? Do you like photography?

Can you spare an hour or so in your busy week? How about contributing and accepting photos for First Parish News! This is a fun job, which does not require expertise. If you can receive and send photos by email and take a picture now and then, this is your chance.

Here's the drill. Choose from among the pictures that people send to you, and perhaps take one or two yourself, then email your choices to the church office by Tuesday morning each week. Our Administrative Assistant Allison places the photos into the newsletter, making this job an easy and satisfying thing to do.

Call or email Allison or FP News editor Vicki Adams to say: "I'd like to know more about this" or "Yes, I'd like to give this a try."



## ICE comes to York County

One of our immigrant families is in crisis. Welcoming Immigrants Our New Neighbors (WIONN) is helping this family whose breadwinner was detained a few months ago by ICE, illegally.

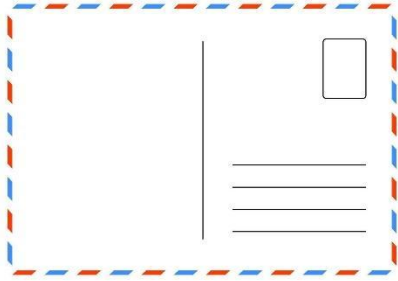
During his detention his work permit was confiscated. Mom is not working, having three school aged kids and a toddler. They are having great difficulty. They need help paying \$500 for the work permit

replacement and making a car payment, so they will be able to get to work when they have it.

WIONN is setting up a fund to help this family and others who have their breadwinner detained by ICE. If you would like to donate to this fund, please write a check to Christ Church with a notation for WIONN family fund and send, or give to Marylyn Wentworth, 259 Log Cabin Rd. Arundel, 04046. WIONN so appreciates all who are helping during this crisis.



## Postcards on current events



A small group is gathering this Saturday (Sept. 27) at 2 p.m. to write postcards encouraging people to vote before important elections in various states. This meeting will take place in a home. If you would like to participate, get in touch with Vicki Adams or Wendy Campbell (see directory). Participants will receive a packet of 10 to 25 postcards with

instructions and a list of names and addresses. You will need to buy postcard stamps, which now cost 61 cents each, and mail the cards by Oct. 14 or 15.

## Crowded Table

Excerpts from Rev. Tori's sermon Sept. 14

Some of my earliest memories growing up were of running around crowded tables. Our house was one of those places where everyone congregated. ... A meal has been set, everyone's eaten, but the plates haven't been cleared yet, ... the candles are getting low, ... people begin to lean back in their chairs, ... a guitar gets picked up, ... kids running in and out squealing with delight, the shadows lengthen, the sweet darkness comes in and everyone, ... for that moment—crowded around food and music and companionship—everyone was home. We were building belonging.

It sounds so simple and quaint, doesn't it—this theme we are exploring in September? ...[But] events like those of the past few weeks: violence, division and fear, strain us, our hearts in tatters, as we ask anew why the world is so sick? There are many, many responses to that question, I know, but sometimes I wonder if what is beneath all those important and complex answers with their clear and vital solutions, is something more simple and intimately connected to this conversation on belonging.

As human beings, living in community - sharing and cooperation are built into our DNA - part of our bones. And yet we are living in a world that elevates individualist -where competition and making it on one's own is the highest good. A world of tables set for one. ...There is grief here that we do not even know as grief, ... yet it rises up in the ways we cling to ideologies of division, habits of suspicion, beliefs in scarcity, and the embrace of extremism and violence. ...

Here, I can't think of a better person to lift up than the life and work of Catholic activist, Dorothy Day, who knew a little bit about crowded tables. Day devoted her life to living her faith in the world. In 1933, alongside Peter Maurin,

she founded the Catholic Worker Movement. ... She urged her readers not only to name injustice but to act ... establishing hospitality houses across the country where people were fed, sheltered, given assistance, and welcomed into community—a table that responded to many of the same challenges our hearts are wrestling with today. ...

Our UU value of pluralism comes to mind here. We celebrate that we are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience, and theology. We affirm that there are many pathways to the sacred. And, as we hold that tension of difference every week, navigating all those seats at the table, we don't just accept this, but celebrate that it makes us all more connected and more whole. ...

I am often not sure what to do or how to speak to the endless horrors around us. In my own silent prayers after another atrocity, the only thing that comes with any clarity on what to do next is to turn toward love. ... So I go to the crowded table where companions are at the ready to receive and remind us that we are not alone. ... A place has been set for us to nurture, grow and build. I hope First Parish can be one of those places for each of you. ...

## **Our members now in rehabilitation enjoy having people call or visit**

**Bernie Reim** is at Bradford House, Huntington Common Rd. He welcomes visitors following a serious auto accident and faces a long recovery with many challenges ahead. There are a number of ways to support Bernie as he heals—please reach out to Ian Durham for more information. Please call Bernie to find a convenient time to visit.

**Rich Gaito** at Bradford House, Huntington Common Rd. He is recovering from a stroke and enjoys company. Please call Rich to find a convenient time to visit.

**Joan O'Hara** is in Bradford House on Huntington Common Rd. She very much appreciates old friends visiting, but since she is blind and has difficulty answering the phone, you may try dropping in early or late afternoon. Be sure to announce yourself and know that she might not always be up to a visit.





## Listen Up!

Did you know our monthly Soul Matters themes come with a musical playlist to help us deepen into the messages? Playlists are organized as a journey, so consider listening from beginning to end and using them as a personal musical meditation.

- Click [here](#) for the Spotify playlist on Belonging
- Click [here](#) for the YouTube playlist on Belonging

## Sunday Bookcase

- [Rest Is Resistance: A Manifesto](#), Tricia Hersey
- [Enfleshed: Spiritual Nourishment for Collective Liberation](#)
- [List of Things I Love](#): Andrea Gibson
- [Growing a New Heart](#)
- [We the People Are Videos](#)
- [We the People Are Upcoming Trainings](#)

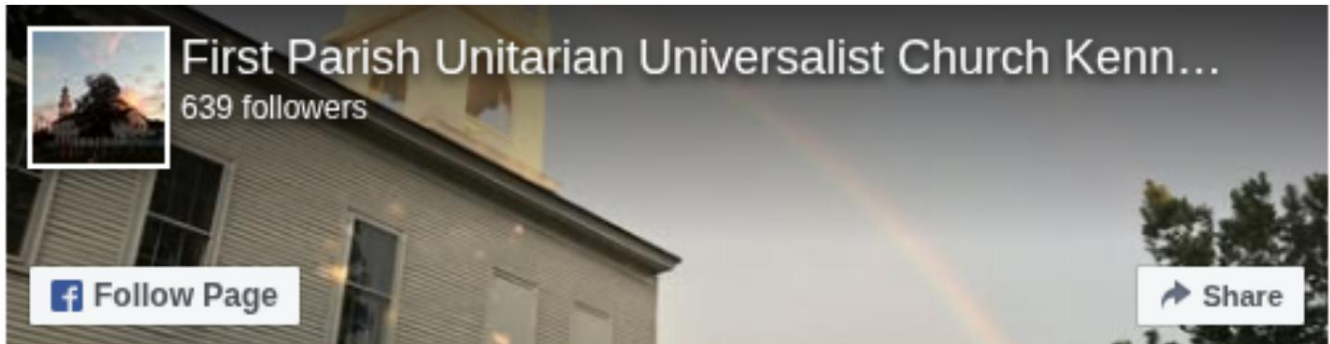


## Minister's Discretionary Fund

The Minister's Discretionary Fund is available to help individuals in our congregation and wider community who are experiencing financial hardship. If you, or someone you know, could benefit from this support, please reach out to Rev. Tori. All requests are handled with care and strict confidentiality. (uukennebunkminister@gmail.com or 978-238-8210).



## Have you “liked” our Facebook page? First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, Kennebunk Maine



- Help spread the word about our events and activities
- Like, Comment, Share!
- Get social via social media with fellow members and friends of the church!
- Let's rally and get to 2K followers!



LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD

# First Parish UU Church Kennebunk

## SEPTEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office CLOSED	2 9-12 Office Open 10:30 a.m. Pastoral Care 5:15 p.m. Sangha 5:30 p.m. Membership	3 9-12 Office Open	4 9-12 Office Open	5 9-12 Office Open 11 a.m. Bob Lown Memorial Service	6 11 a.m. Oliver Payne Memorial Service
7 <b>Water Communion/ Ingathering</b> 10 a.m. Worship Service led Rev. Tori	8 9-12 Office Open  7 p.m. Finance	9 9-12 Office Open 5:15 p.m. Sangha 6:30 p.m. WFAS 6:30 p.m. Men's Open Group	10 9-12 Office Open  6 p.m. Worship Committee	11 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Choir	12 9-12 Office Open  6:30 p.m. Song Swop	13
14 10 a.m. Worship Service led Rev. Tori "The Crowded Table"	15 9-12 Office Open	16 9-12 Office Open 5:15 p.m. Sangha	17 9-12 Office Open	18 9-12 Office Open 3 p.m. FPUU Choir performance at Huntington Com- mons 5:30 p.m. Choir	19 9-12 Office Open	20 4:30 p.m. New Member Potluck
21 10 a.m. Worship Service	22 9-12 Office Open	23 9-12 Office Open 10 a.m. Small Group Ministry 5:15 p.m. Sangha 6:30 p.m. WFAS 6:30 p.m. Men's Open Group	24 9-12 Office Open 10 a.m. RE Team 5:30 p.m. Small Group Ministry 6 p.m. Board of Directors (zoom)	25 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Choir	26 9-12 Office Open	27
28 <b>Shared Ministry</b> 10 a.m. Worship Service led Rev. Tori 11 a.m. Shared Ministry Cafe	29 9-12 Office Open	30 9-12 Office Open				

# First Parish UU Church Kennebunk

## OCTOBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Worship Committee	2 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Choir	3 9-12 Office Open	4
5 10 a.m. Worship Service led Rev. Tori 11 a.m. New to FPUU	6 9-12 Office Open	7 9-12 Office Open 10:30 a.m. Pastoral Care 5:15 p.m. Sangha Group 7 p.m. Properties	8 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Vespers Led by Rev. Tori & Tory Leuterman	9 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Choir	10 9-12 Office Open 6:30 p.m. Song Swap	11
12 10 a.m. Worship Service led Al Adams	13 Office Closed 7 p.m. Finance Committee	14 9-12 Office Open 5:15 p.m. Sangha 5:30 p.m. Family Small Group Ministry 6:30 p.m. WFAS 6:30 p.m. Men's Open	15 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Board of Directors	16 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Choir	17 9-12 Office Open	18
19 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Tori	20 9-12 Office Open	21 22 9-12 Office Open 5:15 p.m. Sangha	22 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Small Group Ministry	23 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Choir	24 9-12 Office Open	25
26 10 a.m. Worship Service led Rev. Tori	27 9-12 Office Open 10 a.m. RE Meeting	28 9-12 Office Open 10 a.m. Small Group Ministry 5:15 p.m. Sangha 6:30 p.m. WFAS 6:30 p.m. Men's Open	29 9-12 Office Open	30 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Choir	31 9-12 Office Open	