



**April 23, 2026**

LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD

*gone are those hugest hours of  
dark and cold when blood and  
flesh to inexistence bow (all that  
was doubtful's certain, timid's  
bold; old's youthful and  
reluctant's eager now)*

from: now winging selves sing, E.E.  
Cummings



## **“Ebb and Flood”**

**Earth Day Service: April 26, 2026, 10 a.m.**

Speaker: Nik Charov, Laudholm Trust, with Social Justice Network

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, 4-5 p.m. Demonstration, Kennebunk
- Tue. April 28, 10 a.m. Small Group Ministry
- Tue. April 28, 6:30 p.m. Women for All Seasons
- Tue. April 28, 6:30 p.m. Men's Open Group
- Wed. April 29, 5:30 p.m. Small Group Ministry
- Thurs. April 30, noon, Online Auction ends
- Sat. April 25 & Sun. April 26, Annual Spring Rummage Sale\*
- Sunday, May 3, 8:30 a.m. Bylaws session, Sanctuary\*

\*see below for more information

## This Sunday: Ebb and Flood

Nik Charov will talk about some of the problems we face today, but in particular, about how he seeks relief from the troubles of the world in nature.

He has spent his entire career in science and the environment. Since 2012, he has served as president of Laudholm Trust, where he oversees development, communications, and marketing for the Wells Reserve at Laudholm, a center for coastal research, education, and conservation, right down the road from here! A husband of one and father of two, Nik currently lives in South Portland. He developed his natural curiosity over many childhood summers exploring the tidepools and backshore of Peaks Island in Casco Bay.

### Also on Sunday

We'll acknowledge the Planeteers, a local group that specializes in native plantings. Two years ago, the group offered to replace two invasive "burning bushes" near the Wayside Pulpit, with native blueberry plants, in honor of our annual Blueberry Festival and New Year's Eve Blueberry Ball Drop. After much discussion among the Social Justice Network, Properties Committee, and the

town's Historic Preservation Commission, with our Board's blessing, they carried out the project on Wednesday. After coffee and blueberry muffins, at about 11:30, we are invited to exit the church through the front doors to view the new plantings.

## Letter from the Minister

I love the photo on the front of this month's newsletter of daffodils. Those vibrant sprays of yellow dotting the landscape feel like harbingers of possibility - pointing to all the growth, change, and opening that's on the way. Every year they feel both familiar and blessedly new.

This month we've been exploring the theme of *Embracing Possibility* through the lens of the possibilities created when we come together. Here, I've been lingering on that word *embracing*. What does it mean to truly embrace possibility?

Possibility carries with it a vulnerable invitation to trust that something emerge even when we can't know what that thing is. And certainly, as we bump up against barrier upon to change and healing in our world, these days, possibility can feel so far away. So, what a bold, audacious act to not just look for or create possibility, but to actively embrace it?!

When I look at those daffodils, though I take heart. Every year they burst forth from the cold, brown ground to the waiting possibility of a new season - not knowing if they'll meet warm sun or last night's frost. They encourage me to wonder how I can be bolder with embracing the blessed newness of change - new ways of growing, experimenting and taking risks, all the while remembering we are held in the familiar arms of those who are traveling the journey alongside us. How are you embracing possibility these days?

With every blessing,  
Rev. Tori

# **Fabulous auction is now open, closes April 30!**

## **Invite your friends!**

This really is the best on-line Auction we have ever had. There are 105 items—less than half are things. There is great food, services, gift certificates, self-care opportunities, events, plants. We opened Sunday April 19 but check in soon, it closes Thursday, April 30. Send this to your friends, family and social media so others can join the fun. Pick up your treasures Sunday, May 3.

Thank you everybody working to make this auction a success! Check the auction out at <https://charityauctions.com/event/auction/1085>  
Thank you everybody for working to help make this auction a success!

## **Spring Rummage Sale this weekend**

### **Lost and Found:**

Have you noticed our lost & found box on the left-rear side of the stage? Check for things you have lost. Remaining things will be put in Rummage Sale.

Friday morning: last chance to bring things for the sale. Please do not put them on the stage. Put them in the parlor, starting in the far corner to the left. Please bring things only in good condition.

Set up slated for Friday, April 24, sale Sat. morning, April 25, wrap-up Sunday morning, April 26. If you are interested in helping, contact Jacky Peters at [jpkrf@roadrunner.com](mailto:jpkrf@roadrunner.com)

# Women for All Seasons

Come celebrate Beltane, and Spring, on Tuesday, April 28! All women are welcome! We will each be making a 'teacup garden'! This gathering of *Women for All Seasons* will meet in the church library, beginning promptly at 6:30 and ending around 8. Traditionally observed on May 1, this Celtic observance honors abundance, fertility, growth and rebirth. Please bring a teacup (ideally with a saucer) that's deep enough to hold a little soil and a very small plant...you may also wish to bring tiny objects (shells, wee pinecones, miniature animals or fairies). Soil and plants will be provided! Important - **RSVP** please to Linda Thompson (in Church Directory). Facilitators will be Linda and Sarah Thompson.



## 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](mailto:uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com)

Click link to find details: [MUUSAN's Weekly Action Points](#)

MUUSAN is the Maine UU State Action Network

## Bylaws Listening Sessions

An ad hoc team was appointed by the Board of Directors to review and update our FPUU Bylaws, and the Board has since approved them. There will be two meetings to present the changes and answer questions:

- Sunday, May 3, 8:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary
- Sunday, May 17, 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor.

A vote on the acceptance of these bylaws will be taken:

- Sunday, May 31, 8:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary at our Annual Meeting.

FPUU members will receive by email:

- The Bylaws as of 2018
- The revised bylaws
- A comparison of the two documents

Tom Veronesi and Linda Thompson, both board members, chaired this team. Team members included: Ruth Stackpole, Bob Wuerthner, Susan Jack, Ted Trainer, and Karen Carey.

## Caring Connections

### Thank You, Nick and Maggie!

Nick and Maggie Bartenhagen have been the coordinators of one of our most important shared ministries, the Caring Connection. As they plan for their next adventures they are ready to pass the baton to someone else. We are so very grateful for the kindness and dependability they have provided in managing the requests for meals and rides.



Please continue to make your requests to Nick and Maggie through Thursday April 30th.

### Welcome, Kim Lord!

Kim Lord is our new coordinator for the Caring Connection. Beginning on Friday May 1st please direct your requests to Kim.

Phone: 207-646-7925 Email: kimlord1@aol.com

Watch for a new brochure in May clarifying the ways that we are able to help with meals and rides.

## Have a service you'd like to offer others?

When I, Lynn DuPont, was on crutches, I paid a fortune to Instacart to deliver groceries and had an endless array of strangers in the house. Perhaps they could have been from our church community and earned a bit of income—a win-win for both of us!

I am planning to put together a Services Directory for our church community. Services could include professional services such as dentistry, counseling, tax preparation, tutoring, etc. We could also offer doing errands, giving rides, babysitting, home healthcare, home maintenance, baking, gardening, etc.—all listed alphabetically. This would be practical, but also community-building!

Please contact me to include your service at nanawood390@gmail.com

Deadline: May 31.



## Blueberry Festival turns 50!

Our annual Blueberry festival/crafts fair is approaching the wind-up season. This is a milestone year, the 50th anniversary!

**We need a Publicity Coordinator** to plan how to get the word out to join in celebrating this great event. Is that you? You and a friend? Not in town July 25 this year? No problem. This role is busy before the fair date.

Get in touch with Alicia Soliman (BF chair, simardvet@yahoo.com), Allegra Highsmith or Karen Badger (Events & Activities Committee).

**VENDORS:** We have a few openings for vendors to participate in our fantastic fair. You can help spread the word. We will have 43 vendor booths this year. If

you know someone who may want to join in, application forms are available from Karen or in the office. Vendor space rental is \$85.

Karen Carey  
Vendor Coordinator

## Church Directory

A new church directory will be sent out after our upcoming New Member Ceremony in early May. If you have any changes to your information, please let Allison know by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## 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](mailto:uuheidi@gmail.com), or simply stop by—no RSVP needed!



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.

# Sunday Bookcase & Links

- *The Art of Gathering*, Priya Parker
- *Saving Paradise, How Christianity Traded Love of This World for Crucifixion and Empire*, Rita Nakashima Brock and Rebecca Parker
- *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



## Listen Up!

You can listen to 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 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](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

**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: Democracy not Theocracy	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	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.