



LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD

Trim and windows
Doors and walls
Can't believe we did it
all!

Now the plan is done After hours and hours. We tried not to sour and Yes, it was fun!

From A Parlor Poem By Linda Thompson



Patrons enjoy coffee hour in the beautiful new parlor space. Photo by Allegra Highsmith

"An Economy of Gratitude"

Worship Service: November 30, 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



First Parish and Community

- Thurs. Nov. 27, Thanksgiving dinner.*
- Wed. Dec. 3, 5:30 p.m. Women's potluck.*
- Sun. Dec. 7, 3 p.m. Giving Up Is Unforgivable, Brunswick UU. Ride with Bernie? *
- Mon. Dec. 8, 8:30 p.m. Unique opportunity to see Robert Reich*

This Sunday in Worship: An Economy of Gratitude

Robin Wall Kimmerer, in her book *The Serviceberry* reminds us that in the natural world, abundance flows through reciprocity—a gift given, a gift received, gratitude moving between all living things. This Sunday we'll reflect on what it means to shape our lives around an economy of gratitude, where generosity, gratitude and relationship become the energy that nurtures community, connection, and mutual care. Rev. Tori leading with Tory Leuteman and music from Barbara Berry, Erik Howell, and Deirdre Drennen.

Our Annual Fall Rummage Sale raised over \$1760! Thank you to all of the volunteers and organizer, Jacky Peters, for helping to make this year's sale a huge success!

^{*}See newsletter for more information

Parlor Magicians?

No, just a fabulous team!

Over six days, 18 church volunteers
painted two to three coats of paint on the
high and low trim, chair rails, windows,



doors, columns, and walls. But first, they



removed furniture, took down portraits and wrapped them for temporary storage, pried up nails, and spackled cracks and dings. Supplies

were ordered and delivered. High ladders and kneeling pads were brought out. Paint brushes and rollers were



activated.

After removing the rugs, they vacuumed, washed, then dried them with an air vac, and washed the floor. They took curtains to the



laundromat for a wash and spin, then hung them up slightly damp so they would hang straight. They vacuumed the furniture, then cleaned and polished it.

Finally, these volunteers re-laid rugs and pads, placed the furniture according to a carefully worked out plan, re-hung portraits, and lit the lamps. The magic was revealed!

Special thanks to Tom Socha, Master Supervisor and jack-of-all trades and Susan Edgerton Griggs, interior designer extraordinaire. Kudos to the rest of the team: Al Adams, Vicki Adams, Paul Beach, Kim Berry, Marty Burgess, Barbara Conner, Patrick Conner, Deirdre Drennan, Kevin Flynn, Ginny Lawrence, Kim Lord, Kathy McGuire, David Reese, Alicia Solomon, Linda Thompson and Kathe Wright.

Family-style Thanksgiving dinner to be roasted and served at First Parish



Please join us for a church community dinner on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 27, 1-5 p.m. We will serve roasted turkey, and participants are asked to bring a side dish or dessert. There is room for 25 or so people. Our Thanksgiving will be warm, delicious and steeped in love!

Please RSVP today by calling Christine or Mary and let us know what you will bring. We would also love to have help setting up and cleaning up. Donations will be accepted to benefit the church.

Christine Burgess: 207-229-3357 Mary Zachary-Lang: 207-423-2927.



Women stir up potluck for the holidays

For No Particular Reason, women will gather for a potluck to begin the holiday season Wednesday, Dec. 3, 5:30 at the home of Susan Egerton Griggs. RSVP s.egerton@egertonmcs.com

Giving Up is Unforgivable

Would you like to attend and drive to this event?

Bernie Reim, still in a wheelchair, would love to go. He has reserved two places.

Gulf of Maine Books invites you to an afternoon with author Joyce Vance, Sunday, December 7, 3 PM, at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Brunswick. Joyce Vance will be featuring her new book "Giving Up is Unforgivable— a manual for keeping a democracy". She will be in conversation with Katie Benner.

Joyce Vance is the author of the "Civil Discourse" substack newsletter, a legal analyst for MSNBC, the former U S Attorney for the northern district of Alabama, and Distinguished Professor of the Practice of Law at the University of Alabama.

Katie Benner is a Pulitzer Prize winning New York Times Journalist.

The event is free. Please reserve a seat with Gulf of Maine Books, by email at gulfofmainebooks@gmail.com, or by phone at 729-5083.

Giving Up is Unforgivable is described as the birth of a countermovement to Project 2025. Ruth Ben-Ghiat calls the book "a guide to how we as individuals and communities can rise to meet the challenge (of our democratic emergency)."

Witness this event in your own home! Robert Reich's Last Class, Mon. Dec. 8, 8:30 p.m.

Cynthia Riley has done all she can to bring this unusual movie of the insightful Robert Reich to a cinema near us, but alas, it was not possible. Now, she has discovered an opportunity for us to watch along and see it!

This watch-along is a one-of-a-kind event! Like old-fashioned TV, you can tune in or you'll miss it. When the event ends, the livestream will no longer be watchable, just like before DVDs and downloads.

It's going to be fun, with live commentary and an after-film Q&A. You can bring popcorn, grab a drink, and enjoy the free showing of the film from the comfort of your own home.

All you need to do is sign up now, and on December 8, the day of the watch-along, we'll send you an exclusive YouTube link to watch.

Click here to RSVP to join us on Monday, December 8 at 8:30 pm ET/ 5:30 pm PT to see The Last Class with us.

"I'm looking forward to sharing this experience with you." Robert Reich, Inequality Media Civic Action

Congregation Safety: Volunteers Needed

Our Board of Directors has decided that our entry door should be locked at 10:15 a.m. during Sunday services to promote church safety. Many congregants who attended our listening sessions on this decision have suggested that someone remain downstairs to greet, unlock and re-lock the door for latecomers. They can watch the service via Zoom. As we continue to refine a plan to keep our church safe and welcoming, the Board is collecting names of congregants willing to do this door monitoring job. Please speak with Allison at the church office to indicate your interest. And thank you!

WHAT'S UP IN DECEMBER

By Bernie Reim

The month of December always marks the beginning of winter for us in the northern hemisphere—this year, 10:03 a.m. Sunday the 21st—the winter solstice, which means "sun stands still".

If you took a picture of the sun from the same location at noon every few days you would see that the final image traces a tilted figure 8 in the sky. That is called the analemma and most of the old-fashioned globes have one on them. The top of this figure 8 marks the highest point of the sun at the summer solstice and the lowest part marks the winter solstice. ... The fall and spring equinoxes occur just below the cross over points. ...

Even though the weather is getting colder and the nights are getting longer and the days keep getting shorter until the 21st, there are still several good highlights to see. ... Saturn is still close to its best for the year and now sets around midnight. Jupiter is still getting a little brighter and closer each evening heading for its opposition on January 10 when it will be at is brightest and

closest for the year, rising at sunset like a full moon. It starts the month rising around 8 p.m. and finishes up the year rising around 6 p.m.

See Bernie's entire article at asnne.org (Astronomical Society of Northern New England)



Where We Meet

Excerpts from sermon by Rev. Tori Rosati, Nov. 16

Most of my first jobs were waiting tables. ... I am reminded of one restaurant in particular that I worked at in college—an old 1950's-style diner with the Naugahyde booths and silver saucer stools at the counters. They had ... creamed chipped beef on toast to buffalo chicken wraps, something for everyone. There was a real community of people who came in every day — all from very different areas of life. ...

The waitstaff ... took care of them, listened to their stories — ... it was real community, and as I look back the closest thing to a faith community I had at that time in my life. ... A shared ministry, if you will, amongst mismatched teaspoons clanking in coffee cups, bread pudding, and warm dinner rolls.

That was over 20 years ago. ... So much of modern life no longer brings us into shared public spaces. ... Physical spaces like that diner are diminishing in our world as for many of us, more and more of life migrates online ... [taking] time that once might have been spent in conversation, in line at the post office, sitting on a park bench, or simply bumping into neighbors. And there has been a social, emotional and spiritual cost to this loss. ...

Researchers actually agree on a solution: ... Gathering places like my diner ... places outside of home, family, and work where people meet one another, and where conversation, community, and belonging can flourish. ... And spaces where our differences can meet in the mutual nurturing of transformative relationship.

I may still long for places in my life like that old 1950s diner, but I've come to understand that this longing is part of what called me into ministry — because faith communities hold the possibility of being one of those places in our world.

Last weekend, this church hosted a community program that some of you attended, called the Just History Walk. The program included work begun by your previous minister (Rev. Lara Campbell) to uncover this church's history with the Black community in Kennebunk — including the installation of segregated pews in our sanctuary in the early 19th century. ...

At one point, I was standing in the Parlor, looking out at the nearly a hundred people gathered together in the Parish Hall — people of different ages, races, life experiences, and backgrounds, all sitting side by side. I was talking with one of the participants, ... and I found myself saying, "Look around this room. ... This moment, this gathering, is hope." ...

[Historically] First Parish ... was literally called the meeting house. So, I want to challenge us ... to be a meeting house. ... Like the flow of a busy restaurant night, ... let us ... lean in to hear the stories longing to be told, welcome the people struggling to be known, care for the lives under threat. Say to those entering the door ... Come even if we've run out of bread pudding and the menu's too long. We have coffee percolating. ... Come and sit down and tell us all the things that are on your heart ... and together we will give thanks for the sacred blessing of community that meets us here.

What Gratitude means from the R.E. Children

Shea:

I Am Grateful For

My family and my friends
They make me laugh all day long
When they say I love you
They're never wrong.

I am grateful for my life That has food, clothes and my home That has my loving family in my home THAT I am really grateful for



Family

Family is the warm arms off all loved
The love of all
The ones you can go to in times of need
The seemingly fearless warriors
The tree of all, spreading it's branches
Able to be forgiving even when it's hard
Teaching their ways of generations to you.

Charlotte:

Family The warmth of the winter,

The breeze in the hearts
The rain in the drought,

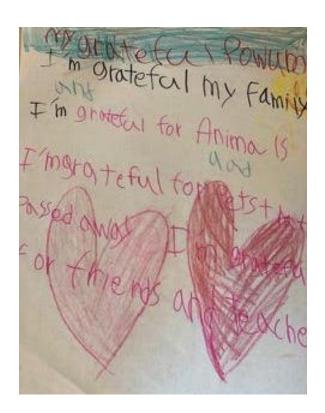
The shelter in the storm, Family

Pets The company you never knew

The unbreakable loyalty

The friend that's always there.

Pets





Fine Art to Feed Needy Local Families

A selection of paintings by local artist, John Forssen will be for sale on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. \$100 each and all proceeds go to COS food bank. Check or cash only. 120 Sea Road, Kennebunk.

Christ Church may soon be transformed

Have you dreamed about a good use for the old Christ Church? Do you know an appropriate developer? Here's an asap opportunity:

The Town of Kennebunk is seeking proposals for the redevelopment of Town property at 6 Dane Street, Christ Church. The Town seeks a qualified developer to submit a proposal to either purchase or lease the property. To be considered, respondents must submit a proposal in accordance with the Request for Proposals (RFP).



Submissions: All prospective respondents are required to register to participate in the process. Please refer to the Town's website:

www.kennebunkmaine.us/bids for details and any additional information which may become available. View detailed RFP at www.kennebunkmaine.us/bids

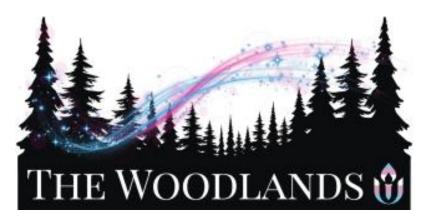
FPUU in UU New England Region News

By Hillary Allen

Well, friends, how goes it? Are we far enough into the church year that you are feeling the volunteer strain? Are you wondering how to balance all you want to do in your congregation with the number of hands to do it? if you find yourselves asking, "who will do all this work?" we joyfully share a way one congregation recently re-centered in giftedness.

In late September, the **First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church of Kennebunk**, **Maine** hosted a "Shared Ministry Café" where over 30 people explored where their joys, skills, and curiosities intersected with the needs of the congregation, and the community beyond. The event's format centered on the question of how they saw the sacred work of shared ministry unfolding, and built off our **Centering in Gifts** framework. The practice of Centering in Gifts invites discerning and calling forth individual gifts to build, heal, and support community. Click here to read the blog entry.

Support for Our Trans Beloveds



In this moment, when Trans lives continue to be targeted and threatened, we hold close the resilience and sacred worth of our trans siblings. As we commemorate Transgender Day of Remembrance, and the Trans lives lost to violence this past year, it is important to find support and

ways to connect. The UUA is offering a new, all-ages online pastoral care program for Trans people, their families, and caregivers. Click the link on the picture to learn more. May we hold in our hearts all Trans lives today and every day and commit ourselves to nurturing a world where all can live in safety, dignity and wholeness.

Hotline for immigrants

If you see ICE or Border Patrol in your neighborhood, please call this Hotline: 207-544-9989. bit.ly/MainelCEWatch is monitoring federal agencies that profile, abduct, and detain members of our community, denying due process and threatening our safety.

You can support a major protest: Align your money and your values November 25 to December 2

A powerful national movement has arisen from widespread frustration and injustice. The movement is rooted in the belief that true power resides with the people, not with corrupt governments, wealthy billionaires, or broken systems. A big business boycott is supported by The Peoples Union and many labor unions.

"We ain't buying it" is another initiative that seeks to leverage collective action to challenge existing systems and promote meaningful change. This Thanksgiving season, it's time to put our money where our values are. For too long, our spending has funded corporate companies and organizations, contributing to the wealth inequality and political situation we are in.

How to Participate:

- Spend carefully: Plan your purchases ahead of time and avoid spending money during this period. Or support local businesses and pay with cash.
- Refrain from using your credit card. These transactions help sustain the system.
- Avoid buying online.
- Avoid or postpone any trip that is not necessary.
- If you dine out, choose local establishments, and pay with cash.

You may want to take this pledge: "I Pledge to: Be a conscious consumer. To support businesses that invest in my community and withdraw my dollars from those that don't. I will spend intentionally, stand in solidarity, and make sure my money reflects my values."

Indivisible, Black Voters Matter

Letters to the Editor

What's on your mind? Write a letter or send a picture to First Parish News! Email the FPUU Office: uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com





The office tape dispenser has run off again! Please return to the main office. If you need supplies, there are duplicates of everything in the supply closet, please refrain from removing supplies from the office desk Thank you!

Is this yours?



If this items belong to you, please call or email the office uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com If it is not claimed, it will be donated, thank you!

We appreciate your help in keeping the office organized.

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 <u>here</u> for the Spotify playlist on Nurturing Gratitude
- Click here for the YouTube playlist on Nurturing Gratitude

Sunday Bookcase & Links



- An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith, Barbara Brown Taylor
- The Art of Living, Thich Nhat Hanh
- The Topography of Tears, Rose-Lynn Fisher
- The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage, Richard Rohr
- <u>Living Beyond Human Scale Podcast</u>, Brené Brown
- <u>Centering in Gifts Practices</u>
- The Healing Wisdom of Africa, Malidoma Somé

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 or 978-238-8210

FPUU News Crew:

Vicki Adams, editor Allegra Highsmith, photo editor Allison Lazos, production Rev. Tori Rosati, advisor

First Parish UU Church Kennebunk

NOVEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10 a.m. Worship Service led Rev. Tori	3 9-12 Office Open	4 ELECTION DAY 9-12 Office Open 10:30 a.m. Pastoral Care 5:15 p.m. Sangha 5:30 p.m. Membership 7 p.m. Properties	5 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Worship Committee	6 9-12 Office Open 5:00p.m. Choir	7 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. NPR Potluck	8 Just History Walk & Dinner 12:30-6 p.m.
9 Blessing of the Animals 10 a.m. Worship Service led Susie Desantis and Tory Leuteman 3 p.m. Just History perfor- mance with Antonio Ro- cha	10 9-12 Office Open 7 p.m. Finance Committee	11 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	12 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Soup Vespers	13 9-12 Office Open 5:00 p.m. Choir	14 9-12 Office Open 6:30 p.m. Song Swop Last day for Food Auction	15 8-11 am Fall Rummage Sale
16 8-10 a.m. Rummage Sale 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Tori & New Member Ceremony 11:30 a.m. What Now? Social Justice group	17 9-12 Office Open	18 9-12 Office Open 5:15 p.m. Sangha	19 9-12 Office Open 6 p.m. Board of Directors	20 9-12 Office Open 5:00 p.m. Choir	21 9-12 Office Open	22 Altar Making with Mary Zachary-Lang & Susie Desantis. Time TBD
23/30 10 a.m. Worship Service led Rev. Tori 23rd: 11:30 a.m. Worship Reflection 2 p.m. Interfaith Worship Service at St. David's, Kennebunk	24 9-12 Office Open 10 a.m. RE Meeting	25 9-12 Office Open 10 a.m. Small Group Min- istry 5:15 p.mn. Sangha 6:30 p.m. WFAS 6:30 p.m. Men's Open Group	26 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Small Group Ministry	27 THANKSGIVING 9-12 Office CLOSED	28 9-12 Office CLOSED	29

First Parish UU Church Kennebunk

DECEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9-12 Office Open	9-12 Office Open 10:30 a.m. Pastoral Care 5:15 p.m. Sangha 7 p.m. Properfies	3 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. NPR Potluck 5:30 p.m. Worship	4 9-12 Office Open 5 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	5	6
7 10 a.m. Worship Service led Rev. Tori	8 9-12 Office Open 7 p.m. Finance Committee	9 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.	10 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Soup Vespers	11 9-12 Office Open 5:00p.m. Choir	12 9-12 Office Open 6:30 p.m. Song Swop	13
14 10 a.m. Worship Service led Merideth Norris	15 9-12 Office Open	16 9-12 Office Open 5:15 p.m. Sangha	17 9-12 Office Open 6 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting	18 9-12 Office Open 5:00 p.m. Choir	19 9-12 Office Open	20
21 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Tori 11:30 a.m. What Now? Social Justice group 5 p.m. Solstice Service	22 9-12 Office Open 10 a.m. Small Group Ministry	23 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.	24 Christmas Eve 9-12 Office Closed 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Service		26 9-12 Office Closed	27
28 10 a.m. Worship Service led Mary Gelfand & Mark Gallup 11:30 a.m. Worship Reflection	29 9-12 Office Open	30 9-12 Office Open 5:15 p.mn. Sangha	31 9-12 Office Open NYE Blueberry Drop 9 p.m. & Midnight			