FIRST PARISH NEWS
UU Church of Kennebunk
LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD

November 12, 2026

"There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter." - Rachel Carson
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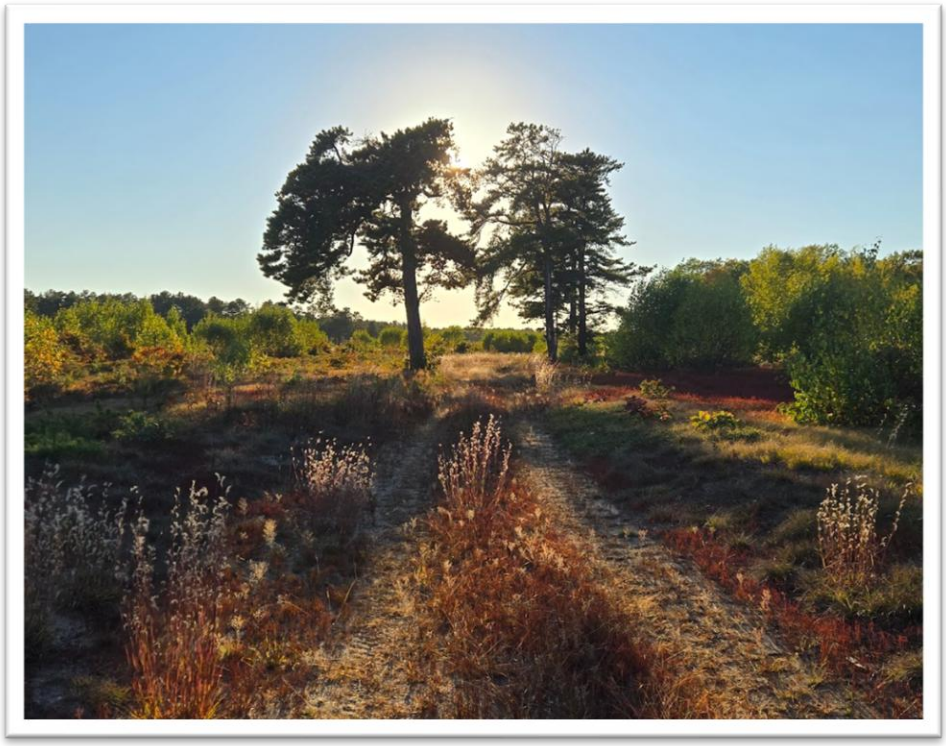


Photo by Allegra Highsmith

"Boundless"
Nov. 15, 2026, 10 a.m.

Worship Leaders: Rev. Tori Rosati and Tallin Banerjee
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



- Friday, Nov. 13, by 10 a.m. Drop off items for Rummage Sale
- Sat. Nov. 14, 8-11 a.m. Sun. 8-10 a.m. Rummage Sale*
- Sun. Nov. 15, 8-10 a.m. Rummage Sale concludes
- Sun. Nov. 15, 11:30 a.m. Leadership Council and lunch*
- Wed. Nov. 18, 6 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting
- Sun. Nov. 29, 11:30 p.m. Worship Reflection

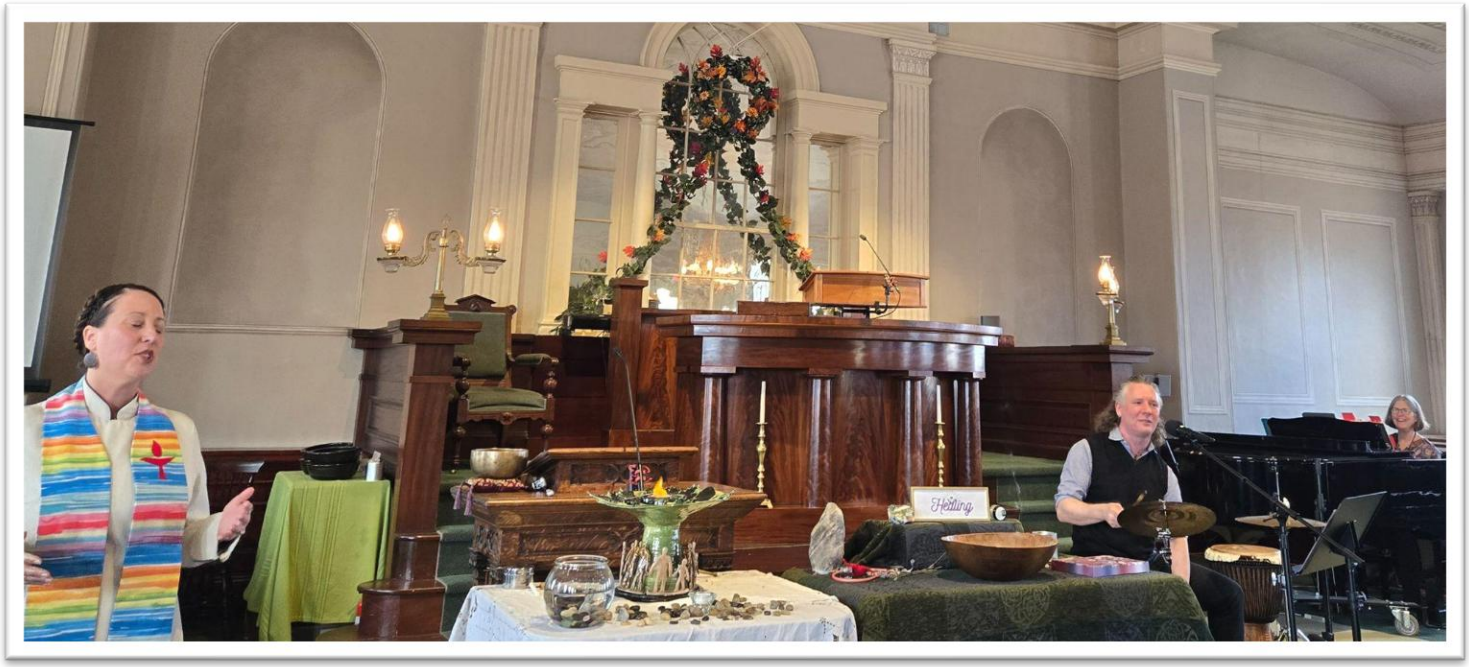
* See below for more information

November Theme: Healing

As we explore our theme this month, you are welcome to bring in items each Sunday that represent healing for you and place them on our communal altar in the sanctuary. In this way, we will experience the healing power of drawing together what is sacred for each of us into a collective whole.

This Sunday: Boundless

Bengali poet, writer, and composer Rabindranath Tagore asked, "Why confine yourself within? Why remain absorbed in self? Look around with an open mind...fill your empty life with love." One of the ways we do this is through the connections created when we step outside the borders and bounds we place on love, community, and divinity itself. Join Rev. Tori and friend to FPUU and Indian classical (Hindustani) vocalist, Tallin Banerjee as they explore how music and cross-cultural sharing create spaces for healing and a deeper connection to the world around us and each other. Rev. Tori and Tallin leading with Rochelle Irene and music from Ginny Lawrence.





The Sanctuary erupted in song on Sunday in a service led by Matt Meyers and lifted up by Infinitely Whole! Rev Tori and the whole congregation. Photos by Allegra Highsmith

Religious Exploration

Growing Together



November's Soul Matters theme is **Healing**, and we're exploring how kindness, compassion, and connection help us care for ourselves and one another.

Last week in RE, we scattered leaves from our Samhain altar, gathered fresh autumn leaves, and created leaf rubbings to decorate cards and our monthly theme sign.

A Little November Inspiration!

November 13 — World Kindness Day! This week's family theme is *Kindness*, connected to our UU value of Transformation. Celebrate with a small act of kindness, or paint a kindness rock with an encouraging message for someone to discover!

Looking Ahead: On Sunday, November 15, we'll continue exploring healing as we turn our attention to **Inclusion** and the importance of making room for everyone to belong.

R.E .at Home: Watch for our new monthly family connection email, *Lighting the Way Forward*, featuring conversation starters, creative activities, and recommended books to help explore our UU values together at home.

Questions or ideas? Reach out at uukennebunkdre@gmail.com

Sunday School Teachers with DRE Rochelle

Our Leaders will meet to further our mission

A new Leadership Council will meet over lunch on Sunday, November 15 at 11:30 a.m. at the church –location to be announced. This Council was recently formed to invigorate collaboration between our Board of Directors and all who are helping to lead the various ministries of the church. The meeting has been called by Dave Terricciano, one of our newer members and Vice-Chair of the Board.

The Leadership Council may advise the Board, and we will share thoughts on how we can best work together to further the mission of FPUU. I hope that this sharing of ideas will connect us, Dave says, and promote communication across the teams. It's important that each team be represented by the chair or an alternate. A budget update by each team will be provided and I welcome your feedback.

This is a social occasion too! Lunch and refreshments will be provided for us to enjoy. I am excited to launch a revitalized Leadership Council in partnership with the Board.

Best Regards to all, Dave



Stewardship update

The Stewardship Team expresses our heartfelt gratitude for everyone who has made their annual pledge for 2027 as we unite together to Create the Future With Love. We are so optimistic that we will achieve our goal as pledges continue to flow in. Continue to keep an eye on our growing rainbow as our children and RE Team make updates!

For ongoing pledges, bring your pledge card to church, mail it in, or go to our website here: https://www.uukennebunk.org/give and click on the link to make your 2027 pledge.



Please Note: The Giving Guide that came with your pledge cards is not meant to be returned. It is for individual use only and is meant to be a helpful supplement to the pledge process.

Stewardship Team: Allegra Highsmith, David Terricciano, Heidi Parmenter, Wayne White, and Rev. Tori Rosati

Social Justice Action



Photo taken at Rachel Carson NWR by Vicki Adams

"I looked up the road I was going and back the way I come, and since I wasn't satisfied, I decided to step off the road and cut me a new path."

Maya Angelou quoting Annie Johnson of Arkansas, 1903

What Now?

The What Now? discussion group met after the service last Sunday, sharing a sense of accomplishment about the mid-term election: a huge voter turnout and a willingness by the voters to make change, to "cut … a new path." But we acknowledged that the work toward a better future is just beginning and that we are part of a ecosystem of change where we each play our unique part.

Martin Luther King Day celebration 25 years strong!

Several of us are meeting to begin plans for our Martin Luther King 25th Annual celebration in January. We have chosen a live, moving drama about a slave ship, by story-teller and mime Antonio Rocha with cello accompaniment. This program follows up on last autumn's WHERE Walk, a day-long history walk to uncover the local stories of our Black and Indigenous ancestors that culminated at First Parish. If you would like to help with this program, we need you. It will take many people from ushers to bakers to carry it out. We are hoping for the biggest turnout yet! Get in touch with Rev. Tori or Vicki Adams if you are interested.

Social Justice Advocacy and Resources

For information click here.

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

FPUU author chosen by Maine Public Radio

Peter D. Brown's book, *I Am Jayvyn*, is this month's choice for Maine Public radio's All Books Considered. Peter will be interviewed by the book club host Bill Nemitz, released Tues. Nov. 17, at 5 p.m. You can hear the discussion on the Maine Public You Tube channel. His book is available in our First Parish library.

Peter, a member of the church, writes historical fiction with a deep commitment to historical accuracy while aiming to illuminate stories of the oppressed or misunderstood. He challenges his readers to confront uncomfortable truths and engage with the complexities of the human experience.

Retired now, Peter lives in Kennebunk with his wife, Joyce, and two dogs. He enjoys Maine's ample quietude and peace to gain inspiration, sort out his thoughts, and bring them to life.

Through his work, Peter hopes to promote thoughtful conversations about the enduring impact of history on contemporary society.

Rummaging around

We need help sorting out donations on Friday, and especially clearing out all the unsold items on Sunday morning. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jacky Peters: jpkrf@roadrunner.com

Thoughtful parking

Please park in the lower parking lot if you can. The places closer to the church are needed by those who are less able and families with small children.

Letters

Good morning,
Happy election day!

This is just to let you know that Nick and I moved from Kennebunk this summer and are now living in Ashland, Mass., to be closer to our adult children. We certainly miss seeing everyone at First Parish and do miss Kennebunk as well. We are in a condo with an HOA (a very new experience for us!) ~ but it appears to be a supportive community and once we're fully settled, we're hoping it will prove to be a good fit.
Our new physical address is: Bartenhagen, 15 Braeburn Lane, Ashland, Massachusetts 01721.
Our email address remains the same.
We often do think fondly of our ten years with you all, though a fondness tinged and twinged by a wistful nostalgia. Many of the condo folk here were drawn from their prior locale by the dual reality of encroaching time and diminishing

vigor and the appeals for proximity from worried progeny. Ashland is roughly a half hour drive from each — Jessica to the east and Erik to the west.

We are attracted to a U.U. First Parish "Area" Church in Sherborn, whose minister attracts congregants in from 5-6 surrounding towns. But such has been our unrelenting, woeful toil of moving in that we haven't yet attended a service there. But mirabile dictu… there's a Senior Men's Group that meets in the library once a month. 🤗

Our fond best wishes to everyone at First Parish, Maggie & Nick Bartenhagen

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.

Community

Enjoy a super supper



A super supper is happening at the New School on Saturday, Nov. 14 from 5:30 to 7:30. This is a fundraiser for student programs and for COS, the local food pantry. There will be soups, breads and desserts from local restaurants and bakeries who donate their yummy food. Live music will entertain diners as well as a student sponsored silent auction.

The New School students have made beautiful pottery bowls which you can purchase. The cost is $20 for the all-you -can-eat dinner and $20 for a student-made bowl. Free bowls are available too.
If you want to reserve a space here is the link:
https://thenewschoolmaine.org/hope



This Weekend! Drop off donations by **10 a.m. Friday**



SONGS IN RAGAS

BY TALLIN BANERJEE

A Live Music Concert

SUGGESTED DONATION $10-20

SUPPORTS FUTURE CONCERTS



November 20
2026
6:30 p.m.

TOWN HOUSE SCHOOL
135 North St.,
Kennebunkport.

tallin_music

@talquetal

THANKSGIVING
Service

CO-SPONSORED BY

Church on the Cape
First Church of Christ, Scientist
First Congregational Church
First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
St. David's Episcopal Church
South Congregationalist Church UCC

Sunday, November 22

2:00pm

Donations to benefit Caring Community Cuisine

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Corner of Lord and Storer Streets
Kennebunk

Sunday Bookcase & Links



- WHERE Walk for Historical and Ecological Recovery in Kennebunk
- *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in with Unexpected Resilience and Creative Power*, Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone
- What They Dreamed Be Ours to Do: Lessons from the History of the Covenant, Rebecca Parker

Classified Notices



Sunday Childcare Support: http://uukennebunk.org/sunday-childcare-support

FOR SALE: U.S. Mint (Denver & Philadelphia) Uncirculated Coin Sets, along with several San Francisco Mint Proof Sets.

I am offering varied sets of coins, $5 each for uncirculated sets and $10 for approved sets with all proceeds to go to the November "Share the Offering" Sunday plate. These sets were originally purchased between 1972 and 1998, directly from the Treasury Dept. Historically these sets are usually purchased by collectors or simply as a long-term investment, while just as often recognizing a special year, event, birth, graduation, or anniversary. All coins are in mint uncirculated condition, while the Proof Sets are double pressed producing a true mirror-like reflection for the penny through the dollar.
Please contact Jim Thompson.

Submit items, services for sale

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.

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 November Spotify playlist on ***Healing***
- Click here for the November YouTube playlist on ***Healing***

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
Susie Desantis, substitute production
Rev. Tori Rosati

First Parish UU Church

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10 am Worship Service led by Rev. Tori 11am. Stewardship Luncheon	2 9am-12pm Office open	3 9am-12pm Office open 5:15pm Sangha 7pm Properties Team	4 9am-12pm Office open 5:30pm Vespers 5:30pm Worship Team	5 9am-12pm Office open 4pm Choir Rehearsal	6 9am-12pm Office open	7
8 10 am Worship Service led by Matt Meyer 11am Coffee Hour 11:30am What Now?	9 9am-12pm Office open 7 pm Finance Team	10 9am-12pm Office open 10 am Pastoral Care 5:15pm Sangha 5:30pm Family Small Group Ministry 6:30pm WFAS/MOG	11 9am-12pm Office open	12 9am-12pm Office open 4pm Choir Rehearsal	13 9am-12pm Office open	14 8-11am Rummage Sale
15 8-10am Rummage Sale 10 am Worship Service led by Rev. Tori & Tallin Banerjee 11am. Coffee Hour 11:30am Leadership Council	16 9am-12pm Office open	17 9am-12pm Office open 5:15pm Sangha	18 9am-12pm Office open 6pm Board of Directors Meeting	19 9am-12pm Office open 4pm Choir Rehearsal	20 9am-12pm Office open	21
22 10 am Worship Service led by Rev. Tori 11am. Coffee Hour 2pm Community Thanksgiving Service at Holy Cross Lutheran	23 9am-12pm Office open 5:30pm Membership Team	24 9am-12pm Office open 10:30am Soul Matters Small Group 5:15pm Sangha 6:30pm WFAS/MOG	25 9am-12pm Office open 5:30am Soul Matters Small Group	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28
29 10 am Worship Service led by Rev. Tori 11am. Coffee Hour 11:30am Worship Reflection	30					