



LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD

June 13, 2024

*This morning the green fists
of the peonies are getting
ready
to break my heart
as the sun rises
as the sun strokes them
with his old,
buttery fingers
and they open—
pools of lace,
white and pink—*

Mary Oliver



Photo by Al Adams

Where You Go

Worship Service June 16, 2024, 10 a.m.

Worship Leader: Rev. Tori Rosati

Religious Exploration welcomes children ages 4-13.

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

E V E N T S

- Fri. June 14th, 6:30 p.m. Song Swop (note new time)
- Sun. June 16, 11:10 a.m., Blueberry Fair Planning Meeting
- Wed. June 26, 7 p.m. FPUU Concert with flute and piano

This Sunday, Where You Go

In these warmer days of coming and going, whether it be to the backyard garden or beach, or taking longer excursions by land, water, or sky, these journeys offer us the invitation to slow down and be more soulful. Join us Sunday to explore the spiritual practice of pilgrimage and how we might bring a sense of purpose, community, and transformation to all our journeys - big and small.

Beginning next week...



Final Spring issue of FP News next week

FPUU Newsletter deadline: **Mon. June 17, 10 a.m.**



The final Spring issue of FPUU News will appear next week, June 20. Please send in articles, summer events, pictures, etc. to Vicki by **Monday**, not Tuesday, at 10 a.m. vickigatesadams@gmail.com Allison is starting her summer hours Tuesday and will need the draft early.

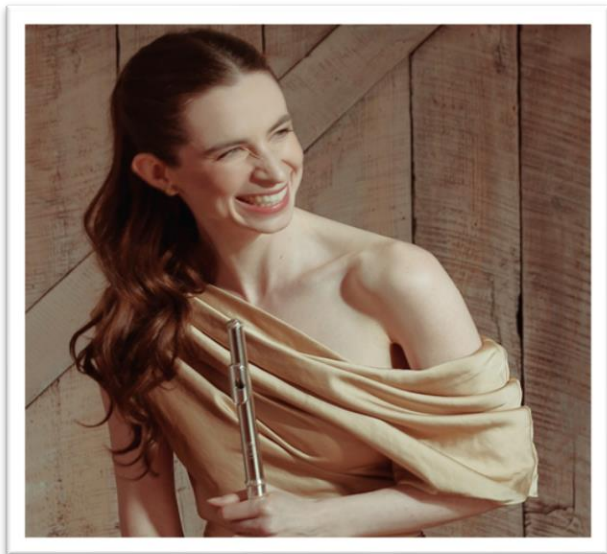
Allison Lazos, Graphics/layout, and Vicki Adams, Editor



SongSwopers are meeting this Friday June 14 at 6:30 p.m. (please note the new time) in person and online. Acoustic Instruments, poetry, songs—all are Welcome. Please join us, you'll be glad you did!

Contact; Bruce Childress, Jaylene Summers or Rich Gaito.

Our next concert is Wednesday, June 26

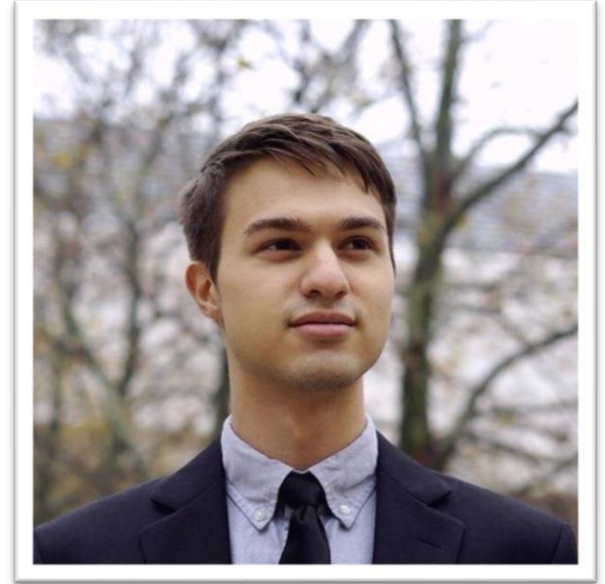


Flutist Emi Ferguson and pianist Chris Staknys will bring us another stellar concert featuring the music of Bach, Burleigh, Gershwin, and original works by both performers. The concert will take place on Wednesday, June 26th at 7 p.m. A \$25 donation is requested at the door.

A 2023 recipient of the Avery Fisher Career Grant, Ferguson can be heard live in concerts and festivals with groups including the Handel and Haydn Society, and as the music director of Camerata Pacifica Baroque. Her recordings have

been called "blindingly impressive ... a fizzing, daring display of personality and imagination" by *The New York Times*. Emi has spoken and performed at TEDx events and has been featured on the Discovery Channel, Amazon Prime, WQXR, and Vox talking about how music relates to our world today. Born in Japan and raised in London and Boston, she now resides in New York City.

Staknys, our music director, graduated from The Juilliard School with a degree in solo piano performance. Allan Kozinn, former music critic for the New York Times, praised his playing for its "dexterity and dramatic phrase shaping". He has performed in venues such as Carnegie Hall and Alice Tully Hall and has appeared on NPR's From The Top radio show. Christopher currently serves as Music Director of First Parish UU Church in Kennebunk and teaches piano at 317 Main Street.



A member could use your support

Please join us in keeping **Merideth Norris** and her family in our thoughts and in care. Her trial began on June 10 and may run through June 20. If you would like to support the family, please reach out to Jacky Peters who they have asked to be a point person for communication and coordinating support. Several members of First Parish have been attending the trial in Portland. You may want to join them. jpkrf@roadrunner.com



Learn the Flowers

Excerpts from Rev. Tori Rosati's sermon
June 9

... this practice of learning from the flowers and other parts of nature – it's called – biomimicry. Simply put, biomimicry is a practice of learning from and then emulating nature's forms, processes, and ecosystem to help us solve problems and create more sustainable innovation and design. So, for example – did you know that Velcro was invented by a Swiss engineer who took inspiration from burrs, the

seedpods of the burdock plant that gets stuck to your clothes, for his prototype? Or how scientists have studied the lotus flower leaf and the miraculous way it repels water to design surfaces that resist rust and corrosion.

... writer and activist adrienne maree brown who we've heard from a number of times this year uses biomimicry to gain inspiration for how we design social justice movements. "Dandelions" she writes, "contain an entire community in each spore that gets blown on a child's breath." For brown, dandelions teach us about how to be prolific in our social justice work – just one seed can create an entire movement, or how to be resilient – dandelions' intricate underground networks of roots protect them against change and adversity – all features we can bring to our work for change.

Our world's religions engage in biomimicry as well. Flowers have been the basis for many of our wisdom teachings. Jesus reminding us to slow down and trust us to "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." ...

And of course, today on this day when we celebrate the Flower Ceremony we can look to our own history as Unitarian Universalists for what these delicate, unassuming, yet powerful purveyors of commitment, resistance and hope have to say to us in these days of rising hills and statistics of warming temperatures and sea levels – beset by the slopes of violence and war – a world no so unlike that of early 20th century Czechoslovakia and a minister [Capek] recognizing the need to gather his people more closely together, to remind them that in diversity there is strength, and that beauty is a form of resistance. Capek would continue his flower ceremony throughout WWII

against the backdrop of unspeakable challenge. In these ways, flowers didn't just teach about idle beauty – but modeled for him, his people, and us today, dissent– a testament to the fact that beauty and love were stronger than oppression and violence.

... And when we are met with those steep hills, lost in our valleys, navigating the slopes of our challenges, let us

remember that together we have a gentle fierceness, a collective faith and knowing that beyond all that divides and separates, there is a oneness, a unity - there is a pasture, a single silent lotus flower, a field of lilies, a place where we live lovingly together, and we can surely meet there in peace when we make it.



Photo by Al Adams

Congregational Meeting ends with a chuckle

Moderator Al Adams polished off his fifth and last year as moderator with a story.

"I would like for the next moderator to take up with the Board a problem we've had in the building for the 50 years I've been attending. The problem is mice. We have tried everything. We have tried traps. One minister brought in a couple of alley cats. Hervé, a couple of years ago, even brought in a weasel. Nothing has worked. I decided to call the UUA about it. They mentioned that churches all over have had the same problem. But a solution has been found. That is: to make the mice members of the church. That way, the only time you're likely to see them is at Christmas or maybe Easter."

All items passed unanimously. See the Annual Report, sent to you by email and available in hard copy, perhaps nibbled a bit, at the church.

FPUU Board of Directors Minutes

Wednesday May 15, 2024, 6pm-8pm

- Present: Rev Tori Rosati, Merideth Norris, Kim Lord, Cynthia Howard,
- Ted Trainer, Chris Wells, Ginny Lawrence.
- The board meeting convened at 6:00 with a reading by Rev Tori.
- The minutes of the April Board Meeting were approved.

Business:

1. Kim urged that a summary of the Board minutes continues to be posted in the UU newsletter.
2. Properties Update: Ted describes the dedicated work of the properties team as well as the engagement of a professional to sign off on their work. Cynthia told of a large screen purchased some time ago that may be sold.
3. Finance update from Chris notes pledging is going well with helpful support from Jim Thompson. The current pledge income is \$111,000 with the goal being \$120,000. Ted shared some history of successful stewardship strategies. It is noted that some members have been held on the roster for 3 years even though they have not pledged.
4. Fundraisers – no fundraisers were held in April.
5. The Ministerial Report was well received and reinforced by Rev Tori. Ted suggested considering some strategy to inform the congregation of the many tasks addressed by the Board.
6. Administrator's Report has been received and appreciated.
7. The Music Director's Report has been received and appreciated.
8. Building access and weather shelter - Merideth continues outreach and co-ordination with area groups to help the unhoused population. She has met with Rachel Schlein to explore protocols and training options.

9. Mindful Communication to promote inclusivity during the service. More attention to large print order of service availability. Chris is exploring what technology is available for congregants with hearing challenges.

10. Discernment Circles: Rev Tori introduced a practice tool for us to use as a congregation to improve communication and support decision-making in a time of transition. Circle processes allow for people to share their perspectives with others bearing witness as a valuable experience to build respect, community, and openness to new, fresh ideas. She tells that the UUA has informational resources for this approach. Rev Tori is open to introducing this approach in various areas of the church for others to learn and deepen our shared ministry.

11. Congregational Connections Team - The Board voted to disband the CCT - a task force of the Board - as agreed in May 2023. The effective end date will be June 9, 2024. The Board thanks the CCT for all their hard work over the past year.

12. Transition Team Report - Chris has written and sent a preliminary letter describing the work of the Transition Team that is comprised of the individuals who composed the Search Committee for our minister. He had asked for feedback from the Board who did fully approve of the letter he has written. The Transition Team, authorized by the Board, will continue to support our new minister. He will be sending a final version of the letter to all members of the congregation.

13. Personnel Committee - Rev Tori reports a desire from the personnel committee for more guidance and role clarity. Some current members have been in position for many years -originally appointed by the Board. A three-point motion is proposed by Chris to 1. leave current committee members Joan Wuerthner and Jim Thompson in place through to the annual meeting of 2025 at which time one of them will cycle off. 2. Chris proposes that a third member be added to the committee immediately. 3.the committee is asked to revise their job description by the annual 2025 meeting. The motion was fully approved.

14. Boprogram:son updates: Religious Education is instituting monthly themes in their program; Music—Ginny shares that Chris Staknys will continue as Music/Choir director in the coming year; She says that significant organ repair will not be commenced until at least summer of 2027. Social Justice—Cynthia tells of a planned brunch to celebrate their successes. Finance— Chris moves that an account be opened with FW Webb plumbing supply to support the boiler project that is seconded and passed. Chris notes long standing Quickbooks is

being phased out - will export all old detail into a new system; Use of 501-3c continues to be worked on. No reports concerning the membership and worship committees were made at this time.

15. Sharing Our Appreciation will be sent to the properties committee c/o Barbara Conner. Also, to Marylyn Wentworth for her dedicated auction fund raising work.

16. Meeting is adjourned at 8 pm with words by Rev Tori.

Respectfully submitted, Ginny Lawrence, Clerk

Bring your ideas and expertise



Blueberry Festival and Craft Fair planning

This Festival is a great fundraiser for FPUU and it's a lot of fun to be part of the team that makes it happen. Mark your calendar for the first Planning Team meeting right after Sunday Service, June 16 from 11:10-11:30. We especially need new folks who want to learn how to take on a role in this great event. If you want to volunteer but cannot come on the 16th, email marylyn.wentworth@tnsk.org

1. **Fair coordinator:** Marylyn W. (call meetings and follow up)
2. **Vendor coordinator:** Tom V., (sign up and stay in touch with vendors)
3. **Blueberry baked goods coordination:** Alicia S., (plan for baking and selling)
4. **Supplies:** Jim T., (make sure we have adequate supplies)
5. **Set-up coordination:** Herve, Kevin, Tom, (lay out and set-up festival space.
6. **Music:** Ginny, Bruce (arrange for musicians and sound)
7. **Special Sales:** Several individuals (head up Vegan Wraps, Hotdogs, Crab Rolls, Jewelry, FPUU Craft booth)
8. **Advertising:** Vicki, Herve, Jacky, Kathe and Andrea, (flyers, banner, press releases, social media, posters, flyers, street signs)



9. **Money:** Ruth S & Barbara B., (keep track of money)

10. **Fair Day:** runners/floaters who help cashiers, oversee trash/recycling/compost, coffee maker, water, set up, clean up, cafe, salespeople

COME TO THE MEETING ON SUNDAY, JUNE 16, or let Marylyn know by emailing her at: marylyn.wentworth@tnsk.org if you will be an assistant for any of these jobs, or the day-of jobs.

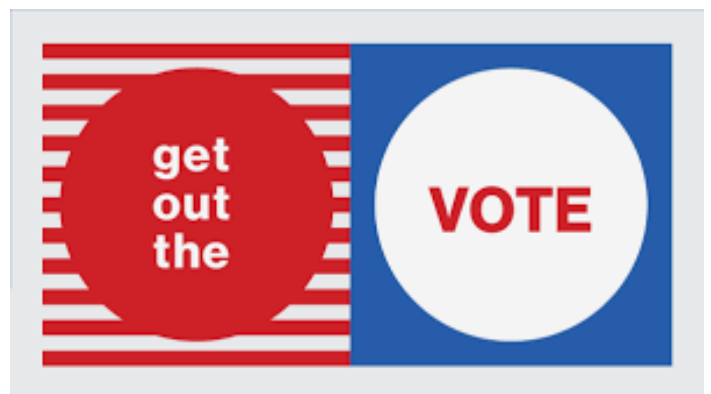


One and all: Our Jewelry Table is a top fundraiser! Please donate your excess jewelry. Bracelets, rings, necklaces, even loose beads are welcome. Please label "For Blueberry Fair" and put in the bag in the back office of the church 9-12 Tues. and Thurs. or bring to church on Sunday.

Many thanks! Linda Thompson,
Treasure Chest Coordinator

Help to get out the vote in November

If you would like to write postcards to help get out the vote in November, please write or call Vicki Adams, of our Social Justice Network, for cards and addresses. She is writing to voters of a swing state, Wisconsin, to encourage them to vote — but not to suggest whom they should vote for. This requires donating post card stamps for your cards.





Sunday Morning Bookcase

- On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unpologetic World, Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg
- Native plants: Shawn Jalbert: www.nativehaunts.com
- All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis, edited by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Katharine K. Wilkinson
- Saving Paradise: How Christianity Traded Love of this World for Crucifixion and Empire, Rebecca Ann Parker and Rita Nakashima Brock
- Podcast: How to Citizen, Baratunde Thurston

Letters

On May 16, Our Transition Team wrote an important letter to the congregation. In case you missed it, we are repeating excerpts below.



Dear First Parish Members and Friends,

As you know, Rev. Tori Rosati came on board with us in December, but the work is only just beginning.

What is the Transition Team?

The Transition Team is a group of people who served as the Ministerial Search Team and are now working with Rev. Tori to shape and steer the vision of our congregation into a workable action plan, with concrete steps that will carry us toward a vision of shared ministry.

This congregation [advised by the UUA] decided last spring, due to our size and needs, to pursue a contract ministry position, rather than an [interim or settled position]. ... Instead, we were looking at the next 1-3 years as “transitional.” ... So, while not formally in an interim period, many of the same recommendations are guiding us in this transitional time.

Why a Transition Team?

... The Transition Team is made up of knowledgeable, engaged [and diverse] congregants who can bring a fresh perspective to the ministry of the church. This Team works closely with the transitional minister to support, guide,

and strategize on how to best support the transitional tasks and needs of the congregation. ...

What are we doing?

Our journey has been one itself of transition. Our initial job was simply to help Tori onboard! Because we have had our fingers on the pulse of this community for the last year, we have been able to pass on necessary information to Tori as she began to establish relationships with you all individually. ...



Photo by Vicki Adams

Now that the Transition Team and Tori are feeling more established, we are ready to start putting our efforts towards the real work of Transition. At this critical juncture, we wanted to make sure to reintroduce ourselves and be transparent about what is happening.

We are drawing from three primary sources to unify around a shared ministry vision for the next 1-3 years. ... These sources include:

1. The 2022 “Light the Way Forward Retreat” summary done by the former Committee on Ministry (COM);
2. The questionnaire sent out by the Transition Team during the hiring process;
3. The feedback and input from the all-church retreat and facilitated group discussion put on by the Congregational Connections Team (former COM) last fall.

These documents have been instrumental in offering guidance and perspective as we work with Rev. Tori [and the Board] to focus on what you all have lifted up as important aspects of this faith community. ...

While the exact tasks are ever evolving, the five main areas of focus in which we are working to develop our Shared Ministry are:

1. Worship
2. Religious Education
3. Pastoral Care
4. Membership
5. Communication

This last one is a good umbrella for all of the others, as it gets at how we facilitate communication among and between our various committees and

groups. ... We have been meeting with Rev. Tori every two weeks since she came on board.

How can you be part of the work?

Our work is dependent on each of you! It is such an exciting time to be part of this community — one that invites risk-taking, experimentation, and creativity. Every area of church life from Membership to Worship is exploring these transitional questions, and your participation in the work of the church is instrumental in shaping our future. We encourage you to reach out to any of us with thoughts, feedback, concerns and also (maybe most importantly) encourage you to offer your own gifts and time where you feel called to help us co-create the shared ministry and beloved community, we are nurturing at FPUU.

Regards, The Transition Team

Chris Wells: christopher.j.wells@gmail.com

Andrea Rohde: andrea.rohde49@gmail.com

Paul Beach: plbeach52@gmail.com

Lisa Slaughter: lisaaslaughter@gmail.com

Dear Transition Team,

Thank you for your message. I was kind of wondering what happened to you guys. It's good to know you are still on the case, supporting Rev. Tori during this time and collaborating with the Board of Directors, providing leadership as we move forward. I know I can speak for the Worship Committee when I say, we are excited by the possibilities of working with our beloved community to create a more meaningful and welcoming worship and experience for all. Onward!

In faith,

Tory Leuteman

Send us a letter: First Parish News, at uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com. We invite you to express your ideas and suggestions for how our church can be even more welcoming, exciting, helpful, spiritual, activist, you name it! Or they may be letters the church has received, such as those thanking us for a "Share the Plate" donation.



South Congregational Church in Kennebunkport has invited our church community on June 15 from 1-3 for a luncheon with Gabby Giffords. South Congregational has done a lot of advocating for Gun Safety, so the event is a celebration, encouragement and fundraiser. They'd be happy to have you join, either by letting the minister know(revsusan.scc@gmail.com), or if you'd like to make a donation, use this link to sign up:

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/615reception>

GIFFORDS
COURAGE TO FIGHT GUN VIOLENCE

The lunch will be at Community House 8 Temple Street, right across from the Kport post office, next to the church. Allow a little extra time to find parking.

You can help our New Neighbors

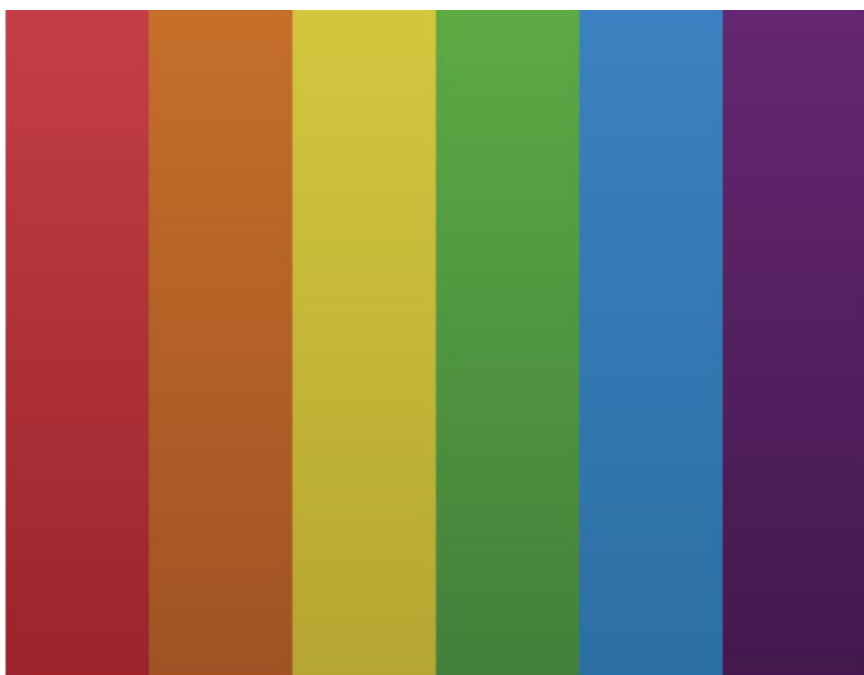
Welcoming Immigrants Our New Neighbors (WIONN) is running low on the following items. If you have any surplus at your house and want to donate, bring items to the Parish Hall and put them in the WIONN container. If you have furniture, email marylyn.wentworth@tnsk.org to make arrangements for pickup.

Items needed:

- pillows
- mattress protectors, all sizes
- twin (including extra-long) and full sheet sets
- bath towels, hand towels, dish towels, and face clothes
- mattresses, all sizes

- tool kits (basic things like hammer, screw drivers, pliers, measuring tape, putty knife, utility knife, etc. preferably in a carrying container)
- cutting boards
- frying pans, all sizes, especially large
- larger saucepans and large stock pots
- dining sets (we have 1 large table, few chairs)
- microwave (prefer smaller size)
- blender, food processor (several requests)
- small trash containers (bathroom, bedroom size)
- inflatable mattresses to hold people until mattresses turn up

PRIDE event this Saturday



JUNE 13
2024
6:00PM

Pride & Prejudice 2.0

Diversity, Visibility and Progress

Why do we celebrate Pride? Explore its history and meaning in this lecture. Free admission.
Find out more & RSVP on brickstoremuseum.org/calendar



117 Main Street, Kennebunk
www.brickstoremuseum.org
(207)985-4802

Creative Sunday Worship opportunity

The Worship Committee is happy to announce the opening for a lay service on Sept.1st. Anyone who is interested please contact Tory Leuteman or Ted Trainer. We would love to talk with you about your ideas and how we can support you.



Tori's office hours are mostly Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the church. Due to other obligations her schedule may change. Please email the office to set a time if you wish to speak with her.

One of the important duties of a minister is pastoral care for those in need. Our minister, Tori Rosati, is available to any congregant in need. Tori can best be reached at uukennebunkminister@gmail.com. For pastoral emergencies, please use Tori's cell: (978) 238-8210.

FPUU Staff/Leadership and Committee Contacts

FPUU STAFF/LEADERSHIP	
MINISTER:	Tori Rosati..... uukennebunkminister@gmail.com
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:	Allison Lazos..... uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com
BOOKKEEPER:	Barbara Boscia..... uukennebunkbookkeeper@gmail.com
MUSIC DIRECTOR:	Christopher Staknys..... uukennebunkmusic@gmail.com
BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 2022 – 2024 program year	
CHAIR:	
CO-CHAIR:	
CLERK:	Molly Hoadley (2024-2025) mollyhoadley@gmail.com
TREASURER:	Chris Wells (2024-2025)..... christopher.j.wells@gmail.com
DIRECTOR:	Ted Trainer (2023-2026)..... tedtrainer40@gmail.com
DIRECTOR:	Cynthia Howard (2023 - 2026) cynthiahoward@alum.mit.edu
DIRECTOR:	Tom Veronesi (2024-2027)..... tomveronesi@gmail.com
DIRECTOR:	Gray Hirshfield (2024-2025)..... grayhirshfield@gmail.com
DIRECTOR:	Ann Boyce (2024-2027) annhboyce@yahoo.com

FPUU Church Committees

BELL COMMITTEE & CLOCK COMMITTEE.....	Paul Coghlin, ptc@gwi.net Paul Beach, plbeach52@gmail.com
BLUEBERRY CRAFT FAIR COMMITTEE.....	Marylyn Wentworth, Marylyn.wentworth@tnsk.org
CARING CONNECTIONS.....	Nick & Maggie Bartenhagen, mnpelbar@gmail.com
CHOIR.....	Margaret Jones, margaretj@maine.rr.com
CHURCH SPACE RENTALS.....	Allison Lazos, uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com
CONGREGATION CONNECTION TEAM.....	Amy Wood-Chair, amywood@amywoodpsyd.com
COMMUNITY OUTREACH SERVICES.....	Virginia Healey, vmhealey@gmail.com
FINANCE COMMITTEE.....	Chris Wells, christopher.j.wells@gmail.com
HISTORIAN.....	Ruth Stackpole, paw8@roadrunner.com
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE.....	Jim Thompson, jethompson33@aol.com Linda Thompson, lindabear33@aol.com
MEN'S "OPEN GROUP".....	Mark Gallup, grouchomg@gmail.com
MUSIC COMMITTEE.....	Eva Downs, evadowns18@gmail.com Ginny Lawrence, lawrenceginny@gmail.com
NOMINATING COMMITTEE.....	Andrea Rohde, andrea.rohde49@gmail.com
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE.....	Joan Wuerthner & Jim Thompson
PHYSICS/CHEMISTRY WORKSHOP.....	James Vesenska, jvesenska@gmail.com
PROPERTIES.....	Barbara Conner, bsconner@roadrunner.com
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE.....	Susie Desantis, Gray Hirshfield, Jacky Peters, Marylyn Wentworth
RUMMAGE SALE.....	Jacky Peters, jpkrf@roadrunner.com
SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK.....	Vicki Adams, vickigatesadams@gmail.com
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE.....	Vacant
WEDDING COORDINATOR.....	Allison Lazos, uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com
WED. EVENING DISCUSSION GROUP.....	Ruth Stackpole, paws8@roadrunner.com
WOMEN FOR ALL SEASONS.....	Kathe Wright, kawright@hotmail.com
WORSHIP COMMITTEE.....	Tory Leuteman, toryleuteman@yahoo.com