

The only remedy for our moral crisis is a transformed national heart, a moral movement ... rooted in the constitutional and sacred values of compassion, empathy, and courageous dedication to the common good. ... It must be grounded in ... Leviticus 19's call to "love your neighbor as yourself" and ... "a relentless dedication to the flourishing of all.

Rev. William Barber, from *Revive us Again,*
Reviving MLK's Poor People's Campaign

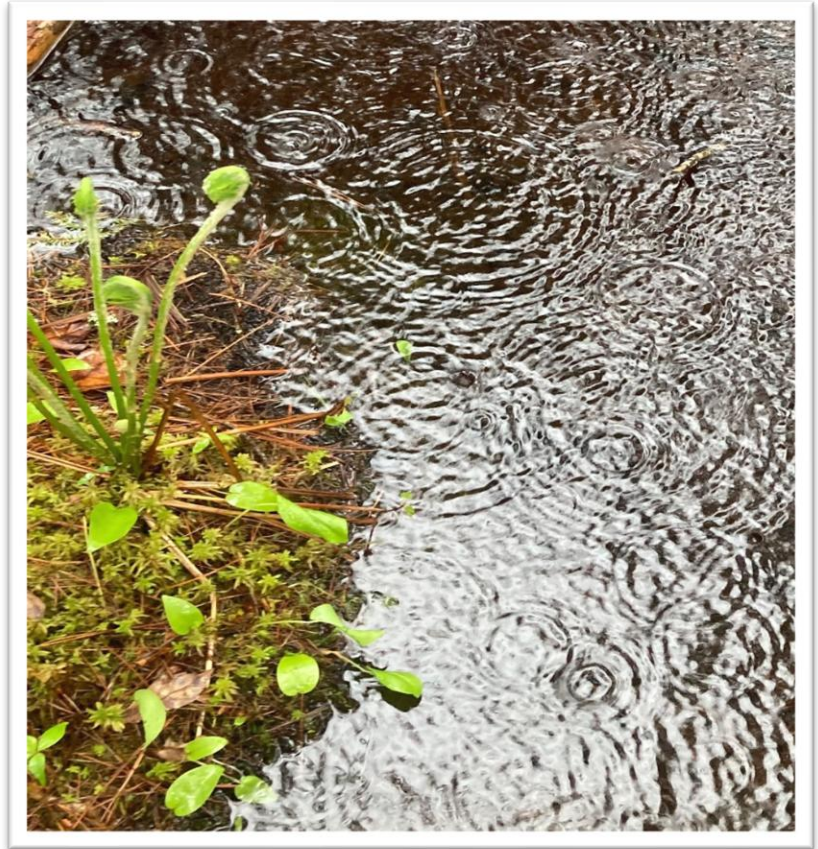


Photo by Al Adams

“R.E. Sunday”

Worship Service: May 4, 2025, 10 a.m.
Led by: 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 EVENTS

- Fri. May 9, 6:30 p.m. Song Swop
- Sun. May 11, 10 a.m. R.E. Sunday/Bridging
- Tues. May 13, 6:30 p.m. Women for All Seasons
- Tues. May 13, 6:30 p.m. Men's Open Group
- Thurs. May 15, 9 a.m. Support Merideth Norris
- Fri. May 16, 5:30 p.m. N.P.R Potluck
- Sun. May 18, 10 a.m. Welcoming New Members
- Sun. May 18, 11:30 a.m. *What Now?* Social Justice discussion group
- Sun. May 18, 4 p.m. Spring piano concert with Hsiang Tu
- Wed. May 21, 4-6 p.m. Earth Day event, Planeteers: see poster
- Fri. May 30, 6 p.m. Church Potluck and Drumming Circle (details to come)
- June 7, 10 a.m. Memorial Service for Sally Keene

This Sunday: Religious Exploration Sunday

Join us for a joyful, multigenerational service as we celebrate Religious Exploration Sunday and Bridging! Led in partnership with our children and youth, we'll reflect on a year of learning, play, and spiritual growth, honoring the creativity and wisdom of our youngest community members. This special service will also include a Bridging Ceremony for Lia Lord-Rozeff, marking the sacred transition from youth to young adulthood. Come be part of this celebration of growth, connection, and community. Jacky Peters, Gray Hirshfield, Susie Desantis leading with Rev. Tori Rosati and special guest, Rev. Lara Campbell along with music from Ginny Lawrence.

A Letter from our Minister

Dear Ones,

One of the things that gets me through the spring rain is knowing that nature is storing up all that moisture so that when the sun and warmth reappears it can emerge in new depths of beauty and color. Spring used to be my least favorite season – the landscape never being warm enough, green enough, or summer

enough. But, over the years, it's turned into my favorite, for the loving, generous, and inviting ways nature emerges and draws out life every year.

There is a ritual to it: the rain greens the grass, lengthening sunlight unfurls the buds, the wind draws petals into flight seeding the ground with color and new life. It all makes me very aware of emergence – of how new life, possibility, and transformation want to break through, even when conditions seem uncertain.



I am so excited to be joining our amazing Religious Exploration Team this Sunday to celebrate our children and youth and all they bring to our faith community—the myriad ways they draw out light, color, and life. Just as nature has its own rituals of emergence, we too mark moments of growth and transformation in our community. This Sunday, we will honor one such moment through Lia Lord- Rozeff's Bridging ceremony, a cherished Unitarian Universalist rite of passage. It's a time to witness and celebrate the ways we all continue to grow, learn, and transform together. I hope you will join us as we honor all that is emerging in this season of growth and possibility.

With every blessing,

Rev. Tori

Supporting Merideth Norris

Many of us are planning to attend Dr. Merideth Norris's sentencing hearing on May 15, at 9 a.m. at the Federal Courthouse, 156 Federal Street, Portland, courtroom 1. There are a few steps to walk up (without railing) at the Federal Street entrance, and there is an elevator to the courtroom. An entrance for the handicapped is at the back entrance on Newberry Street. The hearing is expected to take the full morning.

If you are interested in attending and want to carpool, please contact Jacky Peters at jpkrf@roadrunner.com.

Parking: There are meters on the street, some taking quarters, some cards. Greater Portland Parking Guide on-line lists all garages with prices. They range from \$3 per hour to much more.



SONGSWOP is scheduled for Friday, May 9th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. It will be held in the Sanctuary at FPUU. All are welcome, singers, poets, story tellers etc. Acoustic instruments only please. Microphones are provided. You may perform or be a part of the audience. Y'all come. You'll be glad you did! For more information contact, Bruce Childress, Rich Gaito 207-251-4432 or Jaylene Summers 207-251-3317

Irish Goddess conjures magical realms

Join us for Women for All Seasons Tuesday, May 13, at 6:30 p.m. to learn about Mother Danu. Jeannie Grant and Nikki Starcat Shields will lead a program about this Irish Goddess and Her magical realms. Bring a pen, and a mug if you'd like tea. Let me know if you have any questions.
Julia Greiner



For No Particular Reason (NPR)

Women gather for a potluck supper Friday, May 16 at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Gray Hirshfield. Email Gray at grayhirshfield@gmail.com for directions.

Welcoming New Members, May 18th

We'll be joyfully welcoming new members during the service on Sunday, May 18. If you're interested in becoming a member or learning more, please reach out to Rev. Tori. We'd love to share this journey of belonging together as we grow in community and connection.



The Practice of Imagination

This month we are exploring the theme of imagination, an invitation to open our minds beyond what is toward what could be, to let the world come alive in ways that stretch us, and to create spaces where the present wrestles with the possible so that something new can be born in our midst. As we journey through this month, don't forget about the Soul Matters music playlists to accompany you. Let's see what we can imagine together!

Click [HERE](#) for the Spotify playlist on Imagination.

Click [HERE](#) for the YouTube playlist on Imagination.

Save the Dates:

- May 30th, All-Church potluck and drum circle, details to come
- June 7th, 10 a.m. Memorial Service for Sally Keene.

Dr. Moody
(played by Al
Adams) teaches
us how to
pronounce
prayers like a
true Mainah, eg.
not idea but
“ideur” on
Sunday, World
Laughter Day.



Photo by Vicki Adams

Reflection on World Laughter Day, May 4

by Rev. Tori Rosati, read by Vicki Adams

... Imagination. It's an invitation to expand our minds, hearts and spirits beyond the immediate realities we face. Imagination is magic. It is not wishful thinking, but a powerful practice of stretching beyond what is, to what could be, and in so doing, create a world that doesn't exist yet, but could. This morning's service is an homage to one aspect of imagination: humor.

Humor has functioned across time and space to help people endure pain and struggle, illuminate spiritual wisdom, and speak truth to power.

Humor arises as one feature of what it means to be human and also to stay human in the face of unimaginable hardship and grief. Victor Frankl, recounting how he and fellow prisoners endured the concentration camps,

wrote, "Humor was another of the soul's weapons in the fight for self-preservation. It is well known that humor, more than anything else in the human make-up, can afford an aloofness and an ability to rise above any situation, even if only for a few seconds."

The sacred fool has long held an honored place in the spiritual traditions of the world. From Christianity to Judaism to Islam, comedic figures played central roles in pointing out the absurdities of life and were often particularly attuned to Divine truth and hidden wisdom. In Buddhism humor is seen to loosen attachment and ego. And in many Indigenous cultures, the trickster is a powerful mischief maker and central part of sacred ceremonies, keeping the world in balance through play.

This subversive quality of humor is also a way to speak truth to power. Democracy advocate Daniel Hunter, in a recent article on the power of humor and ridicule in resistance movements, tells the story of the United Kingdom's Clandestine Insurgent Clown Army, an anti-authoritarian activist group in the early 2000's. He wrote, "...In one instance, a seventy-person-strong gaggle of clowns walked straight through a line of riot cops who, strangely, could not hold their line because it turned out that beneath their visors the cops were laughing too much to be able to concentrate."

So, as we celebrate World Laughter Day today, let us lean into the magical, subversive, and transformative power of humor in a world that can so easily take itself too seriously. Let us release, for a moment, the constraints of decorum, of appearances, of solemnity—and open ourselves to the holy mischief that sparks renewal, connection, resilience, and imagination.



**Join us for an afternoon
featuring works of
Composer Maurice Ravel's
on his 150th Anniversary**



Hsiang Tu, piano

**Sunday, May 18th, 4p.m.
First Parish UU Church
114 Main Street, Kennebunk, ME
\$25 donation requested
Doors open at 3:30 p.m.**

Democracy

On Main Street in Kennebunk every Thursday

Locals gather to demonstrate their concerns about state and national issues every Thursday from 4 - 5 p.m. on the sidewalks of upper Main St. Kennebunk. *Side with Love* posters are available in the church side entrance to use for demonstrations. Those who wish may hold them on the church steps together to broadcast our values centered on love.



SIDE WITH LOVE



Demonstrators on the church steps. Photo by Patrick Conner

Social Action Network

New bills highlighted by MUUSAN

Maine UU State Action Network

Anti-trans bills

This Thursday, May 8, the Maine Legislature will hold public hearings on a group of anti-trans bills targeting trans youth and trans youth athletes. This is an opportunity to support our trans neighbors, friends, and family members and work to defeat these hateful bills. It is not too late for letters and calls.

[Judiciary Committee](#), State House Room 438

Call to Action:

- Email legislators, especially if they sit on the [Judiciary Committee](#)
- [Testify](#) in person, on Zoom or submit written testimony
- [Talking Points from Equality Maine](#)
- [Sample testimony](#) from Annie Kiermaier
- [Embracing Transgender, Nonbinary, Intersex and Gender Diverse People is a Fundamental Expression of UU Religious Values](#), from the UUA website

[LD 233](#), An Act to Prohibit Biological Males from Participating in School Athletic Programs and Activities for Females When State Funding is Provided to the School

[LD 868](#), An Act to Ensure Equity and Safety in Athletics, Restrooms, Changing Rooms and Housing at Elementary, Secondary and Postsecondary Schools

[LD 1002](#), An Act to Protect Children's Identification by Requiring Public Schools to Use the Name and Gender Specified on the Child's Birth Certificate

[LD 1134](#), An Act to Prohibit Males from Participating in Female Sports or Using Female Facilities

[LD 1704](#), An Act to Prohibit a School Administrative Unit from Adopting a Policy That Allows a Student to Use a Restroom Designated for Use by the Opposite Sex

[LD 1337](#), An Act to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act Regarding Female Athletes and Safety in Women's Single-sex Shelters

[LD 1432](#), An Act to Remove Consideration of Gender Identity from the Maine Human Rights Act

[LD 380](#), An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Gender-affirming Health Care Services

Reproductive Rights

A reminder: [LD 143](#) [An Act to Improve Women's Health and Economic Security by Funding Family Planning Services](#) passed both chambers and is on to the Appropriations table (where it was killed last year).

Call to Action:

1. Consult this [appropriations committee list](#) and write to the legislators on this committee, especially if you're their constituent.

Janine Coy and Jerry David

What Now? Infrastructure Team launched

Several members of the FPUU community have met twice with Reverend Tori to create an infrastructure network for the **What Now?** discussion sessions that are taking place after church. We are calling ourselves the **What Now Infrastructure Team (WNIT)**. We will provide information, resources, and a way to connect rapidly with the church community when events related to protecting our democracy are needed.

Some of the proposed actions include a list of resource library material; an upcoming events list; notice of trainings on non-violent and positive responses to opposition viewpoints, which should be useful when engaging with people who disagree. All information will be available on a table in the church hall to be in place by May 18.

The Team welcomes input and invites anyone who would like to join us. Please contact Reverend Tori.



Interested in church personnel matters?

We are looking for one or two individuals to join the **Personnel Committee** in time for our June annual meeting. This committee meets as needed — it does not require regular meetings or evening commitments.

Instead, it comes into play during staff hiring, termination, annual reviews, and when called upon by our Minister, Board of Directors, or other church officials. Committee roles include maintaining the Employee Handbook and offering advice and/or shared opinions when personnel matters arise. If you are interested, please contact Joan Wuerthner or Jim Thompson, of the Personnel Committee.

Off-season rental available

I rent all my house out for 10 summer weeks. The rent for the other time is not high, \$400 a month including everything but not heat. Someone might want a fall time and another spring period. I live on Harts Road near Parsons Beach Road. It's a 6-minute walk to the water. If you come down Harts Road for 1/2 mile it's the two connected blue houses on the hill. The one with two stories is for rent. Let me know if you are interested and I will show you around. No commitment expected.

Helen Rivas-Rose Helycres@yahoo.com 207-604-3903

Our members now in rehabilitation enjoy having people call or visit

Joan Phipps, after experiencing another fall, is now undergoing rehabilitation at Summer Commons, 21 June St. Sanford, Maine 04073. She has a phone in her room: 207-206-1953. She would love to have her friends from First Parish call or visit. The Commons is near Goodall Hospital.

Bob Lown is currently in Room 41 of The Edgewood Center, 928 South St., Portsmouth NH. His mobility is limited but he is in good spirits and would love visitors. The best way is to just drop in any morning between 9-11. Or you can send a letter or card to the above address.



Sunday Morning Bookcase

- *The Serviceberry*, Robin Wall Kimmerer
- *Revive Us Again: Vision and Action in Moral Organizing*, Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II and Rev. Dr. Rick Lowery
- *Inciting Joy*, Ross Gay
- *Book of Delights*, Ross G

What's happening for our children?

Click on this link to learn more about our monthly Religious Exploration highlights.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/10xocLKTAsQuI3mTysl2uYfh-xNljj_a7YjG0PQ20R14/edit?usp=sharing

For more information on our Religious Education program, contact our office administrator, Allison at (207) 985-3700 or email at

uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com and she will connect you with the team.

Community Events

Defend our Voting Rights Rally! Saturday May 10, 2 p.m. at the Augusta State House. [Sign up here.](#) Find out more about the campaign [here.](#)

RELATE, ENGAGE & CONNECT WITH NATURE

Come explore concepts of co-creating with nature. Through the eyes of two practitioners, you will be guided through exercises allowing you to discover and delight in your unique way of relating and connecting

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21ST 4-6; RAIN DATE THE 28TH

ALL FREE & INTENDED FOR TEENS & ADULTS.

JOIN US AT THE KENNEBUNKPORT CONSERVATION TRUST
57 GRAVELLY BROOK ROAD, KENNEBUNKPORT

WEAR SHOES SUITABLE FOR AN EARLY EVENING WALK OF THE LABYRINTH

RSVP TO SOMEPLANETEERS@YAHOO.COM

WORKSHOP LEADERS ARE:

Martha Fishback: BS PharmD, Shamanic practitioner & teacher, Flower essence & Plant Spirit Medicine practitioner, herbalist and retired clinical pharmacist & **Meghan McCrillis:** LCPC as Therapist, Healing Arts Facilitator, Shamanic Reiki teacher & herbalist passionate about helping people connect with nature.



- Please bring a bag lunch if you plan to attend the worship service from 10 to 11 a.m..
- FMI and questions, contact the Wabanaki Ally Team:
Meret meretbainbridge@gmail.com or Jake jkulaw62@gmail.com.

Important: Check Rev. Tori's Email Address!

Some emails sent to Rev. Tori haven't reached her inbox due to incorrect addresses in some contact lists. Please take a moment to ensure you have the correct email saved:

uukennebunkminister@gmail.com NOT firstparishminister@gmail.com, uuchurchkennebunkminister@gmail.com, or any other variation. Even small differences mean your message won't reach her.

If you've emailed Rev. Tori and haven't received a response, please double-check the email address in your contact list as it may be incorrect.

For help updating your contacts, Allison Lazos or Chris Wells are available to assist. And as a reminder, Rev. Tori will never send emails requesting gift cards or money—if something seems suspicious, it probably is.

Office Hours

The Office is open Monday-Friday 9a.m.- 12 p.m. Rev. 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 congregante in need. Tori can best be reached at uukennebunkminister@gmail.com. For pastoral emergencies, please contact Rev. Tori on her cell phone.

First Parish UU Church Kennebunk

MAY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 3:30 p.m. Choir	2	3 1:30 May Day Parade
4 World Laughter Day 10 a.m. Worship Service led Vicki & Al Adams "Pray Like a <u>Mangah</u> "	5	6 5:15 p.m. Sangha 7 p.m. Properties	7 6:00 p.m. Worship Committee 7 p.m. Evening Discussion	8 3:30 p.m. Choir	9 6:30 p.m. Song Swop	10
11 Mother's Day R.E. Sunday/Bridging Intergenerational service 10 a.m. Worship Service led R.E. Team & Rev. Tori	12 7 p.m. Finance Committee	13 10 a.m. Membership Committee 5:15 p.m. Sangha 6:30 p.m. W.F.A.S. 6:30 p.m. M.O.G.	14 5:30 Soul Matters Creative Team	15 3:30 p.m. Choir 5:30 p.m. B.O.D. meeting	16 5:30 p.m. NPR Potluck	17
18 Welcoming New Members 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Tori "Horizon Time" 11:30 a.m. What Now? Social Justice discussion group 4 p.m. Hsiang Tu piano concert	19	20 5:15 p.m. Sangha	21 7 p.m. Evening Discussion Group	22 3:30 p.m. Choir	23	24
25 Poetry Sunday 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Worship Committee 4 p.m. Memorial Day Film event	26 10 a.m. RE Team	27 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.	28 5:30 p.m. Small Group Ministry	29	30 6 p.m. Church Potluck/ Drumming Circle	31

(subject to changes)