



LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD

April 25, 2024

People gather around Maine Master Naturalist Gordon Collins at the entrance to Hope Woods. His ecology tour was part of the Earth Day celebration at First Parish last Sunday.

See article with photos below.



“The Return”

Worship Service April 28, 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



- Sat. April 27, 10:30 a.m. Memorial service honoring Robert Jack
- Sat. April 27, Planeteers clothing drive, even shoes! see flyer below
- Sun. April 28, 11:30 a.m. Worship Service Reflections with Rev. Tori & First Parish Auction begins!
- Fri. May 3, 5:30 p.m. Women's NPR Potluck
- Fri. May 3, 7-9 p.m. SongSwop, in person and online
- Sat. May 4, 12:45 p.m. march in the Annual Kennebunk May Day Parade
- Fri. May 10, 7 p.m. Violinist Patrick Doane & pianist Andrius Žlabys concert
- Sat. May 18, Rummage sale (Fri. set-up, Sun. clean-up)

Celebration of Life

Susan Jack invites you to join her for a Celebration of Life in honor of her beloved husband of 50 years, Robert Jack, who passed away on January 15, 2024.

The service will be held this Saturday, April 27 at the church beginning at 10:30 a.m. with a reception to follow.



Click below to view the service via zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/734887010?pwd=WWhwSzJzbi84c3YxRU1vZkI5RG5GQT09>

Meeting ID: 734 887 010

Passcode: 024481

This Sunday's Service

The Return:

One of the things that connects us all as human beings is that we are imperfect—we mess up and don't always live up to our ideals. This reality can be a place of guilt and shame, or it can be a rich and connective ground that fosters transformation and deepens our experience of love. Join us Sunday to reflect on this year's UUA Common Book Read, Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg's *On Repentance and Repair, Making Amends in an Unapologetic World*. We will explore faith practices that nurture our connections and return us to our better selves and each other.

~ Rev. Tori

Monthly Worship Reflection Apr. 28

Our monthly Reflection group has been a rich time of exploration, sharing and dialogue. If you haven't had a chance to attend yet, we'd love you to join us this Sunday in the parlor from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. We'll reflect together on the Sunday morning message and what it means for our individual and collective faith journeys.



First Parish celebrates Earth Day

We joined
with the
Planeteers of
Southern Maine
last Sunday

offering a community celebration of Earth Day. Events began with our service featuring Shawn Jalbert's illustrated talk on native plants and the resiliency of nature. Jalbert of Alfred founded Native Haunts, a nursery of trees, shrubs, and perennials native to Maine.



We whipped up vegan wrap sandwiches to fortify those who stayed for an early afternoon tour. Guests Gordon Collins, President of Friends of Hope Cemetery & Woods, and Bill Graben and Kathy Donahue of York County Audubon, gave ecology tours, sharing their knowledge of plants and birds surrounding our church and Hope Cemetery.

Shawn Jalbert encouraged us to plant native species, showing slides of thriving asters, beach plum, cone flowers, and many more. He explained that native plants support our entire food web providing food for insects and birds that pollinate not only decorative flowers and shrubs but also our crops. They help to maintain wildlife habitats and biodiversity, and even slow climate change through carbon sequestration, erosion control, and promoting good water quality. He advocates starting small, learning about the beautiful and useful

species that we can plant in our yards, and devoting some space to them. Before long, we should notice more birds, butterflies, and even humming birds not only gracing surroundings, but also helping the environment. He also said we should accept the insects that show up. They may eat leaves, but also their bodies feed birds!

The Earth Day event was planned by our Social Justice Network including: Vick

Adams (coordinator), Bob and Joan Wuerthner (readings), Eva Downs (poetry), Cynthia Howard (flowers), Molly Hoadley and



Mary Fortune (vegan wraps). Thanks also to Chris Staknys and the choir for their nature-oriented music, Congregational Connections Team for the delicious coffee hour, and Rev. Tori Rosati for conducting our joys and concerns ritual as part of the service.

Andrea Roth Kimmich and the Planeteers arranged the afternoon activities. The Planeteers also have offered to donate several native plants to the church, and we are now consulting with the Historic Preservation Commission about that possibility.

Photos courtesy of The Planeteers of Southern Maine portray from left, Eva Downs, Bob Wuerthner, Shawn Jalbert, Joan Wuerthner, and Vicki Adams.

A recording of Mr. Jalbert's talk is available online at...
<https://www.uukennebunk.org/sermons>

A letter from Rev. Tori

Dear ones,

I love joining a new community over the winter. It means that I get to watch, with delight and awe, the landscape change as spring approaches. The sunny days, greening grass, and emerging flowers are welcome companions as I've been arriving to the church these last few weeks. Someone remarked to me recently as we were looking out the window in my office, "You know that pretty soon you won't be able to see the road through the trees?" "That's right," I exclaimed with joy!

Things certainly feel spring-like around the church. I was so grateful to get to participate in the Earth Day service this past Sunday put on by the Social Justice Network. We are lucky to have such creative and committed folks who are doing so much to connect this community to the wider issues impacting our lives and world.

And speaking of creativity...the Worship Committee and others have been exploring having monthly themes next church year. Soul Matters is a UU collective of 145 congregations that offers worship resources, religious exploration curriculum for young people, and adult faith formation resources



around monthly themes. We are going to pilot the resources in May with the theme of *Creativity*. Don't miss our creativity-themed service on May 12th (along with Crow Lowry's Bridging!), and a small group art reflection gathering (date/time TBD) to get our creative spirits moving.

In the meantime, I hope this spring is invigorating your spirit with all of Earth's creative abundance while also inviting you to slow down to take it all in.

With every blessing,
Rev. Tori

Sunday Morning Bookcase

- 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
- *See No Stranger, A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love*, Valerie Kaur
- *Darkening the Doorways: Black trailblazers and Missed Opportunities in Unitarian Universalism* by Mark Morrison-Reed

May Day Parade

First Parish is participating in the annual Kennebunk May Day Parade, as we did last year. It was *great fun* and a super way to increase and affirm our FPUU presence in the community! Join us Saturday, May 5, at 12:45 p.m. at the Gazebo in the park at the intersection of Main and Water streets. The Parade starts at 1:30 and the distance is under a mile.

Our group will be headed up by two volunteers carrying



our large FPUU banner, and our "Blueberry Man," Ian Durham, will march. We have signs for each group: Choir, Sangha, Women's Group, Men's Group, Song Swop, etc.

Enter your name on the Parade Sign Up sheet on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall any time soon! It's short & sweet and will be terrific if we can get a representative from each group or Committee.

Please wear something colorful or bright and thank you!

Linda & Jim Thompson, Parade Committee

Women's Potluck

Friday, May 3 at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Virginia Healey. The host will provide the entrée, please bring something to share with others. For directions, questions or to RSVP, email Virginia at vmhealey@gmail.com.



SongSwop next Friday

SongSwopers are meeting on the first Friday this month, May 3, 7-9 p.m. in person and online. Acoustic Instruments, poetry, songs—all are Welcome. Please join us, you'll be glad you did!

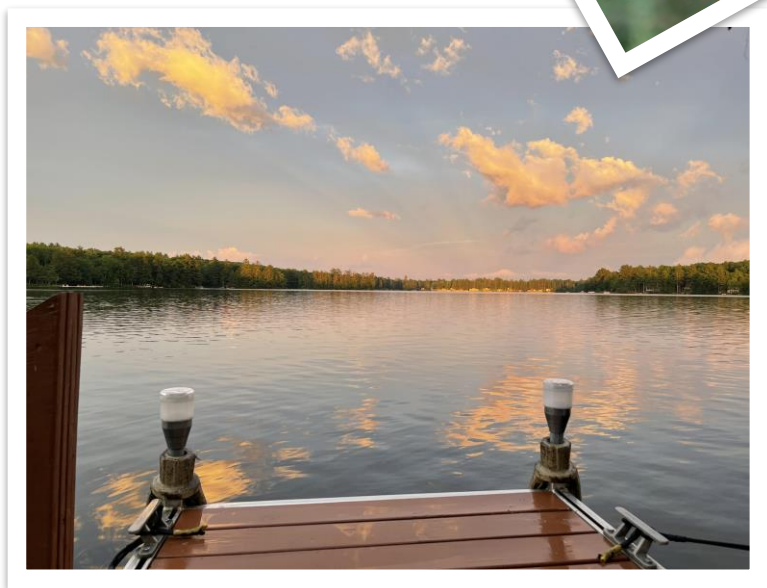
Contact; Bruce Childress, Jaylene Summers or Rich Gaito.

Fabulous FPUU online Auction

Auction starts this Sunday and continues until May 11. We have 75 items that are really interesting and varied! Many will be on display this Sunday. Remember to let your friends, family and co-workers know about the auction as our success depends on bidders throughout the community. Sign in at:

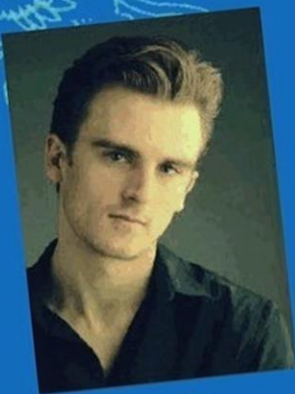
Link: <https://www.charityauctionstoday.com/bid/2024UUAuction>

Elegant bird candlesticks, 50 Gladiolas bulbs, Kennebunk Pond Picnic: 75 items in all!



Tapestry of Old and New

Friday, May 10th, 2024 at 7pm



Patrick Doane
violin



Andrius Žlabys
piano

Works by Schumann, Prokofiev,
Doane and Žlabys

First Parish UU Church, Kennebunk, ME

\$25 donation requested

Register for Zoom at:

www.uukennebunk.org/concert-series

Wondering what you can do to help elections this year?



UUtheVote is a part of the Maine UU State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN). Every church in Maine either has, or is working to have, one Congregation Voter Liaison. Liaisons will meet once a week via zoom for 1 hour, to plan, get information and support each other. Our church does not yet

have a liaison. Please consider working with this inspiring group. Email marylyn.wentworth@tnsk.org.

You are welcome to attend a **MUUSAN Network Meeting** at the Brunswick UU church Sat. May 11 from 10-12:30. There will be guest speakers from League of Women Voters, Maine Youth Climate Change Action Team, and more. Plus, time for conversations about housing, gun safety, democracy and climate change. Carpool with Ted and Marylyn. Go to [MUUSAN.org](https://muusan.org) to register.

FPUU Board News

April 17, 2024

1. Resignation: In between the March and April meetings the Board accepted the resignation of Bob Lown from the Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee has been asked to find a candidate to fill the remaining year of Bob's term, to be voted on as part of the slate of officers at the Annual Meeting in June. Thank you, Bob, for all of your work on the Board of Directors and all you continue to do for First Parish!
2. Properties Update: The Properties Committee continues to work on arranging carpet replacement, the boiler project, and a Native Plants Garden on the cemetery side of the church.
3. Shared Ministry: Bob Wuerthner attended to share how strongly he was struck by Rev. Tori's sermon on Shared Ministry. Bob emphasized that he would like us to be sure we use this concept and introduce it to our committees. Rev. Tori confirmed that she and the Transition Team are working with these concepts and getting the word out.

4. Finance Report: Pledging for 2024 has reached the highest amount in years. Thank you everyone! However, there are still a few outstanding pledge cards. If you haven't turned yours in yet, please do so as soon as possible. Fundraisers update: The Billy Whizbang event raised over \$2,000! The Church Auction is coming up at the end of April, and the Rummage Sale will be in May.
5. Minister's Report: Rev. Tori reports that she is working to encourage cross-committee collaboration. An example would be the Worship Committee retreat that included members of the Music Committee, the RE Committee, etc. The Membership Committee will be working through a formal training this spring. Next year there will be a deeper dive into creating a culture of radical welcome.
6. Astronomy lecture: The Board received a heads-up from Bernie Reim that he would like to do a public lecture at First Parish on Astronomy topics. We look forward to this event.
7. Upper Square Collaboration: The Board voted to have Ted Trainer as a liaison to collaborate with The Brick Store Museum, The Kennebunk Free Library and Hope Cemetery on initiatives for Upper Square (our end of Main Street). There are a number of potential collaborations that would benefit all four organizations.
8. Emergency Warming Shelter: Boundaries around Building Access seem to have been well received. Research continues into the potential for First Parish to serve as an Emergency Winter Warming Shelter. Merideth Norris is spearheading this initiative.
9. Now hear this: The Board continues to work on improving hearing accessibility both for Sunday Worship and Committee Meetings. Rev. Tori will bring the issue to the Worship Committee and Chris Wells will take this to both the Properties Committee and the Technology Group.
10. Congregational Connections Team update: Rev. Tori will facilitate a Discernment Circle with the Board and the CCT to move forward in a spirit of shared ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Lord, Co-Chair, First Parish Board of Directors

Have furniture in storage? Have clutter?

Welcome Immigrants Our New Neighbors, WIONN, is collecting furniture for new immigrant families. It's time for spring cleaning! Why not get rid of things you no longer need and help those who do.
Contact marylyn.wentworth@tnsk.org.

We need: dressers, couches, chairs, complete beds (not just head and foot boards), mattresses, tables, washers and dryers, carpets, and shelves. We can do pick-up or arrange for drop off at our storage space in Biddeford. We appreciate all the generosity of FPUU in the past.



Planeteers of Southern Maine Clothing Drive

Located at



2 Livewell Drive Kennebunk, ME 04043

Saturday April 27th
10:00AM - 1:00PM





Letters to the Editor:

Re: Earth Day Celebration

We Planeteers have been sharing favorite moments [and pictures] online of our time together with you all yesterday. Such splendid orchestration! (Hope you have your feet up Vicki, et.al.!) Shawn's sermon from on high, the pieces read and shared, the music and song, the joys and sorrows... And then, taking it to the "streets" (fields, graves and woods) in nature tours! Lots of lovely connections were made with nature and with each other!

I hope we have many more collaborations such as this one! Can't thank you enough for having had faith in us this go-around.

Thank you thank you thank you,
Andrea Roth Kimmich
Co-founder of the Planeteers of Southern Maine

Dear FPUU,

Over the years I have had my finger in a lot of pies at FPUU. I think what is most satisfying for me is how willing everyone is to help. It is rare that anyone says no when I ask for help (even though they probably should say no and take better care of themselves). This kind of willing camaraderie is what makes a community really work and I so appreciate that. I remember one of Tori's reflections about sharing our gifts and how meaningful and rewarding it is to have a gift and share it. The gifts given in this church are pretty awesome and I am grateful to be part of such a generous and compassionate community.

The only thing I really miss in this community is for us to make a circle around the sanctuary at the end of every service so we can see each other and be grateful for all those beautiful souls, honoring those who prefer to stay seated and just look around.

Peace, Marylyn Wentworth

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.

Help KHS 2024 Graduates via flowers



Estabrook's
Annual
Spring Flower Fundraiser
To Benefit
Kennebunk High School's
Class of 2024 Project Graduation

You will receive a voucher via email
for the products you select.

Vouchers may be redeemed
from **May 2-19, 2024**
at Estabrook's in
Kennebunk (97 York Street)
or
Yarmouth (337 East Main Street)
for the products purchased.



<https://www.estabrooksonline.com/kennebunk/>

12" Patio Pots	\$45
10" Hanging Baskets	\$30-\$35
12" Hanging Baskets	\$45



Kennebunk High School Class of 2024 is raising funds for Project Graduation with the help of Estabrook's nursery.

Vouchers may be redeemed at Estabrook's in Kennebunk, 97 York Street, for the products or gift cards purchased from 5/2/2024 to 5/19/2024. Gift cards may be redeemed in-store at any time.

They are also accepting monetary donations: see the items and get a voucher at this link:

[Donate](#)

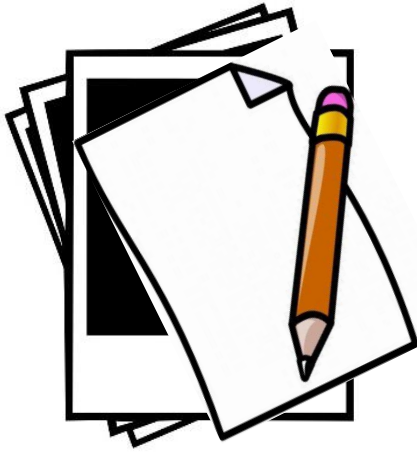
And thank you for supporting Kennebunk High School Class of 2024!



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.



Contribute to our Newsletter

Join the newsletter contributors! Do you have a photo to share? Perhaps an article or an upcoming event? Or write us a letter! Please e-mail us by **Tuesday, 10 a.m.** uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com.

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

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: Merideth Norris (2021-2024)witchdr910@aol.com
CO-CHAIR: Kim Lord (2021-2024)kimlord1@aol.com
CLERK: Ginny Lawrence (2022-2023)lawrenceginny@gmail.com
TREASURER: Chris Wells (2023)christopher.j.wells@gmail.com
DIRECTOR: Ted Trainer (2023-).....tedtrainer40@gmail.com
DIRECTOR: Cynthia Howard (2023 -)cynthiahoward@alum.mit.edu
DIRECTOR: VACANT

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
MUSIC COMMITTEE..... Eva Downs, evadowns18@gmail.com
Ginny Lawrence, lawrenceginny@gmail.com
NOMINATING COMMITTEE..... Andrea Rohde, andrea.rohde49@gmail.com
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE..... Kevin Flynn, Jim Thompson & Joan Wuerthner
PHYSICS/CHEMISTRY WORKSHOP..... James Vesenska, jvesenka@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, paw8@roadrunner.com
WORSHIP COMMITTEE..... Tory Leuteman, toryleuteman@yahoo.com