FIRST PARISH NEWS
UU Church of Kennebunk
LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD

November 19, 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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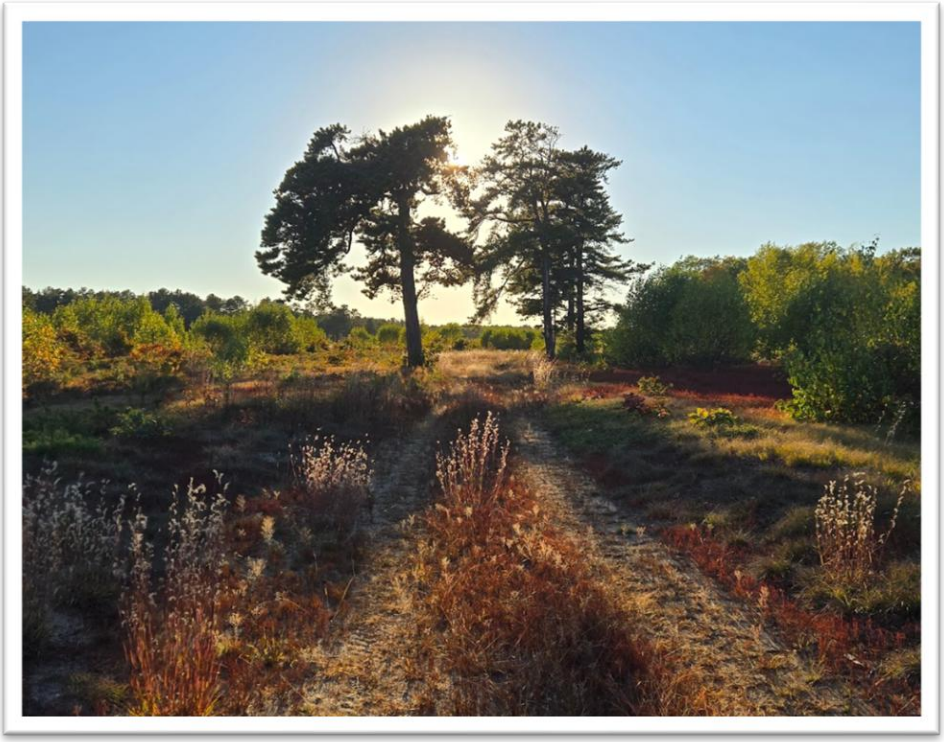


Photo by Allegra Highsmith

"A Place to Heal"
Nov. 22, 2026, 10 a.m.

Worship Leader: 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



- Sun. Nov. 22, Children's food drive begins*
- Sun. Nov. 22, Community Thanksgiving Service, Holy Family Lutheran*
- Tues. Nov. 24, 6:30 p.m. Women for All Seasons & Men's Open Group
- Sat. November 28, 9–11 a.m. Family Yoga*
- Sun. Nov. 29, Last day of Children's food drive at First Parish
- Sun. Dec. 6, 3-5 p.m. *Be the Light*, Concert at FPUU, $20*
- Sun. Nov. 29, 11:30 p.m. Worship Reflection Circle

* 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. Here, we will experience the healing power of drawing together what is sacred for each of us into a collective whole.

This Sunday: A Place to Heal

We all have places we retreat to for reflection, restoration or when life feels overwhelming. Whether staring out at the sea, sitting across from a beloved friend, or cozying up in a special corner of your home – these places of connection and love are deeply healing. Join us Sunday as we explore the power of healing places and how we can find, and more importantly create them, in our lives, communities and world. In honor of Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20, we will also pause to light a candle for beloveds we have lost. Rev. Tori leading with Kathe Wright and music from Mary Doane, Bernie Reim and the First Parish Choir.

Religious Exploration: Growing Together

Food Drive

As Thanksgiving approaches, we invite families to support our First Parish food drive by donating nonperishable food items to benefit our neighbors through COS. Our youth were busy this past Sunday decorating collection boxes and preparing bags for the congregation. Donations will be collected through Sunday, November 29. Thank you for helping us put kindness into action!

Family Yoga

Mark your calendars for Family Yoga on Saturday, November 28, from 9–11 a.m. Join us for a morning of movement, connection, and community as we explore our November theme of healing together. All ages and abilities are welcome! More details coming soon.

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 Irene

Women to create Thanksgiving collage

Join Women for All Seasons Tuesday, November 24th at 6:30 p.m. as we gather to celebrate the Season of Thanksgiving. We will reflect and focus on all that we are grateful for by creating a beautiful collage together. Come prepared to craft! We will meet first in the Church Library and then work in the Parish Hall.
- Julia Greiner



Rummage sale a HUGE success!

Our Fall Rummage Sale was a great success, raising over $2,000- about twice as much as usual! So many people pitched in to make it happen, many for the first time. What a difference it made. Our publicity team did an outstanding job, which resulted in a very large
turnout of shoppers.
Congratulations to all of us!



To Jacky and all rummagers
From Nancy Dorn, Rummage Sale cashier

Just a note on Saturday — So, so many people gave me extra money when I was cashing them out. They specifically said it was for a donation to the church. Some of these donations were $5 and even more. I had someone give me an extra $10! I think this speaks well of the reputation of the church.

Keep up on FPUU Board activity

The Board of Directors minutes now include summaries of all of the FPUU Team minutes. All our projects are in one place! You can read about the door key fobs,* event planning, chair lift status, and much more that volunteers are working on. You may want to join one of these teams!

It's an exciting time to be a part of FPUU and wonderful things are happening! Please look for the monthly email including the board minutes.

*Door key fobs will replace our current keys and be made available to those who need them.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL IS OFF TO A GREAT START

The Leadership Council (formerly called the Leadership Forum) met for 2.5 hours on Sunday, Nov. 15 in the Parish Hall. 19 FPUU members including most Board of Directors members and Team Chairs participated in this renewed group which has not met in several years. The meeting was organized and facilitated by Dave Terricciano, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors.

The Leadership Council will serve many purposes, one of which is to advise and provide input to the Board of Directors whenever it comes to making policies and changes which have an overall effect on the direction and management of the church. It is a place where ideas can be exchanged in an ascending and descending direction.

One of the Board's goals this year is to Build stronger shared leadership across the Congregation by:

- Conducting Leadership Council meetings three times per year to discuss "big issues" and share team goals and progress.
- Expecting and providing cross team collaboration, when appropriate, to solve problems that impact several teams and the Congregation.

Thank you Dave. We are off to a great start!

Submitted by Tom Veronesi, BOD Chair

An elevator may be in our near future: Interested in helping to write a grant?

Now that we are a designated 501c3 corporation we are eligible to apply for some grants that we were unable to in the past. An example of such a grant might be to get help in paying for a new chair lift which we will need to purchase very soon or maybe even an elevator which has been discussed by the Properties Team in the past and recently brought back to the table at the Leadership Council meeting.

The Board of Directors is discussing the formation of an ad hoc team of writers and assistants who may have previously applied for grants for other organizations and are willing to donate their time and talent to FPUU in this capacity.

If you are willing to help the Board organize this task force and do research or write grants please contact any member of the BOD to offer your services.

Calling all ushers

Join members of the Worship Team after service this Sunday November 22nd for a *brief* overview of our usher ministry including a responsibilities refresher and some new parts of this role. Ushering is a beautiful way to support our Sunday morning ministry by offering a holding space of greeting, care, and support to our people. If you are a long-time usher or are interested in learning more about being this welcoming presence, please join us! For more information contact uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com.

Social Justice Action

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

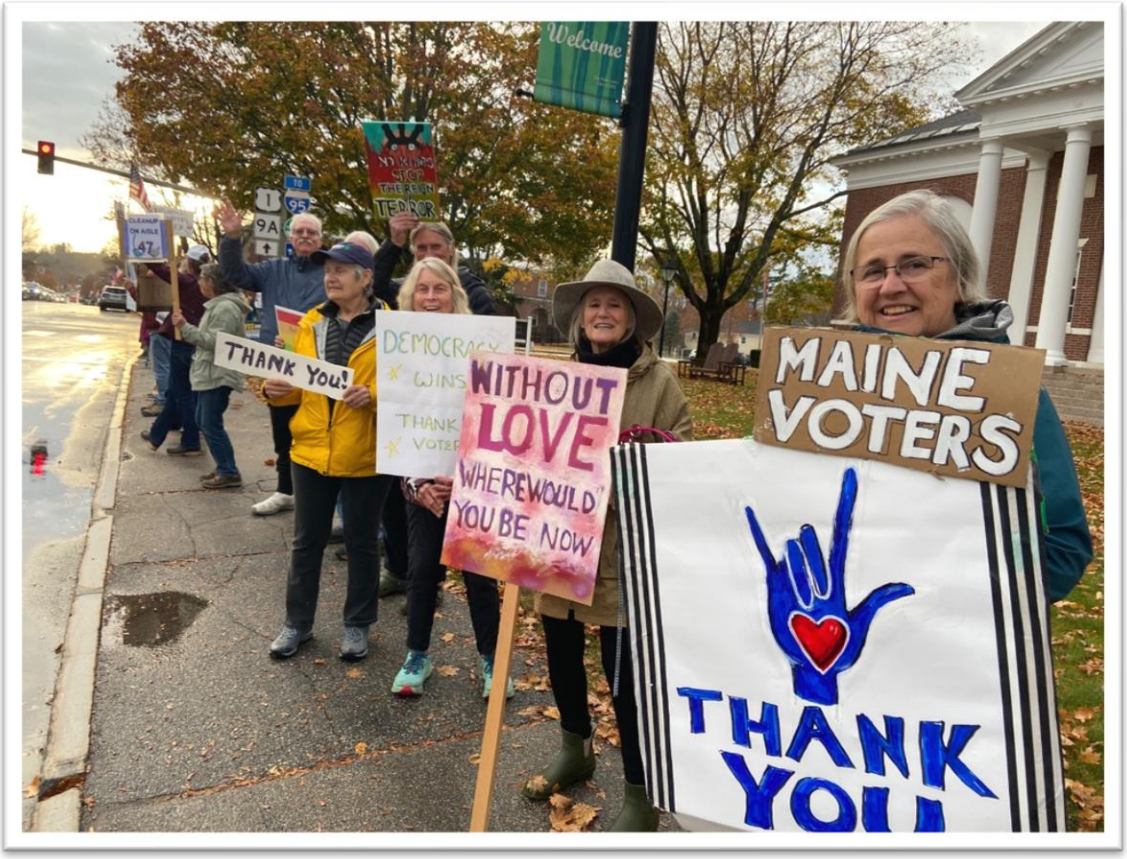


Photo by Vicki Adams

Many of us showed up for the *Stand Out* on Nov. 5 to promote democracy and thank the voters for their great turnout at the mid-term election Nov. 4.

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

Quilt Raffle to benefit MLK Event

Pat Kaye-Schiess, who is new to First Parish, decided to help promote and fund our upcoming Martin Luther King Day event by donating this beautiful queen-sized quilt for a raffle. Pat made the quilt herself. She was inspired to offer it after hearing about our event at the most recent *What Now?* meeting, Nov. 8.

Raffle tickets will soon be printed and we'll be ready to start selling them. Drawing at the MLK event Jan. 17.

Thank you so much, Pat!

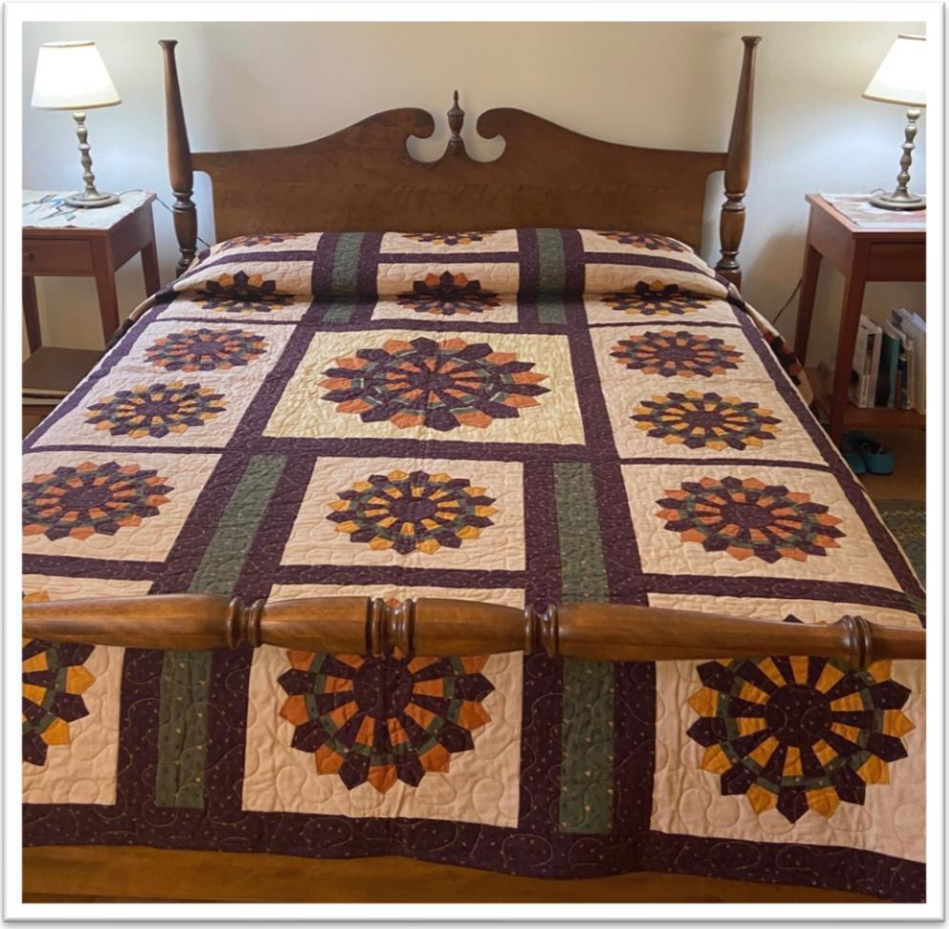


Photo by Al Adams



Stewardship Team thanks you

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

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.

Blueberry "Hop" before the Blueberry Drop!

Celebrate the New Year at First Parish -- a warm and friendly place for all ages prior to our traditional 9 p.m. Blueberry Drop. Activities for all generations will include crafts, music, warm beverages, snacks, and fun! Let's ring in the New Year together! Look for more info in the coming weeks, including *signup sheets* to help

Coordinators: Linda & Jim Thompson

Community

Upcoming Community Concerts





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



We're still in need of Sunday Childcare Support: http://uukennebunk.org/sunday-childcare-support

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					