

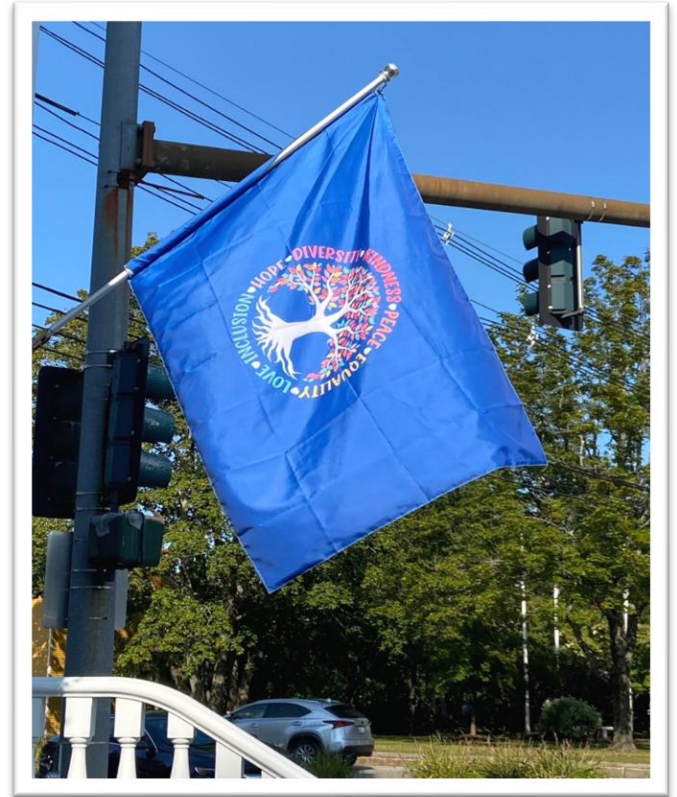


LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD

September 11, 2025

*Between rocking the boat and sitting down;  
between stirring things up,  
and peaceably going along,  
We find ourselves here,/ in community.  
Each called/ from many different journeys,  
Many different/ life paths,/ onto this river road.  
Some are here/ because the rocking of  
the boat has been too much: too much tumult,  
too much uncertainty,/ too much pain.  
Some are here with questions  
about where the boat is going;  
how best to steer it;/ where this journey ends.  
Others are here,/ as lovers of the journey,  
lovers of life itself.  
Here in front beside behind  
each a passenger; each a captain;  
doing the best we can.  
“Rest here, in your boat,/ with me,” the river  
calls;  
“Listen to how I flow,/ the sound of life coursing all around you.”  
Let the current hold you,/ let the current guide you;  
the river that gently flows through your soul, Whispers:  
“Come, let us worship.”*

UU minister Rev. Manish Mazretti



# “The Crowded Table”

Worship Service: September 14, 2025, 10 a.m.

Led by: 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



- Fri. Sept. 12, 6:30 p.m. Song Swop
- Sun. Sept. 14, 10 a.m. Intergenerational service, RE begins.
- Thu. Sept. 18, 3 p.m. FPUU Choir performance at Huntington Commons, all are welcome.
- Sat. Sept. 20, 4:30 P.M. New Member potluck
- Sun. Sept. 28, 11:30 - 2 p.m. Shared Ministry Cafe (childcare & lunch) see poster below for more information

## Excerpts from our In-gathering Service Sunday, Sept. 7

**Rev. Tori Rosati and Suzie Desantis**

Welcome to our annual Water Ceremony and in-gathering! Though we don't close over the summer, today feels special—a moment to gather in from the places we've explored and to return as one community.

...

This morning each of us gathers in from many different places and in many different ways. Some of us have come as rivers - our banks overflowing,

some with rapids, some dry ... remembering with longing the feeling of water coursing through us. Some of us have come as pools - calm, collected, still, and open to receiving. Some of us come as little streams - laughing over rocks, going this way and that, curious at what we find and pick up along the way. Some of us come as a great ocean - the tides of life pulling us out and back in again, longing for the shore. ...

Before we begin we want to acknowledge that for countless people, this basic necessity remains out of reach. This empty bowl beside our communion vessel reminds us:

Communities both here and abroad enduring devastating droughts, driven by the escalating climate crisis, others suffering from unsafe drinking water due to the systemic lack of investment in critical infrastructure and environmental pollution.

We have also placed an empty cup for Gaza on our table as part of a national call by Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East, a collective of Jewish, Palestinian, and Muslim voices throughout our denomination. We do this in solidarity with UU congregations across the country and world lifting up the over 2 million Palestinians in Gaza, who are being deliberately denied access to potable water as a result of intentional policies of deprivation that are being enabled by our government.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can help visit <https://www.uujme.org/> to learn more.

May we commit to continuing the fight to ensure all beings can access their life-given right to safe water.

...

However we come, the currents of our life, arrive at this place – for this hour, they all feed into one community - a well that we pour our gifts and blessings into and one that we draw from when times are dry and parched.



## **Pictures are worth thousands of words!**

Are you new to First Parish? This may be the opportunity for you! It's a great way to participate in the congregation without attending meetings. We love having photos in First Parish News, but we don't have many photos this week because FP News needs a Photo Editor! The editor will receive photos from others in the congregation and may take some photos of people and events at First Parish. The editor will choose and forward photos for each issue to our Administrative Assistant, Allison Lazos at

[uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com](mailto:uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com). Allison will take care of sizing and placing the photos, which will then complete the issue to be published.

No particular number of photos or expertise is required, just a good eye. Allison and I will help the new editor as needed.

- Vicki Adams, FPN editor

## Religious Exploration (RE) is “Building Belonging”

As summer winds down, life gets busy with shifting schedules, different routines, and a flurry of new activities. Whether your family is ready for all the changes that fall brings or still savoring the last days of summer, First Parish invites you to return to the rhythm of Religious Exploration Sunday, Sept. 14.

The RE Team met last week to begin planning for the year ahead, beginning with our September theme: “Building Belonging.” We are so excited to welcome your children back and look forward to all the wonderful learning and exploration we will share.



### Register Now:

Please take a moment to fill out the RE Registration Form [HERE](#).

### You can help us grow

Do you have a story from your life you'd love to share? A special skill, talent, or hobby that lights you up? Religious Exploration is full of opportunities to learn alongside our youngest members—whether it's telling a story, leading an activity, or simply being present. Together we create moments of connection, curiosity, and fun.

Please consider joining us by contacting Jacky Peters or Gray Hirshfeld.

## Parent focused group

We are exploring starting a parent-focused Small Group Ministry this fall. This group would be open to both First Parish families and the wider community. If this is of interest to you, please sign up [HERE](#) to let us know—your feedback will help us gauge interest and shape what's possible.



**SONGSWOP** is scheduled for Friday, September 12th 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.

## Soul Matters Small Groups

Our Soul Matters Circles will start up again this September with several new sections being added. These small group gatherings support a journey of reconnection—to life, to others, and to our deepest selves—through deep listening, meaningful themes, shared spiritual practices, and intentional community. It's a great opportunity to meet people, ask questions, and deepen your relationship with the church community.

If you're interested in participating this fall or in a future round, please fill out the form [HERE](#), or contact Rev. Tori (uukennebunkminister@gmail.com) for more information.





# SHARED MINISTRY CAFE

Sponsored by your Transitional Ministry Team  
& Board of Directors

**Sunday September 28th**  
**11:30 AM - 2 PM**

*Childcare and lunch will be provided.*

*Please RSVP to Allison in the church office with  
the number attending, including children  
by Sunday, Sept. 21*

**WHAT:** Please join us for this exciting opportunity to reflect on how we are called to give and receive gifts in this community.

**WHY:** The sacred, collaborative work of our community is a living expression of our faith in action. This shared ministry gives each of us the opportunity to have our spiritual life enriched as we participate in the life of First Parish.

**HOW:** Small groups of participants will move together through several tables, each reflecting a different ministry. The key points from brief conversations initiated by questions from the facilitator will be recorded. Upon moving to your next table, you will see the accumulated comments and add to them.

**Come, Share, Listen, Reflect**

# Grief group open to all

If you are experiencing grief, please consider visiting the grief group, which meets at Kennebunk Free Library every Thursday, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This is a safe, comfortable, and supportive meeting which includes all forms of grief: suicide, partner, parent, sibling, child, work, and others.

This group was initially started by one of our UU church members and continues weekly at no charge at the public library next door. You can drop in and attend whenever you feel like it.

I have personally attended this and highly recommend it. There is no reason to go through these issues alone. I found it to be a safe and supportive environment while gaining valuable skills.

- Janine Coy

# FPUU Board makes our safety a priority



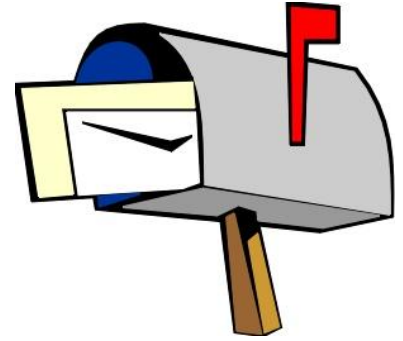
The Board of Directors, in consultation with the Kennebunk Police and Fire Departments, has been carefully studying ways to upgrade the security in our building, particularly for Sunday services. We have started this work by having a trained Board member designated every Sunday to handle any issues that may arise during the service.

The next step, beginning **Sunday September 7, is to lock the outside door on the side of our building (where we normally enter) at 10:10 a.m.** The other outside doors are already locked. If anyone needs to leave the church before the service is over, they should inform the Board Member, who will be sitting in the choir loft at the rear of the Sanctuary. The Board member will make sure the door is locked after the person leaves.

We will continue to investigate access and exit strategies as well as better locking systems as we prepare next year's budget.

Ted Trainer, for the Board of Directors

# Letters



Dear Fellow Members and Friends of First Parish,

I was very surprised to read in last week's newsletter about the decision to lock the church doors during Sunday morning service. What brought on this policy shift I don't know, but I was hit by an incredible sadness when I read the notice.

Kennebunk is the safest town in Maine, which is one of the safest states in the country. Why would we choose to live in fear? Yes, there is violence in the world, but this policy provides an illusion of a solution. Why would we want to perpetuate the increasing culture of distrust and suspicion that is so prevalent in America right now. Let's not join in by locking people out.

I understand our board wants us to be safe, but this is not about safety only, but of philosophy too. I feel this decision is one that needs to be discussed by the whole congregation.

Sincerely,  
Jacky Peters



In response to the real concerns raised by Jackie's letter, which was shared with members of the board beforehand, the Board would like to hold a **Listening Session immediately after the Coffee Hour at this week's Sunday Service**. We invite all those with an interest in this issue to attend so we can have a full exchange of views, as well as additional background from the Board as to why it made the decision. We look forward to finding a solution that works for all of us in the best tradition of a Shared Ministry.

Ted Trainer, Chair  
Board of Directors



# Social Justice Concerns

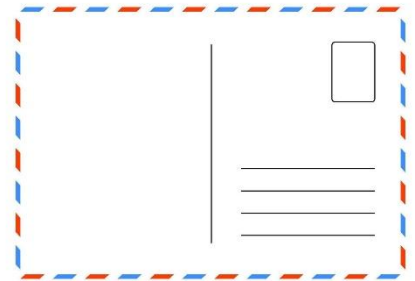
## What Now?

Our What Now? discussions, which take place in the parlor at 11:30 a.m. will resume the third Sunday of October. Until then, please note this opportunity to help those in Gaza:

There is a national call by Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East, a collective of Jewish, Palestinian, and Muslim voices throughout our denomination. Visit their website [HERE](#) to for a list of action items.

## Postcards on current events

If you would like to help write issue-related postcards to voters in swing states, get in touch with Vicki Adams. Participants will receive a packet of 25 postcards with instructions and a list of 25 names and addresses. You will need to buy postcard stamps, which now cost 61 cents each.



## Our climate is our lifeline to the future

Member Cynthia Riley wrote this letter to an editor. Perhaps you'd like to follow her example?

While I am 80 years old, I have been concerned about our climate and its challenges for many years. Now, we are at a point where not only many steps have been taken to address the crisis we now face with our climate, [but] we have a president who calls the climate crisis a "hoax."

There is no time to mess about with a person so ill-informed and malignantly pro-climate-damage thru continued coal and oil extraction that we are at a last

ditch turning point. You, [as editor of this publication] are in a position to influence the American public to take a stand and I am **pleading** with you to use that power.

We elders don't want to leave our children and their children with an earth that has been exploited beyond repair.

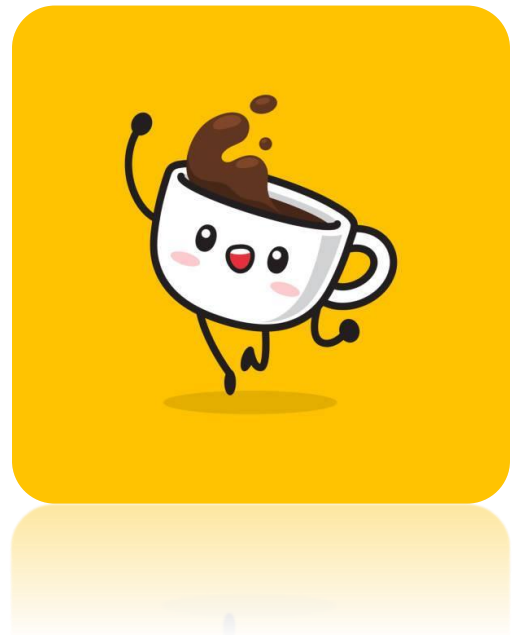
Cynthia from Maine (which receives air pollution from across the rest of the continent).

## **We all need to pitch in!**

### **Are you new to us? Please join a Coffee Hour team**

Contact: Jim Thompson to join a team!

Sept. 14	Membership Team, Welcome Back & Cake
Sept. 21	Music/Choir Team
Sept. 28	Social Justice Team
Oct. 5	Amigos Team
Oct. 12	Community Team
Oct. 19	Worship Team
Oct. 26	Nominating Team
Nov. 2	Caretakers Team
Nov. 9	Sea glass Team
Nov. 16	Board of Directors
Nov. 23	Property Team
Nov. 30	Membership Team
Dec. 7	Music/Choir
Dec. 14	Social Justice Team
Dec. 21	Amigos Team
Dec. 28	Worship Team



# Job Opportunity: Sunday Morning Childcare Provider

First Parish is seeking a warm, responsible, and playful individual to join our Religious Exploration team!



This paid position is a wonderful opportunity to create a nurturing and engaging space for our children during our Sunday services. Main duties will be to care for children in our nursery space (ages 0-5) for two hours on Sunday morning, but you may be invited to support our teaching team from time to time. Come be part of our supportive and joyful UU community where we create space for growth, play, and connection! All ages and genders are welcome to apply, perhaps you know a high school student that may be interested? A background check will be required.

If you'd like to learn more about this position, please reach out to Allison Lazos at [uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com](mailto:uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com) with your interest and the best way to be in touch.

## Our members now in rehabilitation enjoy having people call or visit

**Bernie Reim** is at Bradford House, Huntington Common Rd. He welcomes visitors following a serious auto accident and faces a long recovery with many challenges ahead. There are a number of ways to support Bernie as he heals—please reach out to Ian Durham for more information. Please call Bernie to find a convenient time to visit.

**Rich Gaito** at Bradford House, Huntington Common Rd. He is recovering from a stroke and enjoys company. Please call Rich to find a convenient time to visit.

**Joan O'Hara** is in Bradford House on Huntington Common Rd. She very much appreciates old friends visiting, but since she is blind and has difficulty answering the phone, you may try dropping in early or late afternoon. Be sure to announce yourself and know that she might not always be up to a visit.

# Summer Sunday Bookcase

- [Rest Is Resistance: A Manifesto](#), Tricia Hersey
- [Enfleshed: Spiritual Nourishment for Collective Liberation](#)
- [List of Things I Love](#): Andrea Gibson
- [Growing a New Heart](#)
- [We the People Are Videos](#)
- [We the People Are Upcoming Trainings](#)



## Minister's Discretionary Fund

The Minister's Discretionary Fund is available to help individuals in our congregation and wider community who are experiencing financial hardship. If you, or someone you know, could benefit from this support, please reach out to Rev. Tori. All requests are handled with care and strict confidentiality. (uukennebunkminister@gmail.com or 978-238-8210).

### Pantry Hours

Monday: 12pm – 2pm

Tuesday: 3pm – 5:30pm

Thursday: 3pm – 5pm

Friday: 9am – 12pm

**Eliminating food  
insecurity in the towns  
of Kennebunk,  
Kennebunkport, and  
Arundel, Maine.**

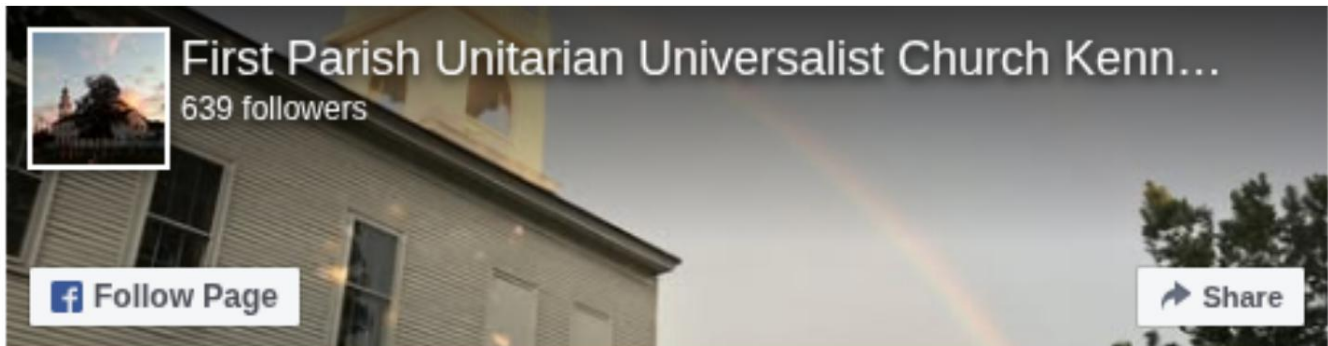
**coskennebunks.org**







## Have you “liked” our Facebook page? First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, Kennebunk Maine



- Help spread the word about our events and activities
- Like, Comment, Share!
- Get social via social media with fellow members and friends of the church!
- Let's rally and get to 2K followers!



LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD

# First Parish UU Church Kennebunk

## SEPTEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office CLOSED	2 9-12 Office Open 10:30 a.m. Pastoral Care 5:15 p.m. Sangha 5:30 p.m. Membership	3 9-12 Office Open	4 9-12 Office Open	5 9-12 Office Open 11 a.m. Bob Lown Memorial Service	6 11 a.m. Oliver Payne Memorial Service
7 <b>Water Communion/ Ingathering</b> 10 a.m. Worship Service led Rev. Tori	8 9-12 Office Open  7 p.m. Finance	9 9-12 Office Open 5:15 p.m. Sangha 6:30 p.m. WFAS 6:30 p.m. Men's Open Group	10 9-12 Office Open  6 p.m. Worship Committee	11 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Choir	12 9-12 Office Open  6:30 p.m. Song Swop	13
14 10 a.m. Worship Service led Rev. Tori "The Crowded Table"	15 9-12 Office Open	16 9-12 Office Open 5:15 p.m. Sangha	17 9-12 Office Open	18 9-12 Office Open 3 p.m. FPUU Choir performance at Huntington Com- mons 5:30 p.m. Choir	19 9-12 Office Open	20 4:30 p.m. New Member Potluck
21 10 a.m. Worship Service	22 9-12 Office Open	23 9-12 Office Open 10 a.m. Small Group Ministry 5:15 p.m. Sangha 6:30 p.m. WFAS 6:30 p.m. Men's Open Group	24 9-12 Office Open 10 a.m. RE Team 5:30 p.m. Small Group Ministry 6 p.m. Board of Directors (zoom)	25 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Choir	26 9-12 Office Open	27
28 <b>Shared Ministry</b> 10 a.m. Worship Service led Rev. Tori 11 a.m. Shared Ministry Cafe	29 9-12 Office Open	30 9-12 Office Open				