FIRST PARISH NEWS
UU Church of Kennebunk

LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD

October 29, 2026

"In the sweet territory of silence we touch the mystery. It's the place of reflection and contemplation, and it's the place where we can connect with the deep knowing, to the deep wisdom way." – Angeles Arrien

Photo by Allegra Highsmith

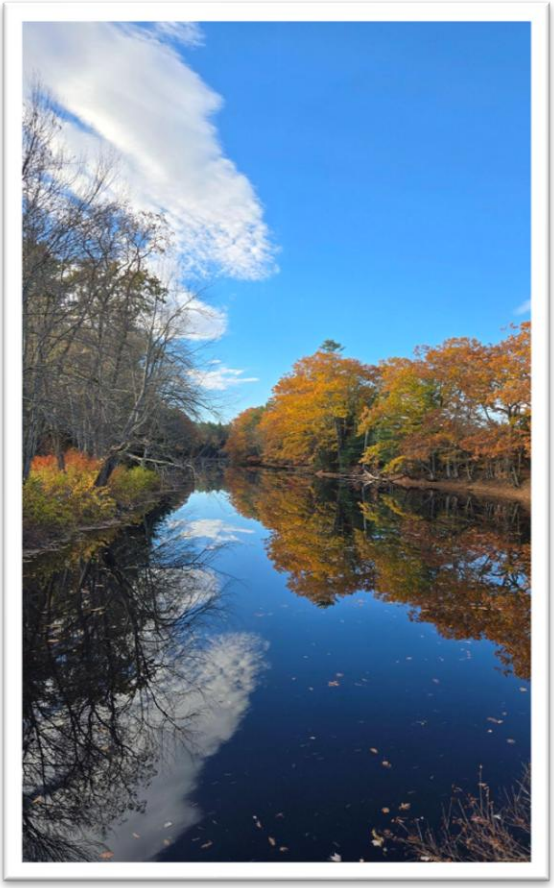


Photo by Allegra Highsmith

"What Is Remembered Lives: Samhain"

Nov. 1, 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



November Theme: Healing

- Early voting has begun, continues through Oct. 29, vote in person Nov. 3.
- Now through Nov. 12, bring items to the church for the Rummage Sale*
- Sun. Nov. 1, 10 a.m. Celebration Sunday and Stewardship lunch*
- Sun. Nov. 1, 4:30-6 p.m. Singing Resistance, FPUU, all welcome*
- Wed. Nov. 4, 5:30 p.m. post-election Vespers and soup supper*
- Sun. Nov. 8, 11:30 a.m. What Now? Social Justice discussion group*
- Sat. Sun. Nov. 14-15, 8 a.m. Rummage Sale
- Sun. Nov. 15, 11:30 a.m. Leadership Council, Parlor*

* See below for more information

This Sunday: Intergenerational Service
What Is Remembered Lives: Samhain

Samhain (pronounced sah-win) means "summer's end" and is the night before the Celtic New Year. It is a time when many cultures believe that the veil between the worlds of the living and the dead is at its thinnest and also marks the seasonal transition toward winter. Join us Sunday as we honor those who have died and remember together the blessings of love, harvest, and the life we make together. ***As part of our annual ritual, please bring a photograph or item of significance of a loved one who has died*** to place on an altar we will build together so that what is remembered lives between and among us. You are also welcome to dress in a costume! Rev. Tori, Mary Gelfand, and Mark Gallup leading with Rochelle Irene and music from Mary Doane and the First Parish Choir.

Following the service, we will be celebrating our annual Stewardship campaign with lunch and gratitude for the ways we steward the past, the present and the future – all with love.

Letter from the Minister

On a recent drive through a familiar neighborhood, I turned a corner to face one of the most magnificent red maples I've ever seen. It rose, rooted and sprawling, in perfect symmetry against the backdrop of the still green woodland behind it. It stopped me in my tracks. The fact that I have turned this corner a hundred times and never noticed this tree held part of my awe. It had been there all along, just blended into everything around it so well that its ma gnificence in shape, size, and presence had been quietly absorbed. There is something powerful about stepping out from the background of our familiar surroundings – all colorful, vibrant and BOLD.



I've been thinking about this tree a lot over these last weeks as we've been working so hard to get out the vote, as we continue to demand justice and accountability from our leaders, and also in the quiet moments when we said a faithful and loving no, or allowed just a little more of our color to shine through. In all these ways, this season calls us to be bold.

In all these ways, our October reflection on courage has taught me that taking risks, speaking out, stretching ourselves beyond what is comfortable can create the most vivid displays of light and vibrancy in the world. Courage so often catches us by surprise, stops us in our tracks – hidden within us, waiting to burst forth around the corner when we least expect it.

So, friends, let us be open to the bends in the road, be bold in these days of color and transition and change - no matter the backdrops that emerge around us. And when we are uncertain or hesitant, let us step forward knowing that we have each other to help us be bold - a rainbow of color that lights up our world.

Yours on the journey,
Rev. Tori

Religious Exploration



We welcomed our new RE Director, Rochelle Irene, whose picture you see here with her daughter River, the Sunday before last. Throughout October as we reflected on our them of Courage, we discussed the meanings of bravery and the courage to share who we truly are with the world. We are looking forward to our first intergenerational service with Rochelle this Sunday when we celebrate and explore the Celtic holiday of Samhain together as a whole community!

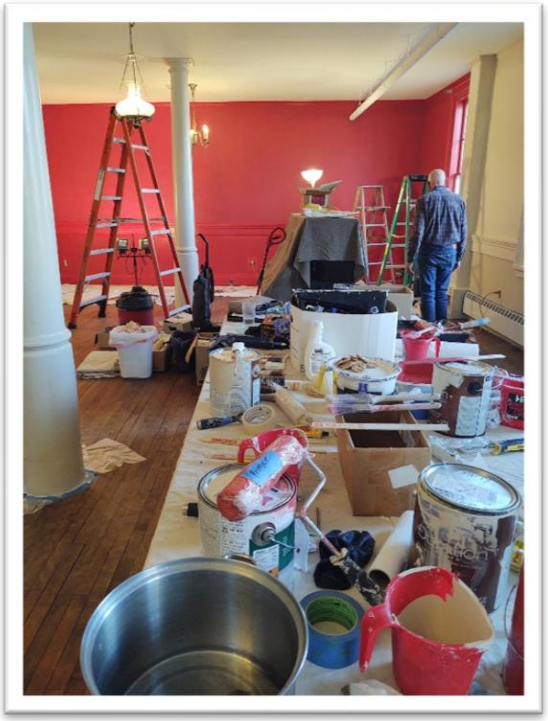
Stewardship update

Our key time frame for the pledge drive is coming to a close! Celebration Sunday is this Sunday and we would love to have ALL of our pledges on the books. As of Monday, October 26th, we have received pledges from 37.8% of our membership in the amount of $82,096 which is 51% of our goal of $160,000. Have you made your pledge yet? Join the cumulative efforts of our community to Create the Future With Love.

Bring your pledge card to church this week or go to our website here: https://www.uukennebunk.org/give and click on the link to make your 2027 pledge. Our children and youth in the RE Program are looking forward to filling in our entire rainbow!

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



Many members of our congregation have donated their time to make improvements to our beloved building, including painting our Parish Hall and Parlor. Tom Socha, right, coordinated the painting projects. Many thanks to all who have demonstrated their stewardship!

The Stewardship Team invites all our beloved community to join us on Celebration Sunday, November 1st, 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Immediately following worship, we will gather for a Church Group Photo and then settle in the Parish Hall for lunch hosted by the Stewardship Team. This is going to be a Sunday full of celebration and we hope to see all of you there! Please RSVP to Heidi either via email uuheidi@gmail.com or sign up starting this Sunday, so that we can have a headcount to plan for lunch.

Post-election Vespers: Wed. Nov. 4, 5:30 p.m.



In this season of action and commitment, we are all working hard to protect our democracy and what we hold most dear in our lives and communities. Our November vespers will be on a different day this month - the night following the election. Join us as we gather in sacred space to lean into the solace and peace that community brings and to renew our spirits for all that lies ahead. Feel free to bring some soup to share for our potluck meal afterward or just bring yourself. All are welcome.

Social Justice Action

"No one can do everything, but everyone can do something!"



Photo by Vicki Adams

Demonstrations: For over a year and a half, people including members of our congregation have been standing in front of Kennebunk Library and overflowing toward our church with many signs favoring democracy or love. Demonstrations take place every Thursday at about 4 p.m. and several Saturdays. What an example of solidarity and community!

Postcards are in the mail: Vicki Adams and Cynthia Riley distributed 900 Get-out-the-vote postcards, which the congregation and others wrote by hand to voters in Nevada, Texas, South Carolina, Ohio, and Maine. Thank you all who donated stamps and energy for this project over the past five months! Don't forget to vote early or on Tuesday, Nov. 3, and remind your family and friends!

MLK Celebration: A task force is planning next year's Martin Luther King Day celebration for Sunday afternoon, Jan. 17.

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



Rev. Devin, last Sunday, delivered her sermon, Mystifying & Demystifying Trans Justice, and Roberto Pace, pianist, played Over the Rainbow. Her words extended from 3,000 years of history, during which trans people were considered spiritual in many cultures, to the unjust treatment of trans people today.



Photos by Vicki Adams

Our Leaders will meet to further our mission

A new Leadership Council will meet over lunch on Sunday, November 15 at 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor. This Council was recently formed to invigorate collaboration between our Board of Directors and all who are helping to lead the various ministries of the church. The meeting has been called by Dave Terricciano, one of our newer members and Vice-Chair of the Board.

The Leadership Council may advise the Board, and we will share thoughts on how we can best work together to further the mission of FPUU. I hope that this sharing of ideas will connect us, Dave says, and promote communication across the teams. It's important that each team be represented by the chair or an alternate. A budget update by each team will be provided and I welcome your feedback.

This is a social occasion too! Lunch and refreshments will be provided for us to enjoy. I am excited to launch a revitalized Leadership Council in partnership with the Board.

Best Regards to all, Dave

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.



We have a new usher seeker!

I am now the usher seeker for our Sunday service. If you are interested in serving as an usher please contact Kathleen McGuire at kathyandy56@gmail.com or 207-281-2065.

Community

Whale Coast Alaska - Tour hosted by UU's



Alaska UU congregations have organized a unique fundraising tour of their state. They are collaborating with *WhaleCoast Alaska*. Experience majestic scenery, wildlife, Denali National Park, Alaska's native culture, glaciers, and UU homestays. For 33 years, *WhaleCoast* tours have been the best way to visit Alaska. Register now for this amazing experience!
Details: www.WhaleCoastAK.org Questions: info@whalecoastak.org



FALL Rummage Sale

Clothing, household goods & linens, kitchenware, books/CDs, children's toys, misc.!
Don't miss out on the special jewelry & accessories table - Saturday only

Sat. Nov. 14th 8-11am
Sun. Nov. 15th 8-10am

everything $3/bag on Sunday

FIRST PARISH UU Church of Kennebunk

114 Main Street Kennebunk
(next to the library)

Donated items can be dropped off in the parlor, thank you!

Come sing with us!

Three Rivers Singing Resistance is a grassroots movement that uses the universal language of music to bring people together for peace, civic action, healing, and solidarity. Through accessible songs, ordinary people gather to raise their voices together without worrying about musical perfection. We're grateful for this opportunity and hope that, together, we can grow a joyful, welcoming circle of singers.

3RSR will gather at First Parish twice a month: The Tuesday gathering will be a song circle where we can learn and practice songs together, and the Sunday gathering will provide time to connect, share ideas, and learn about local efforts where our voices might be useful.

- Monthly on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7-8:30 p.m. (beginning Oct. 20)
- Monthly on the 1st Sunday of the month, 4:30-6 p.m. (beginning Nov. 1st)

Letters

Dear First Parish Members and Friends,

It's come to our attention that a recent wave of calendar invitation emails including "DocuSign Discussion" have been going out with malicious links contained within them. "Review the Document" is a very suspect domain. Do not click links in these emails and trust your gut! If you have any questions, reach out to Chris Wells or Rev. Tori.

If you have a message you'd like to share with our newsletter community, please send it to our editor: vickigatesadams@gmail.com to be placed here.

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



Sunday Childcare Support: http://uukennebunk.org/sunday-childcare-support

FOR SALE: U.S. Mint (Denver & Philadelphia) Uncirculated Coin Sets, along with several San Francisco Mint Proof Sets.

I am offering varied sets of the above for $5.00 each set with all proceeds to go to the November "Share the Offering" Sunday plate. These sets were originally purchased between 1972 and 1998, directly from the Treasury Dept.
Historically these sets are usually purchased by collectors or simply as a long-term investment, while just as often to recognize a special year, event, birth, graduation, anniversary, etc. that is meaningful to the purchaser.. All coins are in mint uncirculated condition, while the Proof Sets are actually double pressed producing a true mirror-like reflection for the penny through the dollar.
If interested, please contact Jim Thompson.

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 5pm 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 5pm 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 5pm Choir Rehearsal	20 9am-12pm Office open	21
22 10 am Worship Service led by Rev. Tori 11am. Coffee Hour 11:30am Worship Reflection	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	30					