



June 11, 2026

LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD

Of all the things we have to be grateful for, diversity should reign at the top! It's a gift, coloring our world in so many wonderful ways, ... [a world] we're all free to experience individually, but one we also share together. This month let us celebrate and support gender diversity with all our hearts during National Pride Month!

Peter Brown



Photo by Tom Socha

“Sunday Morning in the Park with Flowers”

June 11, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

Worship Leaders: Crow Lowry & 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

upcoming EVENTS

First Parish and Community

- Every Thursday, 4-5 p.m. Demonstration, Kennebunk
- Friday, June 12, 6:30 p.m. Song Swop
- Sat. June 13, 10 a.m. Joan O'Hara's Memorial Service
- Sat. June 13, 12-3 p.m. Pride in the Bunks *
- Sun. June 14, 10 a.m. Flower Sunday*
- Sun. June 14, 11:30 a.m. Worship Reflection Circle*
- Tues. June 16, 6:30 p.m. Women for All Seasons
- Wed. June 17, 6 p.m. Board of Directors meeting
- Fri. June 19, Juneteenth, a week of events, Portsmouth NH *
- Sun. June 21, 11:30 a.m. What Now? Social Justice Discussion

*see below for more information

Remembering Joan and Shirley O'Hara



Our beloved Joan O'Hara's memorial service will be this Saturday, June 13, at 10 a.m. We will also remember her daughter, Shirley, who died earlier this year. Her two remaining sons, James and Evan O'Hara, along with Rev. Tori Rosati, will offer remembrances. Click [HERE](#) to view Joan's obituary.

Religious Exploration

Our children will be spending time outdoors for the remainder of the church year. Please make sure your kids have jackets with them.

Sunday in the Park with Flowers – Bring Flowers from Home!



*Lady slippers at Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge.
Photo by Vicki Adams*

Join us this Sunday, June 14 for our annual intergenerational flower ceremony. In this tradition, each of us brings a flower from home to contribute to a shared bouquet, symbolizing a community made vibrant by the unique gifts of all its members. At the end of the service, we each take home a different flower, representing the blessings we receive from one another.

In the spirit of this ritual of color and life, we will also celebrate Pride with decorations made by our children. And, our own Crow Lowry will offer a reflection on the gift of transitioning. Drawing inspiration from Stephen Sondheim's famous play, "Sundays in the Park with

George", they will remind us that having the courage to move on fully as ourselves helps us all to thrive.

A Message from the Minister

Dear ones,

Last Saturday, amidst the busy preparations around my house for my eldest's high school graduation, we all went down to celebrate Pride in Boston. As we watched the parade and joined the estimated nearly 1 million people coming together across age, social location, and experience to say loudly and proudly, we are here, we matter, and ultimately, as our theme for June invites – we flourish together.

As I walked through the streets, I found my heart stepping back to take in the totality of the morning. As I did so, I was reminded of something one of our people said to me following our service a few weeks ago where we lifted up, with gratitude, the many contributions that each one of you makes to our collective flourishing. She said, "this service reminded me that together we can do anything!" We can indeed.

In this time of so much challenge, need, and work to be done, this is a revolutionary message and one that bears repeating over and over again. Like a field of flowers, we need everyone - every last one of us with our particular color, shape and vibrancy - to be well, to thrive, and to flourish. As we celebrate Pride this month and the infinite and exquisite variety of ways to love, to express oneself, and to be human, I invite us all to let our hearts take a step back and see the miracle of this. That when we come together in our uniqueness, our beauty and our love - together we really can do anything.

Yours on the journey,
Rev. Tori

Food, Fun, Fellowship this Saturday afternoon

If you did not sign up for Tom and Molly's Lawn Game BBQ Picnic during the recent auction, you can still join in the festivities this Saturday June 13, Noon to whenever. Families with kids are encouraged. Hosted by Tom Socha & Molly Hoadley, 2 Riverside Place, Kennebunk. \$20 adults, under 21 free. Text or call Tom or Molly if you plan to attend. Contact info in directory.



Blueberry Festival & Craft Fair – a real gem

One more craft/artist!

We have one last vendor booth open at our July 25th Blueberry Festival and Craft Fair. If interested, please contact Karen Carey.

karencuuberryfair@gmail.com.



1 Mary Fortune welcomes people to the jewelry booth at our Blueberry Festival.

Jewelry makes festival sparkle

Jewelry wanted! If you are 'curating' your collection, we'd love to have earrings, rings, bracelets and necklaces, once loved, still beautiful but now rarely worn.

Please put items in a bag or box labeled "Jewelry for Fair" and bring them to church Sunday or leave with Office Administrator Allison Lazos weekday mornings. Deadline July 1st!

Pie Palooza scheduled for July 2nd

There are opportunities for all levels of involvement, from joining our fun-filled "Pie Palooza" assembly day to baking pies at home, whipping up blueberry buckle, providing freezer space, or helping transport baked goods.

Pie Palooza is one of the highlights of festival preparation—a day when we gather in the church kitchen to assemble dozens of blueberry pies together. No experience is necessary, and it's a wonderful opportunity to spend time with fellow parishioners. We'd love to have you join the team! If you are available on July 2nd, please contact Kate Howell at kbaltren@gmail.com. *Due to the science workshops, this is the only date available.*

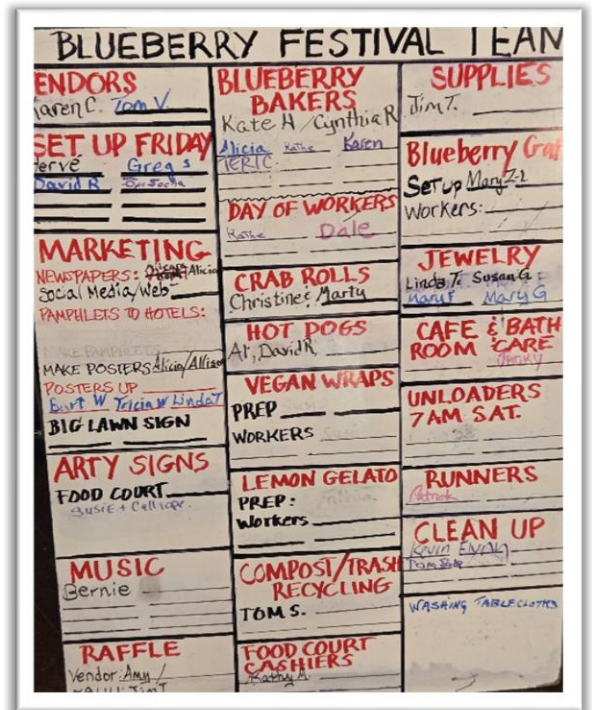
Gelato, vegan wraps

Do you love our famous lemon gelato and best-ever vegan wraps? We have the recipes, the signage, the space—but we need people to manage these booths.

Many opportunities only involve Sat. July 25.

Positions include managing the recycle & waste bins, ticket sales at our raffle tables, helping with set up or taker down. Are you quick with a calculator? The Food court needs cashiers.

A full list of volunteer roles is in the Parish Hall. Chat with friends and current festival volunteers, then join in the fun!



Have you seen this sign? It's your sign to sign up! Photo by Allegra Highsmith

Check Your Email

If you have emailed me and haven't received a response, I may not have seen it! A fake address has found its way into some of our email contact lists. To ensure I receive your messages, please take a moment to check the email address that populates when you start an email to me. My correct email address is:

uukennebunkminister@gmail.com

If you've recently emailed me and haven't heard back after a few days, please double check that the address matches the one above. If you need assistance updating your contact list, Allison Lazos or Chris Wells are available to help. Please feel free to reach out to them or me for guidance.

Also remember, I will never email you asking for gift cards, financial assistance, or personal information of any kind. If you receive a request and aren't sure, give me a call or contact the office.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you!

Gratefully,
Rev. Tori

Social Justice Action

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

Thanks to our Postcard Posse, those who are writing get-out-the-vote postcards over the summer to be mailed before the election Nov. 3!

Juneteenth:

Black Heritage Trail, Portsmouth, NH

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation declared that as of Jan. 1, 1863, all slaves of the states in rebellion "shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free." However, it was not until June 19, 1865, that the enslaved people in Galveston TX began their journey towards freedom.

Freedom Walk, Fri. June 19, 9 a.m. Kittery to Portsmouth,

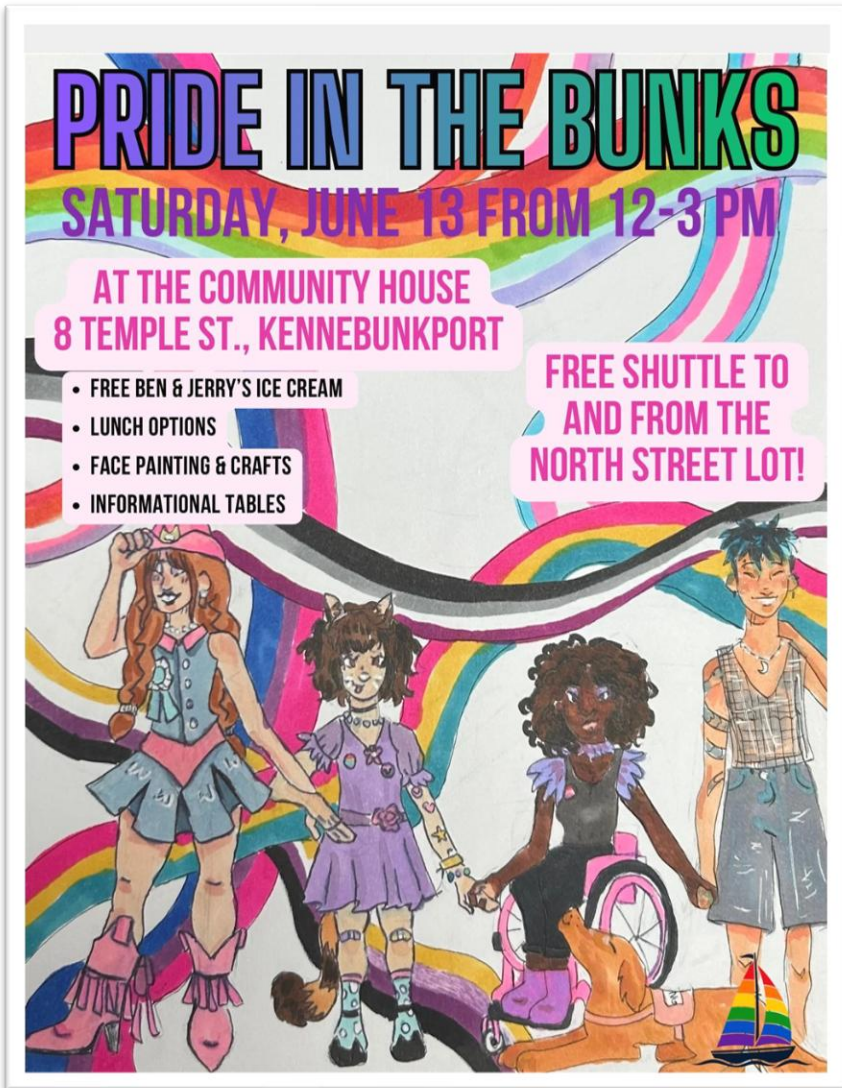
The Healing Rhythm of the Drums, Fri. June 19, 11 a.m. African Burying Ground,

Meet NH Five to Know, Living History, Sun. June 21, 11 a.m.

Frederick Douglass Reading, Sat. June 27, noon, throughout NH,

Guided Bus Tour to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of our Declaration of Independence, Sun. June 28, 10 a.m. Portsmouth City Hall.

For specific information see <http://blackheritagetrailnh.org/events>



Social Justice Advocacy and Resources

For information click [here](#).

If you have an organization or information regarding social justice advocacy that you would like to have included in this link, please send to Allison at uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com

Help keep our church Safe and Welcoming

The Safety and Security Team is looking for volunteers to serve as door monitors during Sunday services. This suggestion came to the Board of Directors from church members during early discussions about the decision to lock the entrance door 10 minutes after the start of services. Presently, members arriving later than 10:10 a.m. can gain admittance by phoning a member of the Board of Directors who will leave the service to let them in. Others may be locked out!

Door monitors will be stationed in the church office and will be able to open the door for latecomers immediately. Monitors can attend the service by video link, which has been set up in the office. We hope to have eight to ten volunteers so that monitors will serve no more than once every 2 months. Anyone interested in volunteering as a monitor may contact Dick Russell, Safety and Security Team at drussell110@comcast.net



SONGSWOP is scheduled for Friday, June 12, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. All are welcome, singers, poets, story tellers etc. Acoustic instruments only please. For more information contact Bruce Childress.

Letters

LETTERS: 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.

Classified Notices

Snow thrower: a 26", self-propelled, electric-start Snapper snow thrower for sale. This machine is about 20 years old but has been well cared for and recently underwent a comprehensive overhaul. These machines can last up to 30 years when well-maintained. Valued up to \$1500, depending on the year and condition. We've had no trouble getting it serviced (parts, readily available) this one just underwent a \$790 overhaul! We are asking for \$325 or best offer by July 6th. We are moving out-of-state and our pack-out date is July 9th, so we'd like this to go to its new home before then. Please email Maggie and Nick Bartenhagen for more info. or to see the snow thrower.

Rental Wanted, service offered: We've heard from a woman, with excellent references, who is looking for a place to live and rent in Kennebunk. She is willing to help her landlord in a number of possible ways including caretaking. If

you are interested in renting a space to her, Vicki Adams (see directory) can put you in touch with her for details.

Self-help: Adult Psychologist and Executive Coach. Achieve more and stress less. Contact amywoodpsyd.com

Wanted to hire: Wallpaper hanger and general handyman.
Contact amywoodpsyd.com

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.

Community

Celebrate the 1st Amendment this Sunday Music rather than a march for No Kings this month

The [Committee for the First Amendment](#) is hosting [Rise Up, Sing Out](#), a 90-minute concert streamed live from New York City. People will also gather at local watch parties in living rooms and community centers across the country, Sunday, June 14, at 7:30 p.m. ET, free online.

Rather than marching on that date, *No Kings* and *Indivisible* are partnering to turn one night of music into something unique and in support of community building. The lineup includes Rufus Wainwright, Bette Midler, Patti Smith, Sasha Allen, Joy Reid, Julia Roberts, Lily Gladstone, Peppermint, Wilson Cruz, Jenn Colella, Broadway Inspirational Voices, and Jane Fonda with more names still to come.

Ongoing at First Parish

All Are Welcome Table

Sundays, 11–11:30 a.m. in the Parlor

Looking to connect, meet new people, or learn more about what's happening at FPUU? Join members of the Membership Committee, in the Parlor during coffee hour for relaxed conversation and community. Everyone is welcome—just pull up a chair! For more information, contact Heidi at uuheidi@gmail.com, or simply stop by—no RSVP needed!

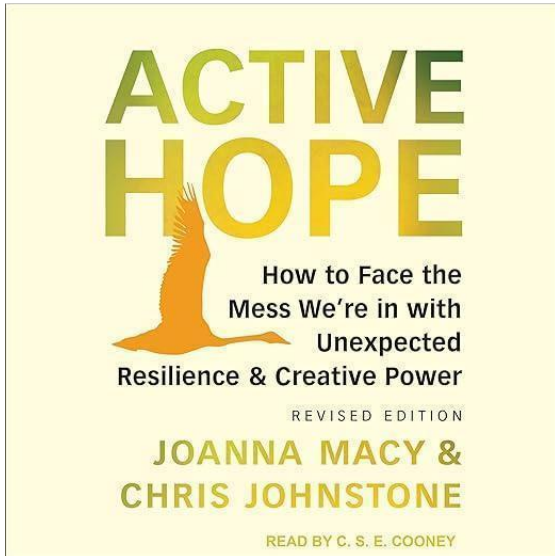
Church Directory

A new church directory has been updated, if you would like a hard copy, please contact Allison at uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com.

Sunday Bookcase & Links

- *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in*, Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone. (Our Common Read)
- *Awakening Loving Kindness*, Pema Chödrön
- [Walking for Peace, Marching Together from Love](#), Bhikkhu Bodhi
- [Living the Questions](#), Krista Tippett





Summer reading!

Rev. Tori suggested that some of us might like to share a “Common Read” over the summer and share our thoughts in the fall. She chose the book, *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in ...* by Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone. Several of us have already expressed interest. The authors guide us through a transformational process informed by mythic journeys, modern

psychology, spirituality, and holistic science.

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 May Spotify playlist on **Flourishing Together**
- Click [here](#) for the May YouTube playlist on **Flourishing Together**

Minister's Discretionary Fund

In light of rising prices and increased economic pressures, many in our community are facing unexpected financial hardship. The Minister's Discretionary Fund is available to help members of our congregation and the wider community who are struggling to make ends meet, particularly during this difficult time. If you, or someone you know, could use some support, please reach out to Rev. Tori. All requests are received with care and handled in strict confidence. Contact: uukennebunkminister@gmail.com or 978-238-8210

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

Next week will be our last full newsletter before the summer edition.

FPUU News Crew:

Vicki Adams, editor

Allegra Highsmith, photo editor

Allison Lazos, production

Rev. Tori Rosati, advisor

First Parish UU Church Kennebunk

JUNE 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9-12 Office Open	2 9-12 Office Open 5:15 p.m. Sangha 7 p.m. Properties	3 9-12 Office Open	4 9-12 Office Open 5 p.m. Choir 5:30 p.m. Worship	5 9-12 Office Open	6
7 10 a.m. Worship Service led Al Adams & Meredith Norris	8 9-12 Office Open 7 p.m. Finance	9 9-12 Office Open 10:30 a.m. Pastoral Care 5:15 p.m. Sangha 5:30 p.m. Family Small Group Ministry 6:30 p.m. M.O.G.	10 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Vespers	11 9-12 Office Open 5:00p.m. Choir	12 9-12 Office Open 6:30 p.m. Song Swop	13 10 a.m. Joan O'Hara's Memorial Service
14 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Crow Lowry & Rev. Tori 11:30 a.m. Worship Reflection	15 9-12 Office Open	16 9-12 Office Open 5:15 p.m. Sangha 6:30 p.m. W.F.A.S.	17 9-12 Office Open 6 p.m. Board of Directors	18 9-12 Office Open 5:00 p.m. Choir	19 9-12 Office Open	20
21 10 a.m. Worship Service Led by Mark Gallup 11:30 a.m. What Now? Social Justice Discussion	22 Office Summer Hours Begin 5:30 p.m. Membership Team	23 9-12 Office Open 10 a.m. Small Group Ministry 5:15 Sangha 6:30 p.m. W.F.A.S. 6:30 p.m. M.O.G.	24 10 a.m. R.E. 5:30 p.m. Small Group Ministry	25 9-12 Office Open 5:00 p.m. Choir	26	27
28 10 a.m. Worship Service Led by Jason McLin	29	30 9-12 Office Open 5:15 p.m. Sangha				

Please note, the calendar is subject to change.