



April 30, 2026

LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD

There is a profound difference between the false ambition for power and the true ambition to love and serve. It is the difference between trying to raise ourselves up and trying to lift up our fellow human beings.

Henry Nouwen



Photo by Vicki Adams

Awakening Curiosity: “Won’t You Be My Neighbor”

May 3, 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



First Parish and Community

- Every Thursday, 4-5 p.m. Demonstration, Kennebunk
- Thurs. April 30, 5 p.m., Online Auction ends
- Sun. May 3, 8:30 a.m. Bylaws session, Sanctuary*
- Sun. May 3, Pick up your winnings from the auction Parish Hall
- Tues. May 12, 5:30-7 p.m. Family Matters, fellowship, dinner, childcare*
- Sun. May 17, 11:30 a.m. Bylaws session*
- Sat. May 23, 1 p.m. River Celebration, Rogers Pond, if rain, Sun.
- Sun. May 31, 8:30 a.m. Annual Meeting, Sanctuary

*see below for more information

This Sunday: Won't You Be My Neighbor

Being a good neighbor awakens practices of curiosity, witness, and love. The greatest gift we can offer another person is our honest, caring presence — to say, in word and deed: *I see you. I'm glad you're here. You matter.* In a world that moves fast and looks past, that kind of neighboring is a radical act.

Join us this Sunday for an **intergenerational service** where we will draw on the wisdom of Fred Rogers to explore what it truly means to show up for the people around us — in our homes, our streets, and our wider community. Rev. Tori leading with Margaret Jones, Gray Hirshfield, and Jacky Peters with music from Chris Staknys and the First Parish Jazz Ensemble.

Blueberry Bushes for the Blueberry Festival!

To celebrate Earth Day, the Planeteers of Southern Maine, a local group that specializes in native plantings, removed two invasive “burning bushes” near the Marquis in front of the church, and planted in their place four native blueberry bushes, 3 Blue Jays and one Blue Ray. The group came up with this idea four years ago, not only to remove the invasives, but also in honor of our annual Blueberry Festival and New Year’s Eve Blueberry Ball Drop.

After much discussion among the Social Justice Network, Properties Committee, University of Southern Maine Cooperative Extension, the town's Historic Preservation Commission, and with our Board's blessing, the Planeteers carried out the project April 22. Following our Earth Day service last Sunday, we opened the front doors and gathered around the new plantings as Board Chair Ted Trainer rang our Paul Revere bell.

We thank the Planeteers, especially Andrea Roth-Kimmich, Jen Armstrong, and Lisa Pagano, for this generous gift, our Properties Committee for researching the soil chemistry of the project, and excavators, the Elmer Brothers of Top Branch Tree Service, who were careful not to harm the lawn or other plants.



Planeteers: Jen Armstrong and Lisa Pagano plant four high-bush blueberries in front of the church to celebrate Earth Day and our love of blueberries. Photo by Vicki Adams

How our historic church building is funded

On Sunday, May 3rd, the First Parish Preservation Foundation (FPPF) will be handing out personalized letters to all Members and Friends. We will also answer any questions you may have. This letter will ask you to consider a special donation, while recognizing that you most likely already submitted your Pledge for 2026. As described in last month's Newsletter, any funds collected by the FPPF go directly towards specific projects and critical maintenance issues, in conjunction with First Parish's Property Committee and your Board of Directors. The FPPF is an independent body incorporated in the State of Maine, as a 501© 3 solely for the purpose of raising funds to protect and help to maintain our historic 1773 structure and its grounds.

We thank you for your highly important annual Pledge that keeps First Parish open and running smoothly whether for

operational needs, staffing, utilities or general everyday expenses. The FPPF is unique in that it continues to directly aid First Parish thru collecting and transferring funds that have assisted with the recent heating system conversion, this year's outside painting, last season's arbor restoration, installation of the new front railing, and involvement with safety issues, as recommended by Kennebunk's Police and Fire Dept. This year's latest project will be the restoration of the old Hearse House located adjacent to the church. Please consider returning your donation in the envelope provided, either by mail or simply drop it in the office door slot to your left as you enter the building.

Thank You!

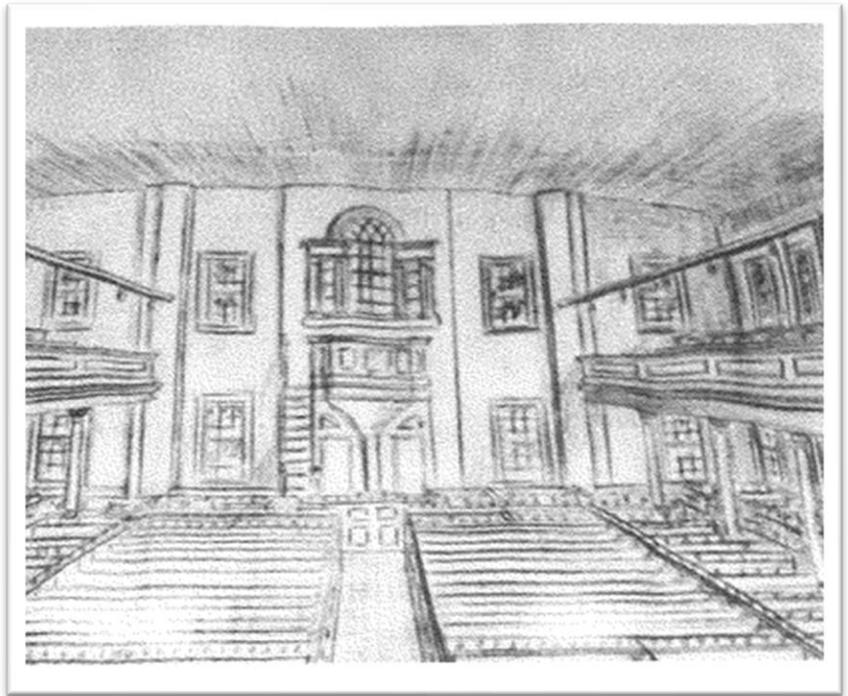
Jim Thompson, FPPF Board Member



Patrick Conner, in the limelight of our new Parish Hall lighting. He along with Tom Socha, Marty Burgess, Kevin Flynn, and Paul Beach, with Barbara Conner, Chair of Properties, installed the lights last week. Photo by Vicki Adams

First Parish History Project

Many of you may know that in 1803 architect Thomas Eaton submitted a contract to the church's board of assessors ". . . to build a suitable place in the belfry, of three or more seats, for the people of Colour to sit . . ." These seats were where the organ is now. According to the research done by town historian Kathy Ostrander Roberts, some previously enslaved people who had formed their own community (Ridge Community) on the outskirts of town, worshipped at our church.



View from the "...seats for people of Coulor to sit..." From the book, UNMARKED GRAVES AND FORGOTTEN LIVES by Kathleen Ostrander Roberts

Our committee (Joan Wuerthner, Ruth Stackpole, Ted Trainer, Jim Thompson and me) has been tasked by the Social Justice Network, to research all available written and original historical material to determine if other people of color (enslaved, formerly enslaved, and indigenous people) may have had a relationship with our church and, especially, what was our church's relationship to these people.

Once our research is completed and we have a written document, we will decide on an appropriate format, so this part of our church's history is available to our membership and the public.

Bob Wuerthner, Social Justice Network

Bylaws Listening Sessions: First one this Sunday

An ad hoc team was appointed by the Board of Directors to review and update our FPUU Bylaws, and the Board has since approved them. There will be two meetings to present the changes and answer questions:

- Sunday, May 3, 8:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary
- Sunday, May 17, 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor.

A vote on the acceptance of these bylaws will be taken:

- Sunday, May 31, 8:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary at our Annual Meeting.

FPUU members will receive by email:

- The Bylaws as of 2018
- The revised bylaws
- A comparison of the two documents

Tom Veronesi and Linda Thompson, both board members, chaired this team. Team members included: Ruth Stackpole, Bob Wuerthner, Susan Jack, Ted Trainer, and Karen Carey.

Last Chance! Online Auction ends today at 5 p.m.

Click [here](#) to get your bids in!

gift certificates riding lessons boat cruise beach vacation

And much, much more!

FPUU Rummage Sale

Thank you to all who donated, set-up, organized, shopped, what a success!



Caring Connections

Thank You, Nick and Maggie!

Nick and Maggie Bartenhagen have been the coordinators of one of our most important shared ministries, the Caring Connection. We are so very grateful for the kindness and dependability they have provided in managing the requests for meals and rides.

As they plan for their next adventures they are happy to pass the baton to Kim Lord.

Welcome, Kim!

Kim Lord is our new coordinator for the Caring Connection. Beginning on Friday May 1. Please direct your requests to Kim.

Phone: 207-646-7925 Email: kimlord1@aol.com

Watch for a new brochure in May clarifying the ways that we are able to help with meals and rides.

Moral Ambition

Excerpts from Rev. Tori Rosati's reflection April 16, 2026

In honor of the fact that many of us just finished our taxes this past week, I'd like to offer some love to our family accountant. ... He talked about what an honor it was to serve people this way. How he got to see his clients lives unfold in the forms they sent him year after year—they told a story. ... What would our world look like if everyone applied that kind, deep, relational lens to their life's work?

This story has particular resonance for me these days as we are companioning a high school senior through her own big life changes. ...

What will you do with your life? Where are you trying to go? What is your treasure and what do you love most in life? ... Where are your values focused? To what are you true? ...

I've listened to your stories, the intention, love and care you bring to your life's work, no matter what season of life you are in—how you see beneath the surface to what really matters. ... And yet, try as we might, we are operating in a wider culture that privileges a different kind of pursuit—climbing the ladder of success, the value of going it alone, of getting ahead, ... numbers instead of people. ...

I wonder how our world might change if this is how we spent our days—not so focused on climbing up but rather deepening into those places of communion with the fullness of life. ...

The title of this service, *Moral Ambition* comes from Dutch historian and author, Rutger Bregman, who ... defines moral ambition as the “will to make the world a wildly better place.” ...

We all know on some level that we are living in a morally bankrupt time. ... And Bregman offers an antidote to all this—calling for a revolution of moral ambition ... to urge us to refocus our lives on issues that matter to all of us, like climate change, wealth inequality, food scarcity, healthcare access, clean water and on and on. He even founded a school called the School for Moral Ambition that pays CEOs to quit their jobs and focus their talent, education, and experience toward solving these challenges. ... Moral ambition is not a solitary climb to the top — it is a descent, together, toward the people, places, and circumstances that exist on the margins of our world. ...

And when we arrive here, we find here the seedbed of our moral life. The place where we find all of the things—our values, our heartbreaks, our fears, our love—a place out of which our right actions arise to meet the world around us. ... And to get serious about this. To be ambitious.

Because it is so easy here to get hopeless. ... But, whatever we call it, when we descend there into these places of the heart, cease our striving, quiet the jangling echoes of modern life's empty pursuits, we might just realize—down here there is a spirit, a presence, a light that raises us. We alone do need to climb, but together we are lifted up.

You can listen to the entire reflection at Uukennebunk.org. See Sundays at FPUU, Sermon archive.

FAMILY MATTERS DROP-IN FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

*A welcoming space to share the ups, downs,
and everything in between of family life*

**The second Tuesday of the month
at 5:30 - 7 p.m.**



**5:30-6p.m. fellowship & dinner
6-7 p.m. parent/caregiver discussion,
childcare provided**

Please contact Rev. Tori for more information at
uukennebunkminister@gmail.com

A into this week at First Parish

Master painters:
Kim Berry, Al
Adams, Tom
Socha and Linda
Thompson put
the finishing
touches on the
hallway and
entryway!



Photos by Allison Lazos and Tom Socha

Members Yellow Pages

Let's support each other!

When I, Lynn DuPont, was on crutches, I paid a fortune to Instacart to deliver groceries and had an endless array of strangers in the house. Perhaps they could have been from our church community and earned a bit of income: a win-win for both of us!

I am planning to put together a Services Directory for our church community. Services could include professional services such as dentistry, counseling, tax preparation, tutoring, etc. We could also offer doing errands, giving rides, babysitting, home healthcare, home maintenance, baking, gardening, etc.—all listed alphabetically. This would be practical, but also community-building!

Please contact me to include your service at nanawood390@gmail.com
Deadline: May 31.

Church Directory

A new church directory will be sent out after our New Member Ceremony in May. If you have any changes to your information, please let Allison know.

Community

How to Build Resilience for the Months Ahead

A workshop with our own Amy Wood

Change is coming faster and faster, from politics, the economy, climate, and AI. This workshop will help participants brace for what's next—especially as the midterms approach—by embracing transition with greater stamina and optimism. Those who register will explore their strengths, what makes them

unique, and how to use those strengths to make change work to their advantage.

The workshop is free and open to everyone. To reserve a place, email Carol Morris at cmorris@morriscomm.net. It will be held from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 9, at the Democracy Cooperative, 2 Storer Street, Kennebunk.

WHAT'S UP IN MAY

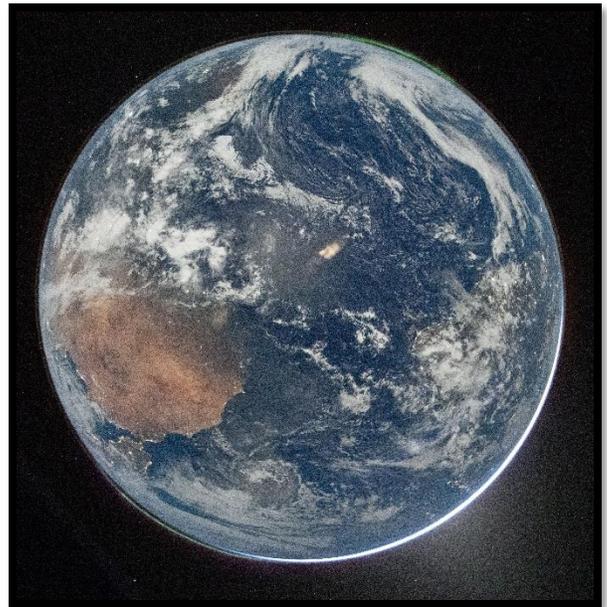
By Bernie Reim

The month of May is named after Maia, the Roman goddess of the earth. Even though the official Earth Day was at the end of last month, May is really the month when we become more aware of the earth once again here in this part of the northern hemisphere. ...

The recent great success of the Artemis 2 lunar mission gave all of us new insights into our amazing home as we were able to see the earth, moon, and sun through the eyes of the four astronauts that just returned from there safely. Hopefully that will reignite similar new visions and perspectives ... even going beyond all the lasting benefits that we received from the first Apollo lunar missions starting in December of 1968, before we ever even landed on the moon. ...

Edgar Mitchell ... of Apollo 14, February 1971, went on to found the Institute of Noetic Sciences which does research on the nature of consciousness itself. Here are two of his many deeply insightful and well-expressed quotes.

We went to the moon as technicians and returned as humanitarians.



Suddenly, from behind the rim of the moon, in long, slow-motion moments of immense majesty, there emerges a sparkling blue and white jewel, a light, delicate, sky-blue sphere laced with slowly swirling veils of white, rising gradually like a small pearl in a thick sea of black mystery. It takes more than a moment to fully realize this is Earth—home. My view of our planet was a glimpse of divinity.

You can read Bernie's entire "What's Up" column in the Astronomical Society of Northern New England newsletter at asnne.org.

Every week 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!

Sunday Bookcase & Links

- *Moral Ambition: Stop Wasting Your Talent and Start Making a Difference*, Rutger Bregman
- *Meditations of the Heart*, Howard Thurman
- *The Art of Gathering*, Priya Parker
- *Saving Paradise, How Christianity Traded Love of This World for Crucifixion and Empire*, Rita Nakashima Brock and Rebecca Parker
- *Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom*, John O'Donohue





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 **Awakening Curiosity**
- Click [here](#) for the May YouTube playlist on **Awakening Curiosity**

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

FPUU News Crew:

Vicki Adams, editor

Allegra Highsmith, photo editor

Allison Lazos, production

Rev. Tori Rosati, advisor

First Parish UU Church Kennebunk

MAY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
MAY 31 8:30 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting 10 a.m. Worship Service Led by Rev. Tori 11:30 Special BOD Meeting					1 9-12 Office Open	2
3 8:30 a.m. Bylaws Pres. 10 a.m. Worship Service led Rev. Tori 11:30 Music Team	4 9-12 Office Open	5 9-12 Office Open 10:30 a.m. Pastoral Care 5:15 p.m. Sangha 7 p.m. Properties	6 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Worship Team	7 9-12 Office Open 5:00p.m. Choir	8 9-12 Office Open 6:30 p.m. Song Swap	9
10 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Tori	11 9-12 Office Open 7 p.m. Finance	12 9-12 Office Open 5:15 p.m. Sangha 5:30 p.m. Family Small Group Ministry 6:30 p.m. W.F.A.S. 6:30 p.m. M.O.G.	13 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Vespers	14 9-12 Office Open 5:00 p.m. Choir	15 9-12 Office Open	16
17 10 a.m. Worship Service led by David Reece 11:30 a.m. Bylaws Presentation 11:30 a.m. What Now? Social Justice Discussion	18 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Membership Team	19 9-12 Office Open 5:15 Sangha	20 9-12 Office Open 6 p.m. Board of Dir.	21 9-12 Office Open 5:00 p.m. Choir	22 9-12 Office Open	23
24 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Tori 11:15 a.m. Blueberry Fair Meeting 11:30 a.m. Worship Reflection	25 9-12 Office CLOSED	26 9-12 Office Open 10 a.m. Small Group Ministry 5:15 p.m. Sangha 6:30 p.m. W.F.A.S. 6:30 p.m. M.O.G.	27 9-12 Office Open 10 a.m. RE Team 5:30 p.m. Small Group Ministry	28 9-12 Office Open 5:00 p.m. Choir	29	30

Please note, the calendar is subject to change.