



April 9, 2026

LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD

It is never too late
to be what you
might have been.

Adelaide Anne Procter



“The Spirit to Gather”

Worship Service: April 12, 2026, 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

upcoming EVENTS

First Parish and Community

- Every Thursday, 4-5 p.m. Demonstration, Kennebunk
- Fri. April 10, 5:30 p.m. Video and Discussion: Understanding Separation of Church and State — and Why It Matters Now*
- Tues. April 14, 5:30 p.m. Family Matters: Small Group Ministry*
- Tues. April 14, 6:30 p.m. Women for All Seasons *
- Tues. April 14, 6:30 p.m. Men's Open Group
- Wed. April 15, 6 p.m. Board of Directors
- Sun. April 19, 11:30 a.m., What Now? Social Justice Discussion
- April 19 - 30, Online Auction*
- Sat. April 25 & Sun. April 26, Annual Spring Rummage Sale*

*see below for more information

This Sunday: The Spirit to Gather

This Sunday we'll continue our conversation from last week on the power of community and explore the sacred act of gathering itself — what makes coming together more than the



sum of its parts, why communities across every tradition and throughout human history have known that something happens when people come together with intention, and what that means for us here, every week, in this place. Rev. Tori leading with Susie Desantis and music from Chris Staknys.

The Separation of Church and State and Why It Matters Now, this Friday

Video, sandwich buffet, discussion, Friday, April 10, 5:30 p.m.

You are invited to attend a video showing and discussion on the relationship between faith and democracy, and what's at stake when authoritarian movements exploit religion for political power.

We'll watch it together this Friday, April 10 at 5:30 p.m. A make-your-own sandwich buffet and discussion led by Rev. Tori will follow. If you would like to bring something for the finger-food buffet, email Vicki: vickigatesadams@gmail.com.

This training titled, *Democracy not Theocracy* was created by our national partners at Interfaith Alliance, Maine Council of Churches, and Multifaith Justice Maine. We will leave with a sense of the unique role faith communities play in this moment. If you are unable to attend, an online training video will be available. Brought to you by your Social Justice Network.



Earth, Air, Fire, and Water

Please join Women for All Seasons in the Church Parlor on Tuesday, April 14, at 6:30 p.m. for a program on the Elements of Life: Earth, Air, Fire, and Water. The Elements are fundamentals for practicing an earth-based spirituality. This program will be presented by Mary Gelfand, a graduate of The Chaplaincy Institute of Maine.

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

Spring Rummage Sale

Our annual Spring Rummage Sale will take place Saturday, April 25 from 8-11 a.m. and Sunday, April 26 8-10 a.m. Set-up will begin Friday, April 24. You may drop off your items beginning Saturday, April 18.

As you pack up items for sale, please follow these guidelines: no shoes, computers, moldy books or clothes, textbooks, magazines, mattresses/box springs, out-of-date sports equipment, torn or stained clothes. Please check all electrical items before donating.



If you are able to lend a hand either before, during or after the sale, please contact Jacky Peters at jpkrf@roadrunner.com



Fabulous online auction: Moved to April 19-30 Donations still welcome!

The Fabulous FPUU Online Auction happens from Thursday, April 19 through Thursday April 30 with pick up on Sunday, May 3. We still need more items for this to be a *Cracker Jack* auction, so send your donation descriptions to Lisa Slaughter: lisaaslaughter@gmail.com or Marylyn Wentworth: marylyn.wentworth@tnsk.org

There are some great offerings! You can check the auction out at <https://charityauctions.com/event/auction/1085> or scan the QR Code:

Thank you everybody for working to help make this auction a success!





The **Blueberry Fair** is approaching its wind-up season. This is a milestone year for the Blueberry Fair, the **50th year!** WOW!

We need a Publicity Coordinator to plan how to get the word out to join in celebrating this great event. Is that you?

You and a friend? Not in town July 25 this year...no problem. This role is busy before the fair date.

The Events & Activities Committee wants to make sure you're feeling supported and offer any resources you may need, such as flyer distribution timelines, media announcement schedules, etc.

We already have templates for posters & bookmarks. We could look at new forms of marketing material or printing shirts early for the fair to help get the dates out into the communities, helping build the hype.

Talk to or email Alicia Soliman (BF chair, simardvet@yahoo.com), Allegra Highsmith or Karen Badger (Events & Activities Committee) if you are interested or have questions.

VENDORS: We have a few openings for vendors to participate in our fantastic fair, Saturday, July 25th!

We will have 43 vendor booths this year and many lunch options, blueberry pie and buckle, a vendor raffle table, and live music.

If you or any artistic friends wish to display your crafts, please fill out the application below and return it with the \$85.00 fee.

I hope to see you there!

Karen Carey
Vendor Coordinator



Annual Blueberry and Craft Fair 2026

APPLICATION

*First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church
Kennebunk, Maine*

Saturday, July 25, 2026 from 9am-3pm

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

My home phone #: _____

My Cell # (including area code): _____

My e-mail address: _____

How many 11'x11' space(s): _____

Website, Pinterest, Etsy, etc. _____

Products you will be selling: _____

Special needs? _____

My check # _____ for \$85 (per space) is enclosed. If you register before August 31 the fee will be \$80.00.

Please make checks payable to: "FPUU Church, Kennebunk"

Mail check and /or completed application to:

FPUU Church, Kennebunk

Blueberry & Craft Fair Vendor Coordinator

114 Main St. Kennebunk, ME 04043-7036

Social Justice Action

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

For a complete list of **Social Justice Advocacy and Resources**, click [here](#). If you have an organization or information regarding social justice advocacy that you would like to have included, please send to Allison at uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com

MUUSAN

Maine UU State Action Network

[MUUSAN's Weekly Action Points](#)

Click link above to find details:

- Wabanaki sovereignty and federal benefits bills nearing floor votes.
- Urgent action needed this week to oppose efforts to roll back Maine's 72-hour waiting period and red flag laws, despite the recent high court ruling to uphold them.
- Climate: a call to contact key legislators now to fund the amended climate bill LD 1870.
- Opportunities for LGBTQIA+ engagement and Pride participation.

Food and Water Watch

Check out the [Top 10 Reasons Data Centers Must Be Stopped!](#)

Take action to [support the AI Data Center Moratorium Act!](#)

Mutual Aid

Excerpts from Rev. Tori Rosati's Easter Sermon

I love what Mary [Gelfand] just put before us — that heaven is not somewhere we are trying to get to, but something we already carry. ... In my first semester of seminary, I took a practical theology course called "Embodying the Kingdom." ...The term "kin-dom" (k-i-n, without the g) was first coined by Latina theologian Ada María Isasi-Díaz to acknowledge a place that was not ... an imperial regime, ... but the paradise Mary described that exists within all of us—that moves between us in our relationships with each other. ...

While an entire church with its hierarchies, doctrines, and creeds, would grow out of these teachings over the next 2,000 years, those seeds of the divinity, the worth and preciousness of all beings, were planted in the soil of history. ...

Jesus lived in a time not so unlike our own. The Roman occupation of the greater region was brutal. ... And here, we find a group of people—their lives completely upended, their beloved teacher and friend brutally killed, their companions scattered ... all facing ridicule and danger. And what did they do? They gathered. ... History tells us that these early Jesus movements operated like small social service agencies, where resources were held in kind and people took care of each other. They condemned private wealth as a basis of exploitation and insisted that material blessings were gifts from God and must be shared. Mutual aid was a spiritual ethic that was practiced in community, ... amidst the unimageable horrors of the time.

... These communities included the enslaved, peasants, women, the disaffected, and other ordinary people. ... They ... defiantly refused to become like the imperial powers that surrounded them, planting seeds of possibility in an impossible landscape.

...Beginning in the 4th century, Christianity would become the official religion of Rome, and with that change usher in eras of religious exploitation and harm at the hands of those who misused their power in the name of religion. ...

Furthermore, those early communities endured and flourished precisely because they offered another possibility. ... The kin-dom has always existed outside the walls of the state. It belongs to all of us, is rooted in values of love and relationship that no earthly force can claim—that is its power.

And isn't this what we are about? Our inheritance—the teachings planted by our Unitarian and Universalist forebears

generated similar visions for

community that

upheld the worth and dignity of every human being, especially those on the margins that society refused to see, ... and believed that no one is free unless we all are.

In a time when religion has once again been weaponized by those in power, ... we are striving in much the same manner to create ... community where everyone is visible and seen, ... where we actively create the world we long for—one that is so irresistible, so life-giving and affirming that more and more people come.

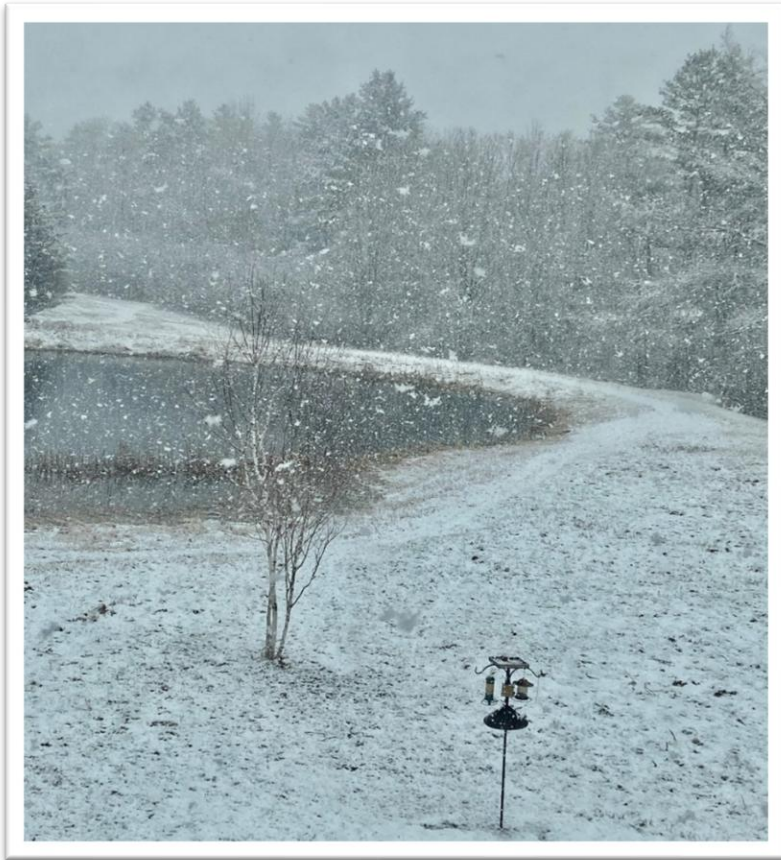
That is our aspiration and our active hope. ... Because embracing possibility, as we will be talking about this month, ... not the power of kings or emperors, ... but the power of the seed, the power of kin, ... the kin-dom we renew each time we gather and to which we say on this Easter morning, alleluia!

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



Rev. Tori and our youth help congregants plant seeds during the Easter service.

A **LOOK!** into last week



April Fools!

A lone speck of a bird finds seeds hidden in the snowy feeder on Tuesday.
Photo by Vicki Adams

Community

Are cell phones bad for our brains, our kids?

“Healthy Screens, Healthy Brains,” is the topic of a presentation coming up a week from Sunday. Neuroscience educator Juliana Costa will share information on the impact of digital media. She will talk about health risks from screen exposure and ideas for empowering families and teens to be in control of their screens. Followed by Q & A.

Sunday, April 12, 2 p.m. at The New School, Route 1, Kennebunk. Reservations at TNSK.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!



Would you like to contribute to the smooth running of a Church service? Helen Rousseau is looking for new ushers and will gladly explain the responsibilities. For first time ushers, you will be paired with someone with experience.

I would like to increase our usher pool by four more people so the present ushers will not always be called.

Sunday Bookcase & Links

- *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
- *Tao Te Ching: A New English Version*, Stephen Mitchell
- *Tao Te Ching: A Book about the Way and the Power of the Way*, Ursula K. Le Guin
- "[Seven reasons why hosting a silly little potluck...](#)" Garrett Bucks



Church Directory

The updated Church Directory has been sent out. There are a few hard copies available. If you would like one, please let Allison know by email or a phone call: uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com or by calling 207-985-3700.

Please do not share our church directory, even amongst yourselves. There are many scammers out there seeking contact information. Please point people to the front office for copies.



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 April Spotify playlist on, Embracing Possibility
- Click [here](#) for the April YouTube playlist on Embracing Possibility

Minister's Discretionary Fund

In light of the ongoing delays in programs such as SNAP and other forms of assistance, 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

APRIL 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Worship Committee	2 9-12 Office Open 5:00p.m. Choir	3 9-12 Office Open	4
5 10 a.m. Worship Service led Rev. Tori	6 9-12 Office Open	7 9-12 Office Open 10:30 a.m. Pastoral Care 5:15 p.m. Sangha 7 p.m. Properties	8 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Soup Vespers led by Rev. Tori	9 9-12 Office Open 5:00p.m. Choir	10 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Social Justice discussion: Democracy not Theocracy	11
12 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Tori 11:30 a.m. Worship Reflection	13 9-12 Office Open 7 p.m. Finance 5:30 p.m. Stewardship Team	14 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.	15 9-12 Office Open 6 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting	16 9-12 Office Open 5:00 p.m. Choir	17 9-12 Office Open	18
19 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Tori 11:30 a.m. What Now? Social Justice Discussion Online Auction Opens	20 9-12 Office CLOSED	21 9-12 Office Open	22 9-12 Office Open 10 a.m. R.E. Meeting 5:30 p.m. Small Group Ministry	23 9-12 Office Open 5:00 p.m. Choir	24 9-12 Office Open	25 Spring Rummage Sale 8-11 a.m.
26 Spring Rummage Sale 8-10 a.m. 10 a.m. Earth Day Worship Service led by Social Justice Network 11:30 a.m. Worship Reflection	27 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Membership Committee	28 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.	29 9-12 Office Open	30 9-12 Office Open 5:00 p.m. Choir Online Auction Closes		

Please note, calendar is subject to change.