



LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD

# First Parish News



*"As you walk upon the sacred earth, treat each step as a prayer."  
– Black Elk*

## ***UU Wellspring: Sacred Earth***

March 26, 2023, **10 a.m.**

Worship service led by: UU Wellspring

Concurrent Religious Exploration and Nursery Care Available  
Come in person or click 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:024481.



## Wellspring explores Sacred Earth

Please join us Sunday, March 26, at 10 a.m. *for a special service about UU Wellspring: Sacred Earth!* We have two groups reading *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Kimmerer. Participants will share thoughts and experiences about how this book is impacting their relationship with Mother Earth. Readings, poetry, and hymns will recognize and celebrate the web of life.

-Linda Thompson

## Family Game night and potluck

A GREAT SUCCESS! Over three dozen people attended the church Potluck on Friday, March 17. Wonderful food and conversations! Fun big circle activities, and a 22-item scavenger hunt, with Karen Carey's team finding the most - 17 items - thus becoming the Golden Sleuths! Many thanks to everyone who helped with this joint event - food, participation, helping to set up and take down, and doing the dishes! Co-hosted by the Committee on Ministry (COM) and Membership Committee.

With gratitude, Jim & Linda Thompson.



# Excerpt from Rev. Lara's reflection March 19



The concept of finding balance in our lives is fitting for this time of year, the spring equinox. We think of it as a moment of perfect equilibrium in the annual cycle of seasonal changes. ... Equinoxes - and solstices - have deep rooted cultural significance around the world, and they have been observed since time immemorial. ...

*To watch the Marula Eugster Rigolo on France Got Talent 2020 go to [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=82QmSFI\\_NL8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=82QmSFI_NL8)*

Our lack of balance is most evident when we think of the harm we have done to the earth and ecosystem. Many communities across the globe are enduring extreme weather events exacerbated by climate warming. Mother Nature reminds us that she has her own idea of what balance is. Part of what makes balance challenging is that everything around us is changing. And the lack of balance can make us feel, well, even more unbalanced. It may require that we change, and change is hard, especially when it is not something we invited. Sometimes imbalance is necessary, it is the only thing that shakes us up enough to change. ...

Rev. Susan Manker-Seale says we are being “...called back into balance, back...to the awareness of the continuous presence of the environment around us and within us ... called to remember our relationships and our dependencies ... and to do so with wonder and appreciation.” I love that idea, rather than looking at our lives with judgment, to look at it with wonder and appreciation. Even the parts of it we don't like, the parts we would much rather forget or wish never happened...Life is different every day and we are different every day. And balance will be different every day – the very practice of finding balance may keep us, well, off balance. But if we are intentional. If we remind ourselves to look for balance in whatever we are doing. If we quiet ourselves, and open ourselves with wonder and appreciation, a new way of being will reveal itself. We will hear that sweet sound my friends. The sound of being called back into balance.



# Join the FPUU Online Auction in March celebrate success in April

Thanks to everyone who has donated items so far for this year's UU Online Auction! We have some great items, including Jay's famous chocolate chip cookies, a picnic at Kennebunk Pond, and a cocktail party. But we need about 80 more to reach our goal!



All offerings for the auction must be in by **March 29**. Use your imagination! Things that sold last year were all kinds of food, artwork, vacation cottages, boat rides, and other vacation events; lessons like tennis, painting, cooking; and services like yoga, carpentry, and babysitting. When you have something to submit, send an e-mail message with the title, a description, the value, and a photo if you have one to: [erin.dillon@gmail.com](mailto:erin.dillon@gmail.com).

Auction Task Force: Brook Detterman, Erin Dillon, Marylyn Wentworth

## New men's group to meet Tues. March 21

The New Men's Group meets regularly to discuss various issues that are important and of interest to men. This group acts as a support vehicle in an atmosphere that promotes trust and confidentiality. Currently, at First Parish we have two distinct, but related Men's Groups as follows:

- 1) The men's group that was formed in early 1993 and is still operating today. It usually meets on Wednesday evenings in our church but keeps its membership to no more than 10 individuals and is therefore "closed" to any new members unless an opening occurs. Dan Lyons ([lyons531@gmail.com](mailto:lyons531@gmail.com)) acts as the coordinator for this group.
- 2) And a "NEW" Men's Group which also meets at the church, usually on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, at 7pm. It was established in early 2023 and is currently "open" to anyone, even those outside our church, subject to memberships approval.

Sometime this year, it will likely become necessary as well as advantageous to split into two groups--A and B, due to the high interest expressed, keeping membership numbers between 8 -12 individuals, per group. This ensures that everyone can be heard and more thoroughly address each member's specific needs and wants. Contact Mark Gallup ([grouchomg@gmail.com](mailto:grouchomg@gmail.com)) or Jim Thompson ([jethompson33@aol.com](mailto:jethompson33@aol.com)) with any questions.

***Next meeting is Tuesday, March 28, 7 pm***

# March Board News

1. The Board held an additional meeting on March 1 to discuss the Ministerial Transition.

From the regular meeting on March 15:

2. The Board received a communication from Al Adams, Moderator, regarding Section V of the Bylaws seeking clarity in regard to the names of Congregational Meetings. This discussion was tabled until there is further exploration of church bylaws.
3. The Board voted to clarify that the First Parish COVID-19 Policy does not restrict food or drink on church premises except when universal masking is required.
4. Coffee Hour was discussed, and it is determined that regulation of Coffee Hour is under the purview of the Membership Committee. The Board voted to issue the following statement: "The Board supports the Membership Committee's decisions in regard to Coffee Hour. The Board voices its concern that Coffee Hour will not become burdensome to church volunteers and believes that fellowship is the goal".
5. Alicia shared the Properties Report. At present one of the heating boilers is no longer operational due to unanticipated malfunction. Except for a deductible of \$1,000, the entire cost for replacement is covered by church insurance. Additional costs relate to the need for a metal lining for the chimney vent. A new hot water boiler is determined to save significant money going forward. It is stressed that despite ongoing hopes for heat pumps, a backup system will continue to be essential. The Board voted to issue an order to Fieldings Oil Co. to proceed with a new hot water boiler per their proposal and that the church moves to eliminate the steam boiler and convert to hot water heat for the entire building. This will include possible costs for new chimney vent and other equipment.
6. The Finance Report from Chris Wells was much appreciated for its clarity and organization. Paperwork has been signed to enable Chris to access investment account material.
7. There is considerable enthusiastic discussion amongst church members about possible ways to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of our building. Thanks to everyone working hard on this project. We look forward to seeing the final proposals!
8. The Minister's, Administrator's and Music Director's reports were received and appreciated.

9. Additional Committee Liaison Updates: Music: Ginny spoke about the success of the recent music concert. Social Justice: Vicki shared concern about a recent unclear incident finding our Black Lives Matter flag torn. The flag will be replaced.
10. Ministerial Transition: The Board has voted for the following individuals to the Transitional Minister Search Committee: Andrea Rohde, Paul Beach, Lisa Slaughter, and Chris Wells. On behalf of the congregation, the Board thanks you for taking on this vital work in building our beloved community!

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Lord, Chair  
First Parish Board of Directors



## Easter Candy Donations Needed April 2

The Religious Exploration Program is going to be putting together Easter Baskets for children living at *Through These Doors*, a domestic violence shelter. We are asking the congregation to participate by donating Easter candy for the baskets.

***We do not need toys, baskets, or grass.***

Please have your donations at church by Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you for your support!

## Women for All Seasons

Please join ***Women for All Seasons*** on Tuesday, March 28 at 6:30 pm via Zoom. Our program, "Celebration of Spring, Earth Day and Ecopoetry", will be led by Cheryl Perreault. You are invited to join a "round-robin" celebration of the natural world through shared poems. All participants are welcome to read a newfound or favorite poem that inspires us to fall in love with the Earth.



For more information, please reach out to Barbara (207-229-0799) or Kathe (207-985-6194).

# COM is in Your Corner!



As you know, Reverend Lara has resigned from her position as minister of FPUU effective June 30<sup>th</sup>. While we are excited for her as she moves on to new horizons, we are also sad to see her go. As your Committee On Ministry (COM), we want to reassure you that whatever emotions you are experiencing are perfectly natural. To ease your mind as we go through this transition together, we encourage you to watch this sermon by UUA president Susan Frederick-Gray titled “Embracing Possibility in Times of Change”:

<https://vimeo.com/773623494/ff5eda9e78>

Please remember you can always talk with Reverend Lara about any feelings you’re having. We are here for you too, so please feel free to reach out to any of us for support.

Committee On Ministry:

Karen Carey: karen.banning912013@gmail.com

Ian Durham: iantdurham@gmail.com

Tom Veronesi: tomveronesi@gmail.com

Marylyn Wentworth: Marylyn.wentworth@tnsk.org

Sheri White: wwwhite911@aol.com

Amy Wood: amywood@amywoodpsyd.com

Please RSVP if you would like to attend: lindabear33@aol.com



## Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

For our **annual meeting in June** the Nominating Committee is charged with presenting a slate of candidates for elected positions.

We are grateful and fortunate that all the currently serving members who are eligible to continue have agreed to do so.

At this time, we do have two positions for which we are seeking candidates. They are a three-year term on the Board of Directors and a one-year term on the Nominating Committee. The latter is renewable each year for a five-year limit.

If you are interested in either of these positions, we encourage you to go to the church website to read about what each position entails. There is information in the Bylaws as well as in Policies and Procedures. Additionally, please reach out to either Andrea or Margaret if you would like to discuss the positions with one of us.

Thank you in advance for considering the opportunity to share your time and talents.

Sincerely,  
Andrea Rohde  
Margaret Jones  
Joan O'Hara

## First Parish to celebrate the building's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary

**SAVE the DATE!** Sunday, April 16 will be a special service about the history of our church, as we kick off a celebration of the building's 250th anniversary! More information in the next newsletter. And be sure to check out the big bulletin board in the Parish Hall - there will be changing fun facts and copies of documents about our history and congregation.





# Upcoming events at First Parish



- Sunday, March 26, 10 a.m. Service on Wellspring: Sacred Earth
- Tuesday, March 28, 6:30 p.m. Women for All Season, via Zoom
- Tuesday, March 28, 7 p.m. Men's Group meeting
- Throughout March: Join in our Auction by emailing Erin: [erin.dillon@gmail.com](mailto:erin.dillon@gmail.com).
- April 2: Bring Easter candy for children in need.
- Sunday, April 16, 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration kick-off
- **Spring Rummage Sale** April 29-30

## Spring Rummage Sale is a-Coming!



- ❖ Get in those closets, basements, and attics!
- ❖ You can start bringing in items **April 23rd**.
- ❖ Set-up Friday
- ❖ Sale Saturday and Sunday
- ❖ A sign-up for volunteers will be on the bulletin board soon.

## Food can be donated in the Parish Hall

This is going to be a difficult winter for some here in our community. We can do our part by helping keep the COS food pantry well stocked with a variety of non-perishable food. A box will be placed in the Parish Hall and our donations will be brought to COS. Thank you all so much for your generosity! If you prefer to send a check you can make it out to COS, P.O. Box 1175, Kennebunk, ME.



Coffee time after the church service on Sunday is a great time to chat with new friends and old. It is also an opportunity to sign up for an activity that you will enjoy and that will benefit the congregation as well.

Helping for one Sunday as an usher, greeter, or coffee host would be a great place to start.

You will see sign-up sheets on a bulletin board in the Parish Hall. If someone invites you to participate, please respond with "Yes."

Call or email Linda or Jim to volunteer:  
lindabear33@aol.com, jethompson33@aol.com

## **First Parish News is *your* Newsletter**

We need to hear from you! Kudos to Women for All Seasons, which submits a brief article every month. Board of Directors, thank you for agendas and decisions. Rev. Lara, we love getting a second look at your reflections.

But what are you involved in, what have you experienced at church lately? Have you taken a photo you'd like to share?

Please send your items for the newsletter by Tuesday, 10 am. You may send information, an article, or a photo by email to Allison at: [uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com](mailto:uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com).

Hoping to hear from you,

Vicki Adams, Editor

## **Covid-19 protocol updated (3/15/23)**

- Masks are now requested, but not required for activities at First Parish UU Kennebunk.
- We have installed air purifiers in rooms that need them. Contributions are being received to purchase them.
- Two windows must be opened in the room you are using—if there are no air purifiers there. EVERYONE is responsible for closing them when exiting the room.

- If someone requests that folks mask, please do so. You may want to speak with your group leader/organizer for support in making a mask request.
- Food and Beverages are now allowed in the church, but only water is allowed in the library and Sanctuary.

**We need your help! Thank you for keeping our community safe.**

## FPUU Website and Calendar: easy access


There is an easy way to find First Parish News on our website. Look for the link at the top on the opening page, pictured below. You can find upcoming and ongoing spiritual opportunities, community activities and announcements on our website or Facebook page.

Website: [www.uukennebunk.org](http://www.uukennebunk.org)

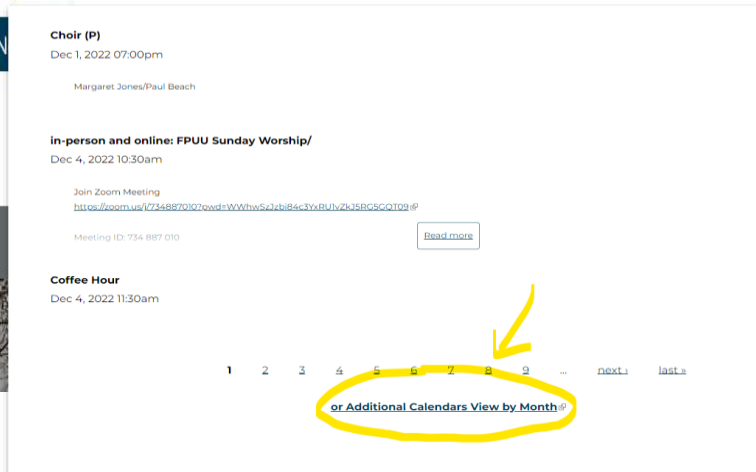
Weekly Calendar: [www.uukennebunk.org/events](http://www.uukennebunk.org/events)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/FirstParishUUKennebunk](http://www.facebook.com/FirstParishUUKennebunk)

## Check out both Calendars!



The screenshot shows the homepage of the First Parish UU Church of Kennebunk. The logo features a chalice with a flame and the text "FIRST PARISH UU Church of Kennebunk". Below the logo is the tagline "LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD". A navigation bar includes links for "SUNDAYS AT FPUU", "BEYOND SUNDAY", and "CONNECT WITH US". A yellow arrow points to a calendar icon in the top right corner of the page, which is part of a row of social media and utility icons.



The screenshot shows the "Choir (P)" event page for Dec 1, 2022, 07:00pm, featuring Margaret Jones/Paul Beach. Below this is the "In-person and online: FPUU Sunday Worship/" event for Dec 4, 2022, 10:30am. It includes a Zoom meeting link and a "Read more" button. At the bottom, there is a calendar navigation bar with numbers 1 through 9. A yellow arrow points to the link "or Additional Calendars View by Month" which is circled in yellow.

# FPUU Staff/Leadership and Committee Contacts

## FPUU STAFF/LEADERSHIP

**MINISTER:** The Reverend Lara K-J Campbell.....207-985-3700 (church) uukennebunkminister@gmail.com  
**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:** Allison Lazos.....uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com  
**BOOKKEEPER:** Barbara Boscia.....uukennebunkbookkeeper@gmail.com  
**MUSIC DIRECTORE:** Christopher Staknys.....uukennebunkmusic@gmail.com

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 2022 – 2023 program year

**CHAIR:** Kim Lord (2021-2024) .....kimlord1@aol.com  
**CO-CHAIR:** Merideth Norris (2021-2024) .....witchdr910@aol.com  
**CLERK:** Ginny Lawrence (2022-2023) ..... lawrenceginny@gmail.com  
**TREASURER:** Chris Wells (2023) ..... christopher.j.wells@gmail.com  
**DIRECTOR:** Alicia Soloman (2020-2023) .....simardvet@yahoo.com  
**DIRECTOR:** Vicki Adams (2022-2025) ..... vickigatesadams@gmail.com  
**DIRECTOR:** Bob Lown (2022-2025).....bplown@roadrunner.com

## FPUU CHURCH COMMITTEES

**BELL COMMITTEE & CLOCK COMMITTEE**..... Paul Cochran, ptc@gwi.net  
Paul Beach, plbeach52@gmail.com  
Stacy Wentworth, stacywentworth@gmail.com  
**BLUEBERRY CRAFT FAIR COMMITTEE**.....Marylyn Wentworth, Marylyn.wentworth@tnsk.org  
**CARING CONNECTIONS**..... Nick & Maggie Bartenhagen, mnpelbar@gmail.com  
**CHOIR**.....Margaret Jones, margaretj@maine.rr.com  
**CHURCH SPACE RENTALS**.....Allison Lazos, uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com  
**COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**.....Amy Wood-Chair, amywood@amywoodpsyd.com  
**COMMUNITY OUTREACH SERVICES**..... Kathe Wright, kawright4@hotmail.com  
**FINANCE COMMITTEE**..... Chris Wells, christopher.j.wells@gmail.com  
**HISTORIAN**.....Ruth Stackpole, paw8@roadrunner.com  
**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**.....Jim Thompson, jethompson33@aol.com  
Linda Thompson, lindabear33@aol.com  
**MUSIC COMMITTEE**..... Margaret Jones Co-Chair, margaretj@maine.rr.com  
**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**..... Andrea Rohde, andrearohde49@gmail.com  
**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**.....Kevin Flynn, Jim Thompson & Joan Wuerthner  
**PHYSICS/CHEMISTRY WORKSHOP**..... James Vesenska, jvesenska@gmail.com  
**PROPERTIES**.....Barbara Conner, bsconner@roadrunner.com  
**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE**..... Susie Desantis, Gray Hirshfield, Jacky Peters, Marylyn Wentworth  
**RUMMAGE SALE**.....Jacky Peters, jpkrf@roadrunner.com  
**SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK**..... Vicki Adams, vickigatesadams@gmail.com  
**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**..... **Vacant**  
**WEDDING COORDINATOR**..... Allison Lazos, uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com  
**WED. EVENING DISCUSSION GROUP**.....Ruth Stackpole, paw8@roadrunner.com  
**WORSHIP COMMITTEE**.....Tory Leuteman, toryleuteman@yahoo.com