



February 8, 2024

LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD

*The thing about Black history is that the truth is so much more complex than anything you could make up.*

*Henry Louis Gates*



## **“That Which Holds Us” Sunday Worship Service Feb. 11, 2024**

Led by Tori Rosati

Religious Exploration welcomes children ages 4-13.

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 Memorial Service

The Zachary-Lang family invites you to join them for a Memorial Service in honor of their beloved, Eben Talmage. The service will be held on Saturday, February 10, 2024, at the church at 10:30 a.m. with a light lunch to follow.

*Parking at the church might be limited. Please consider parking in the overflow lower lot, Griffon Security lot (5 Fletcher Street) or the town hall lot.*

Condolences can be sent to:  
Mary Zachary-Lang and Dan Lang  
2 Hawk Hill Lane  
Kennebunk, ME 04043

Zandy Talmage and Debbie Batten  
220 Beachwood Ave.  
Kennebunkport, ME 04046



- Sun. Feb. 11, 9 -10 a.m.: Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting
- Sun. Feb. 11: All Church Birthday Party, following worship service
- Sun. Feb. 25, 4 p.m. Virtuoso Concert
- Sat. March 23, 2 p.m. Tori's ordination (details below)

# Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting this SUNDAY before worship service.

Our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting will take place this Sunday, Feb. 11, from 9 to 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary and on ZOOM, moderated by Al Adams. Join the Worship Service Session early or select this link:  
[uukennebunk.org/service](http://uukennebunk.org/service)

Questions prior to the event may be directed to: Chris Wells, Treasurer:  
[christopher.j.wells@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.j.wells@gmail.com)

## Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions – Merideth Norris, Board Chair
2. Spiritual Centering - Tori Rosati, Minister
3. The “State of Our Finances” from Chris Wells, Treasurer

### ARTICLE FOR VOTING BY MEMBERS:

1. To review and approve the proposed operating budget for fiscal year 2024 (January 1 - December 31, 2024) as recommended by the Board of Directors in consultation with the Finance Committee. - Chris Wells

### ADDITIONAL REQUESTS:

- To act on any legal motion needing a vote that may come before this meeting.
- Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ginny Lawrence, Clerk

*All are invited to attend, only members may vote.*

# Annual Church Birthday Party!

Join us **February 11**, after worship service in the Parish Hall. We need cupcake bakers, consider making a batch for your birthday month or season. There is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall or call Linda Thompson at 207-502-7796 and leave a message with your name and which month/season you are baking for.



## Women share how to create programs

Join Women for All Seasons on Tuesday, **February 13** in the church parlor at 6:30 p.m. Allegra Highsmith and Deirdre Drennen will share some of the practices in creating programs and rituals for the WFAS circle. WFAS is a women's group celebrating the cycles and seasons of the earth, and our lives and spirituality, through ritual, stories, and informal themed programs. All women are welcome. We usually meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month (September-June) from 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more information contact Barbara Conner 207-229-0799 or Kathe Wright 207-985-6194.



# Echoes of Light

A Piano Recital

*Works by Bach, Franck, and Žlabys*



Andrius Žlabys

Sunday, February 25th, 4PM  
First Parish UU Church, Kennebunk, ME  
\$20 donation  
Online broadcast registration at:  
[www.uukennebunk.org/piano-concert](http://www.uukennebunk.org/piano-concert)

## Whizbang Help Needed: March 16th Talent Show and Dinner

Are you bursting with talent destined for the stage or the table? We need folks willing to share their creativity for this scheduled mid-March fundraising extravaganza hosted by the ever-clever Captain Billy Whizbang.



To help with food contract Barbara Conner at 229-0799  
or [bsconner@roadrunner.com](mailto:bsconner@roadrunner.com)

To enter the show contact Al Adams at 216-3891

# Imagine That

## Excerpts from Rev. Tori Rosati's sermon Feb. 4

When my kids were little, we used to play this game that I ... call the imagination game. It would be when we had all hit the proverbial wall ... something wasn't going right. ... And then one of us would say something like, "Well if we could go to the party, I'd dress up in a suit and tie and we'd rent a limo." Or... "If we could get ice cream, I'd get a cone with 100 scoops!" This would kick off this fun game where we would try and out imagine each other. Back and forth we'd go until we were getting to the party in a spaceship and our ice cream cone was now an ocean with milky waves crashing on the shore.

Being in the midst of young people, has consistently taught me some of the most profound and lasting practices and messages of my life and this was one of them...that curiosity, wonder, and imagination can bring us places we never dreamed possible. ...

National Youth Ambassador, writer, and poet Jason Reynolds writes for and about young people, particularly Black youth. He's quoted as saying that children are the most human among us for many of the perspectives and practices that we're holding today and that activating the imaginations of our young people is one of the most central ways we are going to make it as a species. ... In an interview with NPR host Krista Tippett, he asks the question: "How does one keep an imagination fresh in a world that works double-time to suck it away?"

His answer is to this question is to **"Live a curious life."** ...

This is powerful stuff, right? But as such, it has just as powerful of an underside – this ability to imagine. ... There is danger here on having an imagination that is centered on only one way of viewing the world. ... Imagination requires us to risk the known. And furthermore, it isn't about trying to think how we want things to turn out – it is not results oriented. It is about letting all that go. ... It is not a solo endeavor. It thrives in the *collective* arena of human experience and story. ... And this is *creative* work. It asks us to trust that letting go of our preconceived notions and ideas will bring us closer to the world we can only dream of. ...

Maybe it is something we are struggling with in our own lives, maybe it is an area of impasse in this faith community – something we wish were different ... Let's sit down, ... let ourselves go, and try and imagine what new thing might be. Something that has never been before. The wildest of possibilities. ...

So, friends, let us keep this practice fresh in our lives and in this community. Let us imagine together the world that our faith and spirits say is possible – allow

ourselves to inhabit that youth-filled realm of candy dragons and ice cream waves. Let us strain together out to the limits – those points where we may just fall off – but don't, ... the point, where justice and peace are possible, and the path forward unfurls as we move along it, drawing us nearer to the culmination of our shared dreaming.



## **Sunday Morning Bookcase**

*Fearless Dialogues: A New Movement for*

*Justice, Gregory C. Ellison II*

*Let Your Life Speak, Parker Palmer*

*Emergency Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing*

*Worlds, adrienne maree brown*

*On Being with Krista Tippett*

## **A Letter from our Minister**

Dear ones,

The sunlight these last few days (and sunsets!) has felt nourishing even as the air still chills and the snow waits around the corner for its next fall. But...it's a nice juxtaposition – the bright sun and cold – and reminds me of how we are invited to hold so many different things in these days. We hold the wonder, awe, and unexpected joys of our living alongside the pain and sorrow. Sometimes this can feel miraculous – this ability of ours to hold it all.

As a faith community, we do this too. We hold a space for our differing perspectives, experiences, and ways of seeing the world. Sometimes those varying things are in opposition yet hold them all we do. This too is miraculous – that in a world full of so much strife and hurt, people across generations, identities, and beliefs gather in every week to be together. I hope we can all take a moment in our days to pause, appreciate and be grateful for how precious that is. We are going to talk more about this on Sunday!

Beginning February 16<sup>th</sup> until the 23<sup>rd</sup> my kids are on school vacation and our family is taking some time away and out of town. I will be checking email off and on, and available via phone for emergencies but won't be around the church. I look forward to being back in the sanctuary with you all on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

In the meantime, amidst all we are holding in these days as a community and world, please reach out if you need to. I am here to connect as are so many loving companions who are sharing this journey alongside you. In this community that holds us all, may it hold you too.

With every blessing, Tori

# UU's meet regarding gun safety

Sign up for the **MUUSAN** network meeting on Saturday, February 10th from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The meeting is all about gun safety legislation and is available on Zoom. See details and Zoom in at [MUUSAN.org](https://www.muusan.org)

## Donations given, donations welcome

Thanks to all who have donated so generously to Welcome Immigrants Our New Neighbors (WIONN). We can still use: sheet sets, blankets, and comforters of all sizes, **NO more** pillowcases except as part of sets, dressers, table and chairs, big cooking pots (not aluminum or Teflon), big frying pans, bed frames and good mattresses.

Big items can be picked up, please let [Marilyn.wentworth@tnsk.org](mailto:Marilyn.wentworth@tnsk.org) know. Smaller items can be left in the Parish Hall in the WIONN container.

## JANUARY BOARD NEWS

January 17, 2023

1. The Board received the Properties Committee update from Barbara Conner, Properties Chair. There are currently no urgent needs, and a review is now focused on other important needs within the church building. Examples of what is being considered are replacement of the pew cushions, new entryway carpeting, and exterior painting. There are thoughts of how to bring the larger church community into the discussion on the general needs of the building. Barbara proposes that we consider arranging church finances to include a Capital Budget. The Board voted that the Finance Committee be asked to put consideration of incorporating a capital budget into future budget considerations.
2. Bob Wuerthner and Vicki Adams attended the Board Meeting on behalf of the Social Justice Network to discuss recent vandalism of our Black Lives Matter flag and how to proceed going forward. At this time a different flag will be purchased to be flown as part of Black History Month (February). The church will then continue to hang the Black Lives Matter flag as part of its regular rotation.



3. The Board received the Finance Update from Treasurer Chris Wells. Church finances are stable. The predicted deficit for 2023 was offset by fundraisers coming in above budget and payroll being below budget due to not employing a minister until December. 71% of members have made their 2024 pledges. If you have not turned in your pledge card, please do so ASAP!
4. Chris presented a proposed 2024 Church Budget to place before the congregation for approval. The Board voted to approve the proposed budget and to set the date of the Semi-Annual meeting for Sunday, February 11, 2024 at 9am. You may vote either in person at the meeting or via Zoom. Please join us—your vote matters!
5. Fundraisers Update: Stacy Wentworth's presentation was well attended. Thus concludes our year of celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Building. Thanks to all who participated throughout the year! The Martin Luther King, Jr. event was well attended. Thanks to the Social Justice Network for organizing this event!
6. The Board voted to amend the church Firearms Policy to read as follows:

With the exception of duly-licensed law enforcement officers in the execution of their duties, no firearms are permitted on FPUU's premises.

If a person possesses a firearm on the premises, the person will be asked by the Minister, a representative from the Board of Directors, or the group leader to secure their firearms in their vehicle or leave.

Should that person refuse to do so, the Kennebunk Police Department will be summoned."
7. A reminder regarding inclement weather on Sundays: should there be adverse weather, the Sunday Worship leader, in consult with the Worship Committee, will determine whether to hold in-person Worship or Zoom only.
8. The Board discussed Mindful Communication as an important goal, and especially during times of transition. Rev. Tori reminded us of the importance of lifting up and nurturing our relational practices to help

guide us through this transition. The importance of the church covenant was stressed.

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



At our **Annual Meeting** in June the Nominating Committee will be presenting a slate of candidates for the elected positions at First Parish.

We are so very grateful to those who have been serving in these important positions. Merideth Norris and Kim Lord are completing their terms on the Board of Directors. Al Adams has served as our Moderator for five years.

Also completing five years of service is Kevin Flynn as our Assistant Treasurer. Finally, Ginny Lawrence has been serving as our Clerk. **Thank you all!**

We have already heard from people who are interested in one of the Board positions and the Moderator position.

Current Continuing Officers (Term limit date) and Vacancies to be filled at the June 2024 Congregational Meeting are as follows:

### **Board of Directors: 3-year term**

- Ted Trainer (6/2025)
- Bob Lown (6/2025)
- Cynthia Howard (6/2026)
- Vacancy (6/2027)
- Vacancy (6/2027)

These positions are for one year with a five-year limit on reelection.

- Clerk: Vacancy (6/2029)
- Treasurer: Chris Wells (6/2028)
- Asst. Treasurer: Vacancy (6/2029)
- Moderator: Vacancy (6/2029)
- Historian: Ruth Stackpole (6/2027)



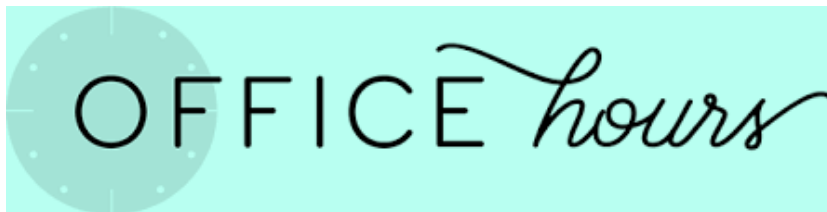
# Total solar eclipse Close enough for us to see in April!



On April 8, 2024, a Total Solar Eclipse event will occur at 3:26 p.m., with Burlington, Vermont in the path of totality. Burlington is expecting thousands to visit for this phenomenon. Members of the First UU Society are ready to receive some of those eclipse-chasers as their paying guests. The Society has made rooms available in 20 private homes with fees donated to the church. The site where accommodations may be purchased is FUUSB Eclipse Homestay.

Burlington is planning a series of educational and celebratory activities for all ages to welcome Eclipse visitors. The viewing along Lake Champlain will be prime. The next Total solar eclipse is in 20 years. So, you must make your plan now to see the eclipse!

For more information about FUUSB's Eclipse Celebration and Homestay Program, contact Susan Ogden [eclipse@uusociety.org](mailto:eclipse@uusociety.org) 240-687-0164.



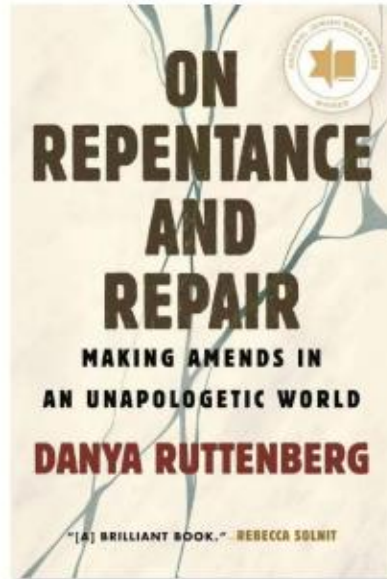
Tori's office hours are mostly Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the church. Due to other obligations her schedule may change. Please email the office to set a time if you wish to speak with her.

One of the important duties of a minister is pastoral care for those in need. Our minister, Tori Rosati, is available to any congregant in need. Tori can best be reached at [uukennebunkminister@gmail.com](mailto:uukennebunkminister@gmail.com). For pastoral emergencies, please use Tori's cell: (978) 238-8210.

# Invitation: UU Common Book Read Discussion Group

We have been warmly invited by our friends at Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church in Portland to join them for a book discussion on this year's UU Common Read: *On Repentance and Repair*, by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg. The group starts on 2/11. We will be exploring this book at a worship service later this spring.

AZU2 SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE



## Common Read 2023-24

When we do a UU Common Read together, we share in reflection, learning, and action. A UU Common Read can take us on a powerful journey into what it means to be human and accountable in a world filled with both pain and joy.

This Common Read offers a glimpse into one of our faith's foundational sources, Judaism. Readers explore the call to accountability as we follow Rabbi Ruttenberg into a framework for making amends offered by the 12th century Jewish physician and scholar, Maimonides.

*On Repentance and Repair* invites readers of any faith to explore practices for accountability that can bring us into wholeness and really make a difference in our personal, community, and national relationships.

**Books will be on sale on Sundays in the foyer beginning in January for \$14**

- Feb 11, Session 1: Lunch 11:00 - 11:30, Discussion 11:30 - 1:30 (Hybrid - Room 7&9)
- Feb 25, Session 2: 4:00 - 5:30 (Zoom only)
- March 10, Session 3: Lunch 11:00 - 11:30, Discussion 11:30 - 1:00 (Hybrid - Room 7&9)

It is ideal to come to all 3 sessions, but not necessary.

FMI contact [Julie Harrison \(julielyn@harrison.com\)](mailto:julielyn@harrison.com).

[Click here to watch a short homily about Repentance and Repair by Rev. Alison Miller, 1st Unitarian Church of Portland OR.](#)

## Contribute to our Newsletter



Join the newsletter contributors! Do you have a photo to share? Perhaps an article or an upcoming event? Please e-mail your items, articles, and photos for the newsletter by Tuesday, 10 a.m. to [uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com](mailto:uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com).

- Vicki Adams, Editor
- Allison Lazos, Graphics, and layout



- Weekend shoveling contact Barbara Conner at [bsconner@roadrunner.com](mailto:bsconner@roadrunner.com)
- Sunday ushers: please sign-up in the Parish Hall

## FPUU Staff/Leadership and Committee Contacts

### FPUU STAFF/LEADERSHIP

**MINISTER:** Tori Rosati.....uukennebunkminister@gmail.com

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**BOOKKEEPER:** Barbara Boscia.....uukennebunkbookkeeper@gmail.com

**MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Christopher Staknys.....uukennebunkmusic@gmail.com

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 2022 – 2024 program year

**CHAIR:** Merideth Norris (2021-2024) .....witchdr910@aol.com

**CO-CHAIR:** Kim Lord (2021-2024) .....kimlord1@aol.com

**CLERK:** Ginny Lawrence (2022-2023) .....lawrenceginny@gmail.com

**TREASURER:** Chris Wells (2023) .....christopher.j.wells@gmail.com

**DIRECTOR:** Ted Trainer (2023- ).....tedtrainer40@gmail.com

**DIRECTOR:** Cynthia Howard (2023 - ) .....cynthiahoward@alum.mit.edu

**DIRECTOR:** Bob Lown (2022-2025).....bplown@roadrunner.com

# FPUU CHURCH COMMITTEES

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<b>PHYSICS/CHEMISTRY WORKSHOP</b> .....	James Vesenka, jvesenka@gmail.com
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<b>STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE</b> .....	<b>Vacant</b>
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<b>WORSHIP COMMITTEE</b> .....	Tory Leuteman, toryleuteman@yahoo.com