

## **“Building the Kin-dom of Heaven”**

Worship Service: March 9, 2025, 10 a.m.

Worship Leader: Rev. Dr. Jodi Cohen Hayashida

Workshop and lunch: 11:30 - 1 p.m.

## **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



- Sun. March 9, 11:30 a.m., Workshop & lunch with Rev. Dr. Jodi Cohen Hayashida
- Sun. March 9, 4 p.m. First Parish **Good News** Film Festival: "2040"
- Mon. March 10, Decide what you will contribute to our March Auction!
- Fri. March 14, 6:30 p.m., Song Swop

## This Sunday

How do we hold onto and create hopeful, hope-filled communities when so much of what surrounds us seems oriented towards encouraging despair? We ground ourselves in an ever-expanding understanding of "us" and take hold of the power that we build together. Join us this Sunday to deepen into what it means to harness our collective power. The Rev. Dr. Jodi Cohen Hayashida leads worship with Rev. Tori Rosati and with music from our Music Director, Chris Staknys and Al Adams.

Following the service and coffee, Rev. Dr. Jodi Cohen Hayashida, will lead a workshop exploring how we can organize and harness our collective power—both as individuals and as a faith community—to work toward a more just world. Bring your presence, your questions, and your energy as we learn, reflect, and grow together in this vital work! The workshop will run from 11:30 - 1 and lunch will be provided.

After serving the First Universalist Church of Auburn for over 20 years, in spring of 2023 the Rev. Dr. Jodi Cohen Hayashida began a new ministry organizing a statewide movement called Multi-faith Justice Maine under the auspices of the Maine People's Alliance. In addition, she serves on the Board and Public Policy Committee of the Maine Council of Churches, serves as tri-chair of the Maine Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, and works with the harm reduction community.

## Our second childcare person chosen

Please welcome Norah McLeod, who will be working Sunday mornings in the nursery along with Crow Lowry, and on occasion providing care for other church events.

Norah is a senior at Kennebunk High School. In addition to her interest in working with children, Norah has been involved in various environmental issues during her time at KHS. We feel fortunate to have her as part of the RE team.

## What Now?

During a recent Sunday discussion, which was attended by 24 of us, Kim Lord told us she makes five calls per day to various elected officials, regarding important issues. The calls can go to state or national senators, representatives, the governor or even the president. You'll see important action items below that are consistent with UU Principles.

Links on new legislation, five calls and contact list of our elected officials are below.

### LGBTQIA++

[LD 537 An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action](#)

**Summary:** This bill prohibits a person from engaging in conduct that constitutes doxing when the target of the doxing is a minor. Under this bill, doxing is defined as the knowing disclosure of personal identifying information of a person, without that person's consent, and when that disclosure is intended to cause, and in fact directly or indirectly causes harm.

### **Actions:**

- Contact members of the Judiciary Committee re: passage of LD 537.
- Contact your Maine House and Senate legislators regarding LD 537.
- Go to [main.gov](http://main.gov) to write testimony or contact: Annie Kiermaier, MUUSAN Liaison for LGBTQIA++ actions, at [anniemuusan@gmail.com](mailto:anniemuusan@gmail.com) if you would like support in writing testimony.

### Reproductive Rights

[LD 143 An Act to Improve Women's Health and Economic Security by Funding Family Planning Services.](#)

**Summary:** This bill provides ongoing appropriations from the General Fund to be distributed to provide management and oversight of the delivery of family planning services. The bill establishes within the Department of

Health & Human Services the Fund to Maintain Access to Statewide Family Planning Services.

- [Read a fuller description of the bill](#) and its relevance to UU principles
- [List of Judiciary committee names](#) and email addresses
- [Talking Points from our Partner Maine Family Planning](#)

As always, see MUUSAN's website for [tips & tools](#) including help on testifying

**Call to Action:** Contact your legislators, particularly if they are on the [Health and Human Services Committee](#). Write [testimony](#) for online submission or join Maine Family Planning for in person testimony at the public hearing on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Five Calls link:

<https://5calls.org/>

Link to our elected officials:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UNWOmm4aNO9Uh2Kv-EYtdO8MKoPP3xXNG2i5vgVrS2Q/edit?usp=sharing>

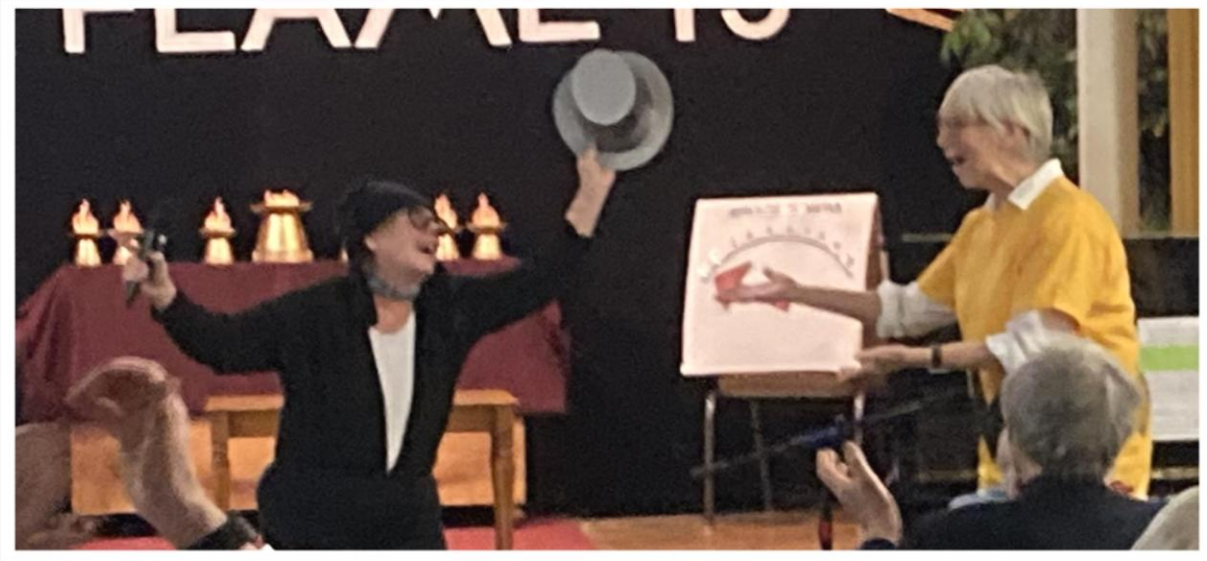
MUUSAN representatives for FPUU,  
Janine Coy and Jerry David

## Flame-y Awards Dinner & Show

The Flame-y Awards evening was a sold out, fabulous hit – And what a dinner it was! And what a show! These pictures by Kevin Flynn and Allegra Highsmith portray the sumptuous buffet, show hosts Lotta Ham aka Susie Desantis and Guy Smiley aka Al Adams; performers Tory Leuteman, *Don't Fence Me In*; Eric Howell on fire with *Stand By Me*; Molly Hoadley and Barbara Berry as Snoopy and Woodstock; Ted Trainer, Rev. Tori Rosati, and Patrick Conner dressed to the nines; and finally the kitchen crew: Janine Coy, David Highsmith, Mary Fortune, Alicia Soliman, Deirdre Drennan, Vicki Adams, Executive Chef Allegra Highsmith, and Marylyn Wentworth. The golden Flame'y

Awards are displayed up-stage. Movers, shakers, and committees were winners!







## Good News Film Festival

"2040" March 9, 4 p.m. free at First Parish. This film offers hope for a young girl who will be 21 in 2040. Festival continues every Sunday at 4 p.m. through April 20.



**You can share recommendations on by-laws and Policies**

Now is the time for your input! A task force is reviewing and making recommendations re: by-laws and policies that reflect current thinking and operations. The congregation will vote on proposed changes in June.

With the many improvements being made through shared ministry, we have asked all committee chairs to review their assigned responsibilities and make recommendations. We will review those suggestions as we receive them.

The review committee is co-chaired by Linda Thompson and Tom Veronesi. Members include Ruth Stackpole, Bob Weurthner, and Susan Jack. We are very appreciative of the hard work of our committee members as listed above and value their experience and dedication to this process.

Linda Thompson and Tom Veronesi

## Trust Your Heart II

### Excerpts from the sermon March 2 by Rev. Tori Rosati

Since the election ... I've been struggling with reading the news, with the assaults on our democracy, the crises amplifying across the world, and relentless injustice—all being fueled, ignored, or deepened by our own country's actions. The need to stay informed, to bear witness to what is happening, has never felt more urgent. ...

There are so many big and necessary things in this time that are calling us to be brave. Calling our legislators, showing up in the streets, in the voting booth, and in our communities, refusing to be silent in the face of oppression, and working to save and build the world we long for. It can feel discouraging.

...

How do we be brave ...?

One of my heroes of late is the Episcopal Bishop of Washington DC, the Rev. Marianne Edgar Budde, ... the religious leader who stepped into the pulpit at the Inaugural Prayer Service ... challenging the most powerful people in the country, with their disapproving gazes trained on her, to lead with justice and compassion. If I could only have that kind of courage.

In a book she wrote in 2021, *How We Learn to Be Brave*, ... she writes: "The courage to be brave when it matters most requires a lifetime of small decisions





that set us on a path of self-awareness, attentiveness, and willingness to risk failure for what we believe is right. ...

This month, we turn our reflection to the theme of trust—how we live love in the world through the practice of trust. This is a tender one, friends, isn't it? Trust. Especially now. Every newspaper we open, every headline we read, there's yet another example of a public figure forsaking the trust placed in them. ...

In my own life, I could fill chapters with moments when trust was broken—by others, by institutions, and yes, by myself. ... In this space of broken trust, my instinct is often to guard up. ... And yet... I am also keenly aware that when I guard myself too tightly, I also disconnect myself from the parts that make me human—the parts that love, that grieve, that rage, and hope. ...

Trust is an act of courage, and courage is sustained by trust. We can't have one without the other. If trust and courage are so deeply intertwined, then, how do we cultivate both in a way that keeps us grounded rather than guarded, open rather than overwhelmed?

Social scientist and author, Brené Brown ... lifts up a framework for being brave that I've turned to over the year—the “Strong Back, Soft Front, Wild Heart.” ... Brown tells us that what we often think about as our strength comes from a place of fear rather than love. Trying to conceal our lack of confidence, we guard our backs, defend our fronts, and armor our hearts.

... Now fear is an essential part of what it means to be human. ... But living from a place of fear shrinks our world, narrows our vision, and disconnects us from ourselves, the world around us, and each other. Living from a place of love, though, offers us a way to take in the pain of the world and still remain human and ready to answer the call to be brave when it comes.

Strong Backs, Soft Fronts and Wild Hearts.

So, a strong back. Something needs to hold us up. ...

Our soft front. ... This looks like trust. ...

And then ... our wild hearts. ... This looks like resolve. ...

I think there is something powerful about that image of a wild heart as the embodiment, the confluence, the connection between trust and courage. ...

For us, as UUs, that power is love. Our UU faith centers love as the holy, animating force that infuses all of our values: justice equity, pluralism, generosity, transformation, and interdependence—infuses them all with the heartbeat of the Spirit ... that allows us to trust and be courageous in the world. To be soft and strong and wild.



The FPUU Church band plays *Lean on Me* at the March 2<sup>nd</sup> service.  
(From Left) Chris Wells, Rev. Tori, Eric Howell, Allegra Highsmith and Rich Gaito  
photo by Jaylene Summers.

And love for us, arises out of community—that collective, greater heart that surrounds us with fellowship, accountability, and solidarity to help us face what we fear together.

I'd like to invite us into a simple practice. ... Take a moment right now—bringing into your mind's eye somewhere in your own life that is asking for your courage. ... And, as you do so imagine the arms and hands of the people in this room encircling you, the arms of your loved ones and your ancestors, and this good earth, the arms of that divine spirit of life. ...

And, I have faith that when we trust like this—in ourselves, in our communities, and in that inexplicable, unmerited experience of Love's power—something shifts. Fear loosens its grip, love takes up more space, and we can't keep ourselves from moving forward— hearts lifted, spirits wild, reaching toward one another and that unstoppable call of the world saying, go!

## **FPUU our March Event Send in your contribution!**



Now's the time to check your home for items of value, solicit gift certificates from your favorite restaurant or health care provider, create some great services or events to share. Parties and home-cooked meals are very popular!

Send your items by email to Lisa Slaughter (see directory) with



description, photo and value, plus dates if it is an event. Auction starts March 30 and ends April 11. Your cooperation makes all the difference to the success of this auction. Last year we made the most money in 3 years so let's top it this year. A vegan dinner and spring seedlings have already been offered.

## **Men's Open Group (MOG) Celebrates Two-Year Anniversary!**



Who could believe it's already been two years? In February 2023, a dozen or so men from First Parish, including Friends met for the first time to share stories, concerns, and topics of general interest to men. Since then, we've met regularly to delve into such topics as men's spirituality, our life experiences as men, and what it means for us to be men in today's world. We consistently strive to honestly share our feelings and to accept and support each other, bonding as a group.

And sometimes we've had just plain fun by meeting informally outside of our regular Tuesday gatherings, such as we did recently at "Bake Maine Cafe" in Wells. These and our regular gatherings are open to all men in First Parish and friends. Our regular meeting times are the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 pm in the church library. For more information, contact Mark Gallup or Jim Thompson (refer to church directory).



**SONGSWOP** is scheduled for Friday, March 14th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. It will be held in the Sanctuary at FPUU. All are welcome, singers, poets, story tellers etc. Acoustic instruments only please. Microphones are provided. You may perform or be a part of the audience. Y'all come. You'll be glad you did! For more information contact, Bruce Childress, Rich Gaito 207-251-4432 or Jaylene Summers 207-251-3317

## Put Love into action

Fed up with feeling so helpless? Here's one way you can put love into action. Several members of the congregation are forming a Ministry on Shelter. We are working to create avenues for supporting the unhoused in the southern Maine region and would love your help!

A lot of what will determine the scope of the project is the amount of helping hands we have, so if you are interested in learning more, reach out to Merideth at [witchdr910@aol.com](mailto:witchdr910@aol.com) or 207-664-3569. Let's be part of the solution!

This moment calls for us to be deeply grounded in our values, resilient in the face of challenges, and responsible stewards of justice. Together, we will explore.



## Join our new fun committee!

The **Ad Hoc Events & Activities Committee**, led by Allegra Highsmith, had its first success last Friday with the Flame-y Awards show and dinner. The committee will coordinate, facilitate, and exercise guidance for the planning and execution of three types of church sponsored occasions: Fundraising Events, Fellowship Events, Educational, and Mission related programs. Please reach out to Allegra at (513) 608-8800 If you are interested in joining.

# Think blueberries, plan arts and crafts!

It's hard to imagine a wonderful day in the sun in Kennebunk while the outside temperatures are hovering in the single digits, but it's time to start planning to exhibit your artisan crafts and works of art for this summer's Blueberry Festival and Crafts Fair, July 26.

You or your friends can still reserve a space for only \$75. We already have half of the 44 spaces reserved!

There are things to do in advance of the festival such as sewing on Monday mornings at 10 a.m. which has already begun! contact:

[marylyn.wentworth@tnsk.org](mailto:marylyn.wentworth@tnsk.org) for directions

and info. Start saving the jewelry you no longer

wear. It will be repaired or repurposed to sell at our jewelry table. Whether you can give a few hours of your time or are able to be with us for the entire day, we need you!

Closer to the date we will need you to bake for our food table, set up and break down the festival, manage recycling, etc. But for now, we definitely need you to save the date, July 26!

Tom Veronesi, Vendor Coordinator



## Curious about what's happening in Religious Education?

Click on this link to learn more about our monthly R.E. highlights.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1o15dUyotgadBr6OkKegCC8rr6h-PW3CR3YrbCd8JGBI/edit?usp=sharing>

For more information on our Religious Education program, contact our office administrator, Allison at (207) 985-3700 or email at

[ukennebunkoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ukennebunkoffice@gmail.com) and she will connect you with the team.

# Committee reviews By-laws and Policies

The Board of Directors should review the By-laws every 5 years, but due to covid, the process slated for 2022 is now taking place. The Board appointed a task to do the review and make recommendations that reflect current thinking and operations. Any changes approved by the Board must also be approved by the congregation at our Annual Meeting in June.

The review committee is co-chaired by Linda Thompson and Tom Veronesi. Members include Ruth Stackpole, Bob Weurthner, and Susan Jack. We will also review the church safety plan, our disruptive behavior plan, church access, gun carry policy, and church evacuation plans in case of fire or emergency situations.

In December of 2023 the Board adopted a gun carry policy. The current Board added a paragraph, which allows some individuals to apply for an exception by filling out an application. The application must be approved by the Board. This policy has been implemented and is posted at the entry to the church.

We are working on refining our disruptive person policy and procedures and delineating emergency steps to be taken in time of crisis.

We have formed a partnership with the local Police Department and have been working with one of their officers who has come to the church to make suggestions for improved safety measures. He will coordinate with the fire department, which will review our evacuation plans, and will complete a report.

With the many improvements being made through shared ministry, we have asked all committee chairs to review their assigned responsibilities and make recommendations to the task force regarding the current by-laws and policies and procedures. We will review those suggestions as we receive them.

We are very appreciative of the hard work of our committee members as listed above and value their experience and dedication to this process.

Linda Thompson and Tom Veronesi

# Sunday Morning Bookcase



- *How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith*, Mariann Edgar Budde
- *Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way we Live, Love, Parent, and Lead*, Brené Brown
- *Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds*, adrienne maree brown



The Office is open Monday-Friday 9a.m.- 12 p.m. Rev. 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 congregante 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.



# First Parish UU Church Kennebunk

## MARCH 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Tori "Trust Your Heart"	3 10 a.m. R.E. Team Meeting	4 5:15 p.m. Sangha 7 p.m. Properties	5 6:30 p.m. Worship Committee 7 p.m. Evening Discussion	6 3:30 p.m. Choir	7	1 <hr/> 8 10a.m. BOD Retreat
9 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Jodi Hayashida with Rev. Tori 11:30 a.m. Workshop with Rev. Jodi 4 p.m. Good News Film	10 7 p.m. Finance Committee	11 10 a.m. Membership Committee 5:15 p.m. Sangha 6:30 p.m. W.F.A.S. 6:30 p.m. M.O.G.	12 5:30 p.m. Soul Matters Creative Team 7 p.m. Evening Discussion	13 3:30 p.m. Choir	14 6:30 p.m. Song Swop	15
16 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Jaylene Summers 4 p.m. Good News Film	17	18 5:15 p.m. Sangha	19 5:30 p.m. B.O.D. Meeting	20 3:30 p.m. Choir	21	22
23 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Tori "Be a Sanctuary" 11 a.m. All Church Birthday 4 p.m. Good News Film	24	25 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.	26 5:30 p.m. Small Group Ministry 7 p.m. Evening Discussion Group	27 3:30 p.m. Choir	28 7 p.m. Piano Trio Concert	29
30 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Jane Buckston "UU Faith" 4 p.m. Good News Film  UU Online Auction begins	31					