



LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD

April 10, 2025

There's nothing like a crisis to wake us up and force us to start getting serious about change.

From The New Saints by Lama Rod Owens



First Parish UU Church, Kennebunk, was in full force last Saturday at the Hands-Off protest in Wells (estimated attendance 500 - 900) – others attended the demonstrations in Portland (10,000) and Augusta (1,000). Photo by Jaylene Summers

## “Social Justice as a Spiritual Path: the Quest for Political Holiness”

Worship Service: April 13, 2025, 10 a.m.

Led by: Rev. Art McDonald

## 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 EVENTS

- By April 11, 10 a.m. Bring items for the Rummage Sale
- Fri. April 11, 6:30 p.m. Song Swop
- Sat.-Sun. April 12-13, Rummage Sale
- Sun. April 13, 11:30 a.m. What Now? Discussion in Parlor
- Sun. April 13, Easter Basket collection in Parish Hall
- Sun. April 13, 4 p.m. Film, "Gather"
- By April 15: make your bids for the FPUU Auction!
- April 17: Respond to Anti-Trans Movement with UU Rockland: 6 p.m.

## This Sunday:

What if spirituality isn't about retreating from the world, but stepping more deeply into it? Drawing on decades of ministry and evolving understandings of spiritual maturity, guest preacher Art will explore a vision of spirituality not as withdrawal from the world, but rather immersion in it - alive in the work of social justice activism. Rev. Art McDonald leading with Susie Desantis.

## A loss of one among us

It is with a heavy heart that I share with you the news that our beloved Sally Keene passed away Monday morning surrounded by her family. Sally was a lifelong Unitarian Universalist and cherished member and leader at First Parish for more than two decades. Sally was also a devoted Buddhist and member of the Order of Interbeing, a community of mindfulness practice established by Thich Nhat Hanh. As such, Sally mentored, supported and guided many to deepen their own spiritual journey through her leadership in the Ripples of Peace Sangha that meets weekly at the church. Her spirit and presence in our lives, both individually and as a community, will be deeply missed.



<https://www.bibberfuneral.com/memorials/sally-keene/5578720/index.php>

Condolences can be sent to:

Hervé Lavoie  
3 Grasshopper Lane  
Kennebunk, ME 04043

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her memory to the Alzheimer's Association. A memorial service will be planned for a later date.

## Share Your Joy!

During Sunday's service, we saw a beautiful slide show created by our Worship Committee featuring things that bring them joy. Throughout April, we'll keep adding to it—and we need *your* joy! Send a photo to Rev. Tori at [uukennebunkminister@gmail.com](mailto:uukennebunkminister@gmail.com) of something that is bringing you joy these days, and we will include it in the slideshow that will accompany our services in April. Let's grow this joy together.

## Listen to Joy!

Did you know that our monthly Soul Matters themes come with suggested music? [HERE](#) is a link to playlists put together by the Soul Matters teams with theme-related music that accompany each month's theme. **EnJOY!**

## The Practice of Joy!

What is bringing you joy? Throughout this month, I encourage us to receive joy when it arrives, maybe around the next bend, returning from miles away to land in the soft, still-mucky ground, or that precious moment when love begins. And *there is a lot of love around us* at church and elsewhere, even in the challenge of our time – it is in the care and refuge we offer one another, in the public statements of witness and dissent we proclaim, and in the quiet moments when we return ourselves to what matters most. All of these are sources of joy, moments when love begins, and we may choose to lean into its plentiful embrace. [See sermon on Joy below.]



In love and joy, Rev. Tori



# “What Now?” Action items & info.

Many UUs are alarmed by the apparently unconstitutional acts by the current administration in Washington. They run counter to our core values. Below are demonstrations and other opportunities to act on our values.

## On Main Street

On Thursday, April 10, at 4 p.m. demonstrations will be held not only in Kennebunk but also in towns all along Route 1 in York County!

Citizens of local towns are gathering to demonstrate their concerns about state and national issues every Thursday from 4 - 5 p.m. on the sidewalks of upper Main St. Kennebunk. Signs are available Thursday from 3-4 p.m. at the Democracy Co-op, Lafayette Center, first floor, Kennebunk.



Photos by Allegra Highsmith

## Democracy

### LD 252 [An Act to Withdraw from the National Popular Vote Compact](#)

Summary: This bill repeals the National Popular Vote for President Act and makes changes to other election statutes to reflect that repeal. In the 131st Legislative Session, Maine voted to join this compact and it was signed into law. Many of us worked hard to make this successful. This is an effort to repeal that law.

Public Hearing: Monday, April 14, 2025 10:00 AM, State House, Room 437

Call to Action:

- Email your legislators, especially if they are on the VLA committee.
- [Testify or submit testimony](#) for the public hearing.

[Talking Points](#) from League of Women Voters/Maine, from the 2023-24 campaign

Committee: [Veterans and Legal Affairs](#)

Sponsors & Co-sponsors: Presented by Representative BAGSHAW of Windham.

Cosponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor and

Representatives: ADAMS of Lebanon, COLLINS of Sidney, COOPER of Windham.

## LGBTQIA+

Here are two separate opportunities (both are either in person or online!) to join UUs across the state in support of our trans and nonbinary communities.

### [Responding to the Anti-Trans Movement by the Transforming Hearts Collective](#)

will be viewed and discussed at the Rockland UU Church over two sessions:

April 17, 6 to 7:30 p.m. *and* April 18, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Click [here](#) to contact program facilitator Annie Kiemaier for more details to participate either in person or on Zoom.

[Building Beloved Community Beyond the Binary](#) is a jointly-run day-long "satellite" event that will be hosted by the Allen Avenue UU Church in Portland on April 26th, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. [Register here](#) to attend in person, or [register here](#) to attend via Zoom. This national program ([learn more here](#)) joins many

satellite UU churches across the country to hear a keynote address and then participate in local workshops for trans and nonbinary folks and their allies.

(See poster below)

## **Wabanaki Sovereignty**

LD 958 - An Act to Prohibit Eminent Domain on Tribal Lands

*Sponsored by Rep. Billy Bob Faulkingham*

**Public hearing: Friday April 4, 1 p.m. Judiciary Committee, State House Room**

**438.** Judiciary Committee Chairs: Sen. Carney and Rep. Kuhn

It's not too late to write to your representatives.

## **Gun Safety**

[LD 677 An Act to Update the Statutory Definition of "Machine Gun" and Prohibit Possession of a Rapid-fire Device](#)

Summary: This bill modifies the provision of the Maine Criminal Code defining "machine gun" to include any part or combination of parts designed and intended for use in converting a weapon into a machine gun.

Call to Action:

- Call or email your legislators and the legislators on the [Judiciary Committee](#).

[Talking Points](#): From the Gun Safety Coalition

## **Five Calls link:**

<https://5calls.org/>

## **Link to our elected officials:**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UNWOmm4aNO9Uh2Kv-EYTdO8MKoPP3xXNG2i5vgVrS2Q/edit?usp=sharing>

Janine Coy and Jerry David

Maine UU State Action Network (MUUSAN) representatives for FPUU,

**SONGSWOP** is scheduled for Friday, April 11th 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



## For No Particular Reason (NPR)

Women gather for a potluck supper Friday April 25 at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Ann Boyce (207) 332-0830. email [annhboyce@yahoo.com](mailto:annhboyce@yahoo.com)

## Stocking up treats for the Easter Bunny

Please donate Easter candy (chocolate bunnies, individually wrapped eggs, and peeps). The children in the Religious Exploration Program will put baskets together. They will be brought to children living in a domestic violence shelter and to our local Community Outreach Services for families in need. The more we collect, the more children we can provide for. All items must be at the church by Sunday, April 13. Thank you for participating



## Welcoming New Members, May 18<sup>th</sup>

We'll be joyfully welcoming new members during the service on **Sunday, May 18**. If you're interested in becoming a member or learning more, please reach out to Rev. Tori. We'd love to share this journey of belonging together as we grow in community and connection.

# Joy is Resistance

Excerpts from Rev. Tori Rosati's sermon April 6

A dear childhood friend of mine used to cover her porch in prisms. ... You would be sprayed by countless rainbows inside. ... This past summer, I took her cue and added some to our back porch. ... Now ... each time [rainbows] appear feels like a precious gift and reminder to pause enough in our hearts and spirits to let that joy break through.

This month, we are exploring the theme of Joy. And if I am honest, these days – joy isn't always an easy one for me to access. ... These are serious times. They are evoking feelings that seem to rest at the other end of the spectrum from joy – fear, grief, anxiety, despair on one side and the elusive joy on the other. ... And yet ... what might joy offer us as a source of resilience, resistance, and connection in the face of these times?

The term *Joy is resistance*, was coined by poet Toi Derricott and arises out of the Black feminist movement that centers Black women's experience of joy as a ... source of survival amidst generations of oppression. ... Poet, and theologian, Cole Arthur Riley in her book, *Black Liturgies* adds to this conversation, "we must reclaim joy outside of the artificial cheer it is often reduced to. There is a joy that is defiant. ... Joy with teeth. Never complacent. Always ready." ...

In the 1960s Civil Rights Movement, activists used music and communal gatherings not just for celebration but as acts of defiance against systemic oppression. ... Similarly, in 1980s Latin America, amidst political repression and authoritarianism, communities employed music, dance, and public festivities—not merely as distractions but as forms of resistance ... ultimately toppling oppressive regimes and reshaping entire political landscapes.

During the AIDS epidemic in the 80s and 90s, activists rallied by day for recognition, resources, and rights, they laid their loved ones to rest, and then danced through the night. ... asserting that even in the face of brutal repression, love and solidarity could persist. ...

Fascism, authoritarianism, and domination feed on despair, fear, and isolation – but they don't know what to do with joy. Joy transcends immediate circumstances, uniting individuals through a shared humanity and releasing



collective power, like a prism's rainbow breaking through a dusty hallway, scattering colored light in every direction.

Author Ross Gay has written extensively about joy. ... His series, *The Book of Delights*, celebrates the everyday places where joy shows up in life ... [and] a 2022 book, *Inciting Joy*, where he explores the transgressive power of joy as a means to bring people together amidst injustice and polarization. ...

And this doesn't mean we will never experience pain or challenge or sorrow – it doesn't mean we are happy all the time – it just means we experience a fuller humanity that doesn't separate our joy from our struggle ... Gay writes, “what if joy and pain are fundamentally tangled up with one another? ... What if joy, instead of refuge or relief from heartbreak, is what emerges from us as we help each other carry our heartbreaks?” ...

And as a faith community, it is our responsibility, maybe even our spiritual mandate to lean into this truth. To call ourselves to the work of inciting joy which incites solidarity which incites more joy...wherever we can.

When we light our candles ... [we] remind each other to, look at the rainbows! even when the cold air still lingers and the light has dimmed. Like the recent rainbow this past Thursday when our choir left their practice and gathered on the front steps of the church to join the democracy demonstration and sang to the gathered community. Amidst the struggle they offered their love, spirit and song to the waiting world. ...

... Just like the prism takes in the light that comes, joy doesn't turn away or forget, it takes what comes, all of it, then bends and refracts it, showing us all the hidden beauty and possibility that was there all along — a hundred thousand shining colors – each one a way for survival, an opportunity for something new to be born in this world. ...

[Joy] is not something dependent on external circumstances – not something the world gives us, and it is not something that that world can take away because it is already here, embedded, sometimes hidden, in the layers of love and connection that exist all around us. ...

So friends, in these serious times...as we take to the streets, vote at the ballot box, call and write our leaders, withhold our money, sing from our front steps, as we carry each other's heartbreaks, hold one another in our sorrow and our pain, reach out beyond these walls, grieve and cry and rage, let's not forget to let joy break through ... releasing our bodies in rhythmic movements

of solidarity, that radiate outward the many colors of this life and love and joy that we were created for.

## **We need your Committee job descriptions!**

A task force appointed by the Board is now reviewing the FPUU By-laws and Policies and Procedures. Several months ago, we distributed a notebook to all of the standing committees which included a copy of your present job description. The committee will soon review those job descriptions. In some cases, there may be a function included that your committee no longer addresses or perhaps you feel should not be a part of your responsibility. In other cases, you may have acquired a function along the way that should be added to your job description. Please review the job descriptions with your committee at your April meeting and make any changes or updates you feel are appropriate. Return them to us before the end of April.

Send your replies to Tom Veronesi and he will make sure the committee places them on our agenda next month. We look forward to your reply.

The By-laws Task Force

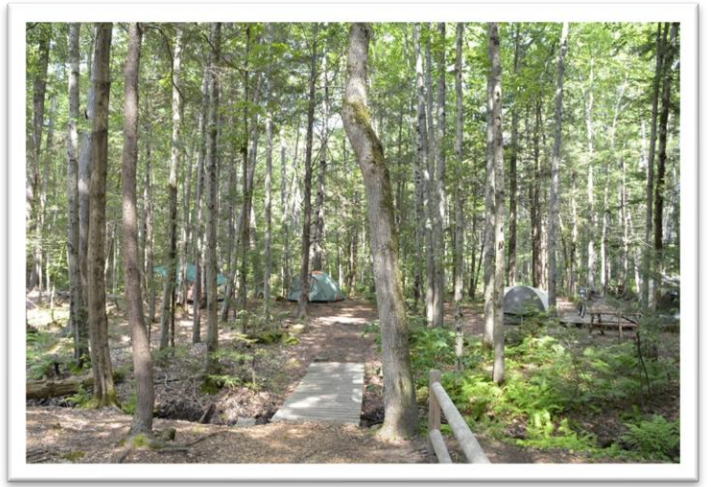
## **Community Events:**

**Get your bids in today!**

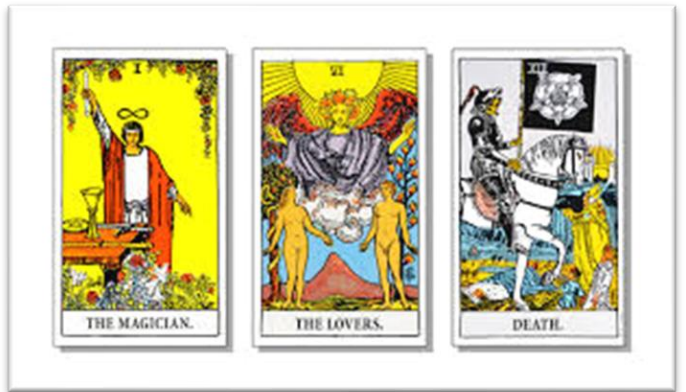
**Five days left before our auction ends**

Imagine these spectacular gifts: A private concert with musician Erik Howell, Tarot Card Reading, family reunion or graduation party at a Wells Beach cottage, virtual session to help you become a writer, date for the Opera, poetry reading including your own if you wish, two nights and 3 days camping at Ferry Beach and more!

<https://www.charityauctionstoday.com/bid/15363>



poetry  
reading



# Rummage Sale

women's/men's/children's clothing,  
household goods & linens, kitchenware,  
books/CDs, children's toys, misc.!



**Sat. April 12th 8-11am**

**Sun. April 13th 8-10:00am**

**everything \$3/bag on Sunday**

**First Parish UU Church**

114 Main Street Kennebunk  
(next to the library)

Please bring your items to the church starting April 5. Leave them in the Parlor starting in a corner. **Please do not leave items in the Parish Hall or on stage.** We need clothing in good condition, household items, linens, dishes, pots and pans, books, etc. Please make sure any electric items work before you bring them.

Do not donate books or clothing that is moldy, smelling of mildew, or ripped, no magazines, no textbooks, no mattresses/box springs, no out-of-date sporting equipment, no child car seats. These items do not sell.

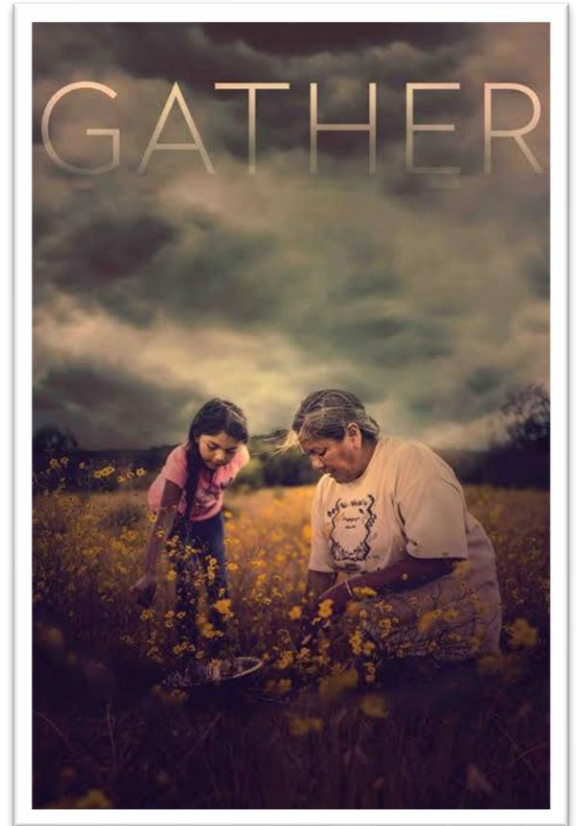
If you are interested in helping, please contact Jacky Peters at [jpkrf@roadrunner.com](mailto:jpkrf@roadrunner.com)

# The last Good News Film for now

Sunday, April 13, 4 p.m. "Gather"

This film recognizes damage that was done by the government and is a vision of indigenous communities taking control of their heritage. Free.

The Good news Film Festival is a series of documentaries that offer hope and inspiration in a world in turmoil. The films are shown every Sunday from 4:00 to 6:00 at the First Parish. The films are free, but donations are appreciated. This opportunity to get together and learn together is brought to you by the FPUU Film Team: Janine Coy, Jerry David, Marylyn Wentworth, and Cynthia Howard.

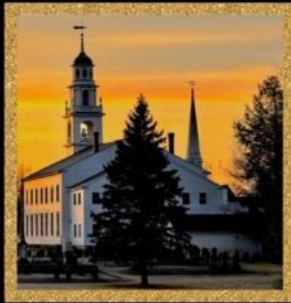


## Green Sanctuary 35th Anniversary and Call for Renewal

Wednesday, April 16  
4 PT / 5 MT / 6 CT / 7 ET



Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt



# Benefit Concert

Sat. April 26

7:00 to 9:00

First Parish

Unitarian Universalist Church

114 Main St, Kennebunk

## Two of a Kind

Janet Wentworth & Mark Gunter

Jazz  
Blues  
Originals  
Country



Torch  
Rock & Roll  
Gospel  
Soul

With Special Guest  
Percussionist  
Jeff Wentworth



PROCEEDS TO ASSIST WITH A NEW ENERGY EFFICIENT  
HEATING SYSTEM FOR THE CHURCH

\$20.00 per person. children under 12 free

for tickets, [uukennebunk.org/april-concert](http://uukennebunk.org/april-concert)

**ACE BASSIST JOHN KUMNICK JOINING US AS WELL!**

Mark Gunter and Janet Wentworth, the “two” of “Two of a Kind,” are seasoned human beings, musicians, and friends. Mark is an accomplished pianist and organist, and Janet is an award-winning vocalist. Together, with their frequent guest, drummer/percussionist/vocalist Jeff Wentworth, their repertoire includes jazz, blues, country, originals, rock and roll, and soul. All local to the area, the historical and community value of the Unitarian Church is important to them, and they look forward to helping out. They bring you great talent and songs, presented with warmth and authenticity, that will make you rejoice, reflect, and sometimes dance. \$20 – to help keep our church warm in more ways than one!



April 26, 2025

9:00 am - 4:00 pm EDT

Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church

524 Allen Ave. Portland, ME

Lunch Provided!

Building Beloved Community Beyond the Binary is a gathering hosted by Allen Avenue UU partnering with UU Church of Brunswick and First Parish UU of Portland and others as a gift of support to the trans and nonbinary community. BBCBB is a program originated by the First UU Society of Syracuse as an annual event based on radical welcome which has expanded to include satellite locations across the country.

In addition to a program provided via Zoom – a keynote and at least one track of additional workshops – we may add workshops and/or activities of our own from and for the trans community with a separate offering for cisgender people who are ready to learn more about how to be an ally.



Scan to Register

# May Day Parade coming up

Have you ever wanted to have the fun of marching in a parade? This is the third year First Parish will be participating in the Kennebunk May Day Parade on **Saturday, May 3, at 1:30 pm.** You and your friends and family are invited to join us! Watch this space for more details!



## What's happening in R.E.?

Click on this link to learn more about our monthly Religious Exploration highlights.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1o15dUyotgadBr6OkKegCC8rr6h-PW3CR3YrbCd8JGBl/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.

## Our members now in rehabilitation enjoy having people call or visit

Joan Phipps, after experiencing another fall, is now undergoing rehabilitation at Summer Commons, 21 June St. Sanford, Maine 04073. She has a phone in her room: 207-206-1953. She would love to have her friends from First Parish call or visit. The Commons is near Goodall Hospital.



Bob Lown is currently in Room 41 of The Edgewood Center, 928 South St., Portsmouth NH. His mobility is limited but he is in good spirits and would love visitors. The best way is to just drop in any morning between 9-11. Or you can send a letter or card to the above address.

## Sunday Morning Bookcase

- *Inciting Joy*, Ross Gay
- *Book of Delights*, Ross Gay
- *Book of (more) Delights*, Ross Gay
- *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
- *Interview with Bayo Akomolafe*: [Let Us Make Sanctuary](#)



## Important: Check Rev. Tori's Email Address!

Some emails sent to Rev. Tori haven't reached her inbox due to incorrect addresses in some contact lists. Please take a moment to ensure you have the correct email saved: [uukennebunkminister@gmail.com](mailto:uukennebunkminister@gmail.com)  
NOT [firstparishminister@gmail.com](mailto:firstparishminister@gmail.com), [uuchurchkennebunkminister@gmail.com](mailto:uuchurchkennebunkminister@gmail.com), or any other variation. Even small differences mean your message won't reach her.

If you've emailed Rev. Tori and haven't received a response, please double-check the email address in your contact list as it may be incorrect.

For help updating your contacts, Allison Lazos or Chris Wells are available to assist. And as a reminder, Rev. Tori will never send emails requesting gift cards or money—if something seems suspicious, it probably is.



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 congregant in need. Tori can best be reached at [uukennebunkminister@gmail.com](mailto:uukennebunkminister@gmail.com). For pastoral emerge

**First Parish UU Church Kennebunk**

**APRIL 2025**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
UU Online Auction 3/30-4/11		1 5:15 p.m. Sangha 7 p.m. Properties	2 6:30 p.m. Worship Committee 7 p.m. Evening Discussion	3 3:30 p.m. Choir	4	5
6 10 a.m. Worship Service led Rev. Tori "Joy is Resistance" 11:30 a.m. New to UU lunch 4 p.m. Good News Film	7 10 a.m. RE Team	8 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.	9 7 p.m. Evening Discussion	10 3:30 p.m. Choir	11 6:30 p.m. Song Swop  UU Auction Ends	12 Rummage Sale 8am-11am
13 8 am Rummage Sale 10 a.m. Worship Service led Rev. Art McDonald 11:30 a.m. Now What? - Social Justice Organizing 4 p.m. Good News Film	14 7 p.m. Finance Committee	15 5:15 p.m. Sangha	16 5:30 p.m. B.O.D. Meeting	17 3:30 p.m. Choir	18	19
20 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Tori "Reviving the Heart" 4 p.m. Good News Film	21	22 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.	23 5:30 p.m. Small Group Ministry 7 p.m. Evening Discussion Group	24 3:30 p.m. Choir	25 7 p.m. Janet Wentworth concert	26
27 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Tori 11:30 a.m. Service Reflection Circle 4 p.m. Good News Film	28	29 5:15 p.m. Sangha	30 6 p.m. Vespers Service			