

May 1, 2025

*If our first
response to the
receipt of gifts is
gratitude, then
our second is
reciprocity: to
give a gift in
return.*

Robin Wall
Kimmerer



Photo by Vicki Adams

“Pray Like a Mainah”

Worship Service: May 4, 2025, 10 a.m.

Led by: Al and Vicki Adams

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,

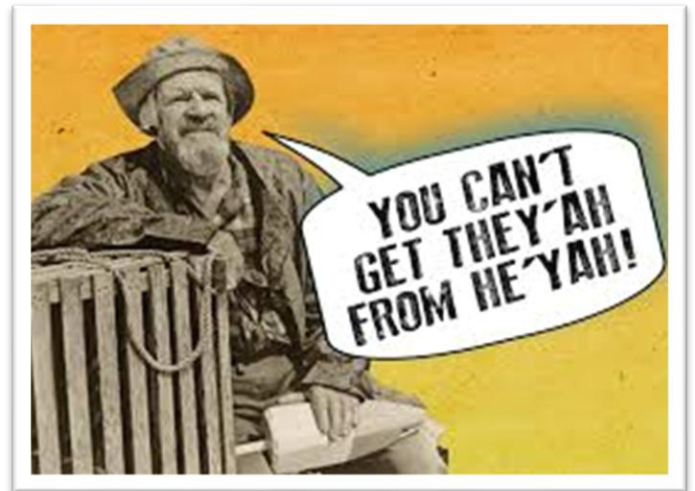
Password:02448

upcoming EVENTS

- Sat. May 3, 1:30 p.m. May Day Parade, FPUU participating
- Sat. May 3, 5 p.m. Cocktails & Mocktails fundraiser, 12 Winter St.
- Sun. May 11, 10 a.m. R.E. Sunday/Bridging
- Sun. May 18, 10 a.m. Welcoming New Members
- Sun. May 18, 11:30 a.m. *What Now?* Social Justice discussion group
- Sun. May 18, 4 p.m. Spring piano concert with Hsiang Tu

World Laughter Day Sunday:

Ayuh! This coming Sunday, May 4th is World Laughter Day. Understanding that we need some laughter at trying times like these, we have invited another of Al Adams's infamous distant cousins, Dr. Burt Moody to be our guest speaker. Dr. Burt claims to be nationally recognized as the ultimate authority on prayer technique (Rev. Tori isn't so



sure 😊!). He will speak to us about how to improve our congregation's prayer effectiveness which he's heard through the grapevine is not particularly one of our strong points. Please join us for this humor infused Sunday of fun, laughter, music, and yes... even prayer! Vicki Adams and Susie Desantis leading with music from Chris Stakynys and the First Parish Choir!

**JOIN US TO MARCH IN
THE ANNUAL**

Kennebunk



**May Day
Parade**



Saturday, May 3rd

Meet on Water Street near
Rotary Park at 12:45 p.m.

Parade begins at 1:30 p.m.,
just a short walk down Main Street

*Help us represent our UU Church and
promote our values and outreach with
the community!*

Hurrah! It's finally here—the May Day Parade, this Saturday!

You're invited to join your church community this Saturday, May 3, as we march for the third time in this cheerful event. Everyone is welcome, including families and friends. Please wear your brightest and most spring-like garments, and a festive hat if you have one.

The parade begins at 1:30. Our group gathers on Water Street near Rotary Park around 12:45. Look for the church banner. This year we will give artificial flowers and real candy to the children along the parade route. Please join us. If you have any questions contact Mary Gelfand at marygelf@gmail.com.



Cocktail/Mocktail Fundraiser, this Saturday

If you forgot to sign up for the party at Jacky and Kevin's house that was offered during our auction, you may still show up! There will be a hat on the table for your \$20 donation. We hope to

see you at 12 Winter St, Kennebunk, just a few blocks from the church, Saturday, May 3, at 5 p.m.

Chat with Board members this Sunday

First Parish Board members want to share their new vision and strategy for the church. Come to a meeting after coffee hour this Sunday, May 4 at 11:30 a.m. for an orientation and Q&A. Here's your chance to find out what our Board of Directors does and have a look toward the future.

Welcoming New Members, May 18th

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.



Join us for **Religious Exploration Sunday** and **Bridging** on May 11th, a joyful, multigenerational service led in partnership with our children and youth. Together, we'll reflect on a year of learning, play, and spiritual growth, and honor the creativity and wisdom of our youngest community members. The service will also include a special *Bridging Ceremony* for Lia Lord-Rozeff, honoring the sacred transition from youth to young adulthood. To mark this milestone, we invite you

to contribute to a good wishes book" for Lia—offering your blessings, poems, artwork, or words of encouragement. The book will be available at coffee hour on May 4 and May 11, with supplies on hand to create your message.

Come be part of this heartfelt celebration of growth, connection, and community!

The Practice of Imagination

This month we are exploring the theme of imagination, an invitation to open our minds beyond what is toward what could be, to let the world come alive in ways that stretch us, and to create spaces where the present wrestles with the possible so that something new can be born in our midst. As we journey through this month, don't forget about the Soul Matters music playlists to accompany you. Let's see what we can imagine together!



Click [HERE](#) for the Spotify playlist on Imagination.

Click [HERE](#) for the YouTube playlist on Imagination.

Rummage Sale a Success!

Thank you to all that donated, helped set-up, clean-up and shop, the Rummage Sale was a great success. First Parish raised \$950.50!



Interested in church personnel matters?

We are looking for one or two individuals to join the **Personnel Committee** in time for our June annual meeting. This committee meets as needed — it does not require regular meetings or evening commitments. Instead, it comes into play during staff hiring, termination, annual reviews, and when called upon by our Minister, Board of Directors, or other church officials. Committee roles include maintaining the Employee Handbook and offering advice and/or shared opinions when personnel matters arise. If you are interested, please contact Joan Wuerthner or Jim Thompson, of the Personnel Committee.

Two of a Kind Concert

Janet Wentworth belts one out at the concert she and her great musician friends gave at First Parish last Saturday to resounding applause. The concert raised \$1,450 for our heating system. Many people asked about upcoming dates for their concerts so here goes: Saturday May 10 River Junction Brewing, Sanford 6:30-8:30 p.m., Thursday July 10, Graves library, Kennebunkport 6-7:30 p.m., and every Monday, June 23 to Sept. 15, 6-9 p.m. outside at The Nonantum, weather permitting. Many more in late summer and fall.



Photo by Vicki Adams

**Join us for an afternoon
featuring works of
Composer Maurice Ravel's
on his 150th Anniversary**



Hsiang Tu, piano

**Sunday, May 18th, 4p.m.
First Parish UU Church
114 Main Street, Kennebunk, ME
\$25 donation requested
Doors open at 3:30 p.m.**

What Now? Infrastructure Team launched

Several members of the FPUU community have met twice with Reverend Tori to create an infrastructure network for the **What Now?** discussion sessions that are taking place after church. We are calling ourselves the **What Now Infrastructure Team (WNIT)**. We will provide information, resources, and a way to connect rapidly with the church community when events related to protecting our democracy are needed.

Some of the proposed actions include a list of resource library material; an upcoming events list; notice of trainings on non-violent and positive responses to opposition viewpoints, which should be useful when engaging with people who disagree. All information will be available on a table in the church hall to be in place by May 18.

The Team welcomes input and invites anyone who would like to join us. Please contact Reverend Tori.

Social Action Network

Save the date for a **Defend our Voting Rights Rally!** Saturday May 10, 2 pm at the Augusta State House. [Sign up here.](#) Find out more about the campaign [here.](#)

On Main Street in Kennebunk every Thursday

Locals 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. *Side with Love*

posters are available to use for demonstrations. They will be available on Thursday



SIDE WITH LOVE

afternoons for the rally from 4-5pm on Main St. Those who wish may hold them on the church steps together to broadcast our values centered on love.

Democracy

[LD 1149 An Act to Require an Individual to Present Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting](#)

Summary:

This initiated bill requires the presentation of photographic identification for in-person and absentee voting. Acceptable forms of photographic identification include an unexpired Maine driver's license; nondriver ID (which is free); interim identification form issued by the Secretary of State; US passport or passport card; US military ID; Maine National Guard ID; and US Dept. of Veterans Affairs ID.

Public Hearing: Friday, May 2, 11 a.m. State House, Rm 437

[Committee: Veterans and Legal Affairs](#)

Call to Action:

1. Email your legislators, especially if they sit on the VLA committee
2. [Testify](#) in person, on Zoom, or submit written testimony

[Talking Points](#) from Maine Voices, MUUSAN's Democracy partner coalition

Click [here](#) for more information about the Save Maine Absentee Voting Coalition.

Housing

[LD 1522 An Act to Establish the Maine Eviction Prevention Program](#)

Summary:

Public Law 2023, chapter 643, Part KKKK, section 3 established an eviction prevention pilot program within the Maine State Housing Authority. This bill establishes the Maine Eviction Prevention Program as a permanent program within the authority and provides funding for the program.

Public Hearing: Friday, April 25, Cross Building, Rm. 206

[Committee: Housing and Economic Development](#)

Call to Action:

1. Email legislators, especially if on the Housing and Economic Development
2. [Testify](#) submit written testimony and contact the committee before the work session

[Talking Points](#) From Maine Equal Justice. Sign up with MEJ below.

[➡ Sign up here to support LD 1522 and keep the lowest income renters housed!](#)

Sponsors & Cosponsors:

Presented by Representative RANA of Bangor.

Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and Representatives: GATTINE of Westbrook, GOLEK of Harpswell, MEYER of Eliot, STOVER of Boothbay.

[LD 1723 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Manufactured Housing Communities to Prevent Excessive Rent and Fees Increases](#)

Summary: This bill amends the declaration of purpose in the Manufactured Housing Act to include preventing excessive increases in lot rent to preserve manufactured housing as a source of affordable housing. The bill establishes a limitation on the amount lot rent may be increased within 4 years of 10% of the base rent. Rent limitations do not apply to resident-owned manufactured housing communities.

Public Hearing: Friday, May 2, 9 a.m. Cross Building, Rm. 206

[Committee: Housing and Economic Development](#)

Call to Action:

1. Email your legislators, especially if they sit on the Housing & Economic Development committee.
2. [Testify](#) in person, on Zoom or submit testimony in writing.

Talking Points:

[From Cheryl Golek](#), bill sponsor, and Maine People's Alliance

Sponsors and Cosponsors:

Presented by Representative GOLEK of Harpswell.

Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and

Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GERE of Kennebunkport, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, MALON of Biddeford, MINGO of Calais, WEBB of Durham, Senator: TEPLER of Sagadahoc.

Community needs and requests:

Off-season rental available

I rent all my house out for 10 summer weeks. The rent for the other time is not high, \$400 a month including everything but not heat. Someone might want a fall time and another spring period. I live on Harts Road near Parsons Beach Road. It's a 6-minute walk to the water. If you come down Harts Road for 1/2

mile it's the two connected blue houses on the hill. The one with two stories is for rent. Let me know if you are interested and I will show you around. No commitment expected.

Helen Rivas-Rose Helycres@yahoo.com 207-604-3903

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.

Flourishing is Mutual

Excerpts from Rev. Tori Rosati's sermon April 27

... First Parish signed on this year, to participate in the UUA's Climate Justice Revival. ... A climate justice focus urges us to acknowledge that climate collapse disproportionately harms the most vulnerable—those least responsible for it and least equipped to bear its weight. Climate justice is racial justice, is economic justice, Indigenous justice, is gender justice, is immigration justice is Earth justice and more. We are not facing separate environmental and social crises, but one intertwined crisis that calls us to confront poverty, restore dignity to the excluded, and protect the Earth through integrated solutions rooted in justice, compassion, and Love. ...

Love, at its heart, is about relationship. ... And right here in Maine, we can see a powerful example of that kind of love-in-action, an intersection between environmental care, Indigenous sovereignty, labor justice, and reciprocity. While Robin Kimmerer lifts up the Serviceberry in her book, here in Maine, we

have the blueberry, a profound symbol of place and a driver of local economies and identity. ... For thousands of years, the five tribal nations of the Wabanaki people's ... seasonal migration patterns brought them through Maine to harvest wild blueberries in late summer—receiving these gifts with gratitude, reverence, and honor. But, like so much Indigenous land, it was taken and woven into a larger pattern of colonization that aimed not just at land acquisition, but at the erasure of Indigenous life, identity, wisdom, and self-determination.

In the 1980s, the Passamaquoddy Tribe began reclaiming stewardship of lands they had long held sacred—purchasing and managing wild blueberry barrens as a continuation of this enduring relationship. Forming the Passamaquoddy Blueberry Company, today they steward thousands of acres using sustainable and culturally grounded practices in doing so—connecting to their ancestors, repairing landscapes, and receiving the bountiful gifts of the land.

Furthermore, they give forward these gifts they receive. The company partners with seasonal migrant workers from indigenous communities on both sides of the Canadian-American border alongside migrant farmworkers. ... These communities converge every August, along with their children, who attend the Blueberry Harvest School. ...

This model—grounded in dignity, reciprocity, and care for both land and people—is a living example of what climate justice can look like in practice—that our work for justice is not just about systems, but about relationships to our history, the land and each other. Which is the same way of saying it is about love.

That is the moral logic of ecology. And the spiritual truth of our time. Our Climate Revival ... calls us to re-commit to a life of reverence and reciprocity. In this time when so much is being trampled underfoot, so much in need of repair, where the conditions for growth and life seem inhospitable, may we look for the gifts that push up through the soil—even the teensiest ones—the serviceberries, wild blueberries and strawberries, each other. And when we find them, may we meet them with gratitude, honor their gift with reverence, and keep nature's love of us flowing forward.

You can hear the entire sermon through our website: uukennebunk.org under Sermon Archive



Sunday Morning Bookcase

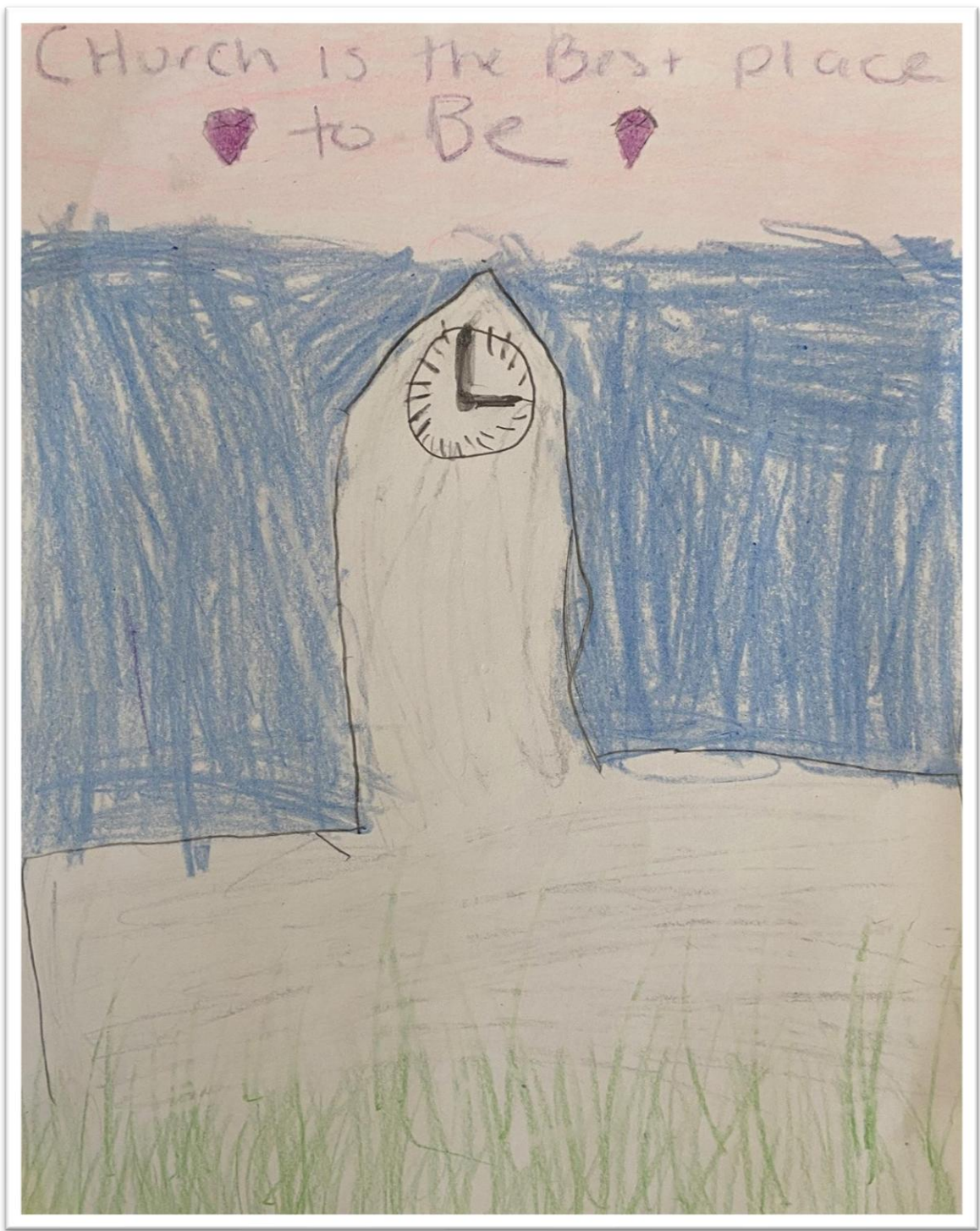
- *The Serviceberry*, Robin Wall Kimmerer
- *Revive Us Again: Vision and Action in Moral Organizing*, Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II and Rev. Dr. Rick Lowery
- *Inciting Joy*, Ross Gay
- *Book of Delights*, Ross G

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/10xocLKtAsQuI3mTysl2uYfh-xNljj_a7YjG0PQ20R14/edit?usp=sharing

For more information on our Religious Education program, contact our office administrator, Allison at (207) 985-3700 or email at uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com and she will connect you with the team.



Drawing by one of our children. The original can be viewed on the refrigerator.

Community Events:

**The First Parish Wabanaki Ally Team invites to
A program presented by Wabanaki R.E.A.C.H.**

Interacting with Wabanaki-Maine History

**Sunday, May 18, 2025, 1 to 3 p.m. at First Parish Portland, Unitarian Universalist
425 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101, Parish Hall (right side entrance)**

Limited to 40 participants. We ask for a \$20 suggested donation to cover program costs.



"This program is an interactive experience in which we engage in a story of particular events in the history of 400 years of colonization of Wabanaki people by Europeans in this territory now called the state of Maine. This highly engaging experience requires our full participation in order to genuinely increase our understanding of colonization and what it means for current descendants and future generations; to reflect on what story we are writing for our grandchildren."

Please register on the Google registration form, and – separately – donate on the donation form:

QR code to Registration form:



QR code to Donation form:



The donation link brings you to the First Parish donation form. Scroll down to "Social Justice Fundraiser: Wabanaki REACH program" and make a one-time donation. For 1st timers, you'll have to create a login.

[Link to Registration form](#)

[Link to Donation form](#)

- Please bring a bag lunch if you plan to attend the worship service from 10 to 11 a.m..
- FMI and questions, contact the Wabanaki Ally Team:
Meret meretbainbridge@gmail.com or Jake jkulaw62@gmail.com.



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. For pastoral emergencies, please contact Rev. Tori on her cell phone.

First Parish UU Church Kennebunk

MAY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 3:30 p.m. Choir	2	3 1:30 May Day Parade
4 World Laughter Day 10 a.m. Worship Service led Vicki & Al Adams "Pray Like a Man ah"	5	6 5:15 p.m. Sangha 7 p.m. Properties	7 6:00 p.m. Worship Committee 7 p.m. Evening Discussion	8 3:30 p.m. Choir	9 6:30 p.m. Song Swop	10
11 Mother's Day R.E. Sunday/Bridging Intergenerational service 10 a.m. Worship Service led R.E. Team & Rev. Tori	12 7 p.m. Finance Committee	13 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.	14 5:30 Soul Matters Creative Team	15 3:30 p.m. Choir	16	17
18 Welcoming New Members 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Tori "Horizon Time" 11:30 a.m. What Now? Social Justice discussion group 4 p.m. Hsiang Tu piano concert	19	20 5:15 p.m. Sangha	21 7 p.m. Evening Discussion Group	22 3:30 p.m. Choir		24
25 Poetry Sunday 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Worship Committee 4 p.m. Memorial Day Film event	26 10 a.m. RE Team	27 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.	28 5:30 p.m. Small Group Ministry	29	30	31

(subject to changes)