



**May 28, 2026**

LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD

*"Curiouser and curiouser!" cried Alice (she was so much surprised, that for the moment she quite forgot how to speak good English);*  
From Alice's  
Adventures in  
Wonderland by Lewis  
Carroll



*Photo by Al Adams*

## **"Awakening Our Curiosity Together"**

**May 31, 2026, 10 a.m.**

Worship Leader: Rev. Tori Rosati

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



## **First Parish and Community**

- Every Thursday, 4-5 p.m. Demonstration, Kennebunk
- Sun. May 31, 8:30 a.m. Annual Meeting, Sanctuary
- Sun. May 31, 10 a.m. New Member Ceremony
- Sat. June 13, 10 a.m. Joan O'Hara's Service

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\*see below for more information

## **Religious Exploration**

Our children will be spending time outdoors for the remainder of the church year. Please make sure your kids have jackets with them.

## **This Sunday**

We have a rich day ahead of us this Sunday that embodies all the things that makes this community so special!

### **Annual Meeting**

Join us at 8:30am in the sanctuary for our Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting in a UU Church embodies our living tradition of self-governance and the belief that spiritual authority rests with the gathered community, not a hierarchy. Our attendance and vote at our annual meetings are our faithful practices to affirm this truth. Sunday we will be voting in new church leaders as well as changes to the First Parish Bylaws.

### **Worship**

Medieval mystic Meister Eckhart said that "if the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough." At its best, this community awakens our curiosity – curiosity in ourselves, each other and the wider world. And this requires all of us. From planning worship services, to picking up a paint

brush, to voting at the Annual Meeting, our collective generosity of spirit keeps the spark of possibility alive in our midst. Join us Sunday as we say THANK YOU! Rev. Tori, along with our newly formed Stewardship Team, will center gratitude for all ways big and small everyone in this community shares in the ministry of First Parish - awakening our curiosity and living out our values every day. With music from Chris Staknys and Ginny Lawrence.

### **Welcoming New Members**

During the service, we will also be welcoming new members! This beautiful ritual of community offers a chance for us to celebrate our covenant with each other to share the journey and support one another along the way. We are excited to be welcoming into membership: Lynn Dupont, Gerard Carey, Bart Weyand, and Tricia Weyand!

### **Celebrating Chris!**

Following the service, we will have a special coffee hour to thank our Music Director, Chris Staknys for his beautiful ministry with us over the last 4 years. While Chris's last day is June 28<sup>th</sup>, we will take this moment of intention and gratitude to honor what he has meant to our community.

Sunday will be a day of gratitude, celebration and connection – we hope you can join us and share the joy of community!



*Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.*

Albert Einstein

Quote for Bob Wuerthner, from Stacy Wentworth, on Bob's 90th birthday.

# Maine's flags

In 1901, Maine's state flag featured a White Pine, representing the people of Maine. The buff-colored background, reminiscent of deer hide, represented our firmness to stand for our independence. The blue star is the North Star, or 'leading star,' meant to represent our motto: "Dirigo," meaning "to lead."

The original also had 3 stout roots to indicate the 3 branches of government, as well as 2 severed branches near its base to signify 2 territories lost (to Canada).

However, this flag has yet to become Maine's official flag. Voters rejected a proposal to change our flag in 2024, but it was subsequently slated to reappear on this November's ballot (2026).

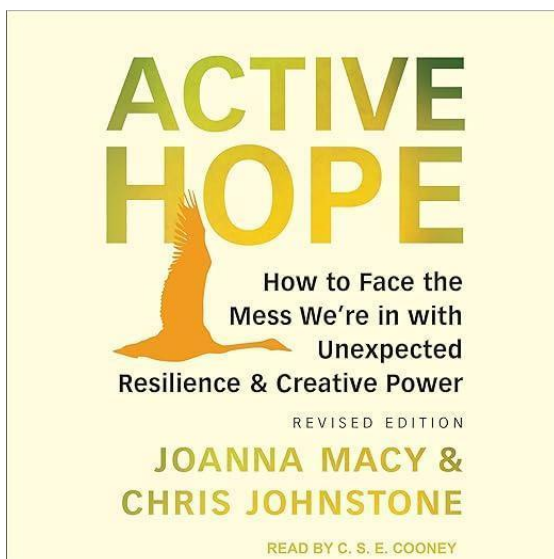
Peter Brown



Photo by Tom Socha

# A book to read this summer

Including myth, psychology, spirituality, and science



Rev. Tori suggested that some of us might like to share a "Common Read." We can read over the summer and share our thoughts in the fall. She chose the book, *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in ...* by Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone. Several in our congregation have already expressed interest.

Available in paperback, the revised, tenth anniversary edition shows us how to

strengthen our capacity to face crises so that we can respond with resilience and creative power. The authors guide us through a transformational process informed by mythic journeys, modern psychology, spirituality, and holistic science. This process equips us with tools to face the mess we're in and participate in the collective transition, or Great Turning, to a life-sustaining society.

If you decide to buy it, please use a local bookstore, or borrow it at your local library. If you have trouble finding a copy or cost is a barrier, contact Rev. Tori.

## **“We Have Died. Remember Us” \***

Memorial Day Reflection by Al Adams

... As a kid born during World War II, ... I grew up in a post war victory celebratory era that was imbued with ... tributary proclamations. ... [Perhaps you] remember as a kid watching on your family's first TV, shows like *Victory at Sea*, and *The Big Picture* touting the glorious WWII deeds of our armed services. Also, what about all those afternoon wartime movies? ... We won the war because we had the right stuff.

... As a grown man, I'm less inclined towards patriotic pep-talks. ... That's why I like this month's theme, "Curiosity," which has left us as a congregation contemplating that perhaps "To question is the answer." ...

It used to be that the civilians had a close relationship with the consequences of war. ... On the small raised section of the cemetery next to the church, are buried the veterans of six wars. ... Back then people experienced war's consequences more face-to-face. We used the draft, which theoretically meant that war could pull any male from any family onto the battlefield. We have eliminated the draft and substituted a volunteer professional army, which has diminished [our] relationship to war. War has become more distant. ... Today, drones, missiles, robotic weaponry ... strike distant adversaries. The death of a thousand souls (often mostly civilian) can occur half a world away with just a push of buttons, and experienced by most of us as a mere news item

on our devices. Left holding the bag are the families and troops. ... Pretty much them only.

In 1967 during the Vietnam war, I was drafted ... and served ... in Vietnam. ... After being discharged, I spent most of my civilian career as a licensed clinical



*Barbara Berry plays for Memorial Day service. Photo by Paul Beach*

social worker, working with military families, combat survivors, and retired veterans. ... Questions arise.

Why does someone choose to serve in a potential trade for one's life? Loyalty to country? Family tradition? ... A decent wage and housing? ... Gaining an education? ... Or simply out of patriotic duty? Probably all of these. ...

I've been honored to listen to combat vets and the gift of their stories, many truly heart crushing. ... —A story from a combat vet who ... mailed gold teeth and human ears from body counts home to his wife. —From an elderly World War II veteran tearfully sharing for the first time how, under fire, his best friend from high school was shot and killed next to him in the same foxhole. ... —From an active duty medic ... unable to shake nightmares of walking up to his ankles in pools of blood.

We know that many combat veterans remain psychically and spiritually wounded ... and often self-medicate with alcohol or drugs. Sometimes humor ... will cover their grief. ... Then there's always the self medication of isolation, the ultimate of which can be suicide. ...

... Some questions to ponder, perhaps on your way home:

—What is behind sending soldiers to die?

—Who profits or gains really from war?

—Is war about danger to homeland or ... vengeance? ...

And finally, as Rodney King said decades ago, after being beaten by police, ...

—“Why can't we just all get along?” ...

—How do we, the living, make sense of Memorial Day? ...

*They Say: Whether our lives and our deaths were for peace and a new hope or for nothing we cannot say.*

*It is you who must say this.\* ...*

\*Archibald MacLeish

You can listen to the entire reflection at [Uukennebunk.org](http://Uukennebunk.org). See Sundays at FPUU, Sermon archive.

## Social Justice Action

*“No one can do everything, but everyone can do something!”*

## What is your vision for social justice?

**It is time at First Parish for new people and new ideas!**

All of us on the Social Justice Network core committee have “aged out” as Eva has said, and Vicki will not continue as chair, as she has held this position for five consecutive years as well as serving with the same dedicated people 10 years in all. So, a new committee is needed in 2026-27.

We have simplified our job description to pass along to our successors. The new SJN core committee is not expected to carry out projects, but to encourage and keep track of social justice activities at the church. Others may join task forces to create and carry out projects. We are hoping those projects will arise from the congregation—perhaps through our What Now? discussion group, or perhaps from you!

Thank you to all who have participated through the years,  
Vicki Adams, Eva Downs, Mary Fortune, Molly Hoadley, Joan and Bob  
Wuerthner

## Postcard posse

Our postcard writers will meet Wed. June 3, at 11 a.m. in the Parlor. Join us to write postcards to be sent before Election Day in November. If you'd like to write postcards but prefer to write them on your own, tell Vicki Adams, [vickigatesadams@gmail.com](mailto:vickigatesadams@gmail.com) or Wendy Campbell, [soupfam221@gmail.com](mailto:soupfam221@gmail.com). They will supply you with postcards as they become available. Volunteers will be responsible for postcard stamps at 61 cents each.

## Social Justice Advocacy and Resources

For information click [here](#).

If you have an organization or information regarding social justice advocacy that you would like to have included in this link, please send to Allison at [uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com](mailto:uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com)

## Letters

### **To our beloved church community from David and Allegra Highsmith:**

It has been an interesting time in our lives over these last few months. David had his liver transplant surgery on February 28th followed by a second surgery on Wednesday March 4th due to some complications. When we finally came home from the hospital, feeling a little scared and overwhelmed, we were lifted up in the weeks to come by gifts, food deliveries, cards and letters, texts, visits, and well wishes.

We can never quite explain how grateful we are and how much this helped us through some of the darker days. The path for David's recovery is still underway and there are bumpy days, but the big picture shows steady progress, and we are in this for the long game. David's new liver, a truly

miraculous gift, relieves us from the worry of returning cancer in the future. We live in awe and amazement at the mixture of joys, sorrows, pain, growth, and love that we have experienced through all of this.

It is all part of this beautiful and sacred life we live, which you are all a part of. Thank you to Everyone who even just thought of us or said a silent prayer for David's healing. David is looking forward to coming back to church in person in the next couple of weeks, and we can't wait for the Maine Summer, the Blueberry Fair, and all of the wondrous things yet to come.

*Love to All! Blessed Be! David and Allegra*

**LETTERS:** If you have a message you'd like to share with our newsletter community, please send it to our editor: [vickigatesadams@gmail.com](mailto:vickigatesadams@gmail.com) to be placed here.



## Save the Date

Our beloved Joan O'Hara's memorial service has been scheduled for June 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.

## Classified Notices

**SERVICES:** Adult Psychologist and Executive Coach. Achieve more and stress less. Contact [amywoodpsyd.com](http://amywoodpsyd.com)

**WANTED TO HIRE:** Wallpaper hanger and general handyman.  
Contact [amywoodpsyd.com](http://amywoodpsyd.com) I thought it was important to put "wanted to hire" instead of "help wanted", because it is not for free and may avoid confusion.  
Thank you so much.

## Let's support each other!

When Lynn DuPont moved here from Massachusetts, she had to find a new dentist, electrician, plumber, lawyer, handyman, etc. What if there was a Yellow Pages of people from the church? She would like to give our congregation a way that we can sell items or services to each other at reasonable prices—a win-win for all!

Lynn considered printing a pamphlet of “Yellow Pages” for our church community, but only a few have expressed interest so far. She and Vicki Adams, editor of First Parish News, decided that a “Classified” section in FPNews might be a good way to start. This would be practical, but also community-building!

You may list your item or service, its cost, and a contact phone number or email, or if you need an item or service, you may list it including your contact information, with payment to be negotiated. Send your submission to [nanawood390@gmail.com](mailto:nanawood390@gmail.com).



**Scam emails** targeting faith communities, including ours, are becoming increasingly sophisticated and prevalent. These messages may

appear to come from church leaders and might reference real events, people, or activities happening in our congregation to seem legitimate. They often ask for money, gift cards, payments through Venmo or PayPal, or simply a request to reply.

Please remember: *We will never email you asking for personal financial contributions or payments through these methods.*

Here's how to protect yourself:

- **Look for inconsistencies**—scam emails often contain odd phrasing, spelling errors, or requests that seem unusual.
- **Don't respond** to suspicious emails. If something feels off, pause before taking action.

- **Verify directly** by contacting the person or the church office through a trusted phone number or email address.
- **Be cautious of urgency**—scam emails often try to pressure you to act quickly.

If you receive an email like this, **do not click any links or reply**. Report it as phishing to your email provider and let us know. Your awareness helps keep our community safe.

## Community

### ***The Local News now online!***

New news for Kennebunk, K'port, and Arundel

In case you haven't heard, *The Local News* is a new non-profit independent newspaper. Started by residents, this volunteer-led publication will focus on local news, events, and issues for the Kennebunks and Arundel. It will feature detailed, straightforward, nonpartisan information— free!

It took a lot of people to make this happen. Thanks so much to everyone who helped!

Carol Morris

Please take a look, share this link with your friends and neighbors, and sign up! [www.thelocalnewsonline.org](http://www.thelocalnewsonline.org)

TALLIN BANERJEE

# RĀGA WITHOUT BORDERS

JOIN **TALLIN BANERJEE** FOR A MUSICAL JOURNEY BLENDING INDIAN RAGA, WESTERN HARMONY, ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS, AND CURATED SONGS.  
**LIVE MUSIC CONCERT**

**NO COVER**

**F R I D A Y**  
**29<sup>th</sup> May 2026**  
**at 5pm**

TOWN HOUSE SCHOOL  
135 NORTH ST,  
KENNEBUNKPORT



EMAIL: [TALLIN.BANERJEE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:TALLIN.BANERJEE@GMAIL.COM) | MOBILE : 612-213-6419

# Ongoing at First Parish

## All Are Welcome Table

Sundays, 11–11:30 a.m. in the Parlor

Looking to connect, meet new people, or learn more about what's happening at FPUU? Join members of the Membership Committee, in the Parlor during coffee hour for relaxed conversation and community. Everyone is welcome—just pull up a chair! For more information, contact Heidi at [uuheidi@gmail.com](mailto:uuheidi@gmail.com), or simply stop by—no RSVP needed!

## Church Directory

A new church directory will be sent out after our New Member Ceremony at the end of May. Be on the lookout for an email from First Parish with just your contact information to review. If you have any changes to your information, please let Allison know.

## Sunday Bookcase & Links

- *Awakening Loving Kindness*, Pema Chödrön
- [Walking for Peace, Marching Together from Love](#), Bhikkhu Bodhi
- [Living the Questions, Krista Tippett](#)
- *The World According to Mr. Rogers: Important Things to Remember*, Fred Rogers
- *Moral Ambition: Stop Wasting Your Talent and Start Making a Difference*, Rutger Bregman





## Listen Up!

You can listen to entire reflections given at our Sunday services at [uukennebunk.org](http://uukennebunk.org). See Sundays at FPUU–Sermon archive.

Our monthly Soul Matters themes come with a musical playlist to help us deepen into the messages. Playlists are organized as a journey, so you can listen from beginning to end and use them as a musical meditation.

- Click [here](#) for the May Spotify playlist on **Awakening Curiosity**
- Click [here](#) for the May YouTube playlist on **Awakening Curiosity**

## Minister's Discretionary Fund

In light of rising prices and increased economic pressures, many in our community are facing unexpected financial hardship. The Minister's Discretionary Fund is available to help members of our congregation and the wider community who are struggling to make ends meet, particularly during this difficult time. If you, or someone you know, could use some support, please reach out to Rev. Tori. All requests are received with care and handled in strict confidence. Contact: [uukennebunkminister@gmail.com](mailto:uukennebunkminister@gmail.com) or 978-238-8210

### Note from the Editors

What's on your mind or in your camera? Send a picture, write an article or letter, for First Parish News! Email the FPUU Office: [uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com](mailto:uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com)

#### FPUU News Crew:

Vicki Adams, editor

Allegra Highsmith, photo editor

Allison Lazos, production

Rev. Tori Rosati, advisor

# First Parish UU Church Kennebunk

## JUNE 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9-12 Office Open	2 9-12 Office Open 10:30 a.m. Pastoral Care 5:15 p.m. Sangha 7 p.m. Properties	3 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Worship	4 9-12 Office Open 5 p.m. Choir	5 9-12 Office Open	6
7 10 a.m. Worship Service led Al Adams & Meredith Norris	8 9-12 Office Open 7 p.m. Finance	9 9-12 Office Open 5:15 p.m. Sangha 5:30 p.m. Family Small Group Ministry 6:30 p.m. W.F.A.S. 6:30 p.m. M.O.G.	10 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Vespers	11 9-12 Office Open 5:00p.m. Choir	12 9-12 Office Open 6:30 p.m. Song Swop	13 10 a.m. Joan O'Hara's Memorial Service
14 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Crow Lowry & Rev. Tori 11:30 a.m. Worship Reflection	15 9-12 Office Open	16 9-12 Office Open 5:15 p.m. Sangha	17 9-12 Office Open 6 p.m. Board of Directors	18 9-12 Office Open 5:00 p.m. Choir	19 9-12 Office Open	20
21 10 a.m. Worship Service Led by Mark Gallup 11:30 a.m. What Now? Social Justice Discussion	22 Office Summer Hours Begin 5:30 p.m. Membership Team	23 9-12 Office Open 10 a.m. Small Group Ministry 5:15 Sangha 6:30 p.m. W.F.A.S. 6:30 p.m. M.O.G.	24 10 a.m. R.E. 5:30 p.m. Small Group Ministry	25 9-12 Office Open 5:00 p.m. Choir	26	27
28 10 a.m. Worship Service Led by Jason McIn	29	30 9-12 Office Open 5:15 p.m. Sangha				

Please note, the calendar is subject to change.