



First Parish News

The Epic of Gilgamesh

January 22, 2023, *10:00 a.m.**

Presented by FPUU Players

** service may be longer this week.*

Concurrent Religious Exploration Program and Nursery Care Available

Come in person or click 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:024481.



Digital artwork by Abbie Lunny, Sanford High School, for FPUU MLK Event

Successful MLK event despite snow!

Also mentioned on Maine Public Radio

Our 20th Martin Luther King Holiday celebration was a great success this year, attracting about 100 people on Monday despite snowy, slippery weather. The Social Justice Committee MLK task force wants to thank all the volunteers who helped us out! Kim Lord registered people as they entered; Molly Hoadley, Paul Beach, Montress Kenniston, and Ted Trainer greeted and ushered; Cynthia Howard, Jay Pacitti, Barbara Conner, Nancy Dorn, Alicia Soliman, and Al Adams made delicious treats; Jacky Peters, Molly Hoadley and Alicia Soliman did the dishes; and special thanks go to Herve' Lavoie, who created the on-line registration and handled Zoom, which enabled many people to attend the event who could not come in person.

The Social Justice Network MLK task force planned the event and did a little bit of everything: Vicki Adams, Eva Downs, Mary Fortune, Joan Phipps, Marylyn Wentworth, Bob Wuerthner, Joan Wuerthner.

Aside from our excellent speaker, Krystal Williams of Portland, and Chris Staknys, who selected and played wonderful music, Sanford High School student Abbey Lunny provided artwork, which just about stole the show!

Maine Public Radio covered the event throughout the afternoon Monday during newscasts, as well as Tuesday morning. You can find a link to a version on their website:

<https://www.mainepublic.org/>



MLK speaker, Krystal Williams, discusses protest art with artist Abbey Lunny



Sen. Joe Rafferty, former Sen. Susan Deschambault, Sen. Henry Ingwersen, and Rep. Traci Gere at the reception following our MLK celebration. (photos by Mary Fortune)

Continuing the Conversation

Reflection by Rev. Lara Campbell, Jan. 15

I want to re-read one of the paragraphs from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s *Letter from Birmingham City Jail* that was read earlier, because frankly, it haunts me.

First, I must confess that over the last few years I have been gravely disappointed with the white moderate. I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in the stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen's Council-er or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate who is more devoted to "order" than to justice ...

...

How often have we found ourselves telling people of color "*I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I can't agree with your methods of direct action;*" or today's equivalent, "can they come up with a different slogan?" ...

Just as black people must face uncertainty every day of their lives, it is our responsibility to continue questioning systems and our society. To continue asking, "What is my next task in this struggle?"

My friends, make no mistake - I am so, so proud of all that we have done together. But I know for myself that standing out on the sidewalk is meaningless if I'm not making informed choices about where I spend my money. It is easy to remain comfortable when it is not our bodies on the line. When it is not our freedoms that are being taken away. Or when it is not our family members who are dying. ...

We must ask ourselves honestly: am I the white moderate that King was writing to from his cell in the Birmingham Jail? If I am honest with myself and with you, yes. Yes, I am. ...

There is a growing movement in this country that, if they get their way, would strip so many of the freedoms that people died for in the fights for justice. And we—we, white moderates; we, UUs—are being asked to step out of our comfortable spaces. To follow leaders of color whose voices are finally, after centuries, being amplified.

We cannot be complacent my friends. We must continue the conversation that Dr. King's letter started.

Upcoming at First Parish



Our own players present Gilgamesh!

Sunday Service, Jan. 22, 10 a.m.

The Epic of Gilgamesh first took embryonic form in Sumer (southern Iraq) about 5,000 years ago and then underwent a more poetic literary revision further north in Babylon about 3,000 years ago. Then, 500 years later, the epic lay buried deep beneath the tons of rubble of Assyrian King Ashurbanipal's sacked and burned Nineveh library, only to be resurrected in 1872 by a British archeologist who shipped its 11 Akkadian cuneiform tablets, among more

than ten thousand others, to the British Museum. Soon thereafter, these now treasured 11 were translated to English.

"Since then, the epic has swept like a flood across the literary world, captivating readers across the globe. Printed in millions of copies and translated into two dozen languages (including Klingon), *Gilgamesh* would seem an unlikely best seller." Who would have thought that a story composed three millennia ago could appeal so strongly to readers now living in a text-message TikTok world? What possible relevance could this epic have to offer us, here and now, regarding life and death, friendship and love and the unquenchable human thirst for meaning and fulfillment?

On Sunday, January 22, at 10 a.m., please join us for a Worship Service, **THE EPIC OF GILGAMESH: THE NAÏVE HERO'S QUEST FOR IMMORTALITY** by Lyrical Austrian Poet Rainer Marie Rilke (1916). It will begin with an abridged version of our customary Order of Service, followed by a two-act play with Maggie and Nick Bartenhagen, Crow Lowry and Ted Trainer. The script derives from this ancient epic, deeply rooted in the fertile soil of Mesopotamian myth, offering us a deeper meaning for being alive and being here today.

A closing note: it is possible that this hybrid approach may result in a slightly prolonged Service.



Memorial Service for Carolyn McAdams

A memorial service will be held for long time member Carolyn McAdams at 11 a.m. Saturday January 28th at First Parish. Carolyn died on Tuesday November 29th.

MUUSAN Network Meeting

Visit with 6 Maine UU legislators at the January 21 MUUSAN Network Meeting. Find out their legislative priorities and pose questions to them. The meeting is from 10:00-12:30. Register for the Zoom meeting by going to www.MUUSAN.org

Women celebrate Imbolc

Join **Women for All Seasons** on Tuesday, January 24 at 6:30 p.m. for a program on Imbolc featuring storytelling by Margaret Jones. Imbolc is celebrated February 1-2 and marks the halfway point between the winter solstice and the spring equinox.

We meet via Zoom, and the link can be obtained by contacting coordinator Sarah Thompson at sunnysycamore@gmail.com or 301-801-1694.

All are welcome!



Happy Birthday to Us!

Our **All-Church Birthday Party** returns this year in person! It will take place right after the church service Sunday, Jan. 29, at 11 a.m. Tables will be set up by the four

seasons rather than months, so you will have fun learning who was born the same month, season, or day as you! This an all-ages fun event, so be sure to bring your children and enjoy a cupcake (or two). Questions? Contact Linda or Jim Thompson, 207-502-7796.

Any new Nonagenarians? During the worship service on 1/29/23 we will celebrate those among us who have entered their 90's. They will join the ranks of Eva Downs, Bob Lown, Joan O'Hara and Carol Spalding. If you, or someone you know, turned or is about to turn 90 this year, let Jim and Linda know. We don't want to miss anyone.

New Men's group to launch soon.

Our new men's group will begin to meet soon. It is being formed in answer to the overwhelming response recently received from many church members and friends. In an effort to meet everyone's goals and personal aspirations, a questionnaire was designed and then emailed to all interested individuals on Sunday, January 15th.

If you have not indicated your interest before, but would like to now, please email Mark Gallup at grouchomg@gmail.com to obtain a questionnaire at your earliest opportunity.

Thank You on behalf of your organizing group: Mark Gallup, Abraham Brody, Bob Wuerthner, Jim Thompson

Important Office News:

The office will be closed Friday morning, 1/20. However, the office will be open in the afternoon. Please email (uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com) or leave a voicemail if you need assistance and Allison will return your call in the afternoon.

Reverend Lara will be on study leave from 1/22 to 1/27. She will have limited access to email. Because this is a silent retreat, only in case of an emergency, will she be available via cell. Please contact Allison if you need assistance.

New: Snow Team!

Having decided that it is not a very good idea for people over four-score years to shovel snow, the Properties Committee is forming a new Snow Team to shovel snow off the steps and ramp leading into the church. We need four volunteers. Please contact Barbara Conner (207) 229-0799, and she will work out a plan with you.

Advantages:

- This is a great way to work off holiday excess of all kinds!
- We believe in equal opportunity; everyone is welcome to participate.
- New way to explore leverage.
- Great opportunity for air guitar jamming on shovels.
- FPUU supplies the shovels and a snow blower.
- Much appreciation to be showered on you!





BEWARE!

The time of snow and ice is here! Sometimes the parking lot is slippery...If you are able, please park farther away in the parking lot and leave the closer spaces for those who are older or mobility impaired. Thanks so much!

Help build insulating window inserts! ENCORE Community Build, January 23-27 At Wells Reserve

For several years, First Parish has saved energy and heat by installing insulating window inserts with Window Dressers. Come join us in building the inserts for our community. Each simple job is taught, and all tools and materials are provided. No experience necessary.

NOTE: In 2023, volunteers at the Wells Encore Build must be vaccinated and boosted against Covid-19 to attend. Mask wearing is recommended while indoors and may be mandated if York County status is yellow.

Location: Mather Auditorium at the Wells Reserve at Laudholm
55 Skinner Mill Rd., Wells, ME 04090

Contact: Contact : Nik Charov – 207-646-4521 – ext. 144, Nik@laudholm.org

To sign up: <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/416983441537356024/false#/invitation>



Need a ride? Give a ride.

A new ride service is available from the Town of Kennebunk. It's called the Kennector. Rides are available to Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Arundel residents for any daily needs Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. The service area is a 15-mile radius in any direction from Kennebunk.

Rides are in private vehicles by trained and vetted drivers. There is a \$2.00 base fee + \$.50 per mile with a \$5.00 minimum. No cash is needed. Riders prepay from their own account, which they set up with the town. For more information call 207 604-1366 to

reach Tabettha Barden, Ride Coordinator. Or go to the website www.kennebunkmaine.us/kennector for more information or to complete an Online Rider or Driver Application.

Food can be donated in the Parish Hall

This is going to be a difficult winter for some here in our community. We can do our part by helping keep the COS food pantry well stocked with a variety of non-perishable food. A box will be placed in the Parish Hall and our donations will be brought to COS. Thank you all so much for your generosity! If you prefer to send a check you can make it out to COS, P.O. Box 1175, Kennebunk, ME.

Choir welcomes all singers

Choir rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7-8:30 p.m. All are welcome. For more information contact our Music Director, Chris Staknys or Margaret Jones margaretj@maine.rr.com.



Deadline for Newsletter Submission

Please send your items for submission in the newsletter by Tuesday, 10 am. Please email Allison at: uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com

Covid-19 protocol updated

- Masks are now requested, but not required for activities at First Parish UU Kennebunk.
- We have installed air purifiers in rooms that need them. Contributions are being received to purchase them.
- Two windows must be opened in the room you are using—if there are no air purifiers there. EVERYONE is responsible for closing them when exiting the room.
- If someone requests that folks mask, please do so. You may want to speak with your group leader/organizer for support in making a mask request.
- Beverages are now allowed in the church, but only water is allowed in the library.

We need your help! Thank you for keeping our community safe.

FPUU Website and Calendar: easy access

There is a new easy way to find First Parish News on our website. Look for the link at the top on the opening page. You can find upcoming and ongoing spiritual opportunities, activities and announcements on our website or Facebook page.

Website: www.uukennebunk.org

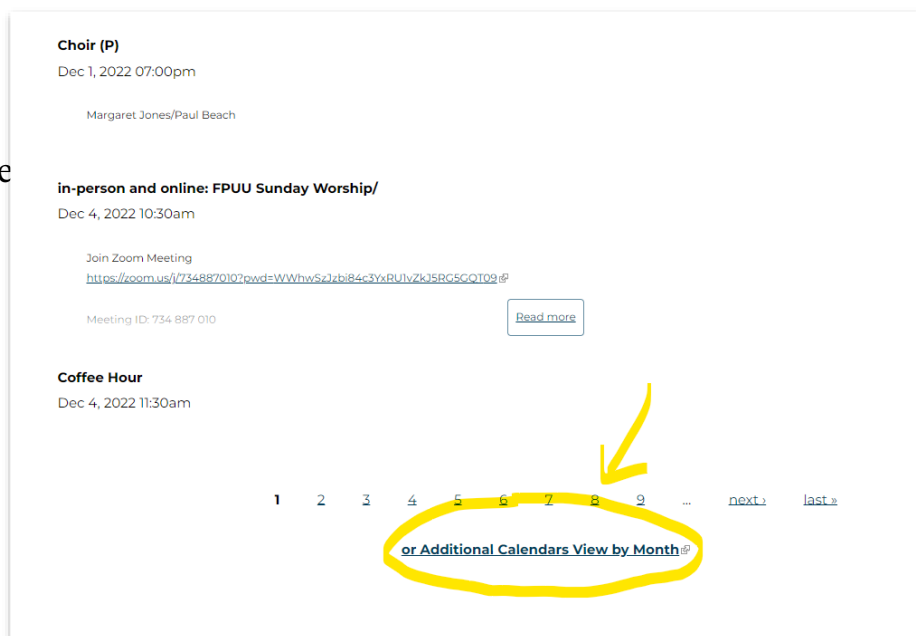
Weekly Calendar: www.uukennebunk.org/events

Facebook: www.facebook.com/FirstParishUUKennebunk



Check out both Calendars!

Choir, FPUU Discussion Group, Buddhist Sangha, Small Group Ministry, Women for All Seasons, and Committee meetings are all listed with meeting times and contacts on our church calendar. Keep in touch using the link below. In addition to church programs, you can find many other activities that take place at the church, such as painting lessons, Open Studio, Tai Chi, AA, Al Anon meetings and more. These can be found on the monthly calendar link at the end of the weekly church calendar under *Additional Calendars View by Month*.



FPUU Staff/Leadership and Committee Contacts

FPUU STAFF/LEADERSHIP

MINISTER: The Reverend Lara K-J Campbell.....207-985-3700 (church) uukennebunkminister@gmail.com
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: Allison Lazos.....uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com
BOOKKEEPER: Barbara Boscia.....uukennebunkbookkeeper@gmail.com
MUSIC DIRECTORE: Christopher Staknys.....uukennebunkmusic@gmail.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 2022 – 2023 program year

CHAIR: Kim Lord (2021-2024)kimlord1@aol.com
CO-CHAIR: Merideth Norris (2021-2024)witchdr910@aol.com
CLERK: Ginny Lawrence (2022-2023) lawrenceginny@gmail.com
TREASURER: Herve Lavoie (2022-2023)hervae@roadrunner.com
DIRECTOR: Alicia Soloman (2020-2023)simardvet@yahoo.com
DIRECTOR: Vicki Adams (2022-2025) vickigatesadams@gmail.com
DIRECTOR: Bob Lown (2022-2025).....bpdown@roadrunner.com

FPUU CHURCH COMMITTEES

BELL COMMITTEE & CLOCK COMMITTEE	Paul Cochran, ptc@gwi.net Paul Beach, plbeach52@gmail.com
BLUEBERRY CRAFT FAIR COMMITTEE	Marylyn Wentworth, Marylyn.wentworth@tnsk.org
CARING CONNECTIONS	Nick & Maggie Bartenhagen, mnpelbar@gmail.com
CHOIR	Margaret Jones, margaretj@maine.rr.com
CHURCH SPACE RENTALS	Allison Lazos, uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com
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