



*Photo by Al Adam*

*"Just as the heart is hidden in the human body,  
so is the body surrounded by the powers of the soul  
because these reach to the ends of the earth."  
Hildegard of Bingen*

## **InGathering & Water Ceremony**

**September 17, 2023, 10 a.m.**

**Worship service led by: Mary Gelfand & Mark Gallup**

Religious Exploration: register now, children ages 4-13.  
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:02448

# Movers and shakers gather



*Photo by Vicki Adams*

35 members and friends of First Parish meet Sept. 9 to discuss our future together.

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## UPCOMING

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- Sept. 17, 11 a.m.: Discussion Group regroups — see article
- Sept. 20, 6 p.m.: Board meets — see agenda
- Sept. 24: Welcome Back Sunday — see article
- Nov. 11-12: Fall rummage sale. Begin putting things aside!

# For this Sunday, you should know

We are joining many UU churches in celebrating their return from summer travels with a Water Ceremony. Ours will take place this Sunday, Sept. 17, led by Mary Gelfand



and Mark Gallup. Please bring a small container (1-2 ounces) of water that represents your summer.



Thanks to the **250th Task Force and Membership Committee**, a special coffee hour after the service will feature a birthday cake for our beloved building's 250th anniversary!

Mary Gelfand at the pulpit in June

*Photo by Vicki Adams*

## “Kennebunk’s Treasure” Special homecoming service and breakfast

In honor of the church building’s 250th year, the Worship Committee and the 250th Anniversary Committee invited the **Rev. Peter T. Richardson** to join us as our guest minister and speaker for the entire morning Sunday, Sept. 24. His topic is “Kennebunk’s Treasure.”



Rev. Peter T. Richardson to speak Sept. 24

Rev. Peter was our minister from 1976-1992. During that time, he researched the history of the church and often spoke on historic topics as well as world religions. He has traveled in East Asia, India, Egypt, and Europe,

photographing places of pilgrimage. A practitioner of the Myers Briggs Type Indicator, he has conducted MBTI workshops here and abroad. Also an author, he wrote many books, including *The Boston Religion, Universalists and Unitarians of Maine, Four Spiritualities, Sunday Meditations*, a book of poetry, and *Our Origin Story*, a world history, most of which you can find in the church library.

Rev. Peter was ordained in 1965 and served congregations in Kent, OH; Midland, TX; and Needham and Andover, MA; as well as Kennebunk.

As a special treat, Peter's wife, Eleanor Richardson, an author as well as musician, will play a selection or two on our organ during the service. Rev. Peter and Eleanor now live in Rockland, Maine.

We hope you will all be able to join us for this celebration. If you have not been participating in services or events at the church of late, we would love to see you again and we want you to know that Rev. Peter and Eleanor are eager to renew acquaintances as well as meeting new congregants. They plan to attend the breakfast and will be available for conversation after the service during coffee hour in the parlor.

Come join your UU family at a potluck ***Welcome Back Breakfast*** from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. **before** the service Sept. 24. Bring whatever you wish to share—but without nuts. There will be a bit of 250-year-old news! We especially welcome people new to the church to meet your congregational friends.

Let's have some fun together. There is no need to respond. Just meet in the Parish Hall so we can share a meal, catch up with one another, and celebrate our 250<sup>th</sup> year!

The Membership Committee and Congregation Connection Team are sponsoring the breakfast.





## A letter from the Ministerial Search Committee

Greetings, beloved Members and Friends of FPUU,

You may have heard through the grapevine that we were approaching an offer with one potential minister in recent weeks. Unfortunately, that candidate has withdrawn after much discernment about their ability to serve this congregation effectively, while maintaining roots a few hours away.

Please understand that the ministerial applicant pool is very, very thin. We have had 4 ministers express interest. One withdrew within 24 hours, one only wanted to do remote from Virginia. The other two were interviewed, but ultimately chose other positions.

Though disappointing, our Task Force is committed to carrying the torch and lighting the way forward on our search.

Chris Wells, Chair

## FPUU to collaborate with Brick Store

The Kennebunk Brick Store Museum has agreed to create a new display on their second floor honoring the 250th anniversary of our building here on Main Street. Your 250th Anniversary Committee is currently working with Cynthia Walker, the museum's Executive Director, so that we might coordinate this effort and add some of our own items from First Parish's archive and elsewhere. The best news is that our original hand-carved wooden and metal trim weathervane, which stood at the top of our church throughout most of its history, will be the centerpiece of this 250th exhibit. The Brick Store purchased the weathervane after a major renovation, when it was in danger of completely deteriorating.



The exact dates and details for this display are being discussed with the Brick Store. Please stay tuned in, and if you have photographs or items that might be appropriate, e-mail Ruth Stackpole at [paws8@roadrunner.com](mailto:paws8@roadrunner.com)

## **Discussion group to *regroup***

Meet after church Sept. 17

Do you like to discuss big ideas like free will, look for explanations for religious practices, wonder about ancient civilizations or other cultures? What was, last year, the Wednesday Evening Discussion Group is starting to regroup for a new year. We need to figure out when and how we will meet and what topic(s) we want to discuss.

If you find this intriguing, gather in the library at 11 a.m. on **Sunday, September 17**. I will be collecting ideas and opinions upon which to plan the next few months of discussions. Topics may come from books, videos, magazines (like UU WORLD), TED Talks, etc. Past practice has been to stay away from 21<sup>st</sup> century politics. For meeting times, consider meeting at the church for part of the year, but online during the cold/snowy months.

Anyone who is interested but can't attend the meeting should email ideas to Ruth Stackpole at [paws8@roadrunner.com](mailto:paws8@roadrunner.com)

See you on the 17th, Ruth

## **Meet with MUUSAN this Saturday**

The September meeting of Maine UU State Action Network is this Saturday, September 16 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Augusta UU church. The topic is Flipping MUUSAN, which means participants will decide which social and environmental issues MUUSAN will focus on next year, rather than MUUSAN deciding. It will include the list FPUU made at a recent Sunday service.

If you wish to go, e-mail [Marylyn.wentworth@tnsk.org](mailto:Marylyn.wentworth@tnsk.org) to carpool and go to [MUUSAN.org](http://MUUSAN.org) to register.

# FPUU Board of Directors Agenda

Wed., September 20, 6 - 8 p.m.

## 6:00-- Opening

1. Reading and Chalice Lighting—Merideth
2. Board Covenant
3. Short Teambuilding Activity—Merideth
4. Review Agenda, additions, and announcements—  
Merideth
5. Approve minutes from August 2023



## 6:10—Business

1. Properties Update—sent by Alicia
2. Finance update—Chris Wells
3. Fundraisers Update
4. Updates on 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
5. Ministerial Search Updates
6. Administrator's Report

Board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month. Members are always welcome to attend. If you have an item for the Agenda, please contact the chair ahead of time.

Respectfully submitted, Merideth C. Norris, Chair, FPUU Board of Directors

## Description of our New Men's Group

The New Men's Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month in the parlor or church library at 7 p.m. Discussions and topics include subjects of general interest to men, current events, shared concerns and/or celebrations, spirituality, unexplained and natural events, and our own particular strengths and weaknesses. All discussions are confidential under our shared covenant. Above all, we strive to support and honor each member, with no

judgement or expectation. Please join us. We're open to new members. For more information, contact Mark Gallup, leader, at [grouchomg@aol.com](mailto:grouchomg@aol.com) or Jim Thompson at [jethompson33@aol.com](mailto:jethompson33@aol.com).

## Pastoral Care



One of the important duties of a minister is pastoral care for those in need. This can mean visiting someone in the hospital or helping a person through a difficult milestone in their life. Since Rev. Lara has bid us farewell, and we do not yet have a new minister, she has asked Vicki Adams to reach out to any congregant who is in need of a sympathetic ear. Vicki will accept emails or phone calls and do her best to connect them with someone who is willing and able to help as they weather the storm. Call on behalf of yourself or someone you know.

You can reach Vicki at 207-216-3890 or via email: [vickigatesadams@gmail.com](mailto:vickigatesadams@gmail.com). If you leave a message at the church office, Allison will let her know as soon as she can.

## First Parish News is *your* newsletter

What are you involved in, what have you experienced at church lately? Have you taken a good photo you'd like to share?

Please send your items for the newsletter by Tuesday, 10 am. You may send information, an article, or a photo by email to Allison at: [uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com](mailto:uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com).

- Vicki Adams, Editor

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Website: [www.uukennebunk.org](http://www.uukennebunk.org)  
Weekly Calendar: [www.uukennebunk.org/events](http://www.uukennebunk.org/events)  
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