



LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD

# First Parish News

*“The seed of suffering in you may be strong, but don’t wait until you have no more suffering before allowing yourself to be happy.”*

*Thich Nhat Hanh*

Online Worship Service

“Winter Well”

With Rev. Lara Campbell

Sunday, January 30, 2022, 10:30 AM

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.

See website: [uukennebunk.org](https://uukennebunk.org) for more details on how to tune in.

## **Judith Smith-Valley’s Memorial moved to April**

Due to the impending snowstorm, the memorial service for our former minister, Judith Smith-Valley, has been moved to April 30, 2022.

# Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting

Sunday, February 6, 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

In preparation for the meeting, a **Q&A meeting** will be held Sunday, January 30, at 9:00 a.m. These meetings will be done via online Zoom. An invitation with links to the meetings and attached documents was sent through email by First Parish Jan. 22.

## Board grapples with Covid rules, plans semi-annual meeting

1. We have been meeting nearly every week to take care of all the things on our plate and actually don't mind it because we work together with so much pleasure! In January we have gone to meeting every other week and we still enjoy each other's company.
2. The Board continued to work on planning the in-person portion of hybrid worship. It was decided to begin in-person worship services on January 30 provided that our three metrics for safe gathering are met (risk level lower than severe; vulnerability level low or very low; hospitalization rates decreasing). Please remember that in-person worship is always in addition to Zoom worship.
3. The decision of whether to hold in-person worship will be made on a weekly basis, according to the metrics above. Communications out to the congregation will follow by email, e-blast and be updated on the church website and phone message.
4. While the Board encourages Covid-19 vaccinations, it was voted that vaccinations are not required to attend worship service, meetings or events at First Parish.
5. The Board continued preparations for the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting. The meeting will be held on Zoom Sunday, February 6 from 8:30-9:30. Please join us. We will be voting on the 2022 Budget as well as the financing for the Green Sanctuary program.
6. The Board approved a Music Committee request to divide the Music Director position into two positions in the hope there might be applicants. The two positions are Musician and Choir Director.

In faith,  
Your Board of Directors

# What to expect when we reopen the sanctuary

As we are planning for the eventual reopening of our sanctuary, the First Parish Board has developed some guidelines:

1. Enter the church masked and 6' apart, except for family groups, from the side porch off the parking lot.
2. Please no hugs or close contact with anyone.
4. If you are new, go to the Welcome Table to fill out the visitor form.
5. Keep your coats with you.
6. Go up to the Sanctuary 6' apart from others not in your family group.
7. Sit in marked pews. Keep your mask on at all times.
8. Zoom Participants will join us on the screen.
9. Joys and Sorrows: Follow Directions in your Order of Service.
10. Leave row by row, starting at the back of the Sanctuary. Leave 6' between your family group and others. Ushers will dismiss the rows.
11. Put your Sunday offering or pledge in the marked basket as you leave.
12. You may exit by front door or side porch door.
13. Socialize outside as you please.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping us safe and together.

## “On the Day You Were Born”

*Excerpt from Rev. Lara Campbell's Reflection, Jan. 20  
full reflection at [www.uukennebunk.org](http://www.uukennebunk.org)*

Rev. Lara asked us to provide our own birth stories for this service. Several of us did, providing funny and poignant stories of our own or our children's births. Lara quoted Sophia Lyons Fahs who said, “Each night a child is born is a holy night.” But she acknowledged that not everyone feels that way.

“How do we apply the sacredness of birth to ourselves? Especially, if our birth was clouded by feelings of unwantedness, fear, or abandonment. How can we move past the “facts” of our birth to see and eventually tell the sacredness of our birth? In some ways, I think that those stories are actually more holy. The stories of those of us who were born under less-than-ideal circumstances. After all, isn't that one of the critical points to the stories in the bible? That often from the “least,” we get the “most.”

# Wednesday Discussion Group

## The Roots of Religion

There are so many lectures available regarding the roots of religion (25 - 36) that we decided at our last meeting to double up on topics for each meeting.

Ruth Stackpole, facilitator

The schedule is as follows:

Feb. 2: Lecture 25 Celestial Gateway at Giza and 26 Cosmic Hub at Stonehenge

Feb. 16: Lecture 27 Desert Lines at Nazca and 28 Skywatchers at Chaco Canyon

March 2: No meeting

March 16: Lecture 29 Mountain of the Gods at Angkor and 30 The Stone Heads of Easter Island

April 6: Lecture 31 Tending Zoroaster's Sacred Fire in Iran and 32 Writing the Dead Sea Scrolls at Qumran

April 20: Lecture 33 Taking Religions Underground at Rome and 34 Forging Iron at Jenne-jeno on the Niger

May 4: Lecture 35 Carving Monasteries at Ajanta in India and 36 Faiths Lost and Found

## Thank you!

Dear Friends and UU First Parish Parishioners,

On behalf of all Planeteers far and wide, I thank you for both your tremendous efforts as well as generously supporting us in ours and for “sharing the plate” and planet with us—It takes a planet to restore a planet!

Looking forward to many future connections.

Yours truly,

Andrea Roth Kimmich, [SoMePlaneteers@googlegroups.com](mailto:SoMePlaneteers@googlegroups.com)

[We donated \$238 to the Planteteers]

# Updates and Reminders

## Diversity, equity and inclusion needed

Rev. Lara is beginning a new effort that she hopes will involve all of us, “I am looking for, no I need, co-conspirators and collaborators.” she said. “If you are interested in growing our church, in growing yourself, let me know.”

At the New Orleans General Assembly in 2017, the UUA Board of Trustees formed a Commission to analyze systemic racism and white supremacy culture within the Unitarian Universalist Association.

After three years of research, story gathering, and analysis, the Commission published its report, *Widening the Circle of Concern*. This report makes vital recommendations to advance long-term cultural and institutional change that redeems the essential promise and ideals of Unitarian Universalism.

The report names the ways Unitarian Universalists, and our congregations are being called to embrace new opportunities for inclusion and accessibility. This guidance is so important for this moment, as we discover doors we did not realize were closed and we reach people we’ve never reached before.

You can check out the report by:

Reading and/or downloading it from the internet at  
<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/cic/widening>

Check out one of the five copies we have ordered by contacting Allison in the office:  
uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com

Purchase a copy for yourself for \$16 at <https://www.uuabookstore.org/Widening-the-Circle-of-Concern-P18686.aspx>

If you are interested in joining Rev. Lara in a study group on *Widening the Circle of Concern*, please email her at [uukennebunkminister@gmail.com](mailto:uukennebunkminister@gmail.com)

# Have you answered Lara's invitation yet?



Rev. Lara has been meeting with members and friends one-on-one since she returned from her sabbatical last month.

The meetings are a great chance to get to know Lara better and for her to get to know you. Don't hesitate to make an appointment.

Covid has made it clear that we need to be more intentional about how we connect, Lara wrote. And I have missed connecting with you. Over the next few weeks and months, I want to meet with each of you individually.

The purpose of these check-in's is to see how you are doing. We will *not* talk about church business. We can do that another time.

We can meet in person (masked) at First Parish, on the phone, on zoom, or at your home (I will mask). You can schedule yourself with Appointlet by clicking <https://appt.link/check-ins-with-rev-lara> or call Allison in the church office at 207-985-3700, and she will get you on my calendar. If you would like me to come to your home, please schedule your appointment through the office so we can block out travel time.

I look forward to checking in with you!

## Note from the editor:

Are you involved in a project at FPUU? Are you participating in one of our spiritual activities? Please write to us about it, so that you can share it with others in our community!

Vicki Adams, Editor: [vickigatesadams@gmail.com](mailto:vickigatesadams@gmail.com)

## Our website includes just about everything at FPUU

You can easily find ongoing activities and announcements on our website or Facebook page. Spiritual opportunities are also listed with our Order of Service each week, available by email. For events see our church calendar.

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

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

Facebook page: search for

First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church of Kennebunk

Please use this email, [uukennebunkminister@gmail.com](mailto:uukennebunkminister@gmail.com), to reach Rev. Lara for First Parish related business.

## FPUU Staff/Leadership and Committee Contacts

### FPUU STAFF/LEADERSHIP

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