



May 7, 2026

LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD

The values we care about the deepest, and the movements within society that support those values, command our love. When those things become endangered, we become enraged. And what a healthy thing that is! Without it, we would never stand up and speak out for what we believe."

Fred Rogers

Photo by Tom Socha



Awakening Curiosity: "Living the Questions"

May 10, 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
- Fri. May 8, 6:30 p.m. Song Swop
- Sun. May 10, 11:30 a.m. What Now? social justice discussion
- Tues. May 12, 5:30-7 p.m. Family Matters, fellowship, dinner, childcare*
- Sun. May 17, 11:30 a.m. Bylaws session*
- Sat. May 23, 1 p.m. River Celebration, Rogers Pond, if rain, Sun.*
- Sun. May 31, 8:30 a.m. Annual Meeting, Sanctuary

*see below for more information

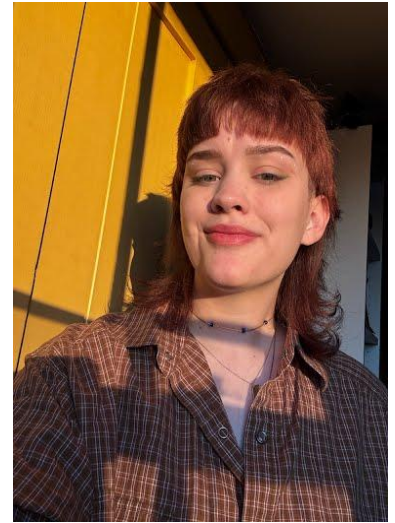
This Sunday: Living the Questions

"Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves." — Rainer Maria Rilke

Some of the most important questions in our lives don't have easy answers. From the time we are children, we carry with us questions about who we are, what we're called to, where we find meaning, how we love well. How might these questions open us when we don't rush to answer them? How might they lead us, not to conclusions, but to greater aliveness? This Sunday we'll explore what it means to question as a practice of *awakening curiosity* and being in deeper dialogue with the world around us. Come ready to wonder together. Rev. Tori leading worship with Mary Gelfand and music from Chris Staknys and the First Parish Choir.

Hello Ro, Farewell Chris

Please join us in offering a big welcome to our new Childcare Assistant Ro Ballew (they/them)! You might recognize Ro from Bev's cafe' down the street. They are starting a degree program in early childhood education this fall and look forward to supporting and being with our children. Their main focus will be supporting our children during activities and events outside of Sunday morning, beginning with our monthly family small group ministry.



As we continue to build our childcare team, we are still looking for coverage on Sunday mornings. If you have a neighbor, relative or friend who might be interested, let Jacky or Gray know!

Our wonderful Music Director, Chris Staknys,

has decided not to renew his contract for the 2026-2027 church year and will move on to teach piano at the Bay Chamber Music School in Camden.

Over the last nearly four years, Chris's thoughtful and caring leadership has nurtured and elevated the congregation's many musical gifts. His remarkable talent and vision for musical excellence have been felt during Sunday worship, monthly vespers, concerts, and the



direction of our Choir. His collaborations with local musicians and his teaching skills have woven music more deeply into our community's fabric - both inside and outside these walls. We have been truly blessed by his ministry.

Chris will be with us through the end of his current contract which ends on June 30th. His last Sunday will be June 28th. A celebration of his time with us will be planned later this spring.

Please join us in thanking Chris for sharing his gifts, dedication, and presence, and sending all our best wishes for his next chapter. And what a joy it is to still have these next few months of making music together!

Best Auction Ever

Thanks to all of you, we just had the best auction in our history. We brought in approximately \$6,155! That includes items sold at coffee hour Sunday. Next Sunday there will be events and a few auction items still for sale. One of the big deals was the gift certificates, which brought in \$1,730! Those of you who solicited the gift certificates made all the difference between last year and this year.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Lisa Slaughter and Marylyn Wentworth

The church kitchen is de-cluttered

Many thanks to Christine Burgess and Alicia Soliman for helping curate our kitchen dishes, punch bowls, and miscellaneous items.

This was quite a task, and the detritus was put in the Rummage Sale. Note the top of the left hand cabinets is clear—yay! And now Christine has made a special place for the Coffee Hour teams—the cabinet is labeled, and all cups and supplies are in one place within reach. The kitchen is an ongoing project, and we hope to see more changes in the months to come!

Linda Thompson, Arts & Improvement

Photo by Linda Thompson



Bylaws Listening Session this Sunday

An ad hoc team was appointed by the Board of Directors to review and update our FPUU Bylaws, and the Board has since approved them. Our first meeting was last Sunday. The final meeting to present the changes and answer questions will be this Sunday.

- Sunday, May 17, 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor.

A vote on the acceptance of these bylaws will be taken:

- Sunday, May 31, 8:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary at our Annual Meeting.

FPUU members will receive by email:

- The Bylaws as of 2018
- The revised bylaws
- A comparison of the two documents

Tom Veronesi and Linda Thompson, both board members, chaired this team. Team members included: Ruth Stackpole, Bob Wuerthner, Susan Jack, Ted Trainer, and Karen Carey.

Women for All Seasons

Please join Women for All Seasons on Tuesday, May 12 for the second of two programs on the Elements of Life: Earth, Air, Fire, and Water. The Elements are fundamentals for those practicing an earth-based spirituality. This program will be presented by Mary Gelfand. The May 12 program will focus on Water and Earth. Mary is a skilled facilitator, but freely admits that she is not skilled at providing hospitality as part of our gatherings. If anyone else would like to set up tea service and provide refreshments, please say so. Everyone is invited to bring their own mug should we be offering food and drink. We meet in the Parlor from 6:30-8pm.

Won't You Be My Neighbor

Excerpts from Rev. Tori Rosati's reflection May 3, 2026

This month we are exploring the theme of Awakening Curiosity. ... And there are so many things to be curious about. ... One of the most important ... is to be curious about the people around us. Our neighbors. ...

Someone who knew a little bit about curiosity was a man named Fred Rogers. ... For over 30 years, he welcomed children into his Neighborhood of Make-Believe on his show, Mister Rogers' Neighborhood. I grew up watching this show as a kid. Every day, he would ... remind us that feelings are okay to have, that asking questions is good, that each person is special. ... Is that not a prophetic message for these times?

In these many ways, we are a neighborhood here at First Parish. ...

[And] being a good neighbor is the greatest work we will ever do. ...

Reflection 1

One of the ways we can be a good neighbor is by seeing each other for who we are. Not for what we have. Not for what we look like. Not for what we do, but for what lies beneath all of that.

What I love about the song that Margaret just offered is the way it's phrased. It's not, "I like you," ... [but] "It's You I like." ... There is a beautiful seeing, a beautiful witness in that of the other. ... You.

Photo by Allegra Highsmith
Rev. Tori Rosati,
Barbara Conner
and Patrick Conner
enjoy the bubbles
at the
Intergenerational
Service May 3.



I think about this a lot in the context of church— ... the ways we make space for each other to be ourselves and share our gifts. When I sit here and experience Chris playing the piano, Gray lighting the chalice, the Jazz Ensemble offering their music, Karen reading the joys and

sorrows, ... yes, I love the gifts themselves. But more than that, I love the people who are sharing them. ... Everything I like most about our neighborhood is You.

... Sometimes people disappoint us, they hurt us, frustrate us beyond measure. But here I think curiosity can be helpful ... and try and be curious about who they are. ... These curiosities, can help us find our way toward each other. We become a neighborhood. ...

Reflection 2

Loving is the greatest work we will ever do. ... Our ancestors understood the living spirit of God as the experience of ever-present love in the world. ... More recently, our faith adopted values that put love at the center, ... compelling us to spread it out into the world. ...

And herein is the greatest wisdom—that we speak love with our actions and our presence, with our care and our concern. Love isn't just something we say because it sounds nice. It's something we do. It's being a neighbor in the deepest sense of that word. ...

You can listen to the entire reflection at UUkennebunk.org. See Sundays at FPUU, Sermon archive.

World Fish Migration Day May 23

Celebration at Kennebunk's Mousam River Alewife migration



photo by John Burrows

Come join in a celebration of fish and rivers on World Fish Migration Day Saturday, May 23, 1-4 p.m. at Roger's Pond on the Mousam River, Kennebunk. There will be a wide variety of exhibits and activities for all ages. This will also be a good opportunity to see alewives and shad on their spring migration. From fly casting and fly tying demos and lessons to activities for younger fans of fish and rivers.

Rogers Pond is located beside the Mousam River at 49 Water Street. Parking is available there and also beside and behind the Kennebunk Sewer District offices across Water Street

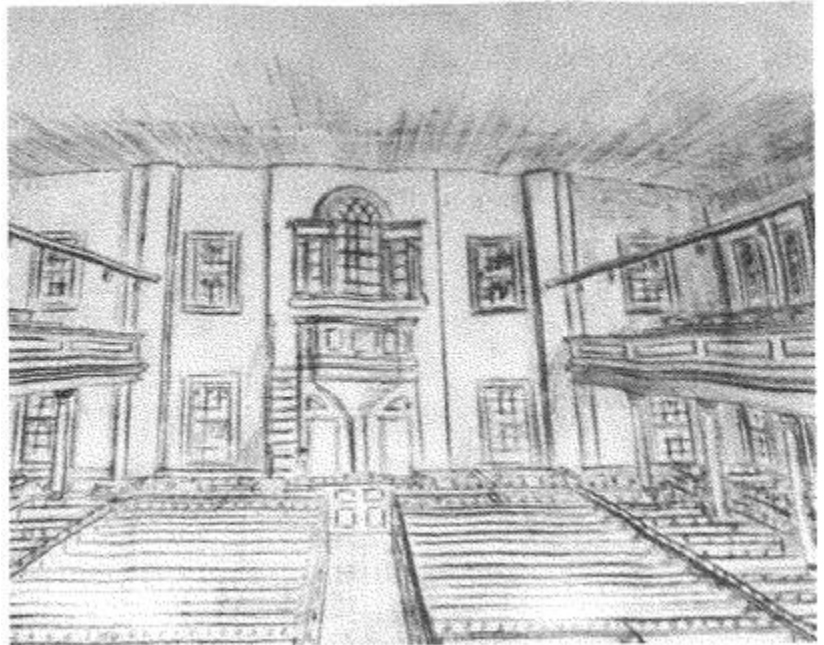
from the entrance to the pond. The rain date is Sunday, May 24. There is no charge for the event or parking, and all are welcome.

TEN great organizations will be participating!!! In alphabetical order: Eldridge Brothers Fly Shop, the Kennebunk Conservation Commission, Kennebunk Land Trust, the Kennebunk River Restoration Committee, the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Maine Rivers, the Mousam and Kennebunk Rivers Alliance, the Planeteeers of Southern Maine, the Sebago Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and York County Audubon! We hope to see you there!

For complete information, please visit yorkcountyaudubon.org.

First Parish History Project

Many of you may know that in 1803 architect Thomas Eaton submitted a contract to the church's board of assessors ". . . to build a suitable place in the belfry, of three or more seats, for the people of Colour to sit . . ." These seats were where the organ is now. According to the research done by town historian Kathy Ostrander Roberts, some previously enslaved people who had formed their own community (Ridge Community) on the outskirts of town, worshipped at our church.



Our committee (Joan Wuerthner, Ruth Stackpole, Ted Trainer, Jim Thompson and me) has been tasked by the Social Justice Network, to research all available written and original historical material to determine if other people of color (enslaved, formerly enslaved, and indigenous people) may have had a relationship with our church and, especially, what was our church's relationship to these people. Once our research is completed and we have a written document, we will decide on an appropriate format, so this part of our church's history is available to our membership and the public.

Bob Wuerthner, Social Justice Network



SONGSWOP IS BACK! Join us on Friday, May 8th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. All are welcome, singers, poets, story tellers etc. Acoustic instruments only please. For more information contact Bruce Childress.



Caring Connections

Thank You, Nick and Maggie!

Nick and Maggie Bartenhagen have been the coordinators of one of our most important shared ministries, the Caring Connection. We are so very grateful for the kindness and dependability they have provided in managing the requests for meals and rides.

As they plan for their next adventures they are happy to pass the baton to Kim Lord.

Welcome, Kim!

Kim Lord is our new coordinator for the Caring Connection. Beginning on Friday May 1.

Please direct your requests to Kim.

Phone: 207-646-7925 Email:

kimlord1@aol.com

Watch for a new brochure in May clarifying the ways that we are able to help with meals and rides.



FAMILY MATTERS DROP-IN FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

*A welcoming space to share the ups, downs,
and everything in between of family life*

**The second Tuesday of the month
at 5:30 - 7 p.m.**



**5:30-6p.m. fellowship & dinner
6-7 p.m. parent/caregiver discussion,
childcare provided**

Please contact Rev. Tori for more information at
uukennebunkminister@gmail.com

Members Yellow Pages

Let's support each other!

When I, Lynn DuPont, was on crutches, I paid a fortune to Instacart to deliver groceries and had an endless array of strangers in the house. Perhaps they could have been from our church community and earned a bit of income: a win-win for both of us!

I am planning to put together a Services Directory for our church community. Services could include professional services such as dentistry, counseling, tax preparation, tutoring, etc. We could also offer doing errands, giving rides,

babysitting, home healthcare, home maintenance, baking, gardening, etc.—all listed alphabetically. This would be practical, but also community-building!

Please contact me to include your service at nanawood390@gmail.com
Deadline: May 31.

Church Directory

A new church directory will be sent out after our New Member Ceremony in May. If you have any changes to your information, please let Allison know.

Community

How to Build Resilience for the Months Ahead

A workshop with our own

Amy Wood Change is coming faster and faster, from politics, the economy, climate, and AI. This workshop will help participants brace for what's next—especially as the midterms approach—by embracing transition with greater stamina and optimism. Those who register will explore their strengths, what makes them unique, and how to use those strengths to make change work to their advantage. The workshop is free and open to everyone. To reserve a place, email Carol Morris at



Cmorris@morriscomm.net. It will be held from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 9, at the Democracy Cooperative, 2 Storer Street, Kennebunk.

Every week 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, or simply stop by—no RSVP needed!

Sunday Bookcase & Links

- *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
- *Meditations of the Heart*, Howard Thurman
- *The Art of Gathering*, Priya Parker
- *Saving Paradise, How Christianity Traded Love of This World for Crucifixion and Empire*, Rita Nakashima Brock and Rebecca Parker



Listen Up!

You can listen to entire reflections given at our Sunday services at 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 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

FPUU News Crew:

Vicki Adams, editor

Allegra Highsmith, photo editor

Allison Lazos, production

Rev. Tori Rosati, advisor

First Parish UU Church Kennebunk

MAY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
MAY 31 8:30 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting 10 a.m. Worship Service Led by Rev. Tori 11:30 Special BOD Meeting					1 9-12 Office Open	2
3 8:30 a.m. Bylaws Pres. 10 a.m. Worship Service led Rev. Tori 11:30 Music Team	4 9-12 Office Open	5 9-12 Office Open 10:30 a.m. Pastoral Care 5:15 p.m. Sangha 7 p.m. Properties	6 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Worship Team	7 9-12 Office Open 5:00p.m. Choir	8 9-12 Office Open 6:30 p.m. Song Swop	9
10 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Tori 11:30 a.m. What Now? Social Justice Discussion	11 9-12 Office Open 7 p.m. Finance	12 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.	13 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Vespers	14 9-12 Office Open 5:00 p.m. Choir	15 9-12 Office Open	16
17 10 a.m. Worship Service Led by Rev. Tori 11:30 a.m. Bylaws Presentation	18 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Membership Team	19 9-12 Office Open 5:15 Sangha	20 9-12 Office Open 6 p.m. Board of Dir.	21 9-12 Office Open 5:00 p.m. Choir	22 9-12 Office Open	23
24 10 a.m. Worship Service 11:15 a.m. Blueberry Fair Meeting	25 9-12 Office CLOSED	26 9-12 Office Open 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.	27 9-12 Office Open 10 a.m. RE Team 5:30 p.m. Small Group Ministry	28 9-12 Office Open 5:00 p.m. Choir	29	30

Please note, the calendar is subject to change.