

*Ask not what the
world needs. Ask
what makes you
come alive ...
then go do it.
Because what the
world needs is
people who have
come alive.*
Howard Thurman



"Black Kid Joy" FPUU MLK benefit recipient,
photo by Vicki Adams

"Woven Together"

Worship Service: Feb. 23, 2025, 10 a.m.

Worship Leader: Rev. Tori Rosati

Bring your children to this intergenerational service

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

upcoming EVENTS

- Fri. Feb. 21, 5:30 p.m. No Particular Reason Potluck
- Sun. Feb. 23, 11:15 a.m. Now What? discussion in Parlor
- Tue. Feb. 25, 6:30 p.m., Women for All Seasons
- Tue. Feb. 25, 6:30 p.m., Men's Open Group
- Fri. Feb. 28, 6 p.m. Flame-y Awards Dinner & Show
- Sun. March 2, First Parish **Good News** Film Festival begins

Woven Together **Intergenerational service** **This Sunday, Feb. 23**

Our worship theme on February 23 is Woven Together, using the ancient art of weaving as a metaphor for how we form and sustain our shared community. This will be a special intergenerational service, where people of all ages will have a chance to participate. Together, we will create a communal weaving, symbolizing the ways our lives are intertwined. If you'd like, you are invited to bring a strip of cloth, 1-2" wide and approximately 36" long, to be woven into the fabric we will create. An old shirt or tablecloth can be repurposed or simply come as you are—extra fabric will be available for all who wish to participate.

As we weave our lives together, we create something new, shaped by each person's presence, stories, and gifts. Let us continue to weave this community with care, connection, and welcome. ~ Tori



Curious about what's happening in our Religious Education program?

Click on this link to learn more about our monthly R.E. highlights.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1o15dUyotgadBr6OkKegCC8rr6h-PW3CR3YrbCd8JGBl/edit?usp=sharing>

For more information on our Religious Education program, contact our office administrator, Allison at (207) 985-3700 or email at

uukennebunkoffice@gmail.com and she will connect you with the team.



Gov. Mills with Guy Smiley at her Inaugural Ball.
Photo by Vicki Adams, February 20, 2019

Gov. Mills sends her regrets – She can't attend Flame-y Awards

Gov. Mills office reports that due to meetings with contentious legislators, she is unable to attend the Golden Chalice Flame-y Award Presentations scheduled next Friday.

"I was so looking forward to attending this prestigious, star-studded event," she said. "which rivals even my inauguration ceremony in importance to the state of Maine." Guy Smiley is heart-broken but vows to carry on.

People have flocked to buy tickets for this awesome dinner and

awards event, which features songs and gourmet dishes from famous movies and awards to enterprising members and friends of First Parish. Guy will be on hand this Sunday, Feb. 23, to sell remaining tickets at \$25 for the not-to-be-missed celebration Friday, Feb. 28, at 6 p.m. Door opens at 5:30 p.m.

Now What?

This Sunday at 11:15 a.m.

On a recent Sunday, 19 of us gathered after the service to ask: How can we find our paths, deepen into our work, and live our values in this challenging time? A spirit of possibility filled the room, along with a deep knowing that the road ahead requires action and community.



We will meet again over coffee this Sunday, Feb. 23, at about 11:15 in the Parlor to ponder: Now What? The work of justice is always unfolding, always calling us to listen, to build, and to imagine. Let us work together to energize, and further our values toward a world shaped by love. All welcome! ~ Tori

Standing tall, proud, and speaking out

Janine Coy, prevented from testifying in person by a State House snow closure, testified in writing last week for LD 246. This bill would require courts to consider alternative sentences when the person being sentenced is the primary caregiver of children under 18, elderly dependents, or individuals with physical or mental disabilities.

“I will tell you personally that it was easier than I expected to get involved,” she said. “I must admit I had some nerves to take that step and stand up for what I believe in, but I must say it feels really good. Each one of us can make such a difference by doing even small things. We are so lucky to have this organization (MUUSAN) that can focus us on current state legislative issues.”

The Maine UU State Action Network (MUUSAN) has created a group that funnels important information to our congregations. They have legislative liaisons in seven areas to keep track of legislation that we need to know about. There are three ways to testify: zoom, in person, or email.

We have provided a link to the legislative contacts for our area, and will continue to report on navigating state legislative issues. Let us stand tall, proud and speak out when we are moved to do so.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UNWOmm4aNO9Uh2Kv-EYtdO8MKoPP3xXNG2i5vgVrS2Q/edit?usp=sharing>

Put Love into action

Fed up with feeling so helpless? Here's one way you can put love into action. Several members of the congregation are forming a Ministry on Shelter. We are working to create avenues for supporting the unhoused in the southern Maine region and would love your help!



A lot of what will determine the scope of the project is the amount of helping hands we have, so if you are interested in learning more, reach out to Merideth at witchdr910@aol.com or 207-664-3569. Let's be part of the solution!

Welcome Immigrants Our New Neighbors

We have an influx of New Mainers who have needs for the kitchen: cooking pots and pans of all sizes, cooking utensils, mixing bowls, baking dishes, mugs, microwaves, cutting boards, colanders, knives, glasses, brooms, small kitchen tables, and chairs. For the bedroom: twin, full and queen bed frames, mattresses, sheets, and light blankets; pillows, and dressers. For the bathroom: towels and shower curtains. Finally: sofas or loveseats.

If any of these items are part of your down-sizing, bring them to church and put by the WIONN sign near the coat racks.
Thank you, Marylyn Wentworth

UUA joins lawsuit vs Dept. of Homeland Security

We are proud to share with you that the Unitarian Universalist Association has joined with a multi-faith coalition and the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection to bring a lawsuit challenging Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) "sensitive locations policy." The case, Mennonite Church USA et al. vs United States Department of Homeland Security et al., was filed in federal district court in Washington DC. Churches as well as schools and

hospitals, had previously been protected from ICE enforcement actions, but a Dept. of Homeland Security memo rescinded that protection on Jan. 20.

For much more on this news, see the UU World story.

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/immigration-lawsuit-unitarian-universalist-association>

Good News Film Festival

Inspiration in a Time of Turmoil

First Parish is offering free movie showings on Sundays from 4-6 p.m. This opportunity to get together and learn together is brought to you by the FPUU Film Team: Janine Coy, Jerry David, Marylyn Wentworth, and Cynthia Howard. We've planned 8 films and here are the first 3:

March 2: The Minimalists: Less Is Now

In a world driven by consumerism, this challenges the notion that more is better. It explores the benefits of living with less and finding happiness beyond material possessions.

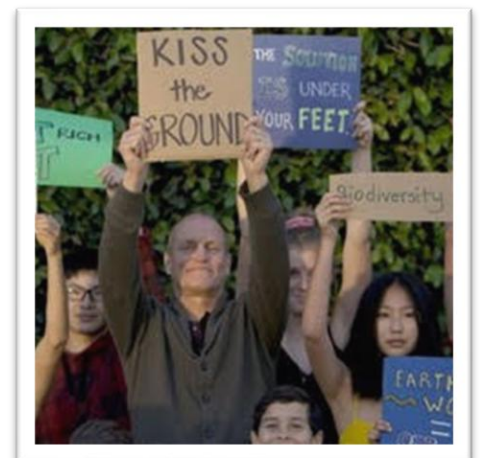


March 9: 2040

Practical solutions to a wide range of environmental concerns are addressed with the hope that the filmmaker's daughter, 21 years old in the year 2040, will face a hopeful future.

March 16: Kiss the Ground

By regenerating the world's soils, we can completely and rapidly stabilize Earth's climate, restore lost ecosystems and create abundant food supplies. Soil is the missing piece of the climate puzzle.



First Parish MLK Celebration benefits *Black Kid Joy!*

The vivacious play, "Black Kid Joy!" (see photo page 1) was presented Feb. 14 to more than 500 students at Lyman Moore Middle School in Portland. Joshua Hughes, who organized the play, also helped us find *Higher Ground*, the band that performed at our Martin Luther King Celebration. Our Social Justice Network chose the event for the MLK benefit contribution and was able to sponsor 40 students at \$10 each. Rev. Tori Rosati and Vicki and Al Adams attended the play, which was vibrant with color, jumping with dance, and resounding with song. The play, which included about 25 performers, was produced by John Graves Productions of Philadelphia.

UU Online Coming UP Time to plan your contribution!

This month check your home for items of value, solicit gift certificates from your favorite restaurant or health care provider, create some great services or events to share. Parties and home-cooked meals are very popular!



let's top it this year. A vegan dinner and spring seedlings have already been offered.

In March send your items to Lisa Slaughter (see directory) with description, photo and value, plus dates if it is an event. Auction starts March 30 and ends April 11. Your cooperation makes all the difference to the success of this auction. **We need 129 items!** Last year we made the most money in 3 years so



From your Board of Directors

New committee will bring more fun to First Parish

The First Parish Board has approved the formation of a new committee. The **Ad Hoc Events & Activities Committee** will coordinate, facilitate, and exercise guidance for the planning and execution of three types of church sponsored occasions: Fundraising Events, Fellowship Events, Educational, and Mission related programs. The committee, chaired by Allegra Highsmith, is inviting church community members and friends to participate. Please reach out to Allegra at (513) 608-8800 if you are interested.

Think blueberries, plan arts and crafts!

It's hard to imagine a wonderful day in the sun in Kennebunk while the outside temperatures are hovering in the single digits, but it's time to start planning to exhibit your artisan crafts and works of art for this summer's Blueberry Festival and Crafts Fair, July 26.

You or your friends can still reserve a space for only \$75. We already have half of the 44 spaces reserved!

If you don't wish to sell your wares, we definitely need you to save the date to help out. There are things to do in advance of the festival such as sewing (see below) baking blueberry pastries, setting up and taking down our church booths the night before, and tearing down after the event is over. Start saving the jewelry you no longer wear. It will be repaired or repurposed to sell at our jewelry table. Whether you can give a few hours of your time or are able to be with us for the entire day, we need you!

Tom Veronesi, Vendor Coordinator



Friendly Reminder

In case of inclement weather, the decision will be made to cancel in person Sunday worship service on Saturday via email, our website, Facebook and the church voicemail.

Love to Sew?

Come join the Blueberry Fair sewing team and sew potholders, aprons, bags, place mats, jewelry, and you-name-it. Plenty of fabric and sewing machines are available. The FPUU Blueberry booth makes a lot of money for the church. Join in at Marylyn Wentworth's house and enjoy lots of laughs and making of beautiful things. Monday mornings from 10-12:30. Contact marylyn.wentworth@tnsk.org for directions and info.



“The Caretakers” ready to brew coffee

The Membership Committees is pleased to announce that Cynthia Riley and Tom Socha have agreed to form a new Coffee Hour Team, our 10th! This team will be called The Caretakers and will swing into our normal rotation sometime in early April. This is a most welcomed addition, as it further spreads out this important social connection event, bringing us all together, as part of our shared ministry. Thank you Cynthia and Tom.



FPUU Radio personalities Tune in!

Bernie Reim interviewed Amy Wood on his radio show "Scientifically Speaking" recently. Here's the link:

https://www.wmpg.org/archive-player/?show_key=fri1300&archive_key=1

Women meet for No Particular Reason

Women's NPR Potluck meets tomorrow, Feb. 21, at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Liz Hunter. RSVP & questions: 671-5723, chameleonfiberworks@gmail.com

For the Church Newsletter:





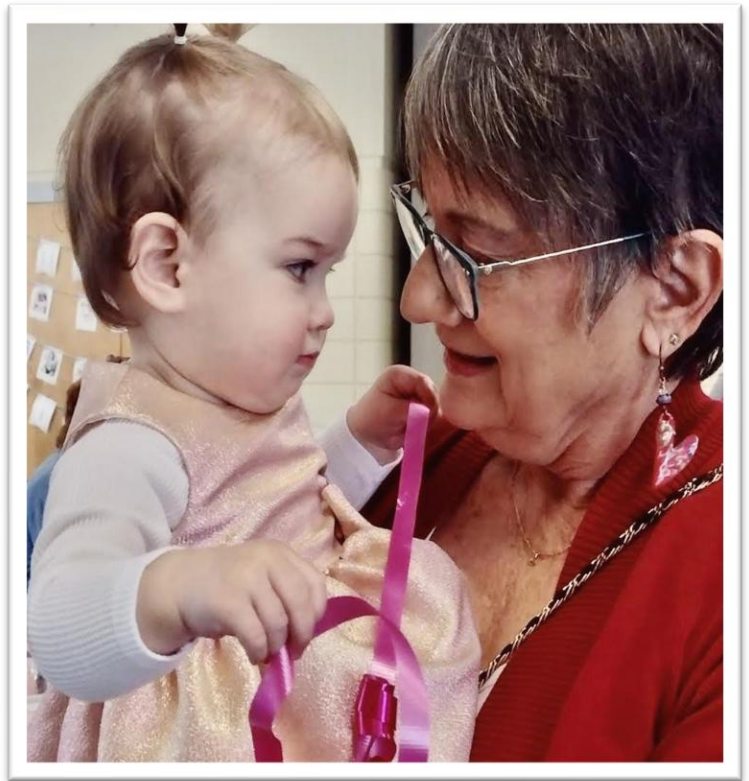
Women for All Seasons

WFAS will meet on Tuesday, February 25th upstairs in the chapel at 6:30 P.M. Our gathering will be centered around the history, lore, and traditions of Faeries and Fae Folk. If you have any questions, or interest in attending, you can call Allegra at (513) 608-8800.

Meet Karen Carey

I was drawn to First Parish in 2013 due to the "Welcoming Congregation" status and the Joys and Concerns stories. I have served on the Board, as the co-chair of Worship, and on the Committee on Ministry and Congregation Connection Team.

I have lived in 11 states and 37 residences, but southern Maine is the best! Gerard and I were married at FPUU and we are close with many of you. We live in Biddeford with our cats, Emma and Piper. I enjoy refinishing furniture and creating of all kinds. We like taking day trips to bakeries, spending weekends in Mystic, CT, and hugging our two granddaughters, ages 1 and 3.



“The Beloved Community”

Excerpts from the sermon Feb. 9 by Rev. Tori Rosati,

I remember a mentor once saying that, despite the common misconception that Unitarian Universalism is an easy faith—one where you can believe whatever you want—the truth is ... we wrestle with complexity, confront uncomfortable truths, and commit, ... to the hard work of living our values in a broken world.

One of those values is pluralism that affirms we are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience, and theology. ... I have grown and deepened in our pluralistic spaces. I often leave our reflection circles with ... a new perspective or truth that you all have shared with me that has reshaped how I look at something. ...

This month, we are exploring inclusion as a practice of faith. And, at the heart of inclusion is an ethic that says we are all enriched by difference – it shapes us. This couldn't be more pressing of a theme than in this time when the word, *inclusion*, as in DEI—diversity equity and inclusion—has become this flashpoint in our national discourse with programs designed to address inequality being stripped away at warp speed, along with the relationships and love they were meant to foster. Reviving our reflection on what it means to include could never be more important.

DEI isn't a catchphrase. And it isn't just a policy or program. Diversity, equity and inclusion, at its heart, centers on the fundamental way we choose to be in relationship with one another—a practice that draws us closer to what we often talk about as the Beloved Community. ... It was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who expanded and popularized the term, describing Beloved Community as a society where love, justice, and equity shape relationships, where racism, poverty, militarization, and violence are replaced with mutual care. ...

Our relationships are the conduits, the deep roots, through which Love moves and how we journey toward a world that is more just, more equitable, and more whole. ... So, the invitation here is to move from issues and things being the centerpiece of our activism toward people and relationships with the issues we are facing being transformed by these relationships.

And this feels vital in a time when trans and non-binary *people* are literally being erased (taking the “T” for transgender out of LGBTQ on government websites) when we are getting rid of observances for Black History Month, Juneteenth, and Pride, that are there to honor and connect *people*. Behind all of this are real, living and breathing beloveds. ...

Relationship is deeper than agreement or affinity or getting along—it asks us to hold space for discomfort, to unlearn patterns of exclusion, to make room not just for presence, but for true belonging. ...

Too often what gets called inclusion is really something else. Inclusion shouldn't require assimilation—erasing part of yourself to fit in. Nor should it mean appropriation—taking pieces of you without honoring their full meaning and your unique self—putting undue burden on you to satisfy me. ...

Inclusion—the kind that builds Beloved Community—holds us accountable when we struggle. ... It preserves who we are while bringing us closer together. It exists in the space between us, in the tension of difference, a place where something dynamic and holy resides. ... Between us moves a love, that in the end, will save us all.

The childcare position is still open

One of our caregivers has stepped aside, leaving a Sunday morning childcare position open. The church has funds budgeted for childcare - two hours per Sunday. All ages and genders are welcome to apply, perhaps you know a high school student that may be interested?. A background check will be required. Join the fun in the nursery as you earn a modest stipend. Inquire at the FPUU office.



Sunday Morning Bookcase

- Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds, adrienne maree brown
- 10 Ways to be Prepared and Grounded Now, Daniel Hunter
- *Finding Beauty in a Broken World*, by Terry Tempest Williams
- *Black Liturgies: Prayer, Poems and Meditation for Staying Human*, Cole Arthur Riley
- *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season*, Susan Beaumont
- *Essay: "ripe conditions," adrienne maree brown*

OFFICE hours

Rev. Tori's office hours are mostly Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the church.

Due to other obligations her schedule may change. Please email the office to set a time if you wish to speak with her.

One of the important duties of a minister is pastoral care for those in need. Our minister, Tori Rosati, is available to any congregant in need. Tori can best be reached at uukennebunkminister@gmail.com. For pastoral emergencies, please use Tori's cell: (978) 238-8210.

First Parish UU Church Kennebunk

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Tori "Find Your Path, Go Deep" 11:30 a.m. Reflection Circle	3	4 10:30 a.m. R.E. Team Meeting 5:15 p.m. Sangha 7 p.m. Properties	5 6:30 p.m. Worship Committee 7 p.m. Evening Discussion	6 3:30 p.m. Choir	7	8
9 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Tori Rosati "The Beloved Community" 11 a.m. All Church Birthday Party	10 7 p.m. Finance Committee	11 10 a.m. Membership Committee 5:15 p.m. Sangha 6:30 p.m. WFAS 6:30 p.m. Men's Group	12 5:30 p.m. B.O.D. Meeting	13 3:30 p.m. Choir	14 6:30 p.m. Song Swap	15
16 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Tory Leuteman	17	18 5:15 p.m. Sangha	19	20 3:30 p.m. Choir	21 5:30 p.m. No Particular Reason Potluck	22
23 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Tori "Woven Together" (Intergen service)	24	25 10 a.m. Small Group Ministry 5:15 p.m. Sangha 6:30 p.m. WFAS 6:30 p.m. Men's Grp.	26 5:30 p.m. Small Group Ministry 7 p.m. Evening Discussion	27 3:30 p.m. Choir	28 FPUU Academy Awards Extravaganza 6 p.m. Dinner 7 p.m. Show	