



LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD

March 27, 2025

*Sing robin, sing: I still am sore in doubt
concerning Spring.*

Christina Rossetti



“Transformational Trust”

Worship Service: March 30, 2025, 10 a.m.

Led by: Mary Gelfand

Religious Exploration welcomes children ages 4-13.

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,

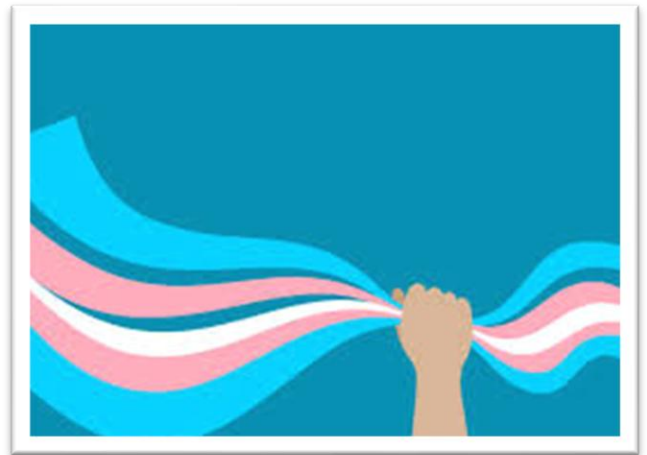
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upcoming EVENTS

- Fri. March 28, Last chance to donate something to the online Auction
- Fri. March 28, 7 p.m. Piano Trio concert
- Sun. March 30, 4 p.m. Good News Film Festival, "Join or Die"
- Sun. March 30, Online Auction begins
- Sun. April 6, 11:30 a.m. New to UU lunch & meeting
- Sat. April 5, Bring in items for the Rummage Sale
- Sat.-Sun. April 11-12, Rummage Sale

This Sunday

The minister previously scheduled for this Sunday is unable to make it. Therefore, Mary Gelfand will be leading a service on "Transformational Trust", which will focus on the changes in this faith that were brought about by women. We will also touch on Women's History Month and Trans-Visibility Day.



All-Church Birthday Party Celebration

Over 40 folks of all ages enjoyed delicious cupcakes at our annual All-Church Birthday Celebration. The event was sponsored by our Membership Committee and supported by the Worship Committee coffee-hour team. Thank you to all who donated the delicious treats!



Photos by Linda Thompson



Concert this Friday!

On Friday, March 28, at 7 p.m. three musicians, Maya French, violin, Nathaniel Taylor, cello, and Chris Staknys, piano, will perform selections by Brahms, Esmail, and Staknys. The concert will take place at our Church. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. A \$25 donation is requested.

Friday, March 28th at 7pm

Piano Trio Concert



Nathaniel Taylor
cello



Maya French
violin



Chris Staknys
piano

Featuring music by Brahms, Esmail, and Staknys

**First Parish UU Church
114 Main St, Kennebunk, ME
\$25 donation requested
Doors open at 6:30**

Last chance to add items to our auction

The auction opens this Sunday March 30! You can now see what is available at <https://www.charityauctionstoday.com/bid/15363>

Check out the parties: Lawn Games and Picnic with Molly and Tom, Cocktail Party with Jacky and Kevin, Star Gazing with Bernie.

We need lots more items for a successful auction. If you have donations send them to Lisaaslaughter@gmail.com Today!



New to UU: Exploring Membership and Belonging

Are you interested in Learning More About Unitarian Universalism, First Parish, and Membership?

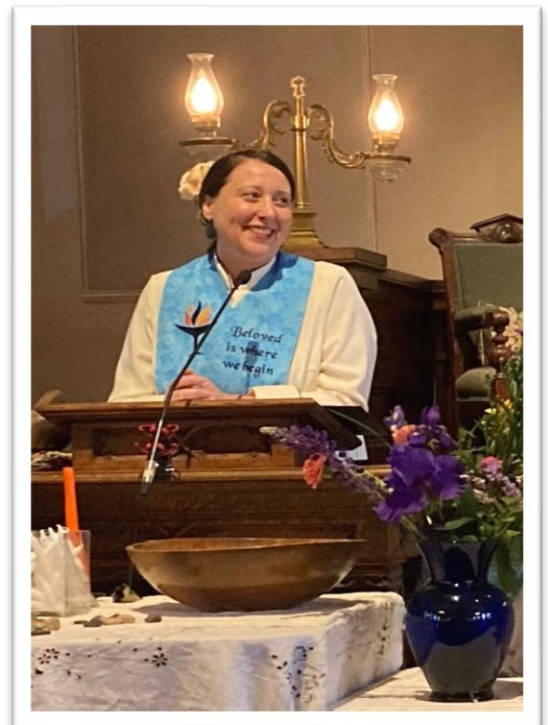
Join us **Sunday April 6 from 11:30-1:30** for a gathering for those who want to explore Unitarian Universalism, the history and values of First Parish, and how you might make a deeper commitment to this community by becoming a member. While membership may be one path, this gathering is a chance to reflect on what belonging means to you here—whether that's through active participation, shared ministry, or simply learning more about how to live our values together. Whether you're new to Unitarian Universalism and First Parish, or have been attending for a while, we invite you to come with your questions, explore your own spiritual journey, and consider how you might be called to engage more fully in the life of our congregation. Childcare will be provided upon request and lunch will be served.

[To respond, please contact Rev. Tori \(uukennebunkminister@gmail.com\) or Jim Thompson \(jethompson33@aol.com\)](mailto:uukennebunkminister@gmail.com)

Contract has been signed Rev. Tori will be with us full-time in 2025-2026!

We are very pleased to report that the Board and Rev. Tori Rosati have signed a new contract. Beginning on June 16, 2025, Rev. Tori will become our full-time Minister. Her new contract continues until June 15, 2026.

The Board followed up a congregational decision in January to bring Rev. Tori to full time by appointing a Contract Committee to generate a new draft contract. Chris Wells, chair of the Transition Team and Church Treasurer headed the team. He was joined by Gray Hirshfield, representing the Board; Andrea Rohde, representing the Transition



Team; and Joan Wuerthner from the Personnel Committee.

They began the process by carefully reviewing the existing contract, checking the latest UUA contract template as well as updating the current $\frac{3}{4}$ time agreement with Rev. Tori. They then brought their draft to Rev. Tori and after incorporating her suggested changes unanimously approved the draft for submission to the Board.

The Board unanimously approved the document March 19 and both parties signed it.

We all very much look forward to Rev. Tori's continued leadership during this transition phase in our long congregational history.

“What Now?” Action items & info.

Opportunity to stand up for our rights In Augusta, Portland, Wells, Kittery

Maine citizens will rally at the Maine State House, Cross Building, in Augusta Saturday, April 5, from noon to 2 p.m. to show their resistance to recent actions of our federal government.

Demonstrations are also slated for Portland, 11-noon Monument Square; Wells, noon to 1:30 p.m. at the library; and Kittery, 9 - 11 a.m. at Memorial Bridge, Route 1.

Demonstrations are expected to occur in state capitols all over the country, Washington DC, and other countries as well.

Open to all, not restricted to one particular party or group, the message is hands off our government, our democratic institutions, our freedoms, our Medicaid, our Medicare, our Social Security, our courts, our immigrant neighbors, our personal data, our reproductive rights, our jobs, our elections, our LGBTQIA+ friends.

For national information, visit <http://handsoff2025.com>. For more local information, email MaineResists25@gmail.com



On Main Street

Citizens of local towns are gathering to demonstrate their concerns about state and national issues every Thursday from 4 - 5 p.m. on the sidewalks of upper Main St. Kennebunk. Signs are available from 3-4 p.m. at the Democracy Co-op, Lafayette Center, first floor, Kennebunk.



Support gun safety

[LD 1126 An Act Requiring Serial Numbers on Firearms and Prohibiting Undetectable Firearms](#)

Summary: This bill establishes unlawful conduct related to certain firearms and firearm components without serial numbers. The bill also establishes penalties for violations of the provisions and establishes requirements for the imprinting of certain firearms and firearm components with serial numbers by federal firearms licensees, and prohibits the manufacture, possession, importation, offer, sale or transfer of undetectable firearms in the State.

[The Problem](#) by Lynn Ellis, Gun Safety Liaison—read this for a more understandable breakdown of what this bill means!

[Talking Points: Gun Safety Coalition document](#)

Committee: [Judiciary](#)

The hearing was March 26, but it's not too late to write to legislators.

Sponsors and Cosponsors: Presented by Representative Zager of Portland. Cosponsored by President Daughtry of Cumberland and Representative: Speaker Fecteau of Biddeford, Senators: Cyrway of Kennebec, Talbot Ross of Cumberland.

Support **Trans** folks

- Attend the webinar [Defend Trans Lives](#) April 8. Hosted by the Transforming Hearts Collective through UUA Side with Love.
- Take a three-session course from the UUA, *Responding to the Anti-Trans Movement*, sign up [here](#). Each self-led session is 25 minutes. Annie Kiermaier will be leading this course in person and over Zoom for all Maine UU's; please let her know if you're interested by emailing her [here](#).
- Send a note of support to the Maine Principals' Association, which oversees public school sports and has a strong trans-friendly policy. You can read the policy [here](#) in Section 12. You can send a note of support to mpa@mpa.cc
- Send a note of support to Hannaford, which is supportive of LGBTQ+ folks. Their website states: "We're proud to have earned a top score of 100 on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's Corporate Equality Index for 13 consecutive years. This index is the nation's foremost benchmarking survey ... related to LGBTQ+ workplace equality." You can contact them [here](#).
- Good news! On Sunday hundreds of people showed up in support of trans students in Cumberland. Read the [Maine Public article here](#): Thanks to all UUs who attended and supported trans students!

Community Outreach Services

COS is hosting their own version of March Madness with a food drive March 16-Apr 6. Our team is focusing on Paper Towels and Condiments. Paper towels can be purchased in bulk and COS will breakdown the packages into single rolls. Condiments should be in small to medium sized containers as they cannot be divided at COS.

A collection area is located in the Parish Hall near the coat racks, marked by COS sign.

Questions: Alicia Soliman-COS liaison: simardvet@yahoo.com



Online discussion on racism this Saturday

Discussion of the book, *Neo-Racism*, is being offered on-line by a Convocation of the UU Multiracial Unity Action Council (UUMUAC) Saturday, March 29, at noon. The book by the late Rev. Dr. Finley C. Campbell, founder of UUMUAC, is available available on Amazon for \$15. TO REGISTER send an email to UUMUAC@gmail.com; Zoom codes will be sent the day before the Convocation.

Five Calls link:

<https://5calls.org/>

Link to our elected officials:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UNWOmm4aNO9Uh2Kv-EYTdO8MKoPP3xXNG2i5vgVrS2Q/edit?usp=sharing>

Janine Coy and Jerry David

Maine UU State Action Network (MUUSAN) representatives for FPUU,

Our members now in rehabilitation enjoy having people call or visit

Joan Phipps, after experiencing another fall, is now undergoing rehabilitation at Summer Commons, 21 June St. Sanford, Maine 04073. She has a phone in her room: 207-206-1953. She would love to have her friends from First Parish call or visit. The Commons is near Goodall Hospital.

Bob Lown is currently in Room 41 of The Edgewood Center, 928 South St., Portsmouth NH. His mobility is limited but he is in good spirits and would love visitors. The best way is to just drop in any morning between 9-11. Or you can send a letter or card to the above address.

Community Events:

The Good News Film Festival continues

March 30: Join or Die

This documentary examines social scientist Robert Putnam's "Bowling Alone" theory of how declining community engagement created an American civic crisis.

The Good news Film Festival is a series of documentaries that offer hope and inspiration in a world in turmoil. The films are shown every Sunday from 4:00 to 6:00 at the First Parish. The films are free, but donations are appreciated. 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.



Time to rummage around

The Spring Rummage Sale is set for Saturday and Sunday, April 12-13, with set-up Friday and clean-up after church on Sunday.

Please bring your items to the church starting April 5. Leave them in the Parlor starting in a corner. **Please do not leave items in the Parish Hall or on stage.**

We need clothing in good condition, household items, linens, dishes, pots and pans, books, etc. Please make sure any electric items work before you bring them.

Do not donate books or clothing that is moldy, smelling of mildew, or ripped, no magazines, no textbooks, no mattresses/box springs, no out-of-date sporting equipment, no child car seats. These items do not sell.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Jacky Peters at jpkrf@roadrunner.com

What's happening in R.E.?

Click on this link to learn more about our monthly Religious Exploration 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.

Be a Sanctuary

Excerpts from Rev. Tori Rosati's sermon March 23

As a commuting minister, my schedule here at the church finds me each week spending two very long days in this building. ... So I often sneak upstairs here [in our sanctuary] during the day as one of my spiritual practices of grounding and centering. ... Church sanctuaries ... have always felt sacred to me in ways that I feel in my body. Maybe it's ... the generations of people – our religious ancestors who have prayed ... fought and made amends ... grieved and celebrated ... in these walls – the way that past, present, and the

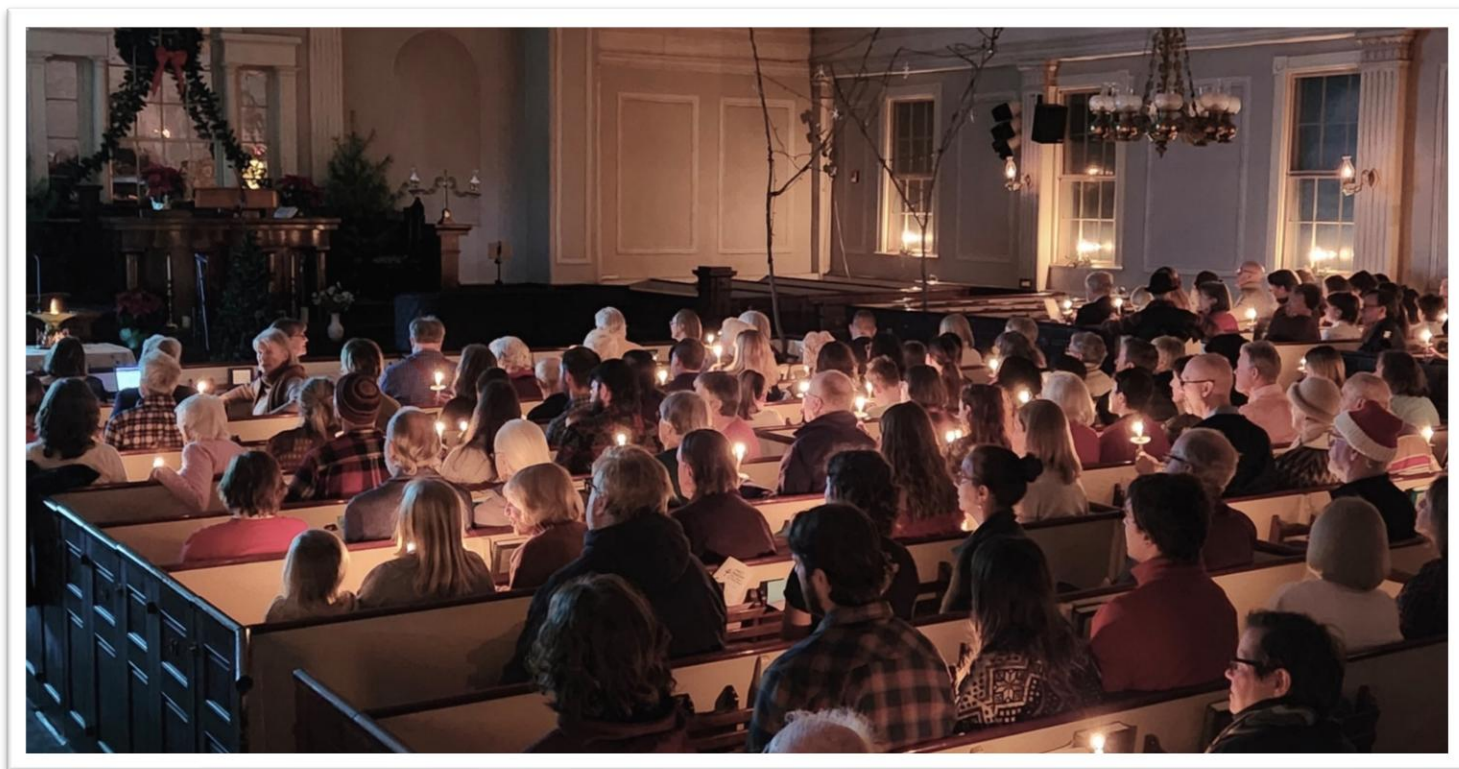


Photo by Paul Beach

beckoning future hold us here for a moment each week suspended — and more than that. ... When we leave here this space stays, ... ready to receive us again, keeping the embers warm when our fires are all but gone.

In these days, I find myself up here more than usual. Find myself longing for sanctuary in a way that is sometimes palpable — present in the waves of overwhelm that rise when I scan the news, read about and witness another act of abuse, another violation of trust. ... I struggle to find my way and begin to wonder how will we get through, how will we carry on?

But up here, in these quiet moments of presence, the good walls of this space holding me close, I settle some, find a way back to myself — a sacred remembering of who I am and whose I am. ...

We are a sanctuary people. And now, ... what we couldn't begin to imagine [before], has now come into sharp and disturbing focus as we are witnessing the very real horror befalling our beloveds — the list of which grows heartbreakingly longer ever day. ...

The concept of physical sanctuary in a religious context has deep roots for us in the ways our religious ancestors offered asylum, shelter and solidarity to others. ... In modern times, churches in the U.S. embodied sanctuary in many forms ... churches standing in solidarity with immigrants through efforts focused on immigration justice and deportation protections.

In 2023, the UUA and UUSC joined with frontline trans organizers to launch the Pink Haven Coalition—a transgender-led initiative. ... And just last month, our denomination joined a federal lawsuit challenging the Department of Homeland Security's removal of sanctuary protections in places of worship, arguing that such actions violate our religious freedoms. ...

We are a sanctuary people.

... But sanctuary isn't just about physical space alone. It also has deep theological and spiritual significance in how we live our lives. ... As Unitarian Universalists, we might ask: Where does sanctuary live in our theology? Rooted in love, our values invite us into ... the greater truth that spiritual freedom is only fully experienced when we are all free.

So sanctuary is a physical place offering safety, it is a spiritual place of refuge offering wisdom and connection, and it is also a practice. ... Dr. Bayo Akomolafe has written ... about the concept of ... “making sanctuary” a practice we bring to how we live our lives. ... But how do we do this? ...

In Carrie Newcomer's song, she sings, “Will you remember, Bring me sprigs of rosemary.” ... In the ancient world, ... Greek scholars placed sprigs of rosemary behind their ears, believing it would help them remember what mattered most. ... In much the same way, making sanctuary invites us to help each other remember ... that we are sanctuaries gathering around that sacred

center of Love that is our deepest calling and our shared promise to each other.

Everyone in this room this morning by showing up, letting go of certainty, trusting and opening ourselves to what comes, has turned these four walls and a ceiling into a sanctuary. ... We are surrounded by ways to create, sustain and receive refuge. ... [And] we can offer this space as sanctuary for others—thinking together, creatively and courageously, about how this building can expand its embrace to touch more lives, especially those in harm's way, those who are fleeing persecution, whose need safe walls to cling to. ... How can this building be a haven in their storm?

Spiritually, we make sanctuary by practicing open-hearted trust—the kind that creates refuge through relationship, through showing up, through offering our fidelity, care, and love. ... It is every time we choose compassion over convenience, relationship over being right—remembering what matters most. ... It is extending radical hospitality ... And this begins with each of us.

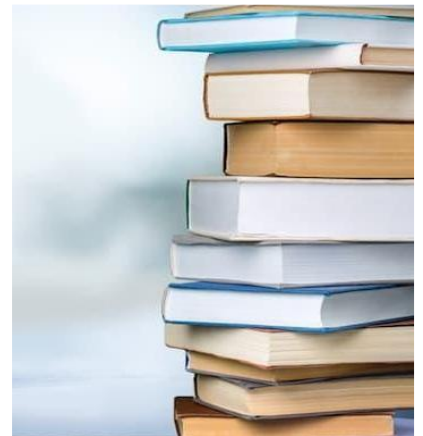
... It's easier, I think ... for us to offer our presence to someone else, to say, "come here, I'll be with you." ... But, to have to courage to say ... Will you be my refuge, my haven in this storm/will you help me remember til I can carry on. Ugh, ... to surrender the illusion that we can get through any of this living alone. ...

It is in those moments — that we remember again: who we are -- we are a sanctuary people and whose we are – we are each others. ...

[Let Us Make Sanctuary](#)

Sunday Morning Bookcase

- *How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith*, Mariann Edgar Budde
- *Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way we Live, Love, Parent, and Lead*, Brené Brown
- *Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds*, adrienne maree brown



Important: Check Rev. Tori's Email Address!

Some emails sent to Rev. Tori haven't reached her inbox due to incorrect addresses in some contact lists. Please take a moment to ensure you have the correct email saved: uukennebunkminister@gmail.com

NOT firstparishminister@gmail.com, uuchurchkennebunkminister@gmail.com, or any other variation. Even small differences mean your message won't reach her.

If you've emailed Rev. Tori and haven't received a response, please double-check the email address in your contact list as it may be incorrect.

For help updating your contacts, Allison Lazos or Chris Wells are available to assist. And as a reminder, Rev. Tori will never send emails requesting gift cards or money—if something seems suspicious, it probably is.



The Office is open Monday-Friday 9a.m.- 12 p.m. 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

APRIL 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
UU Online Auction 3/30-4/11		1 5:15 p.m. Sangha 7 p.m. Properties	2 6:30 p.m. Worship Committee 7 p.m. Evening Discussion	3 3:30 p.m. Choir	4	5
6 10 a.m. Worship Service led Rev. Tori "Joy is Resistance" 11:30 a.m. New to UU lunch 4 p.m. Good News Film	7 10 a.m. RE Team	8 10 a.m. Membership Committee 5:15 p.m. Sangha 6:30 p.m. W.F.A.S. 6:30 p.m. M.O.G.	9 7 p.m. Evening Discussion	10 3:30 p.m. Choir	11 6:30 p.m. Song Swop UU Auction Ends	12 Rummage Sale 8am-11am
13 8 am Rummage Sale 10 a.m. Worship Service led Rev. Art McDonald 11:30 a.m. Now What? - Social Justice Organizing 4 p.m. Good News Film	14 7 p.m. Finance Committee	15 5:15 p.m. Sangha	16 5:30 p.m. B.O.D. Meeting	17 3:30 p.m. Choir	18	19
20 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Tori "Reviving the Heart" 4 p.m. Good News Film	21	22 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.	23 5:30 p.m. Small Group Ministry 7 p.m. Evening Discussion Group	24 3:30 p.m. Choir	25 7 p.m. Janet Wentworth concert	26
27 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Tori 11:30 a.m. Service Reflection Circle 4 p.m. Good News Film	28	29 5:15 p.m. Sangha	30 6 p.m. Vespers Service			