



LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD

June 19, 2025

...our society and democracy only works when we think not just about ourselves, but about each other. ... You're the folks we've been waiting for to come along —That's the power you hold.

Barack Obama to graduates of Historic Black Colleges, 2020



More than 1,100 people gathered on the sidewalks of Kennebunk Saturday, June 14, to promote democracy. Demonstrations continue every Thursday from 4 - 5 p.m.  
Photo by Vicki Adams

Worship Service: June 22, 2025, 10 a.m.  
Led by: Bernie Reim

## 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,

Password:02448

# upcoming EVENTS

- Thurs. June 19, 4-5 p.m. Stand Up for Democracy every Thursday on Main Street
- Tues. June 24, 6:30 p.m. Men's Open Group
- Thurs. June 26, 5:30-6:30 p.m. **(NEW TIME)** Choir Rehearsal

## A Loss of one of our own



Long time and beloved member, Joan Phipps, passed away peacefully the morning of June 18<sup>th</sup> with her family by her side. Joan was a deeply cherished member of First Parish. Her joyful and compassionate light will be deeply missed.

Condolences can be sent to:  
Rachel Phipps  
11 Dane Street  
Kennebunk, ME 04043

In lieu of flowers, it was Joan's wish the donations be made in her name to First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church of Kennebunk. A celebration of life will be planned for later this summer.



# Summer Sundays in Religious Exploration

During the summer, there will be no formal Religious Exploration classes, but we will offer childcare for our youngest children who need a loving, playful space while you attend worship.

Our full Religious Exploration program will resume on Sunday, September 14th, following our Intergenerational Ingathering and Water Ceremony on September 7th.

Registration information for the fall will be shared in August—stay tuned!

## A Letter from Rev. Tori

Dear Ones,

I am writing this to you from a train on my way to Baltimore for our annual Unitarian Universalist General Assembly. This event draws together UUs from around the world for business items, worship, learning, and reflection. I am honored to be representing our little piece of Maine Unitarian Universalism to our wider movement – so proud to get to share with colleagues, friends, and others about our beautiful, heart-centered, and faithful community and all the good and transformative work we have been doing together these last few years.

I love traveling by train. Our car is snaking in and out of marshland, ocean, city, and suburbs. Staring out the window reminds me how big our country is, how diverse its people are, and how many ways there are to live in this world.

After a busy and rich year of church, it feels good to be moving along through no effort of my own. It's a feeling I often associate with how I understand the Divine in my own life — a quiet force of spirit and motion, just beneath the surface, gently propelling me forward.

Summer seems like a good time to rest into that feeling — let the spirit and energy of what brings us rest, joy, and renewal carry us along — not always sure where we're going, but trusting we'll arrive somewhere we need to be.

As a faith community this summer, we can rest in the rhythms set in motion by our good people — worship led by our own inspiring people along with a number of guest preachers and hosted by our Worship Committee, simple



fellowship and refreshments offered by our Membership Team, and, of course, our beloved Blueberry Festival and Craft Fair tradition in July (don't forget to sign up to help!).

I am grateful to each of you for all you brought to our shared ministry this year and look forward to seeing many of you over the summer when I'm in the office and the pulpit. We have a wonderful journey ahead of us with so much to energy and spirit to keep us moving forward in community and love.

With every blessing,

Rev. Tori



*The Keynotes jazz up our Sunday service June 15: Al Adams sings, Chris Wells on bass, Mary Kennedy on sax, and Chris Staknys on piano. Photo by Vicki Adams*

## Highlights for summer Sundays With UU guest ministers

### June 29

**The Rev. Al Boyce** is sure to laugh with us on June 29, when he presents his sermon, "And Then There Is Laughter." During this time of societal stress and uncertainty the last thing we may be aware of is the ability, even need, to laugh. Al's service begins with Psalm 30.5: "Weep may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning."

Al began his calling as an evangelical minister. After attending Harvard Divinity School, he became a Unitarian Universalist parish minister in 1988. Al also holds a master's degree in psychology/counseling and Ph.D in psychology. Al has served parishes in Chester Depot, Vt, founded a Unitarian

Universalist church in downtown Miami, Fla, and served the Plainfield, NJ UU congregation as well as the Turner, Maine First Universalist Church half-time until COVID.

Today, Al is lead chaplain for Volunteers of America Northern New England and speaks regularly for UU and Congregational churches. He lives in Dexter, Maine with husband, Andrew, and standard poodles, Luke and Louie. Al just received recognition at the "24" UU Ministers Association Meeting for 50 years of ordained ministry.

### **July 6, 27**

Another memorable guest speaker, the **Rev. Dr. Steve Burt**, will present two summer services "Pious Profanity" (July 6) and "Trivia: Who Won the First Century Title Fight?" (July 27). Many of us know him as the Wells writer who, with his wife Jolyn, brings his book tables to the FPUU Blueberry Fair.

Rev. Steve, a retired pastor/professor chairs his UU congregation's intern committee in Summerfield, Florida. He spoke at our pulpit in October 2023, offering "Three Billboards Outside Providence, RI."

***A full list of summer services will appear next week***

## **Rev Tori's Summer Schedule**

Rev. Tori's summer will include a mixture of vacation time, study leave, and time in the office. Please see our July and August calendars (posted below and around the church) for more detailed information about when she'll be available. During her work weeks, she will be focusing on planning for the fall and is available for pastoral care visits.

When Rev. Tori is away, our Pastoral Care Team—Andrea Rhode, Barbara Conner, and Janine Coy—is here for you. You can also reach out to Allison in the office or our Board President, Ted Trainer, for support, guidance or any questions you might have.



While away, Rev. Tori will be reachable for emergencies only. Non-urgent matters can be shared with the team or held until she returns—she'll be glad to attend to them then.



## Rev. Tori's Summer Bookcase

Want to know what Rev. Tori is reading this summer? If you're interested in joining her for any of these reads, you might encounter a taste of a future sermon or discussion to come!

- Social Change Now: A Guide for Reflection and Connection, Deepa Iyer
- Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in with Unexpected Resilience and Creative Power, Joanna Macy & Chris Johnston
- Heaven Looks Like Us: Palestinian Poetry, George Abraham and Noor Hindi (editors)
- The Quaking of America, Resmaa Menakem
- Palestinian Walks, Raja Shehadeh
- Healing the Heart of Democracy, Parker Palmer
- The Tears of Things, Richard Rohr
- Open Space of Democracy, Terry Tempest Williams
- Love at the Center, Sophia Betancourt (editor)
- The Caring Congregation Ministry, Karen Lampe and Mellissa Collier Gepford
- Bridges Across an Impossible Divide: The Inner Lives of Arab and Jewish Peacemakers, Marc Gopin
- The Silent Cry: Mysticism and Resistance, Dorothy Doelle
- After the Good News, Nancy McDonald Ladd
- Loving Corrections, adrienne maree brown

## Applause for all who keep us warm!

Last Sunday, we celebrated all who worked on our new heating system, a three-year project that began with disaster and then luck. "This was the biggest effort we've undertaken in a very long time," said our Properties Committee chair Barbara Conner. The old First Parish boiler blew up February 3, 2023, but luckily was discovered in time to avoid a fire! We heated the addition with space heaters for the rest of the winter. The Sanctuary Parlor and Parish Hall remained on the precarious steam system, which was beyond its expected life and wasted 40% of the heat it produced.

The old system was converted to a new far more efficient system. Our insurance company paid for the new boiler, which provides enough heat to supply the entire building. It was installed in August 2023. But that was just the beginning.

The Committee took on a Heating System Conversion Project and completed it this spring. It included:

1. Design the heating system using the new boiler, making sure it has enough capacity, and is appropriate for our antique building.
2. Hire a professional heating contractor for the project.
3. Clear the area where the new heating system can be installed and dispose of refuse.
4. Dismantle and recycle the steam heating system, which weighed a ton!
5. Dismantle and recycle the steam boiler.
6. Clean and prepare the space for the core of the new system.
7. Dismantle much of the old hot water heating equipment throughout the building.
8. Build the new high performance hot water distribution system for the full building.
9. Rebuild the controls to operate the new distribution system.
10. Install plumbing to supply heating water to all areas of the building.
11. Purchase and receive the baseboard required for the Parish Hall and Parlor, along with the cabinet heaters for the Sanctuary.
12. Install and connect that new equipment.
13. Fill, test, and start up the system.



*Photo by Tom Veronesi*





Congratulations and gratitude to the incredible volunteer team that worked directly on the project:

Properties committee: Barbara Conner, Alicia Soliman, Andy Proulx, Kevin Flynn, Patrick Conner, Paul Beach, Jim Thompson, Herve' Lavoie, Tom Socha.

Plus: John Foresman (heating contractor), Kathe Wright, David Reese, Susan Jack.

Thanks to all!

Patrick and Barbara Conner

*LEFT: Volunteers Kevin Flynn, Patrick Conner and Tom Socha working on the heating system.*

*Photo by Ted Trainer*

## Blueberry Festival & Crafts Fair Saturday, July 26, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.





Our First Parish Blueberry Festival features home-made blueberry pie and blueberry buckle, crab rolls, veggie wraps, natural casing hot dogs, and home-made lemon gelato. Artists and crafters from all over New England will be selling everything from blueberry-theme items to books, handcrafted items to fine art, and gifts for people and pets. New this year, a raffle tent!

Our table of vintage jewelry has great finds. Our shady cafe hosts live music. Invite your friends, come and browse, pick up a treasure, and enjoy delicious treats at this year's Festival.

## Calling all volunteers

If you haven't already signed up to work at the festival, contact Marylyn Wentworth (in directory).

Please donate jewelry you no longer need to our jewelry table! Put it in a bag or box, label it "Jewelry for Blueberry Fair" and drop it off at the Church Office (Monday-Friday 9-12) or bring it on a Sunday. Questions? Contact Linda Thompson (in Church Directory). Many thanks!



## Looking Ahead to Next Year's Small Group Ministry!

As we wrap up this year's cohort of Soul Matters Small Group Ministries, we're already looking ahead to the year to come. Our groups will start again this September with several new sections being added. These small group

gatherings support a journey of reconnection—to life, to others, and to our deepest selves—through deep listening, meaningful themes, shared spiritual practices, and intentional community.

**What are these groups like?**

Be sure to come to church on **Sunday, August 24th** for a special service where participants will share stories from their experience and we will introduce plans for next year. It's a great opportunity to meet people, ask questions, and deepen your relationship with the church community. A big thank you to our group facilitators this year: Mark Gallup, Mary Gelfand, and Susie Desantis!

If you're interested in participating this fall or in a future round, please fill out the form [HERE](#), or contact Rev. Tori ([uukennebunkminister@gmail.com](mailto:uukennebunkminister@gmail.com)) for more information.

## Religious Exploration: looking forward

As we wrap up another year of Religious Exploration, we're filled with gratitude for all the children, families, and volunteers who took part. We're especially thankful for Susie Desantis, who is finishing her time on the RE team. As we look ahead, we will be looking to fill her role on the team. The commitment is manageable—we meet just once a month with Rev. Tori, and the agenda is set ahead of time. No teaching experience is needed.

Looking at the fall, we will need extra hands in the classroom. We're seeking parents and other volunteers, who might be willing to teach once a month, or once every couple of months. Lessons will be fully prepared, and the time with the kids is always fun and low stress. We also hope to bring in special guests throughout the year—if you have a story to tell, a song to share, or a skill you'd like to introduce, we'd love to welcome you into a class.

Lastly, we're hiring a paid child caregiver for Sunday mornings (2 hours per week) starting ASAP! There are also other opportunities for paid childcare. If you know someone wonderful who might be a good fit, please send them our way.

In the meantime, check out what R.E. has been up to this spring.

[R.E. SPRING](#)

Thank you, Jacky and Gray

# A Love that Liberates

Excerpts from the homily,  
June 15, by Rev. Tori Rosati

Joy *storytelling*  
invitation **LOVE** deep listening  
imagination *presence*  
repair **TRUST** freedom  
INCLUSION

At one of our after the service reflection circles this year, we explored some of the words that we, as Unitarian Universalists, use often in our shared spaces. Words that seemingly hold power but sometimes lack shared definition. Words like ... “justice,” “community,” “liberation,” and of course, “love.”

We wondered together: What do these words actually mean in the context of our faith? — how do they guiding our living?...our theme-based ministry this year—developed by the good people at the Soul Matters Sharing Collective – tried to address this connecting our monthly themes to an overarching frame they called “The Practices of Our Faith,” ...and how these practices of our faith help us embody liberating love.

What does it mean, to embody a love that liberates?

A love that liberates connects us — to ourselves, to one another, and to the world in all its beauty and brokenness. It’s not a private feeling, but a public ethic. It calls us into relationships of mutual responsibility. And, as a liberating force, it doesn’t stop at connection. It moves us to action on behalf of that which we are connected to...The love that names everyone as beloved is a love that pays attention to where the pain is greatest, where the harm is deepest, where the need is most urgent. It refuses to be neutral in the face of injustice.

And here, the rich tradition of Liberation Theology has something to teach us...Liberation Theology does not seek to prescribe holiness or mandate us from the outside what are values are, what words we should be using to talk about our faith, but rather, it compels us to share in the struggle for freedom and let that experience – that practice – give shape to our values and beliefs....liberation theology says, we begin...a practice rooted in the experience of those on the margins. Orient ourselves around them, be in solidarity with them, and let those experiences shape how we understand and show up in the world.

In liberation theology this process is called praxis. — the continual cycle of **action and reflection** — as the way that our faith should be lived out.



So, here we start with the lived reality (especially of suffering or injustice). Then we take action in solidarity with those experiencing that suffering and those injustices. Afterward, we reflect theologically on our actions and their implications. What do these experiences, practices of solidarity and relationships reveal to us about what is most sacred and holy?... How do they align with, inform and shape our values?... This reflection then informs deeper, more faithful action. And the process continues... Action – reflection – action and so on.

A love that liberates, then, is a love that is active, moving, in process. This where love starts to turn into a verb – breaks out of the confines of language of noun and abstract ideal. And when we do this... We are set free too.

We are creatures of relationships, interconnection and interdependence are woven into our every fiber of our being. When we become disconnected or fall out of right relationship, we deny ourselves something essential — the truth that we become most fully human in the presence of one another... when we center love, we are centering relationship — and in doing so, we reconnect with our true nature, be whole, and to be free.

So, dear ones, as we move into our summer rhythms — as the world continues to churn and call out in need, and as our own hearts invite reflection - may we carry with us the power of this love.

Love that connects and invites us.

That listens deeply and repairs what is broken.

That is present and creates spaces for us to tell our story.

That includes more and more, that risks trust, imagines with joy, and sets us all free.

Let us lead with that love.

## **Minister's Discretionary Fund**

The Minister's Discretionary Fund is available to help individuals in our congregation and wider community who are experiencing financial hardship. If you, or someone you know, could benefit from this support, please reach out to Rev. Tori ([uukennebunkminister@gmail.com](mailto:uukennebunkminister@gmail.com) or 978-238-8210). All requests are handled with care and strict confidentiality.



## Summer Choir Rehearsals

Choir will meet in the Parlor every other week starting June 26<sup>th</sup>. Instead of 3:30 p.m., we will now meet from 5:30-6:30 p.m. People of all levels and experience are welcome.

## Hearse House Cleaning

We are looking for 4 to 5 hardy and happy individuals to join **us this Saturday**, June 21st at 9am, as we are beginning to clear out all items currently in the Hearse House. This structure is exactly what the name implies; it formerly housed the horse-drawn hearse wagon before being replaced by a motorized vehicle. From last count, this historical building was only one of two still known to exist in the state of Maine.



Your help will be greatly appreciated as we start the long-term process to save this building and ensure its viability for years to come. If you can help, even for just an hour, please contact me or any member of our Properties Committee.

Thank You, Jim Thompson, Project Leader 2025 Hearse House revival

## Our members now in rehabilitation enjoy having people call or visit

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. Best way is to just drop in any morning between 9-11. Or you can send a letter or card to the above address.

Joan O'Hara is in Bradford House on Huntington Common Rd. She very much appreciates old friends visiting, but since she is blind and has difficulty answering the phone, you may try dropping in early or late afternoon. Be sure to announce yourself and know that she might not always be up to a visit.



If you haven't yet been able, we'd appreciate you taking a moment to answer the couple of questions in our end-of-legislative-session [Advocacy Review Poll](#). Answers are especially valuable to MUUSAN, so thank you in advance.



## Sunday Morning Bookcase

- *The Serviceberry*, Robin Wall Kimmerer
- *Revive Us Again: Vision and Action in Moral Organizing*, Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II and Rev. Dr. Rick Lowery
- *Inciting Joy*, Ross Gay
- *Book of Delights*, Ross G
- *When No thing Works: A Zen and Indigenous Perspective on Resilience, Shared Purpose, and Leadership in the Timeplace of Collapse*, Norma Wong





## **Indivisible Team to meet at First Parish**

Do you want to take productive action to push back against the current administration's attack on individual rights, the rule of law and democracy? Indivisible Team Southern Maine (ITSME) has been

formed as a local group of the national organization Indivisible.org to accomplish this. We are holding both Zoom and in-person meetings at FPUU. Please join us, if you want to be heard through this growing and very active organization. You can contact our membership coordinator Rich Nowak at: [itsme04043@yahoo.com](mailto:itsme04043@yahoo.com) or visit the websites listed below for more information.

### ***ITSME Mission Statement:***

Indivisible Team Southern Maine's mission is to be a powerful force to protect and sustain democracy in our country. We are an action-oriented group, using our voices to defend individual rights and the rule of law. We work in our communities from South Portland to Kittery, to support our elected representatives and create integrity, real equality, and justice for ALL.

### ***Upcoming ITSME Meetings:***

*Zoom Meetings: the 1st Thursday of every month, 6:30-8 p.m. The next one, July 3. In-Person Meetings: the 3rd Tuesday of every month, 6 - 8 p.m. First Parish UU Church of Kennebunk, The next one, July 15.*

*Andrew Proulx*

# FIRST ANNUAL SRT MAINE ROOTS MUSIC FESTIVAL

DAY ONE

THUR JUNE 26  
8:30PM 7:00PM

THE DON ROY TRIO  
THE BLUELINERS

DAY TWO

FRI JUNE 27  
8:30PM 7:00PM

CASCO BAY TUMMLERS  
DUQUETTE

DAY THREE

SAT JUNE 28  
8:30PM 7:00PM

HAGGARD AND CASHED  
JENNIFER PORTER

DAY FOUR

SUN JUNE 29  
4:30PM 3:00PM

DENNY BREAU  
GROUP JAM

W/FESTIVAL  
PARTICIPANTS

Saco River  
THEATRE

PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN. SUGGESTED: \$100 FOR FULL FESTIVAL / \$30 FOR SINGLE DAY  
207-929-6473 | [SACORIVERTHEATRE.ORG](https://sacorivertheatre.org)  
29 SALMON FALLS RD, BAR MILLS, ME

# Office Hours

The Office is open Monday-Friday 9a.m.- 12 p.m. through June 21<sup>st</sup>. Then **Summer Office hours begin the week of June 23<sup>rd</sup>: Tuesday and Thursdays 9 a.m.-12 p.m.** Please see the attached calendar for Tori's office hours this summer.

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](mailto:uukennebunkminister@gmail.com). For pastoral emergencies, please contact Rev. Tori on her cell phone or call the church office.



## Important: Check Rev. Tori's Email Address!

Please take a moment to ensure you have the correct email saved for Rev. Tori Rosati: [uukennebunkminister@gmail.com](mailto:uukennebunkminister@gmail.com) Even small differences mean your message won't reach her. And as a reminder, Rev. Tori will never send emails requesting gift cards or money—if something seems suspicious, do not reply!



# First Parish UU Church Kennebunk

## JUNE 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1 Music Sunday</b> 10 a.m. Worship Service led by FPUU Music Ministry	2	3 5:15 p.m. Sangha 6 p.m. Board Retreat 7 p.m. Properties	4 2 p.m. Worship Committee Retreat	5 3:30 p.m. Choir	6	7 11 a.m. Sally Keene Memorial Service
<b>8 Flower Sunday</b> 9 a.m. Annual Meeting 10 a.m. Worship Service led Rev. Tori "Among the Wildflowers"	9	10 10 a.m. Small Group Ministry 10 a.m. Membership Committee 6:30 p.m. Men's Open Group	11 5:30 p.m. Board of Directors	12 3:30 p.m. Choir 5:30 p.m. Small Group Ministry	13 6:30 p.m. Song Swap	14
15 10 a.m. Worship Service led Rev. Tori "Love Liberates"	16	17 5:15 p.m. Sangha	18	19 <b>JUNETEENTH</b> 3:30 p.m. Choir  <b>LAST REGULAR            NEWSLETTER</b>	20	21
22 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Bernie Reim	23 <b>Summer Hours</b> Office Closed	24 9-12 Office Open  5:15 p.m. Sangha 6:30 p.m. Men's Open Group	25	26 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Choir <b>SUMMER            NEWSLETTER</b>	27	28
29 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Al Boyce	30 10 a.m. RE Team					

## First Parish UU Church Kennebunk

**JULY 2025**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9-12 Office Open 5:15 p.m. Sangha 7 p.m. Properties	2	3 9-12 Office Open	4	5
6 10 a.m. Worship Service led Rev. Dr. Steven Burt	7	8 <b>Tori in Office</b> 9-12 Office Open 5:15 p.m. Sangha 6:30 p.m. Men's Open Group	9	10 <b>Tori in Office</b> 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Choir	11 6:30 p.m. Song Swop	12
13 10 a.m. Worship Service led Rev. Tori "Sacred Inefficiency"	14 7 p.m. Finance Committee	15 9-12 Office Open 5:15 p.m. Sangha	16 5:30 p.m. Board of Directors	17 9-12 Office Open	18	19
20 10 a.m. Worship Service	21	22 <b>Tori in Office</b> 9-12 Office Open 5:15 p.m. Sangha 6:30 p.m. Men's Open Group	23	24 <b>Tori in Office</b> 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Choir	25	26 Blueberry Festival & Craft Fair
27 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rev. Dr. Steven Burt	28	29 9-12 Office Open 5:15 p.m. Sangha	30	31 9-12 Office Open		

## First Parish UU Church Kennebunk

**AUGUST 2025**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10 a.m. Worship Service led Christina Sillari	4 <b>Tori in Office</b>	5 <b>Tori in Office</b> 9-12 Office Open 5:15 p.m. Sangha 7 p.m. Properties Committee	6 6 p.m. Worship Committee	7 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Choir	8 6:30 p.m. Song Swop	9 10 a.m. Membership Team Retreat
10 10 a.m. Worship Service led Rev. Tori "My Favorite Things"	11 7 p.m. Finance	12 <b>Tori in Office</b> 9-12 Office Open 5:15 p.m. Sangha 6:30 p.m. Men's Open Group	13	14 <b>Tori in Office</b> 9-12 Office Open	15	16
17 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Rec. Bernadette Hickman Maynard "Be A Friend"	18	19 9-12 Office Open 5:15 p.m. Sangha	20 <b>Tori in Office</b> 5:30 p.m. Board of Directors	21 9-12 Office Open 5:30 p.m. Choir	22	23
24 10 a.m. Worship Service led by Mark Gallup "Small Group Ministry Sunday"	25 9-12 Office Open  10 a.m. RE Team	26 <b>Tori in Office</b> 9-12 Office Open	27 <b>Tori in Office</b> 9-12 Office Open	28 9-12 Office Open	29 9-12 Office Open	30
31 10 a.m. Worship Service						