

Discovery

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Reckless Hope

by Cathy Stackpole

"...green grass through the snow, sweet reckless hope." (Lori McKenna, singer/songwriter: The Most)

Its March, and the birds are singing, spreading their joy this morning when a cold wind blows from the north and the melting that occurred yesterday is now frozen solid again. Walking across campus, I see and hear the memory of children playing, and notice the grass finally exposed after a long white-out.

The work in Rowland reaches a new milestone: painting the auditorium ceiling. No longer can you look up and see the effects of sideways wind and rain seeping through. What once looked neglected and uncared for, now sparkles. Workmen are finishing up the Dolphin Room in Quillen: the January storms of 2 years ago gifted us a new east wall, complete with windows and doors replacements and more electrical outlets for our quilting conferences. The floor on that side of the room is now level and the window glass clear to see through to the sun rising over the ocean.

A slow and steady transformation cobbled together from gifts, have-to's and wishes this year included an ADA walkway connecting Underwood with Rowland along with these upgrades to the Quillen and Rowland buildings. The dormitory of Underwood, also damaged in the storm will get a new bulkhead which will seal up the basement, a start to a building that also needs some tender loving care. Damaged in the flooding there included a dehumidifier and a large industrial fan. These also have been replaced.

The January storms gave us a new floor in Rose Pavilion, a project that starts this week. We take these challenges as opportunities most often, our flooding in the dining room 3 years ago became a new beverage area and found the source of a smell in one of the bathrooms we had been looking for since the building opened.



Yesterday the water main broke in the basement of Cross, just where it attaches to the sprinkler system. We happened to be there sopping water from a small leak when it burst open, and the water department was quick to respond. The floor in the Cross Conference room now will get a good washing.

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AND MORE!



Continued from page 1... In January of 2024 we were underwater, struggling to figure out where to begin. Resistance and optimism, and support from many places have fueled our recovery.

Invitations for change are all around us these days. Will we see the green grass through the snow?



A Huge Milestone: Celebrating 125 Years!

In 2026, Ferry Beach will be 125 years old! We are in the middle of a strategic planning process as we continue our transition to year-round programming. We want to hear from you!

Through a series of ZOOM Town Halls, please join us to talk about a vision for Ferry Beach as we move into our next 125 years. As a not-for-profit organization, Ferry Beach’s mission drives our work. Here are our Town Hall dates:

- May 7 th , 6-7pm. We will focus on our facility and on programming. What thoughts do you have about our facility for the next 5 years? What should be some of our focus? What program activities that are mission driven might be interesting to you, and to others?
- May 12 th , 6-7pm. We will focus on Finance and Philanthropy. Ferry Beach, as a charitable organization, receives donated dollars from individuals, families, businesses, churches and more rarely, state and local governments. The bulk of our funding comes from earned income. What ideas do you have about ways to increase our funds as well as continue to shepherd and grow the funds we are gifted?
- May 19 th , 6-7pm. Our final Town Hall in this series is Leadership (Volunteerism) and Governance. Ferry Beach thrives because of donated time, talent and treasure. Help us think about ways we can continue to grow and support our volunteers. Ferry Beach is a 501c3 organization and as such, is required to have a Governance Board that supports the organization. Governance includes our by-laws, articles of incorporation, and other ways we are structured in accordance with the IRS.



You can sign up for one or all three of these [here](#). We will also be sending out surveys and doing some targeted focus groups in the summer months with summer conferences, as well as in the fall with retreat groups and local community groups. Please look for those!

A New Addition to the Dining Hall

Upon your next visit to Ferry Beach be sure to visit the dining hall and check out our brand-new donation pot! Habitat for Humanity gifted us the lobster trap for this display. The “Ferry Beach Donation Pot” features items we need and desire to create improvements across our campus. How it works? Choose the item in need that you’d like to support, submit your donation online and afterwards keep the message bottle souvenir with the item tag you funded as a thank you and memory of your gracious gift!



New Limited Edition 2025 Ferry Beach Merch

We designed a whole new line of limited-edition merchandise, now available for purchase on our online store! These items are exclusive to our online store only and cannot be found in our on-campus store. Browse a wide array of items including shirts, sweatshirts, mugs, water bottles, towels, hats, bags, notebooks and more. Many had suggestions of items they hoped to see that we tried to fulfill. We're loving the new gear and hope you do too! We hope you'll support our new Ferry Beach collection and match with us this summer. View new merchandise [here](#).

For your planning, we will have a very limited selection of Brilliance theme t-shirts in the Ferry Beach campus store in one color. For a greater selection, including over 10 color varieties available online, we recommend purchasing your theme shirt from our online store this year.

Who will have the most theme spirit?

Order your Brilliance theme t-shirt and wear it during check-in! We'll be on the lookout to see which church group and which summer conference has the most theme spirit. Will the conference you're attending win "most theme spirit for 2025"? We'll announce which group wins the title of most spirit at the end of summer.



Employer of the Year... Ferry Beach



In recent news, this past January, Biddeford + Saco Chamber of Commerce awarded us Employer of the Year for 2024. As stated by the chamber, this award given to Ferry Beach as a "mission-driven and values-based culture which creates an employee team environment that is inclusive, supportive and community oriented." We're so honored to receive this recognition and proud to be a positive workplace environment for all.

We are hiring for summer! If you or someone you know is looking for an amazing summer job, apply and experience for yourself why Ferry Beach is employer of the year. Of course there's the added benefit of spending your summer by the beach with those fabulous ocean views!



To learn more about our job openings or to apply visit: ferrybeach.org/jobs.



Supporting the Future of Ferry Beach

Sustaining donors provide vital donations to help us cover our expenses and continue with our mission! If you love Ferry Beach, believe in the work we do and want to invest in Ferry Beach for generations to come, we ask you consider becoming a sustaining donor.

You can donate as little as \$15 a month, or as much as you want. Sustaining donations can be monthly, quarterly or annually, whichever option is best for you.

If you would like to become a sustaining donor visit ferrybeach.org/sustaining-gifts and submit your donation. If you already are a sustaining donor thank you so much for your support and for being a dedicated contributor to our organization. We so appreciate you!

Summer Celebrations, Fun for Everyone!

Our first celebration of summer begins with Sand & Stars week, featuring lots of 4th of July fun! You can enjoy watching the fireworks on the beach, campfire s'more roasting in the evening, sing-a-longs and many other celebratory activities! Throughout the week you'll embark on your own adventure pursuing the workshops/activities that suit your interests. Daily offerings in art, music, science & wellness are among some of areas you can choose from. Field trips, crafting, beach yoga, improv theater, tarot, games, ukulele and so much more. This is a perfect summer getaway for those of all ages, kids and adults, families, pairs or individuals. For a list of all the exciting engagement during this week visit: ferrybeach.org/sand-and-stars

Sand & Stars | June 28-July 5, 2025



Our annual Labor Day Weekend concludes our celebration of summer. This year, Labor Day Weekend will be filled with engaging activities for both adults and children, a perfect family-friendly weekend for all! Throughout the weekend enjoy free time, carnival games, various activities, a cookout with live music and of course the beach! Settle in Friday evening and be sure to stop in the store, grab an ice cream and head down to the beach for the sunset. Saturday enjoy free-time in the morning, then carnival and cookout fun all afternoon and evening. Cornhole, a game of ultimate frisbee, various carnival-like games, sand-castle building and scavenger hunts are among just a few activities you can enjoy. Sunday is your day to enjoy free-time, whatever you envision your "last day of summer" being. Bring your entire family or friend group for a fun end of summer celebration during this long weekend! More news about the offerings of this weekend will be announced soon, be on the lookout at ferrybeach.org/labor-day-weekend! We're also looking for a coordinator for Labor Day, if you are interested please email Brian, at ferrybeach@ferrybeach.org.

Labor Day Weekend | Aug. 29-Sept. 1, 2025



A Little Science and a Whole Lot of Flavor

Many learned how to make awesome tasting sourdough bread from all natural ingredients during our February bread making class. A weekend of fun and a whole lot of deliciousness was felt all around! As many will advocate, nothing compares to the bread you make yourself, filled with all the love and passion you pour into it. Fresh, flavorful, nutritious, a homemade sourdough bread loaf right out of oven will melt in your mouth and fill the air with an incredible aroma. The bread making process may even be therapeutic for some. Read what others had to say about this experience below. If you missed out, we hope to offer more sourdough bread making classes soon!



"Thank you for your wonderful workshop and for giving us the great paraphernalia so we had everything on hand. I hope there will be more wonderful classes in the future." -Sigrid

"Thank you for showing how science, intuition and creativity come together through bread! I am blown away how well this came out; the crumb is that chewy texture that I crave, and the crust, while dark, is like crunchy caramel. My dough was so shaggy and looked so dry. I can now appreciate how encouraging you were for us to trust the process." -Yvonne

"I decided to make two loaves from the dough. They came out great and are so delicious! Thanks so much for the great class. It was so informative and I feel more confident in my sourdough baking skills!!" - Terry

UPCOMING EVENTS



Brunch by the Beach
Sundays until mid-May (10am-1pm)

-Brunch -Live Music -Beach Time



Line Dancing
Dates: 3/30, 4/27, 5/4 & 5/11 (12:30-2)

-Dancing fun for all



Easter Brunch
Sunday, April 20 (10am-1pm)

-Easter Brunch (limited seatings)



Community Dinners
Wednesday, April 23 (5:30-7:30pm)
Topic: Ecology/protecting Earth with ecologist Lydia Gibb
Thursday, May 22 (5:30-7:30pm)

Topic: Music, story-telling & songs of hope with talented musician Reggie Harris



Mother's Day Brunch
Sunday, May 11 (10am-1pm)

-Special Brunch (limited seatings)

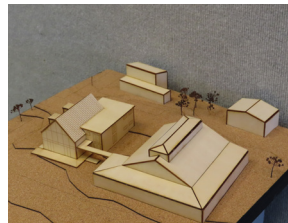
ferrybeach.org/2025

Dreaming of the Future

Every year UMaine architecture students complete a community design project. Excitingly, this year Ferry Beach was part of that project. Over the course of the last few weeks, students used their creativity to design a building in place of Gardiner. A wide variety



of design options were presented, with multi-purpose spaces that could be used for an art space, dance studio or meeting



rooms. This was an amazing opportunity to visualize what could be offered in the future at Ferry Beach. The Portland Press Herald wrote an article about this collaboration, to read more about it click [here](#).



Keep that Ferry Beach Feeling!

By: Monique Chaplin, David D'Antonio, Mary McCartney, Mike Rie & Rachael Stark

In 2024, we at First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington, MA were deeply disappointed to be unable to schedule our annual Ferry Beach retreat. We've enjoyed weekend gatherings at Ferry Beach for years (COVID-times excepted) and were heartbroken when we were not able to coordinate our congregation's schedule with Ferry Beach's.

Our weekend retreat has always been beloved for its low-key, easy-going ambiance — lots of time relaxing, interspersed with plenty of attendee-organized events and impromptu activities throughout the weekend. Among annual favorites: yoga spontaneous jam sessions, rock painting, kids vs. adults soccer, talent show held in the Gayla Theater, off-site trips to Goodwill (costumes for the talent show!), frisbee golf, and nature hikes. To say nothing of hours spent chatting, reading, rocking, puzzling, and playing board games on the DeWolfe porch. Having the chance to unwind, be together, make new friends, and nurture long-standing connections is invaluable. All this and not having to cook or do dishes for a whole weekend!

Rather than let 2024 pass without gathering, the First Parish Ferry Beach Retreat Planning Committee jumped into action and planned an "UnFerry Beach Retreat Day" to try to capture that wonderful Ferry Beach feeling but back home in Arlington. For a full Saturday in September, we took over our parish meetinghouse and sanctuary. We planned events (rock painting, board games, poetry-writing, the UnFerry Beach Olympics!) and outings (local historical sites and small museums), and catered both lunch and dinner. Folks arrived in droves, excited to share the day together. And just like at the "real" Ferry Beach, the hang-out-and-relax vibes took hold and people made the day their own!

Over 80 people spent the day together, eating amazing local catered food, playing games, jamming, doing art and just hanging out in rocking chairs in our courtyard, catching up, shooting the breeze, and generally enjoying one another's company. The day was capped off by a talent show (just like at the Real Ferry Beach!), featuring poems written during the day, songs practiced in the courtyard, and a wonderful children's play, complete with painted sets and props.

Nothing compares to the "get away from it all" feeling of being at Ferry Beach, but having a community-building, fun-for-all event that captured the feeling of being together in Maine was a wonderful compensation. And we were thrilled to learn that folks who had never been to Ferry Beach in the past are excited to join us when we return to Saco in the fall.

FERRY BEACH

Discovery

MARCH 2025



Ferry Beach Park Association
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**Register for Summer
Today!**

Now is the time to register while space in
summer programming remains!



Which program week will you join us for?

fbch.me/register