

A night sky filled with stars, with a particularly bright star at the top center emitting a long, vertical beam of light. Below the sky, a desert landscape with rolling hills is visible. In the center of the landscape, a glowing cross is visible, which is the source of the beam of light shining up into the sky.

THE HOPE

*of the world*

*We Gather for Worship*

**Prelude & Entrance of Christ's Light  
Celebrations**

**\*Call to Worship:**

L: With Hope, we have waited for the birth of the Christ-child;

**P: We wait for Christ to be born in us today.**

L: With Peace, we pray for the world, we pray for our communities;

**P: The Prince of Peace reigns in our hearts.**

L: With Joy, we expectantly prepare for the Good News of the Messiah;

**P: Joyfully we celebrate that Christ is coming again.**

L: With Love, we give selflessly, knowing God has given us the most wonderful gift;

**P: God's love is in us, through the gift of Jesus the Christ.**

L: In this time of worship,

**ALL: May Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love shine forth from us to the world,  
through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** "O Come, All Ye Faithful," vv. 1,3,6

UMH #254

**A Time for Celebrating our Teachers and Helpers**

**Lighting the Advent Wreath – *Marilyn Stebbins and Kaya Sarosiek***

**Prayer (unison):**

**Thank you, God, for the love and joy you bring us in promises fulfilled. Thank you for the love you give us in Jesus! In a world of too much darkness, he binds up our broken hearts, releases us from all that holds us captive, and reigns in our lives and in our world! In his name we pray. Amen.**

**Sung Response:** "Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

UMH #204

**Ministry of Music**

*We Proclaim the Word*

**Reading the Word:** Luke 1:39-45

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

**Message:** "The Friendly Beasts Pageant"  
[see insert for program details]

Our Children

*We Respond to God's Word*

**\*Hymn:** "Love Came Down at Christmas"

UMH #242

**Concerns and Joys**

**Silent Prayer and Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer** (unison):

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not in temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings**

**\*Doxology:** (*Please join in singing the following*) (v. 3)

UMH #87

*This gift we now bring, this present, this token, These words can convey it, the joy of this day! When grateful we come, remembering rejoicing, This song we now offer in honor and praise!*

**\*Prayer of Dedication** (unison):

**Holy One, this Advent season we wait with love, and we give with love. Love for you, our God; love for your beautiful people. Receive these generous offerings, and use them for your works of love in our world. Amen.**

*We Go Forth to Serve*

**Actions of Hope ornaments**

[as we celebrate the gift of love we dedicate these acts of hope this past week – please bring your ornaments up and decorate the Christmas tree]

**\*Hymn:** "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

UMH #251

**\*Choral Benediction:** (*Congregation encircles the Sanctuary*)

**May the Lord, gracious God bless and keep you forever. Grant your peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor. Lift up your eyes and seek His face, and His grace forever. May the Lord, mighty God bless and keep you forever.**

**\*Pastor's Charge**

**Postlude**

\*Please stand as you are comfortable

Large print bulletins are available from the greeters



## **Welcome!**

Whether you are joining us for worship for the first time or after many years of attending here at First UMC, we want you to know that you are welcome!

We are an inclusive community that invites everyone to be part of our church fellowship. Thank you for being here, and we hope that you have had a meaningful experience of worshipping our God so you leave this place feeling that you have been blessed to be a blessing. Please join us again!

Rev. Deb Hanson



Pastor - Rev. Dr. Debra J. Hanson

Pastor's Assistant - David Richards

Liturgist - Kevin Fickenscher

Lay Leader - Susan Sarosiek

Director of Music - Bevan Bloemendaal

Acolyte - Kaya Sarosiek

Greeters - Anne & Mike Coffey, Marilyn Stebbins

Ushers - Ken & Jenya Westbrook, Mike & Anne Coffey

Sunday School - Pageant

Sound Tech - Sue Sarosiek

Worship Service Tech - David Richards

Photographer - Dave Atkinson

# **F.Y.I.**

Things worth knowing

**TODAY is the last day for you to make your donation to the BE THE HOPE campaign in Honor or Memory of a loved one.**

**DUE 12/31 - Pledge donations for year end tax purposes**

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - is at 7 pm on 12/24 bring the entire family**

**CHRISTMAS EVE COFFEE HOUR - please bring your favorite dessert for the fellowship post the service**



# Prayer for Healing



**Barbara & Jim Slater ~ Cynthia Drake ~ Jan Cansdale ~ Jim Pisani's Dad**

**Pauline Boynton ~ Barbara Millar ~ Clark Cole ~ Irene Derosier**

**Seraphim Afflick ~ Barbara Clement ~ Malia Broe ~ Trudy Parkhurst ~ Gerry Royer**

**Joette MacKenzie ~ Kim Hishop ~ Rev. Sue Ellery ~ Rev. Bill Gardei ~ Marion Collishaw**

**Sue Goodhue ~ Hunter Pinkley ~ Sylvia Bartlett ~ Brian Thompson**

**All those who find it challenging during the Holidays ~ Our church family**

**Altar flowers this week are in honor of  
John T. "Papa" O'Connell  
from the Langs Family**



**The 2019 flower dedication chart is posted in the narthex**

**F.Y.I.**

Things worth knowing

**DUE 12/31 - Pledge donations for year end tax purposes**

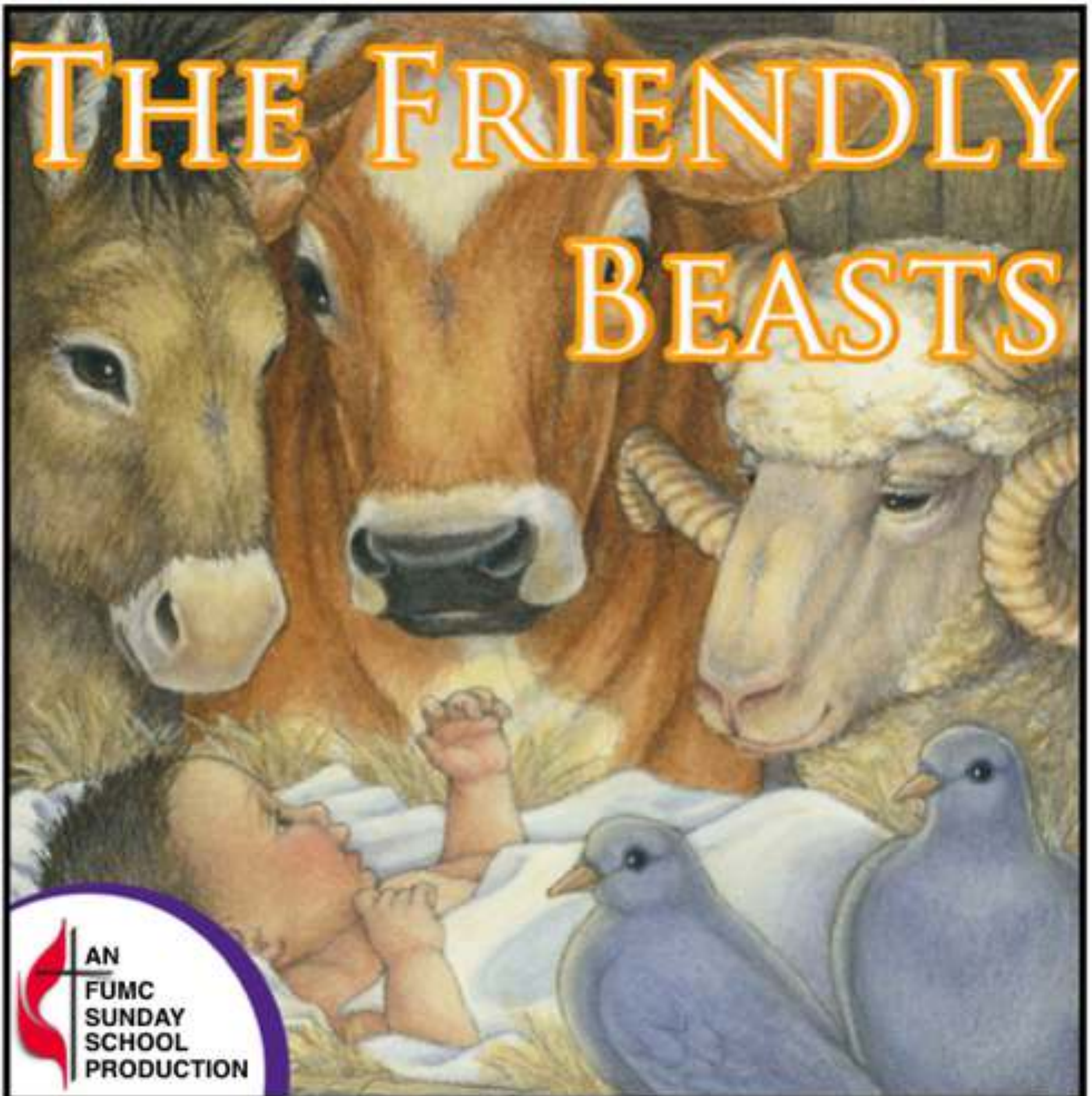
**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - is at 7 pm on 12/24 bring the  
entire family**

# ACTS OF HOPE IDEA CALENDAR - Dec. 2018

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
					<b>1</b> Give someone a compliment	<b>2</b> Get in touch with an old friend or relative
<b>3</b> Donate a Christmas present to a charity	<b>4</b> Tell a joke to make someone smile	<b>5</b> Do something kind for yourself	<b>6</b> Hide a happy note for someone to find	<b>7</b> Tape some money to a vending machine with a note saying enjoy	<b>8</b> Smile and say hello to a stranger	<b>9</b> Bring someone to church
<b>10</b> Let a car in front of you in traffic	<b>11</b> Write or send a thank you note to someone for no reason	<b>12</b> Leave extra tip for someone who serves you	<b>13</b> Tell someone you love them	<b>14</b> Pay for someone's coffee	<b>15</b> Offer to help someone who needs help	<b>16</b> Feed the birds
<b>17</b> Give a treat to your postal worker	<b>18</b> Give or send flowers to someone	<b>19</b> Pay for someone's lunch	<b>20</b> Donate food for the food pantry	<b>21</b> Practice patience	<b>22</b> Visit someone who is unable to get out	<b>23</b> Open the door for someone
<b>24</b> Hug someone	<b>25</b> Think only positive thoughts all day long	<b>26</b> Donate unneeded clothes/jackets to someone	<b>27</b> Encourage someone	<b>28</b> Send a care package to one of our students	<b>29</b> Let someone in front of you in the check out line	<b>30</b> Forgive mistakes
<b>31</b> Respect others... always						



# PLAYBILL



AN  
FUMC  
SUNDAY  
SCHOOL  
PRODUCTION



# **And the friendly beasts around him stood**

**Jesus, our brother, strong and good, was humbly born, in a stable rude, and the friendly beasts around him stood, Jesus, our brother, strong and good.**

**“I,” said the donkey, shaggy and brown, “I carried his mother uphill and down, I carried his mother to Bethlehem town; I,” said the donkey, shaggy and brown.**

**“I,” said the cow, all white and red, “I gave him my manger for his bed, I gave him hay to pillow his head; I,” said the cow, all white and red.**

**“I,” said the dove, from the rafters high, “I cooed him to sleep that he should not cry, we cooed him to sleep, my mate and I; I,” said the dove, from the rafters high.**

**“I,” said the sheep, with curly horn, “I gave him my wool for his blanket warm, he wore my coat on Christmas morn; I,” said the sheep with curly horn.**

**“I,” said the dog, brown, black and white, “I guarded the family all through the night. I kept them safe ‘til the morning light.” “I,” said the dog, brown, black and white.**

**“I,” said the cat, so soft and gray. “I warmed the Babe in the chilly day, for when I curl up it’s how I pray.” “I,” said the cat, so soft and gray.**

**“I,” said the camel all yellow and black over the desert upon my back. I brought him a gift in the wise men’s pack. “I,” said the camel all yellow and black.**

**Thus all the beasts, by some good spell, in the stable dark were glad to tell of the gifts they gave Emmanuel, the gifts they gave Emmanuel.**

**Jesus, our brother, strong and good, was humbly born, in a stable rude, and the friendly beasts around him stood, Jesus, our brother, strong and good.**

**Original score written by Robert Davis [1881-1950]**

**\*written by Garth Brooks for the camel**





**FUMC SUNDAY SCHOOL  
PRODUCTIONS PRESENT:**

**THE FRIENDLY BEASTS**

**CAST**

MARY.....GABRIELLA  
JOSEPH.....GRADY  
SHEPHERD.....DOMINIC  
ANGEL.....ISABELLA  
MAGI.....GEORGIA  
DONKEY.....ELSIE  
COW.....LIAM  
SHEEP.....LILLY  
DOVE.....MARIA  
CAMEL.....GRAYSON  
CHICKEN.....WILL  
INNKEEPERS DAUGHTER.....NORA  
NARRATORS.....ALEXA, SOPHIE & GRACEN

**STAGE CREW [TEACHERS & HELPERS]**

**EVELYN, AIRIAL, KAYA, KELLIE**

**DAVE A, DAVE R, SUE, ROSIE, PRISCILLA**

# ADVENT 2018 BE THE HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS



THE CAST AND CREW OF "THE FRIENDLY BEASTS" BELIEVE THAT  
**TOGETHER WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD**  
THROUGH ACTS OF KINDNESS AND HAVE PARTNERED WITH  
THE HEIFER PROJECT TO HELP MAKE THAT A REALITY.  
PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING IN YOUR OFFERING TODAY.

## HEIFER PROJECT INFO

THEORY OF CHANGE  
FOR MORE THAN

**70**

**YEARS**

we have partnered  
with and helped  
communities.

WHAT THEY DO  
WE WORK IN

**25**

**COUNTRIES**

to attain sustainable  
livelihoods through  
community-owned  
interventions.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
WE'VE PROVIDED  
MORE THAN

**32**

**MILLION**

families the tools  
and training to lift  
themselves from  
poverty.

WORK TO DO  
NEARLY

**1**

**BILLION**

people around the  
world still live in  
poverty.



**FUMC PORTSMOUTH  
A RECONCILING CONGREGATION**

**We, the congregation of the First United Methodist Church of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, are dedicated to worshiping, learning, and serving with all people as we embrace Jesus Christ's message of love and acceptance. As a United Methodist Church we stand fully behind the statement "Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors" We celebrate our diversity and invite all persons regardless of age, gender, racial or ethnic background, sexual orientation, marital or socioeconomic status, nationality, physical or mental ability into full membership and participation in the life of this community of faith.**



**New England Annual Conference  
Tri-State District**

The Rev. Sudarshana Devadhar, Bishop

The Rev. James McPhee, District Superintendent

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

129 Miller Avenue - Portsmouth, NH 03801

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Pastor office hours - Tuesday and Thursday 9 am - 12 pm  
[call to ensure availability]

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Debra J. Hanson

Check out our website at [www.fumcportsmouth.com](http://www.fumcportsmouth.com)

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