

The background of the entire image is a deep blue night sky filled with numerous small, white stars. At the top center, a large, bright starburst with multiple rays of light emanates from a central point. In the lower portion of the image, the dark silhouette of a desert landscape is visible, featuring rolling sand dunes. On the horizon line, two camels with riders are silhouetted against the sky, appearing to travel across the dunes.

The
Thrill
of
HOPE

December 30, 2018
FUMC Portsmouth, NH

We Gather for Worship

Prelude & Lighting it Up

Celebrations

***Call to Worship Psalm 148 NLT version:**

L: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him from the skies!

P: Praise him, all his angels! Praise him, all the armies of heaven!

L: Praise him, sun and moon! Praise him, all you twinkling stars

P: Praise him, skies above! Praise him, vapors high above the clouds!

L: Let every created thing give praise to the Lord, for he issued his command, and they came into being.

P: He set them in place forever and ever. His decree will never be revoked.

L: Praise the Lord from the earth, you creatures of the ocean depths

P: Fire and hail, snow and clouds, wind and weather that obey him

L: Mountains and all hills fruit trees and all cedars

P: Wild animals and all livestock, small scurrying animals and birds

L: Kings of the earth and all people, rulers and judges of the earth

P: Young men and young women, old men and children

L: Let them all praise the name of the Lord. For his name is very great; his glory towers over the earth and heaven!

P: He has made his people strong, honoring his faithful ones the people of Israel who are close to him.

A: Praise the Lord!

***Hymn: "There's a Song"**

TFWS #2141

A Time for the Child in All of Us [special surprise]

Prayer [unison and thanks to Hallmark]

Let Christmas come into our world and bring warmth and cheer. Bring us Faith in place of doubt and Strength in place of fear. Bring us Hope and bring us Love to guide our hearts forever...Let Christmas come into our world and bring us all together.

Sung Response: Alleluia vs 1

UMH #186

Ministry of Music - Hymn Sing

Concerns and Joys

Silent Prayer and Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (unison):

Cheerfully, Freely re-Gifting of our Tithes and Offerings

***Doxology:** [*please join in singing My Tribute*]

UMH #99

***Offertory Prayer** (unison thanks to UM communications):

Magnificent and Merciful God, we come to worship you this morning at the close of one year and threshold of a new one. Our faithfulness in the year behind has not been all that we wished it to be and we know the road ahead of us holds many new challenges and opportunities to be the followers you desire. May the giving of our gifts this morning help firm our resolve to be the disciples of Christ that you desire for the world, full of compassion, mercy and loving kindness. May we, like your son Jesus, be found dwelling in your presence and love when others come looking for us. In Christ steadfast love we pray. Amen.

We Proclaim the Word

Reading the Word: Luke 2: 41-52 NLT

Message: "Misfits"

David Richards

We Go Forth to Serve

***Hymn:** "What Child Is This"

UMH #219

***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.

***Invitation to Serve**

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



Sunday Worship Team

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Debra J. Hanson

Pastor's Assistant - David Richards

Liturgist - John VanReenen

Lay Leader - Susan Sarosiek

Director of Music - Bevan Bloemendaal

Acolyte - Kaya Sarosiek

Greeters - Cathy VanReenen, Marilyn Stebbins

Ushers - Ken & Jenya Westbrook & Ken Young

Sunday School - Kaya Sarosiek & Aerial Silanpaa

Sound Tech - Sue Sarosiek

Worship Service Tech - Steve Scott

Photographer - Dave Atkinson

F.Y.I.

Things worth knowing

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

Please join us after the service for coffee hour...it's a great time to catch up with each other.

Thank you to Dave Richards in leading us in worship today!

Next Sunday is Epiphany Sunday we look forward to seeing you.



Prayer for Healing

**Barbara & Jim Slater ~ Pauline Boynton ~ Barbara Millar ~ Clark Cole
Irene Derosier ~ Seraphim Afflick ~ Barbara Clement ~ Malia Broe
Trudy Parkhurst ~ Joette MacKenzie ~ Kim Hishop
Rev. Sue Ellery ~ Rev. Bill Gardei ~ Marion Collishaw ~ Sue Goodhue
Hunter Pinkley ~ Sylvia Bartlett ~ BrianThompson
Jim Pisani's Dad ~ Our church family
All those who find it challenging during the Holidays**



**Altar flowers this week are in honor and
celebration of our teachers...thank you!**

The 2019 flower dedication chart is posted in the narthex

ACTS OF HOPE IDEA CALENDAR - Dec. 2018

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



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

Office Phone 603-436-6038 office@fumcportsmouth.net

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

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