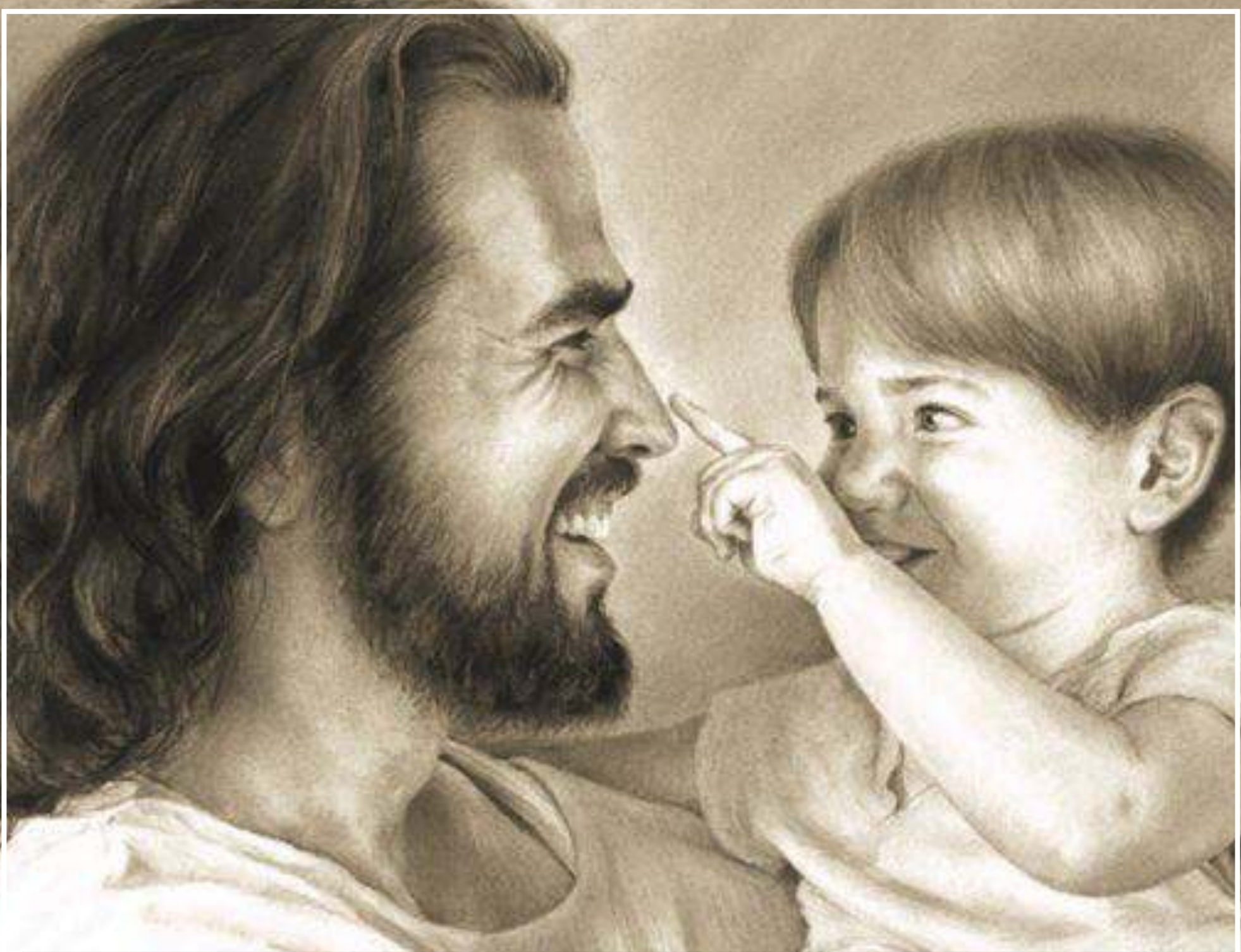




October 2021
FUMC BEACON





Dear Friends,
I share with you the prayer I wrote for the Annual Conference Daily posting on September 29.

Based on Mark 10:13-16

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Holy and loving God,

We give you thanks for welcoming everyone into your family, and all the children of the world are blessed with the gift of your love. Open our eyes to see our brothers and sisters in Christ no matter where they live or their ethnicity. Open our hearts to welcome the child in all of us. Open our minds to learn, grow, and be all you envision us to be and to become. We thank you for Jesus, who took the children in his arms, laid his hand upon them, and blessed them. Remind us that we, too, are your precious children who are held and blessed by you and empower us to do the same with others. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Grace and peace, Rev. Deb

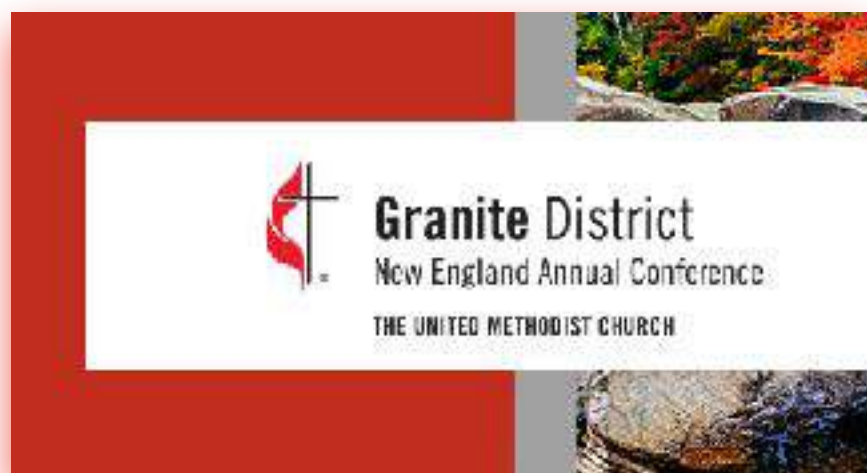


WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

The official day of World Communion Sunday is October 3, 2021. According to the 1972 Book of Discipline paragraph 163.b there shall be a World Communion (formerly Fellowship of Suffering and Service) offering to support the division of chaplains and ministries, Crusade Scholarships and the scholarship fund for minority groups.

Around the globe, countless gifted and qualified people face financial obstacles that hinder them from preparing for the vocation God has given them, especially youth and young adults. For ethnic students who will be the first generation in their families to attend college, or for those people of color who haven't historically had access to resources that make higher education possible, the road toward education has often been unwieldy.

What would it look like if the church today imitated Jesus' affirmation of the full dignity and God-given potential of all women and men—especially those who've historically been assigned to the world's margins? On World Communion Sunday your giving helps to provide scholarships for national and international graduate students whom God has gifted to learn and to serve. Please consider giving something toward these scholarships.



BISHOPS DAY ON GRANITE STATE DISTRICT

WHEN: Thursday, October 7, 2021 at 6-8 PM

WHERE: First United Methodist Church, 18 Wesley Way, Gilford, NH 03249

Please reserve the evening of Thursday, October 7th for Bishop Devadhar's annual visit. All are invited to attend (clergy are required). This event will be live-streamed for those who are unable to attend in-person.

Tentative Schedule:

5:00 - 6:00 pm - Bishop meets with Superintendency Committee

6:00 - 6:30 pm - Registration

6:30 - 8:00 pm - Worship / Time with the Bishop

More information will be shared as it becomes available.



SPRC MEETING

The SPRC will meet with our DS Rev. Taesung Kang via Zoom on Sunday, October 10 at 3:00 pm for their annual time with the District Superintendent.

CHURCH COUNCIL TRUSTEE/FINANCE

Combined meeting - Tuesday, October 19 at 7 pm in person at church and also with a Zoom option.

STEWARDSHIP vs OWNERSHIP FUND RAISER UPDATE



First UMC family...what an amazing example you have set in living a modern day version of the Matthew 25:14-30 talents parable. Your creative thinking, enthusiasm, passion in getting things accomplished, collaborative spirit and your generosity has made this first time event a HUGE success. The results accomplished are OVER THREE TIMES the initial investment in you...God's humble servants currently totaling \$4,148 with some burlap bags still to come in.

Thank you for pulling together while we were actually separated and not having in-person services and doing something new, crazy and fun getting our message of making a difference and a Church at work out into the community.

The Church Council had previously voted that the proceeds from the fundraiser would be placed into the church's General Fund.

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARDS



STEWARDSHIP vs OWNERSHIP
FUNDRAISER

I/We have been blessed to be stewards of what God has provided us.
I/We also believe in the mission and purpose of our church in making a difference within our community and around the world. And in knowing that I/We understand the value of stewardship of our time, talent and treasure that has been given to us by God not to own but to be stewards. After prayerful consideration I/We feel called to give \$_____ per _____ week _____ month _____ year (check appropriate description) to support God's work through our church.

Name _____
Address _____
Email _____
Signature _____
Date _____

All of our time and money belong to God. We shouldn't think that He simply wants a small portion of our time on Sunday or a small percentage of our money. Rather, we are to prayerfully consider how we spend each minute and every dollar that He entrusts to us. May we be good stewards of our time and money for the glory of God!

3 WAYS OF GIVING



Point your phone camera on QR code and it will guide you through the process



Go to our website @ lunqportsmouth.com and click on the GIVE button



Write a check and send to:
First United Methodist Church
129 Miller Avenue
Portsmouth, NH 03801

If you haven't already please remember to bring in your 2021/2022 pledge cards. Thank you for supporting the continued ministry of First UMC as we reach out into the community and the world through our outreach and ministries.



PIE ANGELS

The Pie Angels are making it happen for you...let Sue Richards know how many pies you want. Cherry, Pumpkin, Blueberry and Apple – \$12 each YUMMY!

WE COULD STILL USE SOME VOLUNTEERS to work in the patch and to help bake pies... please contact Sue Richards for details @ 603-749-4169. The experience and fun is unbelievably memorable and meaningful.



FIRST UMC NEW WEBSITE

The website is open 24/7 with new content from our global creators being updated weekly...please be sure to visit on a regular basis...it is a wonderful way to stay & get connected to a broader community and try and learn new things.

Have an idea or suggestion for possible content please reach out to Bevan Bloemendaal.









CONGRATULATIONS LETTERS FROM THE BISHOP, BETSY WEBBER, REV. DR. BOB JON AND ED CLAUS ON OUR REOPENING EVENT

Dear First UMC,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your gracious invitation to join First UMC for your re-opening. It is good to hear that you have not been idle and will be celebrating being together as a church family again. Unfortunately, I am already scheduled to preach elsewhere that day, so I am unable to join you. My prayers are with all of you for a joyous reunion. Thanks again for thinking of me.

In Christ's love,
Bishop Devadhar

Hello First UMC, thank you for the letter announcing the celebration on September 12. How exciting for First Church to get that fresh new look. Unfortunately, I can't promise to be present. Praying for a wonderful, blessed event and a grand 'rising up' of FUMC.

Thanks for the invite,
Betsy Webber

Dear FUMC Family,

Thank you for the invitation to your church on September 12 and to be part of the celebration. Unfortunately, our church also has an important celebration with our Sunday school starting that day. I wish that all is well with you and the people at First UMC of Portsmouth.

Blessings,
Rev. Dr. Bob Jon

Dear First UMC,

"Through many dangers, toils, and snares, We have already come. 'Tis grace has brought us safe so far, and grace now leads us home". [Amazing Grace, slightly adapted.

Grace is all about new beginnings. Grace is all about homecoming. We celebrate God's grace today as a faith community that through the years has lived by and shared this grace, not only in this building but far beyond its open doors. We celebrate today the strength and hope we have received coming together in this sanctuary through the years and those years yet to be. To paraphrase Dag Hammarskjold: "For all that has been, Thanks! For all that is to come, Yes! Congratulations to the First UMC of Portsmouth - Pastor Rev. Deb Hanson, It's people, It's friends, and it's communion of saints that have brought us to this time and place. Congratulations on a job well done and dream realized. Grace and peace,
Ed Claus

CAN'T MAKE IT ON SUNDAY MORNING? FIND US ON

facebook

LIVE

Sundays @ 10am



BEING CALLED AND CHOSEN TO LEAD?



SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS OCTOBER 3RD!

Sunday school begins on October 3rd and in a BRAND NEW AND FUN Sunday school room. The children will start in worship and kick off our service with a denomination plea for creating disaster relief kits. After the children's sermon its off to the new classroom with their teacher. Thank you to the following people who will be teaching: Rosie Buswell, Dave Atkinson, Sue Richards, David Richards, and Kellie Langs. We have some helpers who will be joining them also. Anyone working with the children will need to have a background check, per our Safe Sanctuary policy. We look forward to a fun and learning-filled year!



MEMBERSHIP AT FIRST UMC

We haven't mentioned joining the church since the pandemic started, but now that we are headed toward reopening, we hope you might consider officially becoming members here. There are some who have actively been part of the church mission and ministry for a while, and the next step would be to make a formal commitment to being part of the congregation. For more information, please contact Rev. Deb.



I NEED PRAYER



Airial and the Sillanpaa Family

Officer Luke Gross Family

Evelyn New's Family

Dr. Kevin Fickenscher

Vicky & Emily

Terry Sessions

Chuck

Christine & her parents

Patti and family

Chase and Tanya Holmes

Those living with cancer and their families

Those in nursing and assisted living care

Our Church family

Michael

Sue

Gary Kouris

Juliann Smith

Joan Allen

Naomi

Erin Frane

Madeline

Charles Gilman

Josh Jones

Jenn

Gary

Joyce's Family

Rick Beebe

Phyllis Scott

Jessie Bennett

Harry Junkins

Marilyn & Gil

Donna Smith

Sophia

Bobbie Noble

Dan Strange

Danny Westbrook

Delores [Marilyn's sister]

Marion Collishaw

Mark & Sarah



IN REMEMBRANCE



MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR BARBARA MILLAR

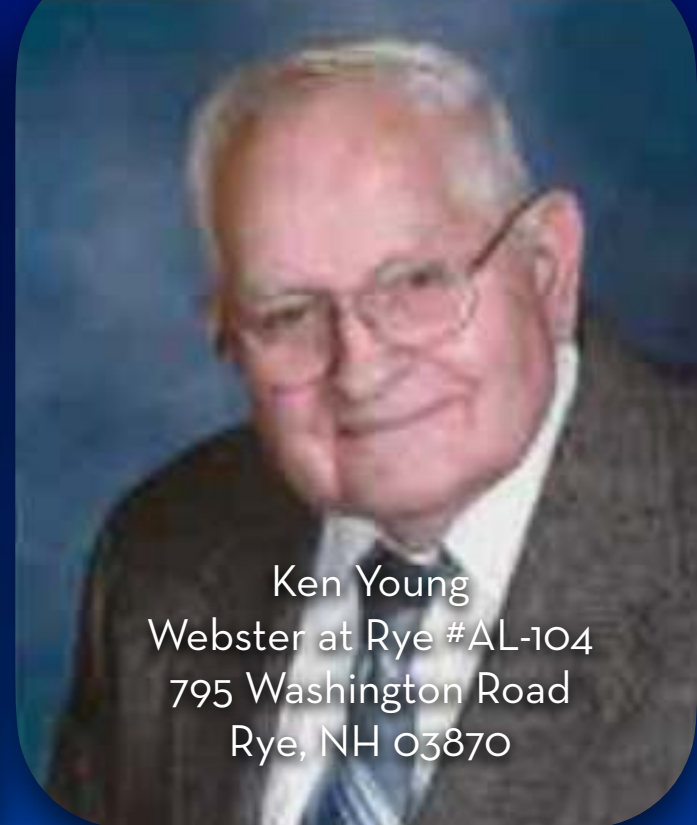
A memorial service for Barbara will be held on Saturday, October 2nd at 2pm. Barbara was a long-time member and supporter of First UMC, and passed away at the age of 103 on April 10, 2020. She was a remarkable woman who taught many, many children, and, even at 103 she remembered names, dates, and continued to teach all who visited her. All are invited and masks will be required along with any/all CDC regulations at that time.



Barbara Clement
Riverside Rest Home
276 County Farm Rd #304
Dover, NH 03820



Marion Collishaw
50 Old Colony Way
Scituate MA 02066



Ken Young
Webster at Rye #AL-104
795 Washington Road
Rye, NH 03870

OUR FAMILY

WHO CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH

A card can make a big difference in someone's day!



Barbara Glidden
188 Jones Ave #101
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Gil Stebbins
9 Lewis Road, #104-2
Kittery, ME. 03904



Barbara Sylvester
346 Pleasant St. #254
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Her address is:
Barbara Clement
Riverside Rest Home
276 County Farm Rd #304
Dover, NH 03820

Seeking Donations

for Riverside Rest Home's

Fall Clothing Market

Children who are just moved the corner...

We are looking for semi-formal wear in colors and sizes, shirts, the winter coats are a possibility, complete perfect shoes and materials items. The "Top Up technique" has been used and that is, some of your new clothes may be used.

We are also specifically looking for RED and GREEN garments.

For a photo shoot in November, Holiday song needed as well.

Please call Maria Ayer @ 603-516-4170 or 603-608-8540 to set up drop off.

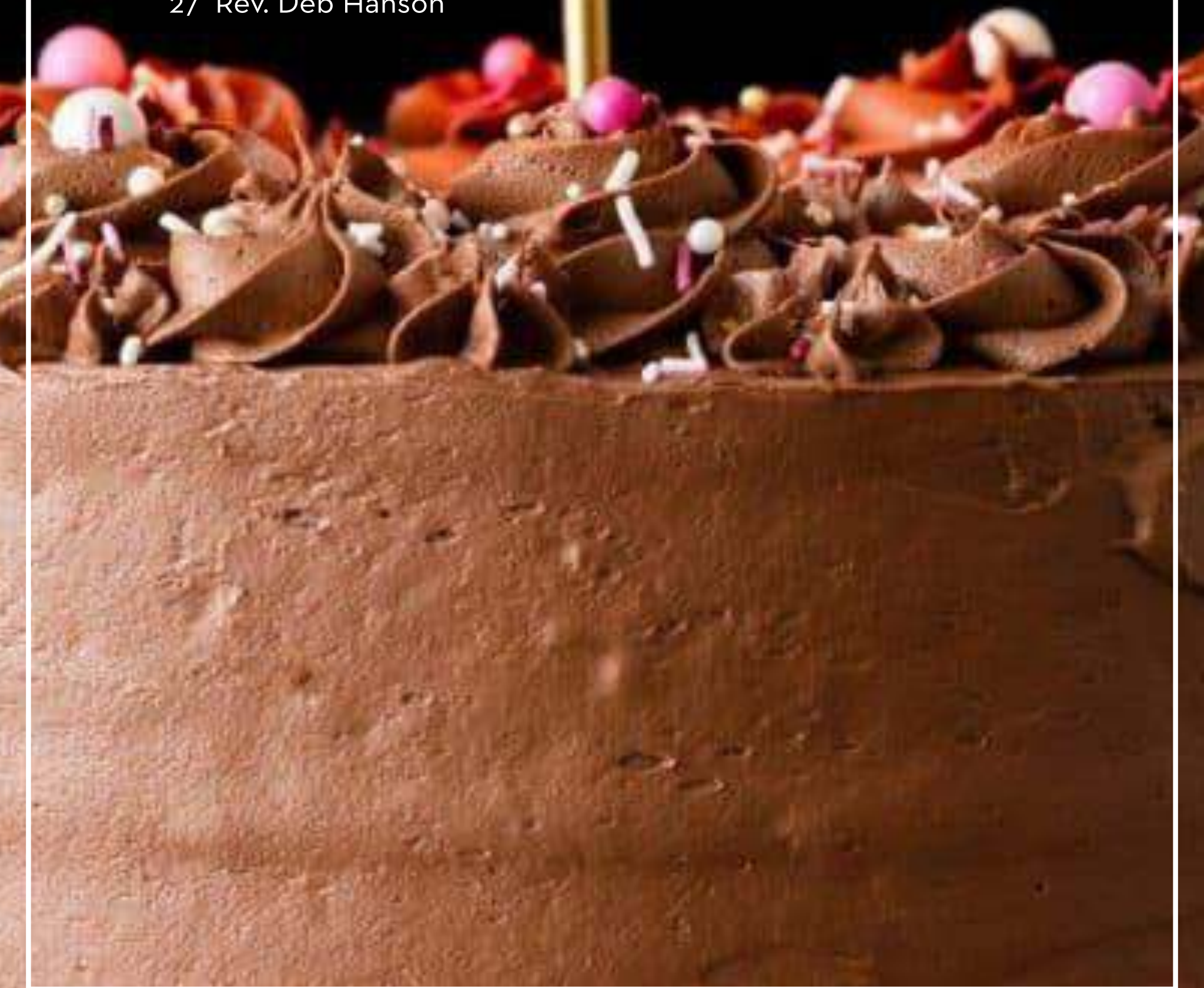
Call Maria Ayer @ 603-5164170 or
603-608-8540 to set up drop off...thanks!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Rosie Buswell
5 Dennis Veilleux
8 Karen Sarosiek
~Adoption Day
9 Barbara Clement
10 James Slater
10 Dave Atkinson
12 Cynthia Drake
16 Sue Lange
18 Carol Bovee
21 Barbara Glidden
27 Rev. Deb Hanson

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

7 Al & Jan Cansdale
8 Steve & Karin Scott



4 WAYS TO GIVE, DONATE & TITHE



BY MAIL
First UMC
129 Miller Ave
Portsmouth, NH
03801



ONLINE
fumcportsmouth.com
"GIVE" button



IN PERSON
First UMC
129 Miller Ave
Portsmouth, NH
03801
Wednesday's 10-2pm



QR code
Point your phone camera
on the QR code to the
left to view the online
PayPal donation page



FUMC PORTSMOUTH A RECONCILING CONGREGATION

We, the congregation of the First United Methodist Church of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, are dedicated in worshipping, 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.