



September 2021
FUMC BEACON



LOOK UP!

Not just as a reflection of how far we've come, but also as an act of HOPE for a brighter tomorrow. Join us as we re-open with a new and fresh look and outlook
September 12, 2021.

Dear Friends,

“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43:19 (ESV)

The Bible is full of scriptures that remind us that God is doing a “new thing.” God brings change for our good, and God will help us to move forward into the new thing, the new life, and new ways of serving.

Our transformation at First UMC is not only a new thing in our church building and facilities, but it is also a new thing helping us move forward to embrace digital ministry, expand our outreach and mission further into our community and world, and seek to grow in faith as we journey through life. All this has taken place, beginning with the work of the Visioning Committee, who diligently sought to discern God’s direction for our church, and then carrying out the actions to help move the vision into reality.

Thanks to the generosity of some of our faithful saints, we have updated and brought new freshness to our sanctuary, even as we continue to honor the integrity of this historical building. There is excitement about the ways we are reaching out through a new website, make connections with more and more community people, and ways in which we are staying in touch with each other through cards, phone calls, visits (when allowed), emails, Zoom gatherings, and so much more.

Although stewardship is a way of life, this month, we especially focus on how we share our time, talent, and treasure. We seek to help our vision continue to align with God’s vision for us and keep moving forward for Christ as we renew our commitments to share our time, talent, and treasure. Please pray for guidance as to where and how you will live out your stewardship.

I look forward to seeing you all in person soon!

Grace and peace, Rev. Deb

A photograph of a sunset over a mountain range. The sky is a deep orange, and the mountains are silhouetted against the light. The text "FOR I AM ABOUT TO DO SOMETHING NEW." is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font. "FOR I AM ABOUT TO DO" is in all caps and spaced out, while "SOMETHING NEW." is in a larger, bold, all-caps font with a slight shadow effect.

FOR I AM ABOUT TO DO
SOMETHING NEW.

A woman with blonde hair tied in a bun, wearing a brown jacket, is shown in profile from the chest up. She is looking upwards towards a bright, orange-hued sunset sky with scattered clouds. The entire image is framed by a thin red border.

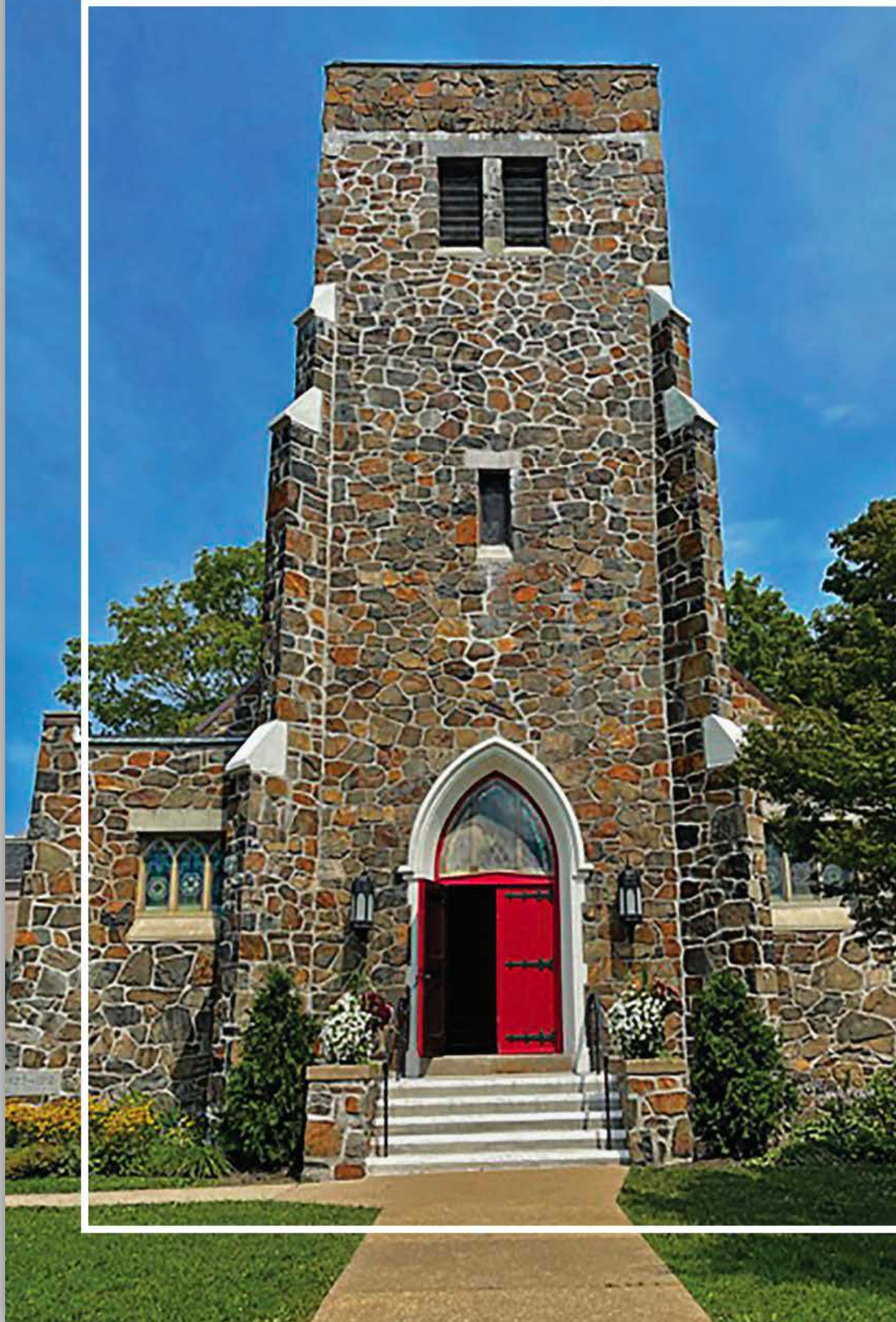
YOU ARE INVITED!

Dear Friend, Neighbor, Colleague, Collaborator, Peer and Partner we are grateful for your support as we have been remodeling the church and invite you to join us for the open house.

Our theme for our reopening is LOOK UP! Not just as a reflection on how far we've come, but also as an act of HOPE for a brighter tomorrow. We at First UMC are committed to rising up and doing better with a belief that the changes we are making today will make for a better tomorrow for us all.

While we may all be quite different we share the same goals of doing better and are filled with HOPE. Let's "look up" and celebrate what we've done and what we will do together in creating a foundation of stronger values within the community.

Come and join us for the celebration.




GRAND RE-OPENING EVENT

September 12, 2021 - 10am

First United Methodist Church
129 Miller Avenue
Portsmouth, NH


Come and see our remodeled iconic stone church – there will be tours, music, food, mini horses, face painting and an opportunity to mingle as a community.

Check out our new website @
fumcportsmouth.com



STEWARDSHIP ^{vs} OWNERSHIP

LIVING A MODERN DAY PARABLE



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 _____

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

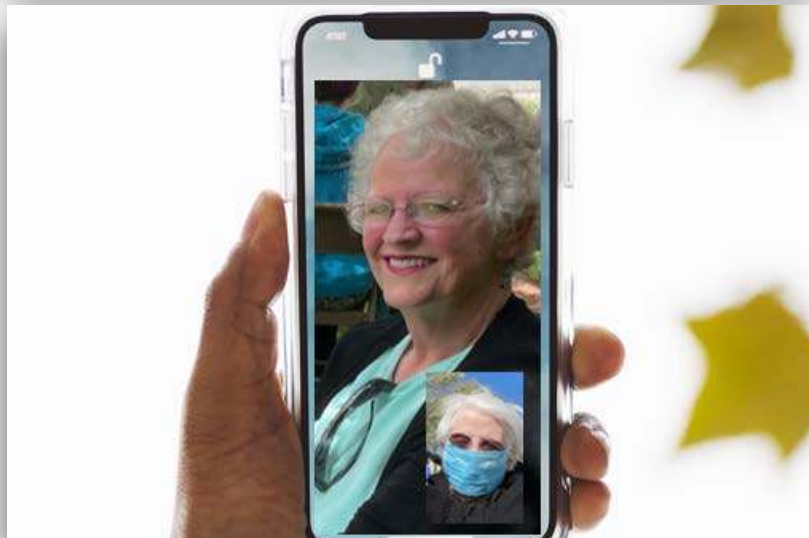
September 19th we will celebrate Stewardship Sunday and we would ask that you bring back your burlap bags with your invested funds from over the summer [don't worry if you don't have the burlap bag!] and your pledge card that you should have received in the mail. Let us know if you didn't receive one and if you have any questions.

THE CHURCH ON ZOOM



SUNDAY MORNING ZOOM CALL

Thank you to those who joined us on the Zoom gatherings Sunday mornings! We had many meaningful conversations and shared thoughts on a variety of scripture passages, as well as offered many prayers for a variety of people and situations. Since we will be in person starting this month, we will discontinue the Zoom gatherings; however, Rev. Deb offers the possibility of having them for anyone who would like a fellowship time during the week or once a month. Please contact her at pastorfirstumc@outlook.com if you are interested. The best time would be Thursday mornings at around 10 or 11 am.



FACE TIME

If you are going to visit someone that could use a quick hello and prayer please arrange with Rev. Deb and use your smartphone to FaceTime...it will make someone's day much brighter!



ARE YOU BEING CALLED?



SUNDAY SCHOOL HELPERS/TEACHERS

We've only heard from 3 people and need 2 more and 4 helpers to help with Sunday school! Please let Rev. Deb know if you are willing, called, and interested in teaching and/or helping one Sunday a month. We will be using a one-room Sunday school curriculum, so it will be a little different from the last few years. However, the lessons are easy to follow, require a little preparation, and will teach the children about what it means to follow Jesus. We will start Sunday school in October.



MEMBERSHIP AT FIRST UMC

There are some people who have attended worship and actively been part of the church mission and ministry for a while. The next step would be to make a formal covenant with the congregation. Please consider joining us officially! For more information, please contact Rev. Deb. For more information, please contact Rev. Deb.

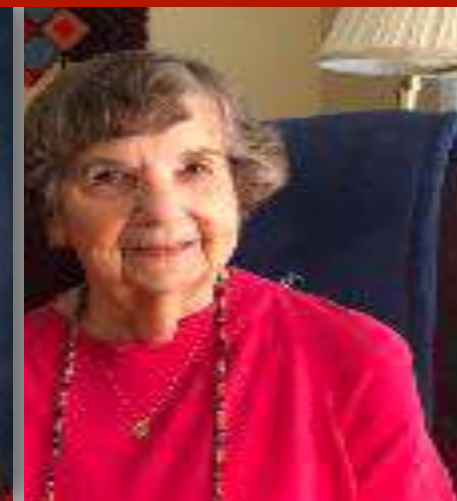


This month we recognize Anne and Mike Coffey, Steve Scott and Sue Sarosiek. There has been an enormous amount of moving stuff, organizing things, installations, cleaning etc getting the church ready to reopen the doors...lots of sweat and smiles. Thank you all for your passion for the church and volunteering to help get things done.

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

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

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



Marion Collishaw
50 Old Colony Way
Scituate MA 02066

Barbara Glidden
188 Jones Ave #101
Portsmouth, NH 03801

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

OUR FAMILY

WHO CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH

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

Juliann Smith
Joan Allen
Naomi
Erin Frane
Madeline
Charles Gilman
Josh Jones
Jenn
Gary
Joyce's Family

Harry Junkins
Marilyn & Gil
Donna Smith
Sophia
Bobbie Noble
Dan Strange
Danny Westbrook
Delores [Marilyn's sister]
Marion Collishaw
Mark & Sarah

Airial and the Sillanpaa Family
Vicky & Emily
Terry Sessions
Christine & her parents
Those in nursing and assisted living care
Our Church family

WE LIFT UP IN
PRAYER



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. Light refreshments will be served following the service. All are invited and masks will be required along with any/all CDC regulations at that time.



Bishop's Day on the Granite District



Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar

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 livestreamed for those who are unable to attend in-person.

WHEN

Thursday, October 7, 2021 at 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

WHERE

First United Methodist Church
18 Wesley Way
Gilford, NH 03249

Phone

603-225-3455

Email

grdistrict@neumc.org

Contact

Granite District Office

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.

September Birthdays

3 Nancy Chesser
6 Alverta Jentimane
7 PennySue Orr
10 Kenneth Young
13 Veronica Bennett
22 Walter Laux
24 James Batten
27 Kellie Langs
27 Janice Bakula
29 Dianne Crisp

September Anniversaries

6 Kellie & Steve Langs
14 David & Carol Bovee





THE CHURCH AT WORK

SPRC MEETING

Wednesday, September 29 at 6:30 pm via Zoom. 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/FINANCE TRUSTEES

Combined meeting - Tuesday, September 7 at 6 pm in person at church and also with a Zoom option

REV. DEB'S LONG WEEKEND

Rev. Deb will be taking a short break over the Labor Day week-end from Saturday, September 4 through Monday, September 6. She will still do the video for worship including communion ahead of time, but she will be not be available for those few days. Anyone who needs pastoral care, please contact Pastor Dawn DiManna who will be covering for her. Please call the church office for the phone number. Thanks!

A photograph of a field of pumpkins at sunset. The pumpkins are in the foreground and middle ground, with the sun low on the horizon in the background, creating a warm, golden glow. The pumpkins are of various sizes and are scattered across a grassy field.

PUMPKIN PATCH

Can you believe it's almost time to turn our lawn orange again? This event is about so much more than raising much-needed funds to keep our building open! It's a much-loved annual event, drawing lots of loyal customers, and is a fun opportunity for multi-generational interaction! Please help as much as you can. Thank God that we have an ever-growing number of community volunteers who make our Patch possible. You'll receive an email with the signup.com link for all opportunities to serve. Appropriate Covid protocols will be in effect to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Here's where help is needed:

- Sun., 9/12: Set-up (after the Church re-opening stuff is off the lawn and parking lot)
- Sat., 9/18 starting at 1 p.m.: 1st Unload (full truck)
- Sat., 9/18 through Sun., 10/31: Daily 2-3 hr. Booth Staff (1-2 people on weekdays; 2+ on Columbus Day and weekends)
- Sat., 10/16 starting at 1 p.m.: 2nd Unloading (full truck)
- Early November (TBD): Take-down

Other opportunities include:

- Pie-baking in the church kitchen on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9-noonish with on-the-job training!
- Donating homemade baked goodies and candies. People come looking for them daily!
- Donating your crafts (like knitted hats, stained-glass art, and cards).
- Tarping pumpkins at 6:30 p.m. when frost is expected, and/or untarpping the next day.
- Counting money at 6:30 p.m. (if a Booth Staffer can't stay to help).
- Putting rotten pumpkins into the trailer. (The most fun job of all)
- If you have time, I'll find something for you to do!
- If you aren't able to help, please pray for those who can, and for this to be our best Patch yet!

Contact me anytime! Text/Call: 603-749-4169; Email: mksrichards@comcast.net

Love and Hugs, Sue Richards, Pumpkin Patch Coordinator



Dear First UMC,

You might think that after my 16 years with Seacoast Family Promise I had seen it all, but yesterday was a first. It was a day that made me so proud of the work we all do, the trust and support that we are given by all of you, and the kindness and love you have all given for so long to our families.

Terri-Anne and her two boys Tavante and Amahri left Seacoast Family Promise for a new home and the beginning of their new life over eight years ago. Terri-Anne continued her education, has worked continually, and being a single mother two young boys, has been a coach for the boys' sports teams, and a very involved parent in the classroom.

Tavante, the older boy, has flourished into an amazing young man, played varsity basketball, and graduated from high school in May of this year.

As you know, Michael's daughter Aprylle graduated from high school this year and she was accepted to Plymouth State University.

Yesterday, Tavante and Aprylle had the chance to meet each other as they arrived in Plymouth. Two different young adults from two very different circumstances that have come through our program at two different times, find themselves together for the beginning of their college education in the same college.

This is yet another example of why SFP exists. Changing the future of the children is paramount. Allowing them to hope and dare to dream and helping them understand the value of education is such an important piece of our program.

My love and thanks to you all.

Pati Frew-Waters
Executive Director



I GOT BRIDGED -- 1st Annual 5K Walkathon

Our 1st Annual 5K Walkathon hosted by Freddy and his new non-profit organization, I Got Bridged, an organization that helps "bridge the gap" for people in need within the Seacoast community!

Visit: igotbridged.com

I Got Bridged supports the Seacoast neighbors in many ways: providing financial assistance, medical procedures, home and yard projects, lending a hand to someone who is alone and/or at a critical point in life.

OUR TEAM IS HERE TO WALK PEOPLE OVER THE BRIDGE TO THE OTHER SIDE replacing FEAR with HOPE.

The proceeds from the Walkathon will go towards the purchase of a 12-person van to shuttle those in need to the local food pantry. Volunteer drivers needed! Please register to walk with us on this Autumn day along the Portsmouth coast on Sunday, September 26th starting at 10:00 AM. Walkers may register for \$25. We will start and finish at Four Tree Island and will be providing some fun, live music, food and refreshments at the finish line! We'll also hear from our founder, Freddy Petrone, who will share his amazing journey in getting to the other side of his "Bridge" in life.

Are you in need or know someone that is in need of help? Please [Visit our Website, igotbridged.com](http://igotbridged.com) !

Thank you for participating in this unique journey. --
Freddy

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.

**SEE YOU
ON THE
12TH! @
10AM**