



Gratitude Pumpkin

What are you
grateful for?



November 2021
FUMC BEACON



Dear Friends,
Paul wrote: *I laid a foundation like a wise master builder according to God's grace that was given to me, but someone else is building on top of it. Each person needs to pay attention to the way they build on it. No one can lay any other foundation besides the one that is already laid, which is Jesus Christ. So, whether someone builds on top of the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, or hay, each one's work will be clearly shown. The day will make it clear, because it will be revealed with fire—the fire will test the quality of each one's work.* (1 Corinthians 3:1-13 CEB)

We are a team, all of us are part of a team. Our work as a team calls everyone to do his or her part in sharing the love of God with each other and with others. That includes participating in the life of the church, supporting the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. We aren't called to do this out of duty, but from the love of God in our hearts and the joy of being a community of faith that has something to offer to the world: God's grace, love, and hope.

I have been a member of this team for nearly four years, and I believe we have been building on the foundation of Jesus Christ, the true head of our church, as we nurture each other and offer the qualities of good building materials to help grow the kingdom of God here on earth. We may only be a small piece of the world-wide Church, but we have a responsibility to do our share. We have taken some good strides in using gold, silver, and precious stones to build. We have also had to throw out rotted wood, grass, and hay as we have gone along, but we have done that with trust in God's guidance and in the belief that we are called to serve Christ in this place, at this time, and using the gifts we have been given.

Just as team members change on any sports team, team members in the church also change. In light of that, I have decided to make a change for myself, which will also be a change for all of you. At the end of June 2022, I will re-retire, and you will have a new pastor beginning July 1.

Our district superintendent, Rev Taesung Kang, will work with our Staff Parish Relations Committee to learn what qualities and gifts will most help building the team work here at First UMC so the Bishop and cabinet can prayerfully discern who is the right person to be the pastor here.

I ask you to pray for the SPRC, our DS, and the Bishop and cabinet as they begin this process. I also ask that you pray for the entire congregation while going through the transition. I will help with that process, as well. We have much more time together, so let's keep building and growing! Let's be a team and create significant ministries so we can continue to make a difference in this world!

Grace and peace, Rev. Deb

ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

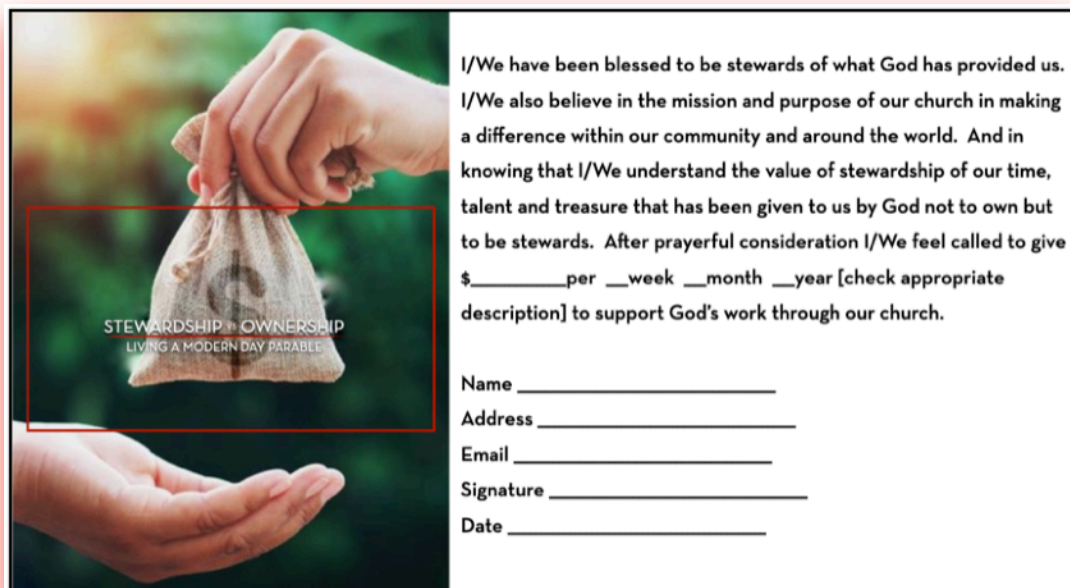
ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our annual Church Conference will be held in person with an option for Zoom on Tuesday, November 9 at 6:00 p.m., with the Rev. James Mentzer presiding. Everyone is welcome to attend. Everyone has voice, and all members have vote. We hope you plan to be there to hear the summaries of what has been happening over the past year, as well as help to plan for the church's future. One of the votes we will be taking is to move to a **One Board** model. All committees except for the Staff Parish Relations Committee and the Committee

on Nominations will be part of the One Board. That means that Finance, Trustees, Nurture, and Outreach will meet at the same time with an agenda that oversees the life of the church. Reports will be received and decisions made as a group. We are fortunate to have some new members who will be serving on the committee. The slate of committee members and officers will be presented at the Annual Church Conference.

STEWARDSHIP VS OWNERSHIP FUNDRAISER

A big Thank You and congratulations to all who participated in the Stewardship-Ownership campaign. Your generosity, fun and creative ideas raised \$4,500 for the church general fund which was used for payroll and church property insurance. A great job church family!...thank you!



The form is titled "STEWARDSHIP VS OWNERSHIP LIVING A MODERN DAY PARABLE" and features an image of a hand holding a small sack with a dollar sign. The text on the form reads: "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." Below this text are fields for Name, Address, Email, Signature, and Date.

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARDS

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!

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.

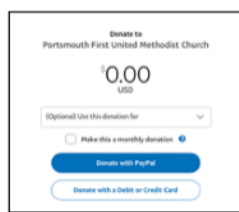
Thanks to all who have responded, your generosity will insure a great 2022.

John VanReenen - Finance Trustees
Chairperson

3 WAYS OF GIVING



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



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



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



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Thanks to the Sunday school children and teachers for agreeing to lead the worship service on October 31st! We had a fun and wonderful time. We are so glad the children are part of the life of this church!



NEW MEMBERS AT FIRST UMC

We welcome Airial and Gary Sillanpaa as new members of First UMC. They have been a huge part of the life of the church, and their six children are such an important part of the Sunday school, as well as many other areas. We are blessed to have all of them as official members in our church community!

Church Meeting

SPRC MEETING VIA ZOOM

The next SPRC meeting will be on Wednesday, November 17 at 6:30 pm. If you are part of the SPRC, a Zoom link will be sent to you. Please try to be there if possible.

CHURCH COUNCIL TRUSTEE/FINANCE

Combined meeting - Tuesday, November 16 at 6 pm in person at church and also with a Zoom option if anyone would like to join that way. Please let Rev. Deb know if you want the Zoom link.



BECOME A DIGITAL DISCIPLE!

We all need to be part of reaching out into the community and world...you can do it by simply sharing our First UMC Facebook and/or Instagram posts. You can make a difference!

Be sure to visit our church website which is being updated weekly. fumcportsmouth.com



BE A LITURGIST

Rev. Deb continues to look for liturgists to help lead the worship services. The involvement of the Laity is important and meaningful in the life of our congregation. If anyone is interested in being a liturgist, please contact Rev. Deb.



ADVENT

Yes - Advent! The first Sunday of Advent is November 28! We will begin the theme of "Light Bearers" and tie it in with the "Share the Joy" drive to help foster children in our area.

November 28 theme: Grace, Isaiah 40:28-31

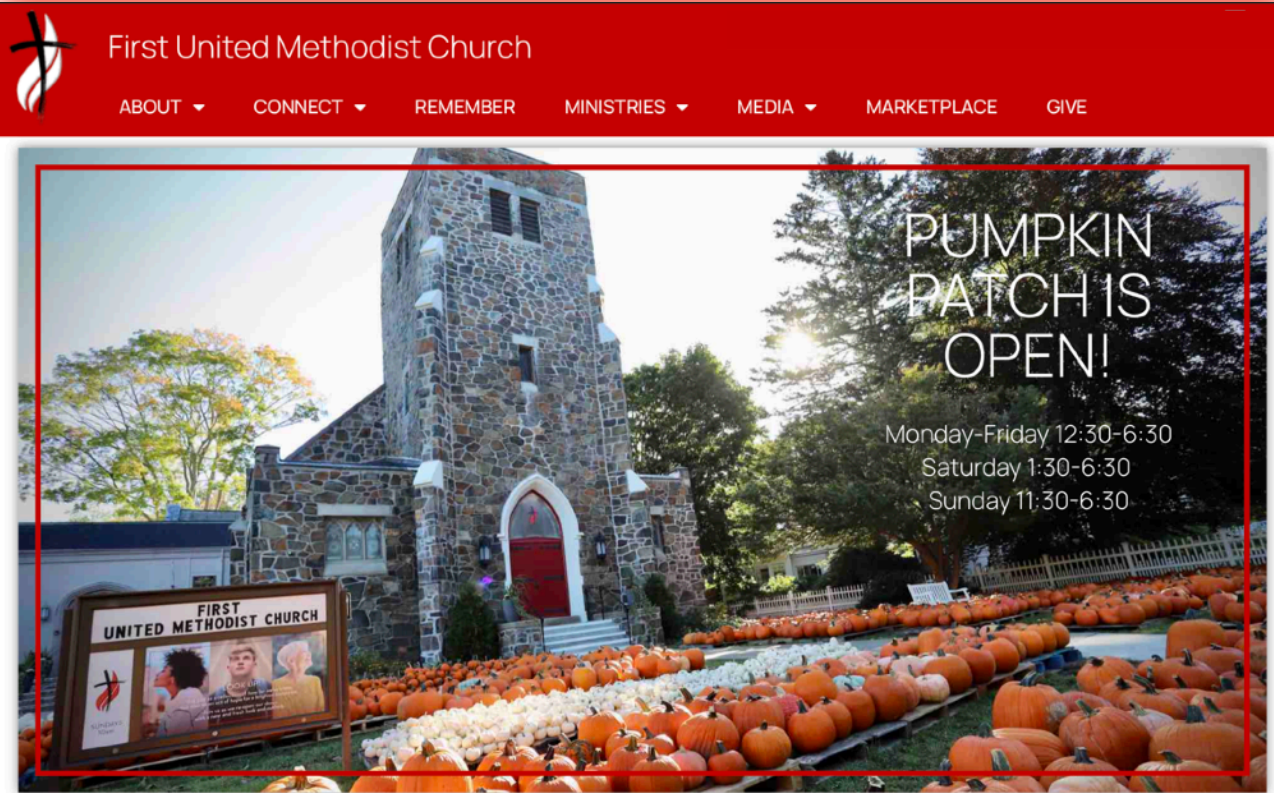


PIE ANGELS TO THANKSGIVING RESCUE!

You can place your order for unbaked, frozen pies for your Holiday dinners by texting Sue Richards @ 603.749.4169.

Choices are apple, pumpkin, cherry and blueberry for \$12 and pecan for \$14.

All come beautifully boxed with baking instructions...it will look like you spent hours in the kitchen baking!



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.

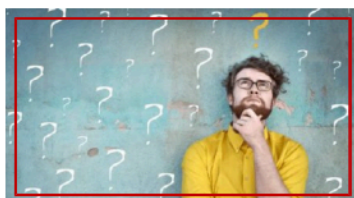
Have an idea or suggestion for possible content please reach out to Bevan Bloemendaal.

First UMC – Portsmouth is a reconciling congregation

We are a church dedicated to serving all people as we embrace Jesus Christ's message of love and acceptance. Our purpose within our community is "to transform lives through unconditional inclusion, empowering actions to make a difference". And we celebrate our diversity inviting all persons regardless of age, gender, racial or ethnic background, sexual orientation, marital or socioeconomic status, nationality, physical or mental ability into our community of faith. Join us in making a difference.



FOR THE LOVE OF VIDEO SERIES



IF ONLY I KNEW VIDEO SERIES



KID FRIENDLY VIDEO SERIES



LIFE HACKS VIDEO SERIES



MORE LIKE JESUS



ART & MUSIC VIDEO SERIES



MY LIFE MY STORY VIDEO SERIES



CONNECTED BY PRIDE VIDEO SERIES



CHANGE MAKERS VIDEO SERIES



We started as early as we could, unloading our first truck on Sat., 9/18. Literally 4 weeks later (and a day after our next truck was due to arrive), we sold out of everything but White Minis.

Fortunately, a truck driver was quickly found and it arrived Mon., 10/18 at 9 a.m. I wish to give special thanks and appreciation to the church and community folks who made this week/work/school day unload look easy, though it took several hours to do!

By the time you read this, the Patch will be mostly or completely over, and we will have broken more records than just sales. That's enough of a teaser for now. The final report will be in the December Beacon.

Love and Hugs,
Sue Richards
Grateful (and Very Exhausted) Pumpkin Patch Coordinator







THANK YOU
TO ALL OF
THE AMAZING,
VOLUNTEERS!

YOU MADE IT
A RECORD
BREAKING
YEAR!



**With prayer and thanksgiving for
your gift to missionary support!**

Connecting the church in mission!

Dear Friends and
Supporters at FUMC
Portsmouth!

Thank you for your 2021
gift to my missionary
Advance #12109Z.

May we continue to
participate together in
God's mission in the
world!

Grace and peace,
Belinda Forbes
Global Missionary to
Nicaragua
Advance #12109Z



GLOBAL MINISTRIES
General Board of Global Ministries
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Photo by Kathleen Barry, United Methodist Communications



**THANK
YOU!**

WITH GRATITUDE

Church family I want to thank you all for the cards, lovely thoughts and the amazing gift of the church monitor for not only for my birthday but for Pastor's Appreciation Month. It was very much appreciated.



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



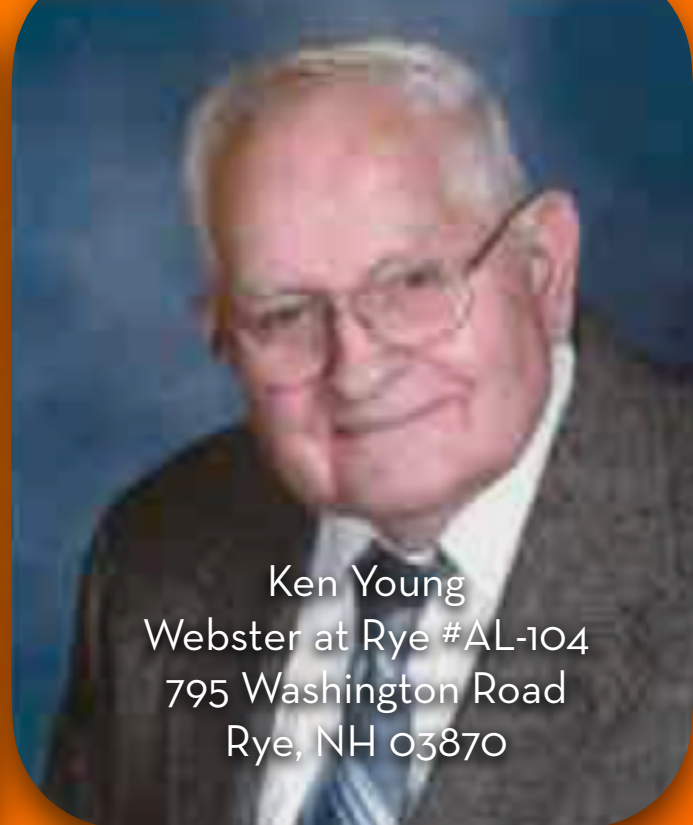
Juliann Smith
Charles Gilman
Rick Beebe
Phyllis Scott
Marilyn & Gil
Donna Smith
Sophia
Bobbie Noble
Dan Strange
Delores [Marilyn's sister]
Marion Collishaw
Mark & Sarah
Airial and the Sillanpaa Family
Terry Sessions
The Laux Family
Christine & her parents
Those in nursing and assisted living care
Our Church family



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



Slater, Jim
75 State Street
Portland, ME 04101

OUR FAMILY

WHO CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH

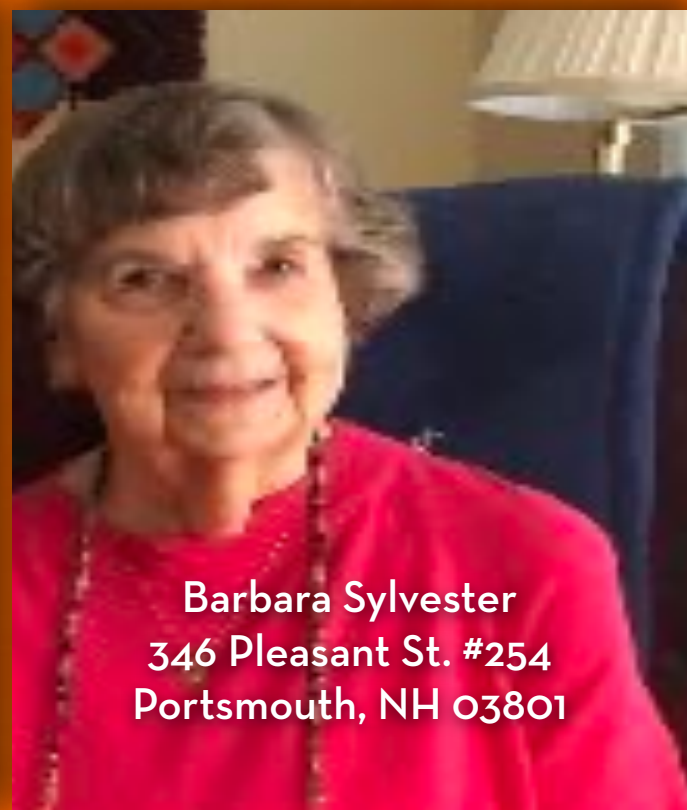
A card can make a big difference in someone's day!



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

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4 Ken Westbrook
12 Marion Collishaw
12 Mike Coffey
16 Evelyn Laux



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.