

**WE ARE
THE
BODY OF
CHRIST**



February 2022
FIRST UMC BEACON



*Many members,
one body.*

Dear Friends,

12 Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many. 13 We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, or slave or free, and we all were given one Spirit to drink. 14 Certainly the body isn't one part but many. (1 Corinthians 12:12-14 CEB)

I grew up in a very small midwestern town where everyone was white, protestant, and middle class. Anyone who was “different” stood out, and they often were avoided. While I’m not sure we realized how cautious we were around people who had a different skin color, who were differently abled, or who were “different” in any way, it certainly happened. As an adult, I learned how ingrained prejudice is in our world, and I have taken many workshops and courses to help me raise my own awareness, as well as the awareness of others in dealing with racism (sexism, homophobia, ageism, and many other “ism’s”).

What I have grown to realize is that our work is never done, and we need to continue to grow in understanding as we embrace others. It wasn't until I began to have friends of other races, ethnic backgrounds, and sexual orientations that I realized what a beautiful world we live in with all the diversity and the gifts that we can receive from and share with each other.

We are reminded in Paul's letter to the church in Corinth that we have many members world-wide, and in spite of - or maybe even because of - our diversity, we are one body in Christ. It is in Christ Jesus that we find our common ground and are drawn together as brothers and sisters no matter where and how we live together, what our ethnic background is, or what color our skin might be.

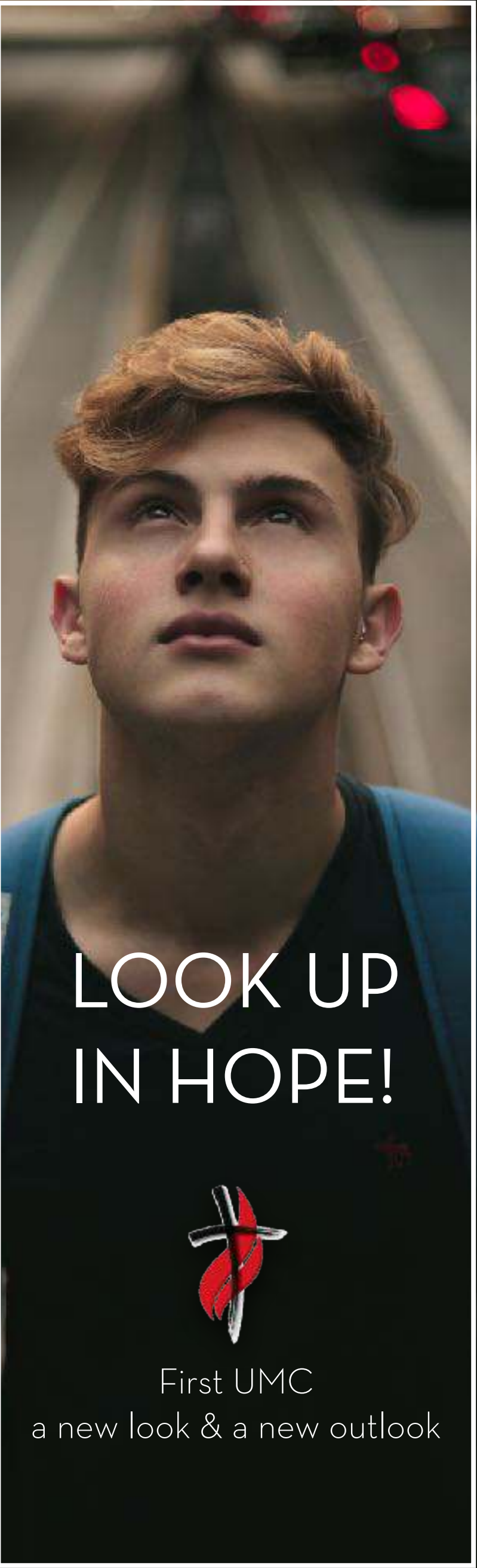
Our job is to keep on working at dismantling racism and prejudice together by honoring and respecting one another. The picture here provides a reminder that the body of Jesus Christ is made up of a wide variety of people. It reminds me that we truly are all one in Christ Jesus.

Grace and peace, *Rev. Deb*



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.



LOOK UP
IN HOPE!



First UMC
a new look & a new outlook

Our New Purpose



"TRANSFORM LIVES"

There is strength in numbers. We believe in collaborating and through the power of kindness, compassion, empathy and action we will equip our community with knowledge, resources and opportunities to make positive transformations.

"UNCONDITIONAL INCLUSION"

We will meet NO ordinary people in our lives as everyone has something amazing to offer. Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy.



"To transform lives through unconditional inclusion, empowering actions to make a difference."



"EMPOWERING ACTIONS"

With our clear purpose we will shift from telling everyone what to do or doing nothing at all, to empowering others to join the movement and take ownership in making greatness happen.

"MAKE A DIFFERENCE"

Believing that what we do matters and will make a difference in people's lives. We don't have to save the world in one stroke but we can make a difference one person at a time.





First UMC Portsmouth is a welcoming congregation who are a church dedicated to serving all people in our immediate area. Our faith message is 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 in all of our members regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, marital or socioeconomic status, nationality, physical or mental ability into our community of faith. Join us in making a difference.

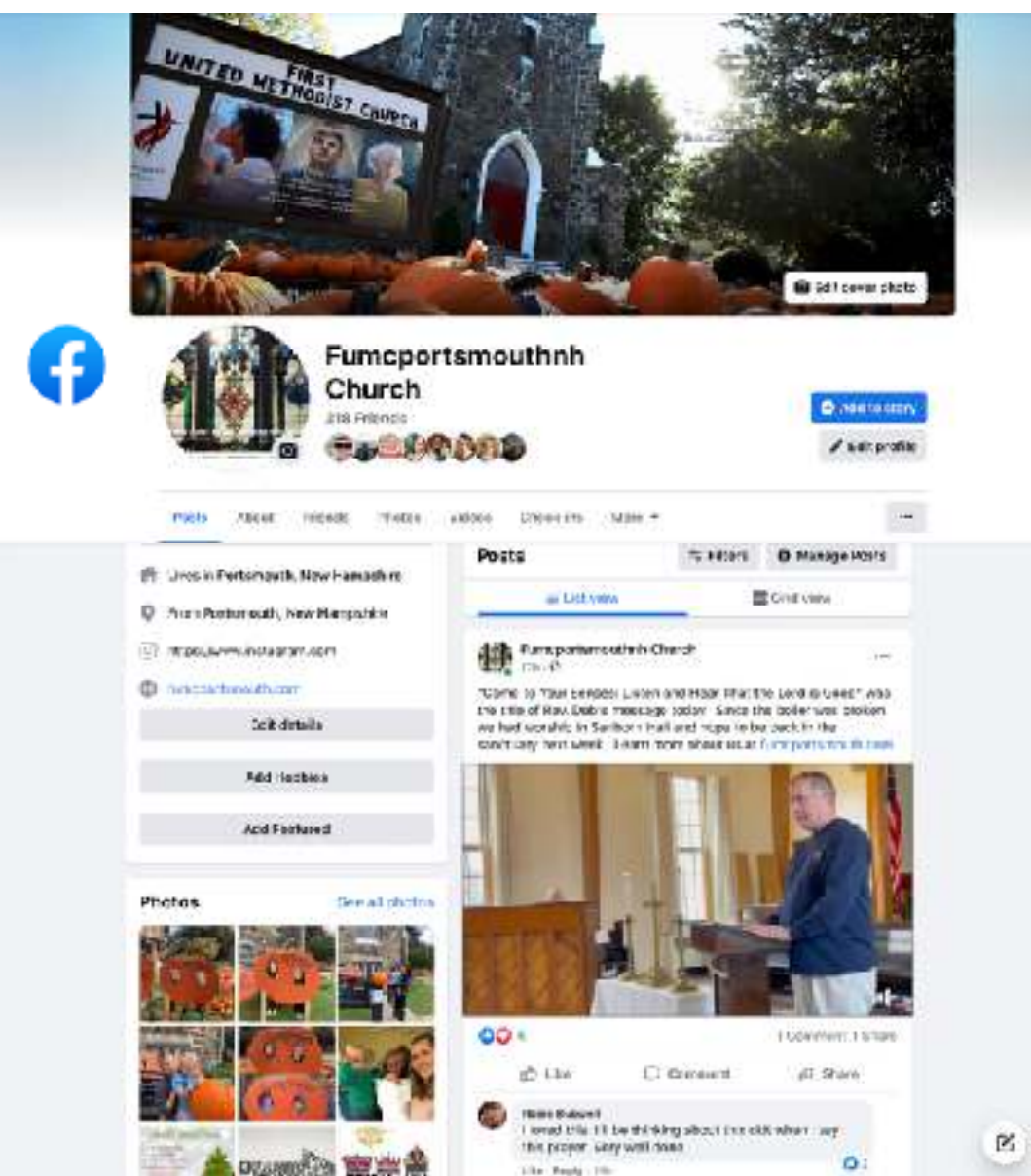


FIRST UMC WEBSITE

Our church website is an important part of our outreach as a “church at work” and for individuals looking to be part of a community of believers in making a difference in the world.

We are reminded of our vision and purpose as a community church - *“to transform lives through unconditional inclusion, empowering actions to make a difference”*.

The website is updated on a weekly basis and have been told by visitors that they found us using the website which is great news! We would urge all of our church members to not only visit the site more often but to also share the site with your own social and friendship network.

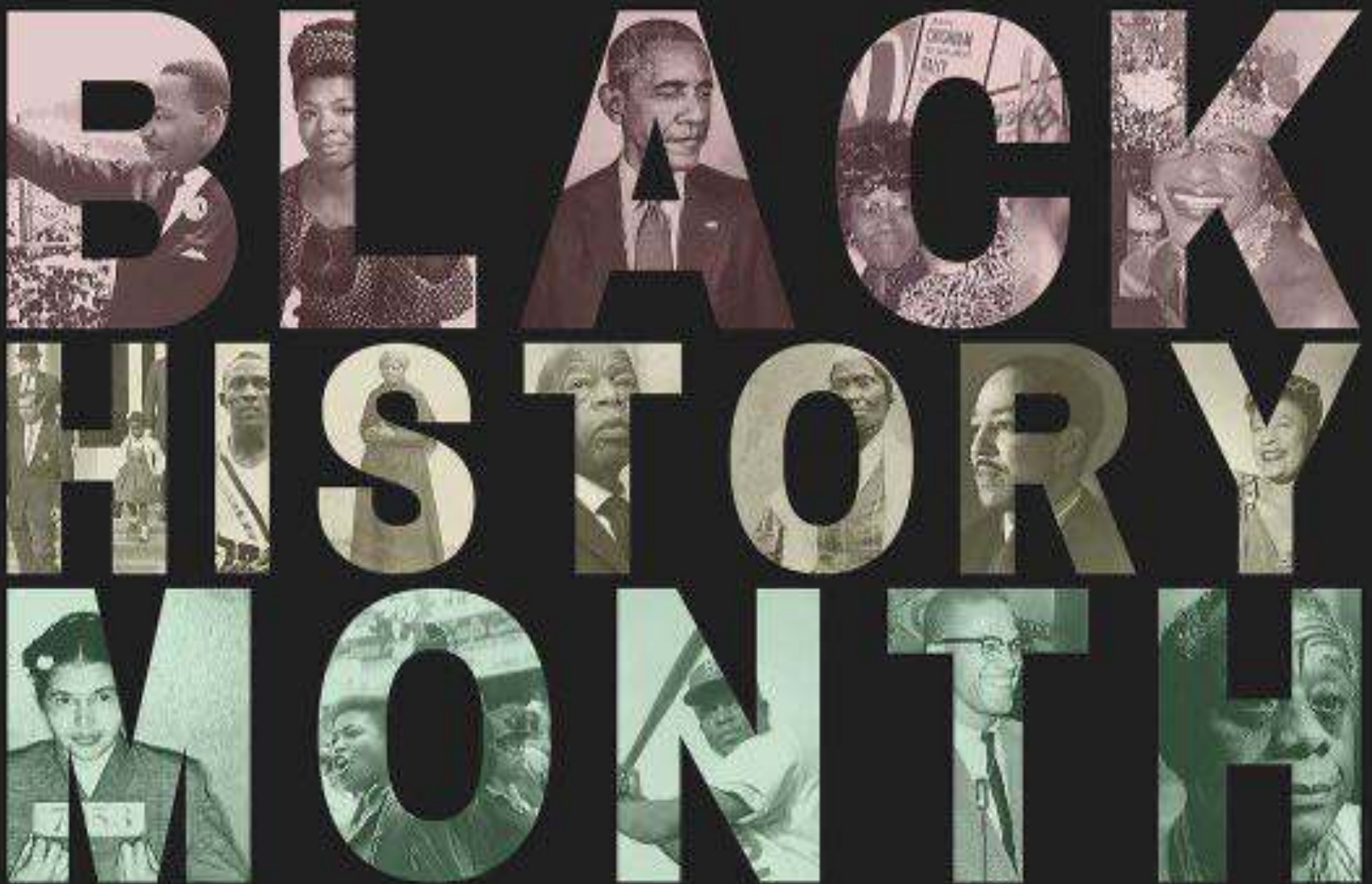


SOCIAL MEDIA

The combination of our First UMC website and social media specifically Facebook is how we are a church that NEVER closes its doors... we are are being a witness of God’s love and mercy 24/7.

The digital ecosystem is how we stay connected when we don’t see each other every Sunday with all of our friends and family worldwide...amazing opportunity for us to live our purpose of our actions in making a difference.

Please, Please be sure to not only LIKE our posts but SHARE THEM with your network of friends making it possible for others to be part of our family.



FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH!

There are many resources on line that can help us learn more about Black History Month. An interesting set of articles is "Black History Month: 20 Stories Christians Should Know." The link is below, and anyone who does not have access to a computer is welcome to contact Rev. Deb who will be glad to print out any articles they are interested in reading. <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2020/february-web-only/black-history-month-20-stories-christians-archives.html>

Here is a list of the articles:

1. [Why the Enslaved Adopted the Religion of Their Masters—and Transformed It](#)
2. [America's Persecuted Church](#)
3. [You Must Not Kneel Here](#)
4. [The Caged Bird Wrote](#)
5. [This Black Pastor Led a White Church—in 1788](#)
6. [Sojourner Truth](#)
7. [Jarena Lee](#)
8. [By Any Means Necessary](#)
9. [The Radical Christian Faith of Frederick Douglass](#)
10. [Harriet Tubman](#)
11. [Marching to Zion](#)
12. [The Holiness Movement's 'Washerwoman Evangelist'](#)
13. [Henry McNeal Turner: Church Planter, Politician, and Public Theologian](#)
14. [Reprint of Ex-slave's Theology Book Opens 'Underexplored Vista'](#)
15. [Pentecostalism: William Seymour](#)
16. [The Anti-Racism Activist That History Forgot](#)
17. [Finally, Jackie Robinson's Faith Is Getting the Attention It Deserves](#)
18. [The Women Who Sang Out for Civil Rights](#)
19. [Martin Luther King Jr.: Exemplar of Hope](#)
20. [The Father of Gospel Music Wanted to Be a Secular Star](#)

RACIAL UNITY TEAM AND OYSTER RIVER EQUITY & JUSTICE PRESENT

A FIRESIDE CHAT

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2022

6:30PM-8PM ON ZOOM

NH LEGISLATION & ITS IMPACT ON DEI/ EFFORTS IN THE GRANITE STATE

Join us to learn what the legislation is,
what it means for our communities,
and how we might actively oppose it.

REGISTER HERE



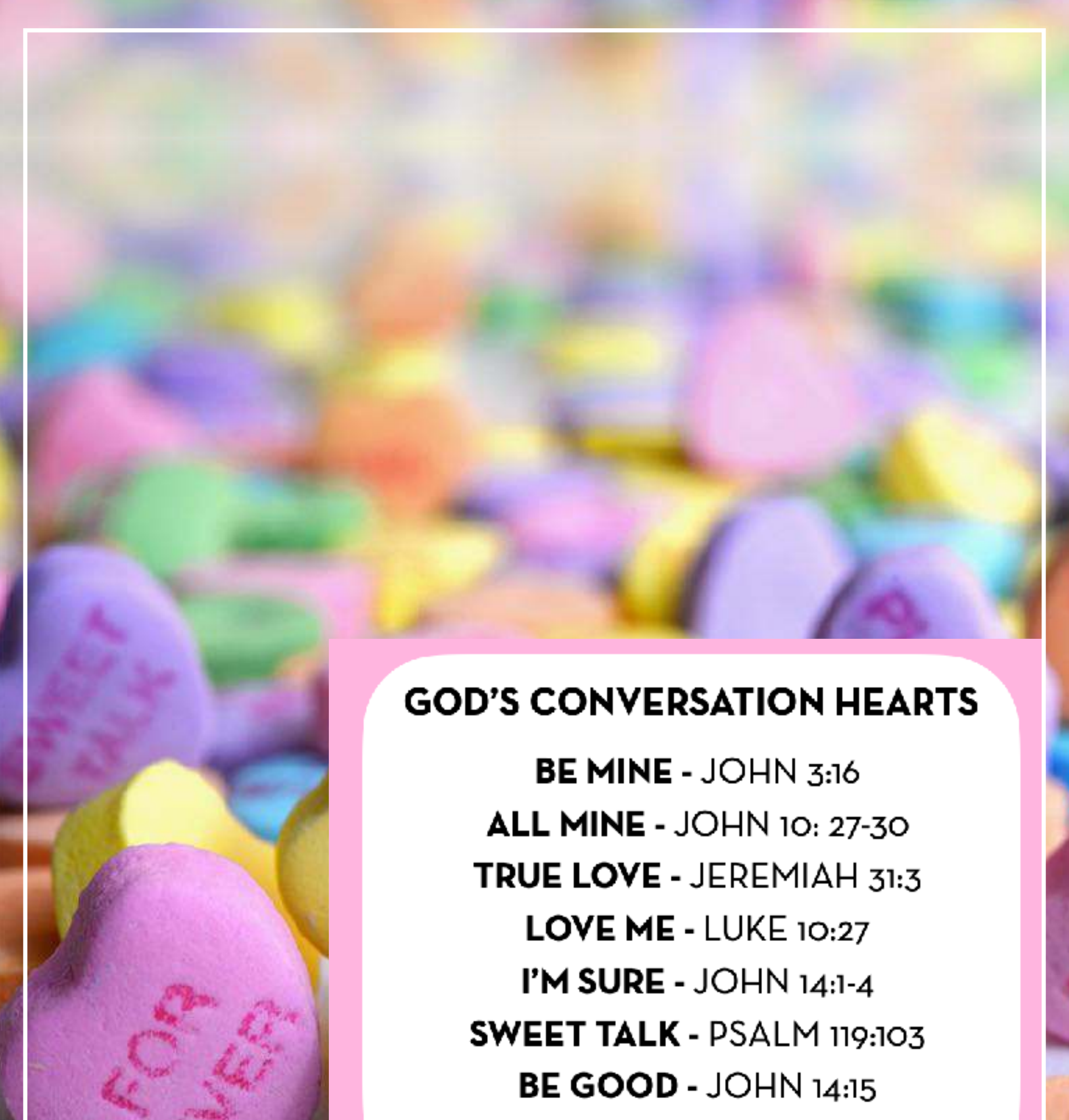
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/5N6BUDE7](https://tinyurl.com/5N6BUDE7)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email
containing information about joining the meeting



@racialunityteam
@orequityjustice





GOD'S CONVERSATION HEARTS

BE MINE - JOHN 3:16

ALL MINE - JOHN 10: 27-30

TRUE LOVE - JEREMIAH 31:3

LOVE ME - LUKE 10:27

I'M SURE - JOHN 14:1-4

SWEET TALK - PSALM 119:103

BE GOOD - JOHN 14:15

TEXT ME - JEREMIAH 33:3

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

As you get a little something for your loved ones on this special day remember that God has sent you some Valentine's Day messages too. You are LOVED!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

10 Steve Scott
11 Isabella Sillanpaa
13 Connie Parsons
13 Jenya Westbrook
23 Kevin Fickenscher
25 Cian Philbrick

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

10 John & Judy Griffin
18 Rev Deb & Dave Atkinson
24 George & Jessie Bennett
25 Art & Nancy (Chesser) Munson



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school will resume meeting on February 6th if it seems safe to do so. The children will be using the Book It's Easy Being Green, which has stories from the Bible with environmentally friendly crafts and activities. Since school vacation week begins on February 27th, we will not meet that Sunday. Thanks to all the faithful teachers, parents, grandparents, and this congregation who continue to support our kids!



MOTHER'S DAY

First UMC will have you covered for this special day with a special treat for the "MOM" figures in your life...hanging basket to bring her joy all summer long and a break from making dinner with homemade lasagna ready to pop into the oven. Dates and prices to come but mark this off your list to think about...we got it for you...you're welcome!



CHURCH LEADERSHIP MEETINGS

Leadership Board (formerly Church Council & Finance/Trustees) 6 pm Tuesday February 15th.

OIL DAY OWNERSHIP

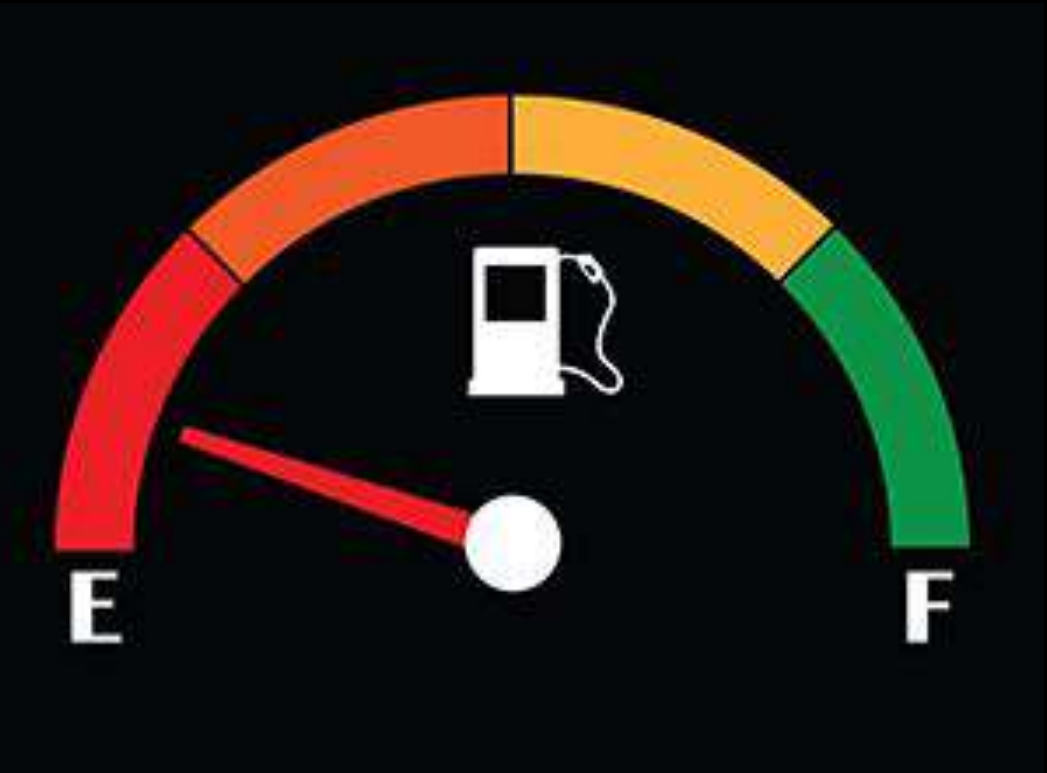
Brrrrr these winter months can be really cold and we have experienced not only a sick boiler which is getting fixed but also the costs of keeping up with the fuel use. Our facility is a home base for so many groups within our community enabling them to do their work in making a difference within the community too.

Want to help friends and family?....I would like to challenge us all by bringing back the "OIL DAY" fundraiser we did years ago. Our oil bill is \$1000+ a week and I'm asking each of us to "own a day" [or more!] of heat. For \$75 you can provide 1 day of heat, \$150 for 2 days etc.

To own your days of heat write a check and in the memo write "my oil days" or simply go to our website and click on the GIVE tab and in the general fund comment area write "my oil days".

Thanks for making this possible for along with keeping up with your faithful stewardship pledges.

In faith,
John VanReenen - Leadership Board Chairperson



CLEAN HANDS, ORGANIZED & LIGHT

Thank you Mike Coffey for once again volunteering in finishing off the narthex bathroom...mark this project off our list!

Thank you to Kristin Wiggin who volunteered to help organize the new Worship Room.

Let there be light!...the sanctuary lighting has been completed...no more dark areas. Thank you Sue Sarosiek for getting another project completed and off the "to do" list.





COLD WEATHER OUTREACH

Freddy Petrone delivering over 200 jackets to the community through the "I Got Bridged" non-profit.

KIDS FIRST team have given 30+ gift packs with a hat, scarf, gloves and socks.

Keeping the community warm!





CHECK OUT THE BRIDGEMOBILE!

Freddy Petrone is proud to announce that the I Got Bridged nonprofit is coordinating weekly trips for those in the community that need transportation to the Gather Food Pantry in the new van. Find out more at igotbridged.com #bekind #helpothers #pray

Check out the First UMC logo on the van as a sponsor too! — making a difference in the community...together!

PIZZA NIGHT ANYONE?

If you are thinking of having a pizza night with the family consider doing it on February 2nd and order from Flatbread Pizza in Portsmouth where a % of all pizza sales will go to the I Got Bridged nonprofit. The kids from Little Harbor School are coloring the posters for the event. Enjoy the pizza!



WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER

Juliann Smith
Charles Gilman
Rick Beebe
Marilyn & Gil
Donna Smith
Sophia
Bobbie Noble
Dan Strange
Delores, Marilyn's sister
Marion Collishaw
Dwight & Reginald
Cooper & Amy
Barbara Clement
Julie & Belen Burke
Barbara Glidden

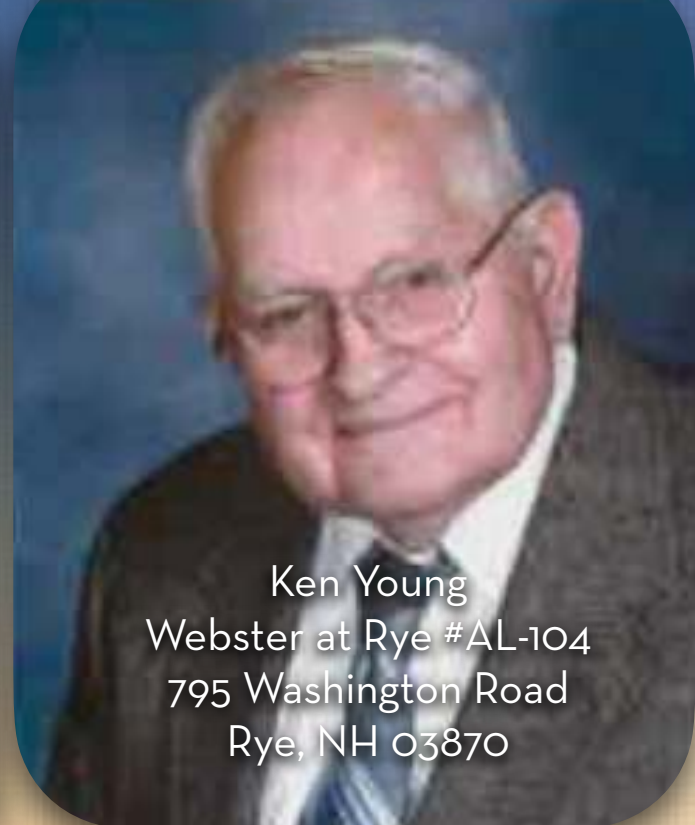
Erica, Maria, Dominic, Norah
Lauren Farley's family
Aerial and the Sillanpaa Family
Friends in Ukraine
Christine & her parents
Vicki's Uncle Bobby
Roger Cox, Dave A's brother-in-law
Those in nursing and assisted living care
Our Church family



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

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