

“We will open the book.
Its pages are blank.
We are going to put
words on them ourselves.
The book is called
Opportunity
and its first chapter is
New Year's Day.”

~ Edith Lovejoy Pierce



January 2022
FIRST UMC BEACON

Dear Friends,

I share this thought-provoking devotion from the Rev. Martha Spong with you this month. It is from the December 6, 2021 *Still Speaking* on line devotions.

One thing I asked of the Lord, that I will seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in God's temple. - Psalm 27:4 [NRSV]

For most of my life, the rhythm of my week has included walking through the doors of a church building, as a child and then a parent, as a church member and eventually as the pastor. I'm married to a Presbyterian minister, and we live in a manse right across the street from the church she leads. The steeple is the view from the window of my home office. It is both so close and, throughout the pandemic, so far away.

One day this summer, I joined my wife on a practical errand, to check the thermostats, and passed through the doors into the sanctuary that I have walked through only occasionally since March 2020. My eyes filled with tears. How tender I felt, not about the building, but about the loss of something less material: the weekly feeling of being part of the gathered body, with its rustle of papers and murmured greetings and collective movement and joyful singing.

I realized that the house of the Lord is not a place I go by myself. Much, even most, of what I know about God has been revealed in gatherings of the faithful, engaged in learning or grieving or questioning. God's house is not a place; it is a relationship with God and with others. The house of the Lord is any space where we look for God together.

Prayer -

We come, Holy One, asking for this: wherever we are, let us gather together in your house, and see your beauty, and learn all we can about you. Amen.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Deb

What Is Epiphany?



EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Sunday, January 2nd is Epiphany Sunday [Epiphany is actually on January 6th] when we remember the visit of the Wise Men, and even more importantly, the “breaking in” of God’s Light into our world through the birth of Jesus.

Epiphany is revelation. God is revealed to us through Jesus. We are Light Bearers - let us carry the Light of Christ into the world.



THANK YOU

Thanks to so many who have sent Christmas cards and gifts this year. Your generosity is, as always, so kind and caring. I appreciate it more than I can say!
Blessings,
Rev. Deb



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Was so wonderful to see so many of you at our Christmas Eve service. It was a celebration of the birth of the Light Of The World in that lowly manger. For those of you who may have missed it go to <https://youtu.be/x9XzXDyakXM> to watch the video.



JANUARY **BIRTHDAYS**

3 Tenley Westbrook
5 Joseph Philbrick, Jr.
6 David Richards
11 Cathy Martin
23 David Bovee
25 John VanReenen
31 Tim Orr
31 Karin Scott
31 Yvonne Griffin

HUMAN RELATIONS SUNDAY - JANUARY 17, 2022

WHAT IS HUMAN RELATIONS DAY?

We are all family. When we walk past our neighbor who is hiding in plain sight, we limit the gifts and graces that our sisters and brothers in Christ bring to the table. We limit the experiences, the voices and the beloved community that take place through mutual sharing of gifts. With a special offering celebrating Human Relations Day, we join with United Methodists around the world, remembering that the size of the table of divine love is unlimited.

Across the United Methodist connection we come together to help bridge the gap between church and community by participating in an offering set aside for Human Relations Day. For more than half a century, United Methodists have observed this church-wide special Sunday in recognition of the message Jesus demonstrated during his life: all of God's children are important.

One of the wonderful aspects of The United Methodist Church is that we can do so much more together than we ever could do on our own. On Human Relations Day, we join other UMC congregations in a special offering to support neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and work with at-risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs.

In recognizing Human Relations Day, we are called to make an impact in communities where people struggle because they don't have the tools or resources to reach their God-given potential. Our gifts are part of building beloved community through faith-based volunteer programs, community developers and programs that work with at-risk teens.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school resumes after a short Christmas vacation break. Thanks again to those who are so willing to teach our kids: Dave Atkinson, Rosie Buswell, Kellie Langs, David Richards, and Sue Richards. In addition, we celebrate the faithful parents and grandparents who bring the children to church. We are so blessed! If anyone would like to be a helper in the Sunday school room, please let Rev. Deb know.



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 and is open 24/7 for everyone!



CHURCH LEADERSHIP MEETINGS

Tuesday Jan 18: 6 pm Leadership Board meeting in person with Zoom option
Thursday Jan 27: 6:30 pm SPRC meeting via Zoom



WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER

Juliann Smith
Charles Gilman
Rick Beebe
Erin Frane
Marilyn & Gil
Donna Smith

Sophia
Bobbie Noble
Dan Strange
Delores [Marilyn's sister]
Marion Collishaw
Mark & Sarah

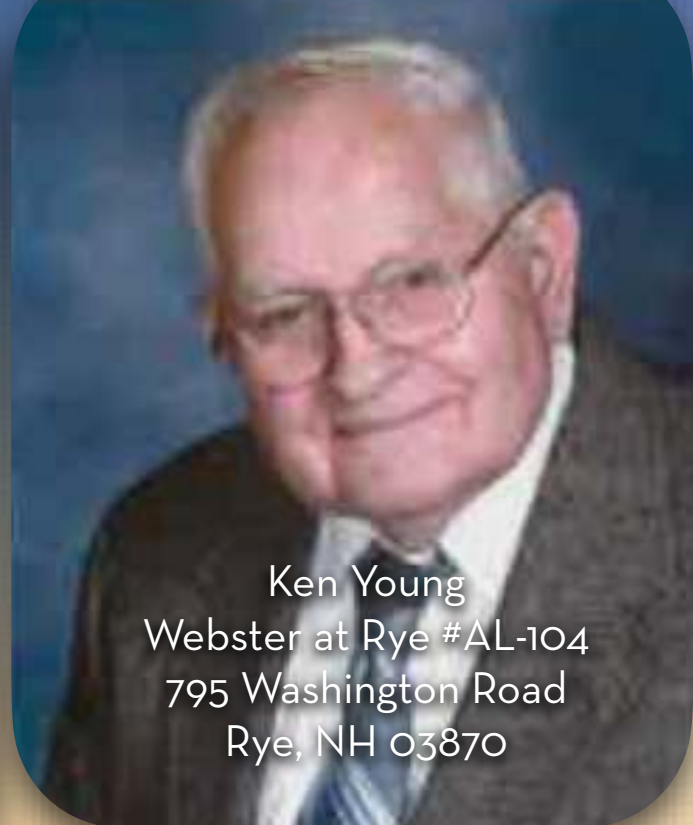
Airial and the Sillanpaa Family
John Markiewicz
Terry Sessions
Christine & her parents
Those in nursing and assisted living care
Our Church family



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



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.

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

**WE SAVED
A SEAT
FOR YOU.**

**SUNDAY @ 10 am
ALL ARE WELCOME**