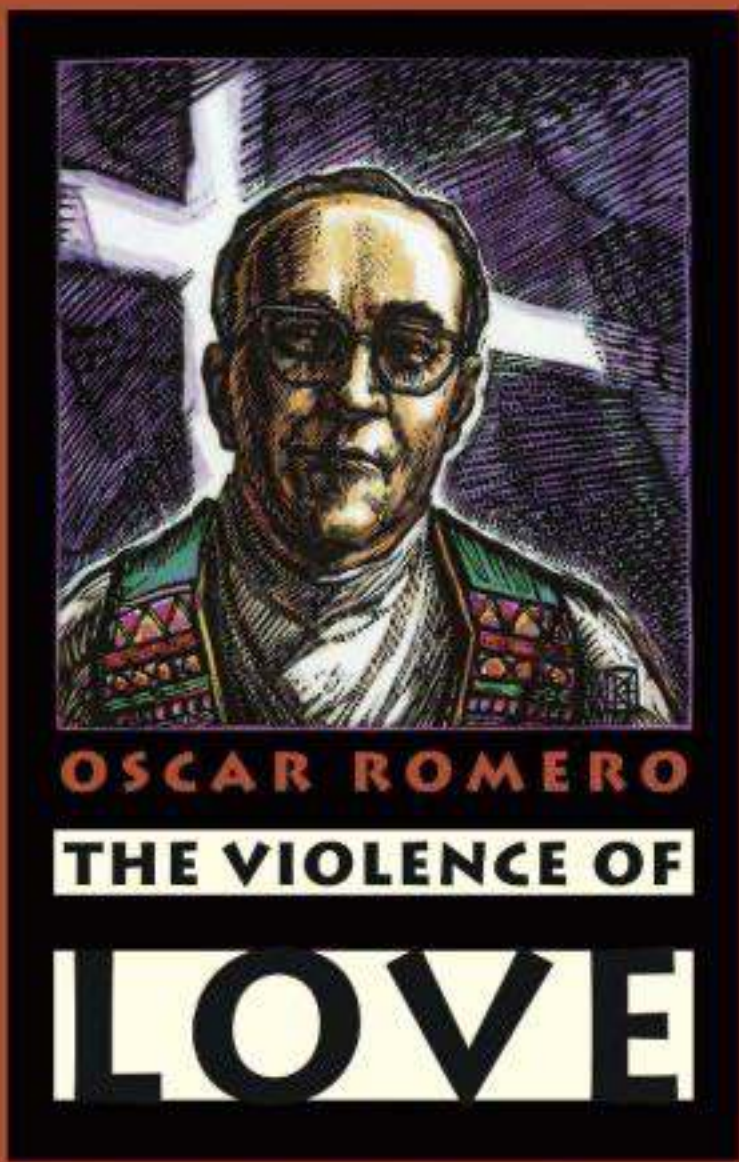


LENT

2022



March 2022
FIRST UMC BEACON



Dear Friends,

Some of you may remember Oscar Romero who was assassinated while leading a mass in San Salvador. His influence helped to bring changes, and everything he did came from his passion for justice and to share the grace, mercy and love of God with others. For this month's newsletter, I am sharing one of his writings about Lent. May you find it meaningful as we enter this most holy season. The link to this reflection is from an online newsletter. Here is the link: <https://www.plough.com/en/topics/culture/holidays/meditations-for-lent/reflections-for-lent>.

Grace and peace, Rev. Deb

Introduction: During his three years as archbishop of San Salvador, Oscar Romero became known as a fearless defender of the poor and suffering. His work on behalf of the oppressed earned him the admiration and love of the peasants he served and, finally, an assassin's bullet.

This article is an excerpt from The Violence of Love.

People do not mortify themselves during Lent
out of a sick desire to suffer.

God did not make us for suffering.

If we fast or do penances or pray,
it is for a very positive goal:

by overcoming self

one achieves the Easter resurrection.

We do not just celebrate a risen Christ,
distinct from us,

but during Lent we prepare ourselves
to rise with him to a new life
and to become the new persons
that are what the country needs right now.

Let us not just shout slogans
about new structures;

new structures will be worthless
without new persons

to administer the new structures the country needs
and live them out in their lives.

February 17, 1980

LENT BEGINS

We begin Lent on Ash Wednesday, March 2 with a video worship service that will be sent via email and posted on line. This will be a time of prayer and reflection, and I will lead us in anointing with oil. The oil that is customarily used is Olive Oil, and I will remind everyone of that at the beginning of the video. Since this will be posted on Ash Wednesday, it will be available throughout the day.



Sunday Worship Theme, "Sojourning":

Journey with us as we follow Jesus through the days leading up to his death and resurrection and think about our own journeys of faith. We hope you will join us regularly!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are so blessed to have a Sunday school with the children who attend!

They are learning Bible stories and doing projects that tie into the lesson from the Book "It's Easy Being Green." The projects and crafts are designed to be environmentally friendly.

Thanks to all the faithful teachers, parents, grandparents, and this congregation who continue to support our kids!





40 days 40 items LENT CHALLENGE

This Lent we are going to challenge each of us with the 40 days - 40 items challenge of giving things up. What does that mean?...We all have that attic, closet or garage that has stuff that we simply don't use, need or want any longer. So each day of Lent, we ask that you remove one item from your home that is something someone else might need or want...a lamp, a table, a painting, a chair, a plant, a small appliance, a laptop.

[sorry no clothes or shoes accepted].

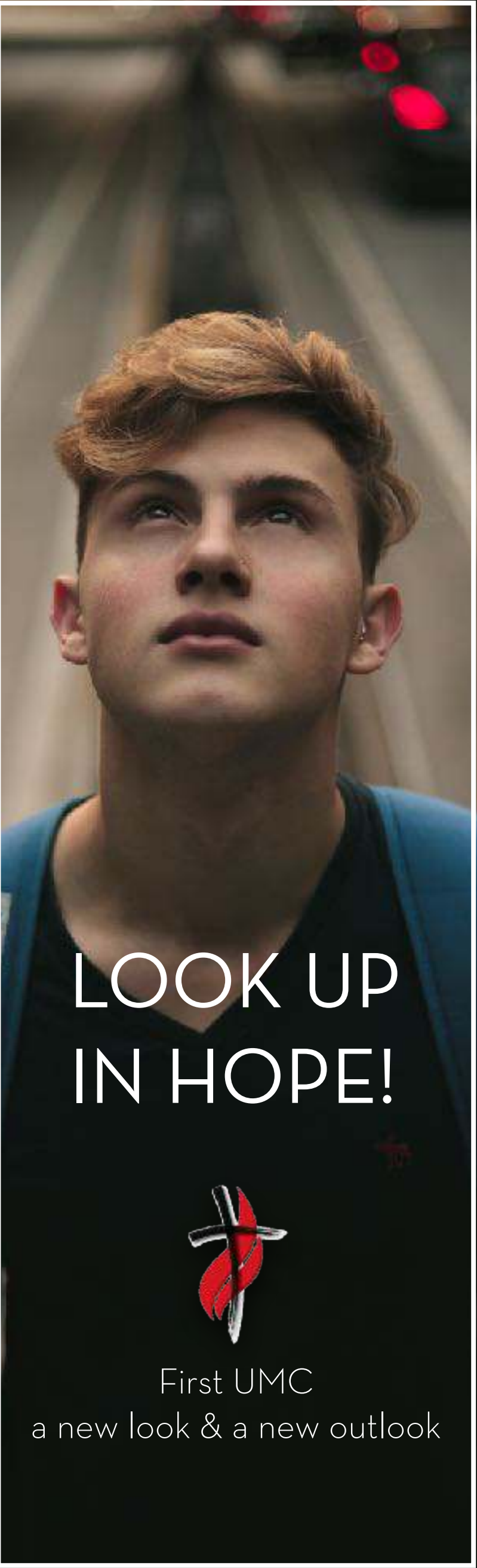
We will take these items whenever you want to bring them to the church or let us know that you need help getting it to the church and this summer have the 40 day - 40 items yard sale where the proceeds will go to the General Fund. Got questions?...let us know!



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.

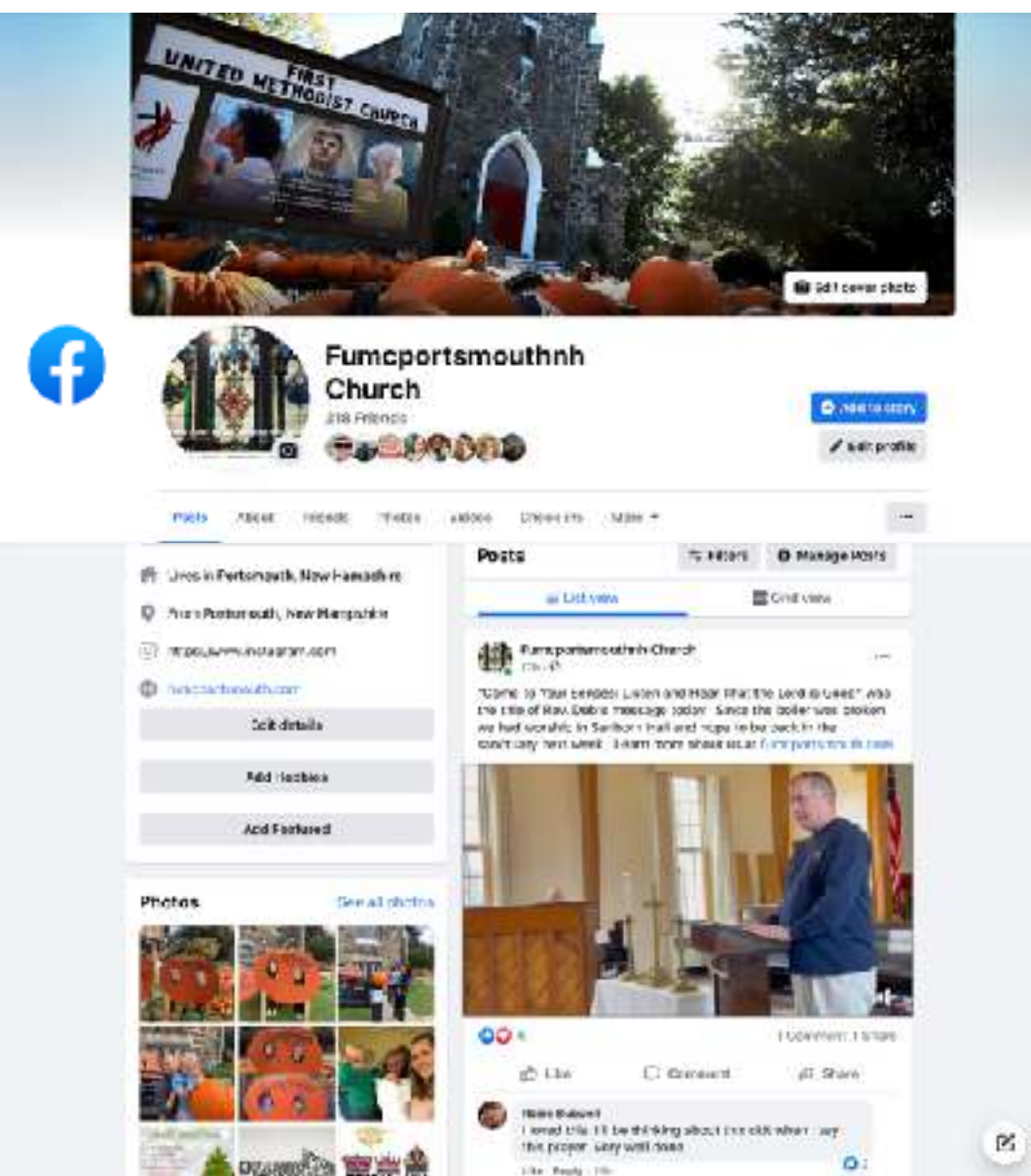


FIRST UMC WEBSITE

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.



HISTORY MONTH

Honoring the contributions of women

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH!

Try out this quiz (answers are on the next page upside down don't cheat!)

1. When was the first Women's History Month observed in the U.S.? 1775

1812 - 1987 - 2018

2. How many United Methodist Women members are there in 2019?

800 - 8,000 - 800,000

3. What Methodist woman wrote more hymns than Charles Wesley?

Frances Willard - Fanny Crosby - Frances Alexander - Fanny Brice

4. True or false, Helenor Davisson is the first woman ordained in the Methodist tradition?

True or False

5. Who was the first woman to run for President in the U.S.?

Betsy Ross - Carrie Nation - Victoria Woodhull - Hillary Clinton

6. Who was the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court?

Sandra Day O'Connor - Ruth Bader Ginsburg - Sonya Sotomayor - Eleanor Roosevelt

7. How many active women bishops are there in 2019 in the UMC?

0 - 4 - 17 - 68

8. When was the Commission on the Status and Role of Women created?

1872 - 1972 - 2002 - 2012

9. Who was the first woman to serve as president of the Council of Bishops? Dolly Madison

Marjorie Matthews - Minerva Carcano - Sharon Brown Christopher

10. True or False, you can purchase a Women's Edition of the Bible.

True or False

ANSWERS:

1. When was the first Women's History Month observed in the U.S.? 1987

2. How many United Methodist Women members are there in 2019?

The correct answer is 800,000. The group's first iteration in 1869 had 8 members. According to UMW, "For more than a century, women in the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren traditions have led a struggle for human rights and social justice. The generation of women who founded the early missionary societies developed powerful networks and organizational structures to help women attain full participation in the life of the church and society."

3. What Methodist woman wrote more hymns than Charles Wesley?

The correct answer is Fanny Crosby, a lifelong Methodist blind from infancy, who wrote more than 9,000 hymns, for example, "Blessed Assurance," "To God Be the Glory" and "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior."

4. True or false, Helenor Davissson is the first woman ordained in the Methodist tradition?

The correct answer is True. Helenor Davissson was the first ordained woman in the Methodist tradition. In 1866, Davissson was ordained deacon by the North Indiana Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church.

5. Who was the first woman to run for President in the U.S.?

Victoria Claflin Woodhull was an American suffragist described by newspapers as a leader of the American woman's suffrage movement in the 19th century. Woodhull was nominated for President of the United States by the Equal Rights Party on May 10, 1872.

6. Who was the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court?

The correct answer is Sandra Day O'Connor who was appointed by President Ronald Reagan in 1981. She served the court until her retirement in 2006. On August 12, 2009, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor of the United States, by President Barack Obama.

7. How many active women bishops are there in 2019 in the UMC?

There are currently 17 women bishops leading episcopal areas in The United Methodist Church. The first woman to be elected was the Rev. Marjorie Matthews in 1980, who served the Wisconsin Episcopal Area before her retirement.

8. When was the Commission on the Status and Role of Women created? 1972

9. Who was the first woman to serve as president of the Council of Bishops?

Bishop Sharon Brown Christopher. In 2002, she became the first woman to serve as president of the Council of Bishops. Bishop Christopher delivered the Episcopal Address at General Conference in 2008.

10. True or False, you can purchase a Women's Edition of the Bible.

The correct answer is True. The Common English Bible Women's Bible debuted in 2016 and is sold by Abingdon Press, as a specialty edition of the Common English Bible. The CEB Women's Bible offers Holy Land maps, intros to the books of the Old and New Testaments, and footnotes. There's an index of all women mentioned in the Old Testament and New Testament, along with biographical sketches of many of them.



SPRING FORWARD

Move those clocks ahead by one hour on March 13th!



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!



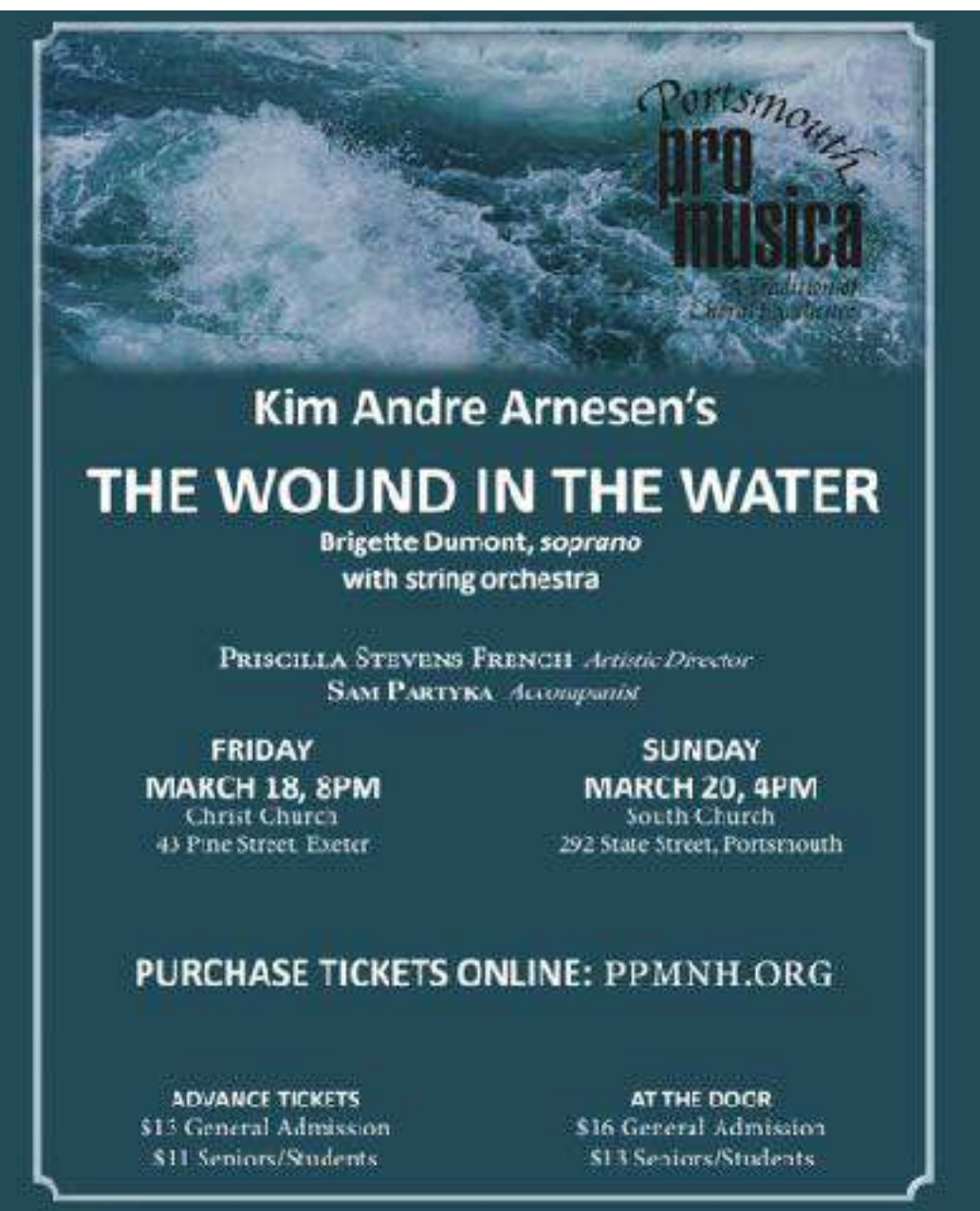
GIRL SCOUT INFO NIGHT

March 23rd @ 6pm - Sanborn Hall



CHURCH LEADERSHIP MEETING

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



PORTSMOUTH PRO MUSICA

Friday March 18th and Sunday March 20th

Purchase tickets online @ ppmnh.org



TIME 4 JOY COMEDY NIGHT

Put on by the I Got Bridged non profit

Thursday - March 31st

6:30 - 8:30 EST

First United Methodist Church

Sanborn Hall

129 Miller Avenue

Portsmouth, NH

Tickets are \$44.00 and includes food and beverages catered by Chef Keith Meehan.

There will be a Silent Auction also. So come and enjoy some laughter with the community.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 Roberta Noble
7 Devin Scott - Barrass
13 Carson Crisp
24 Melanie Berry Lindgren

THANK YOU FROM BARBARA SYLVESTER

FEBRUARY 15,
2022



BARBARA SYLVESTER
946 PLEASANT ST.
PORTSMOUTH N.H.
03801



DEAR FOLKS, AT OUR
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, I
MUST SAY THANK YOU FOR THE
HAPPY VALENTINES DAY GREETING.
IT WAS GOOD OF YOU TO
REMEMBER THAT WE CAN'T
ALL GET TO CHURCH AS MUCH
AS WE WOULD LIKE TO BE WITH
YOU.

SOMEONE OVER THERE IS
LEARNING TO WRITE THEIR
FRIENDLY THOUGHTS IN LONG-
HAND. GOOD WORK!

MY ADVICE TO ALL OF YOU IN OUR
SUNDAY SCHOOL. ♡

MRS. SYLVESTER



WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER

Donna
Juliann Smith
Charles Gilman
Rick Beebe
Marilyn & Gil
Donna Smith
Sophia
Bobbie Noble
Dan Strange
Marion Collishaw
Dwight & Reginald
Barbara Clement
Barbara Glidden

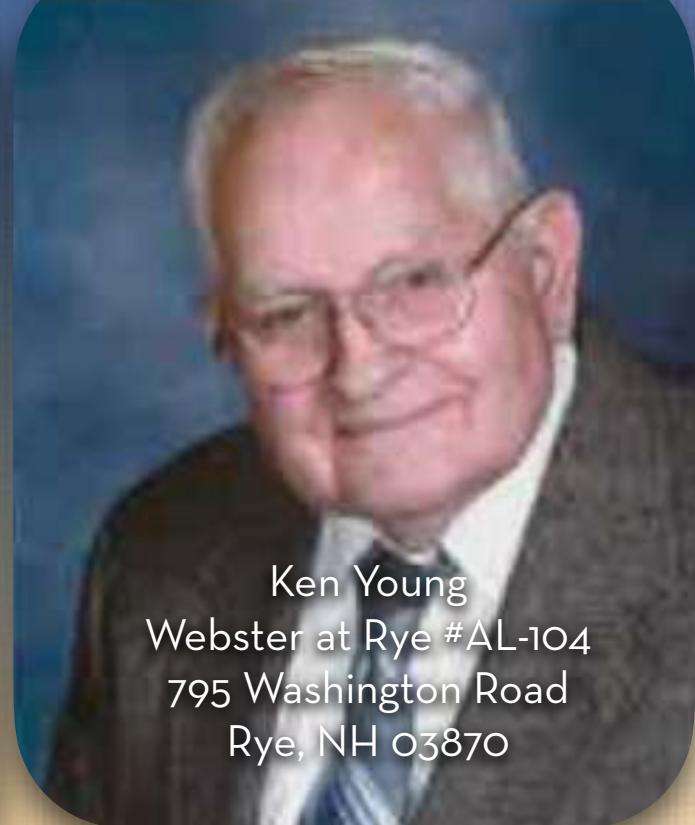
Scott Griffin
Margaret
The family of Amy Garrigan
The family of Bobby Kinnerly
Erica, Maria, Dominic, Norah
Christine & her parents
Roger Cox, Dave A's brother-in-law
Those in nursing and assisted living care
Our Church family



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