

EASTER

SUNDAY

APRIL 17, 2022



April 2022
FIRST UMC BEACON

Dear Friends,
This month we continue in the Lenten journey, move through Holy Week and celebrate Easter! It's been busy a busy Lenten time! So I share this Easter blessing with you from my colleague (and neighbor!) Steve Garnaas-Holmes from his blog "Unfolding Light":

In the beginning
God said Let there be light
and the light entered the darkness
and changed it forever.
The darkness is still dark,
but full of light;
and the darkness
cannot limit the light.
And now God has said Let there be life
and the life has entered death
and changed it forever.
Death is still death,
but full of life;
and death cannot limit life.
Christ has died
and entered into our death
and changed it forever.
Christ is risen,
risen into us,
and we are changed forever,
the Body of Christ.
We are still ourselves,
but full of Christ,
and the self cannot limit
the Christ in us.
Christ is risen;
we are risen indeed.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes
www.unfoldinglight.net
April 12, 2020

May your Easter be blessed with many joys, second chances, new life, renewed life and love. May you hold onto the hand of our Savior as he continues to guide us on this journey of life and faith. Amen.

Grace and peace, *Rev. Deb*



A person stands on a dark, silhouetted hill in the foreground, looking out over a calm lake. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright, glowing light that reflects on the water and illuminates the sky with warm, orange and yellow hues. Bare, dark tree branches frame the scene from the top and sides, adding a sense of depth and tranquility. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

“unfolding light”

by Steve Garnaas-Holmes



LENT CONTINUES

As we approach Holy Week, we will have several opportunities for video worship services. Our sojourning continues during this Lenten Season and through Easter. What can we learn on this journey with Jesus? How will we be uplifted, changed, and filled with the Holy Spirit as we grow in on our own path of faith? We hope you will join us regularly!



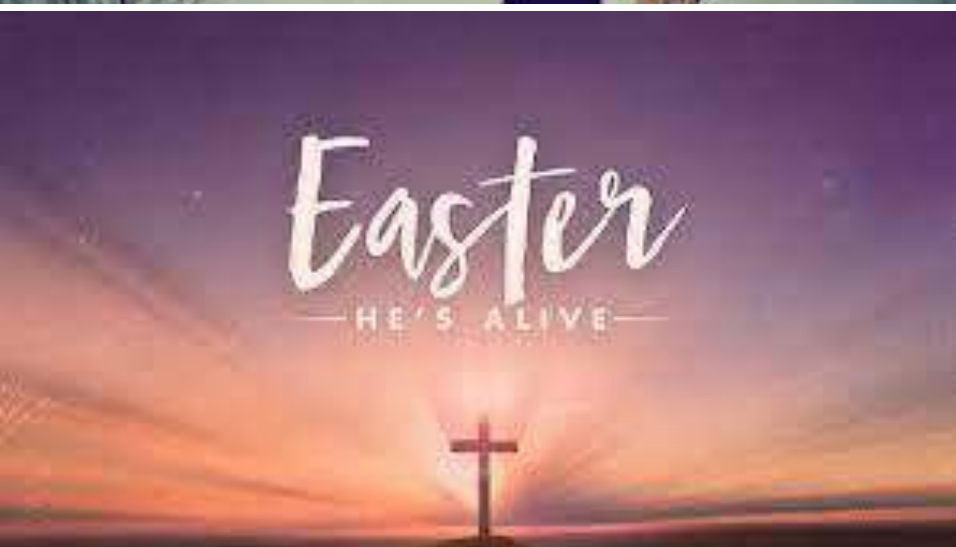
MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 14th on line video Holy Communion service with Rev. Deb and Dave. Have juice and bread ready. The liturgy will be sent out ahead of time or available in the church office for those who would like to have it available during the service.



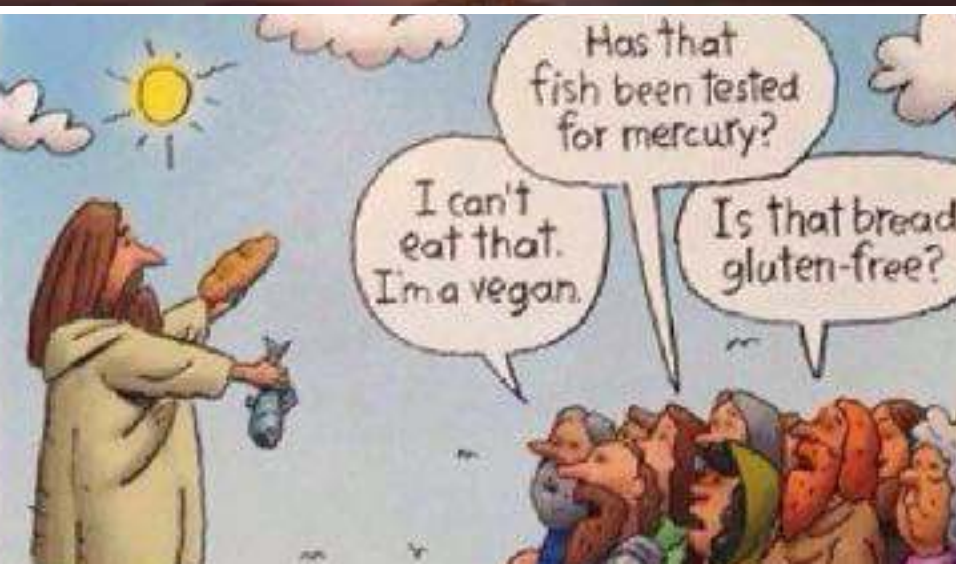
GOOD FRIDAY

April 15th on line video of reflections from those who witnessed what led up to Jesus' arrest and his death. These are monologues written by Rev. Deb and read by a variety of voices. During the readings, a series of pictures depicting the events will appear as each character is speaking. We hope you will check it out and find it meaningful for your Good Friday.



EASTER SUNDAY

April 17th don't miss it!!! It's a celebration of the resurrection!



HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

April 24th, let's celebrate with some smiles and laughter! (NO Sunday school this week due to school vacation week)



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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are excited to let you know that the Sunday school has grown to the point where we are separating into two classes. Children 10 and older will be in one class using a curriculum called "Faith Weaver," and those 9 and under will remain in the class using "It's Easy Being Green." Thanks to the teachers who have volunteered to share the teaching responsibilities for both classes. If anyone is interested in helping in the classroom, either as a teacher or helper, please let Rev. Deb know.

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.

Come to the church either on April 30th from 10am -4pm or May 7th from 10am - 4pm. There is a limited supply so get there early and claim your Mom's Day treats.



CHILDREN'S BOOK PUBLISHED

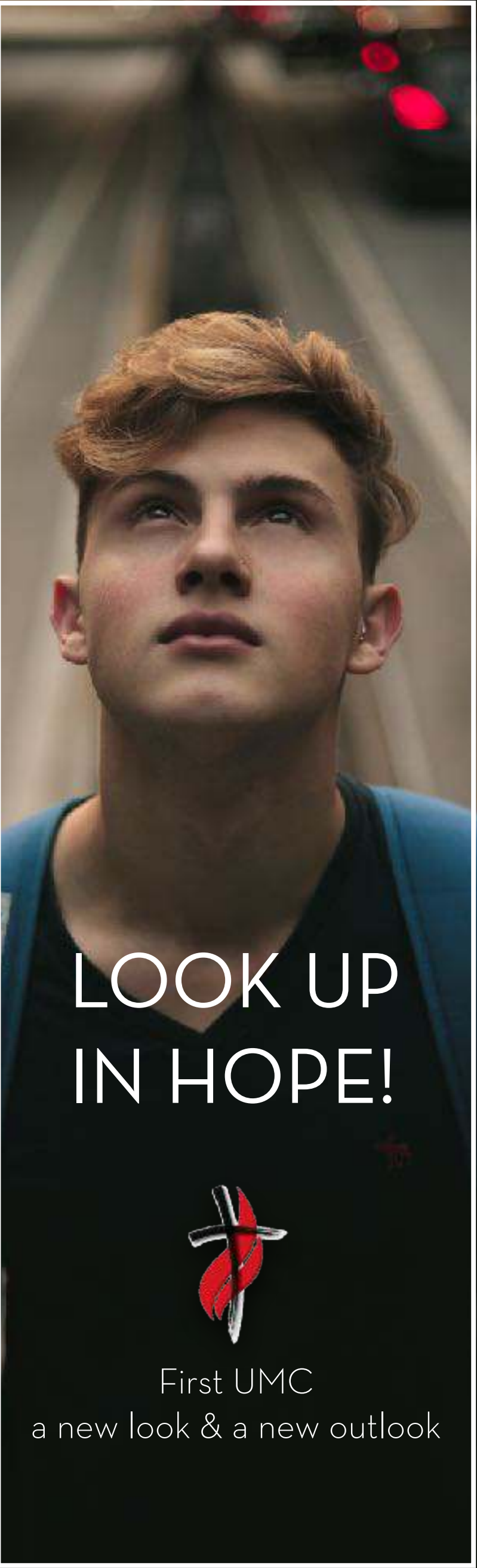
We are thrilled to announce the book written by Rev. Dr. Debra Hanson and Illustrated by Alexa Langs has been published - "Precious Pearlina".

Congratulations!

Book Overview - Children sometimes struggle with self-esteem, which can lead to bullying.

The story of Pearlina Penguin shares the journey of a little penguin who sees good qualities in others but can't see them in herself. She thinks God made a mistake, and she wants to be different. When she experiences bullying in school, she only feels worse. This is the story about how she discovers she is precious and needs to love herself and know that God made her special. Get your copy on line today!





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.

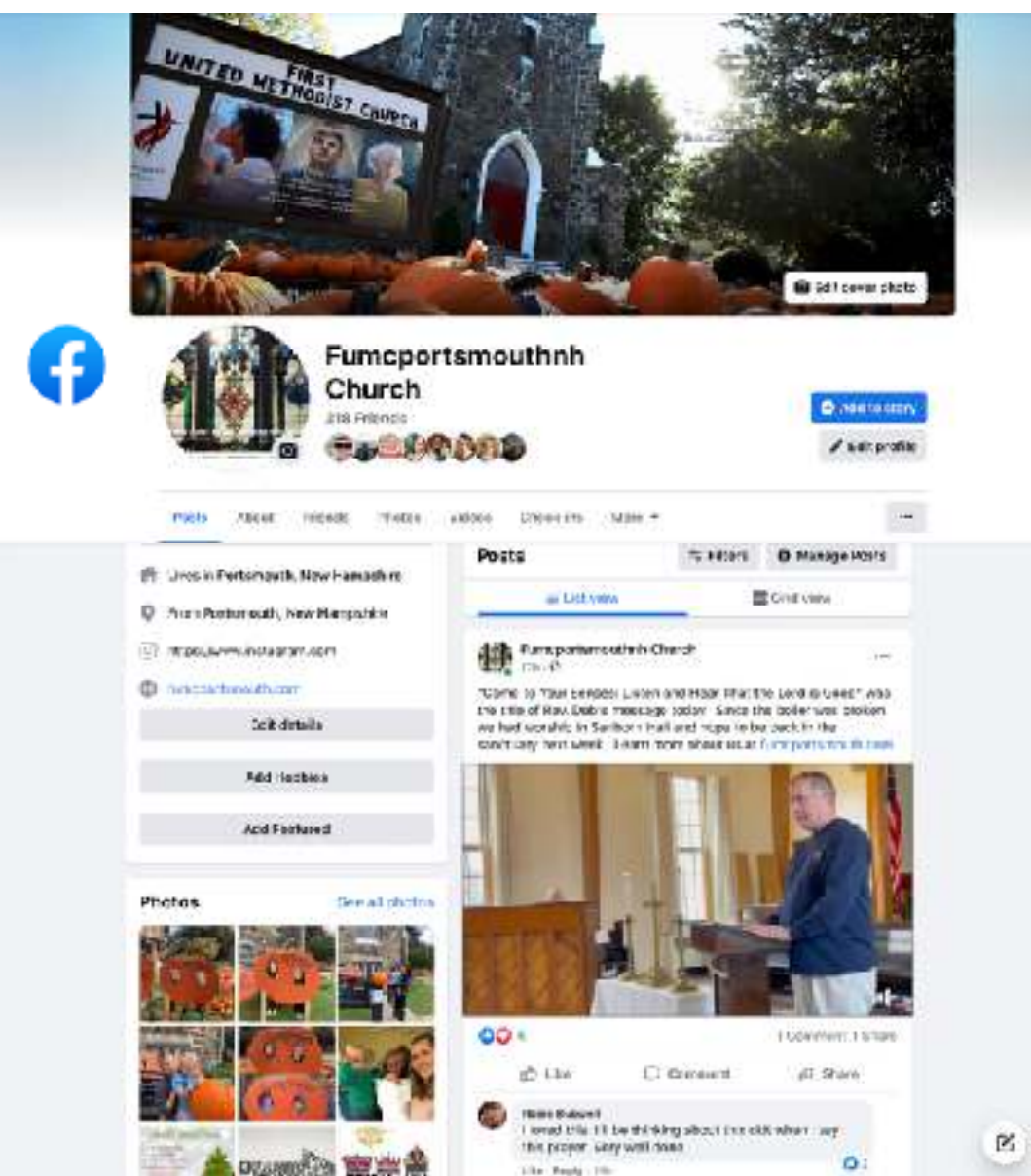


FIRST UMC WEBSITE

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.

LEADERSHIP MEETING

CHURCH LEADERSHIP MEETING

Leadership Board (formerly Church Council & Finance/Trustees) 6 pm Tuesday, April 19, 2022, in person or with a Zoom option.



CELEBRATION OF LIFE

On Tuesday, March 22, we celebrated Barbara Clement's life in a lovely service that included some of her favorite hymns, solos from Bevan, and a eulogy from Pastor Sue Ellery. Barbara was a blessing to this church and to so many people. Thanks to all who kept her in prayer during her life and to all who were able to be in the sanctuary to give thanks for a life well-lived.

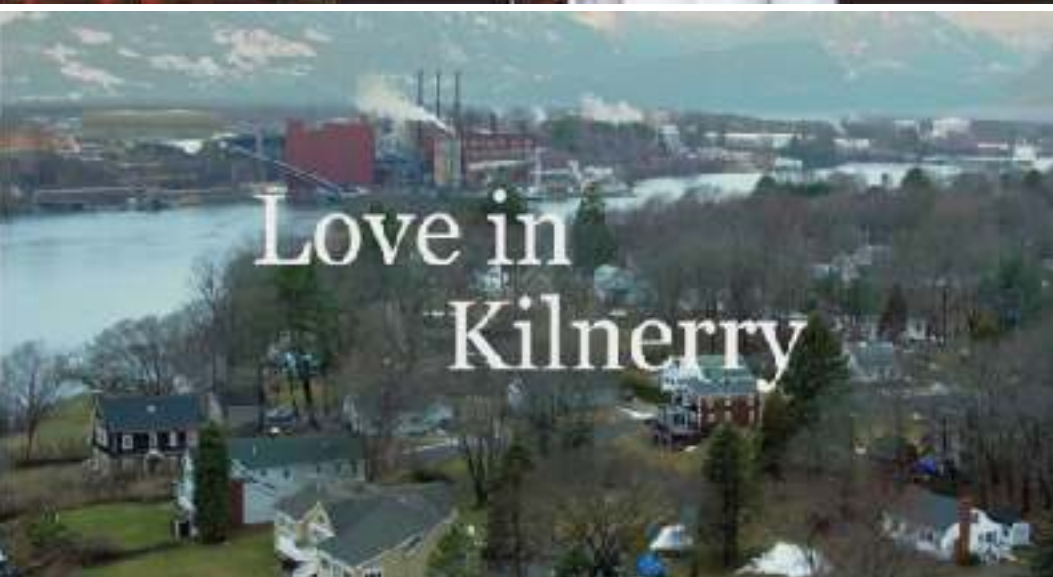
Barbara I. Clement

October 9, 1925 – March 15, 2022



WELCOME NEW FAMILY MEMBERS

Welcome to our new members! Mike Lindgren is married to Melanie Berry Lindgren (and they are expecting their first child soon!). Sue Lange has been attending for a while, and we are excited to receive both of them as new members of the church! Please support them and welcome them with your usual warmth, love, and hospitality!



LOVE IN KILNERRY

Come out and support our very own Steve Scott and the film he has been passionate about that was filmed in Portsmouth and he is in the film too! It will be debuted on April 9th 1:00, 3:10, 5:30 and 7:40pm at the Portsmouth High School. Get your tickets @ <https://www.loveinkilnerry.com/tickets>

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR UKRAINE

Thank you all for your support of medical supplies and the much needed prayers for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine and those who are here.



THANK YOU!

Thank you to the painters who never give up and are always smiling...thank you Emily, Kristen, John and Lisa for the dedication in getting the restrooms painted. Fantastic job and no spilled paint this time!!



TURKEY DINNER IN HAMPTON

On Saturday, April 9, the Hampton UMC will hold a curbside Turkey Dinner.

Turkey dinner curbside pickup!

Saturday April 9, 2022 from
4:30-6:00pm.

Each turkey dinner includes, turkey with stuffing, mashed potatoes, squash, peas, gravy, rolls, cranberry sauce, and apple crisp.

Senior Meal - \$10, Adult Meal- \$12
Children Meal-\$6. You won't have to leave your car! Simply text or call (603) 498-5162 when you arrive.





An Introduction Daniel (Chung Ho) Lee

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar intends to appoint Rev. Chung Ho Lee as pastor of the First United Methodist and York-Ogunquit United Methodist effective July 1, 2022 subject to fulfilling all the requirements needed for a successful transition by the pastor and the respective churches affected by the appointment. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is following up and very pleased to announce that we agree with Bishop Devadhar's placement of Rev. Daniel (Chung Ho) Lee¹ to serve as the Pastor for First United Methodist Church effective July 1, 2022. He is a Provisional Elder in the United Methodist Church. Daniel (Chung Ho) will be joined by his wife, Jinah who has pursued training in the neurosciences at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is now enrolled in dental school.

Most recently, he has served as Pastor at Grace Vision United Methodist Church in Watertown, Massachusetts. By returning to First United Methodist Church, he will be returning to area of his first placement as an Associate Pastor at Greenland United Methodist Church where he served for nearly a decade. In meeting with the SPRC, he indicated that his desire was to first become acquainted with members of the congregation, to learn about their needs, understand their vision of where we need to go; and, to help lead us through a cooperative leadership style that builds on the work done by the church over the last several years. As we move forward, he noted that *"...we need to learn together."* and, in closing noted that *"I am so grateful to be with First UMC family. I hope to enjoy the joy of facing each other and growing together with you in Jesus, who loved us."*

Daniel (Chung Ho) will be serving on a half-time basis with First United Methodist with the other half time committed to York-Ogunquit United Methodist. The approach is a recent development for the Methodist Church and is referred to as a "yoked ministry". The two churches will be creating a coordinating group to assure that the traditions, needs and requirements of both churches are fully met as we move forward. If there are any questions, feel free to reach out to Kevin Fickenscher, MD (617-386-6924) or Christine Williams (603) 767-1660) for further information.

¹ Daniel (Chung Ho) has indicated that the members of First United Methodist Church can call him by either of his Korean given name of *Chung Ho* or, his adopted American name of *Daniel*.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

6 Kathy Brown
23 Gil Stebbins
27 Marilyn Stebbins

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

24 David & Kathy Brown
26 Tim & PennySue Orr



WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER

Roy Libby

Jackie Lang

Juliann Smith

Charles Gilman

Rick Beebe

Marilyn & Gil

Donna Smith

Sophia

Bobbie Noble

Dan Strange

Marion Collishaw

Dwight & Reginald

Barbara Glidden

Margaret

Roy Libby

Willie Randall

John

Ken

Rev. Chuck Hartman

Steve Tallman

Erica, Maria, Dominic, Norah

Christine & her parents

Roger Cox, Dave A's brother-in-law

Dianne Crisp and Family

Those in nursing and assisted living care

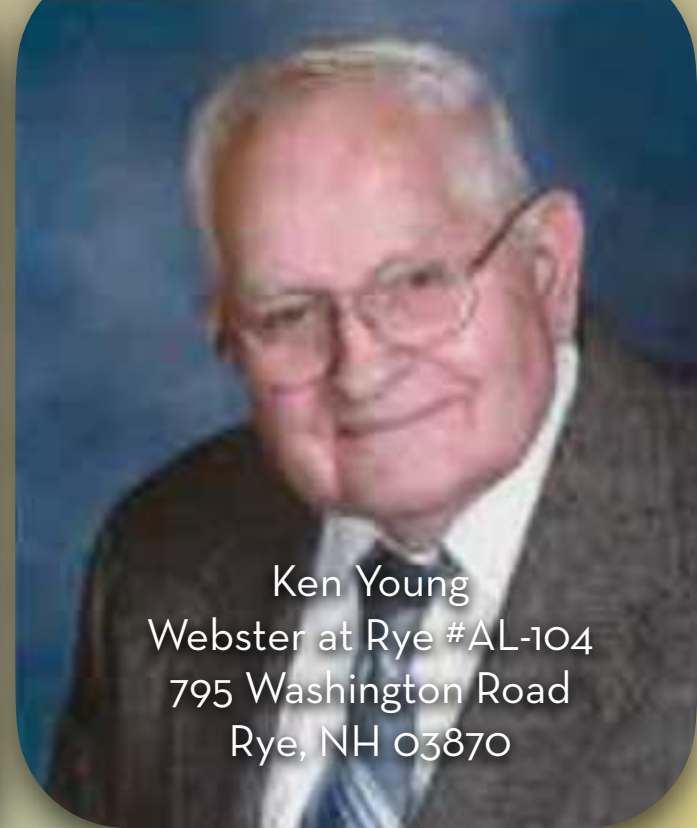
Our Church family



Slater, Jim
75 State Street
Portland, ME 04101



Marion Collishaw
50 Old Colony Way
Scituate MA 02066



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

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