



AUGUST 2022
FIRST UMC BEACON

I GIVE YOU PEACE,
THE KIND OF PEACE
ONLY I CAN GIVE.

John 14:27



"The peace different from what this world gives."

Covid has completely changed the way we lived. Not only in the areas of health and wellness, but also in our daily life, economic activities and society, there is no place that is not affected anywhere. And those changes are still ongoing. So we are still living in an era of uncertainty. What should we look for in an age of uncertainty?

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

According to the Gospel of John 14, Jesus gives his disciples peace as a gift. But the peace that Jesus gives is different from what the world gives. The peace that the world provides consists of unchanging, predictable certainty and stability. However, the peace of Jesus comes from the fact that our lives belong to the Lord even amid imperfections.

As the uncertainty of the world grows, and we are afraid as well in it, but we find a deeper peace in the fact that we are in Jesus. The peace that Jesus gives is thus peace that transcends circumstances. We are all people who confess Jesus as peace and are called to preach this peace.

July was a time when our family and our church all experienced this kind of peace. Starting another journey into an unfamiliar time is exciting, but at the same time terrifying. However, I learned the peace that Jesus gives through your hospitality even in an unfamiliar environment and uncertain time. I have seen this kind of peace in all of you who welcome our family even in uncertain circumstances.

Now, together with you, I pray that we will share this journey of illuminating this lamp of peace. Let's walk together on a journey to illuminate the peace of Jesus that the world cannot give through hospitality in a time of uncertainty.

"Lord, we are in the middle of the summer months. We look forward to rest and recreation, but time is moving rapidly on and we still find ourselves stressed and weary. We know this, but yet find this hard to do. We load ourselves up with activities, stresses, duties and then wonder how we will survive them. As you have found us before, Lord, find us again. Wrap your arms of compassion around us. Help us to savor the times that we have with each other. Make us keenly aware of the magnificence of this world. Draw us to the times of peace and rest. As we have brought names of loved ones to you for your healing mercies, remind us that we, too, stand in need of your healing love. Give us strength, courage and joy, that we might become disciples who are worthy of your kingdom, for we offer this prayer in Jesus' Name. AMEN."

Christ and Your Servant
Rev. Daniel Chung Ho Lee



WELCOME TO FIRST UMC - PORTSMOUTH, NH
REV. CHUNG HO & JINAH LEE





THE SUMMER SLUMP!

We all know exactly what those words mean don't we!...drop in attendance, decreased participation, and reduced giving...UGH! But it also means...vacations, connecting with family and friends, late summer nights. The good news is that we have a plan and that plan is to continue "to transform lives through unconditional inclusion, empowering actions to make a difference" each and every day whether you are at church or not.

Please do remember to continue to be digital disciples through connecting yourself and friends through social media, visiting our website and keeping up on your annual pledges through in-person giving, mail or the on-line option on our website fumcportsmouth.com

Have a safe and wonderful summer and take with you the love of your First UMC family.

MEMORIAL *service*

You are invited to celebrate the lives of
Rev. Betsy and Paul Webber — Thursday August 11, 2022
at 11am at the Greenland Community Church.
There will be a reception following the service.



MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sadly our former Pastor Rev. Betsy Webber passed away on January 10, 2022 and her loving husband Paul Webber passed away August 8, 2020 during the pandemic...on August 11th there will be a joint memorial service at the Greenland Community Church at 11am. All are invited to attend with a reception to follow.

UPCOMING EVENTS



PLAN TO CELEBRATE WITH US

David and Sue Richards are inviting us all to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on Sunday, August 7th after church service around 10:15'ish.

Come and wish these two amazing First UMC family members well on this wonderful milestone.

YARD SALE

August 20th 9am - 2pm

You still have time to bring things in for the sale but remember NO clothes or shoes...furniture, artwork, electronics, knick knacks, plants etc all do really well at the yard sale.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO PREP FOR THE SALE, SELL THE TREASURES AND CLEAN UP... YOU IN?...LET THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW!





Planet Rangers

KEEN ON ADVENTURE



Wild New Hampshire Finale



That beautiful church garden is attracting some really big bugs!

Rock painting messages of hope to put around the neighborhood!



Puppet Show



Geology Rocks Camp

Our pal, Emily, in action.



A small group panning for gold on a rainy afternoon in the pumpkin booth





HARD TO BELIEVE HUH!

Last year First UMC made 100+ cold weather packs that were provided to folks who needed them to stay warm in what seems like the endless winter months here in New England. We will continue this program and just wanted to remind everyone that we can always use “NEW” socks, gloves, scarves, mittens and hats. If you are a knitter or know anyone that is and they love donating their crafts to...we would be a grateful recipient. Any donations can be brought to the office on Wednesdays from 10-2pm.



HMMMM HMMMM GOOD!

The PIE ANGELS have made such an impression in the tummies of our community for special occasions and will be back creating their magic soon.

The “frozen” pie option has done incredibly well and we will be looking to increase the availability BUT....can only make that happen with the help of some new PIE ANGELS!

We have lost some of the existing team members due to declining health and Sue Richards could really use your help...**can you help?**...lots of fun, laughter and wonderful conversation happens too!

See Sue R. For more details please.



CHURCH LEADERSHIP JULY REPORT OUTS

FACILITIES

SRS Masonry has completed the additional repointing of the sanctuary. Awaiting the new back door order to arrive and will be completed with finish masonry and will be keyed to match the front door. SRS Masonry is also in process of providing a quote for a new handicap ramp.

Vestry windows are complete. Frosted vinyl needs to be added in the Vestry bathroom windows.

Sacramone Electric completed vestry lighting and is pending electrical inspection.

Nelson Contracting will be completing the painting the outside of Sanborn Hall (the same company that painted the sanctuary) to match the sanctuary stone. In process of coordinating painting during a week when Planet Rangers does not have camp.

The correct bulbs for the sanctuary lighting have finally arrived. They will be replaced on 7/28/22.

Updated vinyl for the outside sign has been ordered with our new worship time of 9:00 am.

Still awaiting quote for new sanctuary speakers. Will follow up this week. The 'cracking' and 'skipping' of videos continues. Several adjustments have been made with the sound system to increase ease of hearing/listening. This is a normal experience when a new pastor arrives. Please all be patient, we're working on it.

COMMUNITY

The second Hope to Joy Group had approximately 50 attendees. This is another amazing collaboration with I Got Bridged. There is a speaker at each group on varied topics. The group takes a collection and gives a 50% donation to FUMC and 50% to the Little Harbor School Needy Children's Fund. FUMC received another \$50.00 as a result from the July meeting. This group is held once a month on the first Saturday morning of each month. The next meeting is 8/4/22, and all are invited.

The Second Annual (I Got Bridged) Bridge-a-Thon is on Sunday, September 11, at 10:00 am. It's important we have representation from our church at this event. Who can/will go?? A friend of I Got Bridged detached and re-attached the separator walls in the mens and ladies room at the front of the Vestry for window installation - at no charge to the church. Glenn, our neighbor, continues to water the flowers in our four (4) planters outside. Glenn also vacuumed the sanctuary and filled toilet paper and paper towels during Cathy's vacation.

PennySue Orr's friend, Anne, had a new air conditioner she wished to donate; but wanted it to go to a person in need rather than selling at our yard sale if possible. Contact was made with a disabled veteran living in an apartment who very gratefully accepted the donation. Anne was pleased air conditioner went to someone in need. Anne is also a knitter of the hats we distribute to the homeless in the winter.

Received a call from the new VP of Great Bay Community College. He is moving here to the Portsmouth area and is looking for a temporary living situation til his remaining family is able to join him. He is a member of a methodist church and has done research on surrounding churches and looks forward to joining us soon. He loves our website and all the ministries we promote and are involved in. If anyone is aware of any in-law rooms available, please let the office know.

MUSIC AND MARKETING

The Beacon continues to be an integral part of connecting our church family and friends on a monthly basis. We have incurred a tremendous amount of change and want to continue to highlight that our “purpose” and “mission” for our church as not change - “to transform lives through unconditional inclusion, empowering actions to make a difference” in our community.



Facebook continues to be a valued outreach but I will once again stress that I am still concerned about our own internal church family’s digital culture...or simply put does everyone understand the power of the social media “likes” and “shares” and use of our website. We KNOW that that these sources of outreach are being viewed as we’ve had visitors state that they have found us through our website etc. That said, we cannot relax the push for everyone to be more diligent in using these digital tools to reach outside our church walls especially as we enter the summer season when attendance is low. Be A Digital Disciple!

The content can be created but if it is not shared it is like not telling the community you are from First UMC or spreading the God’s word not only through your own actions but the actions of the church in the community. Please, please share these vital tools in our ministry to the world and ask. your friends, family, kids etc to be involved by simply “sharing”.





CHURCH LEADERSHIP JULY REPORT OUTS

MUSIC AND MARKETING

The website continues to be updated with new content every week with some of the video updates lagging behind due to our collaborator's schedules and summer time. There is always availability for newcomers and suggestions for content with an online survey available on our site.



We continue to send out the Sunday email with service video link, pics etc to 90+ email addresses...if you know of someone who would like to be added to our mailing list please let the church office team know.



IT WAS A HOT ONE IN CHURCH TODAY WASN'T IT...thank you to those who braved the heat, brought their own fans, sat by windows or had lunch drinks with them...we managed to have a wonderful service. Today's sermon by Rev Daniel Chung Ho Lee was titled "The Gospel For Hypocrites" and we were on Facebook Live today and will be back to leading the service to YouTube hopefully next week.

JOYS - We welcomed Kathleen Hourhan to our worship service...hopefully most of you had the opportunity to say hello and we look forward to seeing her again next week.

PRAYERS - We lift up in prayer the following friends and family: Chuck Quakenbush - John - Wierba - Ken & Jenja - Chirif & Leanne - Dwight & Reginald - Phyllis - Charles & Juliana - Maria

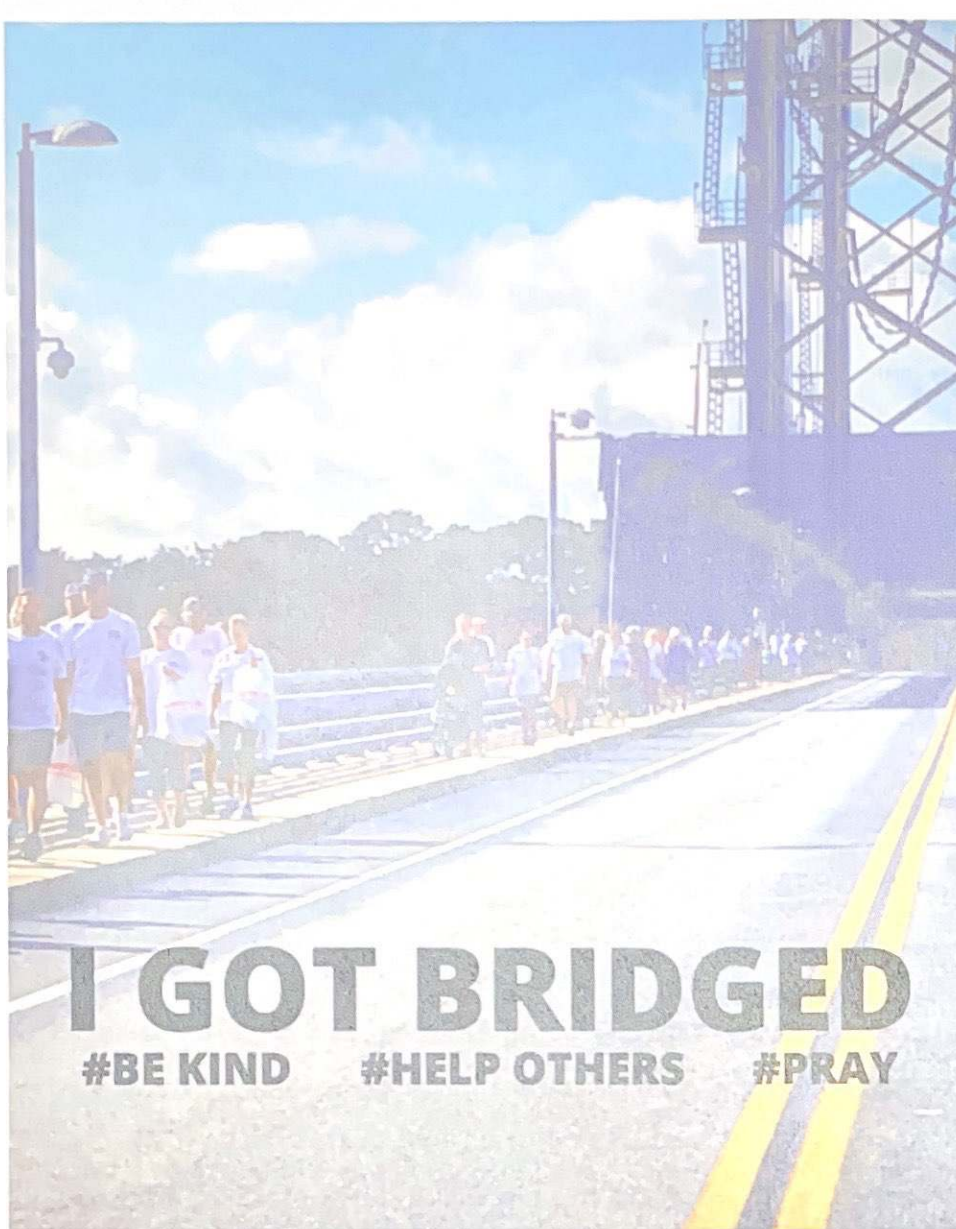
Wishing you all a wonderful week ahead, stay cool and hydrated and remember you are blessed and are a blessing to others.

ONE LAST PLEA - SHARE, VISIT & INVITE

Share the posts on Facebook - Visit our website @ fumcportsmouth.com and Invite friends and family to do the same. We need everyone's support to be digital disciples. The community has confirmed that they have found us as a result of our online presence!



The music ministry continues to be a valued part of the worship service and look forward to any additional volunteers to offer up their musical gifts.



Bridging the Gap for People in Need on the Seacoast

Through a network of volunteers, sponsors and contributors, our aim is to seek out and help those in need on the Seacoast.

Everyone is fighting a battle and by helping others, we take the focus off ourselves.

Do **you** or someone **you know** need help? Please reach out to us by visiting our website, igotbridged.com, or giving us a call 866-BRIDGED (866-274-3433).



Volunteer Opportunities

- Shovel the Seacoast
- Grocery Shopping
- Lawn Care
- Bridgemobile Drivers
- Bridge-A-Thon
- Administrative Work

Events

- "Time 4 Joy" Comedy Night
 - March 31 2022
- Market Square Day
 - June 11 2022
- Bridge-A-Thon
 - September 11 2022
- Community Dinner Nights

Thank you to our sponsors for helping make this possible. **Interested in becoming a sponsor? Please reach out!**

Follow us on Facebook and
Instagram!

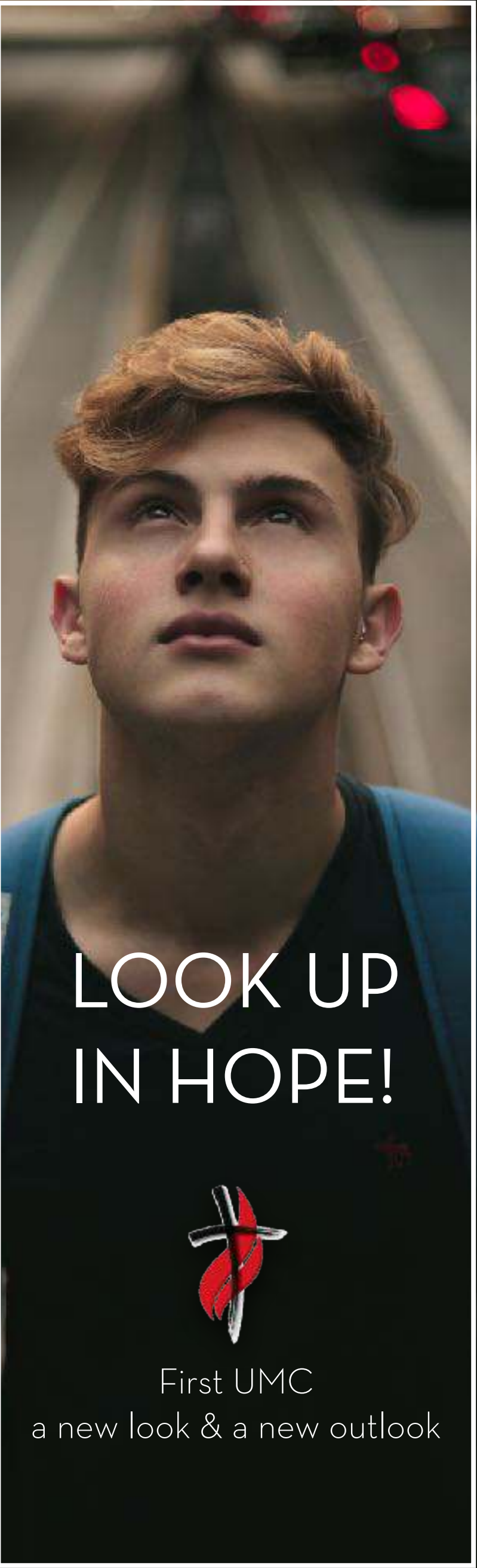


@igotbridged



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.

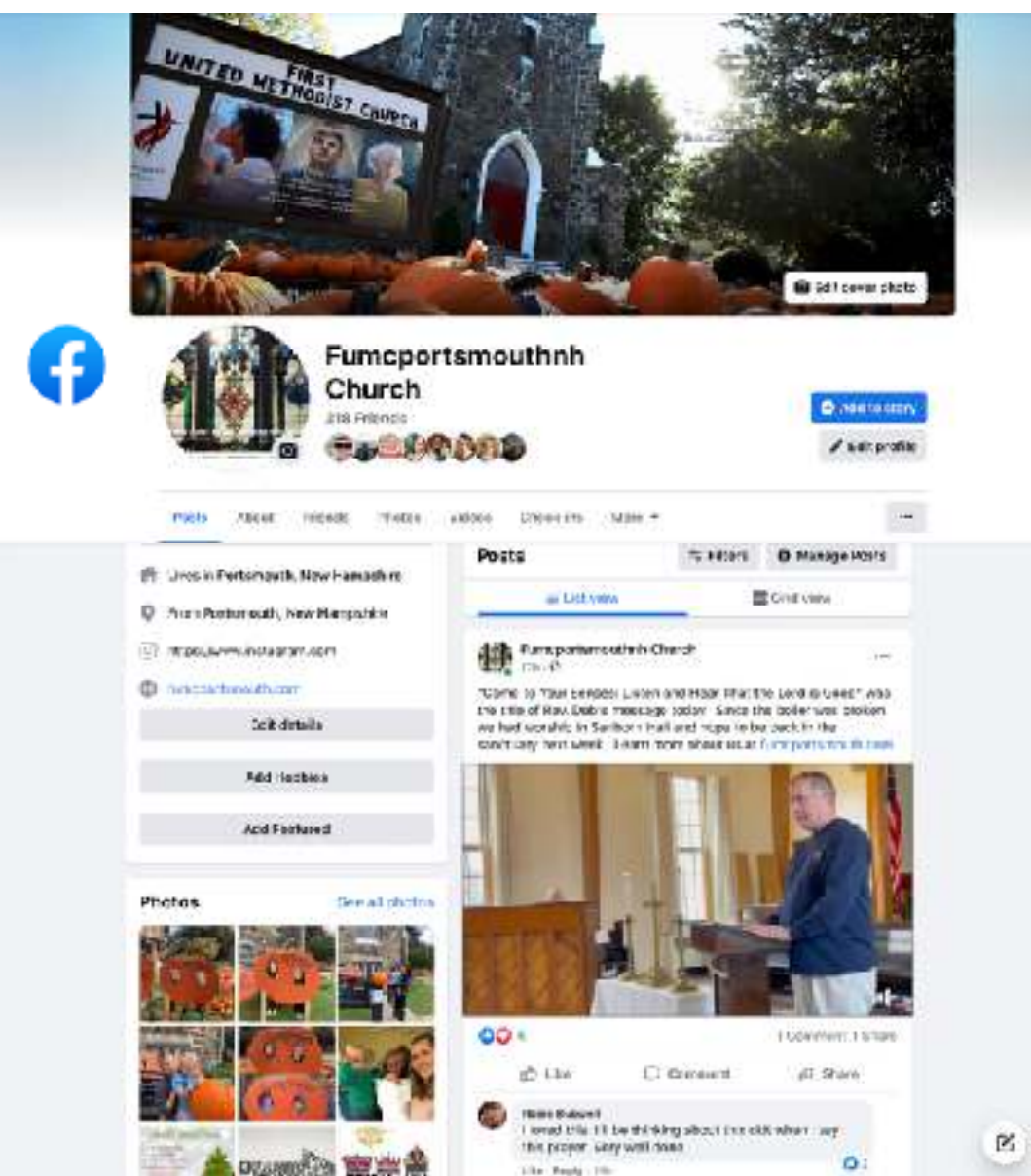


FIRST UMC WEBSITE

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.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8 Anne Coffey
10 Steve Langs
12 Art Munson
13 Pastor Sue Ellery
13 Andrew Laux
18 Priscilla Zoffoli
20 Jesse Bennett
20 Suzanne Olbricht
25 Bevan Bloemendaal
26 Linda Reiber
27 Jan Cansdale
28 TJ Scott

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

2 Bill & Connie Parsons
7 David & Sue Richards
9 Joseph & Kim Philbrick
13 Gil & Marilyn Stebbins
29 Kevin Fickenscher & Suzanne Olbricht

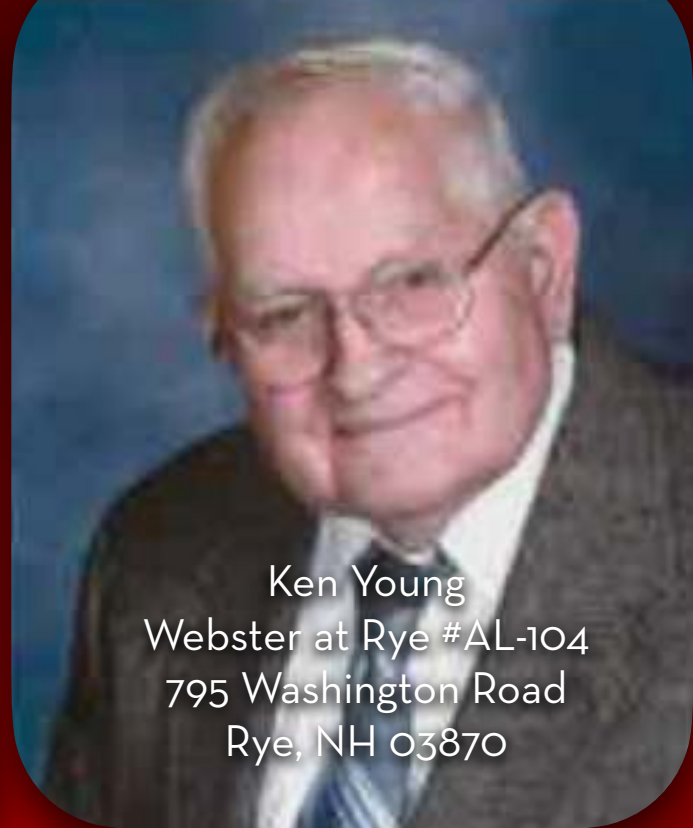




Slater, Jim
75 State Street
Portland, ME 04101



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 or a quick visit can make a big difference in someone's day!



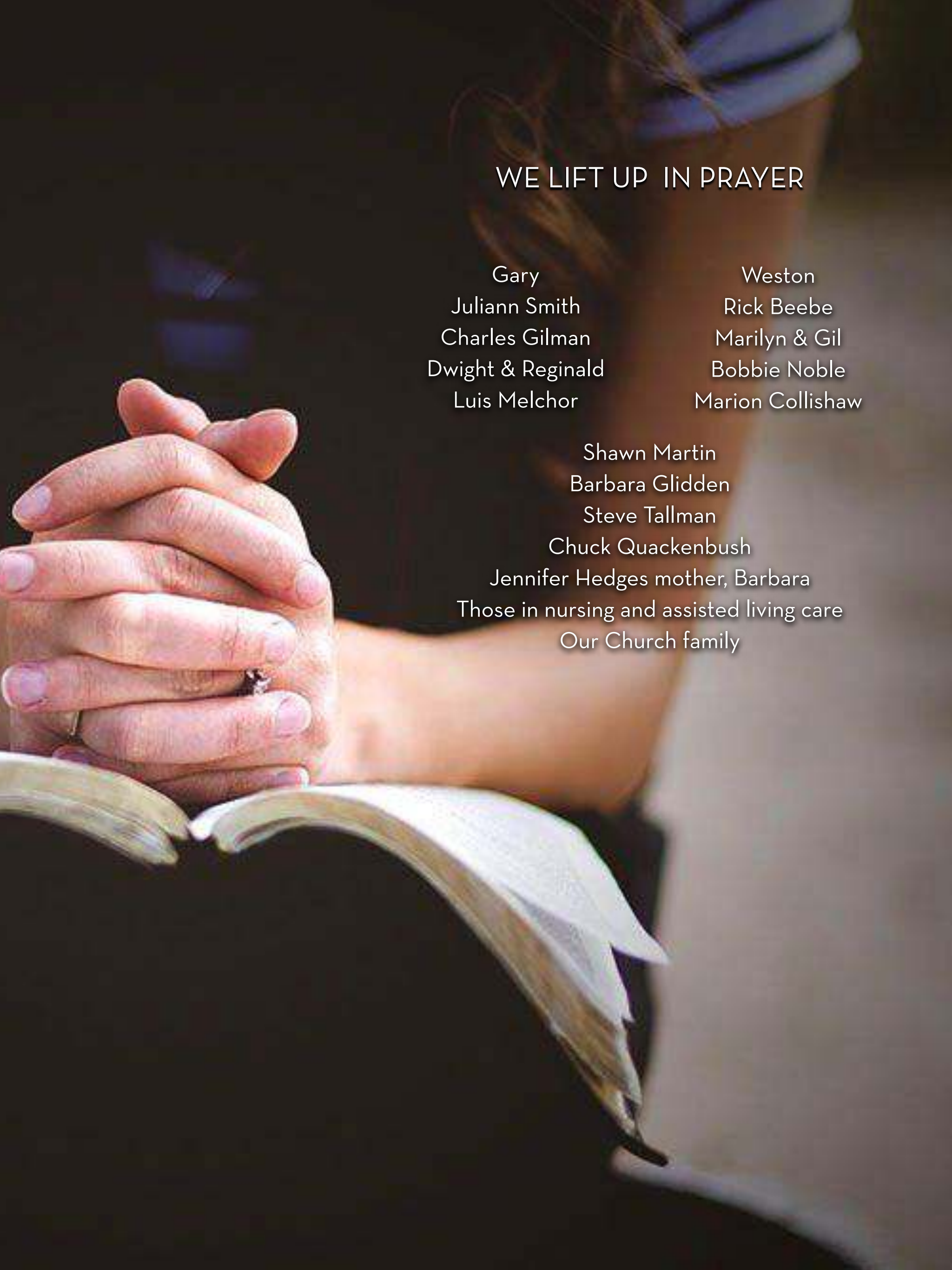
Barbara Glidden
188 Jones Ave #101
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Gil Stebbins
9 Lewis Road, #104-2
Kittery, ME. 03904



Barbara Sylvester
346 Pleasant St. #254
Portsmouth, NH 03801



WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER

Gary

Juliann Smith

Charles Gilman

Dwight & Reginald

Luis Melchor

Weston

Rick Beebe

Marilyn & Gil

Bobbie Noble

Marion Collishaw

Shawn Martin

Barbara Glidden

Steve Tallman

Chuck Quackenbush

Jennifer Hedges mother, Barbara

Those in nursing and assisted living care

Our Church family



HOPE

BUILDING

COMMUNITY FAITHRAISER

**LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP US KEEP
HOPE ALIVE IN THE COMMUNITY**

**DONATE @ FUMCPORTSMOUTH.COM
#BUILDINGHOPE**

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



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



SUNDAYS
10am



LOOK UP!

Not just as a reflection of how far we've come,
but a sign as an act of hope for a brighter future.
Join us as we re-open our doors
with a new and fresh look and outlook.