


 
for
everything
there
is a
season



MAY 2022
FIRST UMC BEACON



Everything on earth has its own time and its own season. There is a time for birth and death, planting and reaping, for killing and healing, destroying and building, for crying and laughing, weeping and dancing, for throwing stones and gathering stones, embracing and parting. There is a time for finding and losing, keeping and giving, for tearing and sewing, listening and speaking. There is also a time for love and hate, for war and peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 from the Contemporary English Version:



Dear Friends,
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 printed on the previous page is a familiar passage to many of us. My time with you is nearly done. We have two months before I will depart as your pastor, and Chung Ho (or his English name Daniel) will begin his time with you. I will no longer be your pastor, so I am not available to do weddings, funerals, or any other pastoral work with you. It is so important to allow Chung Ho to have the time to build a relationship with you, and my presence could take away from that.

There will be changes that you all will face, but I have seen you go through a pandemic, adjusting to new ways of doing things, figuring out how to connect even though we couldn't be together in person, worshiping with us by video, gathering on Sunday morning via Zoom, having meetings by Zoom, expanding our technological outreach, and many more ways in which we all have adjusted.

Please give yourselves time to adjust to the changes. Please welcome Chung Ho with your wonderful hospitality and offer ways that make him feel welcome - not just on the first day but on a regular basis. Being a pastor is a very lonely job, and a compliment, kind word of encouragement, and caring about the pastor goes a long way. This is the time to welcome the new and let go of the old.

You will continue in my prayers, even as Dave and I move on to the new chapter in our lives, whatever that may be. Over these next few months, let us say our farewells and appreciate what we have accomplished together, knowing that there is still much more ministry to do. Now is the time for building up the church, for experiencing new opportunities, for keeping the things that work and throwing out those that don't. Now is the time for love and peace, for entering the season of new possibilities. Now is the time to put yourself in someone else's shoes and ask, "What can I do for them?" not, "What is in it for me?" Now is the time to move forward into God's vision for this church.

Know that God will continue to guide you and help you along the way.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Deb



REV. DEB'S RETIREMENT RECEPTION

Please join us as a church family and friends on June 5, after worship to thank Rev. Deb and Dave for all they have done over the years with such love, compassion and passion...we have grown as a community church in so many ways during unprecedented times and through it all have come through as a stronger and more loving community.

Sue R is collecting for Rev Deb's retirement gift so please see her to be part of saying thanks.

Rev Deb's last Sunday is June 19.



CATHY IS MOVING

Our sexton Cathy S. is moving to North Carolina and her last day is May 28th.

See Sue R. to donate to a farewell and appreciation gift for Cathy.



CHURCH LEADERSHIP MEETING

Leadership Board (formerly Church Council & Finance/Trustees) 6 pm Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at the church parsonage in person or with a Zoom option.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school has one full month before they will break for the summer. On June 5, we will celebrate Children's Sunday, Pentecost, AND Holy Communion! The children will lead the service and be helpers, and we will celebrate being the church together. How fitting to share communion on the day when we officially remember the birth of the church! Thanks for your continue support of our Sunday school, and thanks to the kids for the gifts they bring to our congregation!.

MOTHER'S DAY MAY 8th

We will celebrate the mothers and mother-figures in our lives. This includes the mothers who are biological, adoptive, foster, aunts, grandmothers, future mothers, anyone who offers the love of a mother figure. We hope you will come to celebrate the gifts they each offer, and we will give them the gift of a carnation as a token of love and thanks. Be sure to get your Mother's Day lasagna dinner, flowers and Lindt chocolates at the church! April 30th - 10am - 4pm & May 7th - 10am - 4pm



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". Get your copy on line today or even EASIER get a copy in the church office for \$20!





THANK YOU SUE LANGE

The front gardens have had a refresh thanks to Sue's love and passion for gardening and the outdoors!....thank you Sue for making it so beautiful.



SPRING CLEAN UP DAY

May 21st @ 9am

There are projects for all ages - come and help keep our beautifully remodeled church looking clean and sparkly for all of our community to utilize and enjoy God's House!



YARD SALE

August 20th 9am - 2pm

This is where our LENT 40 DAYS 40 ITEMS will be sold with proceeds going to the General Fund. You can continue to bring your items to the church as you clean out your basement and start Spring cleaning! Remember NO clothes or shoes... furniture, artwork, electronics, knick knacks, plants etc all do really well at the yard sale.

SUPPORT UKRAINE

Once again our First UMC community has made an incredible difference for the SUPPORT UKRAINE campaign. All of the medical supplies have been lovingly boxed up and are ready to be sent. Thank you First UMC friends and family for doing what you do so well - making a difference in the world. A couple of extra shout outs go to Jennifer H and the Dondero School, Kellie L, Sue S, and Sue R for your amazing support.



MOTHER'S DAY PREP

The First UMC crews getting ready for the Mother's Day event...come and get there early to get the special woman/women in your life a lasagna dinners, potted flowers and Lindt chocolates - April 30 and May 7th from 10am - 4pm.

Thank you Sillanpaa kids, Mike, Sue, Dave, Aerial, for getting the Pumpkin Patch booth out and ready and Cathy, Jane, Cynthia and Sue for making the homemade lasagna dinners. See you at 129 Miller Ave next weekend.





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.

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

The United Methodist Church asks us to support ministries in a variety of ways. There are six special offerings during the year, and on May 1, we will have the opportunity to help Native American Ministries.

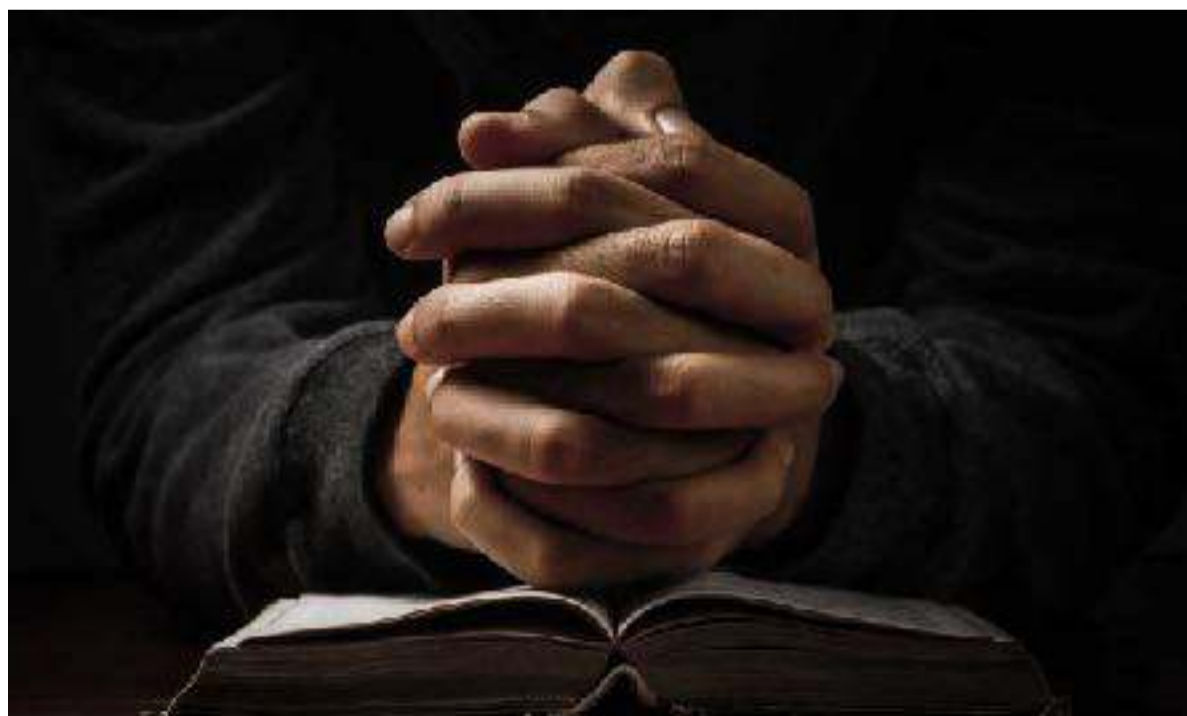
Here is a summary from the Board of Discipleship:

“Without your generosity, this ministry could not be achieved! You gave \$453,155 in 2021 towards ministries funded by the Native American Ministries Special Sunday offering. Because of you, we are able to develop and strengthen Native American ministries in the Annual Conferences, Native American rural, urban, reservation ministries and communities relating to the General Board of Global Ministries. It also provides scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist schools of theology. This fund is distributed by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministries and The General Board of Global Ministries.”

We hope you will participate in this “second-mile giving” to help ministries in our area as well as all over the country. Just mark your check “Native American” so it will go to the correct fund. Thank you! We can make a difference, no matter the size of the gift!

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, May 5 is National Day of Prayer (in addition to Cinco de Mayo!). Even though we don't do a special service, Rev. Deb will send out a prayer for the day by email and on Facebook. If anyone who is not on line would like to have a copy, please let Rev. Deb know or contact the church office.





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 persons 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.

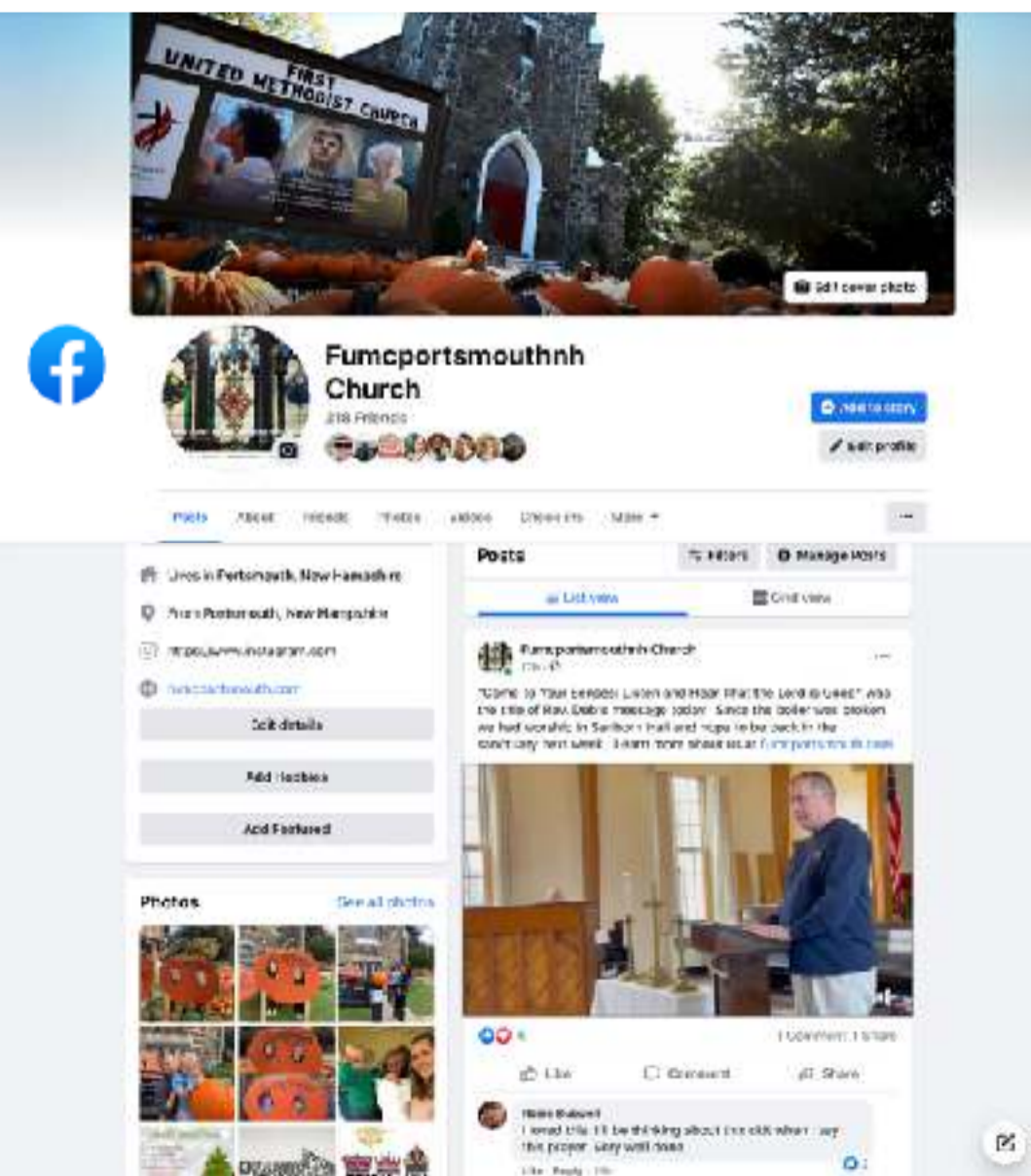


FIRST UMC WEBSITE

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.

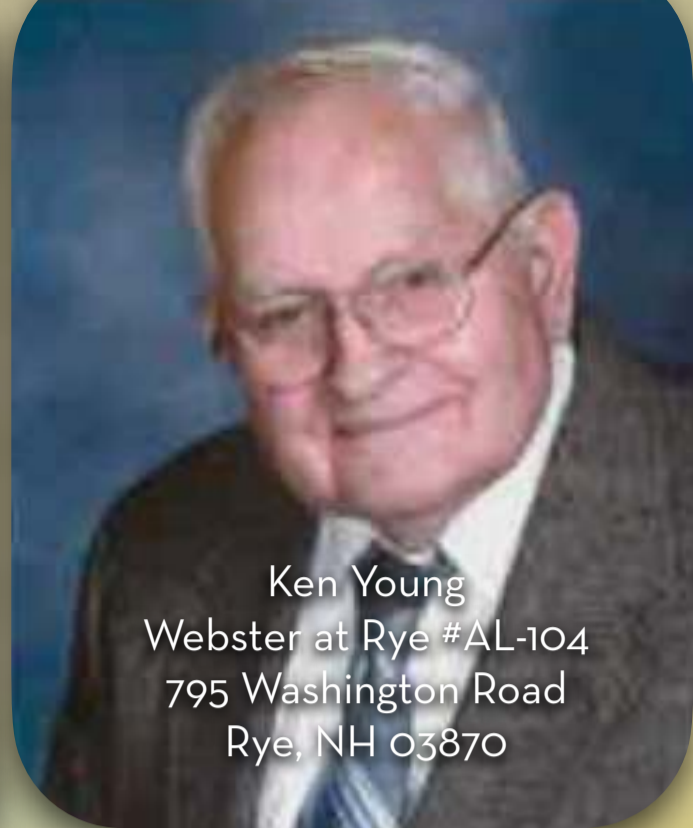
Please, Please be sure to not only LIKE our posts but SHARE THEM with your network of friends making it possible for others to be part of our family.



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

WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER

John
Ken
Margaret
Phyllis
Juliann Smith
Charles Gilman
Rick Beebe
Marilyn & Gil
Donna Smith
Sophia
Bobbie Noble
Dan Strange
Marion Collishaw
Dwight & Reginald
Barbara Glidden
Chase & Tanya
Jackie Lang
Willie Randall
Rev. Chuck Hartman
Steve Tallman
Erica, Maria, Dominic, Norah
Jennifer Hedges mother, Barbara
Christine & her parents
Roger Cox, Dave A's brother-in-law
Those in nursing and assisted living care
Our Church family
Ukraine





MAY BIRTHDAYS

5 Joyce Murphy
11 Vicki Fernandez
13 Jennifer Berry
17 Cathy VanReenen
24 Georgia Sillanpaa
24 Liam Sillanpaa
25 Susan Richards
26 Will Minnihan
28 Jane Richards
28 George Bennett

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

1 John & Cathy VanReenen
8 Mike & Anne Coffey



FROM THE SPRC:

We will be welcoming Chung Ho (Daniel) Lee as our new pastor beginning July 1st. Here are some things you all need to know:

- We will be collaborating (yoked) with the York-Ogunquit UMC in York, ME. Rev. Chung Ho will be half time at each church.
- He and his wife will be living at the parsonage in York. As York will be picking up the costs of housing, we will be picking up the cost of his health insurance which is essentially equivalent to York's costs. However, our costs and budget needs will be increasing so we will need to increase revenue.
- Both churches will need to change the time of their services so he is able to lead worship and preach at each church on Sunday mornings. In addition, the laity at both churches will likely have to increase their respective roles.
- Each church will have representatives that will meet together regularly with Rev. Chung Ho to coordinate everything and bring information to the congregations.

Of course, this means some changes with increased financial needs as well as possibly moving the time of our service. Rev. Chung Ho has been serving churches for a while. Both he and his wife are looking forward to meeting everyone and worshiping and working together.

If you have questions, please contact members of the SPRC: Christine Williams, Kevin Fickenscher, Linda Reiber, Sue Richards, Yvonne Griffin, Cathy VanReenen, and Sue Sarosiek.



HOPE

BUILDING

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HOPE ALIVE IN THE COMMUNITY**

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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 tomorrow.
Join us as we re-open our doors
with a new and fresh look and outlook.