



NOVEMBER 2022
FIRST UMC BEACON



The Church as a Community of Radical Hospitality.

When I meet and talk to church members from time to time, some people tell me how they came to attend our church now. I hear most of them say that this church welcomed me.

Yes, the church is such a community of hospitality. A church is not an institution or a building; it is a people who live a life of hospitality.

However, we sometimes think about what hospitality is specifically and how to live a life of hospitality.

Religious philosopher Michael Andrew Ford defines hospitality this way:

"Hospitality is the ability to create a space where guests can discover their soul. Hospitality is not about eliminating the loneliness and suffering of others. It is about helping them recognize that they can share their loneliness."

Hospitality is more than just acknowledging someone. It's about being connected together in Christ.

One of the classes that impressed me the most when I was in seminary was a class on racial reconciliation. When I went into the classroom to take a class, I could see students from different cultures and backgrounds in the school.

As the class began, the professor showed the students a video. The video was a documentary observing the process of a three-day camp in which African Americans, Native Americans, and whites sincerely shared their experiences of racism with each other. When the video ended, there was a strange atmosphere in the classroom. The professor had the students divided into small groups to share their feelings about the video they watched together.

But it seems everyone felt burdened about what to say. Some students were outraged that they were showing all white people as racists. On the other hand, some white students expressed their anger at the discrimination against racial minorities, but there was also a fear that they would be seen as racists.

But then, I heard a friend of a minority race saying this. "This is not a place to discern or condemn who is racist. Maybe our fear of being seen as racist and how we talk and act to avoid being seen as racist prevents real conversation within us." He continued to say: I am not white, but I have seen that I also have a prejudice that only I have. Maybe we are all people with some kind of discrimination and prejudice. Rather than talking about who does and who doesn't, the courage to be honest about what preconceptions we all have and why we have those preconceived notions can start a sincere conversation."

At that moment, I saw an invisible connection taking place among the students in the tense classroom. And it was only then that I realized that I am also a person who cannot be free from these prejudices and discrimination. And I've seen that hospitality that connects with each other can happen when we authentically share it. Hospitality is because we, who are in the grace of Christ, honestly share our weaknesses to create a safe space where others can share who they are as they are. And that is the church of hospitality.

A slogan to be welcome is not enough. It is about connecting with each other in a safe space created through the courage to honestly share our weaknesses in the grace of Christ, who loves us. Would you like to begin this life of hospitality together? Then the place where you stand will be the church.

Rev. Daniel Chung Ho Lee



CHURCH LEADERSHIP OCTOBER REPORT OUTS

Pastor's Report

1. The order of worship has been slightly modified and is being operated on a trial basis. I would like to thank everyone in the labor of love for making this progress.
2. We continue to visit church members' homes. This month, our church family has visited four families, and we plan to continue visiting at least once a week. As we visit our members' families, we share prayer topics and pray together. Sometimes we share praises and sacraments to experience God's amazing grace in our midst. Through all these times, we are praying that all the churches will enjoy the blessing of being spiritually connected.
3. Laity Sunday worship was held together as a praise service. It was a precious time when everyone could become one through the gift of praise.
4. Brock and Stephanie's family are now officially new church members. A service to welcome this family was held on October 16. I ask the church members to continue to pray and love so that this family can settle well and grow in our church.
5. The Orange Conference, a new church school curriculum, continues to be tested. In November, the curriculum will be officially launched. In addition, we plan to launch a Bi-weekly Music-oriented Sunday school program with the goal of starting next year. Thank you again to all the teachers, volunteers, and parents who work hard for this.
6. In November, the sermon will continue until Advent with the "organic church" theme. Also, November 6 will be observed as All Saint Sunday.
7. The two churches' church conference, Advent, and Christmas Eve services are scheduled for December to wrap up the year with thanksgiving and prepare for the next year with prayer. November will be the time to prepare for it. We ask you to pray together for all committees and schedules in the church, including the nomination committee recommending leadership.

Report on Partner Church (York-Ogunquit UMC) Ministry

8. Our church's ministry partner, York-Ogunquit UMC, is preparing for a Christmas Fair on November 19. We ask for your prayers and participation in the Christmas Fair with the local community.
9. At the York-Ogunquit church, a stewardship campaign will be held from Thanksgiving to Christmas.
10. The York church continues to launch small groups. The women's group started this month, and the men's group meeting is scheduled to begin at the end of this month.

Other reports.

The 1:1 English accent correction program that York adult education personally participates in is currently held twice a week (Wednesday evening and Friday afternoon). What I am grateful for is that I had the opportunity to share the gospel with the teachers I met here, not just taking English classes. And I could see that one of them had expressed a deep interest in the gospel. I look forward to what the Lord will do through this meeting and ask for your prayers.

In Love
Rev. Daniel Chung Ho Lee



CHURCH LEADERSHIP OCTOBER REPORT OUTS

SPRC Report

Recent meeting with members of the SPRC discussed finding a replacement for Sue S as Sunday sound technician. Ideas came forward in regards to contacting Great Bay College and other educational institutions to see if we might find either a paid position or intern.

Additionally, the Music Based Sunday school teacher position was discussed and all were in favor of moving forward to include proceeds to come from 'Share the Joy' campaign. Both items to be discussed with the financial committee this Tuesday.

SPRC will meet again on October 30th at 8 AM to finalize the church profile and any paperwork needed to be completed prior to church conference in December.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Williams

Facilities Report

Cintas completed our annual inspection and testing of extinguishers, emergency lights and batteries, stove hood, etc. Not one exit light battery was working, 2 of the emergency lights, don't have power to them, only 2 fire extinguishers didn't have to be replaced. The hood in kitchen did pass inspection & testing. The Cintas bill is \$1975.00. Sacramone Electric will be called the to have him look at those 2 exit signs with no power while he's adding our new electric source for the outside sign.

East Coast Heating is transitioning to residential only service. Eric from East Coast has recommended new companies in the following order: ProHVAC (Jeremiah), Dowling, Palmer & Sicard, and SES (Superior Energy Solutions) in Biddeford.

Hussey Septic completed our required grease trap pumping.

Dave Richards suggested, upon viewing, having the roof cap inspected at parsonage. Curtis from ARJ Construction (same roofing company that completed sanctuary roof) met John VanReenen and provided quotes for cap/roof on parsonage. Recommendation is that new roof be completed (approximately \$15,000). The shingle company of original roof is having issues regarding faulty shingles and company is in legal procedures. A new cap (cost approximately \$4000) is recommended before winter. The rest of roof may only last a short time and new cap would then need to be replaced again.

The Conference Accessibility Report has been completed and mailed to conference.

Sue Sarosiek



CHURCH LEADERSHIP OCTOBER REPORT OUTS

Music and Marketing Report

DIGITAL DISCIPLES 24/7 -

- WEBSITE - With the constant updates to the site and the time of year [pumpkin patch] the site stats are very encouraging:
 - o +36.89% in number of sessions [a timeframe a user is actively engaged on the site]
 - o +40.07% In total visitors to the site
 - o +37.53% of total page views
 - o +.47% in number of pages/session viewed by a user during a session
 - o Our new vs returning is still more “new” vs “returning which tells me that we have even our own internal family NOT coming back to the site
 - o Desktop is still the number one device being used to view our site
- SOCIAL - Facebook is very active with the pumpkin patch, visits by Pastor Chung Ho, church service, Sunday school etc...I would encourage everyone to use your phones more often as we are hardly scratching the surface of capturing the vital moments happening at FUMC...let's celebrate and share these moments!
- The Organic Church Sermon Series logo was created for Rev. Chung Ho's weekly sermon focus
- Additional campaigns being worked on or finished are “share the joy” Advent campaign and completed are the I Got Bridged Coat Drive and Pumpkin Patch unloading and volunteers needed
- SANCTUARY AND NARTHEX MONITORS - These are updated on a weekly basis adding a modern aesthetic and kinetic energy. If possible, we should consider using more video content during the services which has in the past always engaged the congregation.
- THE BEACON - continues to be a physical hard copy of what we are accomplishing with our digital outreach and is appreciated by friends and family as a reminder of all we have done and are doing.
- MUSIC - Rev. Chung Ho has asked that I choose the Sunday hymns so 10/16 will be the first Sunday for that shift. Last Sunday 10/9 was Laity Sunday and we approached it through the lens of Music. It seemed to have been a successful effort with more congregation interaction.
- The piano has been moved out from the alcove to test visibility of the folks on the left side of sanctuary.

In Faith,
Bevan



SUNDAY SOUND TECH VOLUNTEER NEEDED

See Sue Sarosiek



CHURCH LEADERSHIP OCTOBER REPORT OUTS

Community Report

I Got Bridged has booked the hall for Thursday, 3/30/23, for the Second Annual Comedy Night.

I Got Bridged, is holding a coat drive through November 4. FUMC is drop off location. Coats will be distributed to Housing Authority Buildings.

The October Hope to Joy Group had 60 in attendance for speaker Roseann Sdoia, a Boston bombing survivor. Following the next fellowship group on 11/5/22, group will assemble bags with necessities for homeless.

PennySue Orr's friend, Anne, dropped off 180 knit hats and cowls for distribution during our winter program.

Planet Rangers campers rotated and moved forward some of our pumpkins readying for our second delivery of pumpkins. The second delivery of pumpkins arrived on Saturday, 10/15. Thanks to many community volunteers for their help with another successful unloading. Please see Pumpkin Patch Report for more info.

Sue Sarosiek

Pumpkin Patch Report

- Renting a Bobcat with fork attachment is definitely the way to go! Truck is emptied in about 1 1/2 hrs., then volunteers come to empty cardboard bins of pumpkins onto pallets. This goes quickly and is done in 45-90 minutes!
- Mums are selling like crazy! Our new Sexton Pete lives near North Hill Nursery and can re-supply us as I ask.
- My Pie Team has added 3 new volunteers. We each have a niche and work well together.
- Booth Shifts are covered by a few church folks and a growing number of community volunteers. Most of my time in the Booth is training new folks.
- Our returning customers remain quite loyal. I've been surprised by the large number of first-timers who recently moved to Portsmouth or who have driven by for years and finally stopped.
- We exceeded the 40% profit mark of \$30,001 on Sunday! I wouldn't be surprised if this surpasses our \$53k from last year.

Love and Hugs, 🍁



Sue Richards, very grateful Pumpkin Patch Coordinator





THANK YOU FROM PLANET RANGERS

Dear members of the FUMC community,

October 5, 2022

I'm writing to express our deepest gratitude for being able to run Planet Rangers and Summer Rangers programs at your church. It's been the fulfillment of a lifelong dream to run the kind of program that expresses the very best of our learning about raising children in wholesome environments.

I'd like to let you know of some of the successes this partnership with FUMC allowed this year. First of all, our summer camps ran a record seven weeks this summer and served over 400 campers, CITs, and interns. The camps are each a week long and themed around a different area of learning. The World's Best Chefs camps incorporate local chefs, including three James Beard award finalists and focus on teaching kids to cook. Geology Rocks camps expanded this year (by popular demand) to two weeks of hands-on learning about earth science. In Wild New Hampshire camp, the focus is on wildlife biology. At Mission Incredible camp, we're all about teaching kids the life skills they need to become better citizens and achieve their goals in life. We even had two FUMC member children attend camp for the first time this summer!

You may have noticed on summer Friday afternoons that we host themed finales on the lawn beside the church. At these festive culminating events, kids get to share what they've learned with the community. In essence, kids 7-10 years old are teaching parents, siblings, and friends in creative and hands-on ways. It's special for them and serves others. You are always welcome to come and check it out!

I'd like to give a shout-out to some members of the church who support our mission immensely and help us to problem solve and meet everyone's needs around programming. Sue Sarosiek has been on the front line of everything we do. She attends our finales, gives us a big smile each day we see her, lets us know when something we do is affecting others and has our back when camp or program needs must be met. In addition, Sue Richards is right there with hugs and her signature problem-solving prowess. She lets us know of church needs, particularly related to volunteers so we can drum up support by sending out information to the 800-member Planet Rangers community. I'm happy any time we can get the word out that FUMC is vibrant and making a difference in the community and the world.

We especially appreciate John VanReenen's enthusiastic support. He always has a wave and a kind smile for us. We love seeing Dave and Bevin around and have become friendly with a number of the AA folks, including Tom and Glenn. In sharing space, we all seem quite willing to work to meet each other's needs. We also welcome Pete and his enthusiastic maintenance of the church. He's a good find! A hearty welcome, as well to Pastor Chung Ho Lee and his wife, Jinah Kim. You're so lucky to land with this caring congregation.

One of the things that's able to grow in the FUMC environment is the CIT (counselor in training) leadership program. It's a real highlight for me after my 25+ years of teaching. This program is for middle and high school-aged kids and as you know, those years can be tough these days, especially with social media, Covid, and other challenges. Our program gives kids that age very real leadership learning and the opportunity to help younger campers by first and foremost, being role models. They learn specific strategies to get to know others, put younger kids' needs before their own and discover the secret to making anything fun! We have many letters and testimonials from parents about the difference our program has made in their level of social safety, confidence, and ability to speak in front of others. As one child put it, *"At Planet Rangers, you make it fun to be respectful!"*

Since I last wrote, we've developed an internship program for the 15 year olds. They specifically lead CIT meetings and guide the CITs along with the Leadership Team. It's a higher level of leadership and allows those who age out of being a CIT to continue to build on their growth. I can't say enough about our adult leadership team. Grady, Nikki, and Sam are off-the-charts helpful, dedicated and caring about both our mission and the respectful stewardship of the church.

What is our mission? We grow great kids. Our goal is to help kids develop personal values like determination, kindness, initiative, generosity, and curiosity. These are things we all need so this world can thrive!

So thank you FUMC! Your cheerful support and kind words are deeply appreciated on our end.

John and Susan Battye

THANK YOU

October 1, 2022

Sue Sarosiek – Lay Leader
First United Methodist Church of Portsmouth
129 Miller Avenue
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Dear Sue,

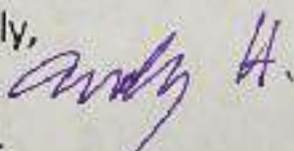
Thank you. We are so grateful to you and the Leadership Board for allowing us to hold our Fall Party in Sanborn Hall, on Saturday evening - October 29, at your beautiful location at FUMC.

Please accept this donation of \$100.00 for the use of the room. I will contact you when we approach the date of 10/29 to pick up a building key so we may lock up after we thoroughly clean the hall.

I emailed you the Sanborn Hall room rental form and am attaching it here again. If you need anything, please call me at 603-834-3887.

A Big Thank You again to you and everyone there for allowing (our AA District 14) to hold so many AA meetings at FUMC every week! We are grateful beyond words for your generous service to our community.

Sincerely,



Andy H.
On behalf of Seacoast AA / District 14 Functions
ATH449@Gmail.com
603-834-3887



IT'S THAT TIME...

PUMPKIN PATCH CLEAN UP

**AFTER CHURCH
NOVEMBER 6TH**

ALL ARE WELCOME!



**BE A DIGITAL DISCIPLE!
VISIT OUR FUMCPORTSMOUTH.COM WEBSITE
BE ACTIVE ON SOCIAL MEDIA - LIKE AND SHARE OUR POSTS**



TAKE & BAKE PIES

Order by Nov. 5th
apple, pumpkin, blueberry or cherry - \$14
pecan - \$16
Contact Sue @
Text/call 603.749.4169
email - mksrichards@comcast.net
Call church office 603.436.6038

Pick up pies: Sunday 11/13 - 10:30-1:30
Wednesday 11/16 - 10:00 - 2:00
Cash, Checks, Cards and Venmo accepted



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.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Dominic Arcadipane

4 Ken Westbrook

12 Marion Collishaw

12 Mike Coffey

16 Evelyn Laux

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11 Stephanie & Brock Labadie





Slater, Jim
75 State Street
Portland, ME 04101



Marion Collishaw
50 Old Colony Way
Scituate MA 02066

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

Patty and Rudy

Juliann Smith

Irlene

Henry

Rick Beebe

Marilyn and Gil

Charles Gilman

Bobbie Noble

Dwight and Reginald

Marion Collishaw

Stacey Dixon

Cathy VanReenen

Barbara Glidden

Our Church Family

Our World



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



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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 signpost of hope for a brighter tomorrow.
Join us as we re-open our doors
with a new and fresh look and outlook.