



OCTOBER 2022
FIRST UMC BEACON



You are the living church.

One thing that makes us happy in autumn is that we can eat delicious apples. Whenever I see a variety of ripe apples, I am grateful for the bountiful gifts that autumn gives us. However, one interesting fact is that the shape and taste of the apples are different depending on where they are planted, even though they are the same apple variety.

An apple tree planted in California and its fruit cannot be the same as an apple tree grown in New England, no matter the same kind of apple. The apple tree is a living being, not a manufactured product. Since it is living life, it cannot be made in the same shape as a manufactured product. The fruit of a living being contains not only the seed but also its unique soil, wind, and sunlight in which it is planted and grown. That is why even the same seed appears different in appearance and fruit. No living thing is the same, and diversity is proof that it is alive.

In 1 Corinthians 15, we see that Paul describes the lives of those resurrected in Jesus as living beings planted in the ground and growing. **37 And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. 38 But God gives it a body as he has chosen and to each kind of seed its own body.**

Our lives grow in our own unique shape as living beings resurrected to new life in Jesus. We confess the same Jesus Christ, but we bear different fruits in the land we are planted. Because we are living beings.

The same is true of the church.

Paul says that the church is not a product of our own making but the living body of Christ. The church is a living being born among us, learning and sharing the love of Jesus Christ in our specific and unique daily life situations.

One thing that surprises us as we read the Gospels is that Jesus has very little to say about the church. Although most of the letters written by Paul, a disciple and apostle of Jesus in the Bible, are about the church. However, Jesus doesn't seem to teach much about what the church should be. So, why is Jesus giving so few commands to the church? Was it because Jesus didn't care about the church? It's not. Because Jesus understood the church as a living phenomenon that appears among us when we follow the gospel of Jesus, not something we create. Jesus thought of the church as a life that is born when we follow the love of the Lord, not as an institution or organization that we create ourselves, so the focus of Jesus was to make us know His grace and love.

The church is the very life and relationship of those who love us and confess that Jesus Christ, who died and rose from the dead, is Lord.

"*The Cat and the Toaster*" is a book by Douglas Hall and Judy Hall, who have worked at the Immanuel Gospel Center, a long-standing think tank to transform the city of Boston with the gospel. They argue that real change is organic and ecological.

They talk in this book:

Paul describes the church as a body, an organism. Yet, in our Western culture, we have grown accustomed to thinking of churches in terms of organizations or buildings because our culture is very organizationally and technologically centered. People make toasters. Only God makes cats. And, clearly, we can't fix a sick cat with the tools we may use to fix our broken toaster. Through our friendship with Jesus Christ, we internalize his ways of growing and nurturing what is alive. More like farmers than technicians, we learn, through this redemptive process, to be involved in and "in tune with" what causes fruitfulness. We never "cause" fruit to happen! God does!

We are called to be built as churches, not church builders. Let's plant Word in our daily lives and nurture it. As we walk the path of learning Jesus, the church will be formed in various forms in all areas of our everyday life. You are the living church, and your daily life is where you bear the church as fruit through the celebration of the grace of Jesus.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Chung Ho



CHURCH LEADERSHIP SEPTEMBER REPORT OUTS

Pastor's Report

A Celebration of the Life Of Kenneth C. Young Jr.

The service went well on September 5th with everyone's help. Thank you to everyone who worked hard for the CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE: David Richards prayed on behalf of the church for worship. Lilly, who read the Bible as a good friend of Ken Young. Sue Sarosiek served as administrative and technical support. Sue Richards and Yvonne served to prepare the reception and decorated the chapel. Bevan served as communication, Marilyn, who comforted the bereaved family from the calling hour, and all the members of the church who attended the worship service and prayed together. The bereaved families have expressed gratitude that they were greatly impressed by the church's serving.

Welcome back Sunday service.

Last Sunday, we had a welcome back Sunday service. We had a happy time with delicious dishes prepared with love by many church members. Also, some of our brothers and sisters from York Ogunquit Church joined us.

Sunday School

Another church school was started. We are trying a curriculum that organically communicates with the church, family, and children. It is a program where children can enjoy singing time, games, and activities that move their bodies together with music. But most importantly, all these things are possible because there are teachers who pray for our children and dedicate themselves to helping our children come to know Jesus. Once again, thank you to all the teachers who worked with us. We will have a meeting on September 30th for the music program discussed in the last meeting. I hope that through this meeting, we can draw concrete pictures of the music program together.

Sermon Theme for October "Church: The Organic Body"

For the past two months, we have shared the Word with "living in the peace of the Lord in times of anxiety." The series will end this coming Sunday. The sermon theme for October is "Church." Although the church is a visible institution, it is a movement and a phenomenon that appears throughout our everyday lives when we live with Jesus as Lord. With the theme of the church: the organic body, we will have time to think about what it means to live as a church together.

Family Visitation

Over the past month, I have been able to visit 5 families in our church. I plan to continue the church family visitation in October. Thankfully, more and more church members invite me and say they want to share time with me. Once again, I would like to express my gratitude to all the church members.

Coordinating Team Meeting

On September 8th, we had a coordinating team meeting at York Ogunquit Church.

The coordinating team holds quarterly meetings to coordinate communication and schedule between the two churches that share a pastor. The meeting was attended by John VanReenen, Sue Sarosiek, and Sue Richards from First UMC of Portsmouth. Also, Lisa Jones, Kristin Morin, Terry Poppleton from York Ogunquit UMC, and Rev. Chung Ho Lee attended.

The two churches decided to share each other's ministry schedules and announcements at this meeting. In addition, to prevent confusion due to the difference in the order of worship between the two churches, we decided to study and create a worship order that both churches can share.

First UMC of Portsmouth

- Reception (September 18) - Pumpkin Patch (September 24 - October 31)

- Thanks Giving Dinner? (November 5) - Christmas eve Service (5 pm)

York -Ogunquit UMC - Church Picnic & Cookout (September 25) - Yuletide Fair (November 19)

- Christmas eve Service (7 pm)

Church Conference 2022

The 2022 church conference will be held on Sunday, December 4th, at 4 pm. There is an SPRC meeting before the church conference.



CHURCH LEADERSHIP SEPTEMBER REPORT OUTS

Community Report

I Got Bridged will again this year, shovel our stairs and walkways this winter, as a donation to the commitment FUMC has made to the recovery community.

The noontime AA group is back after moving to different church due to Planet Rangers summer camp. They are extremely happy to be back at FUMC. "Never before have we been given goodies and a welcome back sign that says 'welcome back, we missed you'". The group is very grateful.

The noontime AA group is also renting a commercial carpet cleaner for the Vestry carpet. A new rule requiring covers on coffee cups has been implemented in all AA groups. They agreed to clean the carpet twice a year.

The Sunday night AA meeting currently held in Sanborn Hall will be moving to the Senior Center after 10/3, due to its members being mostly elderly and our entry stairs are an issue.

The District AA office will be holding a fall party in Sanborn Hall, on 9/29/22. They sought out FUMC due to our working relationship with 15 local groups.

Our friend, Glenn & crew, is repainting the orange pumpkin patch signs.

I Got Bridged held their 2nd annual Walk-a-thon, on Sunday, September 11. FUMC benefits from their fundraising activities.

The next Time4Joy Fellowship Group will be held on Saturday, October 1, with breakfast and coffee from 8:30 - 9:30 am followed by the Speaker Roseann Sdoia, who is a Boston Bombing Survivor.

Sue Sarosiek

Facilities Report

The outside of Sanborn Hall painting began on 8/29. The decision was also made to have the painters paint the pumpkin patch shed to match the outside of Sanborn Hall. Monies from painting the shed will come from pumpkin patch profits. Check out the website for updated photos!!

The trim board on the back of Sanborn Hall was also being replaced as there were carpenter ants and boards all rotted. Area has been treated for ants. The windows that had been boarded up at the end of the hall (stage end) had wood replaced with a plastic coating to help prevent future rotting. Sanborn Hall took approximately 30 gals of paint.

Sacramone Electric and city electric inspector were here. Inspection of Vestry lighting/wiring passed. Sacramone will update power source for outside light prior to 9/24 (start of pumpkin patch).

The frosted vinyl has been installed on the vestry bathrooms by our friend, Nikki from Planet Rangers.

Cintas is scheduled to do the six month inspection/testing of the kitchen hood. They will also complete the yearly inspection of fire extinguishers, emergency lighting, etc.

East Coast Heating is scheduled to do the yearly cleaning of the boilers. An email from East Coast states they are transitioning to all residential services. They will be asked for a recommendation for a new commercial heating company for FUMC.

Sue Sarosiek



CHURCH LEADERSHIP SEPTEMBER REPORT OUTS

Music and Marketing Report

DIGITAL DISCIPLES 24/7 -

- WEBSITE - we continue to update the website and have seen an uptick in viewership - we will continue to push out the website URL in all outreach mediums to increase community awareness and engagement.
- SOCIAL - Facebook continues to be the key medium used for social media and is used to share all activity at First UMC visibly showing a "church at work". I continue to beat the drum of SHARING posts as it will be the only way that our messages will get out into each other's network of friends...simply liking it is nice but sharing the posts are the key to successful digital outreach.
- INDIVIDUAL'S ROLE - we all have phones that take pictures don't we!...we are all responsible for capturing moments with our church family and our community...moments of interaction, joy, working together, and surprise moments of catching folks making a difference. These pictures/moments can be used for all our digital channels.
- 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 introduced playing the guitar and singing with positive reaction and interaction with the congregation...folks love learning new songs but have requested that the music is also provided... something to consider. If it is a song that we want to teach the congregation we might consider getting the music to me [Bevan] so I can familiarize myself with it and helping Rev. Chung Ho with it. Rev. Chung Ho and Bevan should consider singing a duet at some point together.
- THANKS - Steve Scott continues to be a wonderful support in sharing new music selections he would like to hear, purchasing music and selecting songs for the service....thank you Steve!

In Faith,
Bevan



SUNDAY SOUND TECH VOLUNTEER NEEDED

See Sue Sarosiek

Pumpkin Patch Report

There is much excitement about this year's Pumpkin Patch! Our number of community volunteers keeps increasing, which is the only way that this essential FUNdraiser can continue.

Our Pumpkin Patch signs have received a much-needed coat of orange paint, courtesy of 4 community friends. We'll then put black self-adhesive letters and numbers on the signs.

Last Saturday's set-up went very well with 11 volunteers (including 7 new ones)!

We're using signup.com again to give people access 24/7. The Booth Shift Schedule has 48 of 176 spots filled: 2 people are doing 18 spots, 1 person is doing 9, 2 people from Peterborough are doing a total of 7 spots, and 4 new volunteers are doing a total of 7 spots! There are also signup sheets for "Last-Minute Shift Angels" and "Tarp/Untarpers" (when frost is expected). Just copy and paste this link into your browser: <https://signup.com/go/ZcKdLWb> or contact me and I'd be happy to sign you up! Please consider sharing the above link with family and friends.

Our first pumpkin unloading is was Sat., 9/24. To provide as much safety as possible, only a few volunteers will arrive at 9 a.m. to move pallets of pumpkins to the end of the truck, so that the Bobcat operator can move them into the Patch quicker. The mass emptying of pumpkin bins begins at 10:30 a.m. The Booth will also be open. The second truck will arrive on Sat., 10/17.

Hours open have been tweaked to make it simpler. On weekdays, we'll be open from 12:30 -6:30 p.m. with 1-2 people per 3-hour shift. On weekends and Indigenous Peoples/Columbus Day, we'll be open from 10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. with 2-4 people on each 2-3-hour shift. An experienced person will work with "newbies", and any volunteer who wants refresher training.

Our Pie Team welcomes a few new volunteers. We bake on Tuesday and Friday from 8:30-12:15ish. Apple, pumpkin, cherry and blueberry pies can be ordered, or people can just stop by to see what's left. Customers come looking for homemade baked goodies and candy every day, so please feel free to contribute as much as you can!

As rotten pumpkins accumulate, local farmers come get them to feed their animals, and take all remaining ones on Nov. 1st. Apple peels and cores are gobbled up by Ruth Griffin's sheep. We literally waste nothing!

If you have any extra time, just contact me, and I'll find some way for you to help!

😊 Sue Richards, very grateful Pumpkin Patch Coordinator



**PUMPKIN PATCH SIGNS
GET A FACELIFT
THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!**







WELCOME BACK SUNDAY

THANK YOU EVERYONE ESPECIALLY REV. CHUNG HO AND JINAH
FOR THE WONDERFUL FOOD!







SUNDAY SCHOOL TWISTER FUN





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.



**LET'S RECYCLE THOSE PLASTIC BAGS!...
WE CAN USE THEM SO BRING THEM TO CHURCH!**



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



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.

Pie are available on Tuesdays & Fridays - Pumpkin, Apple, Blueberry and Cherry @ \$14.00 each

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.

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).



Follow us on Facebook and
Instagram!



@igotbridged

JOIN US AT THE
Time4Joy Fellowship Group!
“Bridging the Gap from Hope to Joy”
First Saturday of every month in
Sanborn Hall
8:30 am - breakfast and coffee
9:00 am - speaker/discussion
October 1st speaker - Roseann Sdoia
Boston Marathon Bomb Survivor

Perfect Strangers

A STORY OF LOVE,
STRENGTH, AND
RECOVERY AFTER
THE BOSTON MARATHON

Roseann Sdoia

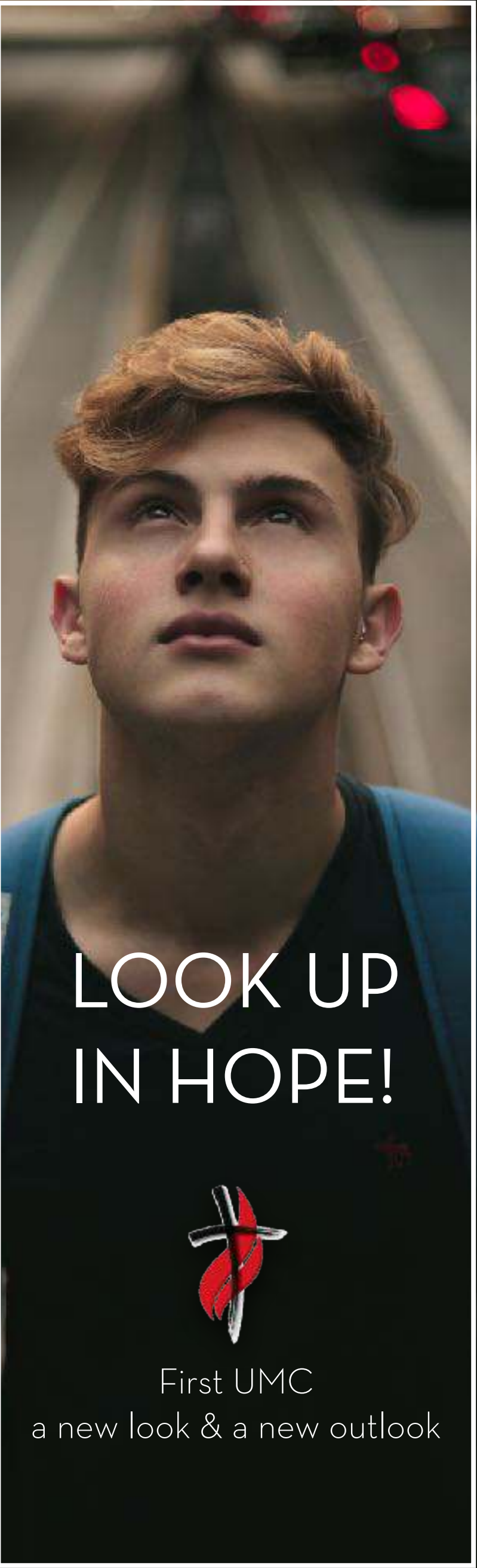
with Jennifer Jordan





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.

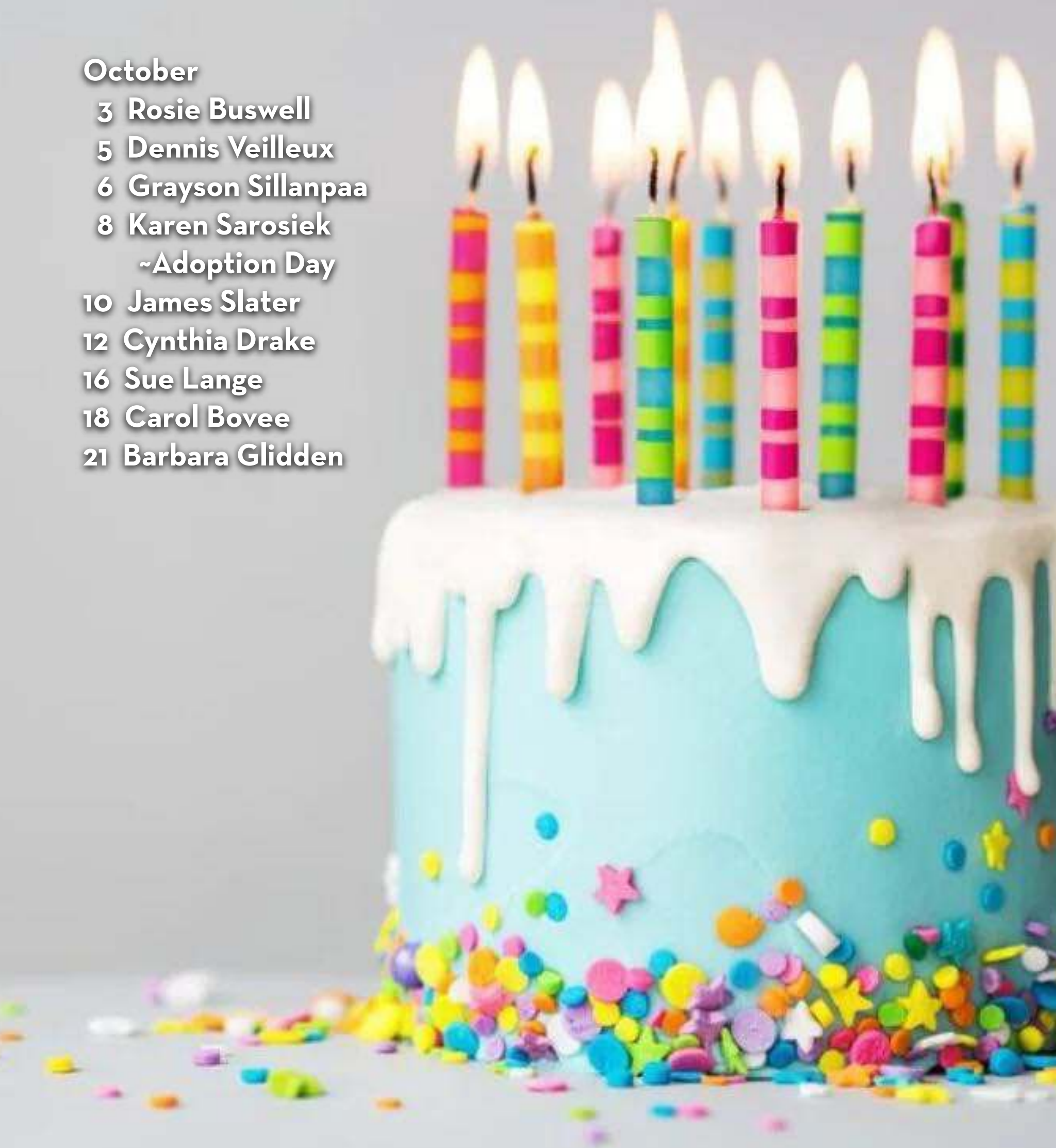
"MAKE A DIFFERENCE"

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.



October

- 3 Rosie Buswell
- 5 Dennis Veilleux
- 6 Grayson Sillanpaa
- 8 Karen Sarosiek
~Adoption Day
- 10 James Slater
- 12 Cynthia Drake
- 16 Sue Lange
- 18 Carol Bovee
- 21 Barbara Glidden





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!



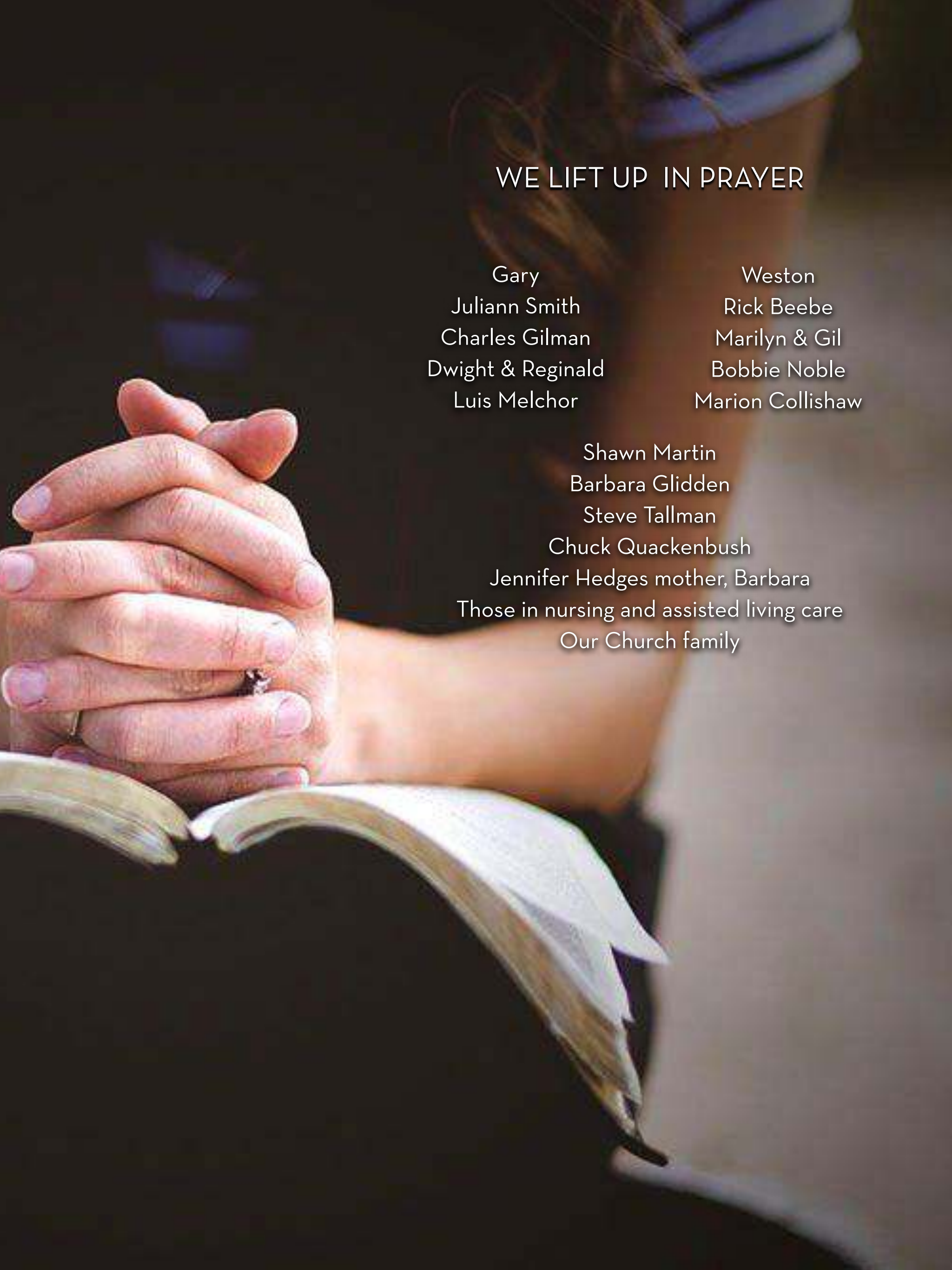
Barbara Glidden
188 Jones Ave #101
Portsmouth, NH 03801



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



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



WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER

Ashton & Russel Runions

Arthur and Bonnie

Juliann Smith

Charles Gilman

Dwight & Reginald

Rick Beebe

Marilyn & Gil

Bobbie Noble

Marion Collishaw

Barbara Glidden

Steve Tallman

All those impacted by hurricane Ian

Jennifer Hedges mother, Barbara

Those in nursing and assisted living care

Our Church family



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

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4 WAYS TO GIVE, DONATE & TITHE



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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.