

Waiting



DECEMBER 2022
FIRST UMC BEACON



PASTOR'S CHRISTMAS NOTE

I have one unforgettable memory from my high school days. One summer day, when I was 16, I returned from school to find a little baby sleeping in my room, breathing through its tiny nose.

It was the birth of my sister's first daughter and my first nephew. I could see tears of indescribable emotion on my sister's face as she held the baby.

It was not the first time I had seen babies, but the experience of holding my nephew for the first time was very special. Because it meant that I now had the name Uncle.

It wasn't just my nephew who was born that day. On that day, everyone in my family was also born with a new name. Because of that little child, my older sister became a mother, my mother was born as a grandmother, and I was born as an uncle.

A person's birth is not just that person's birth but also causes many people around him to be born anew. The birth of a person leads the lives of everyone around him to a different life than before.

The season of Christmas, celebrating the birth of Jesus, has arrived. The birth of Jesus, the grace of God who came to us, also allows us to have a new birth.

Because of the birth of Jesus the King, we have become His people who live in his kingdom. Because of Jesus, who loved us and was our Shepherd, we also became The sheep that belonged to him.

What kind of existence have you been born again because of the love that came to us, Jesus Christ?

The day we celebrate the birth of Jesus becomes the day we become presents before buying presents, the day we wrap someone in a hug before wrapping gifts, the day to donate food rather than shop for food, and not the day we see the light, but the day we become the light.

May the grace of Christmas be full of you always.

Rev. Daniel Chung Ho Lee



CHURCH LEADERSHIP NOVEMBER REPORT OUTS

Pastor Report (November 2022)

1. It's already been 5 months since I've been with you all. I would like to express my gratitude to all the saints who have been with us on this journey that we have never been on.

1. Organic church series sermons are only two weeks away. At the end of this talk series, I would like you to ponder three questions together.

- a. are we growing?
- b. What is Growth?
- c. What do we need to do to achieve that growth?

I hope that the whole church will become a community that grows as a disciple of Christ in the love and grace of the Lord.

3. We continue to visit the families of the members of the two churches. Especially on Thanksgiving, I ask that you pray with us for those who cannot come out of the church service due to discomfort, those who are in the hospital, and those who have to live without their families.

4. In November, specially preparing for the Christmas fair, I had time to visit local shops and introduce the church. We pray together for all businesses in the region in the midst of difficult economic times.

5. Please pray with us for the church conference on December 4th, when we end the year with gratitude and prepare for the new year. Also, please pray for the pastors preparing for next year's ministry plan.

6. In celebration of the Advent, I would like to share a message on the subject of waiting. They say that the life of a saint is a life of waiting. We hope to share what we are waiting for and how we are waiting.

7. Christmas Eve service on December 24th at 5pm (York Ogunquit Church is at 7pm). Many people, including Sunday school children, are participating in the preparations for the Christmas Eve service. I pray that this Christmas service will be a worship that praises Jesus who became our light even in the dark.

Report on Partner Church (York-Ogunquit UMC) Ministry

8. 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. On the evening of November 30th, the York High School Choir will perform in the chapel at the invitation of York-Ogunquit Church.



CHURCH LEADERSHIP NOVEMBER REPORT OUTS

SPRC Report

SPRC met during the month of November to review and complete the church profile. It was exciting to see membership increasing and all the wonderful changes that have blessed us post the pandemic. We are still seeking someone to take over the Sunday technology position. As well as exploring options for a Sunday school music teacher. Church Conference will be rescheduled from December 4th to a later date that is unknown at this time.

Blessings,
Christine

Facilities Report

Our sexton, Pete, has been a fantastic addition to our church. He works diligently to keep our building clean. There have been many compliments on the work he's doing.

Sacramone Electric is accessing our parking lot lighting. One of three lights is working and it is always on. Also, the front sign electric source, 2 emergency exit signs that have no power, 2 lights in the nursery/Randall Room not working, and the back hall (down Sanborn stairs) light switch placement needs reassessment.

Watch your step signs have been placed at both levels of the back stairs near stage. Red carpet adhesive tape will be installed on each step for more visibility.

SRS Masonry will be completing the back door replacement soon. Upon completion, a final inspection will be requested from the City of Portsmouth.



SUNDAY SOUND TECH VOLUNTEER NEEDED

See Christine Williams for more info!

Music and Marketing Report



Thank you First UMC family and friends for living our purpose “to transform lives through unconditional inclusion, empowering actions to make a difference” outwardly into the community. We have truly been a church at work this past year and you have lovingly embraced what it meant to be digital disciples...a community church that is literally open 24/7. We have a physical experience [the church buildings] that support hundreds of visitors each day and a digital experience [social media and website] that has hundreds of visitors all searching for a place to fit in, to be part of something bigger than themselves, to find God and to make a difference with loving like-minded people...US!

The Marketing and Music outreach at First UMC continues to be seen, heard, and shared through face-to-face connections on Sundays all the way to a global digital ecosystem both facilitating searches, visits, comments, and sharing. We are blessed to have the opportunity to share our love of Christ, our stories, our photos, our actions, and interactions with each other and our community through:

175+ social media posts

100% increase in Facebook Friends

100+ Website updates

10+ special programs

52 Sundays of announcements and worship services

12 Beacon Newsletters

Weekly Sunday connection emails

Lots of laughs, tears and making a joyful noise

Celebration of life services and new members finding their church home

Solos, duets, guest musicians, hymn sings, piano and loud organ playing

All in praise of the Almighty who gave us the gifts to share.

With love,

Bevan Bloemendaal

Community Report

The I Got Bridged Hope to Joy group was held on 11/5/22. There were 75 participants. After the speaker, several volunteers assembled backpacks for the homeless. During the group, the upstairs bathroom toilet flapper broke on the inside of the toilet. An I Got Bridged volunteer, with approval, purchased and replaced the flapper on Saturday afternoon as they wanted it to be fixed before our Sunday worship service. Our community connections are a very much valued asset.

2 AA groups have contributed additional money in addition to their rent for pending increased heating costs.

Gather Food Pantry called and asked if their Mobile Van could use our parking lot every other Monday from 2 - 3 pm for food distribution to the neighboring housing buildings. This item is on the Leadership Board's agenda and will be discussed and voted on.

Planet Rangers and AA have asked about our Giving Tree/Share the Joy program. As the calendar doesn't allow enough time for placing 'wish list' gifts on the tree, a creative Star idea from Bevan will be set up. Share the Joy stars will be on the tree for donations to Share the Joy or donations to the new Sunday School/community music program.

Marion Collishaw's daughter called with an update on her health. Marion is in full dementia now and began living in a nursing home at the beginning of this year. She is in poor health and needs to be fed. She turns 99 next week. Her daughter will continue to update FUMC on her condition.



**STARTING 11/28 THE GATHER FOOD PANTRY MOBILE VAN WILL BE IN THE
FIRST UMC PARKING LOT FROM 2-3PM EVERY OTHER MONDAY FOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION
ALL ARE WELCOME**



CHURCH LEADERSHIP OCTOBER REPORT OUTS

2022 Pumpkin Patch Report

This year's Pumpkin Patch generated \$47,557.25 in sales, our second-highest amount in our 18 years! Our 40% profit was an amazing \$19,022.90!

Our first truck unloading on Sat., 9/24 went well. To provide the greatest safety, I planned for the truck to be emptied from 9-10:30 a.m. by a handful of volunteers, including the Bobcat driver. Then at 10:30 a.m., the bulk of volunteers arrived and emptied all of the pumpkin and gourd bins onto pallets in just 45 minutes! Having our pumpkins bin-loaded and renting a Bobcat with forklift with an experienced volunteer driver is definitely the way to go. We sold out of small gourds and pumpkins the week before our second truck arrived on Sat., 10/15. The second unloading went quickly, too.

The Patch was open Monday-Friday from 12:30-6:30 p.m. and on weekends and Columbus Day from 10:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Since there were not many morning customers on Columbus Day, starting next year we will open at 12:30 p.m. Our Booth volunteers were from our congregation, AA friends, a few Planet Rangers parents and camper teams, and a HUGE number of Portsmouth High School students in National Honor Society, Interact Club, and the Service Learning Class! Again, most of my time was spent getting to know and training new community volunteers.

Our Pie Team welcomed a few new volunteers to bake on Tuesday and Friday mornings from about 9 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. We worked really well together and had lots of fun, too. Our customers also enjoyed buying other yummy baked goodies and fudge made by some church folks.

North Hill Nursery again partnered with us to provide gorgeous mums as we needed them.

Food and Mums brought in \$5,749.40, less expenses. (Look for the final profit in the December Beacon.) Due to the increased cost of ingredients, prices may have to be increased for next year.

Our customers and volunteers loved our Gratitude Pumpkin so much that we needed 5 of them!

After-school Planet Rangers helped move pumpkins to fill empty spaces on the front pallets on several days. The Portsmouth High School Service Learning Class again had a field trip and helped do a lot of Patch maintenance (AKA moving pumpkins from back pallets to front ones and removing rotten ones). All 4 of the Little Harbor 1st grade classes walked to the Patch to choose a Spookie and receive stickers. The Portsmouth Middle School Special Education Class loved coming over to learn how to work in the Booth and even brought their own customers!

The Giving Tree received \$1,111.43 in donations which will again be used to purchase Christmas gifts for local foster children.

A neighbor, who has donated Halloween candy for years, came over regularly this year to visit and hand out stickers and candy, as well as welcome and thank customers.

Our customers continue to range from long-time loyal people who only buy from us to first timers, who may have walked or driven by for many years and finally were able to stop.

Several farmers come to pick up rotten pumpkins, and on November 1st to take everything as healthy food for their animals.

Love and Hugs from Sue Richards, Grateful Pumpkin Patch Coordinator

WHAT ARE YOU GRATEFUL FOR SUNDAY

11.20.2022





YUM FUN FACT:

There were 228 pies lovingly made and sold at the Pumpkin Patch and 78 were made for Thanksgiving...that's 306 pies!!!

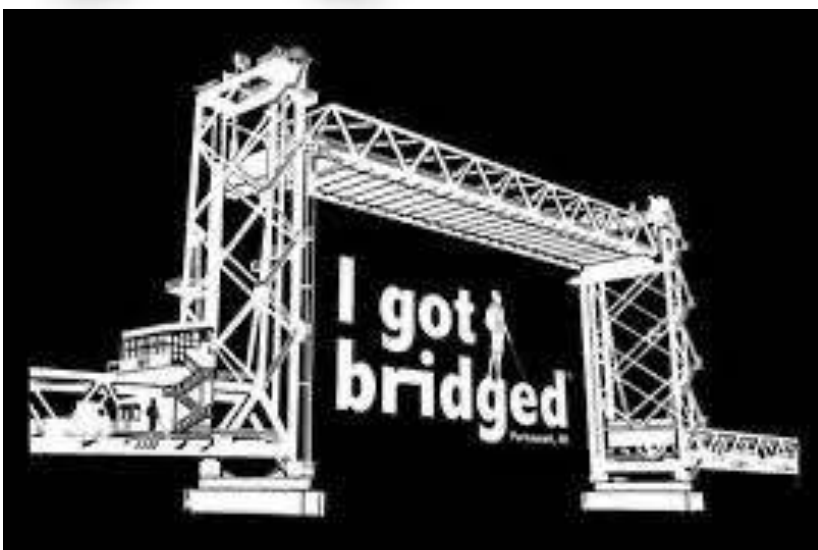
**Thank you
PIE ANGELS!**



SHARE THE JOY

Check out the Christmas Tree stars in the Church Narthex for more details!

**Wrapping Angels needed on
12/14 @ 10am and 12/17 @ 1pm**



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
December 3rd**



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

THANK YOU

The "what are you grateful for" email was so nice to see the faces of so many friends. I almost said "So nice to see so many old faces", but caught it in time.

I miss you all.

Thank you ever so much for sending these each week, I truly enjoy them.

Sincerely,
Anita Bunting

Portsmouth
Regional
Hospital



Volunteer with Us!

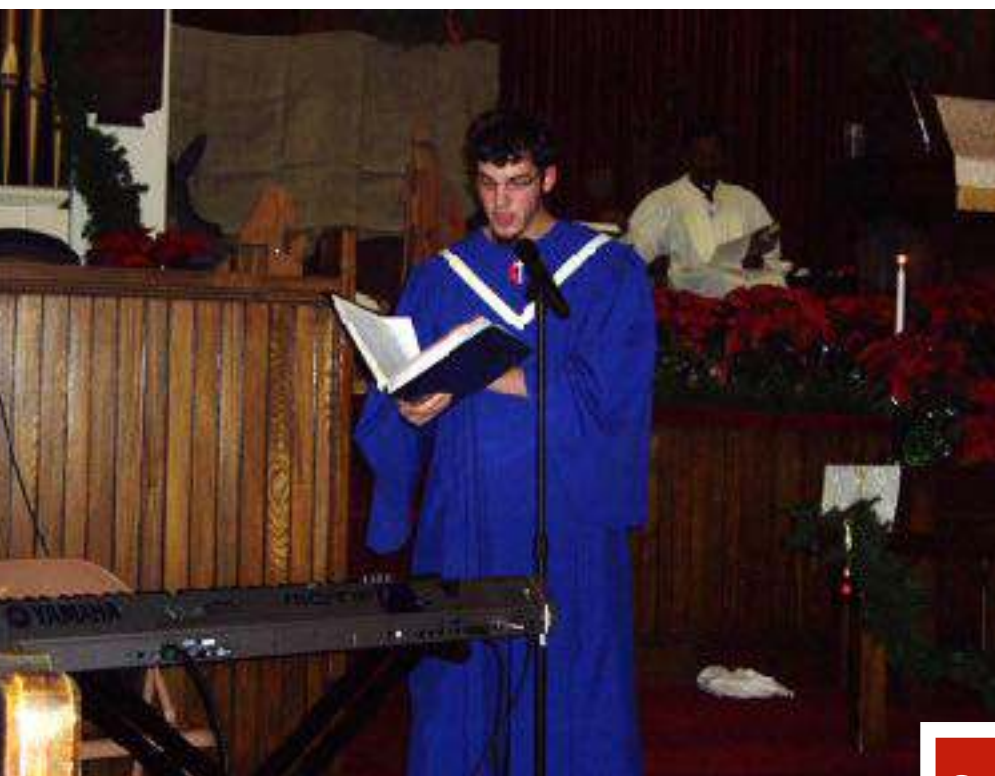
Make a Difference in the Lives of Others

**IF INTERESTED WE HAVE MORE INFORMATION IN THE
CHURCH OFFICE OR CALL AMY LESTER @ 603.433.4002**

WALK DOWN CHRISTMAS MEMORY LANE



2004



2005





2007





2008



2009







2014





2015





2016





2017



2018

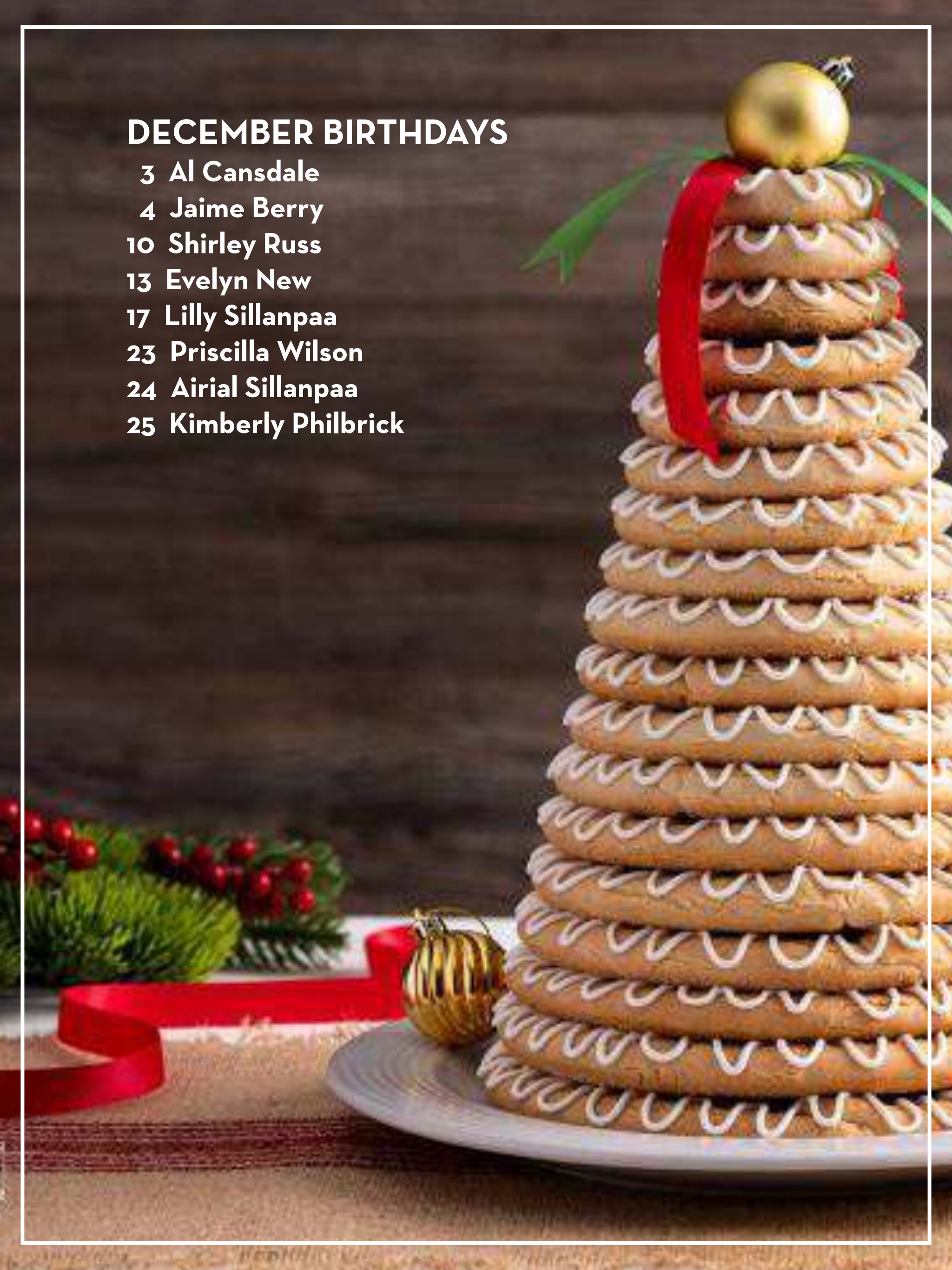




While there are missing years and missing pictures it is a wonderful walk down memory lane and also a reminder for all of us to capture more of those precious memories to pass down through the years.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Al Cansdale
- 4 Jaime Berry
- 10 Shirley Russ
- 13 Evelyn New
- 17 Lilly Sillanpaa
- 23 Priscilla Wilson
- 24 Airial Sillanpaa
- 25 Kimberly Philbrick





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

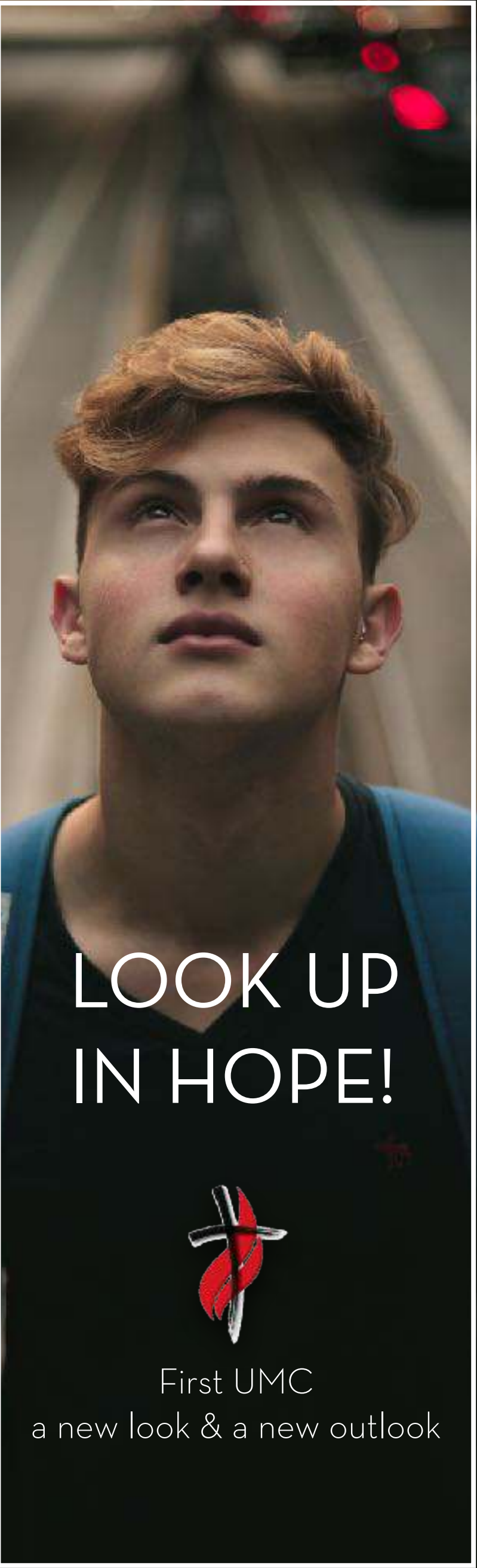
Patty and Rudy
Juliann Smith
Irlene
Henry
Rick Beebe
Marilyn and Gil
Charles Gilman
Bobbie Noble
Dwight and Reginald
Marion Collishaw
Stacey Dixon
Barbara Glidden
Our Church Family
Our World





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.





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