

LENT



FEBRUARY 2023
FIRST UMC BEACON



NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM REV. CHUNG HO

Should we Live For our Resume Or our Eulogy?

New York Times columnist David Brooks asks us a this very profound question. He introduces his discussion by saying:

"So I've been thinking about the difference between the résumé virtues and the eulogy virtues. The résumé virtues are the ones you put on your résumé, which are the skills you bring to the marketplace. The eulogy virtues are the ones that get mentioned in the eulogy, which are deeper: who are you, in your depth, what is the nature of your relationships, are you bold, loving, dependable, and consistent? And most of us, including me, would say that the eulogy virtues are the more important of the virtues. But at least, in my case, are they the ones that I think about the most? And the answer is no".

He shares the thoughts of Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik, who, in his book, The Lonely Man Of Faith, describes what he calls the two sides of our nature – Adam I and Adam II. Brooks writes:

"Adam I is the worldly, ambitious, external side of our nature. He wants to build, create, create companies, and create innovation. Adam II is the humble side of our nature. Adam II wants not only to do good but to be good, to live in a way internally that honors God, creation, and our possibilities. Adam I wants to conquer the world. Adam II wants to hear a calling and obey the world. Adam, I savor the accomplishment. Adam II savors inner consistency and strength. Adam I asks how things work. Adam II asks why we're here. Adam I's motto is "success." Adam II's motto is "love, redemption, and return."

Lent 2023 begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22. Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent is a time of repentance, fasting, and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance for all Christians.

This means that Lent has traditionally referred to the Christian life as a journey. Christians are not those who walk the journey from birth to death but those whose life begins with baptism, which means dying with Christ. So, the beginning of the Lent journey begins with putting ashes on our foreheads, which means we are from the earth.

The Apostle Paul talks about the salvation of Christians as a life that begins in a death like this. **"And it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Gal 2:20)"**

And the fact that the life of Christians begins with death would mean that we have now begun the journey of living for a eulogy rather than a resume. As Christians who died and rose again by the grace of Christ, we no longer live the life of Adam I but the life of Adam II. Adam I is for survival, and Adam II is for calling. Adam I lives for what is visible, but Adam II lives for relationships in everyday life that are invisible to the eye.

A life in Christ is a life lived for a eulogy, not a resume. Reinhold Niebuhr, an American pastor and theologian say salvation is changing from a life for resume to a life for the eulogy. The grace of Christ toward us makes this life possible.



NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM REV. CHUNG HO [continued]

Reinhold Niebuhr summed up the confrontation, the fully lived Adam I and Adam II life, this way: **"Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime; therefore, we must be saved by hope. Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore, we must be saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore, we must be saved by love. No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as from our own standpoint. Therefore we must be saved by that final form of love, which is forgiveness."**

Do we Live For our Resume Or our Eulogy? As we begin journey of lent This is a question we all need to ask together through this season of Lent.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Chung Ho

Living Your Resume or Eulogy?





SUNDAY SCHOOL FUN

Lessons, Dancing and Crafts

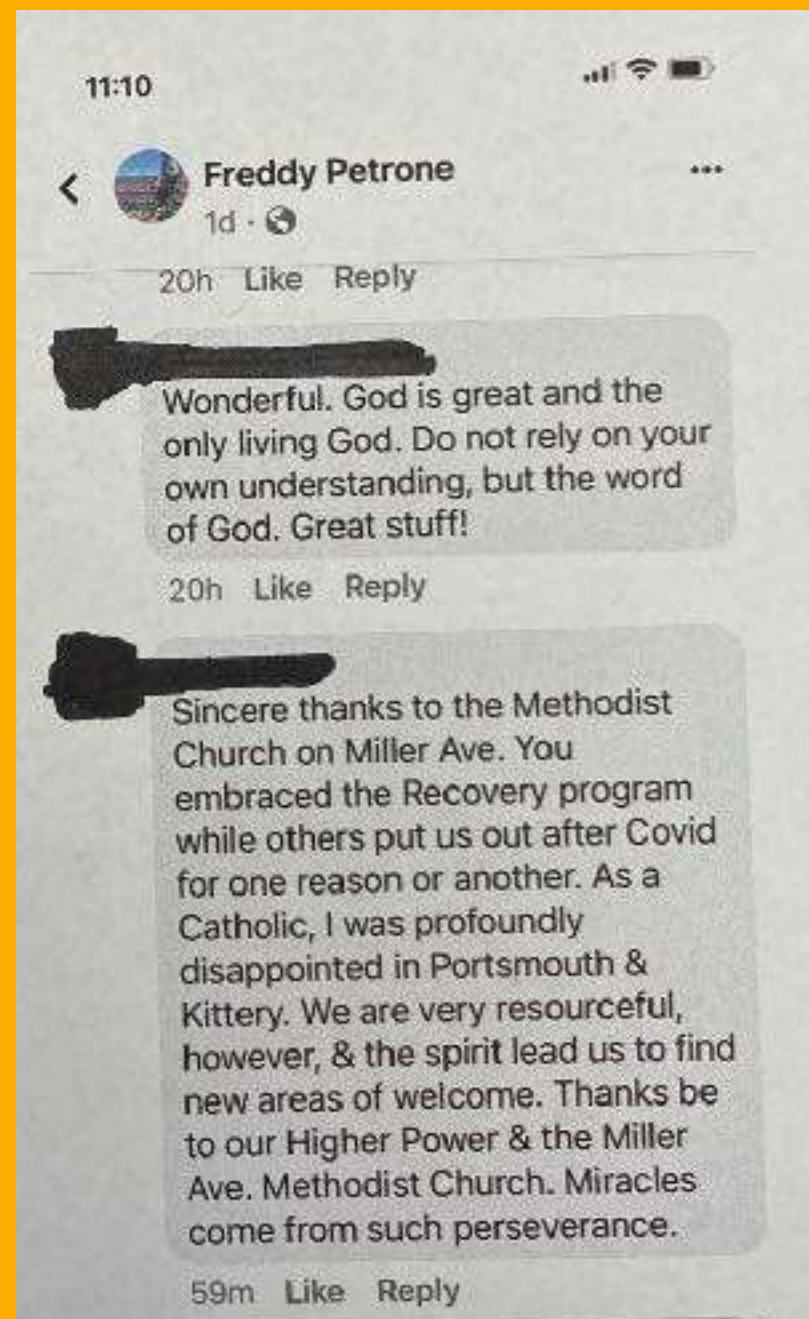
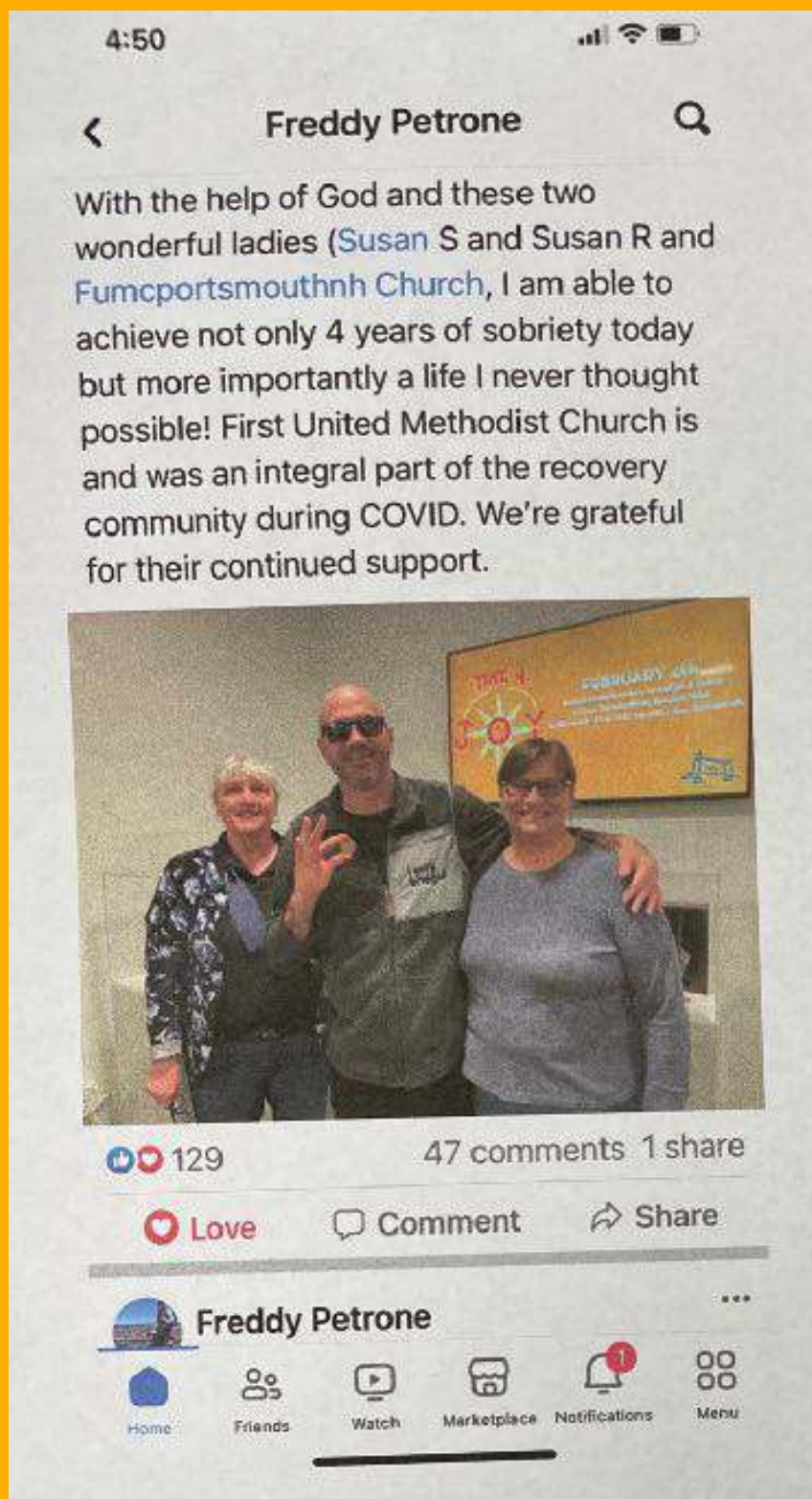
What a joy it is to see all the kids in church and then running to get downstairs to enjoy their time in Sunday School.

We thank the teachers and parents who volunteer in making this time for them so special.

Starting this month the kids will provide us the Gift of Music once a month...get ready everyone in making a joyful noise to the Lord!

You can learn more about us by using your camera on your phone and this QR code





#bekind #helpothers #pray



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Putting our First UMC Purpose of "transforming lives through unconditional inclusion, empowering actions to make a difference" is seen with the collaboration with 1] our incredible partnership with the non-profit I Got Bridged serving the community in bridging the gap for people in need on the Seacoast had a powerful post on Facebook [images to left]

Learn more @ <https://www.igotbridged.com/>

And GATHER [2 images above] working for a hunger free community. Meeting the food needs for the community every other Monday in the First UMC parking lot.

Learn more @ <https://www.gathernh.org/>



Come join us for an evening of food, fun and laughs at the Time 4 Joy Comedy Night!

**\$49 per person
Thursday, March 30
6:00pm - 8:30pm**

**First United Methodist Church
"The Pumpkin Patch Church"
129 Miller Ave, Portsmouth NH**

Price includes:
*Professional Comedians:
Juston McKinney & Joe Yannetty
*Silent Auction
*Food Catered By
"Chef" Shelley & her Kitchen Crew
*Mocktails Provided by Marie

Purchase tickets on our website!



Follow us on Social Media!



@igotbridged

www.igotbridged.com

866-BRIDGED (274-3433)

Email us: info@igotbridged.com



GROCERY GIFT CARD DRIVE



**Stand Up
Comedy Night
& Silent Auction**

Sponsored By
SIGSAUER

All proceeds go to helping those in need on the Seacoast.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

We are fortunate to be a catalyst for change at First UMC collaborating with so many wonderful community non-profits and opportunities for helping those in need. 1] I Got Bridged/Time 4 Joy is sponsoring their 2nd annual stand up comedy night 2] KIDS FIRST program is looking for grocery gift cards in any \$ denomination helping to fight food insecurities – please bring to church office. 3] We continue to provide cold weather packs to our community with gloves, hat, socks, scarf. We need new socks if you are looking for something to make a donation to.

CARING FOR EACH OTHER

PRAYERS, CARDS, CALLS OR VISITS

We are a FAMILY first and foremost...and there are some who are not able to make it to church on Sundays or be part of the activities that are happening at First UMC. There are others that we may not know but what a blessing it is to be lifted up in prayer.

Prayer List

(Pray for Others)

WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER

Sam, Louise, Elaine, Rick, Bobbie, Marilyn & Gil,
Barbara, Marion, Dorothy, Irlene, Juliann,
Charles, Dwight, Reginald, Susan, Joellen,
Smitty, Elaine, Art, Wendy, Hazel, Ana, Susan,
Erica, Family of Eileen Geeslin, Don Lockwood
The families of the shooting victims in LA,
People of Ukraine
Our world and our Church Family and Friends



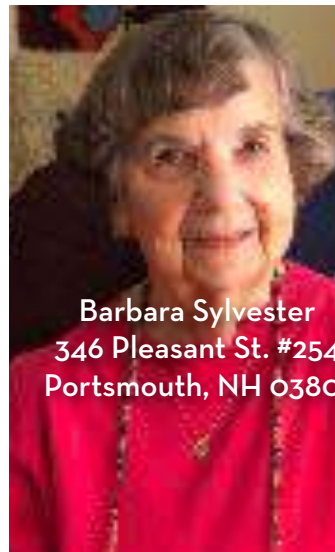
Slater, Jim
75 State Street
Portland, ME 04101



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





CELEBRATIONS

1] We wish all of our First UMC family celebrating a birthday and anniversary this month one that is filled with love, laughter and fond memories. 2] We begin our journey of Lent this month and 3] Remember your sweetheart on the 14th!

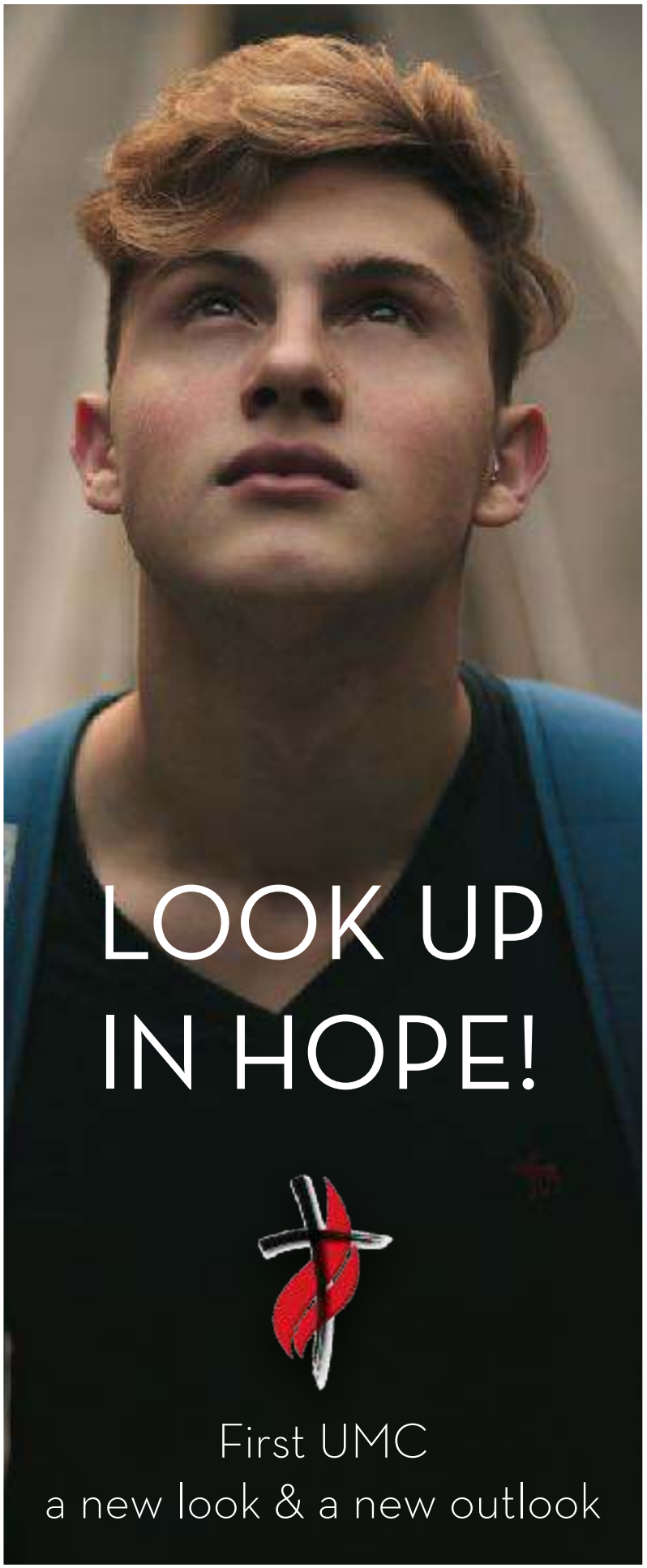


February Birthdays

10 Steve Scott
11 Isabella Sillanpaa
13 Connie Parsons
13 Jenya Westbrook
23 Kevin Fickenscher
25 Cian Philbrick

Anniversaries

10 John & Judy Griffin
18 Rev. Deb & Dave Atkinson
24 George & Jessie Bennett
25 Art & Nancy (Chesser) Munson



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.



THIS IS US!

A CHURCH WITH A COMMUNITY MISSION

We, the congregation of the First United Methodist Church of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, are a Reconciling Congregation living our purpose and 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.



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



MORE WAYS AND WHY'S TO GIVE

YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT RIGHT HERE

Tithing, gifting, donating both your time and financial resources help our church to continue to be that beacon of light in the community. Those gifts you so graciously give help us meet the monthly bills that keep our doors open for so many...not just on Sunday mornings but all week. We are a church AT WORK...everyday is Sunday for First UMC!

Because of you...WE are stronger – Thank You!

"Lent is a time of going very deeply into ourselves...What is it that stands between us and God? Between us and our brothers and sisters? Between us and life, the life of the Spirit? Whatever it is, let us relentlessly tear it out, without a moment's hesitation."

— Catherine Doherty

LENTEN MEDITATIONS

Giving, Serving, Sharing

Do you have a favorite Lenten meditation?

Please share it with the church office as we collect them as part of a Lenten Booklet that will be shared with First UMC Family and Friends as we begin the journey to the cross and resurrection.

You can learn more about us by using your camera on your phone and this QR code



4 Ways to Observe Lent

Lent is a season of focus and preparation. It aligns our hearts with God's heart as we approach Easter.

The following are just a few ways to focus and prepare.

Give It Up

Consider giving up something that distracts from your important relationships; like too much time on Twitter or Clash of Clans.

Maybe cut out screen usage for several hours a day.

Take a day of true rest: let go of toil for 24 hours.



Plug In

Consider adding in something that helps you connect to God.

Read a book of the Bible, a devotional, or practice Lectio Divina on a daily basis.



Serve

Start a new routine of service.

Volunteer regularly as an academic mentor, step up to volunteer in a local church, or visit a nursing home.



Share It

Make it a communal event.

Share your Lent practices with others via a small group and/or attending worship.



**FAST FROM JUDGING OTHERS;
FEAST ON CHRIST DWELLING IN THEM.
FAST FROM FEAR OF ILLNESS;
FEAST ON THE HEALING POWER OF GOD.
FAST FROM WORDS THAT POLLUTE;
FEAST ON SPEECH THAT PURIFIES.
FAST FROM DISCONTENT;
FEAST ON GRATITUDE.
FAST FROM ANGER;
FEAST ON PATIENCE.
FAST FROM PESSIMISM;
FEAST ON HOPE.
FAST FROM NEGATIVES;**

**FEAST ON ENCOURAGEMENT.
FAST FROM BITTERNESS;
FEAST ON FORGIVENESS.
FAST FROM SELF-CONCERN;
FEAST ON COMPASSION.
FAST FROM SUSPICION;
FEAST ON TRUTH.
FAST FROM GOSSIP;
FEAST ON PURPOSEFUL SILENCE.
FAST FROM PROBLEMS THAT OVERWHELM;
FEAST ON PRAYER THAT SUSTAINS.
FAST FROM ANXIETY;
FEAST ON FAITH.**



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