

We are all uniquely “perfect” in God’s eyes!



JANUARY 2023
FIRST UMC BEACON



NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM REV. CHUNG HO

A new year has begun!

When the new year comes, it will be filled with expectations for a time that has not yet come and a new life that will unfold in that time. However, a new year has begun, but there may still be those stuck in the last year. This is because there are still unresolved wounds, pain, and regrets.

Everyone must have experienced breaking a bowl or cup they cherished by mistake at least once.

Grabbing a piece of a broken bowl and blaming yourself is already spilled water, and knowing that makes you feel sad.

However, in Japan, the technology to put these broken bowls together through gold or lacquer has been developed for a long time. The reattached bowls were called Kintsugi. The distinctive feature is that they do not completely remove the broken parts but instead reveal the broken flaws more naturally and more plainly.

This Kintsugi technique contains the “aesthetics of imperfection” that accept brokenness as a piece of history rather than hiding it. It is like this that we become new.

The Bible says we are renewed in Christ. For us to be renewed is not to be without our mistakes and shameful things.

We cannot erase them as if nothing had happened. However, in Christ, it is true that such things become the material of God, who makes our lives beautiful. So we can live a new life.

A new life is not about getting rid of our weaknesses and mistakes but about knowing God, who molds our lives into vessels that are fragile but contain the beauty of life with God. At that time, our broken life becomes a work of art that shines beautifully in Christ.

Just as the most expensive Kintsugi bowl does not hide its broken parts but keeps them as another piece of history, it is the same way we become new in Christ.

Like Kintsugi bowl, I pray that we can see that our broken life will be renewed for a beautiful life in God who loves us, the potter who creates the most beautiful life even through our wounds, weaknesses, and mistakes in the new year.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Chung Ho Lee





**DUE TO INCLEMENT
WEATHER**
Services Have Been Cancelled



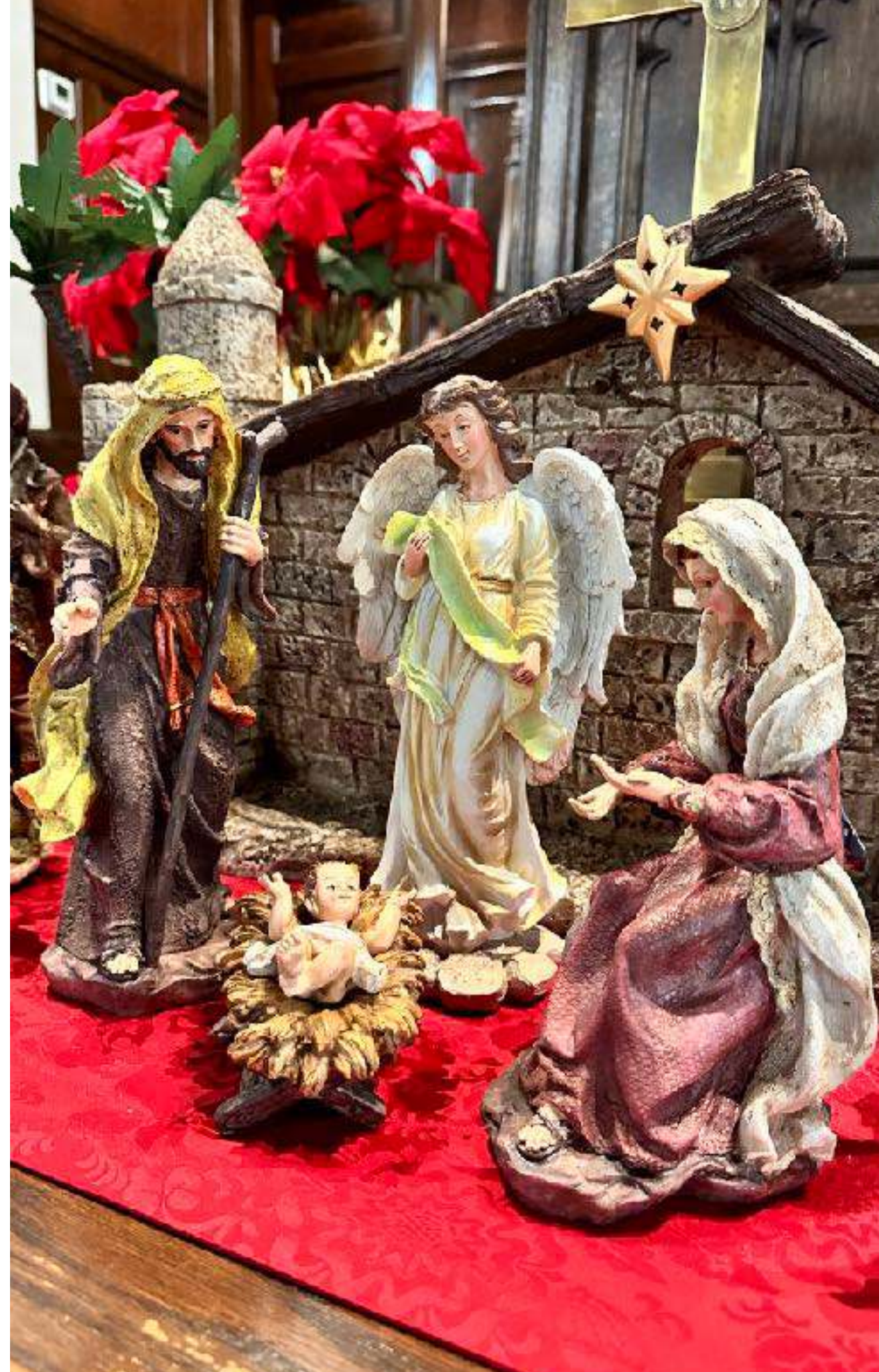
CHRISTMAS 2022

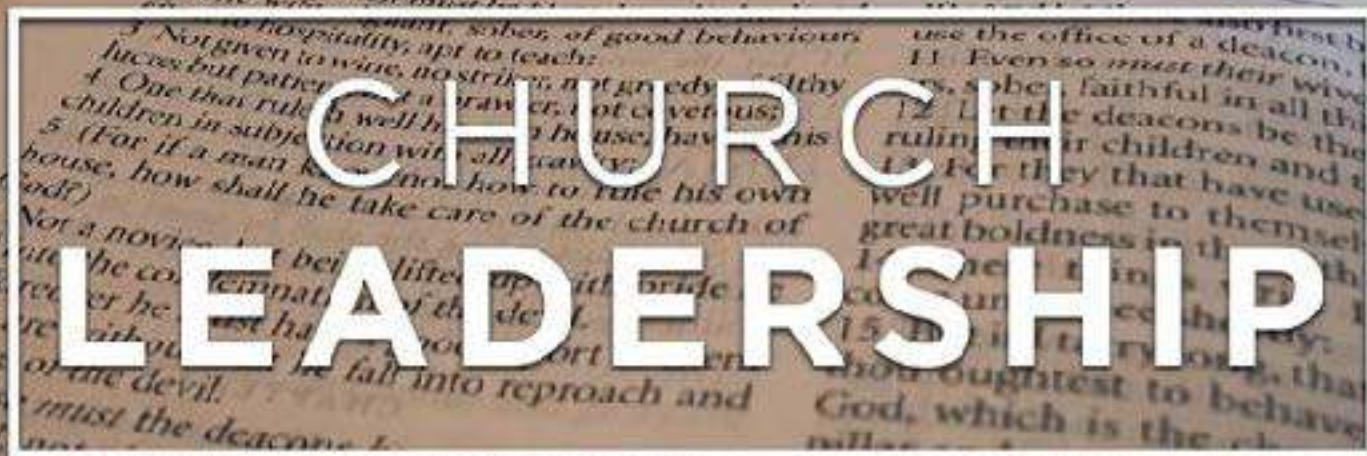
BE THE LIGHT THIS CHRISTMAS

A FIRST in the First UMC Historic timeline was the cancellation of the Christmas Eve service. Mother Nature dealt the Seacoast area a massive storm causing hurricane winds toppling trees causing power outages, rain and high tide causing catastrophic flooding, temperature drop into the low teens, icy roads. In tandem there has been a spike in the cases of Covid Omicron variant and flu keeping friends and family in isolation.

We are reminded of some of these same emotional and physical triggers of long days and nights, coldness, difficulty, and loneliness in a story long, long ago – a journey to Bethlehem taken by Joseph and Mary. Here are some pictures of First UMC celebrating Christmas.

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





CHURCH LEADERSHIP

SPRC REPORT

SPRC has been in communication with the district superintendent of Many Waters as we process and navigate the church appointment and look to find another date for the church conference. She will be joining us at our leadership board meeting via zoom.

We are still in need of sound tech for Sunday mornings. It seems there is a challenge in locking down an individual for Sunday mornings. Any possible ideas (i.e. should we place an ad) from leadership would be helpful to move forward.

An email will be sent out to SPRC for our next meeting once the church conference date has been set.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine

FACILITIES REPORT

John V And Sue S met with Palmer and Sicard from a recommendation from East Coast as a company to be our maintenance contractor for the boilers. We agreed to a contract and look forward to working with them. During the Thanksgiving weekend, the hot water heater let go. As there was no events happening during that weekend, an emergency call was not placed. Palmer and Sicard also proposed an estimate for a new water heater that supplies hot water to the upstairs bathroom.

Our elevator (stair chair) will have the yearly inspection on Wednesday, 12/21/22

PASTOR'S REPORT

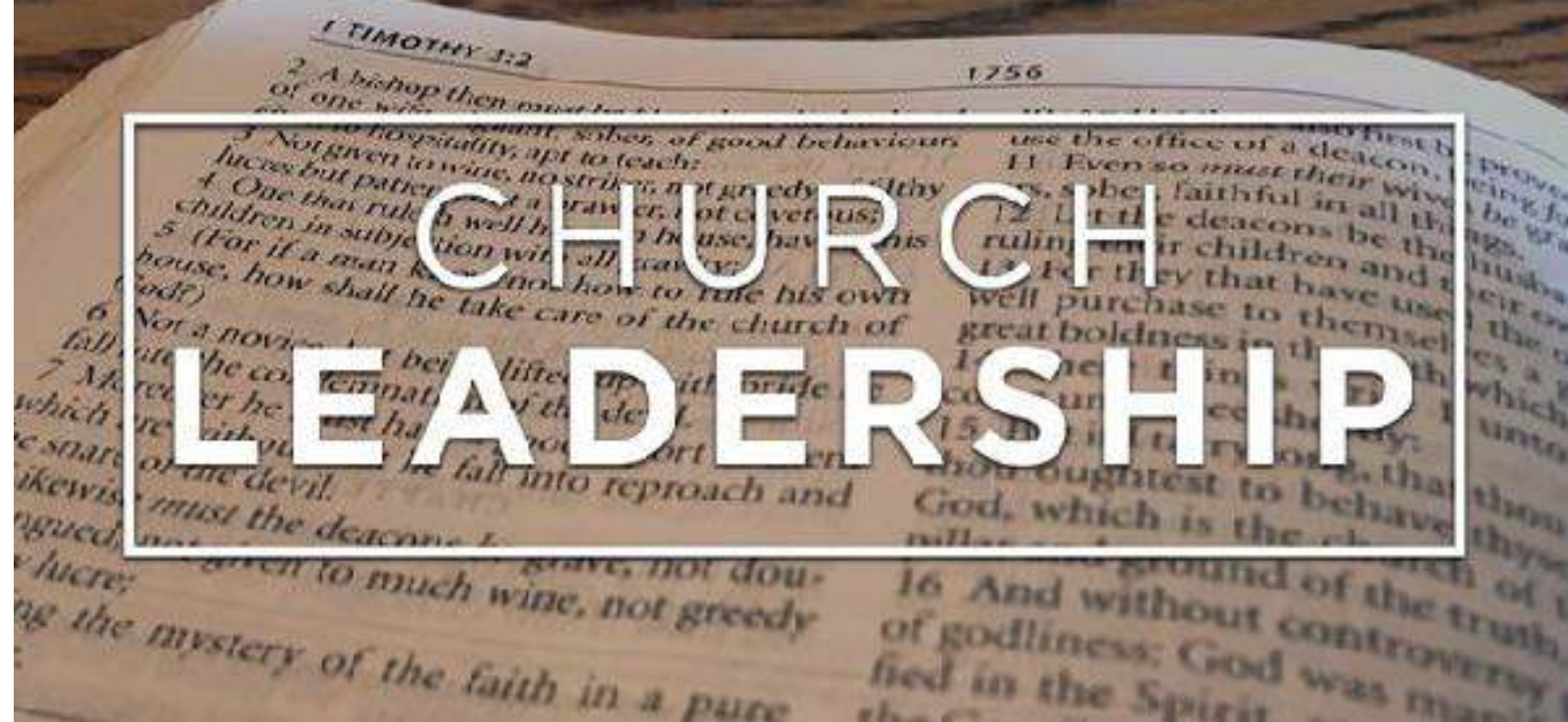
May the grace of the Lord be with you in every moment of your life.

Six months ago, we embarked on a journey we had never been on before. Although it was a short time, I could see the Lord in our midst by meeting the members individually and listening to your stories. And those times allowed me to confess that I am grateful and happy that I became your pastor. I want to express my gratitude again to the members who opened their hearts and shared their stories of faith. We share the grace of the Lord in every moment, from moments of pain, weakness, and moments of joy, and we will go on a journey to know His grace more deeply and anew.

I was invited to participate in the Generous Church Leadership (GCL) cohort starting next January. The GLC program is hosted by the United Methodist Foundation, and 12 pastors from the New England Conference held six meetings (Once a month) to learn that it will grow in understanding of the pastor's leadership role in local church finances and to better connect and articulate generosity as a key component of growing, Authentic disciples of Jesus Christ.

I believe that financial hardship is a very challenging issue for us today, but it is also a channel through which we can learn and grow together as disciples of Jesus Christ. I pray that this program will be of great help not only to me but to all of our church.

With Love,
Rev. Daniel Chung Ho Lee



MARKETING/MUSIC REPORT

Every month, almost 2 million people search on Google for “church” near me. These are believers and unbelievers who don’t belong to a church or have a Christian relationship with their community. Activating these relationships inside and outside our church walls is imperative and will only be accomplished through both our church family’s human to human connection with others, and our outreach through a digital presence as there are people in our community looking for us...we need to ensure they are able to find “us”. Please use our digital platforms – Facebook and First UMC website personally and sharing it with those who know us and are trying to find us!

COMMUNITY REPORT

The Gather Mobile Van Food Pantry has had 2 successful days in our parking lot. The neighborhood is very happy with this new arrangement, and will continue every other Monday afternoon.

The I Got Bridged Hope to Joy group had 67 participants this past month. All are welcome on January 7, 2023 with free breakfast at 8:30 and speaker at 9:00.

We continue to work with NHFAPA for needy children for our Christmas Share the Joy Program. These are children that are placed with relatives who are not eligible for any other state help programs. We were able to provide gifts for 6 children and 4 caretakers. Thank you to the many wrapping angels who completed all wrapping in one day!

The Rock My Soul concert was held in the sanctuary on Saturday, 12/17. A great time was had by all.

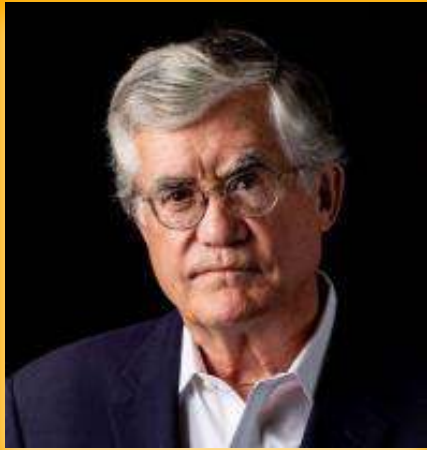
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JANUARY 7th - TIME 4 JOY FELLOWSHIP

GUEST SPEAKER - JOHN T. BRODERICK, JR.

Former NH Chief Justice



Dartmouth-Health's R.E.A.C.T. Mental Health Awareness Campaign provides individuals throughout New Hampshire and Vermont with tips about how to deal with signs of emotional suffering and with resources for support and help.

The R.E.A.C.T. campaign was developed to provide clear next steps to take when someone sees some, or all, of the 5 Signs of emotional suffering in another person. R.E.A.C.T. supplements the 5 Signs campaign developed by Barbara Van Dahlen of Change Direction.

The idea for the 5 Signs was modeled on the theory that, like knowing the 5 Signs of a heart attack or stroke, we should all know the 5 Signs of emotional distress; and when we see those signs we should take action. Led by Dartmouth-Health Senior Director of External Affairs John Broderick, formerly the Chief Justice of the NH Supreme Court, and in collaboration with the Children's Hospital at Dartmouth-Health, the New Hampshire Department of Education, the Vermont Agency of Education and other agencies and civic leaders across both states, Broderick has been reaching out to students, educators, parents, businesses and communities, to change the conversation on mental health and to help reduce stigma.

Broderick believes that "we have the ability to change the culture and the way mental health is viewed." He wants to spread this message to as many students, educators, parents, businesses and communities as he can.

8:30am Complimentary breakfast & coffee by La Mulita
9:00am Introductions, Speaker, Q&A
Sanborn Hall - First UMC 129 Miller Ave, Portsmouth



#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] GATHER [2 images above] in 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/>

And 2] our incredible partnership with the non-profit I Got Bridged serving the community in bridging the gap for people in need on the Seacoast and their outreach through the TIME 4 JOY [information to the left] monthly meetings that have attendance of 75+ individuals from the Seacoast community. Learn more @ <https://www.igotbridged.com/>



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

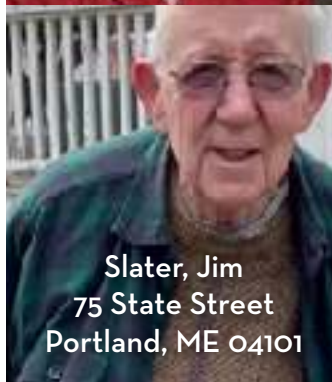
(Pray for Others)

WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER

Sam, Louise, Elaine, Rick, Bobbie, Marilyn & Gil,
Barbara, Marion, Dorothy, Irlene, Juliann,
Charles, Dwight, Reginald,
Immigrants on the border,
Our world and our Church Family and Friends



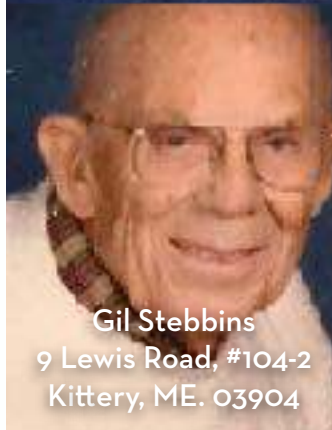
Marion Collishaw
50 Old Colony Way
Scituate MA 02066



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





**HAPPY NEW YEAR
2023**



CELEBRATIONS

1] We wish all of our First UMC family celebrating a birthday this month one that is filled with love, laughter and fond memories. 2] We celebrate the gift of the baby Jesus in the manger and 3] we celebrate the start of a new year 2023 – let's make it one that creates a difference in the community and people's lives.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

3 - Tenley Westbrook
5 - Joseph Philbrick, Jr.
6 - Dave Richards
6 - Gary Sillanpaa
11 - Cathy Martin
23 - David Bovee
25 - John VanReenen
31 - Tim Orr
31 - Karin Scott
31 - Yvonne Griffin



CELEBRATION OF LIFE

THOSE WHO WENT HOME IN 2022

We celebrate the lives of those who have gone on before us teaching us how to live our – dash.

While they may not physically be present they walk beside us each and every day...unseen, unheard, but always near in our hearts and memories.

WHAT MATTERS IS HOW

WE LIVE

AND LOVE

AND

HOW

WE

SPEND

OUR

DASH

THE DASH
By Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend. He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning...to the end.

He noted that first came the date of birth and spoke of the following date with tears, but he said what mattered most of

all was the dash between those years. For that dash represents all the time they spent alive on earth and now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth. For it matters not, how much we own, the cars...the house... the cash. What matters is how we live and love and

how we spend our dash. So think about this long and hard; are there things you'd like to change? For you never know how much time is left that still can be rearranged.

To be less quick to anger and show appreciation more and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile...remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.

So when your eulogy is being read, with your life's actions to rehash, would you be proud of the things they say about how you lived your dash?



Kenneth Clayton Young, Jr., 87, passed away on Tuesday, August 30, 2022, at Webster at Rye.

He was born on September 10, 1934, in Norway, Maine to the late Kenneth and Berrita (Brown) Young, Sr.



Robert, of Bucksport Maine passed away Sunday May 8, 2022 surrounded by his wife Suzanne Williams, daughter Chrisitne Williams, sister in law Vicki Haskell and husband Joe Haskell, and close family friends Bill and Lisa Chambers. Babe was born in Patterson GA on December 17, 1942.



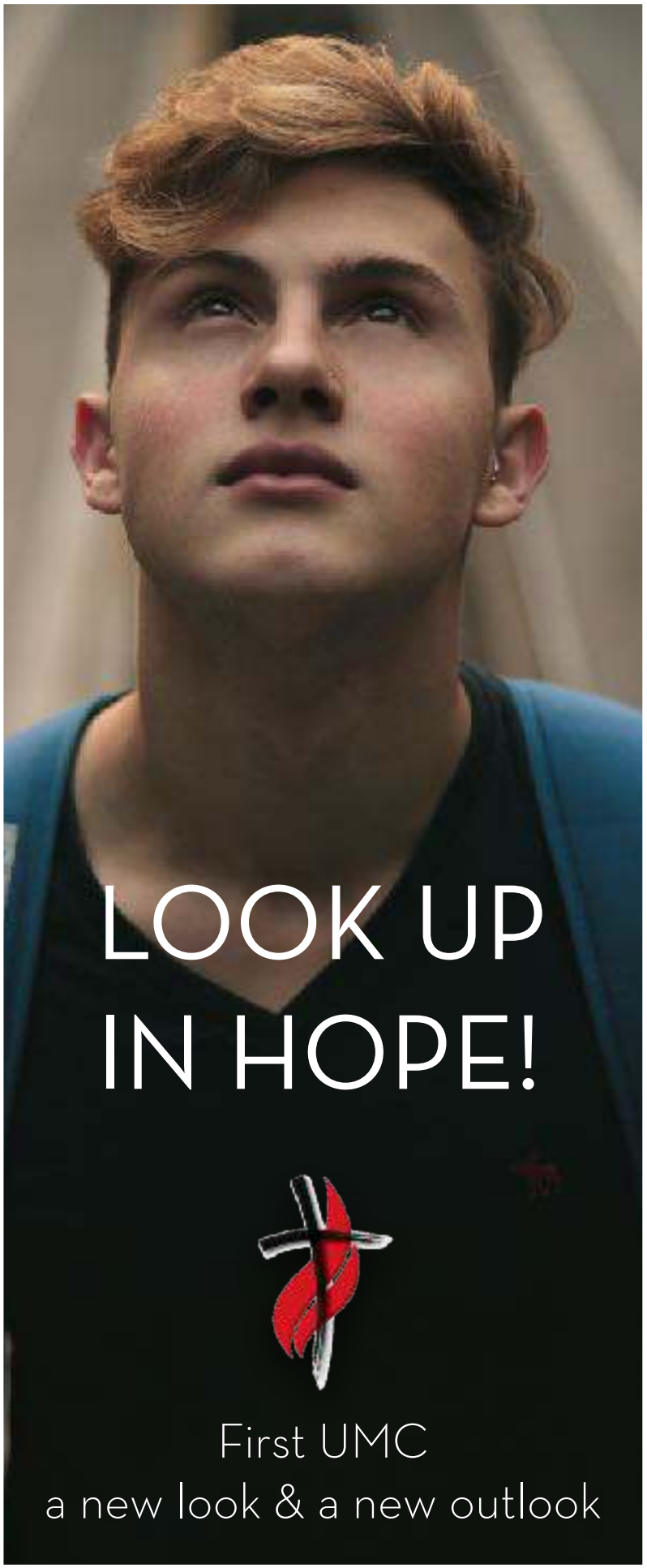
Barbara I. Clement, 96, of Dover, widow of Robert H. Clement, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at the Riverside Rest Home in Dover.

She was born on October 9, 1925, in Somerville, Massachusetts, to Frank and L. Edna (Whitney) Komenda. Barbara was a graduate of Reading High School, Class of 1943.



Reverend Betsy S. Webber passed on January 10, 2022.

Eldest daughter to John and Ruth (Hussey) Sargent. She spent her childhood between Barnstead and Greenland, NH. While attending college Betsy worked as secretary at the United Methodist Church in Portsmouth where she realized her calling into the ministry.



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!

Reminder - Please have your 2022 pledges and year end donations in by December 31st.

THE THREE WISEMEN ARRIVE

BRINGING TREASURES TO BABY JESUS

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, look, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who is born King of the Jews? For we saw his star in the east, and have come to worship him.”

And when King Herod heard it, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he asked them where the Messiah would be born. And they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written through the prophet, ‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are in no way least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come forth a ruler who will shepherd my people, Israel.’”

And they, having heard the king, went their way; and look, the star which they saw in the east went before them, until it came and stood over where the young child was. And when they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And they came into the house and saw the young child with Mary, his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered gifts to him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Being warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they went back to their own country another way.

Matthew 2:1-12



We hope you have enjoyed the new 2023
format for the First UMC Beacon.

Each year we look to improve the way we
tell our stories and how we communicate
it out to our community.

If you have any ideas or comments
please share them with the
church office at 603.436.6038

Happy New Year!



JANUARY 2023
FIRST UMC BEACON

