



MARCH 2023  
FIRST UMC BEACON





## MESSAGE FROM REV. CHUNG HO

Spring is already close to us. In Korea, where I grew up, it was believed that spring always came with swallows. When the swallows that had left for the warm south during the cold winter began to build nests under the eaves, people saw that the long winter was over and spring had arrived. Of course, it would still be chilly, but people saw spring first through swallows. Like this, although spring is invisible, it permeates us very slowly without our knowledge.



What will our spring days come with? Through what can we see that spring has come among us?

Almond trees are the first to bloom when spring arrives in Israel. Almond trees look gorgeous outside but don't have leaves to protect them. Although it is a painful tree that endures the cold winter wind, it blooms earlier than any other tree in the early spring with strong vitality.

Almond's Hebrew word, **דקל**, means to keep, guard, and above all, this word means to 'see' God's promise fulfilled. In Jeremiah 1:11-12, God talks about the almond tree.

**The word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Jeremiah, what do you see?" And I said, "I see a branch of an almond tree." Then the Lord said to me, "You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it."**

Spring always comes slowly to us. The spring of our life is also like that. Sometimes our lives are like a cold winter, and spring still seems far away. But spring has already begun among us. Even if our lives are still like a cold winter, I pray that we will be able to look at the warm spring that is already among us and has already begun because of Christ, who is already among us.

Rev. Daniel Chung Ho Lee







## ASH SUNDAY

*Lenten journey begins*

Sunday, February 19th we started our Lenten journey with Rev. Chung Ho leading us with his message titled "From a Life of a Resume to a Life of a Eulogy" and the service of ashes.

We are all invited in the name of the Church, to observe a Holy Lent: by self-examination, repentance, prayer, fasting, and self-denial.

We were blessed to have 2 acolytes thank you Maria and Bella!



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







## SUNDAY SCHOOL

*Busting out the dance moves!*

The kids did a great job in getting the congregation tapping their feet, clapping their hands and put some giant smiles on our faces.

Great job kids and we look forward to surprising us once a month with gifts of music, energy and laughter!

Thank you teachers and parents for your dedication to our future and their time in Sunday School.







## SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR

*Time for fellowship and goodies*

Thank you to the Labadie Family for providing the incredible spread for coffee hour. Homemade treats were definitely scooped up by everyone.

Sharing a recipe for the Earl Grey Cupcakes that were a huge hit. YUMMY!

We are always looking for individuals to sponsor a coffee hour...let the church office know if you are interested!

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



from  
"Cupcakes from the  
Primrose Bakery"

## Earl Grey Cupcakes

The delicate bergamot citrus flavor of Earl Grey tea will intensify with every bite here. If you are a tea lover and have a fondness for a particular blend, you could easily substitute that one. We think these cupcakes make an ideal Mother's Day treat as they look so pretty piled on a plate at the center of a special afternoon tea.

Makes about:  
12 regular cupcakes

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup 2% reduced-fat milk,  
at room temperature  
4 Earl Grey teabags  
8 tablespoons unsalted butter,  
at room temperature  
1 cup plus 2 tablespoons  
granulated sugar  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon almond extract  
(optional)  
2 large eggs, free-range or organic  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup plus 2 tablespoons  
self-rising flour  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup all-purpose flour

(I left  
this out)

To decorate (optional)  
1 batch of Vanilla Buttercream  
Frosting (see page 26),  
colored lilac  
Granulated sugar or  
sugar flowers

I frosted  
with a  
Simple  
Sugar/milk  
glaze

Preheat the oven to 350°F and line a 12-cup muffin pan with cupcake liners.

Heat the milk in a saucepan over medium heat until it just begins to boil. Remove from the heat and add the teabags. Cover and leave to infuse for about 30 minutes, then discard the teabags.

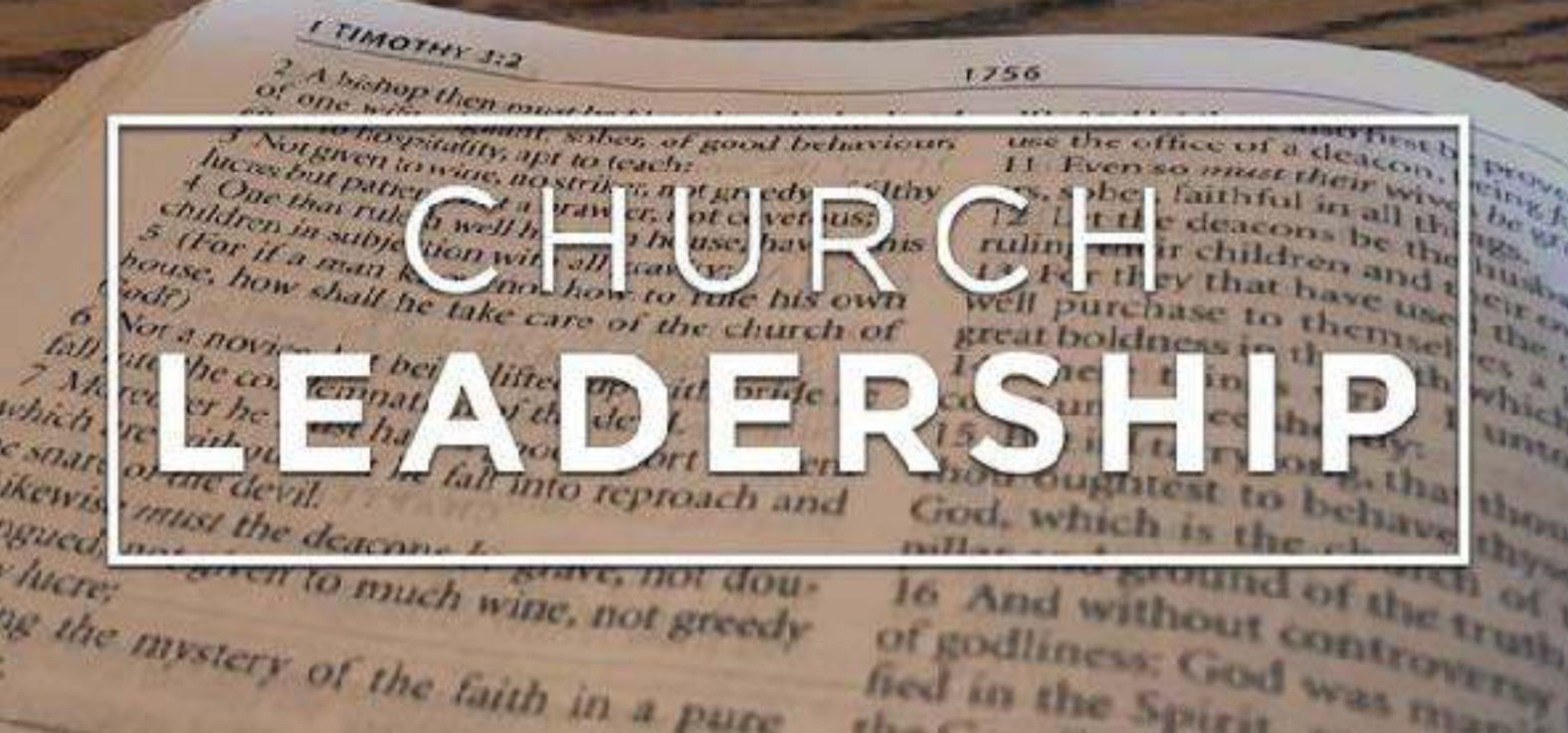
In a large mixing bowl, cream the butter and sugar until the mixture is pale and smooth, which should take 3-5 minutes using an electric hand mixer. Add the almond extract, if using, and the eggs, one at a time, mixing for a few minutes after each addition.

Sift the two flours together into a separate bowl. Add one-third of the flour to the creamed mixture and beat well. Pour in one-third of the infused milk and beat again. Repeat these steps until all the flour and milk have been added.

Carefully spoon the mixture into the cups, filling them about two-thirds full. Bake in the oven for about 25 minutes until slightly raised and golden brown. To check they are cooked, insert a wooden skewer in the center of one of the cupcakes – it should come out clean.

Remove from the oven and leave the cupcakes in the pan for about 10 minutes before carefully placing on a wire rack to cool. Once they are completely cool, you could frost the cupcakes with lilac-colored vanilla buttercream and sprinkle with a little extra granulated sugar and sugar flowers.





## FACILITIES REPORT [Sue Sarosiek]

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

On 2/15/23, there was no heat in the Parsonage. East Coast Heating arrived and repaired a pressure tube switch.

John V and Sue S met with John Balye to update and increase building use fees.

Fred C. Church, our insurer, completed an inspection of church building for insurance purposes. No areas of concern were noted.

Peter Poole, our piano tuner has retired. He sold his business to Carroll Stevens at CedarWing. The grand piano was tuned on 2/14/23.

John V and Sue S will meet with a new local copier representative. The local company has charitable agency contracts available. Our lease expires on 5/7/23. The current copier company has been bought out by a national firm.

John and Sue will meet with an outdoor li" company to seek continued ideas for updating our out of code wooden handicap ramp.

Yearly group building usage hours and square footage was calculated and submitted for Conference Statistics on 2/14/23.

An Emergency Preparedness seminar for houses of worship is being held by Homeland Security, in Manchester on March 5. All are invited, Please RSVP to the office.

## SPRC REPORT [Sue Richards]

As announced in church, Rev. Chung Ho Daniel Lee will continue to serve the York Ogunquit UMC, effective 7/1/23. Early last week, Many Water DS Arlene Tully called to have me set up a meeting at church for last Saturday, 2/18/23 at 6 pm. Since we will be returning to the Granite District, DS Rev. Taesung Kang was present.

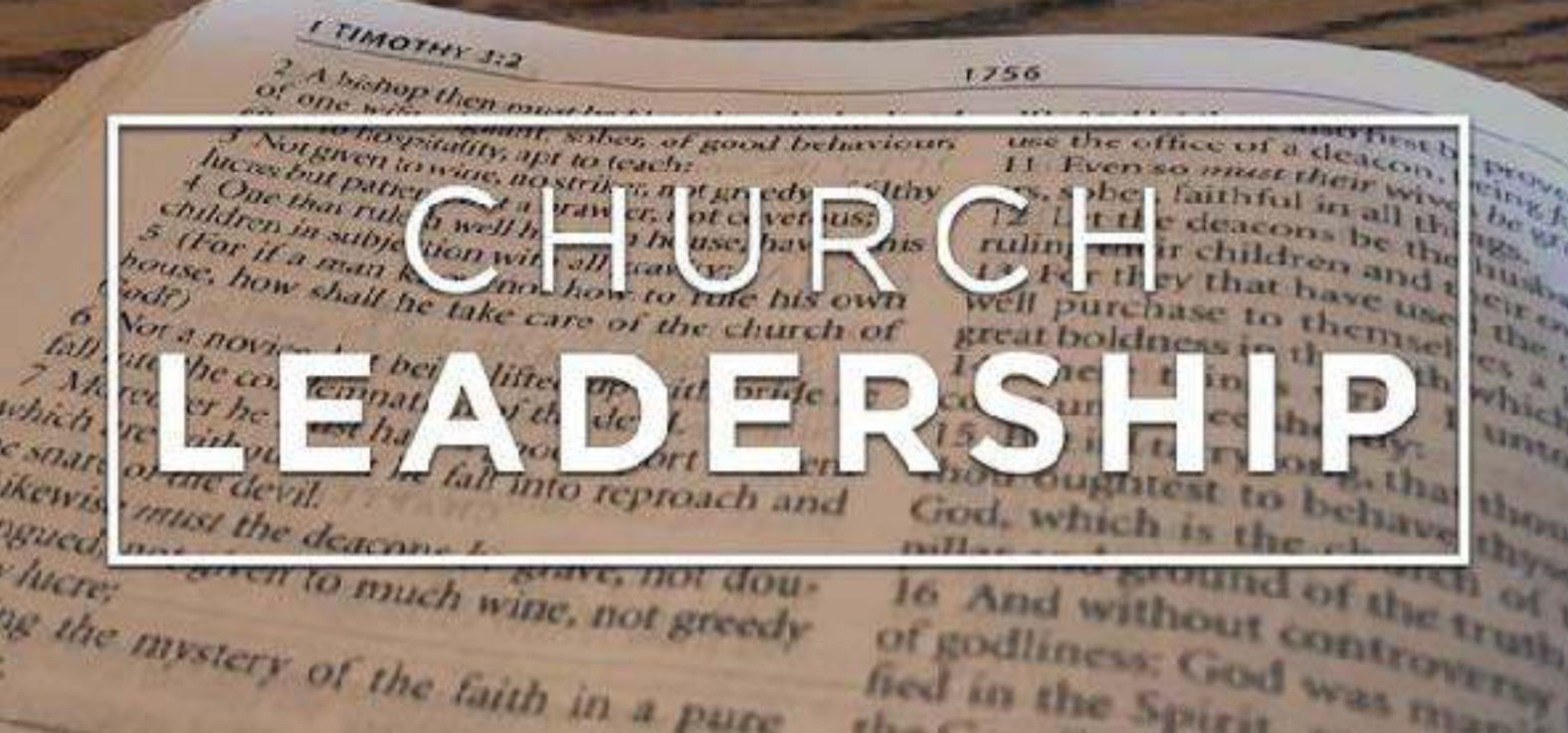
Both DS's expressed concern that we get our finances under control. Part of this discussion will be regarding our Marketing and Communications Director, whose 2-year contract ends on 6/30/23. Another idea is to discuss parsonage rental.

Question was raised about becoming a Mission or Missional Church. Rev. Kang explained that becoming one or the other is on a case-by-case basis. If approved by the Bishop and Cabinet, the Conference subsidizes the church budget. One church serves a unique population by using their church building to house homeless people and to help those with food insecurities.

Rev. Tully introduced Rev. Dr. Jackie Brannen as the pastor the Bishop intends to appoint to FUMC, effective 7/1/23. She serves as the Katahdin DS in ME until she retires on 6/30/23 and moves to Wesley By The Sea in Wells, ME. Rev. Tully described her as a "Swiss Army knife", meaning that she will be able to help us in many areas. She will start at the minimum 1/2-time pastoral compensation rate plus minimum reimbursable. We had a wonderful time getting to know each other.

It was agreed by all that our worship service return to 10 a.m., starting on Sunday 7/2/23.





## COMMUNITY REPORT [Sue Sarosiek]

We continue to nurture our AA group interaction. Groups have been informed of increased costs and additional donations have been received.

Sue S. Will meet with a prospective bride this week. Her mom made the initial contact inquiring about a wedding date in 2024. The couple have just moved back to the Portsmouth area and are looking for a church. As most brides wish to have a center aisle, mom was informed we have side aisles. She said her daughter saw that in pictures on website and it didn't matter. Her daughter, Abby, LOVED what the church is doing in the community, our website, and is very interested in touring our facility. She understands marital counseling with pastor needs to happen prior to wedding ceremony.

The I Got Bridged Comedy Night is coming soon (3/30/23). This event utilizes the entire building. There are two local professional comedians (Juston McKinney & Joe Yanne!) on tap. There will be a silent auction as well. Last year, this event sold out with 120 tickets sold. Sue S will attend the I Got Bridged March Board Meeting.

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





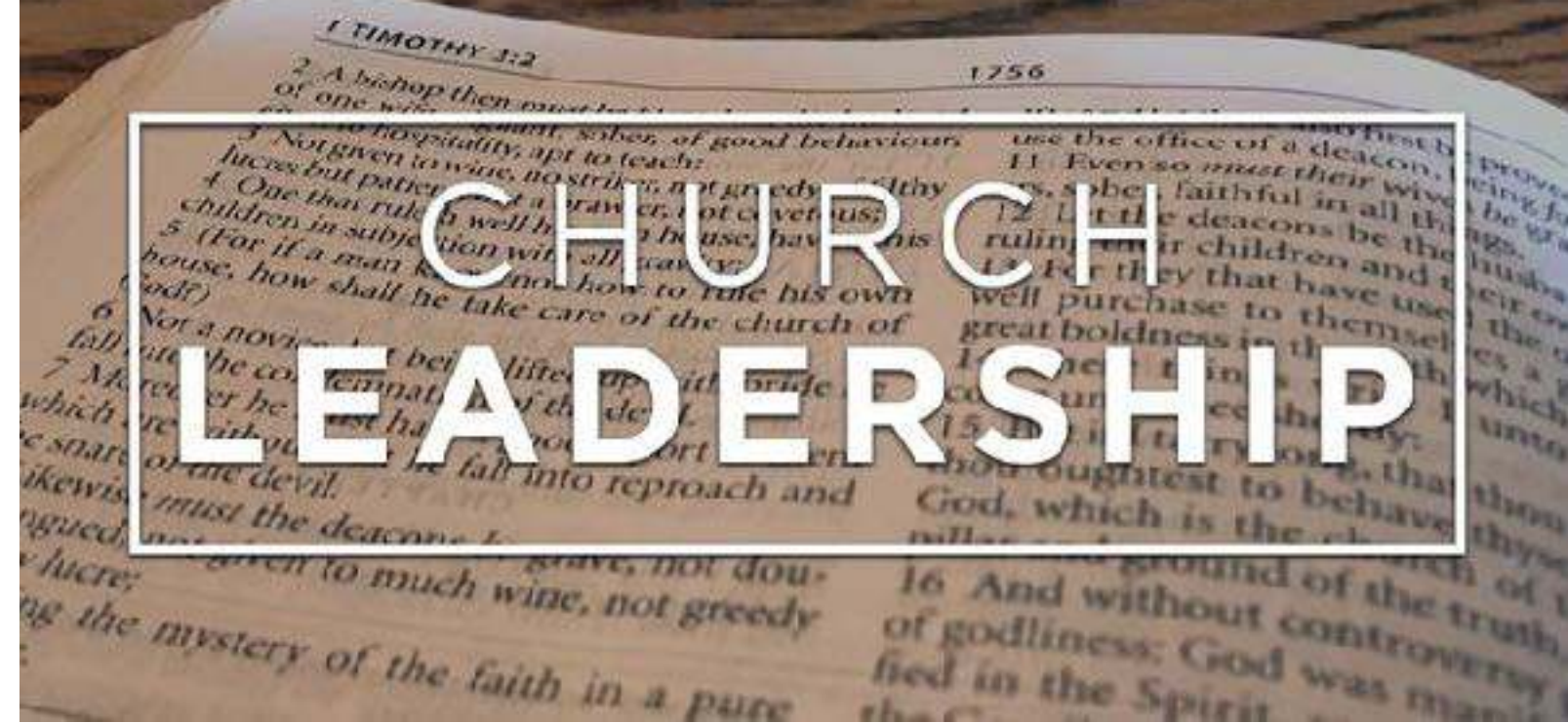
## MARKETING/MUSIC REPORT [Bevan Bloemendaal]

### MUSIC -

- Thankful for Rev. Chung Ho, Stephanie Labadie, PennySue Orr and Steve Scott for sharing their gifts of music with us
- PennySue and I will be teaching the kids music program with the intent of having the kids on a monthly basis perform during worship service
- There are many requests for particular songs from the congregation which is great
- The piano was tuned in the sanctuary with a new piano tuner - thank you Sue S for arranging

### MARKETING -

- The Beacon has a new look/feel for 2023 with multiple compliments
- Facebook continues to grow with good interaction among friends and family
- First UMC website use continues to be strong
  - Monthly stats of 291 session with 260 visits to the site and 616 page views
- Topical homepage refreshes e.g. Valentine's Day, Ash Wednesday, Beginning of Lent and updated "giving" scroller images are done on a weekly basis
- Photo galleries are updated on a weekly basis
- Requested Denomination updates have been made
- Sunday files for both the narthex and sanctuary monitors continue to be created
- We have extended the length of the time an announcement is shown on the screen and also placed the announcements at the end of the worship service for double exposure as congregation leave the sanctuary







## 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 we thank them for keeping the snow cleared for everyone to make in safely [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/>



#bekind #helpothers #pray





**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

Ruth, Elaine, Bobbie, Marilyn & Gil, Irlene,  
Juliann, Charles, Dwight, Reginald, Art,  
The families of the shooting victims,  
People of Ukraine, Earthquake victims and  
survivors in Turkey and Syria  
Our world and our Church Family and Friends



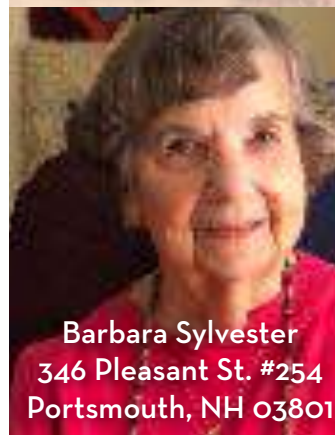
Slater, Jim  
75 State Street  
Portland, ME 04101



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







# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

PALM SUNDAY 4/2

EASTER SUNDAY 4/9

SPRING PATCH - 5/13, 5/20 & 5/27  
Last minute Mother's Day pick up of  
frozen lasagna for dinner and  
flowers...geraniums and petunias!

NH GIVES DAY 6/6-6/7  
Our focus will be on Seacoast Kids  
and Share the Joy & NHFAPA

FIRST UMC YARD SALE 8/19  
We will start collecting the end of  
June - as a reminder we will NOT be  
accepting baby items, electronic,  
clothes/shoes or books.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN...  
SPRING FORWARD  
March 12th



## UPCOMING EVENTS

1] Be sure to mark your calendars with all the upcoming events at First UMC. 2] Daylight Saving Time we lose an hour be sure to change your clocks forward on 3/12! 3] We wish all of our First UMC family celebrating a birthday this month one that is filled with love, laughter and fond memories.

## March Birthdays

01 Roberta Noble

07 Devin Scott

07 Daphne Labadie

13 Carson Crisp

24 Melanie [Berry] Lindgren







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](http://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!