



MAY 2023
FIRST UMC BEACON



MESSAGE FROM REV. CHUNGHO

CHRISTIAN HOME MONTH

In May and June, we will prepare various events for families to celebrate Children's Day and Mother's Day. The church also sets May as the Christian home Month and celebrates it. How are you preparing for this Family Month?

During this month, we give thanks to God for giving us our families, and we strive to do our best to make our children and parents happy. Some families may prepare gifts for their children and parents, while others may plan trips to places they enjoy. But there's one thing we all know. In the end, our gifts and services will not continue to guarantee our children a happy day ahead. Nor will it make up for our parents' tearful lives.

It's a story that a pastor whom I love shared with me. The pastor has an old friend, a self-made man who made a fortune in his youth, but lost it twice in the upheaval of the international situation. but he rose again, a gentle and strong man.

The pastor said that he had never seen his friend shed tears for many years. But one day, the pastor saw the friend shed tears in front of him. The friend was talking about his sadness when he saw his child continue to wander, and suddenly stopped talking and just shed tears. The pastor said that he was heartbroken because he saw his friend's tears for the first time in his life. The pastor taught him how to find a Bible app on his friend's cell phone and told him to read or listen to the Psalms in the morning and evening. Because only the word of the Lord can touch his heart and wipe away his tears.

This would actually be our life. Except in special cases, most humans born in this world have a tearless childhood. This is because parents live a tearful life for their children instead. However, at the end of childhood, humans have to live a tearful life until they die. Our tearful lives begin when we leave our childhood and enter school. Can parents replace the tears that their children shed at school, at work, and in marriage?

Can parents replace the tearful life of a young man who has to face all kinds of difficulties in this wilderness with their own tears? Rather, young people will have to take care of their old parents when the time comes. However, Young people cannot compensate for or replace their parents' tearful lives. Therefore, a human being who sheds tears but cannot solve anything with those tears is a lonely being.

But Christian's family Month is different. For God, who will wipe away tears from our children's eyes for the rest of their lives, God, who will cry for them for the rest of their lives, will be the father and mother of our children. Isn't there a God who will forever wipe away the tears our parents shed for the rest of their lives, the Father God who will hold our parents forever as soon as they stop breathing at the end of their noses?

Therefore, the month of the Christian home is a month of reflection and celebrating this God who is father and mother in our family. Only God, who is both our father and our mother, can wipe away the tears of our children and cry for them as they continue to live in this harsh world. Only our God can embrace the tearful lives of parents, who cannot be compensated by their children's tears. This month, let us take the time to share the Father and Mother God who will continually cry for us and wipe away our tears with our children, ourselves, and our parents.





A lot can happen in 3 days...Hallelujah!

EASTER SUNDAY

He is Risen...He is Risen Indeed!





STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

With John and Sue

Today was the launch of our Stewardship campaign and John VanReenen thanked everyone who were able to make it to the meeting with the Bishop on Friday and all the letters of support that were sent in for that meeting...we are a blessed church. We also had the first of three "Gratitude Moments" and today's was with the Battye's who run Planet Rangers - <https://planetrangers.org/> and have been part of our church family for over 10 years making a difference in the lives of kids in the Seacoast area...we are fortunate in having them inhabit the church facility with all the incredible energy they and the kids bring.



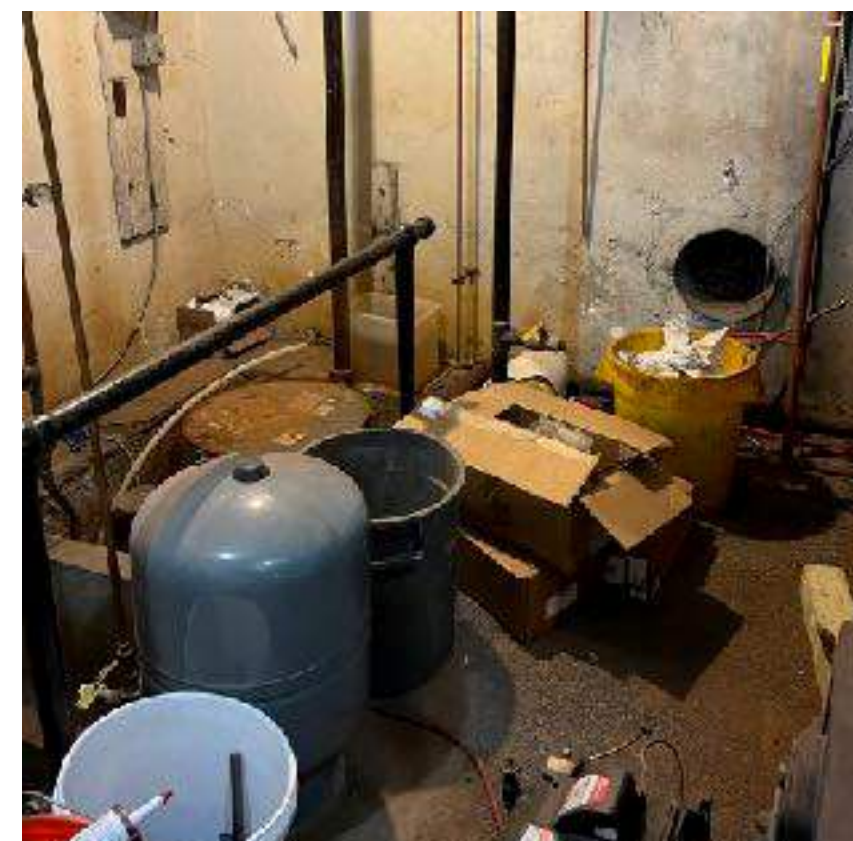




PROGRESS!

Boiler replacement

The boiler replacement continues. Church leadership is still graciously accepting donations to help with this unexpected expense. You can go to the GIVE tab on our website @ <https://fumcportsmouth.com> to make a donation...thank you for your generous support.





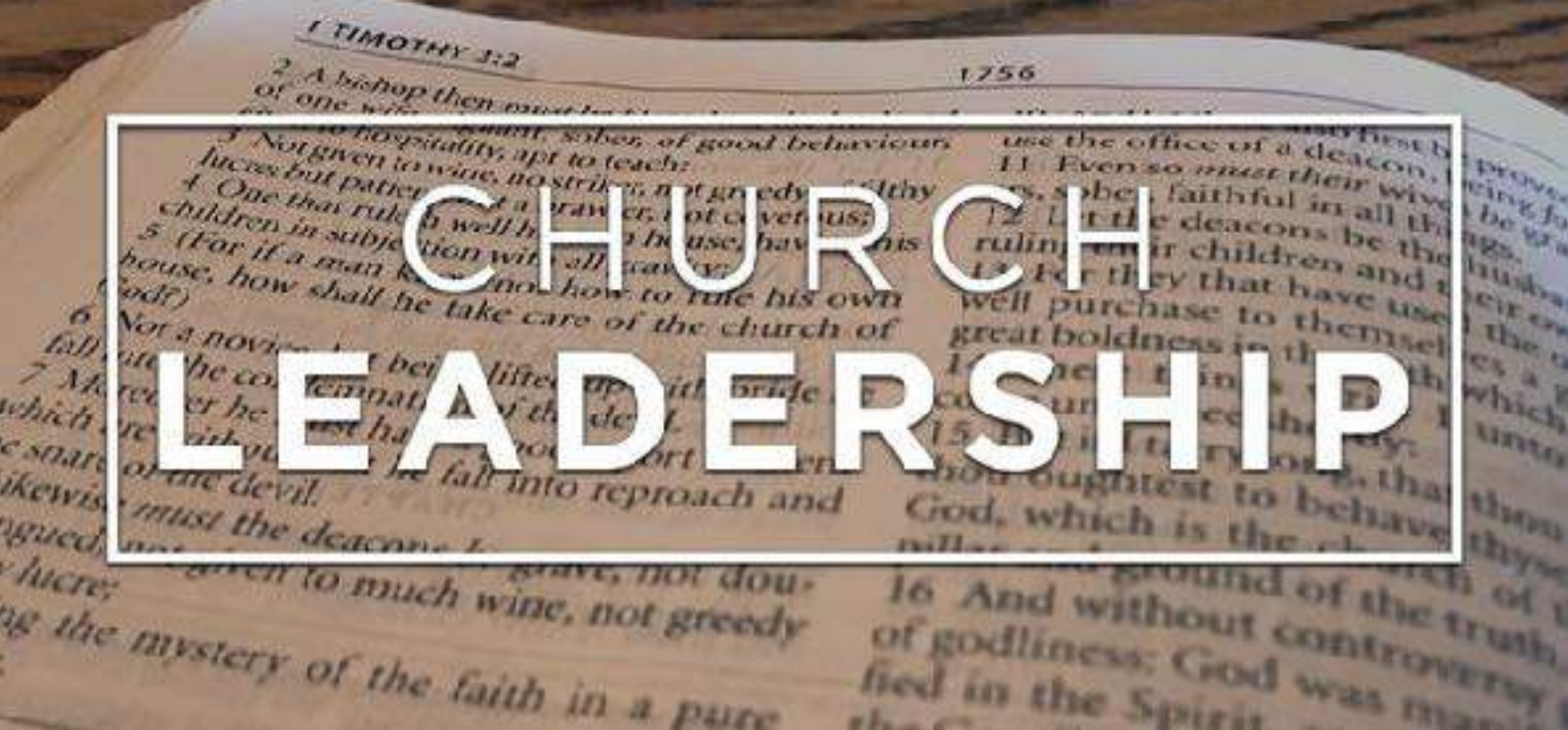
WELCOME TO FIRST UMC

Jaidyn Henry Lindgren

Sunday April 30th this little guy was baptized and threw a reception after church for everyone.

We welcome him into the loving First UMC family...you have awesome parents and Grandma too!





CHURCH LEADERSHIP

COMMUNITY REPORT [Sue Sarosiek]

The Dover Girl Scout Troop donated 75 boxes of cookies to the AA groups. They were very well received by AA. AA sent a thank you note to Dover Girl Scouts.

The I Got Bridged Comedy Night was held on 3/30/23. Please note pictures in our April Beacon. A very fun night was had by all! Over \$12,000 was raised for IGB, with a donation of \$1300 To First UMC.

I Got Bridged has asked to present Recovery Church to the Leadership Board. It is a church program to encourage AA folks to begin to attend church. It's a nationally known program. Freddy is currently in Florida researching the program and would like to bring it begin at FUMC on Wednesday evenings.

Planet Rangers is beginning to prepare for summer camp. Again, FUMC is blessed to host this program. John and Susan Battye will be our guest for our Gratitude Moment during worship on 4/16.

Freddy Petrone, from I Got Bridged will be our guest gratitude moment presenter on 4/23, and Kristen Wiggin, will be our presenter on 4/30.

Our Spring Patch dates are 5/13, 5/20, & 5/27 from 10-4! Petunia & Geraniums Hanging Baskets as well as smaller potted plants and frozen lasagna will be available for sale. Set up for the booth will be on 5/7/23, after worship service. Help is needed.

Chef Shelley Holroyd, the chef for I Got Bridged events, has completed the ServSafe Kitchen Certification, as suggested.

SPRC REPORT [Sue Richards]

Our group met on 3/25/23 in-person and via Zoom.

- Sue Richards was officially elected as Chairperson; Linda Reiber was re-elected as Secretary. It was felt best to wait until later in the year to elect a Vice Chairperson.

- We welcomed our newest members Brock Labadie and PennySue Orr.

- The Marketing and Communication Director's 2-year contract ends on 6/30/23. Initial discussion included budget concerns, the value of this digital position, and how to move forward. I was waiting until after last Friday's FUMC meeting with Bishop Peggy Johnson to schedule the next meeting.

- I attended the 4/12/23 New England Conference SPRC Training via Zoom. This recorded meeting, including many questions and answers, will be available for others to watch. The PowerPoint presentation will be emailed to the 154 attendees soon.

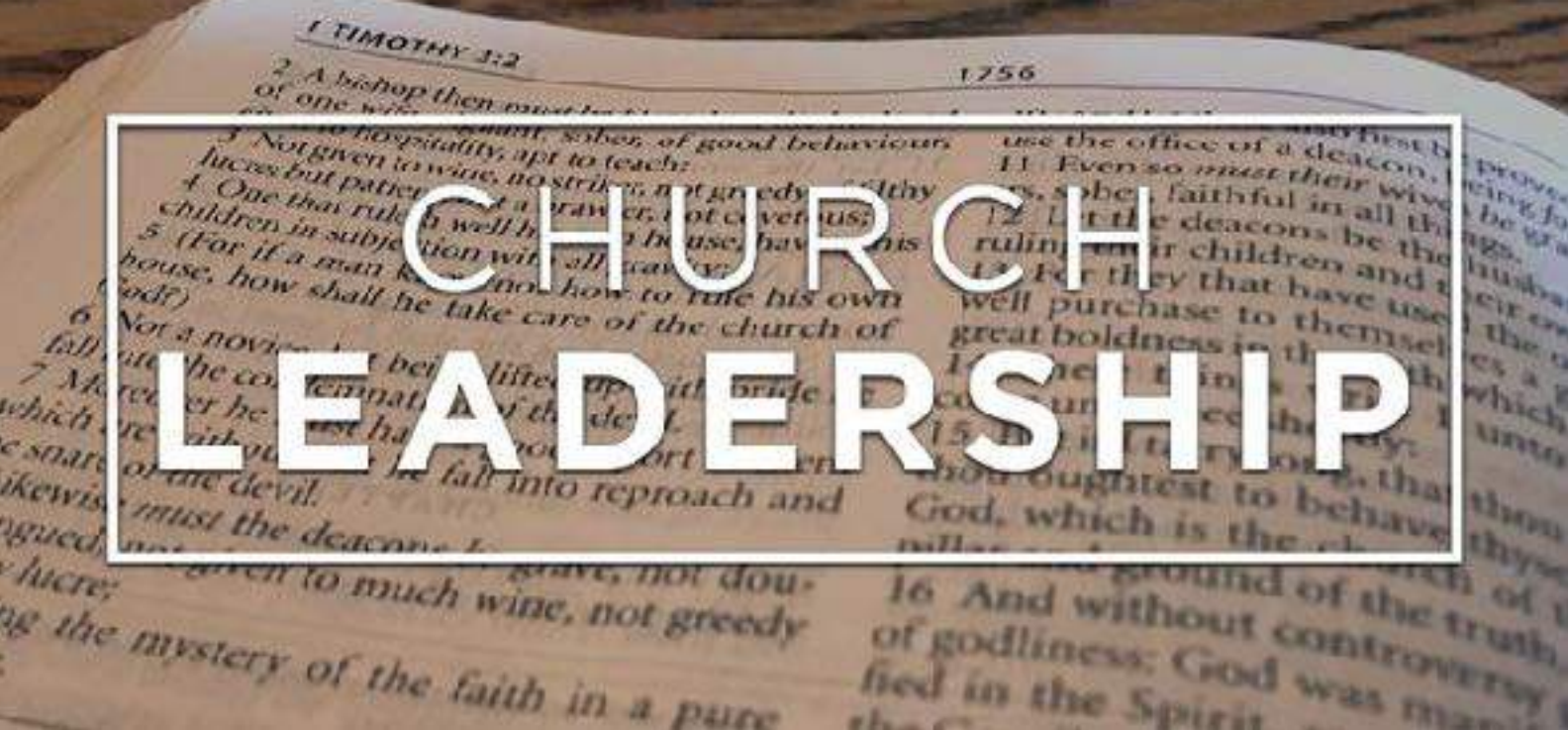
- Pastoral Transition Workshop via Zoom: SPRC members with half-time pastors are encouraged to attend on Sat., 4/29 from 9-noon (I am registered for this one.) OR Wed., 5/24 from 6-9 p.m.

- Rev. Lee and Jin-ah Kim's farewell reception will be held after church on Sun., 6/12, their last day with our congregation. Help is needed.

- Worship service leaders are needed on the 3 Sundays of Rev. Lee's vacation time.

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





CHURCH LEADERSHIP

FACILITIES REPORT [Sue Sarosiek]

- The parsonage boiler needed two emergency service calls. It was also cleaned as regular maintenance.
- The new leased copier was installed on 3/22/23.
- Hart Plumbing and Heating inspected our disabled boiler and quoted a new one. Golter Plumbing has quoted a new boiler. Job of replacing boiler was given to Jim Golter Plumbing and process of demolition of old boiler will begin shortly.

MUSIC REPORT [Bevan Bloemendaal]

- Continued focus on providing the music ministry for First UMC:
- Lent and Easter were filled with making a joyful noise from solos, duets, octets, flute & piano to kids making a joyful noise on Palm Sunday...we have been blessed.
- Was wonderful to have a small portion of the old choir together with Sue Richards, PennySue Orr, Dianne Crisp, Steve Scott and myself singing on Easter morning.
- We had an energetic old fashioned hymn sing on Sunday the 16th that many folks enjoyed.
- I will work with Sue S to record the music so we can put on YouTube more regularly.
- Continued selecting of the hymns based on scripture lesson that Rev. Chung Ho is using.



MARKETING REPORT [Bevan Bloemendaal]

There is a continued focus on outreach to both our congregation and friends along with our loving digital community. Facebook posts

- Website weekly updates/refreshes
- Weekly email on Sunday
- There has been work being done with John on Gratitude & Stewardship Campaign [John to share at meeting]:
 - Letter from committee
 - Financial commitment card
 - Time and Talent commitment card

There has also been work done on how we approach “Building Hope” Campaign that would include 3 focus areas of [below example of 4 of the 15 pages]

- Parking lot
- Sanborn Hall entrance/accessibility
- Replacement of heating system

There is work being done on approaches to funding the above through

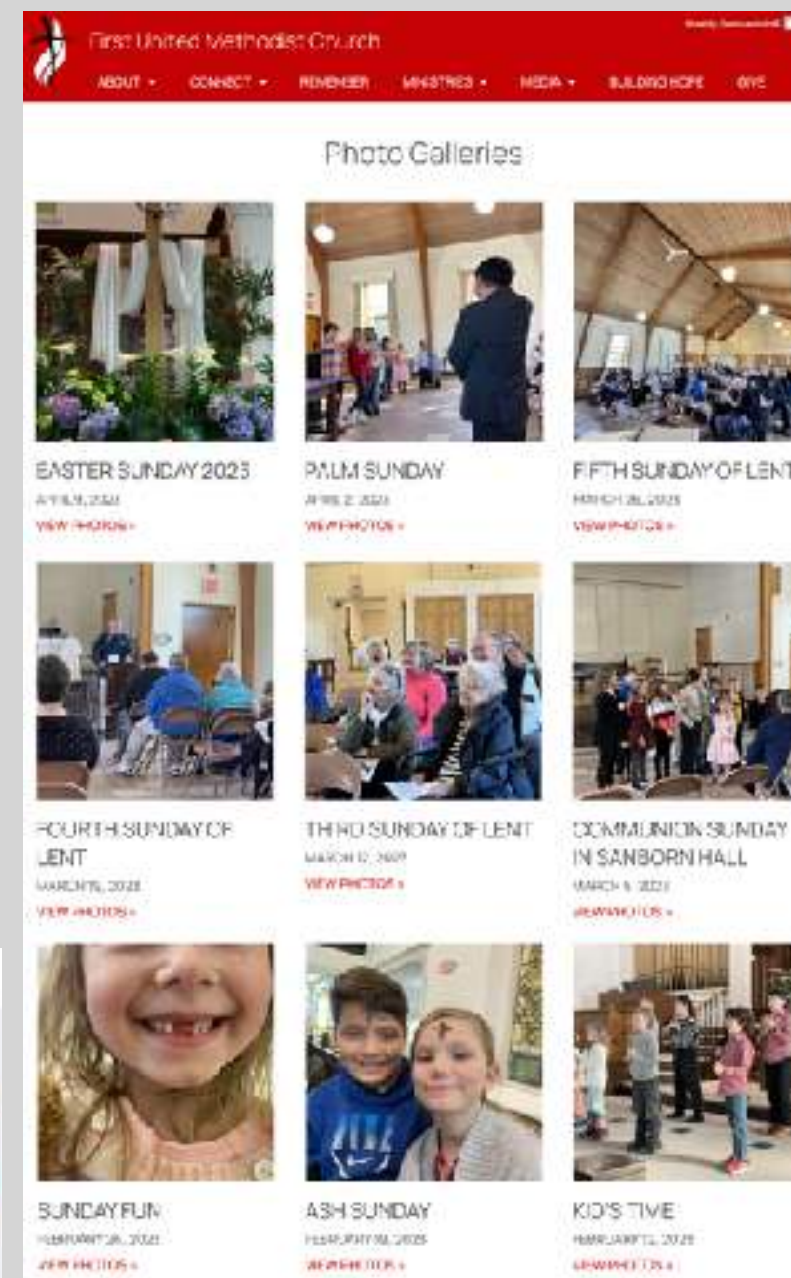
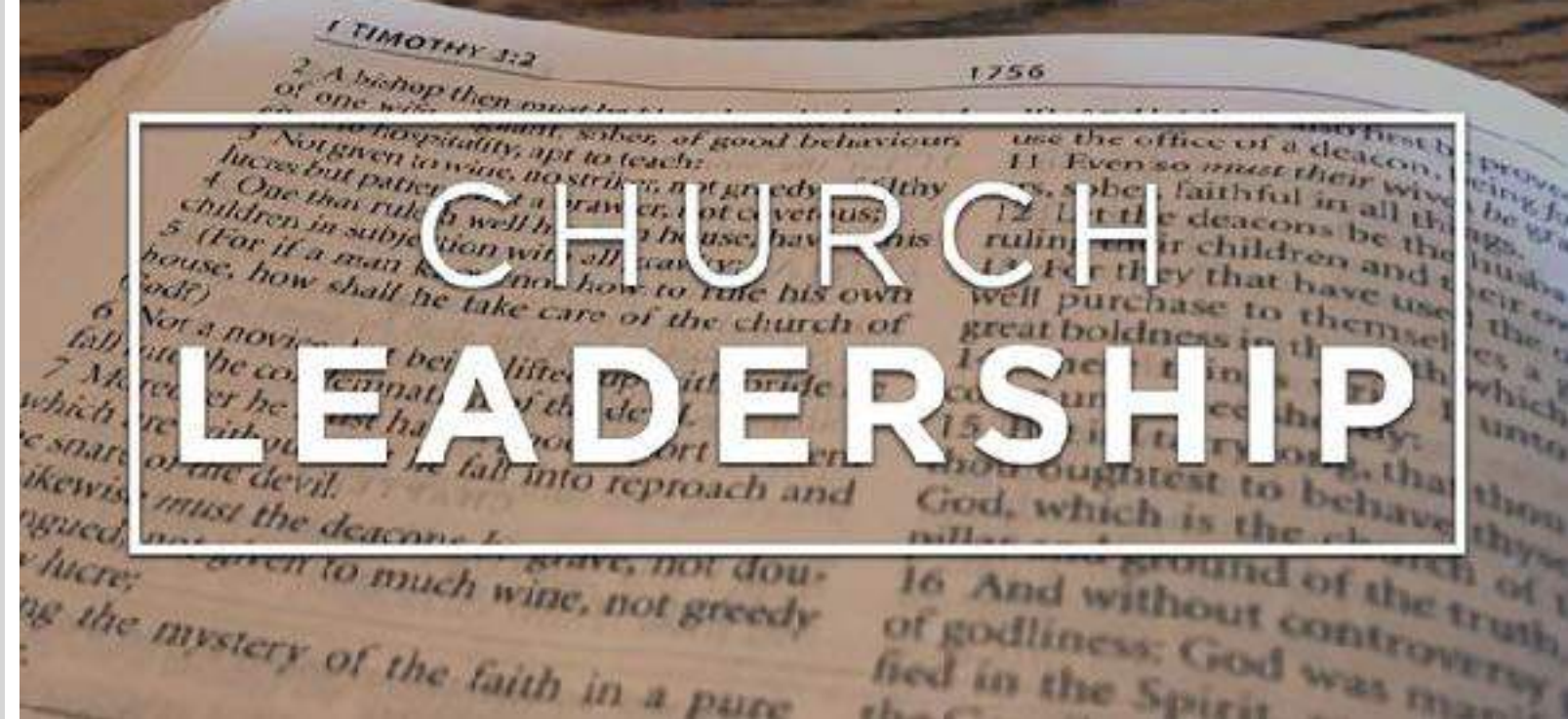
- Update GIVE tab on website with updated page info
- GoFundMe option of getting donations
- NH Gives will happen in June and Sue S. has already received our approval notification
- General communication emails and Facebook posts

Continued weekly Sunday worship documents and Announcements

April Beacon

Special posts, videos, and gifts/activities are being worked on for Earth Day, Mother’s Day, Memorial Day, Children’s Day, Father’s day

Here are some visuals of our outreach efforts through the website, Facebook, Beacon, etc.



MAY 6th

One year anniversary and Freddy's 50th celebration!

8:30am Complimentary La Mulita coffee
9:00am Introductions, Guest Speaker, Q&A



Special Guest - Russell Spatz
"THIS IS THE DEAL"
Co-founder of Alive Again Ministry
10:30am Special Brunch by
Chef Shelly & The Kitchen Crew



#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 our incredible partnership with the non-profit I Got Bridged serving the community in bridging the gap for people in need on the Seacoast.

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

And with GATHER 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/>

CARING FOR EACH OTHER

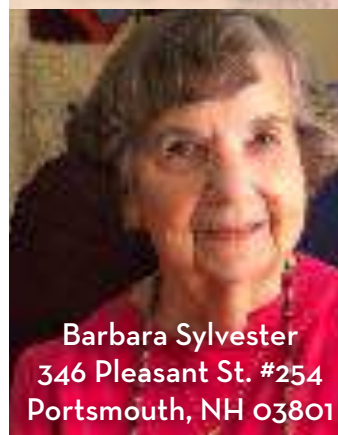
PRAYERS, CARDS, CALLS OR VISITS

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.



WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER

Sarah, Jessie, Janet & Rich, Sara, Al, Debbie,
Vicky, Ruth, Elaine, Bobbie, Marilyn & Gil, Irlene,
Juliann, Charles, Dwight, Reginald, Art
Steve Scott and family
Tim and PennySue Orr and family
Our world and our Church Family and Friends





MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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!
BOOTH HELP NEEDED from
10-4pm and your yummy baked
goods!

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

FAREWELL RECEPTION 6/11
For Rev. ChungHo and Jinah

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1] Be sure to mark your calendars with all the upcoming events at First UMC. 2] We could use your help in setting up the patch booth! 3] We wish all of our First UMC family celebrating a birthday or anniversary this month one that is filled with love, laughter and fond memories.



**CAN YOU HELP
SET UP THE
SPRING PATCH
BOOTH ON 5/7
AFTER WORSHIP?
LET US KNOW!**

May Birthdays

5 Joyce Murphy
11 Vicky Fernandez
13 Jennifer Berry
13 Brock Labadie
17 Cathy VanReenen
21 ChungHo Lee
24 Georgia Sillanpaa
24 Liam Sillanpaa
25 Susan Richards
26 Will Minnihan
28 Jane Richards
28 George Bennett

May Anniversaries

1 John & Cathy VanReenen
8 Mike & Anne Coffey



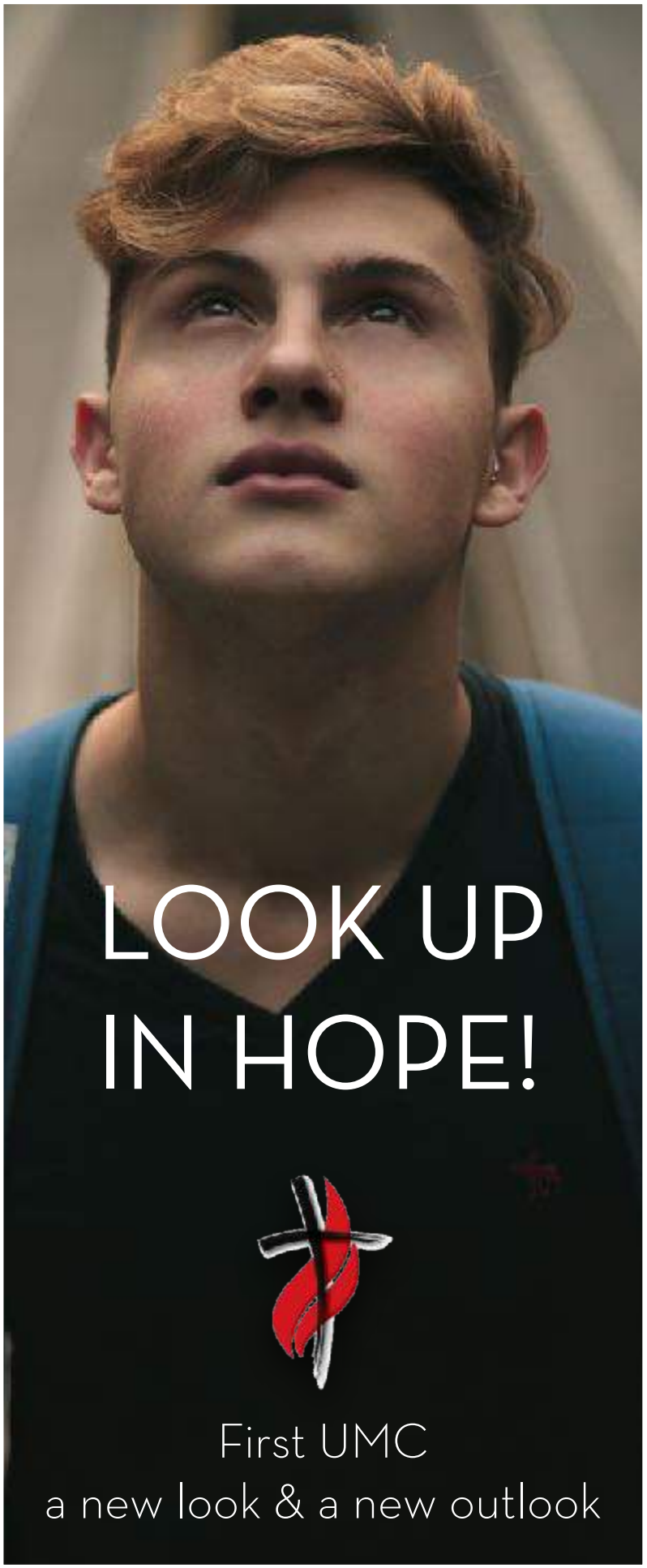
MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 14th

CELEBRATE

all the women in

YOUR VILLAGE



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!

WE SAVED A SEAT FOR YOU...
SEE YOU IN CHURCH ON SUNDAY @ 9am