

# HE IS RISEN

*celebrate the savior*

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APRIL 2023  
FIRST UMC BEACON





## MESSAGE FROM REV. CHUNG HO

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**Our calling is to bear fruit according to the season.**

PSALM 1

*Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked or take the path that sinners tread or sit in the seat of scoffers, but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper. The wicked are not so but are like chaff that the wind drives away.*

Psalm 1 is a beautiful poem that sings about the life of the blessed by God. Through this psalm, we can look at the blessings God gives us and what the lives of those who receive those blessings look like. The poet says that the life of the blessed is like a tree planted by a stream. And the greatest beauty and characteristic of a tree planted by a

stream is that it bears fruit according to the season. As we go through life, we experience various seasons of life. We live in the same era but may live in different seasons. Some are passing through the time of a warm spring day, and some may be enduring a cold winter. Some passionately spend the hot summertime, while others may welcome the rich autumn time. However, like a tree planted by the streams of God's grace, the characteristic of the life of the blessed is to bear fruit faithfully in every season. We don't expect fall fruit in the spring when it's time to plant the seeds. However, trees planted by streams bloom beautiful flowers in spring. Although not the same fruit in all seasons, the trees planted by the stream bear fruit according to the season. Now, some of us are going through the spring season, and some of us are going through the winter of our lives.

However, in all the different seasons of life that God has allowed us to pass through, we have different fruits that we can give to God.

For some, it may be an offering. For some, it may be time; for others, it may be a talent; for others, it may be a small act of kindness toward someone. But the important thing is that we are giving in faith. To give in faith is to give what we can in every moment, believing in the good God who is with us in every season of life rather than what we give itself. In other words, the devotions we give in faith in every moment of our lives are confessions of God, who is faithful to us in all seasons of life.

**What season of life are we going through now? What grace is granted to us in the midst of that season, and what fruit can we give? We hope that the stewardship campaign, which begins in April, will be a festival in which we all share God's abundant grace in all seasons of our lives.**

None of us are excluded from God's grace. And none of us are in a time when God is not with us. While confessing the grace of God, who is faithful in all our moments, if we faithfully live a life that bears fruit in all seasons of life, the world will experience God's faithful grace. And the devotion of faith that we live like this will be a more amazing gift to the world than any dedication and offering itself we give.

With love  
Rev. Daniel Chung Ho Lee







## COMMUNION SUNDAY

*Second Sunday of Lent*

We moved Sunday service into Sanborn Hall due to the Sanctuary heating system failure but still a Sunday filled with lots of interaction, smiles, laughter and dance... special thank you goes out to Daphne for the dancing and special music by her mom Stephanie on the flute!

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







## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

*Blessed to have Sanborn Hall for sure!*

A new Liturgist - Brock Labadie and a new Acolyte - Liam Sillanpaa...we are so happy to have both of you sharing your talents with us!

Rev. Chung Ho's lesson with the kids was a test on crossing the desert and if they could choose one thing what would it be... a camel, water, compass or a map...you can imagine the varied choices from the kids but in the end it was having a compass like we have Jesus in guiding our lives.







## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

*Always something fun when Dave preaches*

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Rev. Chung Ho and Jinah took well deserved time off and Dave Richards and PennySue took over the service with as always an interactive time with the kids and congregation.

We are so blessed to have the amazing lay speakers and liturgists as part of the First UMC family!

We are always looking for volunteers to be part of the worship service...let us know if you would like to join in...all are welcome.





## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

*Lots going on getting ready for Palm Sunday!*

While the adults are intently listening to Rev. Chung Ho the kids are having a blast getting ready to make a joyful noise with singing, dancing, and playing instruments... look out here they come!





# Palm Sunday

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Hosanna to the King!

JOIN US AT 9AM APRIL 2, 2023



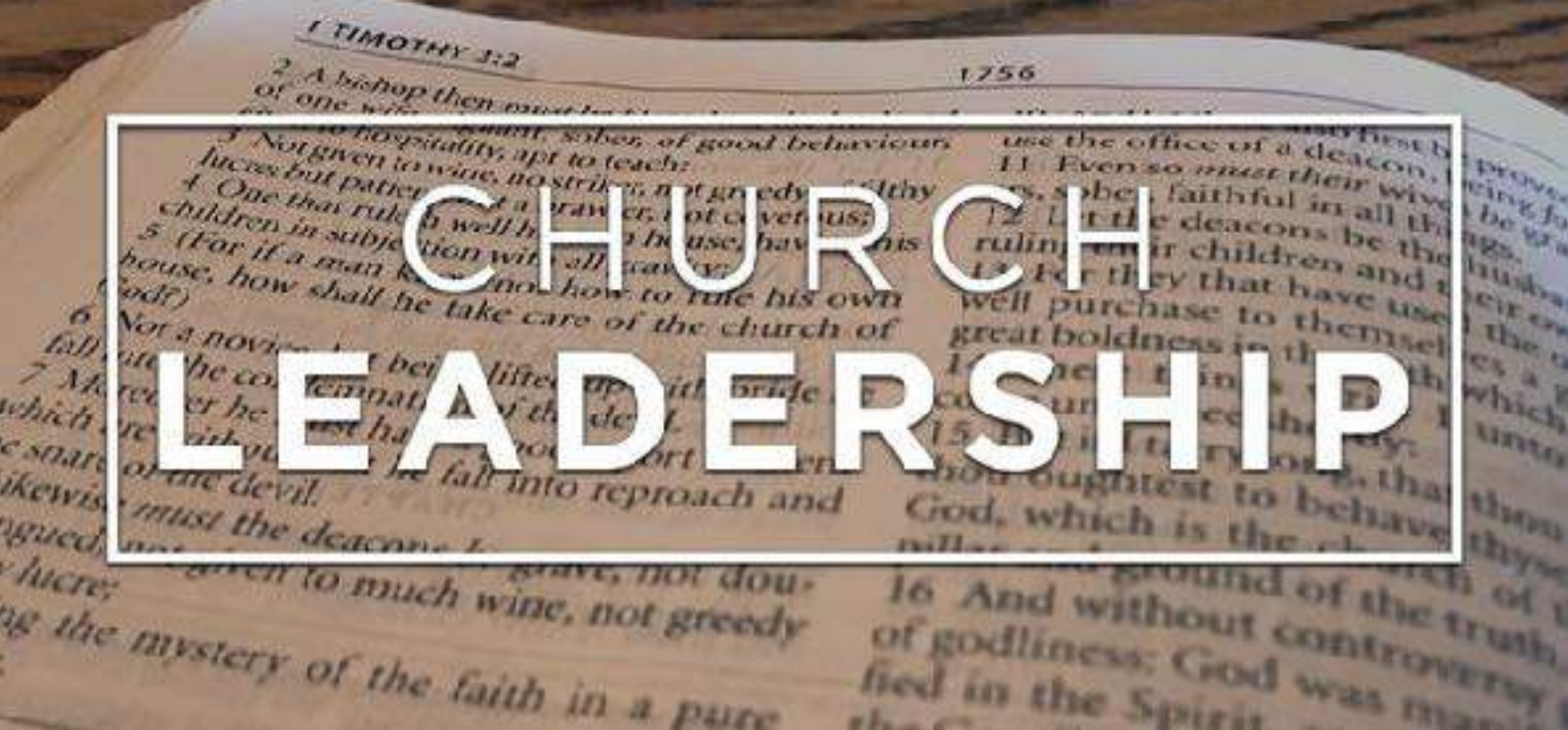


EASTER DAY

# The End that Wasn't

JOIN US IN CELEBRATION APRIL 4, 2023 @ 9AM — HE IS RISEN!





# CHURCH LEADERSHIP

## PASTORAL REPORT [Rev. Chung Ho Lee]

We are in the middle of the journey of Lent, starting with the Service of Ashes. The journey of Lent is a gift-like time to discover the Lord, who is already with us. For this journey, we are sharing daily Lent meditations sent by the church's family.

These meditations are truly precious gifts to us. Thank you again to those who sent me the meditations of Lent and opened up and shared their lives. Until Easter, we are praying that these meditations we sow will become precious seeds that change our lives. Also, since last February, we have been holding Bible study meetings every Wednesday with the Gospel of John. Currently, 8 members are participating online and offline every week. We study the Bible together every week and share the joy of getting to know Christ in us anew. We invite all who are still thinking about participating.

Easter service, stewardship campaign, and baptism service are scheduled for April. I pray that it will be an abundant April to experience the grace of God poured out on us through all these gift-like times that the Lord has given us.

## SPRC REPORT [Sue Richards]

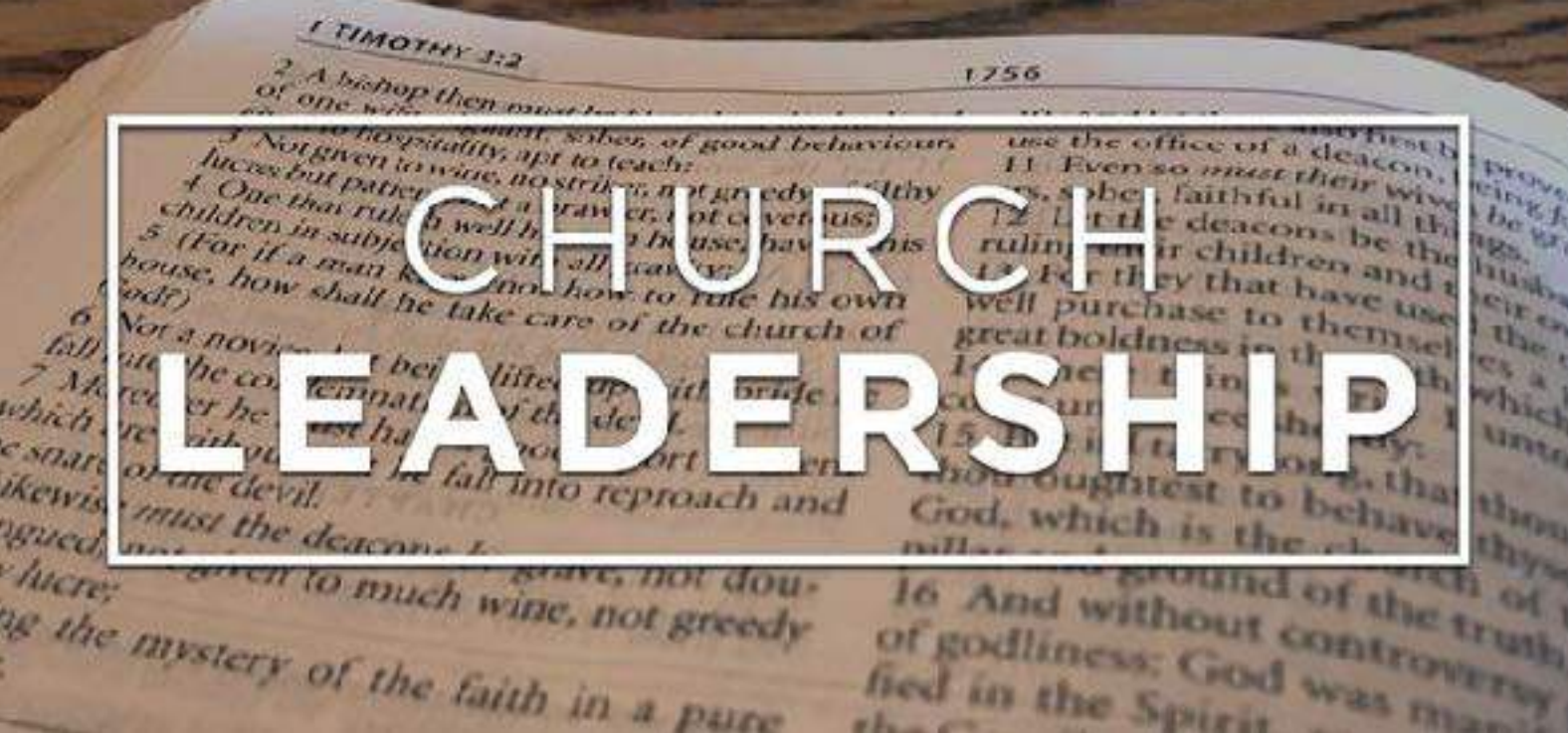
SPRC is meeting was held 3/25 to discuss the following:

- Officially elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
- Initial discussion of the Marketing and Communications Director position (2-year contract expires on 6/30/23)
- Pastoral Transition Workshop via ZOOM - This is conference-led and mandatory for Pastors and SPRC Chairs every time there is a pastoral change; other SPRC members are welcome to attend. Dates are Saturday, 4/29 from 9-noon OR Wednesday, 5/24 from 6-9 p.m.
- Rev. Daniel Chung Ho's Transition in June. His last Sunday is expected to be 6/18. Someone is needed to do the worship service on 6/25.
- Rev. Jackie's Transition on Sunday, 7/2. We'll check with Jackie to see if she plans to preach on her first Sunday with us.

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







## FACILITIES REPORT [Sue Sarosiek]

The sanctuary steam boiler is now inoperable and needs to be replaced. Our neighbor, Glenn, was helpful in checking it on several occasions after the initial problem was discovered. We have received two donations from our AA community to date. They are extremely thankful for FUMC.

The I Got Bridged Comedy Night will be held next week, on 3/30/23. Several local community members will be in attendance and show is nearly sold out.

An AA member, who comes to the church weekly offered a word of thanks saying "both of the Sue's in the office are the best thing that's happened to the church in a long time". The relationship is cherished by all of AA.

I Got Bridged volunteers set up Sanborn hall for worship service after one of the snowstorms in March - they have also been the team that has been shoveling our front steps, walkways, back path for oil delivery, and for many community neighbors in need.

Three of our building user groups will be doing Gratitude Moments during our 2023 Gratitude and Stewardship Campaign.

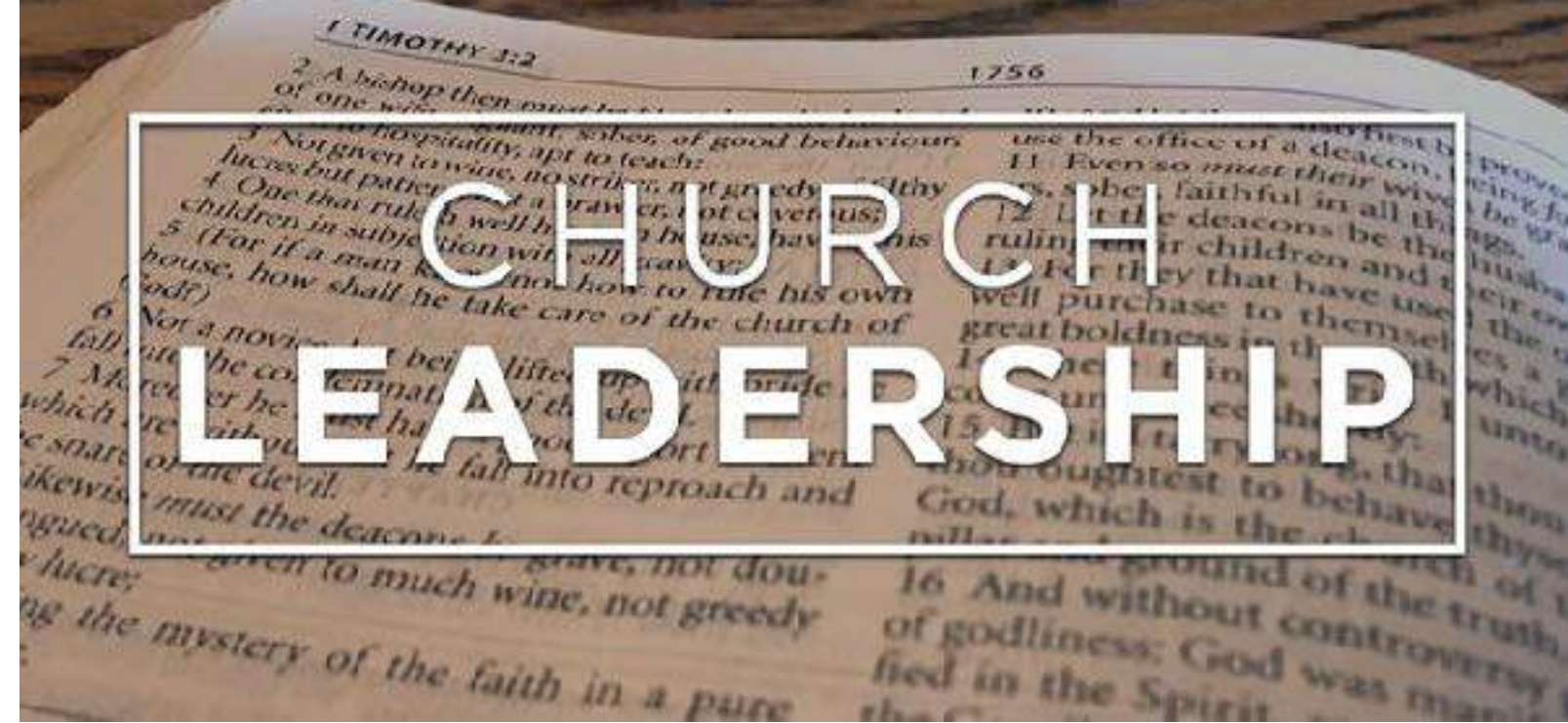




## MARKETING/MUSIC REPORT [Bevan Bloemendaal]

### MUSIC

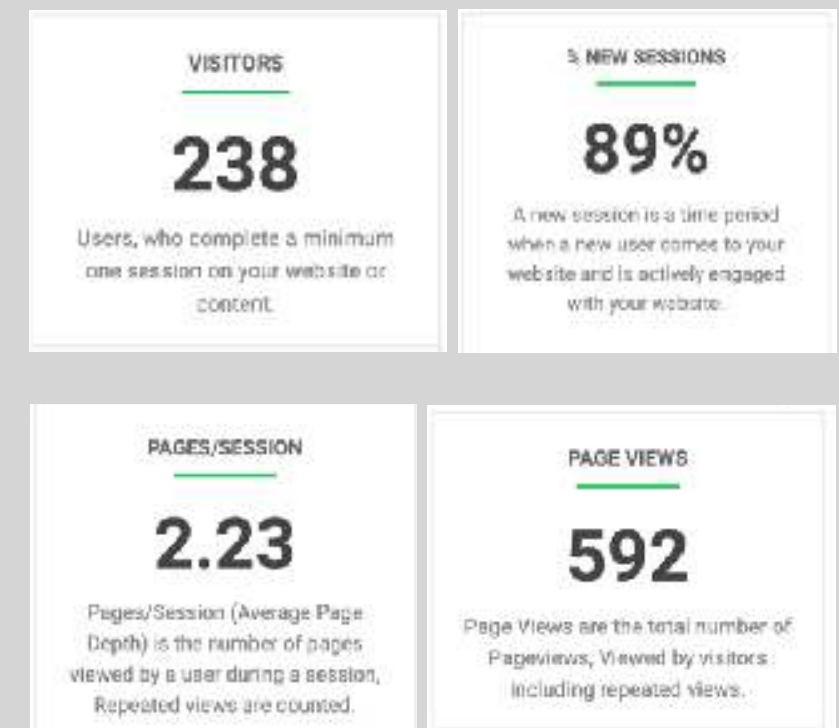
- We had to make a quick pivot to Sanborn Hall which meant using the piano only
- We will see the Kids perform once a month with myself and PennySue teaching the kids [been a bit bumpy with schedules but the kids are super energetic about it] with Palm Sunday being their first Sunday performance
- Stephanie Labadie will perform on 3/26 and Easter with her flute.
- We will start to remind ourselves to record the music so we can put on YouTube regularly.
- Steve Scott joined with a duet a few weeks ago.
- We will move into Palm Sunday and Easter with the expectation we will be in Sanborn Hall and utilize the communion table, projector for slides and sound system. We will bring up the wooden cross and fabric representative of each Sunday.
- Continued selecting of the hymns based on scripture lesson that Rev. Chung Ho is using.



### MARKETING

There is a continued focus on communication to our family and friends in our community through:

- Facebook posts - Website weekly updates/refreshes - Weekly email on Sunday
- There has been work being done with John on Gratitude & Stewardship Campaign:
  - 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:
  - 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
- March Beacon
- To the right are some website stats from the last 30 days:







## 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] GATHER is 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/> 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.



## GROCERY GIFT CARD DRIVE





## 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  
Mississippi tornado victims and families  
Bobbie Noble and family  
Our world and our Church Family and Friends



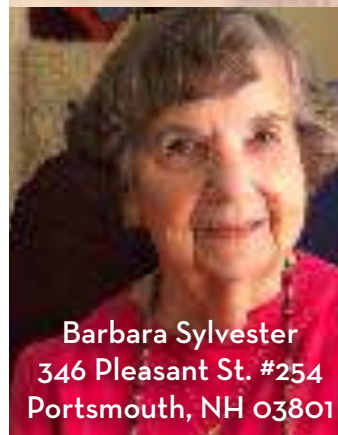
Slater, Jim  
75 State Street  
Portland, ME 04101



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**

Coffee hour hosted by the Labadie's

**EASTER SUNDAY 4/9**

Coffee hour hosted by Yvonne  
Griffin

**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.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

1] Be sure to mark your calendars with all the upcoming events at First UMC. 2] Is Spring really here...let's hope so!! 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.

### April Birthdays

**02 Erica Arcadipane**

**06 Kathy Brown**

**16 Barbara Kirkham**

**19 Jinah Lee**

**23 Gil Stebbins**

**24 Elsie Sillanpaa**

**27 Marilyn Stebbins**

### April Anniversaries

**26 Tim & PennySue Orr**







**I GOT BRIDGED  
presents  
THE 2ND ANNUAL**



**Stand Up  
Comedy Night  
& Silent Auction**

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



**I GOT BRIDGED COMEDY NIGHT**  
*CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY*

The church was PACKED and it wasn't even Sunday!  
So wonderful to see the Seacoast community come  
together for a night of laughter, fellowship and food.

Freddy Petrone and the I Got Bridged team have  
been incredible supporters of First UMC in our quest  
for living our purpose *"to transform lives through  
unconditional inclusion, empowering actions to make  
a difference."*





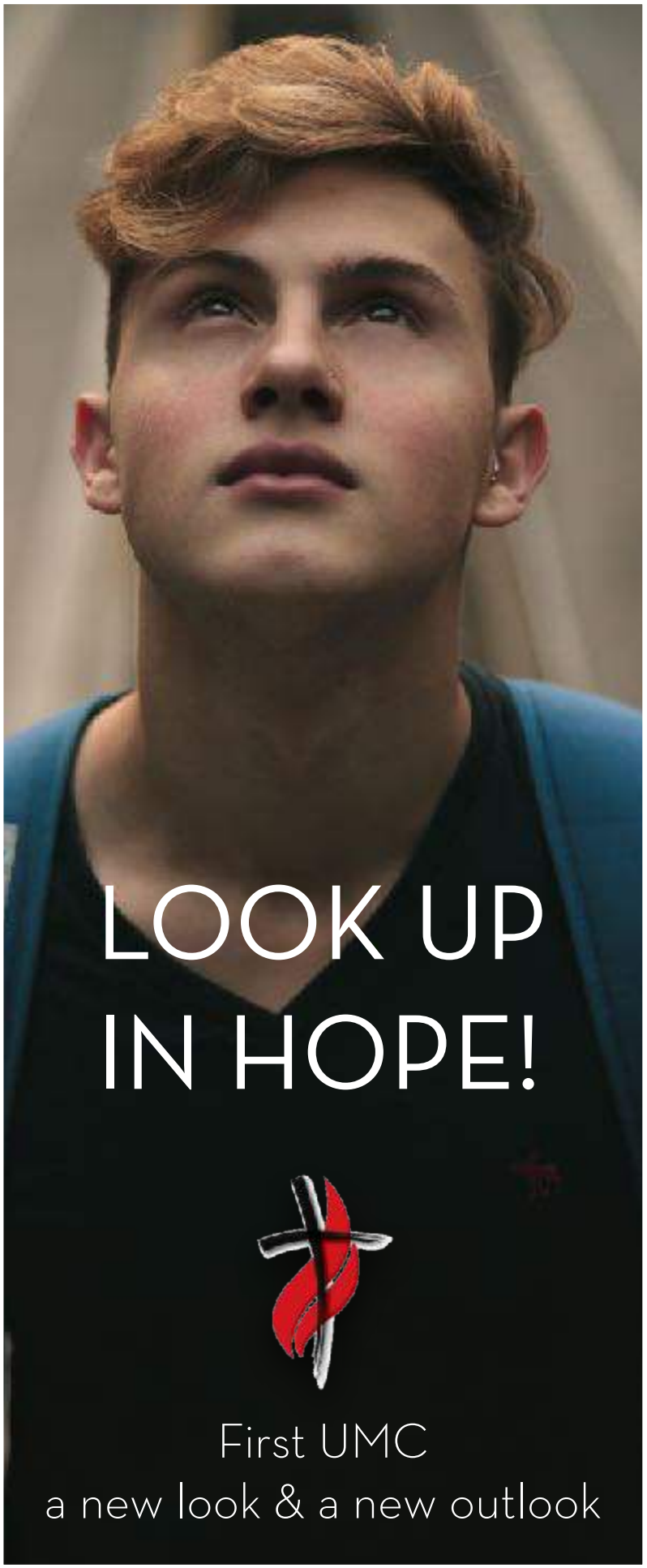


## I GOT BRIDGED COMEDY NIGHT

CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY







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!