



JUNETEENTH

FREEDOM DAY

JUNE 19



JUNE 2023
FIRST UMC BEACON

WHAT IS JUNETEENTH?

The holiday's origin story begins in Galveston, Texas, which was the westernmost area of the Union in 1865. When enslaved people there were told of their emancipation on June 19, 1865, they had technically already been freed two-and-a-half years prior, when President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. Slaveholders in Texas had kept the information to themselves, extending the period of violent exploitation of enslaved African Americans.

The following year, in 1866, a celebration was had in Texas, the first Juneteenth observance to recognize freedom from slavery in the U.S.

Juneteenth celebrations have widely expanded across the country since the day became a national holiday in 2021, when the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act was signed into law.





MESSAGE FROM REV. CHUNGHO

BLESS YOU, CHILDREN OF GOD

June is the month when Children's Sundays are observed.

One of the Bible verses we often read on Children's Sundays is the Gospel of Luke 18:15-17. In this passage, Jesus speaks to his disciples, and those who bring children come to Jesus for his blessing. The disciples try to prevent the children from bothering Jesus, but he stops them and tells them that no one can enter heaven unless they become like children.

This raises the question: What does it mean to be like a child? Why is it necessary to be like a child in order to enter heaven? Does it mean to be innocent, like a child? And if so, can any of us enter heaven?

I really like children. There are probably very few people who dislike pure and lovely children. However, if you were to tell parents that their children are really beautiful, they might respond by saying that their children are not always pretty. Of course, this doesn't mean that their children are not lovely. As parents, they have a greater sense of responsibility and see their children differently. When you raise your own kids, there are times when they can be difficult, but that doesn't mean you love them any less.

If you talk to parents who are raising children, you might hear them say that their children are not always innocent. Sometimes children can be more clever than adults in manipulating situations to get what they want. Are young children always humble? On the contrary, don't children sometimes behave as if they know more than they actually do? From these observations, we can see that Jesus' statement about entering heaven as children may sound different to us. Jesus is telling us, "Remember that you have a place in heaven because there is a loving and forgiving God among you, just as children are loved and forgiven."

In other words, Jesus is not saying that we cannot enter heaven unless we become like children, but rather that we are in heaven because we are children of God.

As we grow older, we may become more childlike rather than more mature. But all of you are beloved children of God, and God is within us, enabling us to live a heavenly life. However, because we are children before God, there is one thing we must continue to do, and that is to question. One of the characteristics of young children is asking questions. Sometimes faith is misunderstood as having all the answers and being unwavering in our convictions. However, faith is about asking genuine and sometimes silly questions before God through the Bible. There may be times when we feel like we're not receiving answers to our questions, but we should not stop asking. Keep asking honest questions before the Bible. The Lord will help us grow through those honest questions. Never forget that you are God's beloved child.

I pray that God will give us all the courage and peace to ask honest questions. I pray that as beloved children of God, both you and I will grow and mature through the pursuit of those honest questions.





MESSAGE TO REV. CHUNGHO AND JINAH

FROM YOUR FIRST UMC FAMILY

One year has quickly sped by and we thank you for the light that you shared with us through all the wonderful moments, laughs, tears, memories, challenges and decisions.

Your passion for spreading God's love has been graciously bestowed to all of us through your interactions, events, Sunday School, Children's time, services, and we can't forget your musical talent.

We once again say thank you and wish you both God's blessings... oh and here are some pictures of those wonderful moments!

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL
farewell

RECEPTION FOR
REV. CHUNG HO & JINAH

JUNE
11
AFTER
CHURCH

Come and wish them well, pray with them, share a story and offer kind words of encouragement.





THE HEART OF THE CHURCH

First UMC Kids

The kids took to the front of the church on Mother's Day and gave a performance of three songs and handed out carnations to all the women at First UMC.

Sunday school continues to be action packed with lessons and get ready there may be some joyful noise with recorders coming our way in a church service soon!





SPRING PATCH

Mother's Day Event

Three Saturdays from 10-4 were amazing outreach days into the community with the Spring Patch opening with homemade lasagna dinners and flowering plants and all basically SELLING OUT each weekend. Thank you volunteers and supporters in keeping the Pumpkin Patch church active in the Springtime too!





FACEBOOK

Some highlights

If you aren't already please, please friend us on Facebook as it is an active part of our church outreach into the community... like, love and share our posts so we get our message of purpose out into the world!

JUNE 18, 2023

WE HONOR ALL THE MEN IN OUR LIFE...

**DADS, STEP-DADS, ADOPTIVE DADS, DADS-IN-LAW, NEW DADS, GRAND DADS, GODFATHERS,
DADS IN HEAVEN, EXPECTING DADS, HONORARY DADS, PET DADS, AND MOMS WHO ARE DADS**

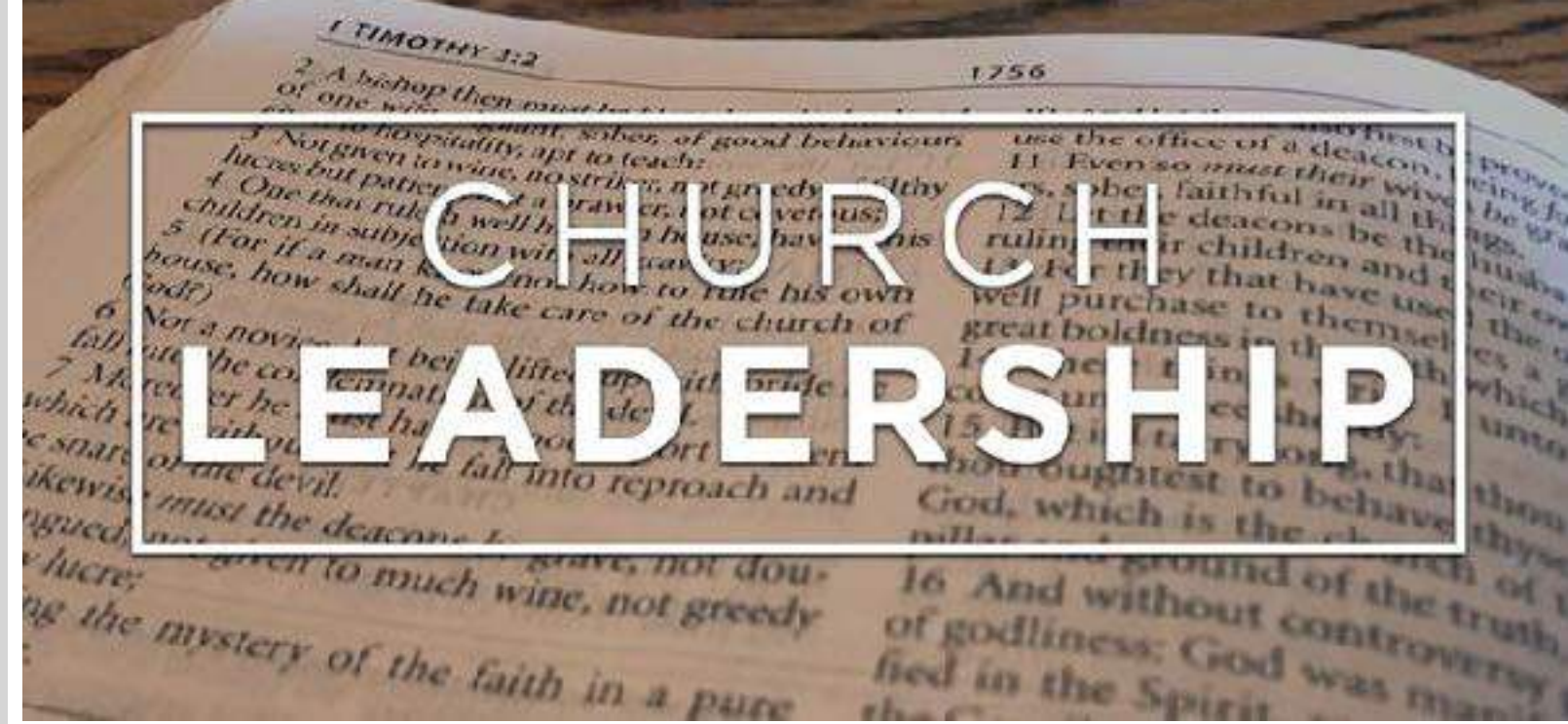


Happy Father's Day

SPRC REPORT [Sue Richards]

SPRC discussed the following subjects during a hybrid meeting on 5/9/23:

Outreach and Communications Position: We discussed and unanimously agreed that continuing this position is essential to our worship service and keeping our church family and community connected and informed through social media. However, the church cannot afford the \$50,000 annual salary past the 2-year contract ending date of 6/30/23. John VanReenen, Sue Sarosiek, and Sue Richards have had conversations with Bevan Bloemendaal about cutting the work hours and salary in half.



Eliminating the above position would have a serious domino effect, leading the church to pay much more money: Bevan might feel uncomfortable saying no to continued requests to provide services and leave the church. We would then need to hire a new Music Director, probably at a higher salary. If this happens, we will also have to hire a full time secretary, pay a high salary for the extra skills needed, probably only have set weekday hours, not have a vested interest in the church, and lose all of the seen and unseen things Sue Sarosiek provides (computer work, ordering/picking up supplies, meeting contractors at their convenience, worship service sound technician, being in the office on Sunday mornings, and probably the friendships established with some community groups using our building, etc.)

Sue Richards and Bevan talked last week about the SPRC recommendation regarding the position. She asked Bevan to provide the average amount of time spent on each of the tasks he regularly creates (weekly Sunday emails, monthly Beacons, weekly Sunday worship service slides, weekly announcements movie for the Narthex and worship services, etc.). Although much of the same information is on multiple tasks, each one requires time since each uses different software. The church will then need to decide which services to cut to reduce the hours from about 20-25 down to about 10-12.

Each additional project provided (Gratitude Campaign, Share the Joy Campaign, Spring Patch, Yard Sale, Pumpkin Patch, etc.) would be an extra fee.

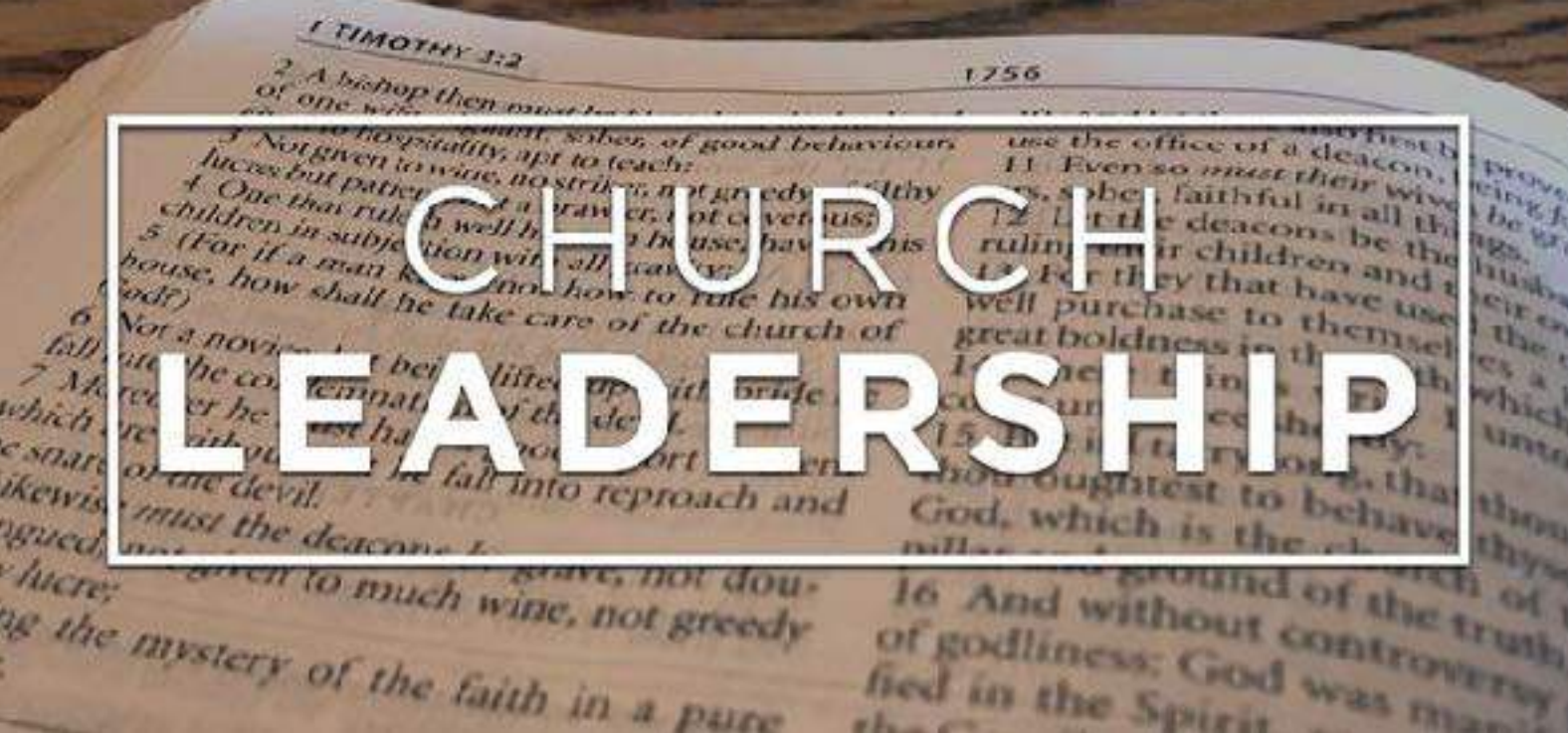
Rev. Lee's Farewell Reception: Rev. Lee and Jin-ah Kim's farewell reception will be after church on Sun., 6/11/23. We wish him well as he continues as York Ogunquit UMC's pastor.

Rev. Dr. Jackie Brannen: After Rev. Brannen met with Rev. Lee on Fri., 5/12, Sue Sarosiek and Sue Richards chatted with her briefly about visitation, monthly SPRC meetings, recording worship services for social media, Sunday School, having an initial welcome reception after church on 7/2 and one in the fall when our congregation is bigger.

Great news: We recently received a copy of District Superintendent Rev. Arlene Tully's letter confirming some details of Rev. Brannen's intended appointment here on 7/2/23. The official appointment happens at Annual Conference in June 2023.

Worship Service Time Change: On 6/18/23 (Father's Day), our worship services return to 10 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Richards, Chairperson



COMMUNITY REPORT [Sue Sarosiek]

Planet Rangers planted grass seed where lawn needs repair. They will water as necessary.

Kristin Wiggin from North Hill Nursery has partnered with FUMC for our spring patch. Cathy VanReenen has willingly headed up the frozen lasagna team. And a big thank you to the lasagna making team - Cathy VanReenen, Sue Lange, Jen Berry, Sue Richards, and Rosie Buswell!

The spring patch is open on 5/13, 5/20, 5/27, from 10-4. The first weekend of the Spring Patch was very successful. Many community members saw the Spring Patch on social media and came to purchase plants. Refer to the Sunday email and the website for more pics! Glenn Cyr, our neighbor, is watering our plants for our spring patch as well as our summer planters.

Also, another thank you to Glenn Cyr, for putting our trash out, in Pete's absence. We appreciate you!

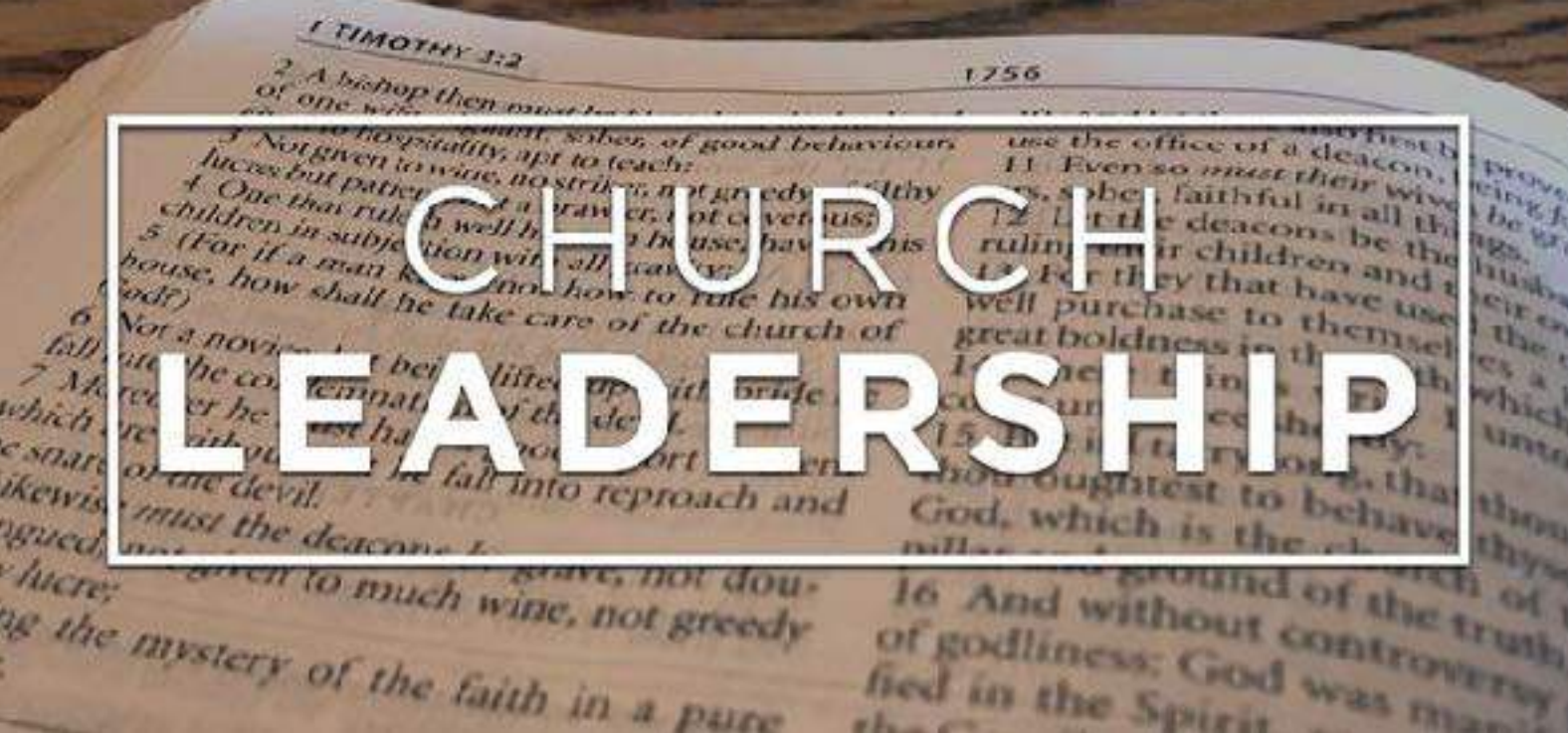
FUMC discussed participating in the Portsmouth 400th celebration parade. April McGough offered donating her time to make t-shirts. We will provide supplies. After much discussion, the reality of the 5 hour time commitment, and lack of volunteers, the decision was made not to participate in parade. We will, however, sell pumpkin t-shirts at the Patch this fall.

The I Got Bridged Hope to Joy group was held on 5/6. They celebrated 1 year of Hope to Joy Groups at FUMC. The speaker was from Miami and 100 participants were present!

I Got Bridged is looking to bring "Recovery Church" to FUMC during the week beginning in late August. Freddy Petrone and Joy Morin will be presenting idea to the Leadership Board. This model has church during the week and encourages members to attend church on Sunday. This is a nationally known program.

Liberty Mutual had their day of service at FUMC on 5/4, for End 68 Hours of Hunger.





FACILITIES REPORT [Sue Sarosiek]

Boiler demolition began on 4/22/23 with the new sanctuary boiler being delivered on 4/25/23. The new boiler is presently being installed.

Planet Rangers planted grass seed where lawn needs repair in front.

SRS Masonry will complete the backdoor replacement; the delay has been rotator cuff surgery for the owner.

Thank you to Sue Lange for her work in our gardens. Gardens look amazing Sue!

The stair chair was serviced this month, as it was not working. The switch on the inside had been shut off. Thankfully, it was a simple fix, and we continue to have the use of the chair.

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



CHURCH LEADERSHIP

MUSIC & MARKETING REPORT [Bevan Bloemendaal]

A bit of a different report with no pictures...the Beacon is filled with the wonderful outreach and being the light of Christ in action...pictures and narrative. We are blest to be part of such a loving and caring community and can capture the "Church at Work" through the Beacon, Church announcements, First UMC Website, Facebook, and weekly update emails. Thank you for being so passionate about living our purpose in transforming lives through unconditional inclusion and being that light that shatters darkness for so many. Keep on preaching you digital disciples!

The music ministry continues through the service music/organ and special music solos, kids and special guests.

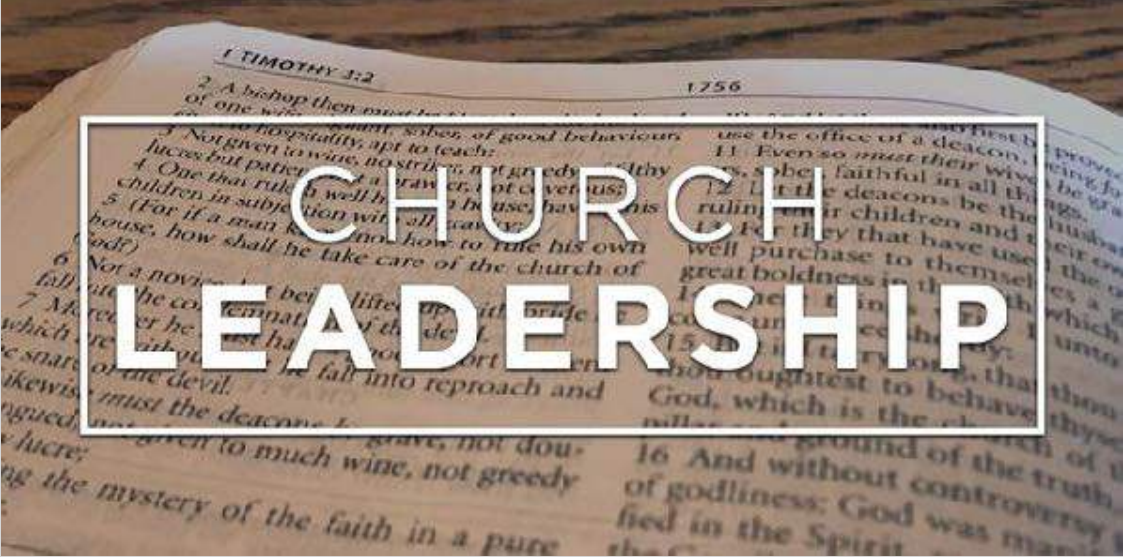
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FINANCIAL REPORT [Linda Rieber]

All Funds: Statement of Activities Previous Year Comparison January 01, 2023 to April 30, 2023

	01/01/23-04/30/23	01/01/22-04/30/22	\$ Change	% Change
Revenues				
Contribution Revenues				
Offering Revenues				
Identified Giving	3,330.00	2,518.00	812.00	32.2%
Pledge Offerings	19,955.00	23,430.00	-3,475.00	-14.8%
Total Offering Revenues	23,285.00	25,948.00	-2,663.00	-10.3%
Trustees				
Capital Campaign	0.00	500.00	-500.00	-100%
Improvement	1,335.00	10,345.78	-9,010.78	-87.1%
Memorial Giving Fund	0.00	50.00	-50.00	-100%
Parsonage Rental	3,300.00	3,000.00	300.00	10%
Total Trustees	4,635.00	13,895.78	-9,260.78	-66.6%
Total Contribution Revenues	27,920.00	39,843.78	-11,923.78	-29.9%
Major Revenues				
Other Fund Raising Projects				
Pie Sales	0.00	75.00	-75.00	-100%
Total Other Fund Raising Projects	0.00	75.00	-75.00	-100%
Total Major Revenues	0.00	75.00	-75.00	-100%
Miscellaneous Revenues				
Other Revenue				
Discretionary	0.00	40.00	-40.00	-100%
Easter	270.00	140.00	130.00	92.9%
Fuel Fund	2,910.00	2,475.00	435.00	17.6%
Human Relations Day	0.00	90.00	-90.00	-100%
Loose Plate	1,154.60	1,232.00	-77.40	-6.3%
Memorial Fund	0.00	25.00	-25.00	-100%
Memorial Reception Fund	250.00	0.00	250.00	100%
Mission - UMCOR	264.00	4,315.00	-4,051.00	-93.9%
MOTHERS DAY BOOTH	0.00	185.00	-185.00	-100%
Music	67.97	0.00	67.97	100%
OTHER - MISC	238.00	1,394.99	-1,156.99	-82.9%
Room Usage Rental	10,941.00	10,611.00	330.00	3.1%
Total Other Revenue	16,095.57	20,507.99	-4,412.42	-21.5%
Total Miscellaneous Revenues	16,095.57	20,507.99	-4,412.42	-21.5%
Total Revenues	44,015.57	60,426.77	-16,411.20	-27.2%
Expenditures				
Operating Expenses				
Charities Expense				
Local Charities Expense	1,434.70	4,136.72	-2,702.02	-65.3%
World Charities Expense	262.00	4,315.00	-4,053.00	-93.9%
Total Charities Expense	1,696.70	8,451.72	-6,755.02	-79.9%
Church/Grounds Maintenance Expense				
Facilities - visioning	0.00	24,624.26	-24,624.26	-100%
General Building Maintenance	5,588.27	7,312.99	-1,724.72	-23.6%
General Grounds Maintenance	875.00	800.00	75.00	9.4%



All Funds: Fiscal Year 2023 Revenue/Expenses for Accounts with Activity

Account	Jan '23	Feb '23	Mar '23	Apr '23	May '23
Revenues					
Contribution Revenues					
Offering Revenues					
Identified Giving	245	720	2105	260	160
Pledge Offerings	7155	4125	3025	5650	4595
Subtotal for Offering Revenues	7400	4845	5130	5910	4755
Trustees					
Improvement	60	0	360	915	185
Parsonage Rental	825	825	825	825	825
Subtotal for Trustees	885	825	1185	1740	1010
Subtotal for Contribution Revenues	8285	5670	6315	7650	5765
Miscellaneous Revenues					
Other Revenue					
Easter	0	0	0	270	0
Flowers	0	0	0	0	98
Fuel Fund	0	2910	0	0	0
Loose Plate	189	170	214	582	77
Memorial Reception Fund	250	0	0	0	0
Mission - UMCOR	0	0	262	2	5
MOTHERS DAY BOOTH	0	0	0	0	1765
Music	0	68	0	0	0
OTHER - MISC	0	0	0	238	0
Room Usage Rental	2050	3330	793	4768	695
Subtotal for Other Revenue	2489	6478	1269	5860	2640
Subtotal for Miscellaneous Revenues	2489	6478	1269	5860	2640
Total for Revenues	10774	12148	7584	13510	8405
Expenditures					
Operating Expenses					
Charities Expense					
Local Charities Expense	1354	81	0	0	0
World Charities Expense	0	0	0	262	0
Subtotal for Charities Expense	1354	81	0	262	0
Church/Grounds Maintenance Expense					
General Building Maintenance	1149	2613	0	1826	0
General Grounds Maintenance	200	300	0	375	0



NEXT MEETING

Saturday June 3rd

8:30am Complimentary La Mulita coffee

9:00am Introductions, Guest Speaker, Q&A



#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/>



THANK YOU

FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE

1] Thank you to Kristin at North Hill Nursery for the beautiful flowers in our front entrances. 2] We continue to collect for the KIDS FIRST grocery gift card drive...simply bring your donation to the church office Wednesday or on Sunday church service. 3] Thank you all for your generous support of the Spring Patch...what wonderful conversations were had with our community members and church friends...we sold out of everything!



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

Cathy, Elaine, Natalia, Charlene, Debbie, Jessie,
Bobbie, Marilyn & Gil, Irlene, Juliann, Charles,
Dwight, Reginald,
Our world and our Church Family and Friends



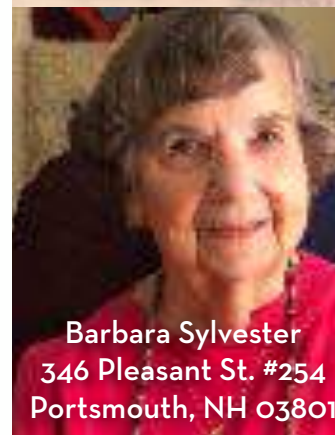
Slater, Jim
75 State Street
Portland, ME 04101



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:

NH GIVES DAY 6/6-6/7

Our focus will be on Seacoast Kids
and Share the Joy & NHFAPA

**PROUDLY PARTICIPATING IN
NH GIVES**
SUPPORT US ON JUNE 6-7, 2023 5PM - 5PM

FAREWELL RECEPTION 6/11
For Rev. ChungHo and Jinah

FATHER'S DAY
6/18

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

1] Be sure to mark your calendars with all the upcoming events at First UMC. 2] First UMC church service will begin at 10 am on June 18th. 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.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

**STARTING JUNE 18TH
BACK TO 10:00AM**



June Birthdays

2 David Brown
4 Shawn Martin
5 Alexa Langs
13 Jack Labadie
28 Christopher Laux

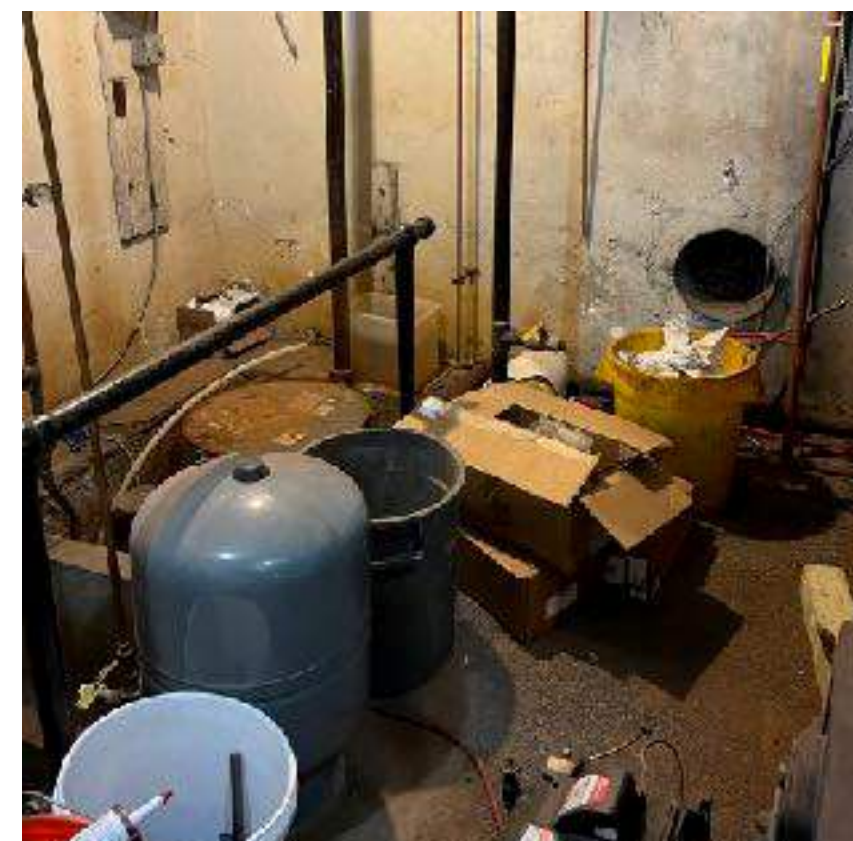


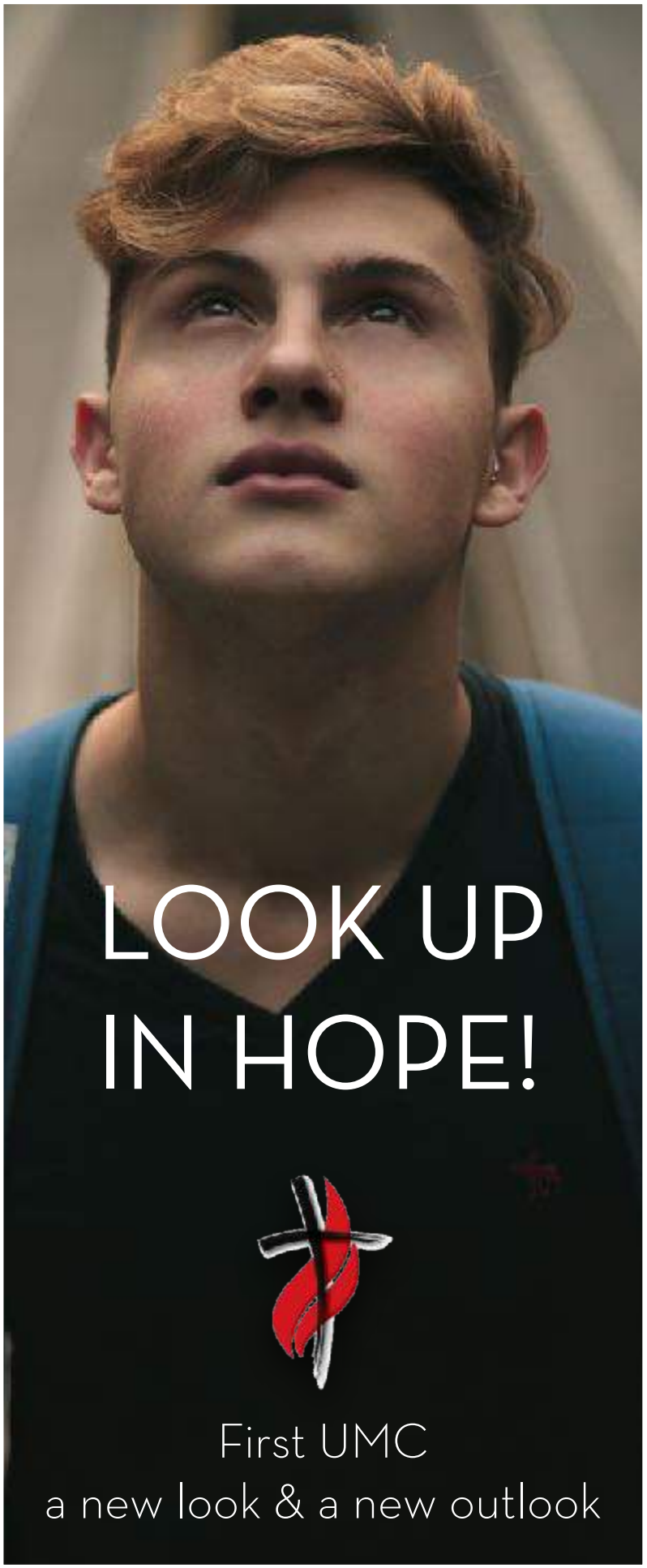


PROGRESS!

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.





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