

FORGIVENESS HEALS



AUGUST 2023
FIRST UMC BEACON

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JACKIE



“Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”
Ephesians 4:31-32

Dear Friends,

As I write this note, I find myself deep in grief over the sudden passing of Bishop Suda Devadhar. Bishop Devadhar appointed me as a District Superintendent 7 years ago and his untimely death is such a loss to me and all those who loved him. He was a great man of God; deeply committed to God and our United Methodist church. One of Bishop Devadhar's gifts was his willingness to ask for forgiveness. It was not uncommon for him to end a meeting asking forgiveness if he had offended anyone in anyway. I admired that about him. His humility was disarming.

I don't know about you but in my life, I have experienced hurt from other people at times. Sadly, I'm sure I have hurt others as well. Bishop Devadhar's sudden death reminds me that our days on Earth are not guaranteed. None of us knows what is around the corner for ourselves or our loved ones. As I ponder this truth, I find that I want to enjoy my time and not waste any of it on holding grudges or anger. I would rather let it go and make the most of whatever time I have been given. How about you?

Would you join me in forgiving those who have hurt you and asking for forgiveness where you may have offended? It is not an easy exercise. I know that there are some hurts that are so deep that they are not easy to let go of. We can only do this work through the power of the Holy Spirit. Forgiveness does not mean allowing someone to continue to abuse you nor does it mean forgetting horrific treatment from another but it does mean allowing God to carry it instead of ourselves. I know that letting go, helps our mental and physical health. From personal experience, it is so freeing to give these burdens to God.

Let me start by asking your forgiveness for any offense I may have caused you. I extend forgiveness for any offenses you may have caused me as well. If you are carrying anger and bitterness around, I encourage you to let it go. You will be healthier and so will our church. Let's learn from Bishop Suda today and be the saints God made us to be.

Blessings, Pastor Jackie



PEW PRAYERS

With Pastor Jackie

All are welcome to join Pastor Jackie at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday to bless and pray over the pews and for those who will be joining us there for worship service.

Thank you Brock, Jack, and Daphne Labadie for blessing us with your thoughtful prayers while mom [Stephanie Labadie] was setting up for coffee hour.





CHILDREN'S TIME

Parable of the sower and the seed

The future of our church and potential master gardeners the kids learning about being good soil by taking in and hearing God's message and living it their lives even through difficult times.





THANK YOU

FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE

1] Thank you to Sue Lange for keeping the flower beds looking so beautiful, Kristin at North Hill Nursery for the beautiful flowers in our front entrances and Glenn for keeping everything watered! 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] Ken and Jenya Westbrook thank their church family for all the cards, calls, and prayers they have received on the loss of Adeline Westbrook .




**KIDS
FIRST**



GROCERY GIFT CARD DRIVE



Adele Rose (Lombard) Westbrook passed away on Sunday, July 16, 2023 at age 90. She was surrounded by the love of her children, and the well-wishes of her large extended family and many dear friends. A true matriarch, she is survived by her 5 children and their spouses, Tenley Westbrook of Greenland NH, Daniel Westbrook of Portsmouth, NH, James Westbrook of Hampton, NH, Merle Westbrook of Windham, ME, and Angela Forman of Stratham, NH. She is also survived by nine grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, August 13, 2023 at 2:00 PM at Bethany Church, 500 Breakfast Hill Road, Greenland, NH 03840. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Future In Sight (formerly the NH Association for the Blind).

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.



Slater, Jim
75 State Street
Portland, ME 04101



Barbara Glidden
188 Jones Ave #101
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Barbara Sylvester
346 Pleasant St. #254
Portsmouth, NH 03801



WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER

Elaine, Jessie, Bobbie, Marilyn, Irlene, Juliann,
Charles, Dwight, Reginald, John, Carol, Nicole,
the Devadar Family, the Westbrook Family
Our world and our Church Family and Friends





Remembering a gentle heart
and bright light.

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar
April 6, 1951 - July 18, 2023



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Every Sunday morning Pew Prayers at
9:30 a.m. with Pastor Jackie

August 9th 7p.m. - Finance Task Force
meeting in the church sanctuary.

August 6th - Church Conference
after church service.

August 19th - First UMC YARD SALE
As a reminder we will NOT be
accepting baby items, electronics,
clothes/shoes or books.

We are also looking for help in pricing
out all the treasures prior to the sale...
if you are able to help please let the
office know!

PUMPKINS ARE COMING!

September 23rd and
October 14th

UPCOMING EVENTS

1] Be sure to mark your calendars with all
the upcoming events at First UMC. 2] Join
Pastor Jackie at 9:30 a.m. Sundays for pew
prayers 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.



August Birthdays

8 Anne Coffey
10 Steve Langs
12 Art Munson
13 Pastor Sue Ellery
13 Andrew Laux
18 Priscilla Zoffoli
20 Jesse Bennett
20 Suzanne Olbricht
25 Bevan Bloemendaal
26 Linda Reiber
27 Jan Cansdale
28 TJ Scott

August Anniversaries

2 Bill & Connie Parsons
7 David & Sue Richards
9 Joseph & Kim Philbrick
13 Gil & Marilyn Stebbins)
29 Kevin Fickenscher & Suzanne Olbricht





YARD SALE

August 19th

GOT STUFF?...WE WANT IT!

As a reminder we will NOT be accepting baby items, televisions, electronics, clothes/shoes or books.

We are also looking for help in pricing out all the treasures prior to the sale and help in setting up on the 19th...if you are able to help please let the office know!



NEXT MEETING

Saturday August 5th

8:30am Complimentary La Mulita coffee

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



#bekind #helpothers #pray



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

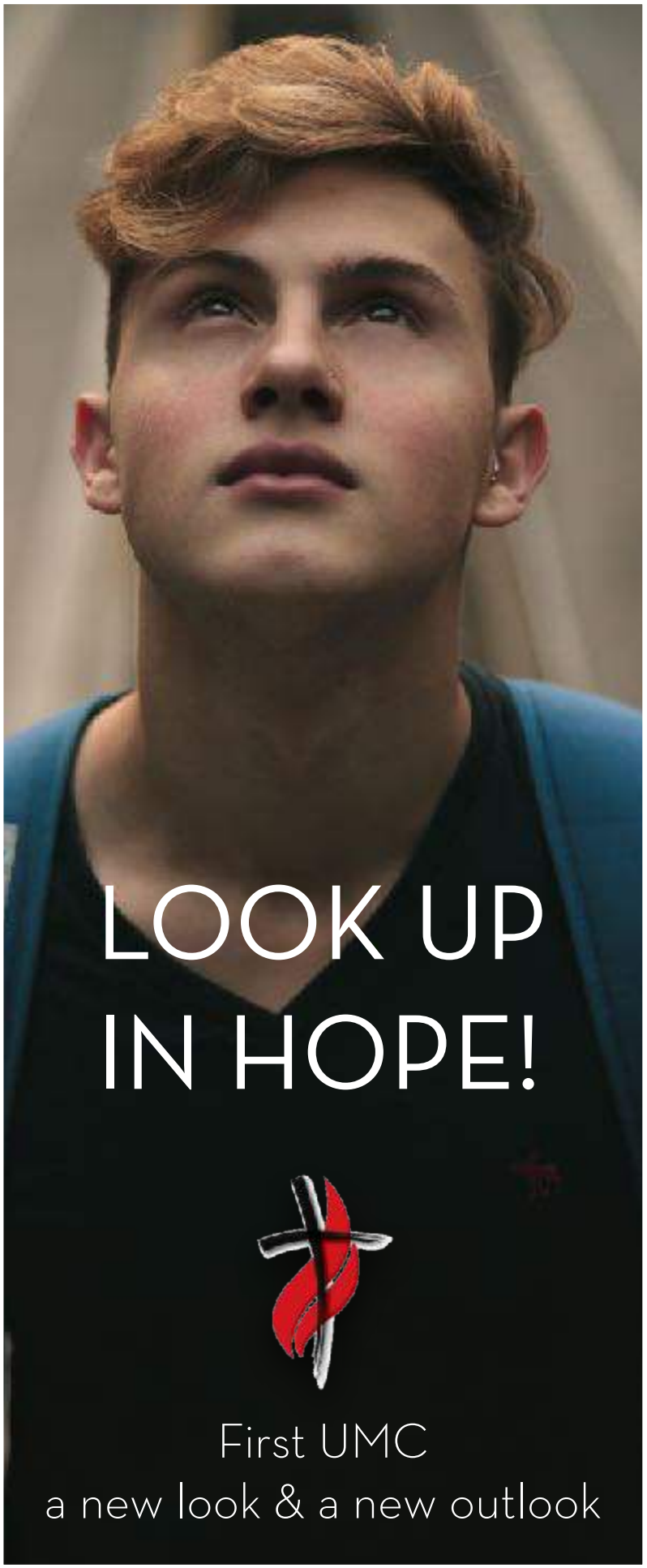
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

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/>



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 @ 10am