



Therefore, if
anyone is in Christ,
the new creation has come:
The old has gone,
the new is here!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17



SEPTEMBER 2023
FIRST UMC BEACON

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JACKIE



"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

Dear Friends,

If you are paying attention to the seasons, you know that Fall is on its way. The leaves may not have changed yet but they will be soon. The pumpkins will soon arrive and Fall is in full swing. There are those of you who will gladly accept the change. Summer was hot and rainy and it will be nice for a different vibe! But some of you will be sad to see the seasons change. Summer is so short in New England and we all know that winter is not that far off. Yet, God in God's wisdom, never lets us stay stuck in our old ruts. God is all about growth.

As a lifelong student, I can tell you that growth is exciting! There is nothing that thrills me more than starting the new school year and anticipating the new learning that is about to take place. the smell of new text books, the new electronics that will advance note taking and research, meeting new people and experiencing something so foreign as to be enticing. Learning is fun. Yet, mid way through the year when the papers are due and the tests begin to take place, learning can also be exhausting. The process of growth is challenging.

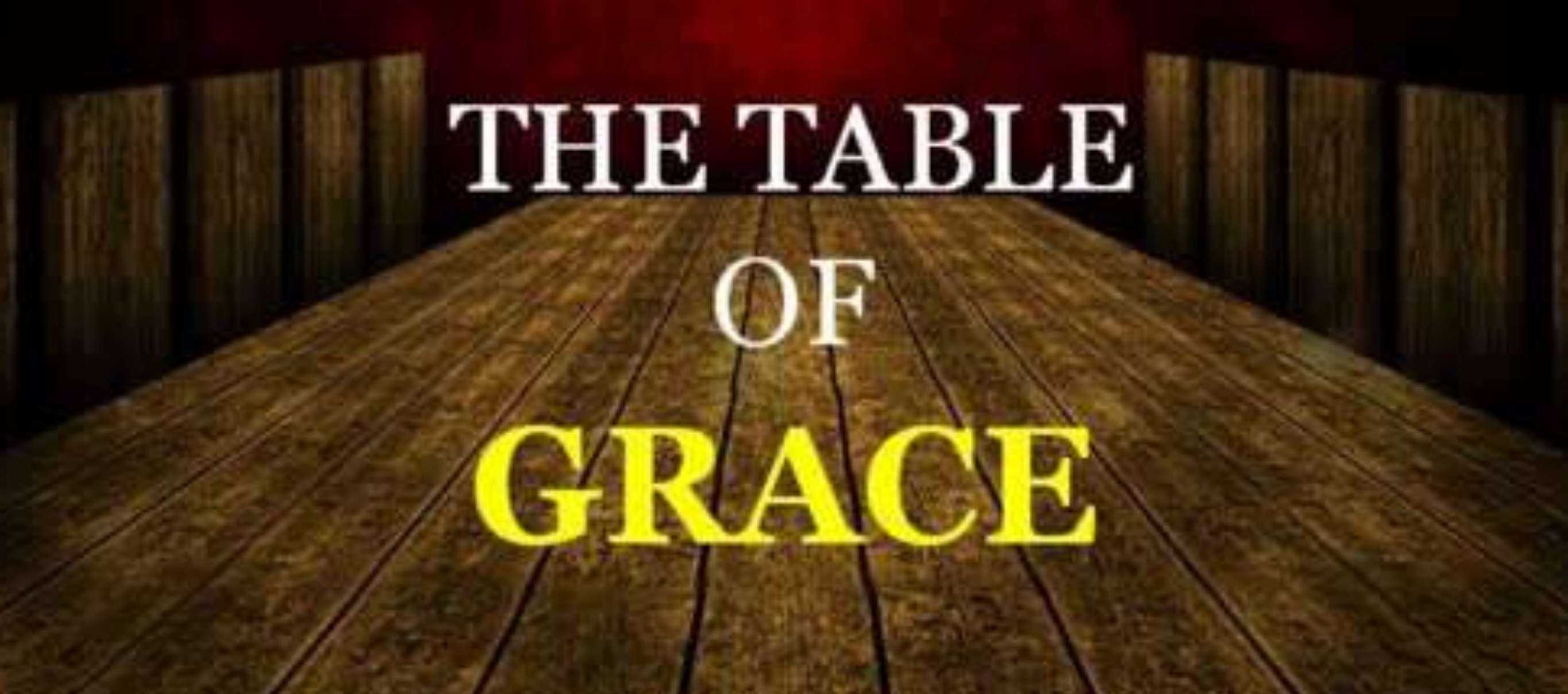
After almost two months of this new pastoral appointment, we all might be feeling the strain. The initial excitement about a new pastor/new church is fading. I now know where the light switches are and you all know that I will invite you to do something as a response to the sermon message (homework).... I test myself each week to see if I remember most of your names and when I do it's a miracle! I am trying to learn about your individual stories and I am sure you are trying to figure out mine as well. Honestly, it can be tiring! The leadership board might be reeling from the changes that I have asked for. Can we do the minutes differently? Is there room for more participation in decision making from the talented congregation members? How do we live into our vision statement to be a welcoming church of Christ? What is the best way to manage the resources which God has provided?

Growing into the new creation that Christ has ordained is not easy. It can be exciting when we finally stop some self defeating behaviors or when we are delighted at some new insight from the Lord. It can also be challenging to learn and implement God's new ways of being his creation. We can fight change or we can embrace change but what we cannot do is ignore it. Change is here and when we embed ourselves in Christ and hold on like our life depends upon it, we will soon find ourselves in joy as we celebrate how far we have come.

I give thanks to God for this season of change with you. Believe it or not, the changes a new pastor brings is nothing compared to the changes a new pastor experiences in a completely new environment. I have always believed that God makes sure we are exactly where we should be and who our learning partners will be. Together we are all changing into the new creation that God has ordained. When you allow yourself to be changed through knowing me and I do the same through knowing you, that is what it means to be welcoming.

Let us all welcome Fall into our days and as we do let us remember that Christ is also clearing out the dead wood in our lives so that we can become the new Creation, He has ordained. In Christ, we are all new! I believe the best is yet to come.

Fall blessings, Pastor Jackie



THE TABLE OF GRACE

COME TO THE TABLE OF GRACE

Written by Dr. Barbara Hamm

“This is not just a Communion Table, and the sacrament is not just an empty liturgical practice. This is God's Table. It is not yours, mine, ours, or our church's. It is God's Table, and God welcomes all to the feast and celebration. We are not to be gatekeepers. And this extends to the entire church, which is a place where all people are to be accepted and welcomed, rich and poor, male and female, old and young, black and white and red and yellow, gay and straight, military and civilian, Republican and Democrat, liberal and conservative – all are to be welcomed”.

Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.. This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of peace. Come to the table of peace. This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of peace.

Come to the table of love. Come to the table of love. This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of love.

Come to the table of joy. Come to the table of joy. This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of joy.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY [John VanReenen]

A special Financial Task Force was created via the recommendation from the Special Church Conference meeting conducted at the church on July 8. The Task Force's charter is to evaluate our current financial shortfall, brainstorm ideas to bring the church's income (closer) to its expenses, thus creating a balanced budget, seek help from outside the congregation where possible, and report back with its findings to the congregation no later than October 31 of this year. The FUMC Nominating Committee met to form the Task Force, which now consists of the following FUMC members; Kellie Langs, Christine Williams, David Richards, Steve Scott, Nancy Chesser, Linda Reiber, Jen Berry and John VanReenen.

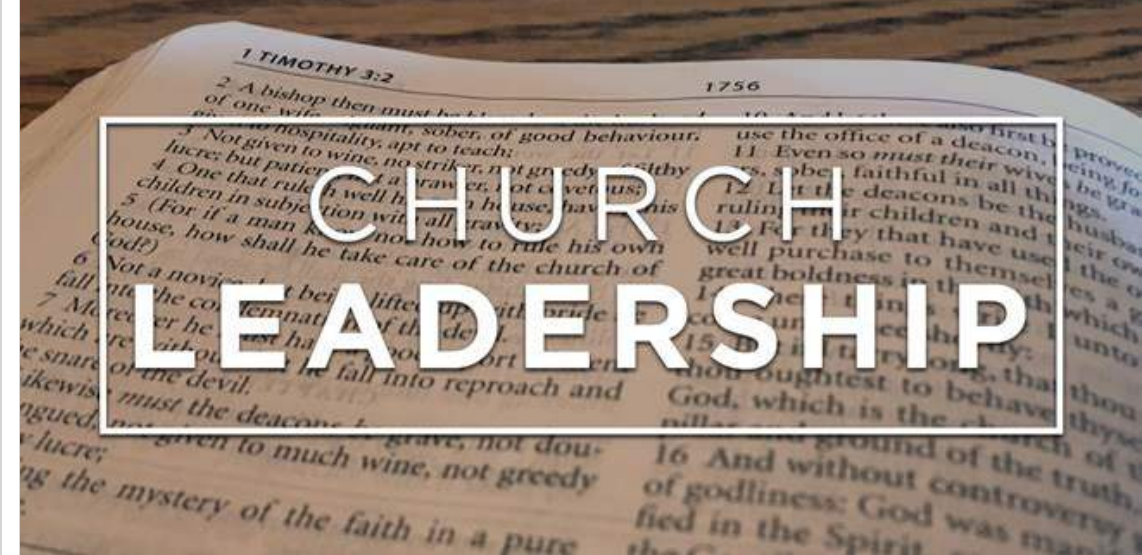
It was suggested that the Task Force seek help from the United Methodist Foundation, who provides financial consulting to all Methodist churches in New England, with special attention for those in financial trouble or those who wish to either repurpose their facilities or augment their income through better use of those facilities. The United Methodist Foundation also holds and manages the FUMC invested funds. The TF reached out to Rev. Herb Taylor to obtain the Foundation's assistance in the form of financial consulting for our church. It should be noted that the fee of \$750 for this assistance was covered by two generous FUMC families.

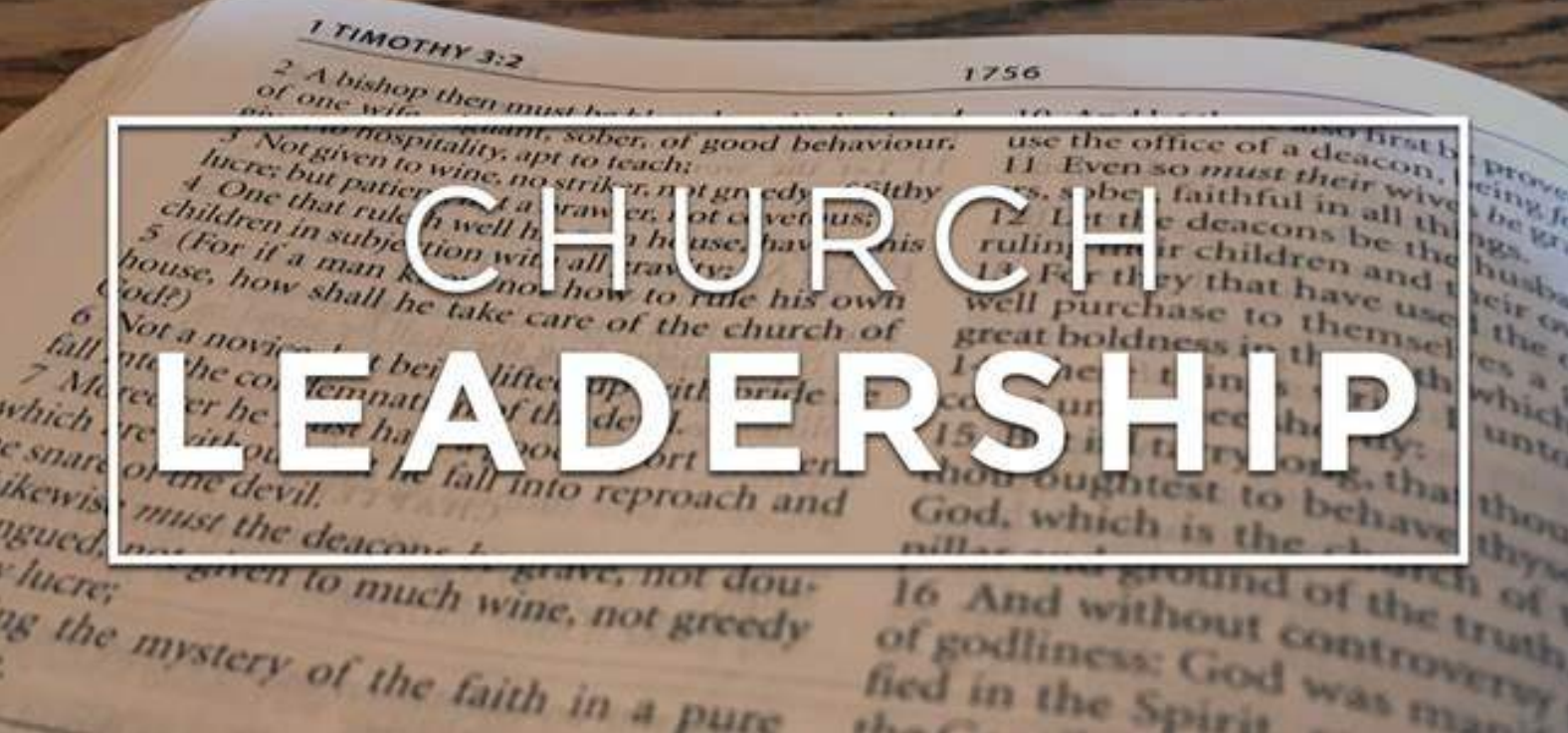
The initial meeting with Herb, assisted by UMF president Ted Crass, was conducted at the church on August 9. Herb and Ted were given a complete tour of our facilities, with special attention given to the improvements and upgrades that have been made over the past several years. The meeting itself was conducted with the Financial Task Force, Pastor Jackie, Sue Richards, Sue Sarosiek and Sue Lange. Following a brief review of the Foundation and its functions and services, how the consulting process will unfold and general introductory comments the following topics were reviewed in detail:

- Core Values of First UMC's Ministry; What is Your Identity; the Why
- The Community Which First UMC Serves; the Contextual Reality
- Who Would be Important to Talk to Outside Church Family to Provide Insight?
- SWOT for the First UMC Building Site; How Does Your Primary Asset Help?
- Final Thoughts
- Next Steps and Closing Prayer

Herb and Ted seemed pleased with the content and results from the meeting and with the involvement from the Task Force and left the group with a homework assignment to be completed by the next meeting, which is scheduled for Monday, September 11 @ 6:30pm.

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





FACILITIES REPORT [Sue Sarosiek]

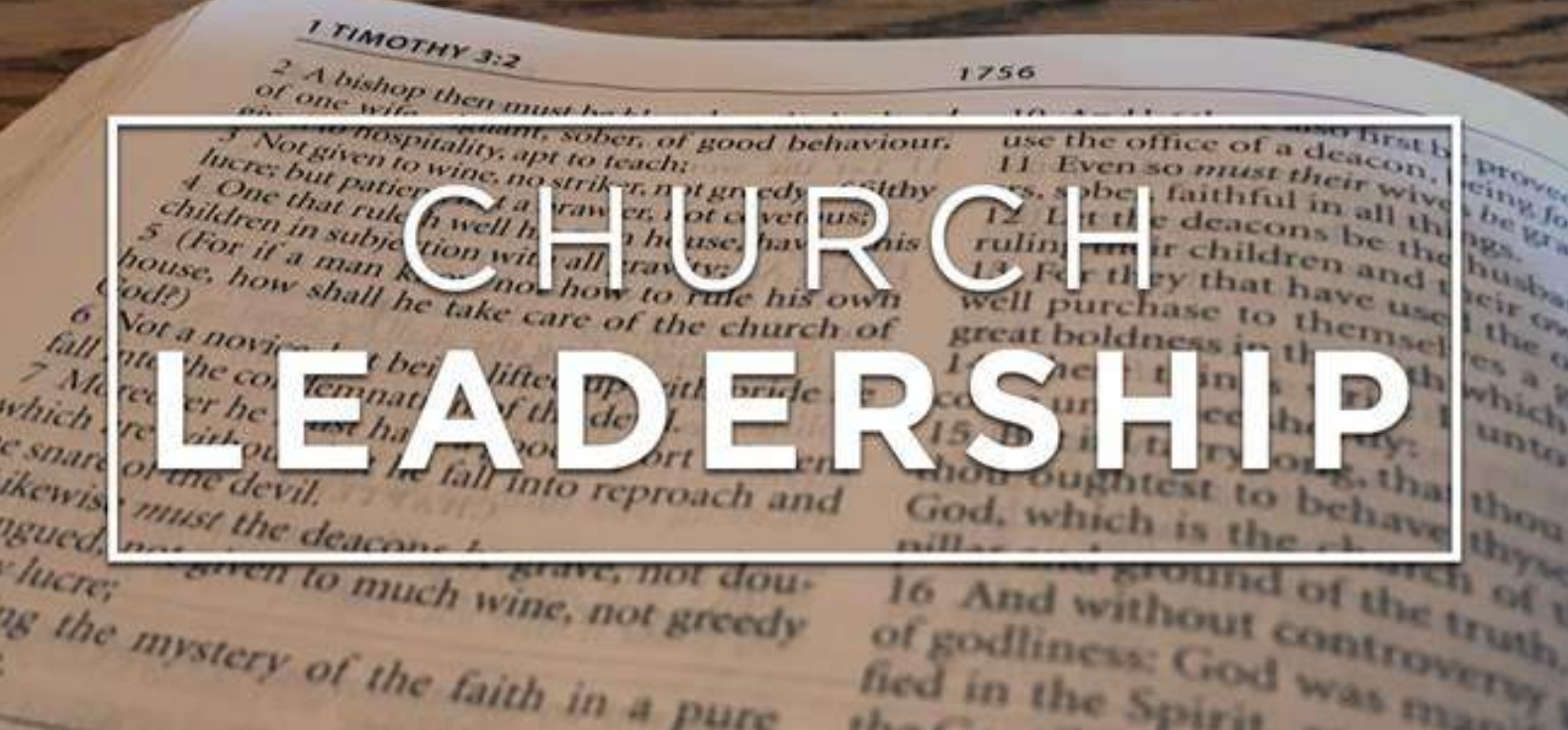
SRS Masonry has completed repairing areas in the sanctuary that had a leak issue during last winter as well as finished the painting near back door replacement.

During a rainstorm at the beginning of July, a leak occurred in the IBG office. After investigation, ServPro, and insurance adjusters, the leak was due to the outside spigot pipe leaking on the inside. J. Golter Plumbing is making this repair. Claim was made and insurance will cover this claim.

Ongoing discussion with J. Golter Plumbing and Heating, Unitil Gas, and City Gas inspectors to increase the size of gas pipe coming into FUMC, as the pipe isn't large enough which creates a low pressure problem when boiler is running. This is costing Unitil approximately \$10,000 to complete and they are making sure all their i's are dotted and t's are crossed.

Recovery Church is launched on 8/30.





CHURCH LEADERSHIP

COMMUNITY REPORT [Sue Sarosiek]

Planet Rangers has one more week of summer camp. Several walls have markings/scuffs that will be removed by Planet Rangers at end of camp.

The AA nooner group is very excited to be back at our church on 8/28/23. Several members have stopped in on Wednesdays to say hi and let us know how appreciative they are of being able to meet at FUMC. The nooner group will also be renting a carpet cleaner machine and will be cleaning carpet downstairs on either 9/10 in the afternoon or 9/30 in the morning, depending on their volunteer availability.

North Hill Nursery will delivery our mums for sale on the same weekend that pumpkins arrive (9/23/23).

Recovery Church began services on Wednesday, 8/30/23. Dinner at 6 pm, service at 7 pm.

SPRC REPORT [Sue Richards]

The Communications and Marketing Director position was extended through 10/31/23, at the SPRC-recommended salary of \$25,000 with fewer tasks. The recently created Financial Task Force will include a recommendation about this position in the plan they present to the congregation by the end of October.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 11th at 6:30 pm -
Financial Task Force Meeting

September 26th at 7pm -
Leadership Board Meeting in Randall Room

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



SUNDAY 8/27

Worship and Fellowship

Pastor Jackie's message was about Romans 12. Paul teaches us that when we give our lives to Jesus, we are transformed. Our newly created selves are then useful as the body of Christ for the world. No "body" works well without all the parts in harmony. The children illustrated this by making a puzzle that could not be completed without the missing piece. We all need each other!





SECOND ANNUAL YARD SALE

And community time

Thank you to everyone who donated, help set up and clean up, made purchases and of course for all the wonderful fellowship.



HELP FOR MAUI

Every little bit helps

Your thoughts, prayers and donations continue to be appreciated and needed for our brothers and sisters in Hawaii as they mourn the immense loss of life and property and start the process of rebuilding their lives and communities.

Ways you can help make a difference:

UMCOR - <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/901670/>

MAUI FOOD BANK - <https://mauifoodbank.org/donate/>





THEY'RE COMING!
9/23 @ 10:30 am & 10/14 @ 10:30 am

Join us for the unloading parties!

Church Family and Friends,

Believe it or not, it's almost time for the pumpkins to arrive!

Here are all the volunteer opportunities available for you. Just sign up later this month online or after church on Sundays.

- Set Up on Sat., 9/16 from 10-12ish. Help move and set up pallets, signs, booth stuff, etc.
- 1st Pumpkin Truckload arrives on Sat., 9/23. Starting at 10:30 AM, come help move small to large pumpkins and gourds from boxes onto pallets. Feel free to invite others to join you. Kids love to help!
- Our greatest need is working 2-3 hour shift(s) in the booth helping finalize customer purchases. On-the-job training provided and kids/friends/family love to help! We're open M-F from 12:30-6:30, Sat. from 9:30-6:30, and Sun. from 11:30-6:30.
- Pie Baking on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9-12ish, starting on 9/26. On-the-job training provided, as needed!
- 2nd Pumpkin Truckload arrives on Sat., 10/14. Starting at 10:30 AM, come help move small to large pumpkins and gourds from boxes onto pallets. Feel free to invite others to join you. Kids love to help!
- Clean Up date TBD.

Also needed are homemade baked goodies (like cookies, bars, flavored breads, muffins, etc.) and/or sweets (like toffee, fudge, chocolate-dipped pretzel sticks, etc). People come looking to buy homemade treats daily, so please bring them as often as you like on any day you like!

I'm always happy to answer questions, hear ideas, and/or help you sign up for the perfect opportunities for you! Text/call me at (603) 749-4169 or e-mail me at mksrichards@comcast.net.

Love and Hugs, Sue Richards, Pumpkin Patch Coordinator

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.



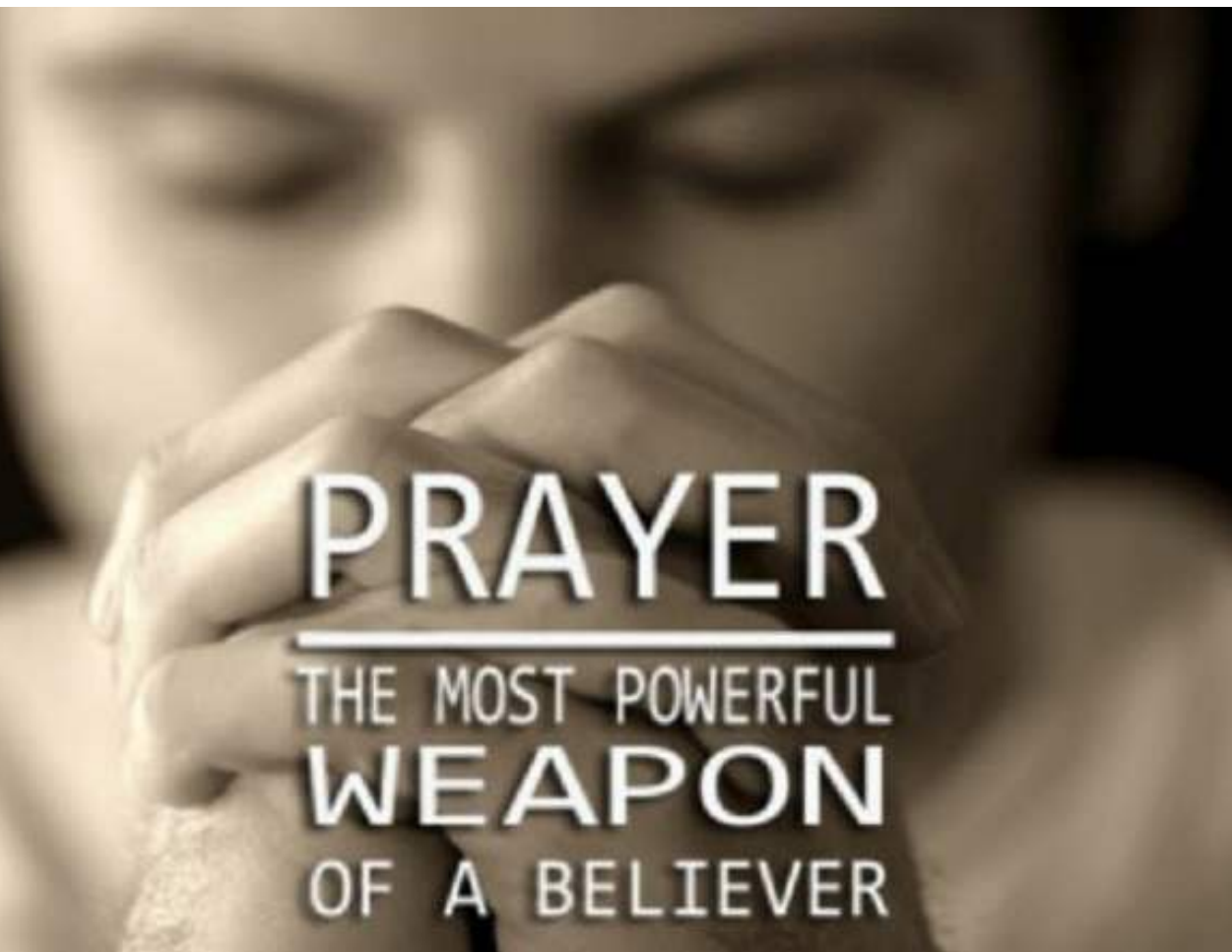
Slater, Jim
75 State Street
Portland, ME 04101



Barbara Glidden
188 Jones Ave #101
Portsmouth, NH 03801



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





UPCOMING EVENTS

1] Join Pastor Jackie at 9:30 a.m. Sundays for pew prayers 2] If you can't make it in person on Sundays going us via Facebook live 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.

JOIN US FOR
LIVE STREAMING
WORSHIP ON OUR
facebook page



September Birthdays

3 Nancy Chesser
7 PennySue Orr
13 Veronica Bennett
24 James Batten
27 Kellie Langs
27 Janice Oakes
29 Dianne Crisp

September Anniversaries

6 Kellie & Steve Langs
14 David & Carol Bovee



NEXT MEETING

Saturday September 2nd

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.

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.

And we welcome the Recovery Church to First UMC and their mission in serving the recovery community in the Seacoast area.





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
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on the QR code to the
left to view the online
PayPal donation page



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**LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP US KEEP
HOPE ALIVE IN THE COMMUNITY**

**DONATE @ FUMCPORTSMOUTH.COM
#BUILDINGHOPE**

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**