



OCTOBER 2023
FIRST UMC BEACON



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



SUNDAYS
10am



LOOK UP!

Not just as a reflection of how far we've come,
but also as an act of hope for a brighter tomorrow.

Join us as we re-open our doors
with a new and fresh look and outlook.

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JACKIE



And God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night and let them be for signs, and for seasons..." Genesis 1:14

Dear Friends, If I am reading the signs in the heavens correctly, we have jumped into Fall and started a crazy busy season in the life of our church. The days have gone so quickly that I can barely keep up. One wise saint advised that when life gets busy take more time to pray, not less! So I am glad that I was intentional about carving out the time to go on my Scotland pilgrimage this past month. When I am not serving as your pastor, I am a spiritual director for folks who seek God in both ordinary and extraordinary times and places so it was helpful to make the space to search out God for myself.

As a self proclaimed mystic, I am always searching for signs of God's presence. So it is no surprise that I would be searching for God's direction during my time in this sacred space. Imagine my thoughts, when I found this perfectly lovely shell on the beach of Iona, the birthplace of Celtic Christianity. I love the beach, I love gifts from the sea and was happy to contemplate this sign, when I noticed an unusual marking on the inside of the shell. While some might see an embryo and others a fish, I saw a skull. Was God telling me to mark my time? Was death stalking me in some way? I am not sure, I was looking for this sign after all!

I am sure God and I will have many moments of reflection and discourse over this "gift" in the weeks ahead; especially with the additional days of isolation due to Covid upon returning from my travels. What I can say at this moment, is that while we may not know the number of our days, we can know how we are going to live them. No, we may not know the events we will experience, but we can know how we will approach them. We can determine to live each moment with love toward God and our fellow creatures. We can ask ourselves each day, where we have found God and how God might be directing us. Are we acting with love toward ourselves and others in each decision we make? Are we allowing fear, anger or ego to drive our choices rather than love? Have we stopped the merry go round of life long enough to even contemplate and pray over such concerns?

We are in the midst of a busy church year. Our major fundraiser is in full swing, thanks to the many volunteers and Sue Richard's leadership. Sunday school is off and running. The Finance Task Force is getting ready to bring us recommendations. The Trustees are replacing boilers. I will be bringing the nominations committee together to bring us the 2024 slate of officers. Our church conference will happen soon after. Advent will be here before you know it and then Confirmation classes will start for our youth. The list goes on.

Life is busy and so I suggest we all read the signs, and make it our priority to take more time to pray each day. You are welcome to join me at 9:30 on Sunday mornings when I pray for each one of you as I touch each pew. My pastor's dream is to have so many of you ready to pray that we will need to bump it up to 9 am! I want to know what is in your hearts and minds so that I can pray more effectively for you. Do you have worries? Are you facing some question or directional challenge in your life? Do you need to feel God's grace and forgiveness? (Don't we all!)...Let us all commit to a busy life that is anchored with prayer so that all we do is done in love and for love of our magnificent God. I look forward to this new season with you.

PS We will talk about all of this in our new sermon series "Come To The Table of Love!". We have saved a seat for you. Bring a friend!

Blessings, Pastor Jackie





THE TABLE OF GRACE

COME TO THE TABLE OF GRACE

Written by Dr. Barbara Hamm

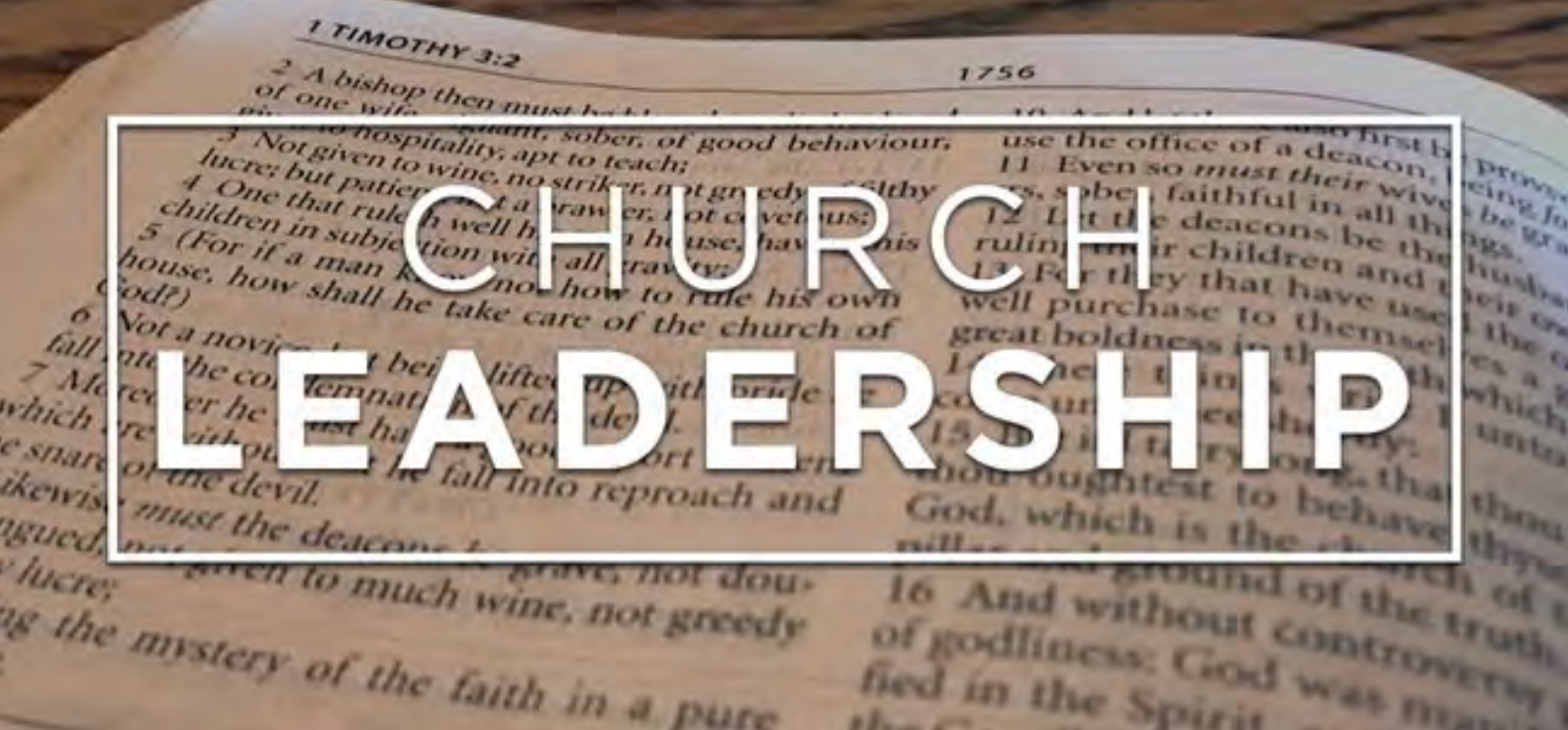
“This is not just a Communion Table, and the sacrament is not just an empty liturgical practice. This is God's Table. It is not yours, mine, ours, or our church's. It is God's Table, and God welcomes all to the feast and celebration. We are not to be gatekeepers. And this extends to the entire church, 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.



CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PASTOR'S REPORT [Pastor Jackie]

Goals:

1. Meet with as many people as possible to hear their stories, learn about their spiritual needs and begin to form a pastoral/congregational bond.
2. Form a one-year worship plan that incorporates the lectionary readings, pastoral vision, and congregational needs. The focus for the year will be on discipleship.
3. Meet with the various Boards and committees and engage in mutual sharing and goal setting.
4. In partnership with the congregation, address the financial and organizational needs of the congregation.
5. Encourage love and forgiveness, rather than divisiveness, as we strive to improve the spiritual bond between parishioners and church leaders.

Current Status:

It is now church conference season. I will be calling nominations together to work on the 2024 slate of officers. I will be asking committees to prepare their reports so that we can get them finished before our conference season. All reports are to be submitted online this year. I will be talking to the various chairs to make sure that happens.

The Financial Task Force will be getting ready to make its recommendations to the church in the next 30 days. We have met three times and have one future meeting scheduled.

Celebrations:

Recovery Church is up and running and generating positive energy for themselves and for our church. God's love and grace are being seen and shared by all.

Pumpkin palooza is well on its way with many volunteers making it happen!

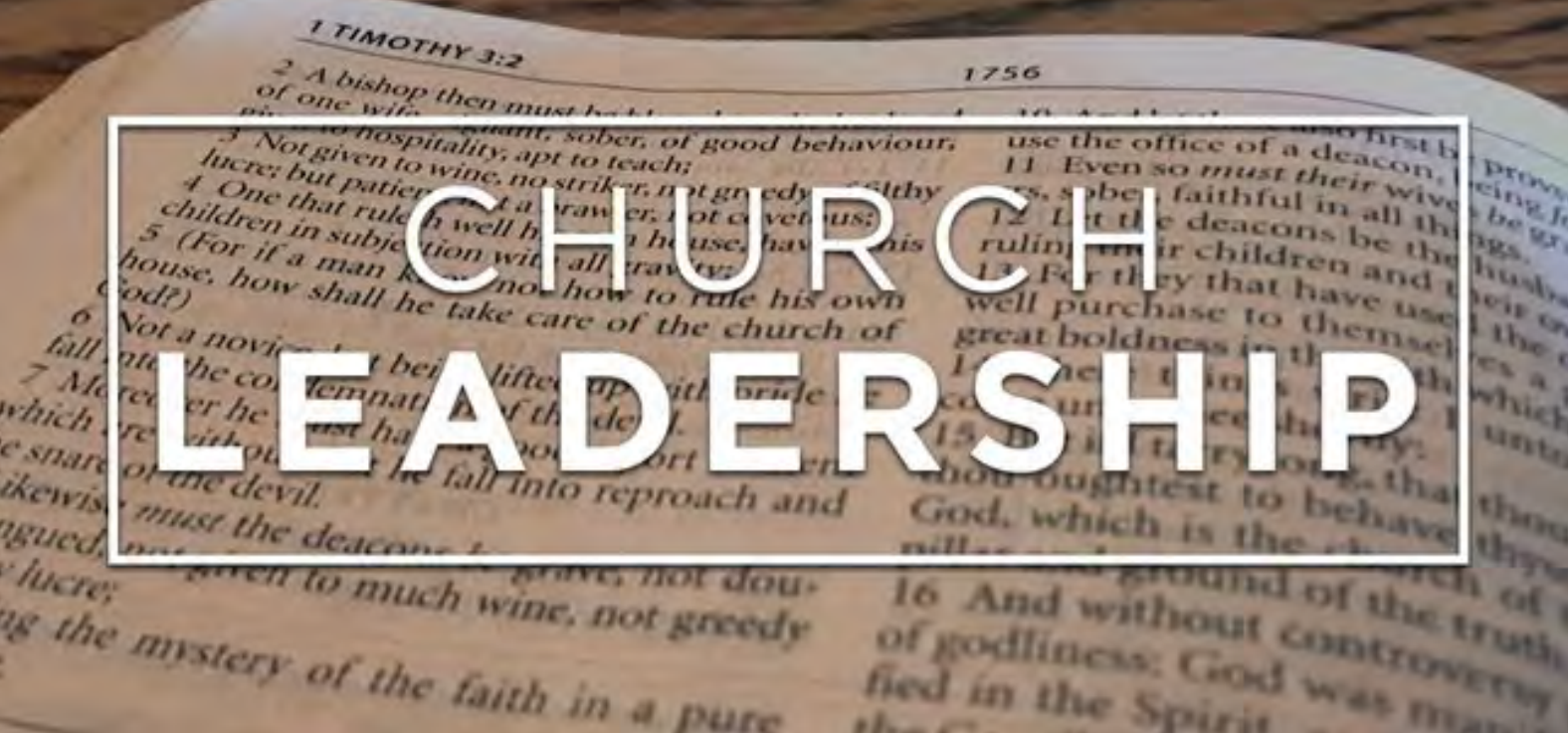
Concerns:

Communication: It is very difficult to function effectively without attention to our communication. It needs to be frequent and repetitive. Yes, this takes more work but is going to save us in the long run. The more we work at communication, the easier it will be when we need to discuss sensitive matters

Leadership: Our leadership team is so small that often we cannot do what we need to do because there is a lack of time for so few to do so much. I am recommending us to widen our leadership team to address this concern.

Thank you for your prayers during my illness.





FACILITIES REPORT [Sue Sarosiek]

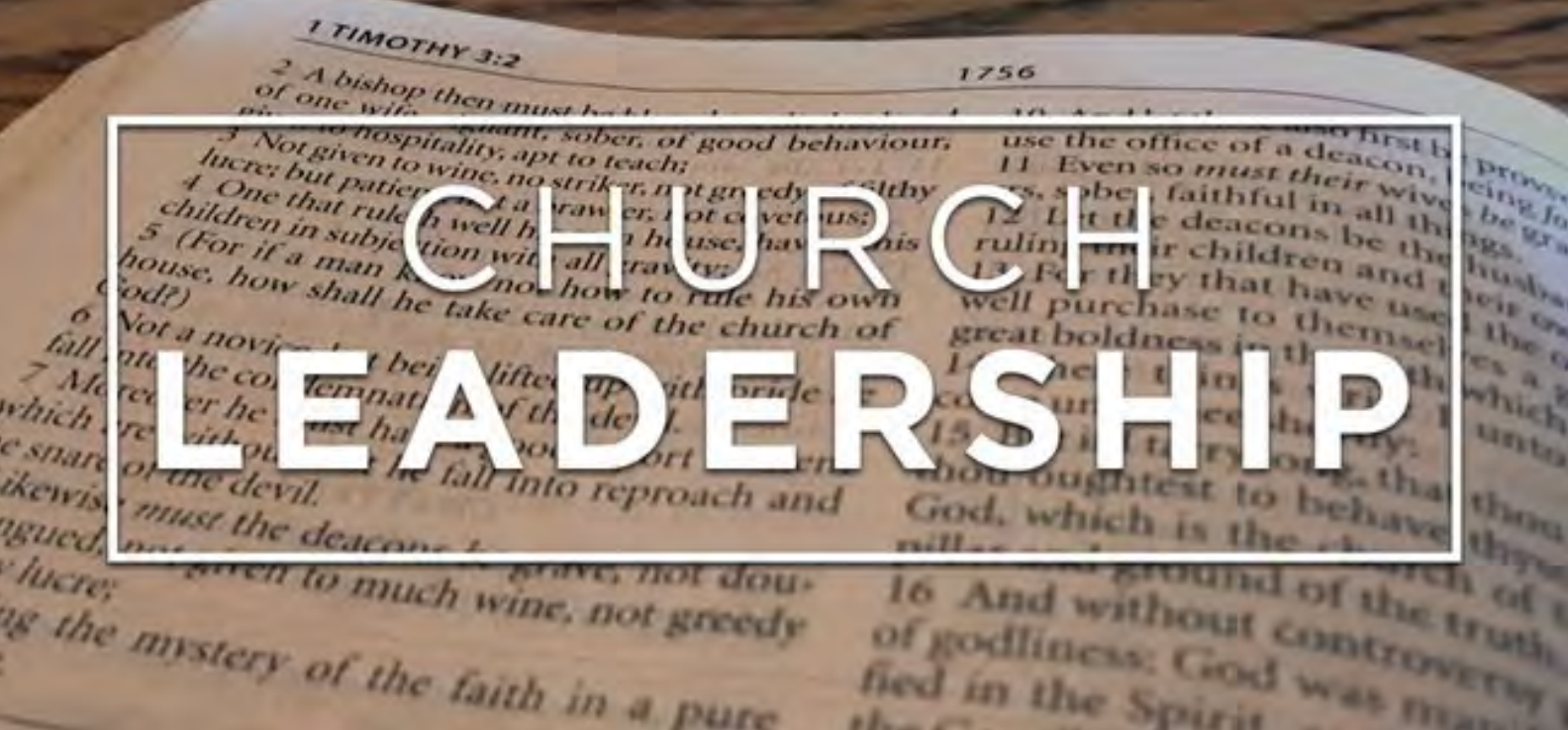
Unitil plans the dig to upgrade our gas flow into building into a larger pipe. A larger pipe had to be installed inside the building as well to meet the larger pipe being installed outside. This may have been the reason the previous heating company had issues with the gas flow. Jim Golter has been instrumental in follow up with Unitil. Unitil will complete the digging in the parking lot by the end of October. Unfortunately, we may have to close the Pumpkin Patch for a day while this work is being completed. To date, over \$5000.00 has been received in donations for the boiler project.

John VanReenen fixed the toilet in the upstairs bathroom. The toilet handle had broken on the inside of tank. Thank you John!

There is a large wasp nest outside on one of the stained glass windows. They have been sprayed and Liam has asked for the empty nest. John sprayed the nest. Again, thank you John!

As has been previously reported, the parsonage has been without hot water on several occasions, due to the furnace not working properly. Jim Golter has serviced it many times and reports there is much corrosion in furnace. The recommendation is that no further service to the current furnace be done. The furnace is at the end of its life span and needed to be replaced.





CHURCH LEADERSHIP

COMMUNITY REPORT [Sue Sarosiek]

Planet Rangers has completed summer camp. Planet Rangers staff have cleaned and removed markings/scuffs on several walls.

The AA nooner group is very happy to be back at FUMC and cleaned the carpet downstairs the morning of 9/30.

North Hill Nursery delivered our mums for sale for the pumpkin patch and continue to plant and care for our outside flowers/planters as a donation. We are very grateful for our continued relationship with Kristen!

The Recovery Church launch was on Wednesday, 8/30/23. Well over 100 people attended. There was good food and a live band. Junior and Justice were the first preachers who flew in from Florida. It was a very successful night! Recovery Church is every Wednesday, dinner is at 6 pm, service at 7 pm. ALL are invited. The more congregation members that attend, the more successful we'll be in welcoming folks to the pews on Sunday.

Last Wednesday at Recovery Church, Sue Richards and Sue Sarosiek met 3 new young girls. They came and helped on Pumpkin unloading day and have signed up to work some shifts in the booth.

The yard sale was a success! The final tally on the yard sale profit is: \$1226.50. A special thank you to our community friends for all the help.

Pumpkin Patch unloading was on Saturday, 9/23. So many helpers from the community were present to help unload pumpkins.

SPRC REPORT [Sue Richards]

Pastor Jackie went on vacation to Scotland and unfortunately contracted Covid...we are glad she is back to feeling healthy again.

Pastor Jackie arranged for DS Taesung Kang to preach on 9/17 and David Abbott preached on 9/24.

Bevan Bloemendaal is on his first vacation in years, including Sundays 9/24 and 10/1. He graciously recorded all music for 9/24 before he left. There was a substitute organist/pianist for 10/1.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

**October 17th @ 7pm - Leadership Board
in the Randall Room**

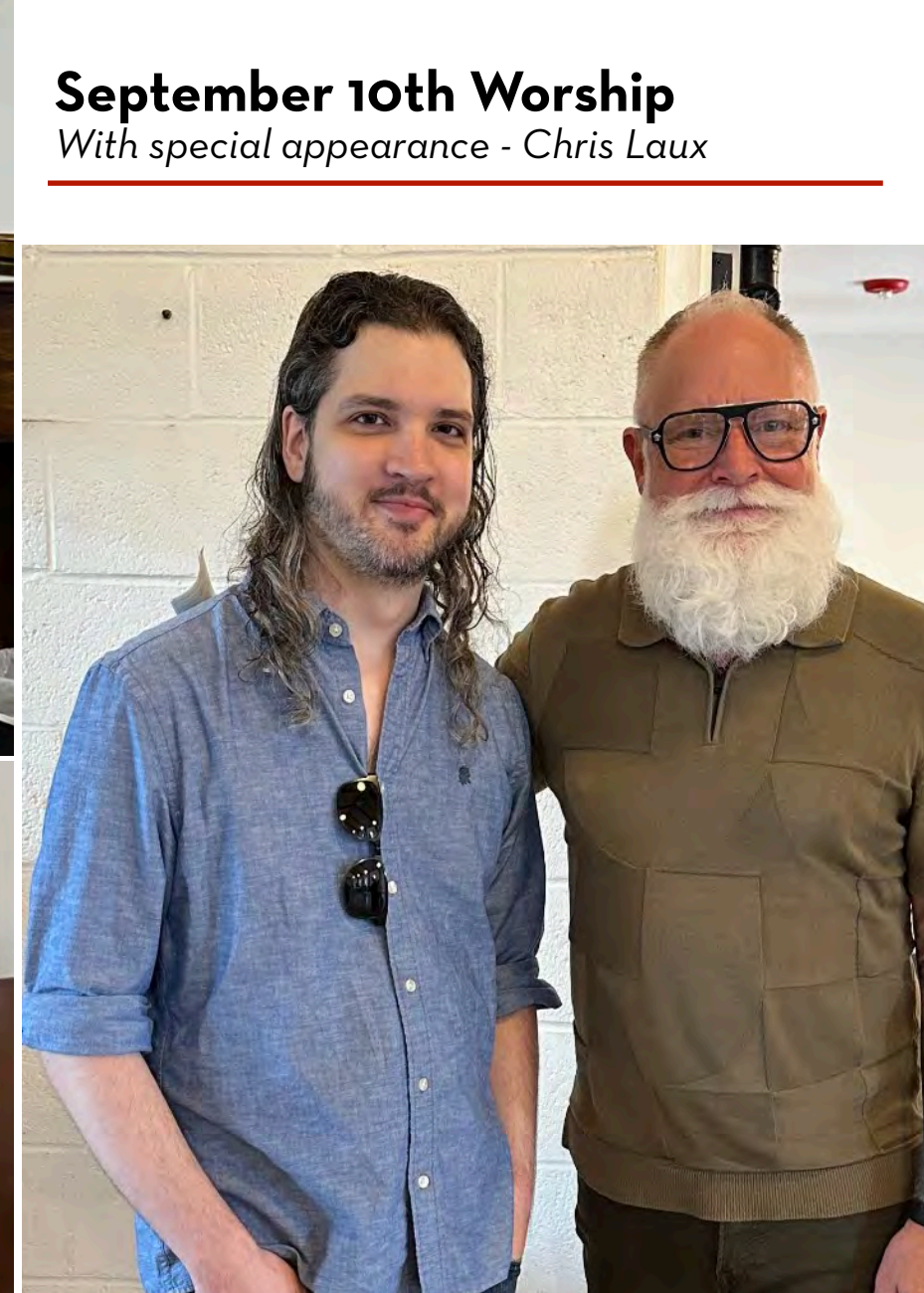
**November 13th @ 6:30pm - Annual Church
Conference in church sanctuary**

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

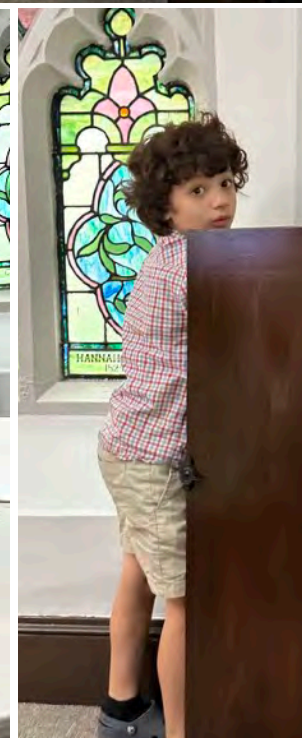


LABOR DAY SUNDAY
Worship, Communion, and Fellowship





September 10th Worship
With special appearance - Chris Laux



SEPTEMBER 17th WORSHIP
With Special Guest D.S. Taesung Kang





September 24th Worship
With special guest Rev. Dr. David Abbott



THE PUMPKIN PATCH IS OPEN!

Tell everyone you know!

The church lawn is now covered in all the beautiful colors of Fall...come and visit us and pick up your pumpkins, gourds, mums, t-shirts [yep the one on Leo in the picture], homemade pies, baked goods and take a family picture in the patch too.

The patch is open Monday-Friday 12:30-6:30, Saturday 10:30-6:30 and Sunday 11:30-6:30. See you there!

We can still use Volunteers!...sign up here - <https://signup.com/group/92712616081>



PUMPKIN PATCH PREP DAY
Getting the church lawn ready for the deliver



THE PUMPKINS ARE HERE!

The community unloading the pumpkin delivery



THE PUMPKINS ARE HERE!
The community unloading the pumpkin delivery



THE PUMPKINS ARE HERE!

The community unloading the pumpkin delivery





**NEXT PUMPKIN UNLOADING IS
10/14 @ 10:30 am**

Join us for the awesome community fun!



RECOVERY CHURCH

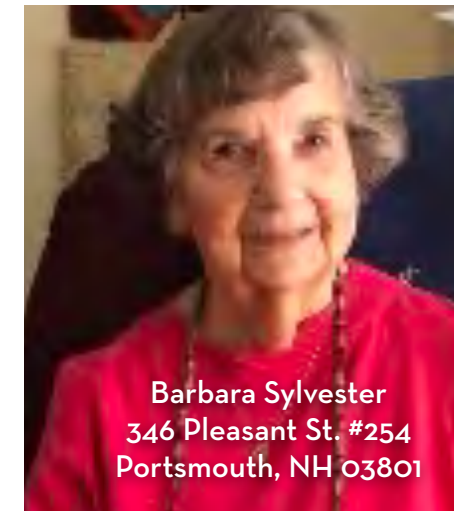
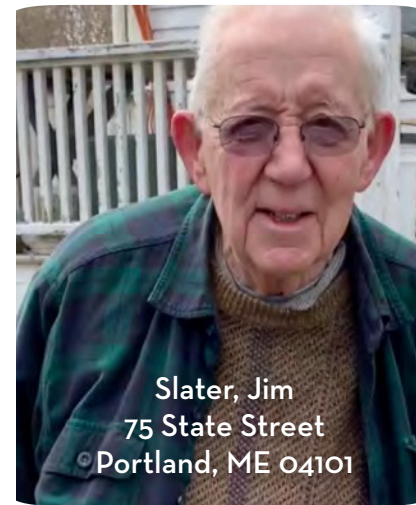
September 6th - church and chili



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.



**PLUG
INTO THE
POWER
OF PRAYER**



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



October Birthdays

3 Rosie Buswell
5 Dennis Veilleux
8 Karen Sarosiek
~Adoption Day
9 Grayson Sillanpaa
10 James Slater
12 Cynthia Drake
16 Sue Lange
18 Carol Bovee
21 Barbara Glidden

October Anniversaries

7 Al & Jan Cansdale
8 Steve & Karin Scott

WINTER IS COMING!

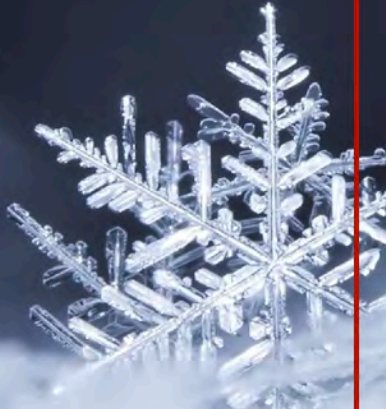
Helping the community stay warm.

We continue to provide cold weather packs to our community with gloves, hat, socks, scarf.

Are you looking to make a donation?...please drop them off at the church office on Wednesdays from 10am - 2pm, the Pumpkin Patch team will gladly take them during Patch hours or come visit us on Sunday at 10am.

THESE ARE NOT LOST...
IF YOU NEED THEM,
PLEASE TAKE THEM.

THEY ARE A GIFT...
STAY WARM.
YOU ARE LOVED!



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





NEXT MEETING

Saturday October 7th

8:30am Complimentary La Mulita coffee

9:00am Introductions

Guest Speaker - Kristen Wiggin



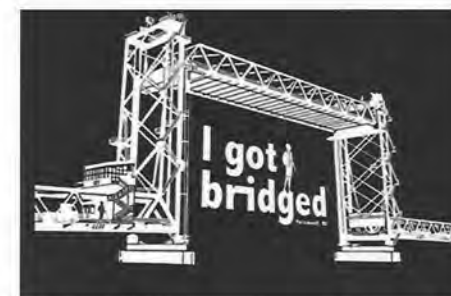
#bekind #helpothers #pray

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.

Annual Coat Drive



9/29-10/6

WHERE: United Methodist Church
129 Miller Avenue
Portsmouth, NH

WHEN: Drop Off 9/29 through 10/6
Between 12 pm and 6 pm
New or gently used coats,
hats, and gloves

PICK-UP If you are in need of a warm
coat, please come pick up on
Saturday, October 7th at 10:00
after the Joy Group



The Recovery Church
upcoming Guest
Speakers will be:
October 4th - Pastor
Max from NJ, and on
October 11th - our
friend John Ruane.

**I Got Bridged**

5d · 🌐

I Got Bridged was grateful for the opportunity to volunteer alongside other volunteers from Recovery Church and our great friends at the First United Methodist Church. Together we were able to unload a truck load of pumpkins on the official first day of autumn. If this didn't put us all in the fall spirit, nothing will.

The First United Methodist Church at 129 Miller Ave in Portsmouth NH has been there for our community in so many ways. They provide I Got Bridged with our office and board room, they are the official location of Recovery Church Portsmouth, and they provide a location for dozens of recovery based meeting here in Portsmouth. We could not have been happier to have had this opportunity.

**I GOT BRIDGED***Social Media post of Purpose in Action!***I Got Bridged**

16m · 🌐

THANK YOU to this team from Turning Point for volunteering their time to clean the carpets at [Fumcportsmouthnh Church](#) 🙌🙌🙏!! Taking care of God's house!! FUMC has been very generous by providing a place for recovery meetings and [Recovery Church Portsmouth!](#) ❤️





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



BUILDING HOPE **COMMUNITY FAITHRAISER**

**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**