

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always,  
pray without ceasing,  
give thanks in all circumstances.



NOVEMBER 2023  
FIRST UMC BEACON

## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JACKIE

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First Thessalonians 5:16-18 tells us to "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus". I think this is a great message as we begin the month of November. Most of us will be celebrating Thanksgiving in the weeks ahead and then jump right into Advent preparations. At this time of year, we stop and pause as we reflect on all the blessings God has bestowed upon us. This year, like so many others, we come to our Thanksgiving tables with both joys and sorrows.

We have been praying for peace even as wars and violence around the world and in our own communities grieve us. We notice those around us who are without shelter, food, and basic needs. We grieve those who we have lost this year as we notice their absence at our celebrations. Even at church, we are facing challenges, financially, that will mean sacrifices in areas that we value.

Yet, we are a blessed people. We have the comfort of a loving God who walks with us in our times of trial. We have each other to support and work with to bring justice and mercy to the world. Most of us have many material blessings which we can share with our church and its ministries. If we count our blessings, we know that we have so much to be thankful for.

This week, I am thankful for each of you, faithful servants of the Lord. I thank you for your generosity of spirit as we ramp up our community outreach this month. There are many around us to whom we can be a blessing. I pray that God will notice our grateful hearts as we give God thanks, singing the songs of thanksgiving.

May God truly bless you,

Pastor Jackie







# CHURCH LEADERSHIP

## PASTOR'S REPORT [Pastor Jackie]

### Goals:

1. Prepare for the church conference on November 13, 2023.
2. Work with the Financial Task Force to finalize recommendations.
3. Help committees formulate their 2024 goals.
4. Help congregation grow in its spiritual discipleship.

### Current Status:

The church is poised to make important financial decisions. This is not an easy task. No matter which way the church chooses to handle its fiscal responsibilities, sacrifices will need to be made. I have tried to use the sermons series Welcome To The Table, to emphasize how disciples of Christ live together in fellowship even when differences are apparent. I pray that our leadership board will model for the congregation this spirit of love and compromise. As church leaders we need to empower everyone to feel comfortable sharing their perspectives and be the voices of reason and reconciliation if folks are concerned with the results of decisions made. It will be up to us to model how we respect other's perspectives even when they differ from our own.

### Celebrations:

Sunday School has begun. All of our teaching staff have had their background checks updated. Students have releases signed to use photos in church publications.

The pool of volunteers both within the congregation and in outside groups has increased. The volunteers who share their musical or dramatic talent have been more active making our worship very joyful!

Worship attendance is increasing. The congregation is handling the Covid realities very well. Safe practices have allowed the church to continue with no drop off in attendance.

### Concerns:

I have been told by parishioners that there have been times in the past when the congregation has been divided when certain choices have been made, leaving scars and tension. I think it will be important for us to set the tone for the church as it grapples with the issues of finances so that it will not divide the congregation but bring us closer together.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

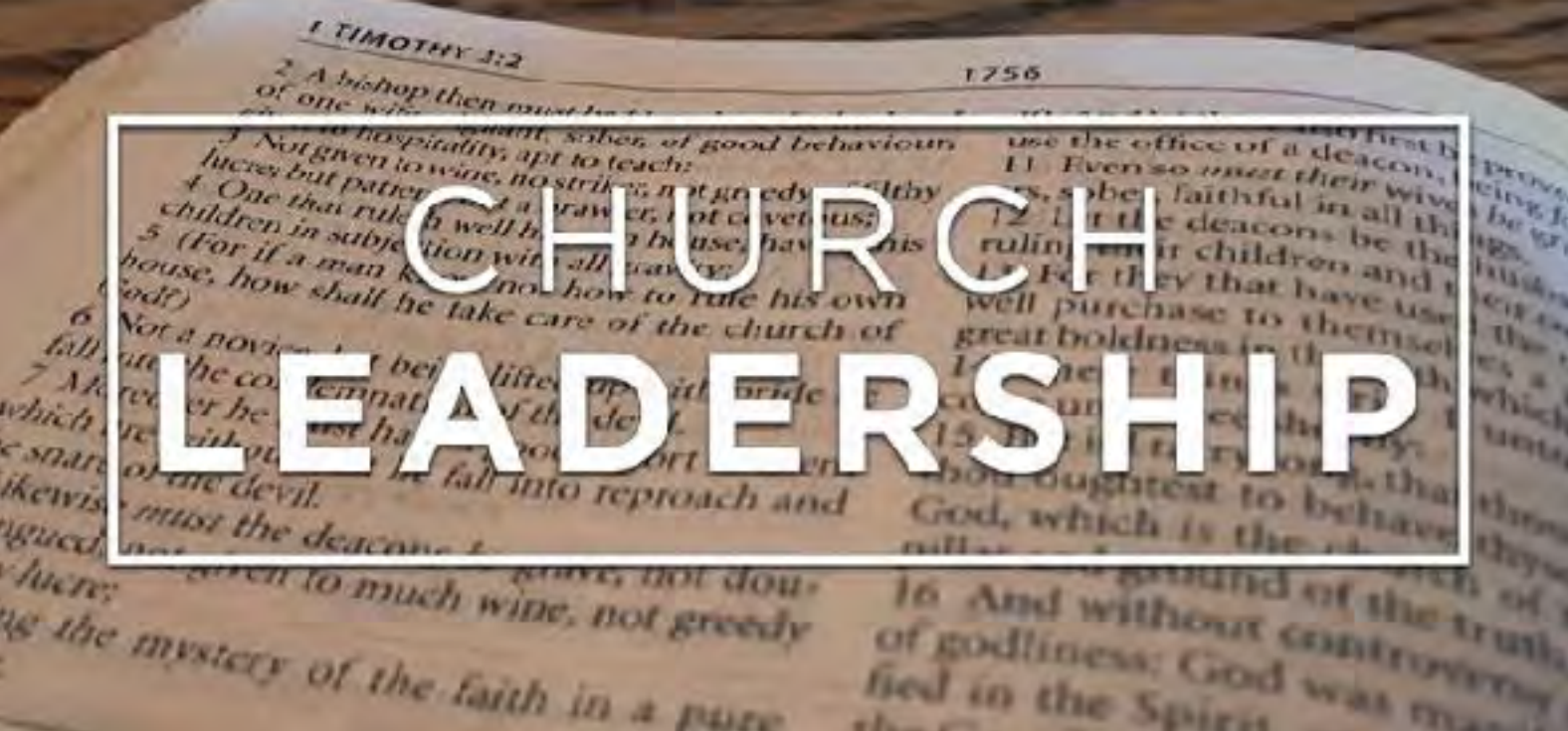
### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

**November 5th Important Financial Task Force  
update meeting after worship**

**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





## FINANCIAL REPORT [John VanReenen]

The Financial Task Force has met twice with our consultants from the United Methodist Foundation. Our third and final meeting will be on October 23 at the church at 6:30pm. At that time we expect to receive the Foundation's recommendations for addressing and resolving the church's financial shortfall.

The Task Force will then convene a planning meeting on Sunday, November 29, at the church immediately following worship. We will review the Foundation's recommendations and assemble them into a plan for future implementation. They will be reviewed and put into order of priority and feasibility of completion for sharing with the congregation. Then on Sunday, November 5, also immediately following worship, the FTF will present their final recommendations to the congregation during this all-church gathering.

The importance of this meeting to the future of First UMC Portsmouth cannot be overstated. We are hoping for a significant turnout and want to make sure the congregation knows that all are invited and have a voice.

Linda reports that our pledge giving is on the rise and trying to catch up to last year's levels. Our property and liability insurance has risen sharply this year to over \$2,100 per month. Linda saves almost \$100 per month via automatic payments.

## FINANCIAL REPORT CONTINUED

Our church boiler installation is complete and has been paid in full with invested funds. The congregation contributions against the \$40,000+ replacement cost have reached \$6,610. We are in the process of evaluating running both boilers on gas, which could save us significant money if implemented. There is an up-front cost of \$8,000 to switch the old boiler over from oil to gas. Just an FYI, our gas bill last year was \$4,198 (sanctuary only) vs. \$21,805 for oil (balance of church space).

## FACILITIES REPORT [Sue Sarosiek]

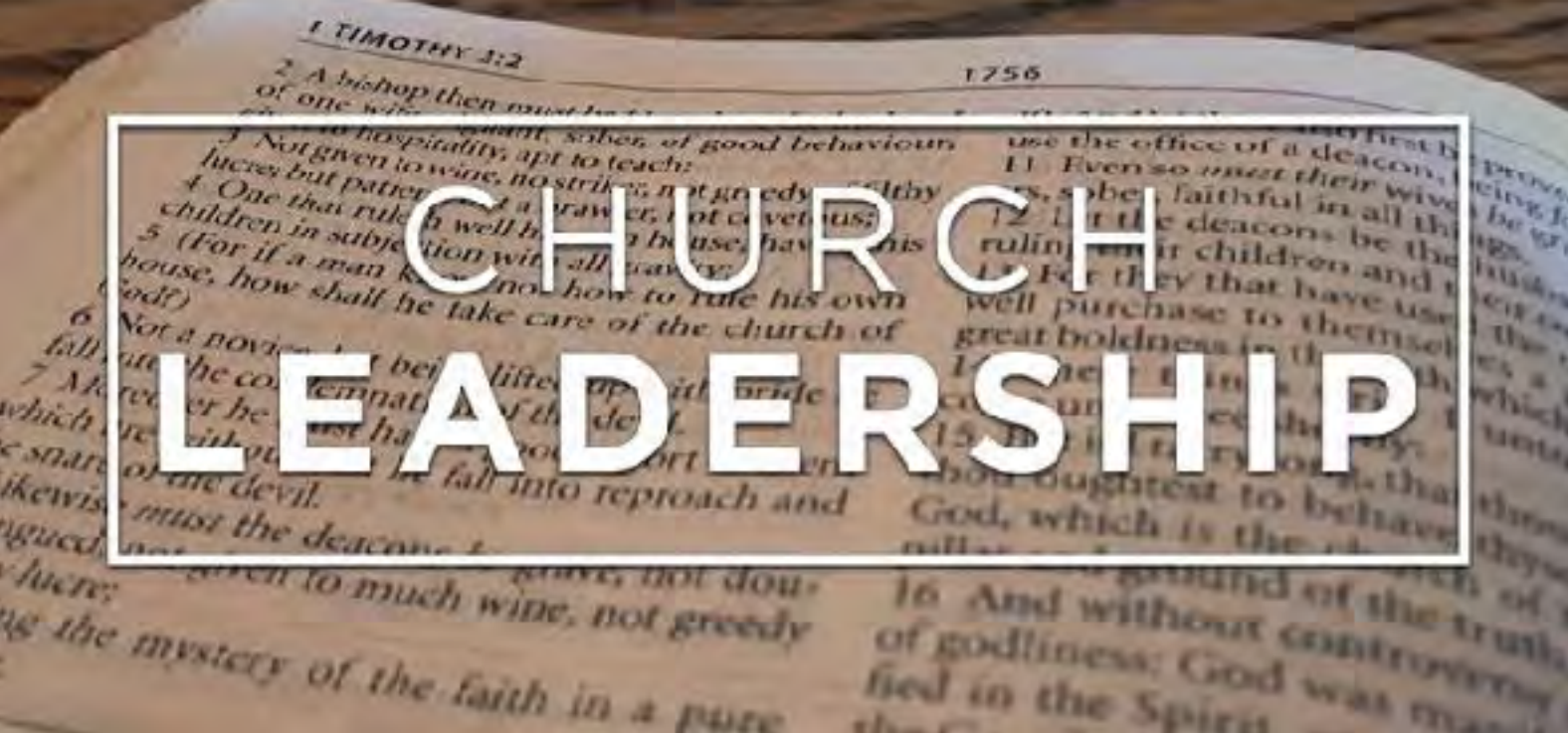
A big thank you to David Richards for clearing the men's urinal downstairs. It appears to be fully functioning at this time.

Our food service permit license has been applied for and received from the City of Portsmouth. The grease trap permit has been applied for and received as well. The city inspectors were present at the pumping of the grease trap by Hussey Septic on October 5, to determine if we are still eligible for the every 6 month pumping. Typically, grease traps are pumped every month. FUMC was granted a waiver to continue bi-yearly grease trap cleaning. The reason grease traps are inspected yearly, beginning 2023, is due to the new wastewater pumping station at Pierce Island. The amount of wastewater treated is so high that it now falls under FDA rules; FDA rules state grease traps need to be inspected yearly.

Unitil rescheduled the digging of the larger gas line to 10/17. A quote of approximately \$8000.00 has been given to convert our current oil burner to a gas burner. John VanReenen will present the proposed cost savings at the Leadership Board on 10/17. Due to Unitil construction, pie baking did not happen on 10/17.

The parsonage furnace has been replaced and functioning.





## 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.



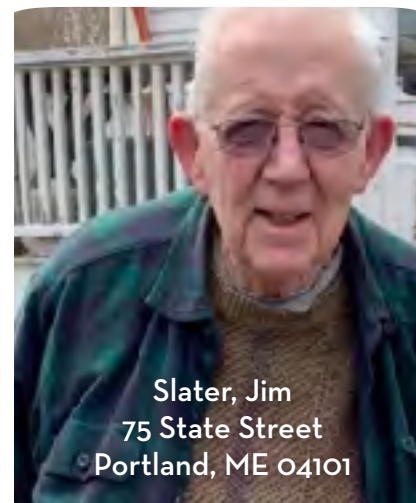


## CARING FOR EACH OTHER

*PRAYERS, CARDS, CALLS OR VISITS*

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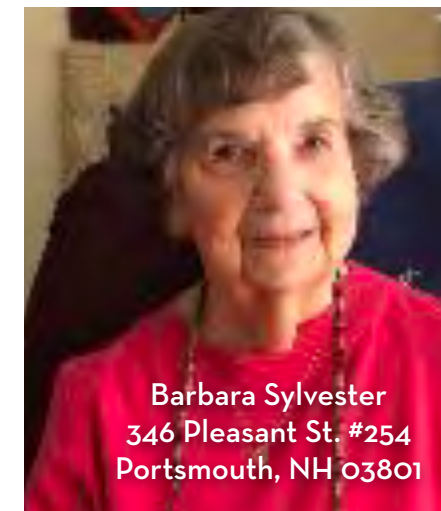
We are a FAMILY first and foremost...and there are some who are not able to make it to church on Sundays or be part of the activities that are happening at First UMC. There are others that we may not know but what a blessing it is to be lifted up in prayer.



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

# PRAYER IS POWERFUL



ABOVE



# PUMPKIN PATCH DELIVERY #2

*Church family and community time*







THE BIG G





# OCTOBER 8TH

*Come to the table Series*

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# NO HEAT SUNDAY

*But that didn't stop us from worship!*

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**It is with a humble and grateful heart that we say THANK YOU to our church family and community in making the 2023 Pumpkin Patch another wonderful year of experiences and outreach. You have all made a difference in so many lives. See you on Sunday!**





## UPCOMING EVENTS

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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*

### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Dominic Arcadipane  
4 Ken Westbrook  
12 Mike Coffey  
16 Evelyn Laux

### NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11 Stephanie & Brock Labadie





# 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





## 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.

Jen and Michelle from Tiffany’s Closet come on a monthly basis with free clothes for the attendees to choose from.





## NOVEMBER HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES

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- National Adoption Month
- American Diabetes Month
- Aviation History Month
- Banana Pudding Lovers Month
- Bereaved Siblings Month, Worldwide
- Diabetic Eye Disease Month
- National Epilepsy Awareness Month
- Eye Donation Month
- National Family Caregivers Month
- National Georgia Pecan Month
- National Inspirational Role Models Month
- National Long-Term Care Awareness Month
- Lung Cancer Awareness Month
- National Marrow Awareness Month
- Movember
- National Memoir Writing Month
- National Native-American Heritage Month
- National Novel Writing Month
- Peanut Butter Lovers' Month
- Picture Book Month
- Prematurity Awareness Month
- National Runaway Prevention Month
- Vegan Month, Worldwide



**FALL BACK TIME!**

**SUNDAY 11/5**



WISHING YOU & YOUR FAMILY A  
**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**



**TAKE & BAKE PIE ORDER PICK UP**

**11/15 FROM 10-2**

**11/19 FROM 11:30-1:30**

**TO ORDER TEXT SUE 6037494169**





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."*

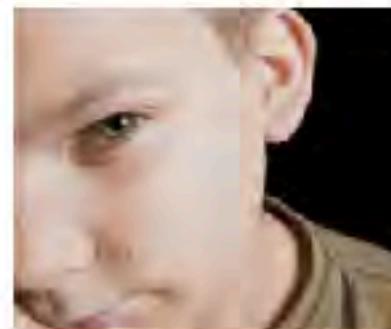


### "EMPOWERING ACTIONS"

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!

WE SAVED A SEAT FOR YOU...  
SEE YOU IN CHURCH ON SUNDAY @ 10am