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CLAIMED THAT ANY OF HIS
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THEY SHARED EVERYTHING THEY
OWNED.

- ACTS 4:32

FIRST UMC  PORTSMOUTH
APRIL BEACON
2024



The community of believers was one in heart and mind. None of them would say, "This is mine" about any of their possessions but held everything in common. The apostles continued to bear powerful witness to the resurrection of the lord Jesus and an abundance of grace was at work among them all. Acts: 4:32-33

Dear Friends,

Who can believe that April is here and Easter has already found us? Time seems to be running away, in my mind. While we are still celebrating the resurrection, our bible stories will begin to center on the life of the new church that sprang into existence after Jesus had sent the Holy Spirit. I love these stories of the early church especially when I read how united they started out. We know in the earliest days, the fellowship of believers was of one heart and mind and the result was a fast growing church. Wouldn't we all enjoy that kind of existence!

Acts 2 tells us how they achieved such a state. They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching, and to the fellowship and the breaking of bread and to prayer. We often bemoan the state of the church today. Where are the people, we wonder. Where are the younger generation? I believe that when we act like the early church in our devotion, we will see the fruit of that devotion; more believers in our pews.

With Spring in our midst and daylight hours brightening our days, I invite you all to think about what we might do to grow our church. Bible study, prayer groups, intergenerational vacation bible school and outreach to the unchurched are all activities that would expand our faith and invite new folks to join us at church and more importantly to have a relationship with Jesus.

Unity of heart and mind can only be achieved when we gather together to pray, study and serve. I invite you to come out of the cocoon of winter and take on the wings of metamorphosis like our Easter butterflies. Let me know what activities you wish to engage in so that we might all grow as Christian believers.

April Blessings,

Pastor Jackie



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



SUNDAYS
10am



FIRST UMC LIFE

MASTER GARDENING SUNDAY



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



EASTER PIE ANGELS



ST. PATRICKS DAY SUNDAY



PALM SUNDAY



EASTER SUNDAY



VISIT OUR PHOTO GALLERY FOR MORE PICTURES @ <https://fumcportsmouth.com/photo-galleries/>



FIRST UMC LIFE



MEET PASTOR ROBERT [BOB] STEWART

Pastor Bob will be joining First UMC as our new Pastor on July 1, 2024. Here is Pastor Bob's bio.

I am married to Sharon Stewart, and we celebrated our 51st wedding anniversary on September 30, 2023. We have two children, Jaime and Jeffrey. They are both married, and each have three children. Our oldest grandchild, Quinn, is 17 and a senior and will be graduating this June from Pembroke Academy. Our youngest grandchild, Gabriella, is in third grade in Pembroke, NH.

We moved to New Hampshire from Michigan in 1989 as a result of a promotion as a corporate Training Director with the company I was employed. In my career before becoming a Pastor, I was in the college bookstore business for twenty years employed with Follett Higher Education Group. My last position with Follett before retiring June 30, 2017, was as the Director of the Boston College Bookstores.

Ten years ago while I was still employed with Follett, I began my ministry journey being part of a team with 3 other men from Bow Mills UMC. We served North Charlestown UMC in North Charlestown, NH. I then became a Licensed Local Pastor in 2017 and have served St. Paul's UMC - Manchester with a 3/4 time appointment. I will be retiring June 30, 2024 after 7 wonderful years of ministry with that congregation.

Sharon and I have always been looked upon as a team. We serve God and we serve in ministry together. Sharon has many gifts and while we were at St. Paul's, she would always transform the altar and other areas of the church with her visual arts gift. Together we both do sacred dance which is an act of worshipping God. When we were members of Bow Mills UMC we had a large adult dance choir, and two children dance choirs. All three choirs were directed by Sharon. I also like to make a joyful noise to the Lord by singing in the choir.

I am currently a member of the Manchester Clergy Association. My clergy brothers and sisters serve various denominations in the Greater Manchester area. Together we have a Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service, and this past year St. Paul's was the host church. We, as a group, jointly serve in Mission by having events to support Families in Transition of Manchester. I am very much involved in developing our spiritual life. We accomplish that through our worship services, developing our prayer lives and through Bible Study. I am currently doing two Bible studies at St. Paul's after completing a study ... 52 Weeks With Jesus. Yes ... we spent 52 Weeks With Jesus. I offer the studies in-person and also via zoom for those who work. It is always my desire to insure everyone has an opportunity to study God's Word.

Outreach and Mission is another high priority of mine. We need to be active in our community and help those in need. Jesus often said, I did not come to be served but I came to serve others. That is what we as a church need to do too.

The children of the church is close to our hearts. We love the children, and they love us. I love their hugs and look forward to them every week. We are doing a Children's church now at St. Paul's and the children are dismissed to learn about Jesus after I have children's time with them. God has a mailbox at St. Paul's and sends the children a weekly message which is yet another opportunity to build their spiritual life. We had our first VBS last year and we had 7- 8 children in attendance.

I look forward to being in ministry with First United Methodist Church - Portsmouth. One thing that I have always emphasized in my career over the years, including ministry, is that there is no "I" in the word "TEAM." It will take a team to build and grow the church. We need to do it together as a team. I hope you want to serve alongside of us.

"I can do ALL things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4: 13 NRSV



April 2024

FIRST UMC WORSHIP SCHEDULE

NOTE - If you are unable to meet the proposed schedule please let the office know immediately and we will reschedule.

DATE	LITURGIST	ACOLYTES	BELL RINGERS	GREETERS & USHERS	FACEBOOK LIVE	WORSHIP TECH	SOUND TECH	COFFEE HOUR
April 7th PennySue Preaching	Brock LaBadie	Liam S	Labadie's	Hollen Groff Rosanne Groff	Sue Richards	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Melanie Lindgren Jen Berry
April 14th Dave Preaching	Yvonne Griffin	Maria & Dominic A	Sillanpaa's	Rosie Buswell Linda Reiber	Bella S.	Sue Richards	Sue Sarosiek	Nancy Chesser PennySue Orr
April 21st	PennySue Orr	Lilly & Georgia S	Arcadipane's	Yvonne Griffin Marilyn Stebbins	Sue Richards	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Stephanie LaBadie
April 28th	Cathy VanReenen	Bella S & Maria A	Rosie & Will	Anne Coffey Mike Coffey	Sue Richards	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Yvonne Griffin, Sue Lange, Rosanne Groff, Cynthia Drake

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

April 21st @ 6:30 pm Trustees ZOOM meeting

April 22nd @ 6:30 Leadership Board meeting

Any Wednesday from 10-2 come and visit Sue S and Sue R in the church office there is always something to do.



WHAT'S GOING ON THIS MONTH?

APRIL 2024

There are a ton of April holidays and observances here are just a few to think about!



We are all
made of stories

We would love to hear yours!

PIE MINISTRY FROM SUE RICHARDS

I'd like to tell you about what some people call our "pie ministry". This is only possible because of my incredibly loyal and dedicated previous and present Pie Angel team members! We have had a fun time making and baking pies since our Pumpkin Patch began in 2004! Many of our "regulars" have bought pies for many years! A few years ago, we started taking orders for frozen "Take'n' Bake" pies for Thanksgiving and then also for Easter.

I am so touched by our customers' continued loyalty. Many I recognize by sight, know by name, and we greet each other with big smiles and hugs! Part of this is because I'm at the Pumpkin Patch almost every day and I'm the face they see when picking their pies up. Before Easter and Thanksgiving I text or call my master list of "regulars" to ask if they want to order pies? Their replies touch my heart because they thank me for reaching out to them.

Here are a few of the comments these friends recently made:

Sarah was driving to family get-together and asked if I could bake her 2 pies? She showed up with a small gift to thank me for baking them!

Alli said she loves our pecan pies so much that she won't buy them anywhere else!

June, who was David's 2nd grade teacher in Rye, bought an apple pie as a gift for a friend. This is what she texted me: Nancy is delighted with her pie, and said, "If this is the same lady who made the last one, it should be delicious!" She also said, "We like to support that church at pumpkin time! They are a busy church!" Yea!!! Joyous Easter !!! ❤️✝️❤️

Love and Hugs, 🤗 Sue Richards

**START THINKING ABOUT THE STORY
YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH ALL
OF US FOR THE MAY BEACON!**



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

RECOVERY CHURCH

Come join us on Wednesday's at 6:15 for Food & Fellowship and 7pm for the worship service. As Freddy Petrone says come for the food - stay for the soul.



**A Church Created BY the Recovery Community
FOR the Recovery Community**

129 Miller Ave, Portsmouth



I GOT BRIDGED

Learn more about Freddy Petrone and how I Got Bridged is bridging the gap for people in need.

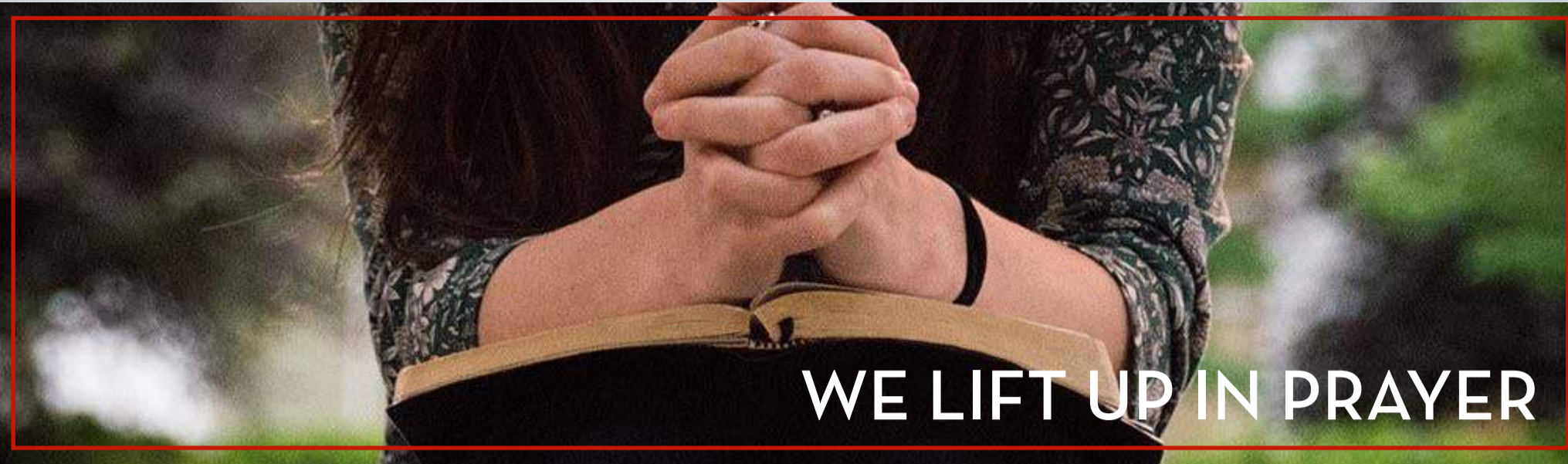


SPRING CLEAN UP

The I Got Bridged crew is ready to Spring into action to help those in need with lawn cleanup!!



Do you want to learn more about how you can help call the church office @ 603.436.6038 or visit:
First United Methodist Church - Portsmouth <https://fumcportsmouth.com/>



WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER



For those who face homelessness, food insecurity, mental illness, and addictions, Blake, James, Kaya, Linda, Bregan, Nancy, Erika, Gloria, Peter, Glenn, and our Church Family, Friends and Community

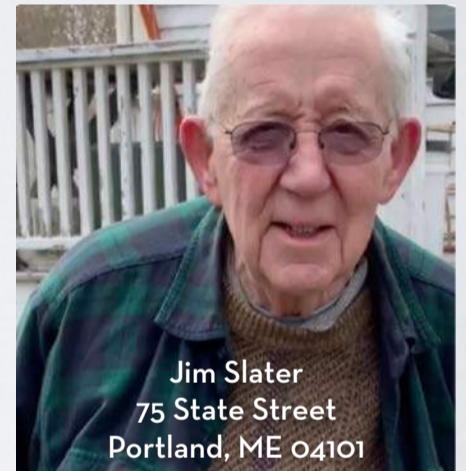
CARING FOR EACH OTHER

We are a FAMILY first and foremost...and there are some who are not able to make it to church on regularly or be part of the activities that are happening at First UMC. Prayers, cards, calls or a visit are always welcome!

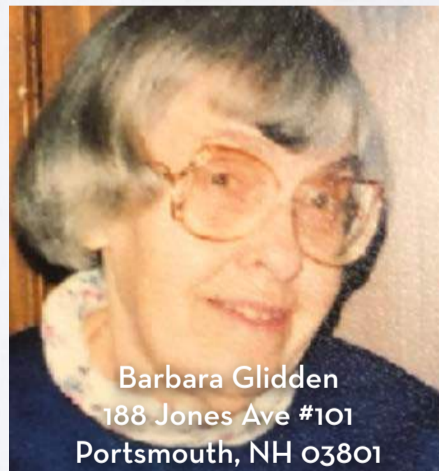
We also lift up in prayer those names that have been shared with us a community as they go through their own challenges and we ask that God cradles them in His loving arms.



Ruth Griffin
479 Richards Avenue
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Jim Slater
75 State Street
Portland, ME 04101



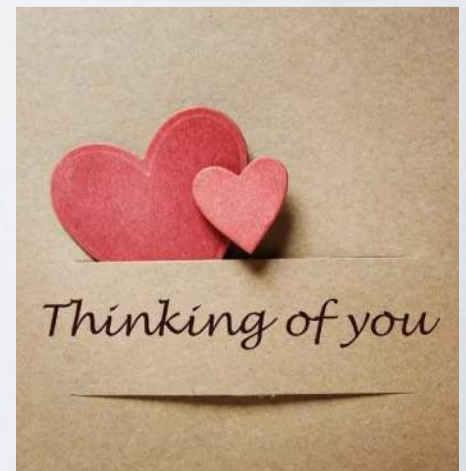
Barbara Glidden
188 Jones Ave #101
Portsmouth, NH 03801



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



Ken & Jenya Westbrook
20 Islington Street #402
Portsmouth, NH 03801





UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Get a card in the mail or send a quick text or instant messenger to wish these church family members a Happy Birthday day filled with love, laughter and lots of cake!



April Birthdays

2 Erica Arcadipane
5 Amanda Veilleux
6 Kathy Brown
15 Abigail Veilleux
16 Barbara Kirkham
24 Elsie Sillanpaa
27 Marilyn Stebbins

April Anniversaries

24 David & Kathy Brown
26 Tim & PennySue Orr



DIGITAL DISCIPLES

In our interconnected world, technology plays a crucial role in spreading the gospel message. Social media platforms and smartphones have made digital discipleship an influential method for global discipleship. You can be part of it!



JOIN US FOR
LIVE STREAMING
WORSHIP ON OUR
facebook page



share

you can help us grow please like and share our posts!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

fumcportsmouth.com

THINGS CHANGE WEEKLY 

Want to learn more about the importance of Digital Discipleship check out this website @ <https://orangeleaders.com/2023/01/12/why-digital-discipleship-matters-for-student-ministry/>



First UMC is a Reconciling Congregation dedicated to worshiping, learning, and serving with ALL people embracing Jesus Christ's message of love and acceptance.

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.

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

