

THE WINTER IS PAST

THE RAINS ARE OVER AND GONE
FLOWERS APPEAR ON THE EARTH

THE SEASON OF SINGING
HAS COME

SONG OF SONGS
2:11B-12A

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FIRST UMC  PORTSMOUTH

MAY BEACON

2024



"For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledoves is heard in our land".

Dear Friends,

Happy May Day to all of you. It is the perfect day to dance around the May Pole or give loved ones flowers. It is a day of celebration and looking toward the future with hope. After all, it is Spring and that means new life. This morning, we have new life with our UMC as the delegates at General Conference have voted to take away the offensive language in the Book of Discipline, against LGBTQ folk. This helps our church to be more fully inclusive! What a joy it is to see this day come!

As I celebrate this milestone in our denomination, I can't help but think about the places here at PFUMC that need redemption and spring cleaning. I can't help thinking about my own life and where I need some fresh air as well. This month, I encourage each of you to think about your own lives and where change is needed. I encourage you to think of how you might be a messenger of hope here in our community and I invite you to think of the changes that God is asking you to make so that the world and our church will be a better place.

Spring is in the air. I pray that you will be those voices of positivity and new life as we move into this next season in the life of our church.

Spring Blessings,

Pastor Jackie

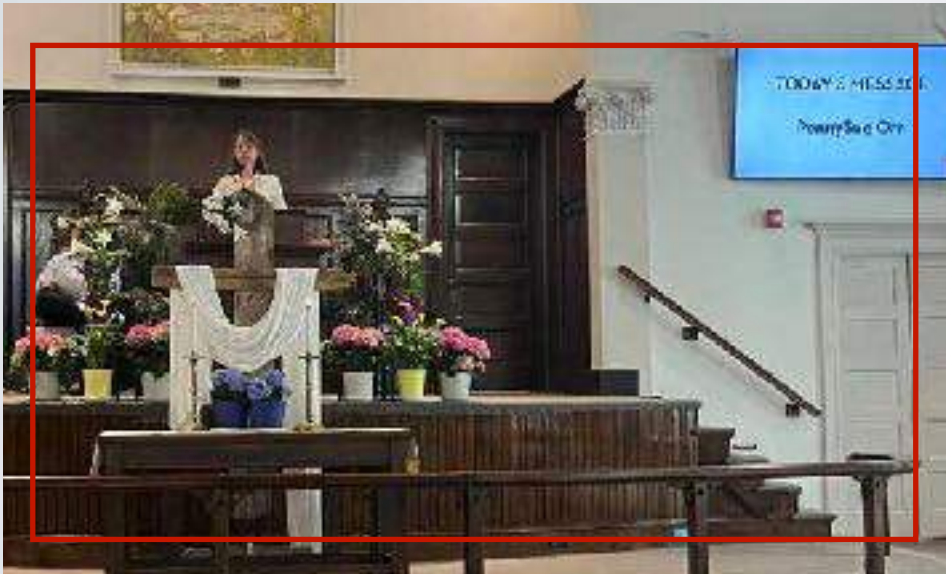


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



FIRST UMC LIFE

Guest Speaker PennySue Orr



Guest Speaker David Richards



Earth Day Sunday



Demanding Love Sunday



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



SUNDAYS 10am



FIRST UMC LIFE




May 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
May 5	Marilyn Stebbins	Liam S	Sillanpaa's	Rosann Groff Hollen Groff	Sue Sarosiek	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Kellie Langs Sue Richards
May 12 Mother's Day	Sue Richards	Maria & Dominic A	Labadie's	Yvonne Griffin Marilyn Stebbins	Bella S.	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Cathy VanReenen (PennySue or Yvonne)
May 19	Yvonne Griffin	Lilly & Georgia S	Arcadipane's	John VanReenen Cathy VanReenen	Sue Richards	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Sillanpaa Family
May 26	Stephanie LaBadie	Bella S & Maria A	Rosie & Will	Jan Cansdale Al Cansdale	Sue Richards	Steve Scott	Dave Richards	Jen Berry Melanie Lindgren

Thank you... 

Thank you church family for the beautiful surprise Birthday bouquet , your many cards of remembering and for ALL THE LOVE AND CARING FOR ME on my special day and in the past also! You bless my days more than you know and my love goes out to each of you!

Blessings Always,
Marilyn.

*We are all
made of stories*

We would love to hear yours!

ROAD TRIP FROM THE LABADIE FAMILY

The Labadie family traveled to Tennessee and Mississippi at the end of April to visit our extended Jones family - relatives on Stephanie's father's side. We saw some sights in Memphis and had a short stay with cousins in Jackson, TN before the big Jones family reunion in Pochahontas, TN. We spent the weekend with Stephanie's cousin, Pastor Ron Norvell of the New Salem Baptist Church in Iuka, MS, where Daphne and Jack were invited to visit the Kindergarten Sunday School class for a lesson on the fruits of the Spirit after which we were blessed to be able to witness our cousin Ty's (Ron's grandson) baptism!



Daphne and Jack outside the Sunday School classroom

Daphne and Jack on the playground with Ty and his brother Eli





*We are all
made of stories*

We would love to hear yours!

MIRACLES DO HAPPEN

A friend from RC who has difficulty walking, his legs were shaking and couldn't move. He is in so much pain every day, he had a coat hanger around his neck to end it all. He fell and was on his knees and figured he'd pray. He said, 'God, I can't take it any more, please help me'. He woke up the next morning with no pain! Praise God!

*Believe
miracles
do happen*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



SUNDAYS
10am



FIRST UMC LIFE

MOTHER'S day MADE EASY! ✓

3 days only - May 11, 18, 25
from 10-4
129 Miller Avenue - Portsmouth



Homemade lasagna dinner 8x8 pan - \$20
[frozen and ready for you to bake]



Flowering plants and herbs from our friends at North Hill Nursery

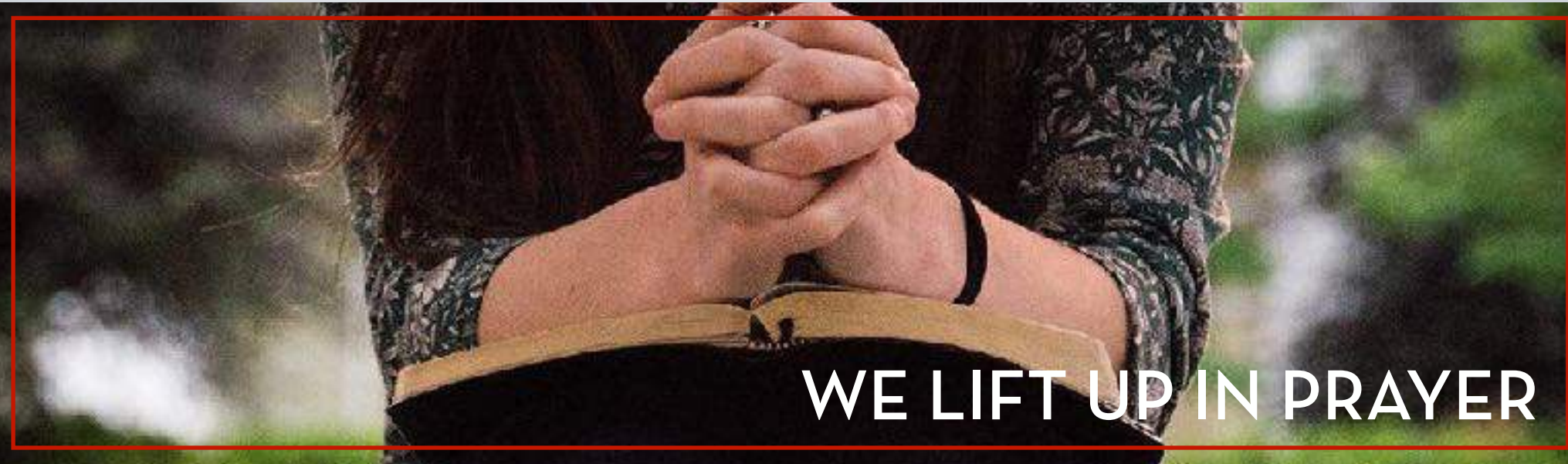
UNITED METHODISTS REPEAL LONGSTANDING BAN ON LGBTQ CLERGY AND SAME SEX MARRIAGES

LEARN MORE HERE:

<https://apnews.com/article/united-methodist-lgbtq-clergy-general-conference-acabe18fe22b6838e3005ad8895534fa>

<https://www.npr.org/2024/05/01/1248468256/united-methodist-church-lifts-bans-on-lgbtq-clergy-and-same-sex-weddings>





WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER



For those who face homelessness, food insecurity, mental illness, and addictions, Jack, Isha, Aerial, Erica, Kathy, Olivia, Elaine, Becky, Jesse, Matthew, Blake, James, Kaya, Linda, Bregan, Nancy, Erika, Gloria, Peter, Glenn, and our Church Family, Friends and Community

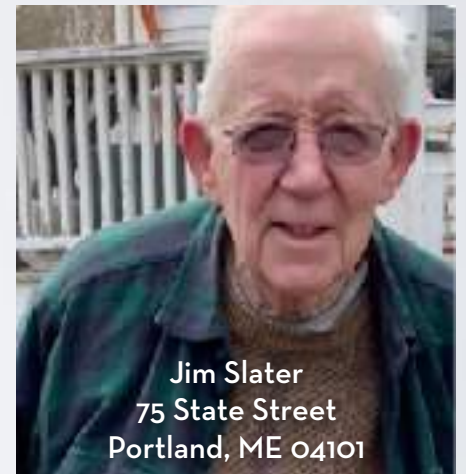
CARING FOR EACH OTHER

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 as they go through their own challenges and we ask that God cradles them in His loving arms.



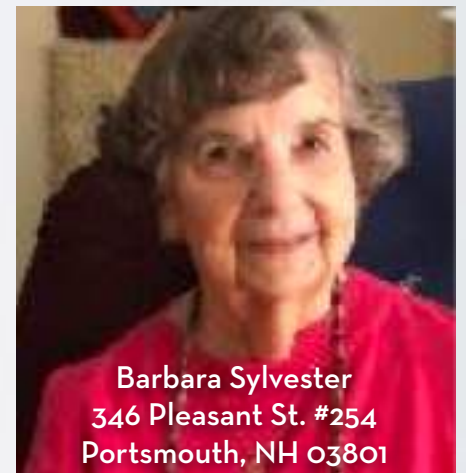
Ruth Griffin
479 Richards Avenue
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Jim Slater
75 State Street
Portland, ME 04101



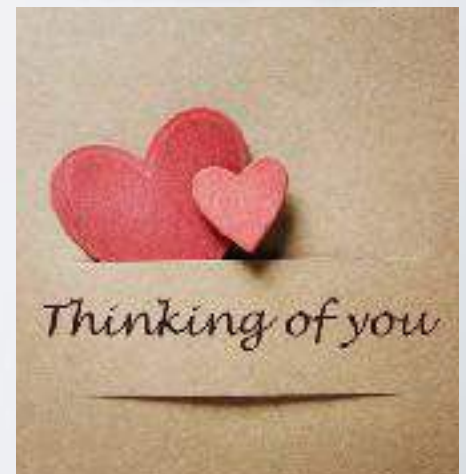
Barbara Glidden
188 Jones Ave #101
Portsmouth, NH 03801



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



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



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/>



UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 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!



May Birthdays

- 5 Joyce Murphy
- 13 Jennifer Berry
- 13 Brock Labadie
- 17 Cathy VanReenen
- 24 Georgia Sillanpaa

- 24 Liam Sillanpaa
- 25 Susan Richards
- 26 Will Minnihan
- 28 Jane Richards
- 28 George Bennett

May Anniversaries

- 1 John & Cathy VanReenen
- 8 Mike & Anne Coffey



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

