



GETTING TO KNOW YOU!

FIRST UMC PORTSMOUTH
AUGUST BEACON

2024



From the desk of Pastor Bob...

Greetings my siblings in Christ. It is hard to believe that a month has passed since Sharon, and I arrived at FUMC Portsmouth. I want to give you a great big pat on the back for wearing name tags so we can learn your name and match it up to your face. I think we are doing okay but there are still a few that we are working on. I know those name tags may not be easy to handle but if you are interested in a magnetic name tag similar to what Sharon and I wear (of course with your name 😊 on it), I would be happy to order one for you. The cost is ten dollars. I think it is nice for those who visit the church to see who the members

of the church are and can address you by the name from the tag. I am always looking at name tags when I go grocery shopping or shopping in other stores. I like to thank them for their service using their name as it appears on their name tags. Again thank you for helping us get to know you better through the wearing of the tags.

I also want to thank those of you who have signed up to sit down with me in this first month. I plan to continue this for a little longer because I do want to get to know my new church family. I am starting to know some of you, and I have heard some of your concerns and dreams you have for our church. Thank you. In a couple of my visits thus far I have heard some of the same concerns and some of the same dream(s). Financial health of the church of course is on many of our minds...mine included. This I know... God will always provide. We (Sharon and me) try to always give out of our abundance because God does the same for us. Always remember that God loves a cheerful giver, and God in turn is cheerful as well when he provides for each of us. The other concern I have heard is having enough teachers to teach our children of the church. If we could get 10-12 people to agree to teach that would give us 5-6 teams. With 5 or 6 teams that would mean that you would only have to teach once every 5 to 6 weeks. I think that is very doable. You could be very instrumental in shaping the lives of our children of the church. There are two things that Jesus has said in scripture that I have kept close to my heart as a member of any church and as a Pastor. Here are those two scriptures:

Matthew 19:14... “**But Jesus said, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.”** Please remember that we are all children. We are children of God, and we need each other to grow and strengthen the kingdom here on earth.

Mark 10:45...**For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”** Will you please pray in the days ahead and listen for Jesus’ calling. It may be a whisper, but he might be calling your name.

I know that change can be difficult for some and even harder for others and I understand. Please know this, I make changes because I think it will enhance our worship experience or help us grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. Bevan and I have been talking and I have asked him to start the prelude music 5 minutes prior to the start of worship. I think listening to music can prepare ourselves to worship God especially when we have someone as gifted as Bevan. I would ask if you are seated in the sanctuary for worship and Bevan starts playing the prelude to hold your conversations for coffee hour. He goes to great lengths to select the music to hopefully speak to your hearts. Let’s prepare our hearts for Jesus when Bevan begins playing the prelude.

Finally friends...the Summer Olympics have started, and I so enjoy watching all the athletes competing for a medal for their respective countries. They work so hard to prepare themselves for this worldwide event. It’s a time when each athlete can be together in harmony representing their country going for the GOLD as they say. If we want to have peace and harmony in our world let us be going for the GOLD by taking out the “L” in that word. Let us be Going for GOD!

See you in Church, Pastor Bob

God speaks to you through His personal love letter, the Bible.



LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST:

It is truly remarkable how reading God's word draws people closer to Him as He speaks through the Scriptures. The Holy Spirit reaches out to connect with us even before we fully receive the Spirit in our hearts. Through the conviction of Scripture, we will often discover a need we may not have previously recognized, drawing us closer to God. Enjoy getting closer to Him!

August 4, 2024

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a

Psalm 51:1-12

Ephesians 4:1-16

John 6:24-35

August 11, 2024

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33

Psalm 130

Ephesians 4:25 - 5:2

John 6:35, 41-51

August 18, 2024

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

Psalm 111

Ephesians 5:15-20

John 6: 51-58

August 25, 2024

1 Kings 8:1,6.10-11, 22-30, 41-43

Psalm 84

Ephesians 6:10-20

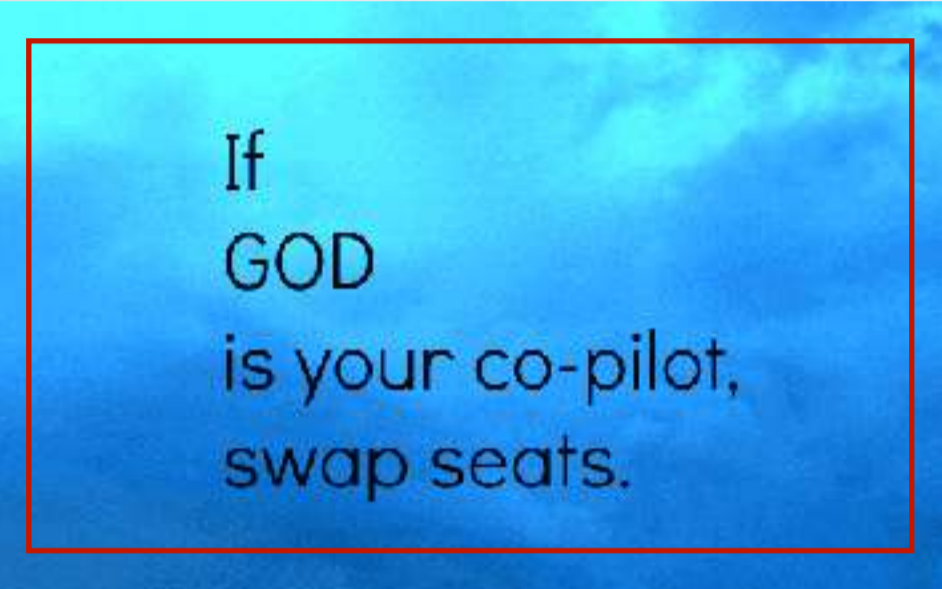
John 6:56-69

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



FIRST UMC LIFE

JULY 28TH - WHAT IS A MIRACLE?



JULY 21ST - REST!



JULY 14TH - JOY



JULY 7TH - WELCOME PASTOR BOB & SHARON



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



SUNDAYS 10am



FIRST UMC LIFE



GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

Pastor Bob would like to get to know each of us better and invites you to sign up on the sheet in the narthex to schedule a time for a conversation. Whether you're looking for a listening ear, a funny story, a blessing, or a prayer, he's eager to connect with you.



AN INVITATION EACH SUNDAY

At both church entrances, you'll find red hearts where you can write the names of those you wish to lift up in prayer, as well as any joys you'd like to share. These hearts will be displayed on the pulpit cross, serving as a reminder of the power of prayer! What's on your heart today?



A SHORT PRAYER TO SPEAK FROM YOUR HEART

Lord, please calm my heart and my soul today, so many things are out of my control and I need your love to soothe me and calm me. Your love lets me know it will be OK.



August 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
August 4	John VanReener	Maria & Dominic	Rosie & Will	Yvonne Griffin Marilyn Stebbins	Sue Richards	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Cathy VanReener Rosanne Groff
August 11	Sharon Stewart	Liam	Silianpa's	Rosanne Groff Hollen Groff	Sue Richards	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Yvonne Griffin Rosie Duswell
August 18	Sue Richards	Lilly & Georgia	Arcadipane's	Jan Cansdale Al Cansdale	Suzanne Olbricht	Steve Scott	Dave Richards	Jen Berry Melanie Lindgren
August 25	Marilyn Stebbins	Bella & Maria	Labadie's	John VanReener Cathy VanReener	Bella	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Stephanie Labadie

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



SUNDAYS
10am



FIRST UMC LIFE

CHURCH YARD SALE - AUGUST 17TH @ 9AM

You can start bringing your treasures for the yard sale to the church. Please remember that we will NOT be taking any electronics, clothes, baby items, or books. Any questions please ask Sue S or Sue R.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE CHURCH YARD SALE!

We need all the help we can get on August 17th getting ready for the yard sale. There are tasks for all ages!...please let the office know if you can:

1. Help with setting up at 8am the morning of the yard sale.
2. Work the yard sale and welcome the community to First UMC from 10-2!
3. Bring in baked goods, small bottles of water to be sold that day.
4. Help clean up post the yard sale.
5. Help dispose/recycle any and all items that did not get sold.

REMINDER THAT FURNITURE AND HOME GOODS SELL QUICKLY!



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

RECOVERY CHURCH BAPTISMS

The evening of July 24th was yet another amazing spirit filled Wednesday night with the Recovery Church Community. There were 100+ gathered together on the church front lawn for a evening of food, fellowship, and Holy Baptism. Thank you Pastor Bob, Sharon and Sue for being an integral part of the baptism of 12 individuals...there was so much joy, fun and joyful tears experienced. Praise God!



YOU ARE INVITED

To join the Recovery Church Community - Every Wednesday at 6:00 pm for dinner and 7pm for worship service.



FIRST UMC LIFE



We lift our
“prayer hearts” for:
The family of Milagros
Martinez, Family of Bobbie
Noble, Glenn, Cindy, Andy,
Erica, Travel mercies,
Linda, Stephen, Sheila,
Emma, Rachel, Aerial,
Marilyn, Joyce, Simon,
Mary,
Our country,
and Our Church

CARING FOR EACH OTHER

At our core, we are a FAMILY. We recognize that some members may not be able to attend church regularly or participate in activities at First UMC. They are always in our thoughts, and prayers, cards, calls, or visits are always appreciated.

We also lift up in prayer the names that have been shared with us, asking that God wrap them in His loving embrace as they face their own challenges.



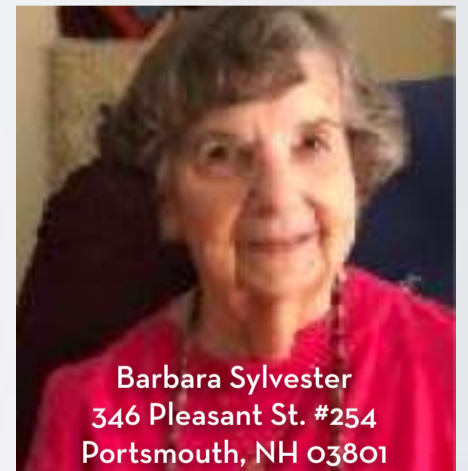
Ruth Griffin
346 Pleasant St. #106
Portsmouth, NH 03801



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

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

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!



August Birthdays

- 5 Pete Engel**
- 8 Anne Coffey**
- 10 Steve Langs**
- 12 Art Munson**
- 12 Sharon Stewart**
- 13 Pastor Sue Ellery**
- 13 Andrew Laux**
- 18 Priscilla Zoffoli**
- 20 Jesse Bennett**
- 20 Suzanne Olbricht**
- 25 Bevan Bloemendaal**
- 26 Linda Reiber**
- 27 Jan Cansdale**
- 28 TJ Scott**



UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Anniversary to these incredible people who are part of our church family and are celebrating a “together” milestone!



2 Bill & Connie Parsons
7 David & Sue Richards
9 Joseph & Kim Philbrick

13 Marilyn & Gil [in heaven] Stebbins
29 Suzanne Olbricht & Kevin Fickenscher



UPCOMING EVENTS

CHURCH COFFEE HOUR

Every Sunday after church we spend time catching up with each other and meeting and getting to know the visitors that day. It is a time of great fellowship and witness...have you signed up to help keep this important outreach going? See Yvonne Griffin for more details and donations are graciously accepted.



COFFEE HOUR

VACATION TIME

Pastor Bob and Sharon will be on a well-deserved vacation from August 18th through August 25th, and we pray for their safe return. For any prayer concerns during this time, please reach out to Bevan at bbloemendaal@comcast.net. For other pastoral needs, contact the church office at 603.436.6038 or email office@fumcportsmouth.net.





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

