



UNITED FIRST 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.

FIRST UMC BEACON
September 2024

hello
September

FROM THE DESK OF
PASTOR BOB



It is hard to believe that this is Labor Day weekend. Where did the summer go? Labor Day is usually our benchmark that we say goodbye to summer, and we get back into our routines. For the children and some adults as well, it means going back to school. It marks that we start getting back into our committee meetings and to be about the mission of the church. I will be talking with the various chairs this coming week and set our meeting schedules for the fall season.

On Thursday, September 5th we celebrate with the city the Portsmouth Peace Treaty Day by joining other churches and ringing our church bells at 3:47pm to commemorate this important day in history that took place on September 5, 1905. Can you represent FUMC by ringing the church bell on this day? Please let me or the church office know if you are ready, willing and able.

One thing for sure with the fall season is the arrival and set up of our Pumpkin Patch. Our lawn goes from green to a sea of orange. What a great ministry this has been for FUMC Portsmouth. We are able to pay our Mission Shares for the year as a result from the sales of the pumpkins, homemade pies and mum flower sales. It will be my first time with you and the Pumpkin Patch, but I am excited to see what exposure this brings to our church. I know that Sue Richards coordinates the Pumpkin Patch, and I also know it takes a village **(that's all of us)** to pull this off so let's be prepared to help Sue in every way we can. Many hands make light work. Pumpkins are scheduled to arrive on Saturday, September 28th. Please watch the bulletin for more information on where you can help.

Rally Day is scheduled to start on Sunday, September 29th. We are starting something new and looking for teams to teach our children. What a gift you would be to our children. Please sign up. The more teams we have the better.

I want to thank Karen Cassidy CLM and Pastor Susan Ellery for preaching on the Sunday's we were away on vacation. It was ironic that we got a taste of fall in advance while we were away. I am grateful that we had an opportunity to recharge our batteries.

See you in church...Shalom

Pastor Bob

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



LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER:

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!

September 8, 2024

*Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23,
Psalm 125, Mark 7:24-37,
James 2:1-10, 14-17*

September 15, 2024

*Proverbs 1:20-33, Psalm 19
James 3:1-12,
Mark 8:27-38*

September 22, 2024

*Proverbs 31:10-3, Psalm 1,
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a,
Mark 9:30-37*

September 29, 2024

*Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22,
Psalm 124, James 5:13-20,
Mark 9:38-50*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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FIRST UMC LIFE

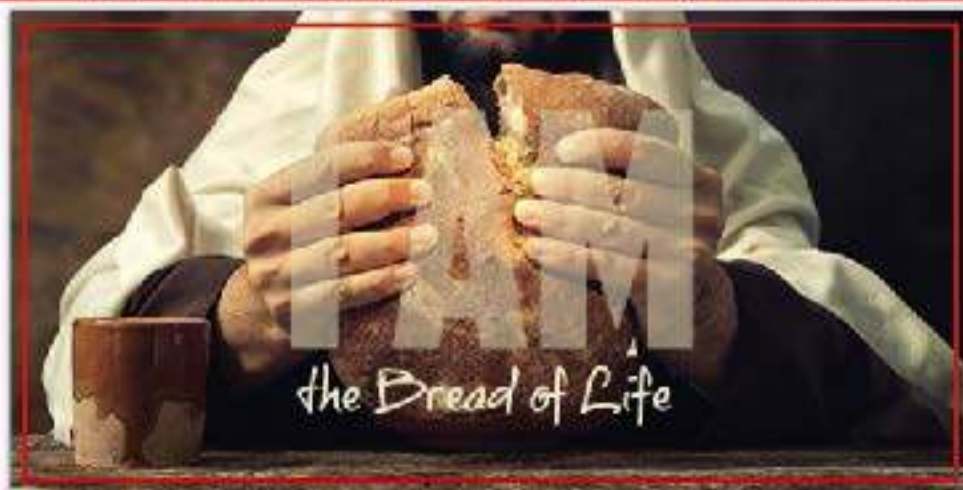
AUGUST 25TH - SUNDAY WITH PASTOR SUE

AUGUST 18TH - WITH KAREN CASSIDY [CLM]



AUGUST 17TH - YARD SALE

AUGUST 11 - I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE PART 2



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

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FIRST UMC LIFE

WILL YOU ANSWER THE CALL?

We are looking for 6-8 volunteers for Sunday School. Curriculum provided, with rotations every six weeks. Help shape our church children's lives. Is God calling you?...contact Pastor Bob or the church office!

God

is calling



Are you Listening?

SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY

Mark your calendars...we will start Sunday School [Children's Church] on September 29th...be sure to invite a friend!



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FIRST UMC LIFE

CHURCH WORK DAY VOLUNTEER NEEDED

The Trustees need your help sprucing up the church grounds. Saturday, September 14th from 9am - noon. Sign up sheet is in the church office and if the weather doesn't cooperate we'll work on indoor projects! There are projects for ALL ages!

CHURCH WORK DAY

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?

**PRAYER
IS POWERFUL**

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FIRST UMC LIFE



Seacoast Family Promise - Volunteers needed

As one of the founding churches for Seacoast Family Promise, First UMC has been assisting families experiencing homelessness for 20+ years now. The families used to come to our church to stay, but since COVID hit in 2020, they have been staying at the Joshua House in Greenland. However, the network of churches involved in this ministry still provide dinners for the families every day. First UMC, along with our partner in this work, Temple Israel, are responsible for providing dinner 5 - 6 weeks per year. Since 2020, Temple Israel volunteers have been providing all the dinners each week, except for Friday nights, which I have been handling on my own.

Two changes are occurring within SFP that will require more church volunteers to engage in this program again. One, the Joshua House is being expanded so we can help more families at a time. With that, the dinner teams will need to be larger to facilitate cooking for a larger group. Because of that, Temple Israel volunteers will going forward only provide meals from Sunday - Wednesday nights during our assigned weeks and First UMC will provide meals Thursday - Saturday. Therefore, I will need additional church volunteers to assist me with providing meals on those nights.

Second, the Director of SFP (Pati) is hoping to start having evening hosts again, where volunteers go into the Joshua House and have dinner with the families, rather than just dropping off food. Church folks interacting with the families is an important part of the program that has been missing since the COVID outbreak. I am hoping to get several volunteers willing to do this as well.

SFP will be holding a training/informational session here at First UMC on Saturday 9/21 from 9 - 11 am ET for anyone interested. Please let me know if you would like to attend.

Our assigned weeks for the remainder of 2024 are as follows: September 15 - 21 & December 1 - 7

This ministry has been an important one for this church since 2003 and I hope people will volunteer so we can continue to be a part of such important outreach. This program changes lives forever. See <https://www.seacoastfamilypromise.org/> for more information.

Jen Berry
Jen.berry76@gmail.com
603-801-3886

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FIRST UMC LIFE

WHY BE DIGITAL DISCIPLES?

- Builds relationships and reaches new visitors
- Spreads the message of God's love
- Shares our Church's message
- Builds community and connections
- Grows our church physically and spiritually
- Facilitates prayer and support
- Recruits volunteers and collaborations

YOU CAN HELP BY: SHARING - VISITING - INVITING - PROMOTING - LIKING OUR POSTS AND WEBSITE

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

DATE	LITURGIST	ACOLYTES	BELL RINGERS	GREETERS & USHERS	FACEBOOK LIVE	WORSHIP TECH	SOUND TECH	COFFEE HOUR
Sept 1	Sharon Stewart	Maria	Rosie & Will	Hollen Groff Rosanne Groff	Sue Richards	Steve Scott	Dave Richards	Yvonne Griffin Sue Lange
Sept 8	Yvonne Griffin	Dominic	Arcadipane's	John VanReenen Cathy VanReenen	Sue Richards	Steve Scott	Dave Richards	Rosanne Groff Nancy Chesser
Sept 15	Brock LaBadie	Maria	Labadie's	Yvonne Griffin Marilyn Stebbins	Suzanne Olbricht	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Suzanne Olbricht Kevin Fickenscher
Sept 22	Marilyn Stebbins	Dominic	Rosie & Will	Jan Cansdale Al Cansdale	Sue Richards	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Cathy VanReenen Cynthia Drake
Sept 29	Jen Berry	Sharon Stewart	Arcadipane's	Kellie Langs Steve Langs	Alexa Langs	Steve Scott	Brock Labadie	Stephanie Labadie

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

RECOVERY CHURCH ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY EVENT

What an amazing evening celebrating the one-year anniversary of the Recovery Church! Over 200 people came together on the front lawn of First UMC for a night of food, fellowship, and music with the Salt and Light Company. A big thank you to everyone who took part in this amazing outreach into the community. God is Good!





COMMUNITY OUTREACH

PUMPKIN PATCH 2024

It's hard to believe that our lawn turns orange at the end of the month!

We have numerous volunteer opportunities available for people of all ages and abilities. Our congregation alone can't meet the demand, so we need your help! Please share this with your family, friends, and on social media. You can sign up online, after church on Sundays, or by texting or calling me at (603) 749-4169. You can also email me at mksrichards@comcast.net. As always, any amount of help is greatly appreciated! Thanks for your continued support. Love and hugs, Sue Richards - Grateful Pumpkin Patch Coordinator



Saturday, Sept. 21 from 9 AM until noonish:

Come help put pallets on the lawn and/or put up signs.

Saturdays, Sept. 28 and Oct. 19 from 10:30 AM until early afternoon:

Come help move pumpkins and gourds from cardboard bins onto pallets; move small pumpkins and gourds from cardboard boxes onto pallets; finalize customer purchases in the Booth; and/or bring in homemade goodies (cookies, bars, whoopie pies, fudge, etc.) to sell.

Daily from Saturday, Sept. 28 - Thurs., Oct. 31:

Help finalize customer purchases in the Booth. An experienced person will show you how easy and fun it is and how happy our customers are!

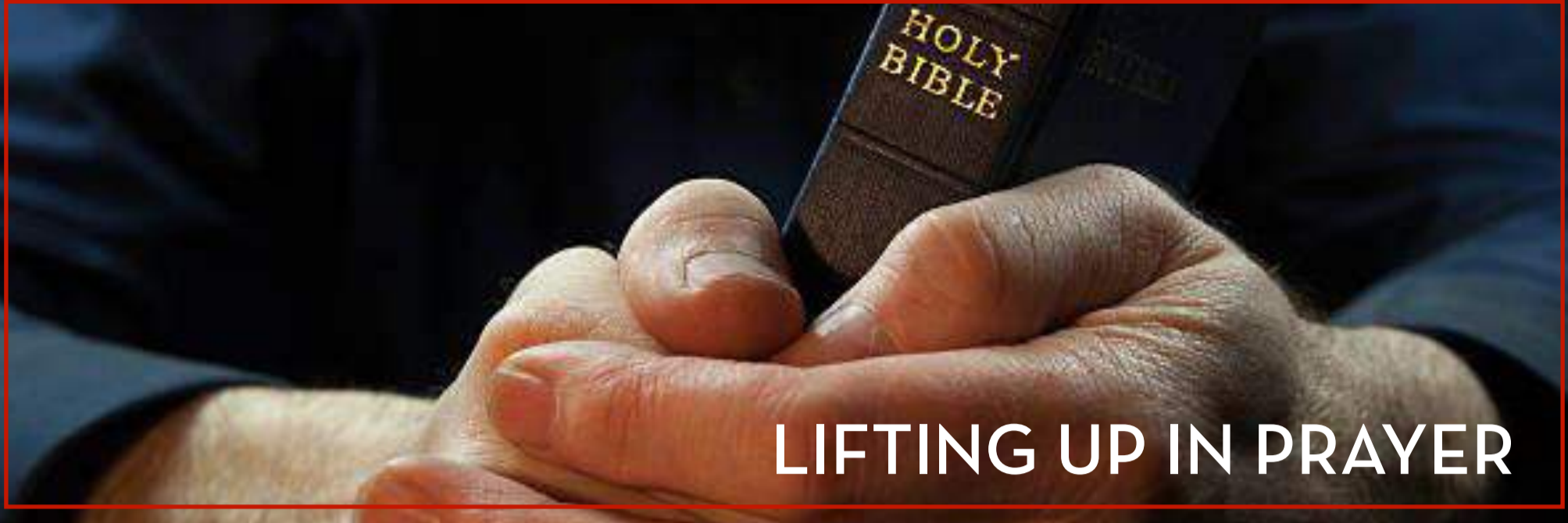
-Bring in homemade goodies (cookies, bars, whoopie pies, fudge, etc.) to sell. Please have them ready for sale in plastic wrap or baggies. (Cookies and bars sell for \$1.00.)

Every Tuesday and Friday in Oct. from 9 AM - Noonish:

Come help bake pies to sell. No experience needed!

Saturday, Nov. 2 from 9 AM until noonish:

Come help remove pallets from the lawn and/or take down signs.



LIFTING UP IN PRAYER



*The Family of Ruth Griffin,
Mark, Anna, Rochelle, AJ,
Marsha, Tim, Elliott, Dan,
Peter, Joanne, Simon, Glenn,
Andy, Erica, Linda, Stephen,
Sheila, Emma, Rachel, Aerial,
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.

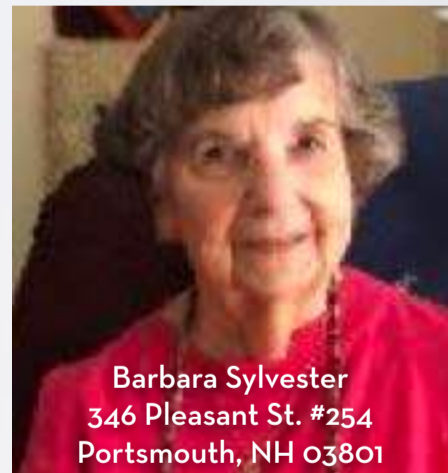
We also lift up in prayer the names that have been shared with us, asking that God wrap them in His loving embrace as they face their own challenges.



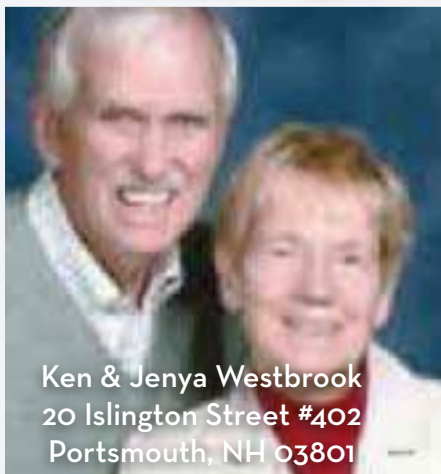
Jim Slater
75 State Street
Portland, ME 04101



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



REST IN PEACE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

RUTH L. GRIFFIN

July 9, 1925 - August 10, 2024

Ruth Shirley Lewin was born on July 9, 1925 in Fall River, Massachusetts to Perez Otis Lewin and Mae Bailey Lewin. At age 13, she and sisters Edith, Inez and Patience moved to Portsmouth, which Ruth thereafter considered her home. She attended Portsmouth High School where she was the head cheerleader, graduating in 1943. She went on to Wentworth Douglas Nursing school where she graduated in 1946. It was while she was a nurse at Wentworth Douglas Hospital that she met John K Griffin. They were married in 1947. The family grew to include Joan Kathleen, John Kenneth Junior, Michael Joseph, Ruth Elizabeth (deceased), Joyce Elaine and Timothy Gerard.

With the “last baby out of the house”, Ruth channeled her energy and her desire to serve into helping others. In 1962 she became the president of the PTA at Whipple School and was a Cub Scout Den mother for her sons. She was active in all her children’s school activities: chaperoning the band to the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, DC, helping to build floats for school parades, encouraging her children to run for school office, join the band, try out for school plays. She insisted they attend college.

The family moved to 479 Richards Avenue in 1963, and Ruth began to revive the “city/farm”, first with chickens rescued from a biology experiment. Rabbits, ducks, dogs, cats, guinea pigs, geese, goats followed; and sheep, generations of sheep: Willy, Ruffy and Tuffy, Pip. Ruth enjoyed seeing children at the fence, and then their children, and grandchildren. Her farm brought joy to many, and if you were lucky, you were invited into her kitchen to help bottle feed a lamb. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Colonial Dames, Daughters of the French and Indian War, Founding Families of Rhode Island. Books in her parlor linked her ancestors, the Wildbores, to the signing of the Magna Carta.

In 1964, she campaigned for Nelson Rockefeller in the NH Primary; Barry Goldwater in the general election, and her career in politics began. It soon became a “family affair” with pamphlet-ing, door-to-door campaigning and standing at candidate booths and outside voting places expected from all the children. In 1968, she was elected a delegate-at large for Richard Nixon at the Miami convention, and again in 1972. Always one to share the wealth, Ruth not only attended Republican Conventions, she often took along her children and grandchildren as Pages. Joyce and Tim went to Miami; grandson Jason Maloney attended New Orleans in 1988 and Houston in 1992; in 1996 it was grandson Kyle Griffin for Bob Dole in San Diego; and in 2000, grandson Nathan Griffin for Bush in Philadelphia. In 2000 she served on the Republican Convention Site Selection Committee and was twice a Republican National Committee Woman.

Locally, Ruth was appointed to the Portsmouth Police Commission and served on the Portsmouth Housing Authority for 43 years, 20 of them as chairman. In 2022 the Ruth Lewin Griffin Place was dedicated in her honor as the first work force housing in Portsmouth.

Ruth learned to knit early in life while working at the psychiatric hospital in Concord. It became a life-long passion, winning her blue ribbons and accolades for her quilting and crocheting, as well throughout the state. In 1970, when she was first elected to the General Court of New Hampshire, her knitting went with her where she developed a reputation and following for being productive while enacting legislation. Ruth was re-elected 5 times and served 10 years in the General Court. In 1972, she was appointed by George Roberts as Majority Whip, the first woman to serve as Whip in that role in New Hampshire. In 1982, she was elected to the NH Senate. In 1984, she was elected to the Executive Council where she served for 22 years, serving under 8 Governors: John Sununu, Judd Gregg, Steve Merrill, Jeanne Shaheen, Craig Benson, John Lynch, Maggie Hassan, and Chris Sununu. As one once joked, “She was not the governor, but she ran the state.”

Ruth was the first woman in New Hampshire to be elected to the State House, the Senate and the Executive Council. She was hailed as a trail blazer for women in state and national politics, with many calling her a mentor, and a diehard advocate of woman’s issues. In 2006 she was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the NH Commission on the Status of Women. In 2004 she was declared Woman of the year, and in 2020, Woman of the Century. In 2015 Senator Kelly Ayotte read a tribute to Ruth Griffin into the Congressional Record to honor her 90th birthday.

Ruth Griffin showed up. She could be counted on to follow through on her promises with the courage of her convictions. She would say, if the red car is in the yard, come in the house, and many did, asking for the help they knew she would try her best to accomplish. She knew how to fight and when to finesse. But whether it was dancing the two-step with George Bush, riding in the lead car at Indy, taking the helicopter to NH Motor Speedway, Ruth Griffin knew how to have fun. She loved to celebrate. Her smile and her dimple lit up the room. That smile will be missed.

Just as Ruth Griffin encouraged her fellow high school cheerleaders to attend nursing school after graduation, and just as while an Executive Counselor, Ruth Griffin declined an offer of sewing machines for the woman’s prison unless they arrived accompanied by computers, Ruth Griffin believed in advocacy for women. With the donations from her 90th Birthday, she established the Ruth Lewin Griffin Fund which offers scholarships through an educational program to young women who reside in Portsmouth Housing. She attended every graduation from this program, proud of each recipient.

We would like to continue this work for her. Donations can be made to The Ruth Lewin Griffin Fund c/o the Portsmouth Housing Authority, 245 Middle Street, Portsmouth New Hampshire 03801.

Ruth is survived by her 5 children: Joan Griffin, John Griffin, Michael Griffin, Joyce Griffin Brawn, Timothy Griffin; 5 grandchildren: Jason David Maloney, Alessandra Lewin Brawn, Michaela Mae Brawn, Kyle Griffin, Nathan Griffin; 6 Great Grandchildren: Nash India Neidich, Alexander Dennison Arnett, Colby Griffin, Kyle Griffin, Hunter Griffin, Veronica Griffin and 1 Great-Great Grandchild Raya Griffin.

There will be a Celebration of Life on October 4, 2024. Church services for family and friends will be held at 10:00AM at the First United Methodist Church on Miller Avenue in Portsmouth, NH, followed at 11:00 by a reception at Jimmy’s Jazz Club, 135 Congress Street in Portsmouth.





UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

September Birthdays

- 3 Nancy Chesser**
- 7 PennySue Orr**
- 13 Veronica Bennett**
- 22 Walter Laux**
- 24 James Batten**
- 27 Kellie Langs**
- 27 Janice Oaks**
- 29 Dianne Crisp**

September Anniversaries

- 6 Kellie & Steve Langs**
- 14 David & Carol Bovee**
- 30 Pastor Bob & Sharon Stewart**

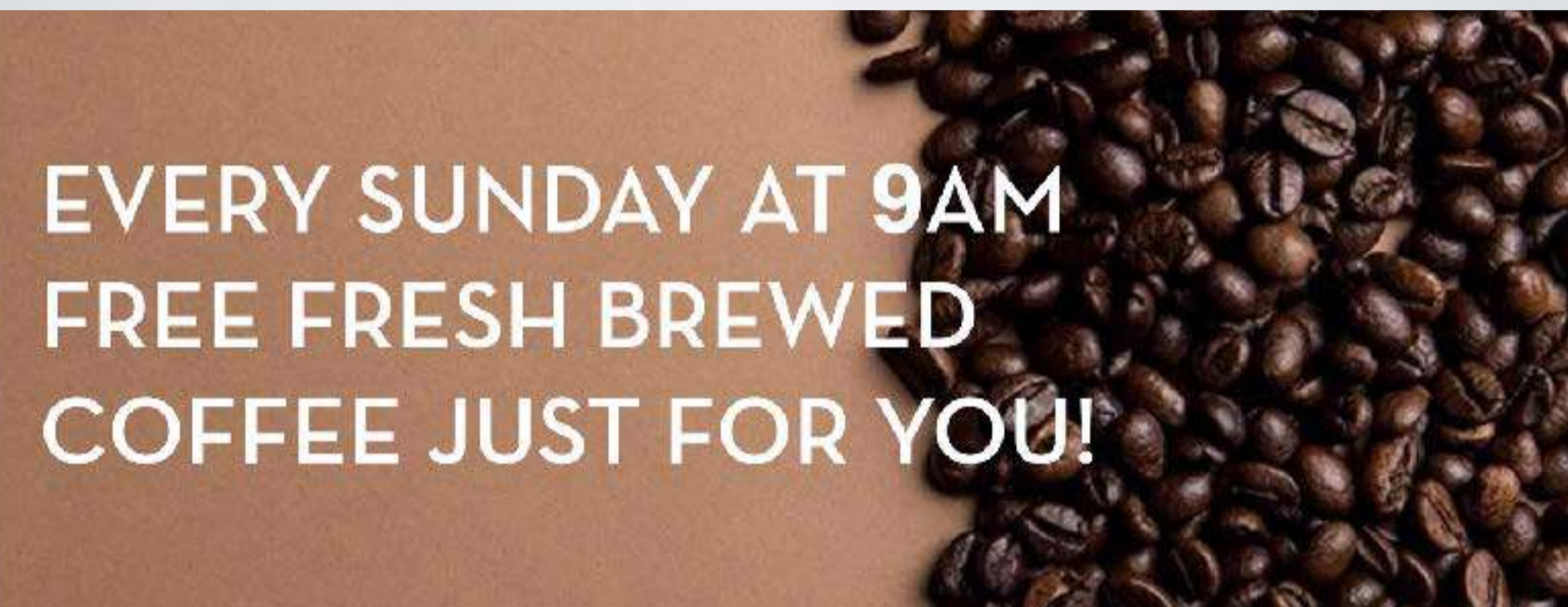




UPCOMING EVENTS

WAITING FOR YOU!

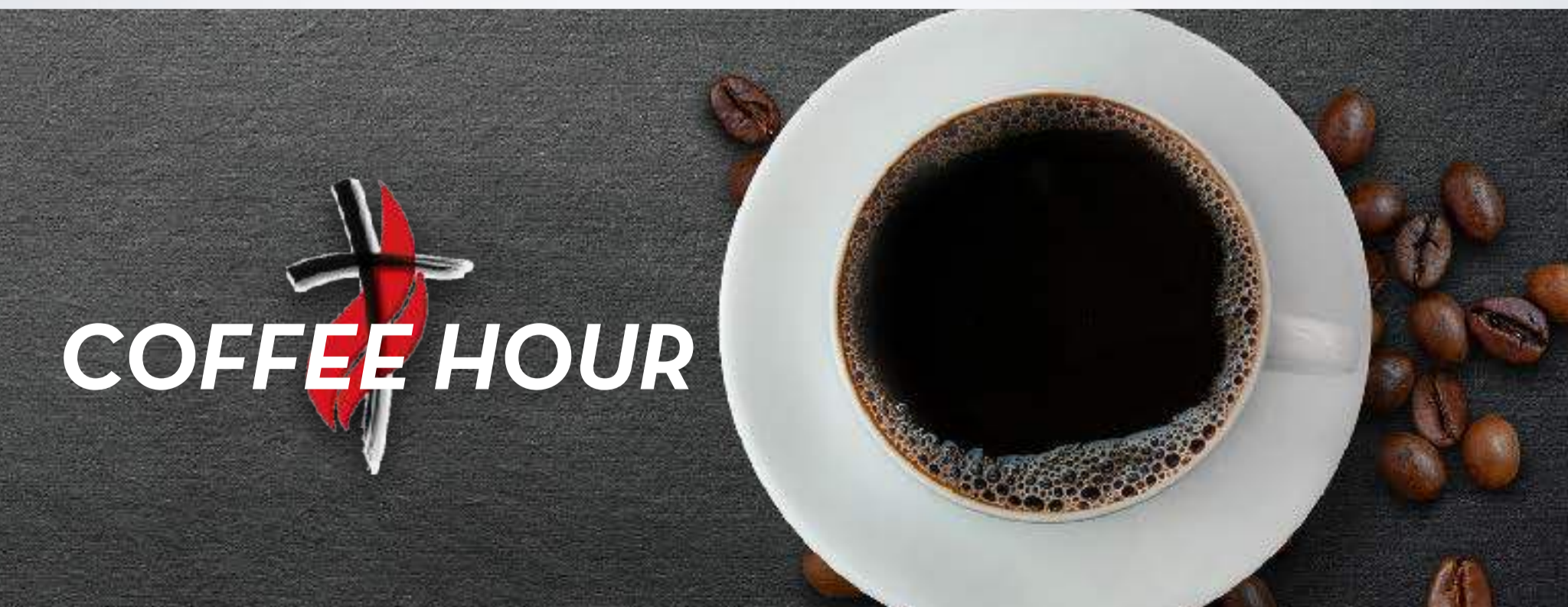
Come in early on Sunday mornings and enjoy a cup of coffee and early conversation.



EVERY SUNDAY AT 9AM FREE FRESH BREWED COFFEE JUST FOR YOU!

CHURCH COFFEE HOUR

Every Sunday after church we spend time catching up with each other 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



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

