

Fall back this Sunday!



(or let Siri handle it.)

FIRST UMC BEACON
November 2024



FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BOB

By the time you read this article in the Beacon we will have completed another Pumpkin Patch in the life of First United Methodist Church of Portsmouth. From my vantage point this is a ministry that is a vital lifeline to the community. When Sharon and I were told that there would be two shipments of pumpkins two weeks apart we just looked at each other and said really? After two weeks we did need that second shipment. I do not know the outcome as of this writing but am sure we will hear the great results of our labor. Sue Richards...you are truly the hands and feet of Jesus as you coordinate this **HUGE** event for raising funds to pay our mission shares. As Bishop Devadhar would always say, Thank You...Thank You...Thank You! One thank you was not enough in his book. It was his signature of his nature... being thankful. I saw so many people that helped with this ministry from manning the Pumpkin Patch, unloading of the gazillion pumpkins that arrived on the semi-tractor trailer, making and baking the hundreds of pies every Tuesday and Friday each week. This was our first year with you and the Pumpkin Patch and I just stand in amazement with this initiative. Again, Thank you, Thank you and Thank you for your involvement in whatever way you helped.

Being thankful isn't just for the Thanksgiving holiday or season. Scripture tells us to be "thankful in everything, in all

circumstances" (**1 Thessalonians 5:18**). When we find ourselves overwhelmed with burdens and worried about tomorrow, we can praise God for who he is and his promise to never leave us or forsake us. We have been blessed with the free gift of salvation and eternal life! With my latest fall off a ladder and the injuries that I sustained I praise God that I am here today to say it out loud. It was a serious fall, and Sharon has removed every rung to the ladder. There is no way I can climb a rung less ladder 😊. I have been banished from ever using a ladder again. In all seriousness...I am thankful to God, and I am thankful for all of you with all the cards, texts, emails, etc., checking on how I am doing. I am on the mend and the greatest healer to any injury or illness is love and prayer. I thank you because I feel both love and prayers coming my way from you.

November 2024 is our Stewardship Campaign for First Church of Portsmouth. It is a time that we reflect on how best to spend time, talents, and possessions God has given to us. In Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus tells the parable of the talents. We are all familiar with this Parable as it is a parable centered on stewardship and how we invest our gifts that God has blessed each of us with. Do we use our gifts and talents? Do we give back to God what God has blessed us with? In 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NLT), **Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need, and plenty left over to share with others.** As we draw closer to developing our 2025 budget for our church, please think about "Growing One Step" in your financial giving to God to be used to further the ministry of our church. I plan to share how we (Sharon and I) grow one step every year.

Looking Ahead:

- November 3rd is All Saints Sunday. We will celebrate all those who have gone home to the Lord.
- November 24th will be our Commitment Sunday. This is when we offer what our financial gifts will be for 2025 to God through FUMC.
- Advent begins on Sunday, December 1, 2024.
- Thursday, December 5th will be our Church Conference with DS Jackie Brannen. The business portion will be at 6:30pm but I thought we might have a potluck supper at 5:30pm before conducting our church business. If you don't like to drive at night, let me know. I will find a way to get you to church.
- Sunday, December 22nd will be our Children's Christmas pageant. There might be a flavoring of adults participating in the pageant. Sharon Stewart will be our Director of the pageant so if she heads towards you with a clipboard... well, just say yes, I'd love to be a barnyard animal. 😊. Grace and Peace, Pastor Bob

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



SUNDAYS
10am



FIRST UMC LIFE

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

On November 3rd, we will gather to celebrate and honor the Saints who have preceded us. This year, we remember those who have entered their eternal home in 2024:

WE REMEMBER

Harold Whitehouse 1/3/24

Mary Shults - 3/23/24

Alberta Eckert - 4/20/24

Roberta Noble - 7/15/24

Ruth Lewin Griffin - 8/10/24

Hazel Randi - 8/12/24

Glenn Cyr - 9/10/24


WOMEN'S
MINISTRY

WOMEN OF FIRST UMC...

If there is enough interest, I'm thinking of starting a women's group. Please let me know if you are interested and we will have a meeting to discuss day, time and content of meetings. Let me know after church or email me at stew18@comcast.net

Sharon Stewart



Photo Galleries



LITTLE HARBOR SCHOOL VISIT

OCTOBER 24, 2024

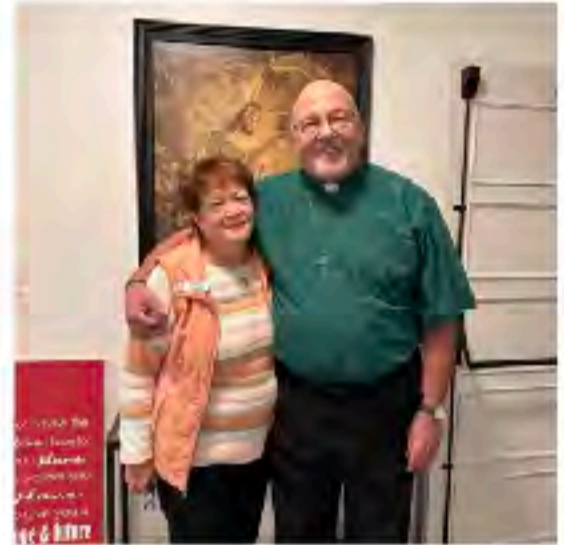
[VIEW PHOTOS »](#)



SECOND DELIVERY TO THE PUMPKIN PATCH

OCTOBER 19, 2024

[VIEW PHOTOS »](#)



PASTOR APPRECIATION AND WELCOME SUNDAY

OCTOBER 13, 2024

[VIEW PHOTOS »](#)



BAPTISM AND NEW MEMBERS

OCTOBER 13, 2024

[VIEW PHOTOS »](#)



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 6, 2024

[VIEW PHOTOS »](#)



RUTH GRIFFIN'S CELEBRATION OF LIFE

OCTOBER 4, 2024

[VIEW PHOTOS »](#)



PUMPKIN PATCH 2024

Pumpkins, pies and people...oh my! It's been an amazing Patch with great weather, great volunteers, and lots of great customers buying cartloads of pumpkins, gourds, mums, and sweet treats. The beautiful sight brings smiles to everyone's faces. We've also had generous donations to the Kids First outreach program.

The totals won't be available until after you get this Beacon, but will be in the December issue.

Love and Hugs, 🍁 Sue Richards



**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO
SUPPORTED THE PUMPKIN PATCH
WITH YOUR TIME AND TALENTS!**

**BECAUSE OF YOU IT WAS AN
AMAZING SEASON!**



PUMPKIN PATCH MASCOT

Congratulations to Will for being the winner of the naming of our Pumpkin Patch Mascot...lovingly named PUMPKIN BOB!

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

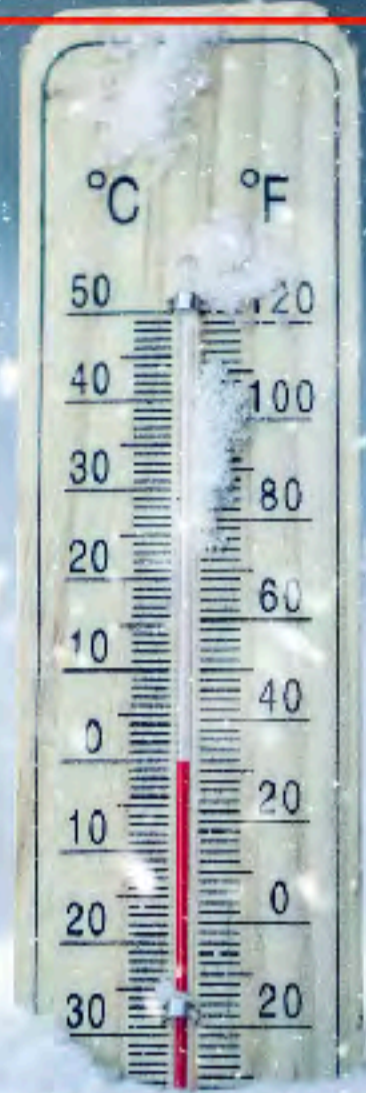


WINTER IS COMING!

We are looking for donations of gloves for our winter packs serving those in need...can you help?

**glove share the
donations needed
for warm hands
and hearts.**

**new men's & women's mittens or gloves
can be dropped off at the church office!**



TAKE & BAKE PIE ORDERS & PICK UP

Get your homemade pie orders for the Thanksgiving Holiday in by texting Sue Richards @ 603.749.4169. Pick up will from 11:30 - 1:30pm on 11/13 and 11/17.



NOVEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

If you are unable to make it please let the Church Office know.

DATE	LITURGIST	ACOLYTES	9:55 BELL RINGERS	GREETERS & USHERS	FACEBOOK LIVE	WORSHIP TECH	SOUND TECH	SUNDAY SCHOOL	COFFEE HOUR
11/3	R. Groff	Bella	Labadie's	A. Coffey M. Coffoy	S. Richards	S. Scott	S. Sarosiek	J. VanReenen C. VanReenen	L. Reiber N. Chester
11/10	S. Lange	Lilly	Sillanpaa's	Y. Griffin L. Reiber	S. Richards	S. Scott	S. Sarosiek	PB. Stewart M. Stebbins	C. VanReenen PS. Orr
11/17	D. Richards	Mana	Arcadipanna's	J. VanReenen C. VanReenen	S. Olbriht	S. Scott	B. Labadie	S. Richards PS. Orr	S. Labadie
11/24	M. Stebbins	Daphne	Rosie & Will	R. Groff H. Groff	PS. Orr	S. Richards	S. Sarosiek	S. Labadie D. Richards	S. Olbriht Y. Griffin

BEING A DIGITAL DISCIPLE IS AN IMPORTANT ROLE FOR ALL OF US!

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

LET'S BE FRIENDS ON FACEBOOK!

Facebook is a fantastic way to stay updated on events, prayers, daily inspiration, and to connect with Church family and friends. We appreciate it when you "like" our posts, but we absolutely LOVE it when you share them too!



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

LOOK UP!
Not just a reflection of how far we've come,
but also an act of hope for a brighter tomorrow.
Join us as we re-open our doors
with a new and fresh look and outlook.

WEDNESDAYS 10am!

Fumcportsmouthnh Church
331 friends

+ Add to story Edit profile

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



LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER:

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!

November 3, 2024

*Ruth 1:1-18, Psalm 146,
Hebrews 9:11-14, Mark 12:28-34*

November 10, 2024

*Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17, Psalm 127,
Hebrew 9:24-28, Mark 12:38-44*

November 17, 2024

*1 Samuel 1:4-20, Psalm 16,
Hebrews 10:11-17, 15-18, 19-25,
Mark 13:1-8*

November 24, 2024

*2 Samuel 23:1-7, Psalm 132:1-12
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

TIME 4 JOY - COMEDY NIGHT

Come and join the I GOT BRIDGED Group for an evening of food, fun, and fellowship!



I Got Bridged
Presents
TIME 4
JOY

**2024 Time4Joy
Comedy Night, Live & Silent Auction**
Starring **Rafi Gonzalez and Jim McCue**
Join us for an evening of Food, Fun and Fellowship



Scan here for Tickets

\$55 in advance
\$65 at the door

📍 First United Methodist Church 129 Miller Ave
"The Pumpkin Patch Church"
Portsmouth, NH 03801

📅 11/9/2024 ⌚ 6:00 - 8:30 PM 🚪 Doors Open 5:30 PM

All proceeds go to helping those in need on the Seacoast 501(c)(3) Tax ID # 88-1547188



YOU ARE ALWAYS INVITED

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



LIFTING UP IN PRAYER



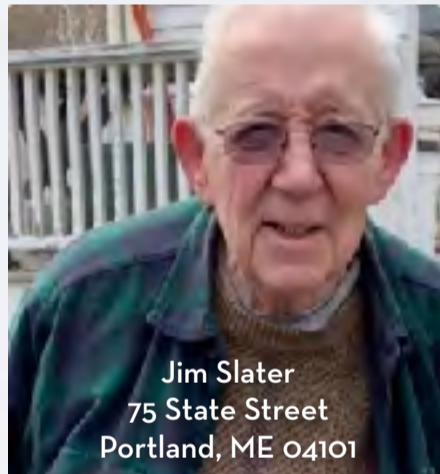
WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER

*Pastor Bob, Cynthia, Al, Doug, Gary,
Bill McClain and Family, Leo, Anna,
Rochelle, AJ, Marsha, Tim, Steve, Elliott,
Dan, Peter, Joanne, Simon, Andy, Aerial,
Mary, Lighton,
Those seeking employment,
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.

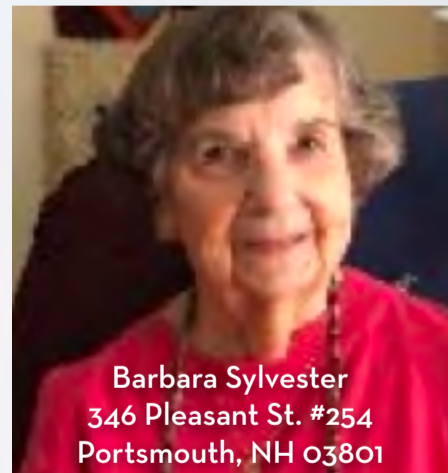
We also lift up in prayer the names that have been shared with us, asking that God wrap them in His loving embrace as they face their own challenges.



Jim Slater
75 State Street
Portland, ME 04101



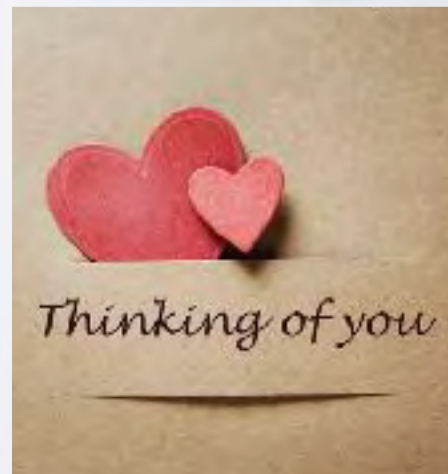
Barbara Glidden
188 Jones Ave #101
Portsmouth, NH 03801



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



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





UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 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!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Dominic Arcadipane**
- 4 Ken Westbrook**
- 12 Mike Coffey**
- 12 Michelle Verrill**
- 16 Evelyn Laux**

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 Stephanie & Brock Labadie**



What are YOU Thankful For?



WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING

This Thanksgiving, we have so much to be thankful for! At First UMC, we're especially grateful for all of YOU. Together, we are the church, making a positive impact in our community every day.

Why not start a new tradition this year? As you gather around the dinner table, invite everyone to share what they're thankful for this Thanksgiving.

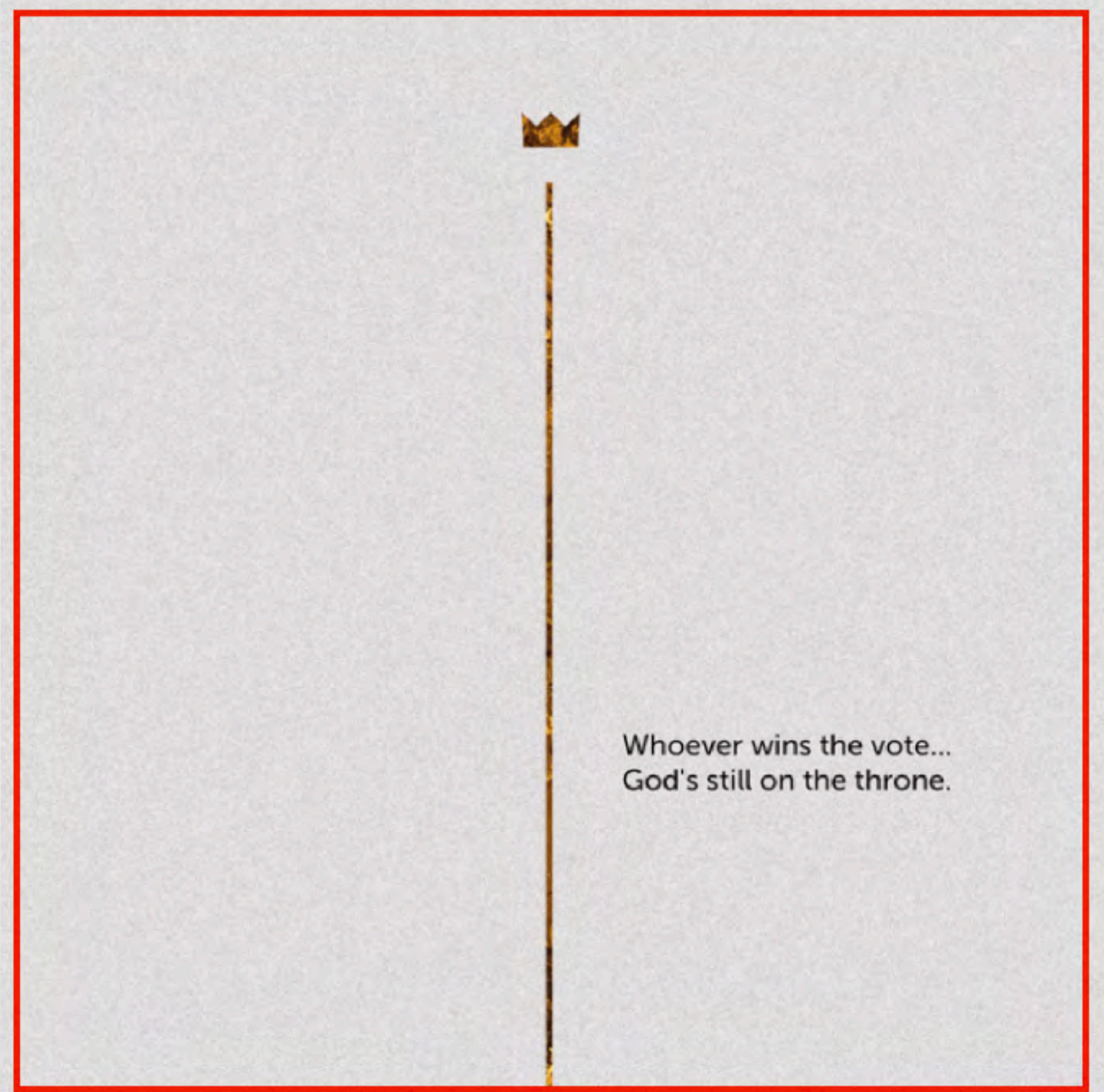


FALL BACK REMINDER

We lose an hour this week [bummer right?] so remember to change your clocks or tell Siri to do it before you go to bed on 11/2. See you in church on 11/3 we will save a seat for you!

YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

Be sure to go and vote...November 5th is a significant day for our country, and regardless of our political affiliations, here's something for everyone to keep in mind—





UPCOMING EVENTS

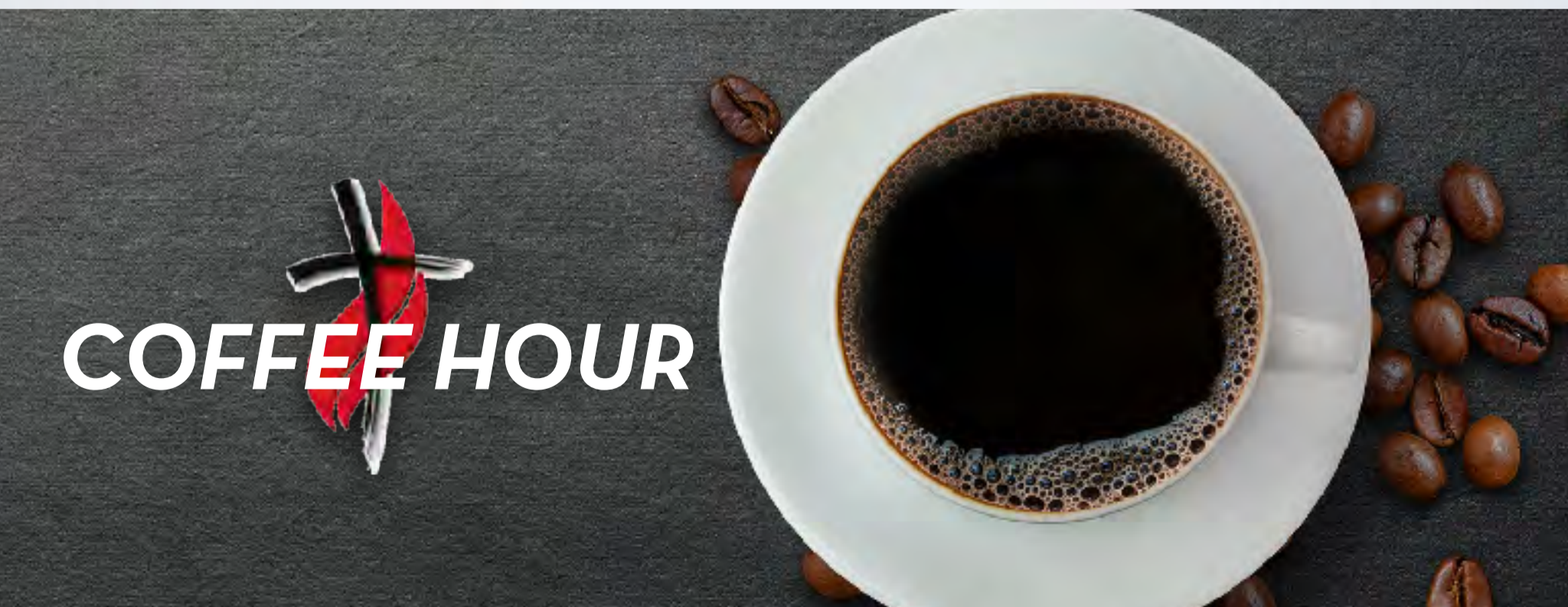
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Our First UMC Annual Conference will be held on Thursday, December 5th at 6:30pm. We will be having a potluck dinner...more details will be shared soon.

ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

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

