



**COME LET US ADORE HIM...
TOGETHER!**

FIRST UMC BEACON
December 2024

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BOB...



I sit in the quietness of my office at home on this Thanksgiving morning. I want to wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving holiday and it is my hope that you had the opportunity to celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends. If we separate thanksgiving into two words... **“thanks”** and **“giving”**... I think we can sense the nature of the season. The nature of the season is giving thanks. Let us not let the busyness of our lives cause us to lose what is truly important in our lives. Please stop and take a moment from all the busyness of life to pause and reflect on giving thanks to God for all your many blessings. Thank you God! What do you want to thank God for at this very moment?

This coming Sunday, December 1st we begin a new season in the life of the church...Advent. In my Student Bible Dictionary, Advent is translated from a Latin word for “coming.” Advent usually refers to Christ’s coming to earth as a baby, but now more broadly it is the season of preparation to celebrate Christmas. Jesus’ coming to earth began the Christ story as we know it, including His birthday, his life and ministry, ascent to heaven, and the promised second coming...or what is called the “second advent.” Each year we are reminded and relive the first advent which is the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul writes in Philippians 2 beginning at verse ⁵ **You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.** ⁶ **Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.** ⁷ **Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form,** ⁸ **he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.** ⁹ **Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names,** ¹⁰ **that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,** ¹¹ **and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

So I am “giving thanks” to God for the gift he sent to us so many years ago. I want the birth of Jesus to be fresh each and every year for me and you. I want us to celebrate being born again. I am giving thanks to God for sending us a Savior. Jesus is the Reason for the Season, and it is my prayer that this Advent and Christmas season you feel God’s **Hope**, God’s **Peace**, God’s **Joy** and God’s **Love**. I know you will feel the power of the season if you pause and turn your eyes upon Jesus.

See you all in church, **Come Let Us Adore Him!**

From our home to yours...We wish you Jesus.

Love from Pastor Bob & Sharon





FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FIRST UMC LIFE

PUMPKIN PATCH 2024

A huge thank you to all the volunteers – both regular and new – who helped make this year's Pumpkin Patch a success. Your time and effort were truly appreciated!

Patch Set-Up and Pumpkin Unloading

Set-up started with 7 volunteers moving pallets, putting up signs, and shifting hay bales. Then, on September 28th, 53 volunteers made quick work of unloading pumpkins. On October 19th, 41 volunteers signed in, but many more showed up, making it our fastest second unloading ever!

The Booth

This year, several volunteers helped out, with some doing 1-3 shifts per week. We had 11 new weekday volunteers, including 10 Portsmouth High School students, and 23 new weekend volunteers – 8 adults and 15 students from local schools.

A special thanks to 12 Italian exchange students who came on October 16th, along with their chaperones, to help move pumpkins for our second truckload.

Little Harbor Elementary School

We also had a visit from 2nd graders at Little Harbor Elementary. They took a field trip to the patch, picking out Spookies funded by the school's donations.

Pie Team and Baking

Our Pie Team baked 22 to 41 pies each Tuesday and Friday, with 5 to 9 volunteers and 3 "guest bakers." We sold 233 pies this year! Thanks to Gather's generous donation of 120 lbs. of flour and 3 boxes of apples, we had plenty of ingredients to bake with.

Mums and Treats

We sold 153 mums, including 4", 6", and 8" pots, as well as special Texas Baskets. North Hill Nursery sold them to us at a discount, or at cost for those they grew just for us. We also sold 251 bags of homemade treats, thanks to our bakers and fudge makers.

Support for Kids First

We raised \$1,161.90 for Kids First, which provides Christmas gifts to foster kids and their caregivers. It's always heartwarming to support such a worthy cause.

Pumpkin and Gourd Sales

We sold \$50,989.75 in pumpkins and gourds and \$6,409.00 in food and other items, for a total of \$57,398.75 in sales. With profits of \$20,395.90 from pumpkins and \$5,185.55 from everything else, we raised a grand total of \$25,581.45 – our second-highest total in 21 years!

Final Steps

On November 1st, we sent the remaining pumpkins and gourds to four local farms to feed their animals. The farmers also helped clean up by stacking pallets and emptying the trailer. On November 3rd, we held a Thank You Luncheon, and 11 volunteers helped put everything away for next year.

Thank you again to everyone who helped make this year's Pumpkin Patch a huge success!

Sue Richards
Grateful Pumpkin Patch Coordinator

CHURCH CONFERENCE

&



12/5 at 5pm

DECEMBER 5th

Please join Rev. Dr. Jackie Brennan for our annual Church conference on Thursday, December 5, 2024. Potluck supper begins at 5pm followed by our church conference at 6:30pm.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Come join us and be sure to invite friends to our Christmas Eve service.



COME, LET US ADORE HIM...
TOGETHER!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
December 24th at 5pm

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFTS

The SPRC team is asking for donations for our Church Staff. Please drop off your thoughtful donation to the church office or mail to First UMC 129 Miller Avenue - Portsmouth, NH 03801



Staff
Christmas
Gift

FIRST UMC WEBSITE

Our Church family, Community activities are all captured and put on our website @ fumcportsmouth.com and let's be friends on Facebook too!



First United Methodist Church

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GREENING OF THE CHURCH

NOVEMBER 24, 2024

[VIEW PHOTOS](#) »



THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 24, 2024

[VIEW PHOTOS](#) »



PIE BOXING

NOVEMBER 23, 2024

[VIEW PHOTOS](#) »



VETERAN'S DAY SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 10, 2024



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 3, 2024



REFORMATION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 27, 2024



GREENING OF THE CHURCH

We are ready for the Advent Season...thank you all for helping!



SHARE THE JOY!

The KIDS FIRST Giving Tree is up in the narthex thanks to Deric Larouche so please feel free to pick up as many red gift request tags for the Seacoast kids. Bring your presents in by 12/11 and the Wrapping Angels will wrap them on 12/14 at 10am. We need volunteers!



KIDS FIRST

WINTER IS COMING!

We are in desperate need of socks for our Winter Packs serving those in need this winter. Glove donations are always welcome and appreciated. Can you help?



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

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 DECEMBER:

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!

December 1, 2024

*Jeremiah 33:14-16, Psalm 25:1-10,
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13,
Luke 21:25-36*

December 8, 2024

*Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:68-79,
Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:7-18*

December 15, 2024

*Zephaniah 3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2-6,
Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18*

December 22, 2024

*Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:46b-55,
Psalm 80:1-7, Hebrews 10:5-10,
Luke 1:39-55*

December 29, 2024

*1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26, Psalm 148,
Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-52*



LIFTING UP IN PRAYER



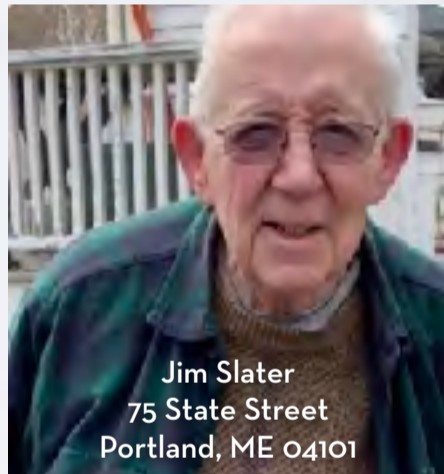
WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER

Ken, Anne & Mike, Cheryl, Derek, Bradley, Charles, Russ, Jodi, Denise, Janice Oakes & Family, Sharon R, Michelle, Cynthia, Gary, Leo, Anna, Rochelle, AJ, Marsha, Tim, Steve, Elliott, Dan, Peter, Joanne, Simon, Andy, Aerial, 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.

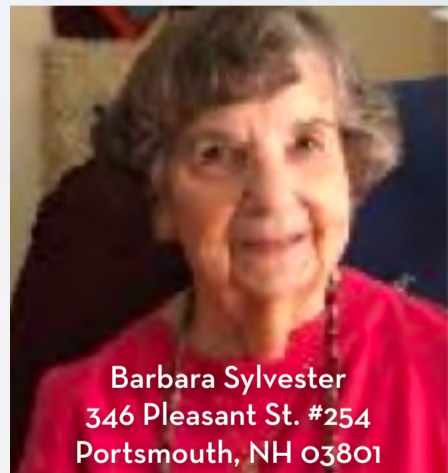
We also lift up in prayer the names that have been shared with us, asking that God wrap them in His loving embrace as they face their own challenges.



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

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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!



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Al Cansdale**
- 4 Jaime Berry**
- 10 Shirley Russ**
- 13 Evelyn New**
- 17 Lilly Sillanpaa**
- 23 Priscilla Wilson**
- 24 Aerial Sillanpaa**
- 25 Kimberly Philbrick**
- 27 Priscilla Paisley**
- 30 Donald Twombly**



WISHING EVERYONE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 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
12/1	J. Berry	Dominic	PennySue	R. Groff H. Groff	S. Richards	S. Scott	D. Richards	S. Stewart M. Verrill	S. Lange Y. Griffin
12/8	B. Labadie	Maria	Sillanpaa's	L. Reiber M. Stebbins	S. Richards	S. Scott	S. Sarosiek	P. Paisley, R Buswell, M.Gable	J. Berry M. Lindgren
12/15	S. Labadie	Dominic	Arcadipane's	J. VanReenen C. VanReenen	S. Richards	S. Scott	S. Sarosiek	J. Berry H. Groff	R. Groff S. Stewart
12/22	K. Fickenscher	Liam	Rosie & Will	A. Coffey M. Coffey	S. Richards	S. Scott	B. Labadie	S. Stewart, etc.	C. VanReenen R. Buswell
12/24	S. Stewart	Daphne	Labadie's	S. Labadie B. Labadie	S. Richards	S. Scott	D. Richards	-----	-----
12/29	R. Buswell	Lilly	Arcadipane's	R. Groff H. Groff	S. Richards	S. Scott	D. Richards	C. & J. VanReenen	S. Labadie



YOU ARE ALWAYS INVITED

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

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 PORTSMOUTH



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

