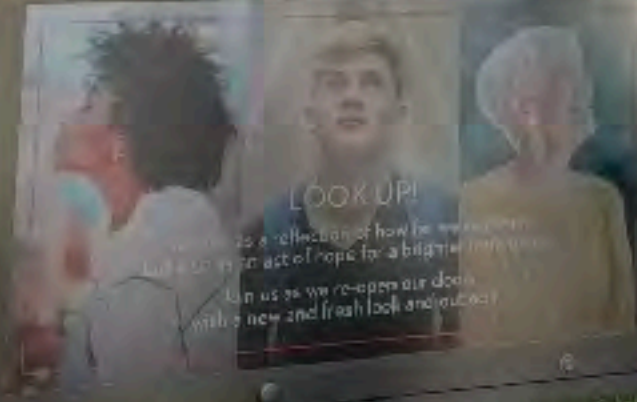




**FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



SUNDAYS
10am



FIRST UMC  PORTSMOUTH
JUNE BEACON
2025



FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BOB...

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ...the next few Sunday's are very meaningful in the life of the church. They come and go every year and sometimes they pass us by without taking a moment to reflect on the importance of each of these three special Sundays. **Sunday, June 1st is Ascension Sunday.** It marks the last time that Jesus visited with his disciples before returning home to the Father. Jesus tells his disciples in Luke 24:49,

"And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with the power from heaven." There are 30 scripture verses throughout the Bible when we hear, ***"Good things come to those who wait upon the Lord,"*** Isaiah 40:31 and Lamentations 3:25-26 are two of those scriptures. Jesus was telling the disciples to stay here in the city because a good thing is coming to those who wait upon the Lord. It comes as promised on June 8th this year.

Sunday, June 8th is Pentecost Sunday. Pentecost is always celebrated on the fiftieth and final day of the Easter season. It was on this day the Holy Spirit comes to us as promised and the church is born. The Pentecost story can be found in Acts 2:1-21 if you want to read ahead on this most important day in the life of the church. ² ***"Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. ³ Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. ⁴ And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability."*** The flame is an important symbol of our denomination as we use the Cross and Flame to tell the world we are United Methodists. The church was born on this day and one way we celebrate is by welcoming NEW members to the FUMC family. If you currently are not a member and would like to join our faith community it's not too late. Talk to me this Sunday and let me know if you want to join the family. Perhaps you have questions I need to answer for you to make that important decision for your life. It is our custom on Pentecost Sunday to wear something red to reflect the flame in the Pentecost story. I like to expand that to reflect all parts of the flame. When I look at a fire flame I see three primary colors. I see red, yellow and orange. So this year, I ask you to wear one of the three colors that symbolizes the Flame of Spirit.

Sunday, June 15th is Trinity Sunday. Trinity Sunday is the first Sunday following Pentecost every year. It is a day we reflect on the mystery of the Holy Trinity...God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. It is a mystery, but it is an exciting one for me as I see how THREE work together as ONE. We will also be celebrating Father's Day and Children's Sunday as well. It will be an action-packed day, and it just shows how busy the life of our church is today. Let's tell the story! It is a story of love...God's LOVE and our LOVE for each other! See you in church.

Blessings, Pastor Bob



FIRST UMC LIFE

WORSHIP, FUN, AND FAITH IN ACTION AT FIRST UMC

Our Church website fumcportsmouth.com is a great place to remind ourselves of the amazing work we are doing supporting each other, our community in making a difference by sharing our faith in God. Check out the photo galleries here - <https://fumcportsmouth.com/photo-galleries/>



First United Methodist Church

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CONNECT ▾

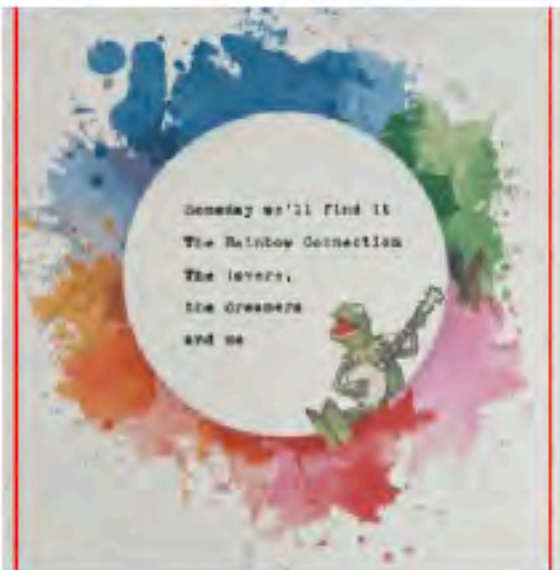
MINISTRIES ▾

PHOTO GALLERIES

VIDEO SERIES

REMEMBER

GIVE



MEMORIAL DAY SUNDAY

MAY 26, 2025

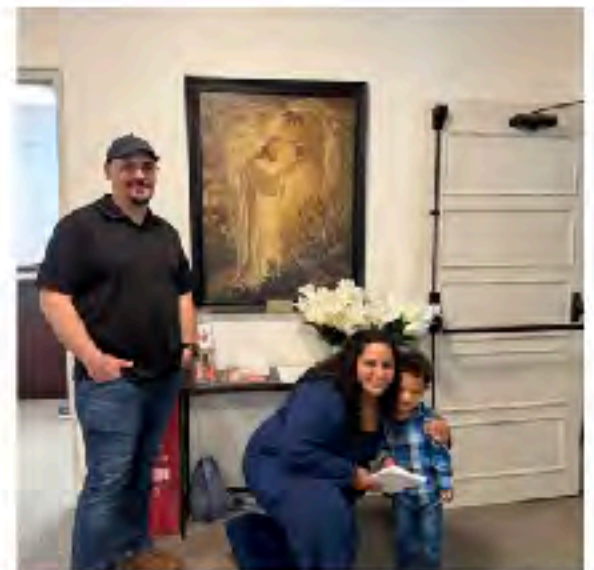
[VIEW PHOTOS »](#)



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION SUNDAY

MAY 18, 2025

[VIEW PHOTOS »](#)



MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 11, 2025

[VIEW PHOTOS »](#)



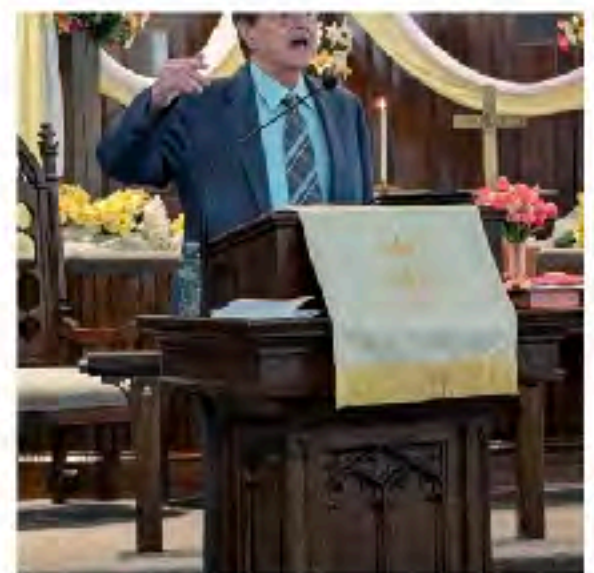
GUEST PASTOR – REV. JIM MCPHEE

MAY 4, 2025



SPRING PATCH LASAGNA TEAM

APRIL 28, 2025



112TH ANNIVERSARY

APRIL 27, 2025

[VIEW PHOTOS »](#)

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



LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY:

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!

Sunday, June 1 Seventh Sunday of Easter
Acts 1:1-11, Psalm 47, Ephesians 1:15-23, Luke 2:44-53

Sunday, June 8 Day of Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, Romans 8:14-17, John 14:8-17 [25-27]

Sunday, June 15 Trinity Sunday
Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31, Psalm 8, Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15

Sunday, June 22
1 Kings 19:1-15a, Psalm 42, Galatians 3:23-29, Luke 8:26-39

Sunday, June 29
2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14, Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20, Galatians 5:1, 13-25, Luke 9:51-62

FINANCE FLASH

As we closed the books on April, I'm pleased to report that giving is slightly *up* compared to last year—a clear sign of this congregation's continued generosity and commitment. Unfortunately, so are our expenses (inflation, thou art a persistent little rascal). We continue our mission of faithful stewardship, and keeping a close eye on the budget.

A huge thank-you to all our fabulous volunteers who made and packed lasagna for our church fundraiser. Your efforts nourished both our community and our budget—grace served with marinara!

To everyone who supported our **Spring Patch fundraiser**, thank you for braving the elements! It was one of the rainiest sale seasons in recent memory, but our volunteers brought the sunshine with positive spirit and made the best of every soggy moment. Special thanks to **North Hill Nursery** in North Hampton for supplying the beautiful potted flowers and hanging baskets. You can visit them in person on Lafayette Rd or online at north-hill.com. We even picked up a few extra plants and herbs from their store for our container garden at home—because nothing says fiscal responsibility like growing your own basil.

As we head into summer, I'm hopeful that our giving will continue to grow like those lovely plants, meeting our financial needs and keeping our ministries blooming. And hey, at least we get a much-needed break from heating bills! Thank you, sunshine.

Lastly, we are still looking for volunteers to serve on the **Board of Finance**. If you enjoy spreadsheets, stewardship, or just want to learn what a fiduciary obligation actually *is*, we'd love to have you! Please see *Airial Sillanpaa* or *Pastor Bob Stewart* if you're interested.

With gratitude and my watering can,
Airial Sillanpaa



REMINDER:

You can use our on-line
“giving” tab tool on
fumcportsmouth.com



SEACOAST FAMILY PROMISE UPDATE

Our next rotation for providing meals for the families at Joshua House is August 14 - 16, 2025.

Did you know our church was one of the original 10 faith communities in this program, contributing our time, food, funds, and love to help hundreds of families over the past 22 years? Many of you remember when the families came to stay at the church, and we would turn our Sunday school rooms into bedrooms for the week. We got to work with some wonderful volunteers from Temple Israel during our shared hosting weeks over the many years. Together we fed the families, shared time with them and provided a listening ear when needed. Many of the children have gone on to graduate from college, serve in the military and give back to their communities in different ways. SFP is making a real difference!

Pati Frew-Waters started as Director of Seacoast Family Promise (SFP) in September 2006, when SFP was only 3 years old. She retired at the end of 2024. During Pati's 18+ years with SFP, she doubled the number of faith communities involved with the program. She also oversaw the day center's move into its permanent home in Exeter. In 2020, when Covid made it too dangerous for the families to be moving weekly, she arranged for the families to stay for several months at Christ Church before purchasing Joshua House from Bethany Church. This allowed the program to continue serving families without a pause. SFP has been working on expanding the Joshua House for the last couple of years, so we can serve more and larger families.

Many volunteers make this program work, but we could not have done it without Pati's amazing leadership for the past 18 years. The program has been so successful because of her initiative and enthusiasm. Let's honor her work! Donating toward the completion of the Joshua House expansion in her name would be a great way to honor Pati.

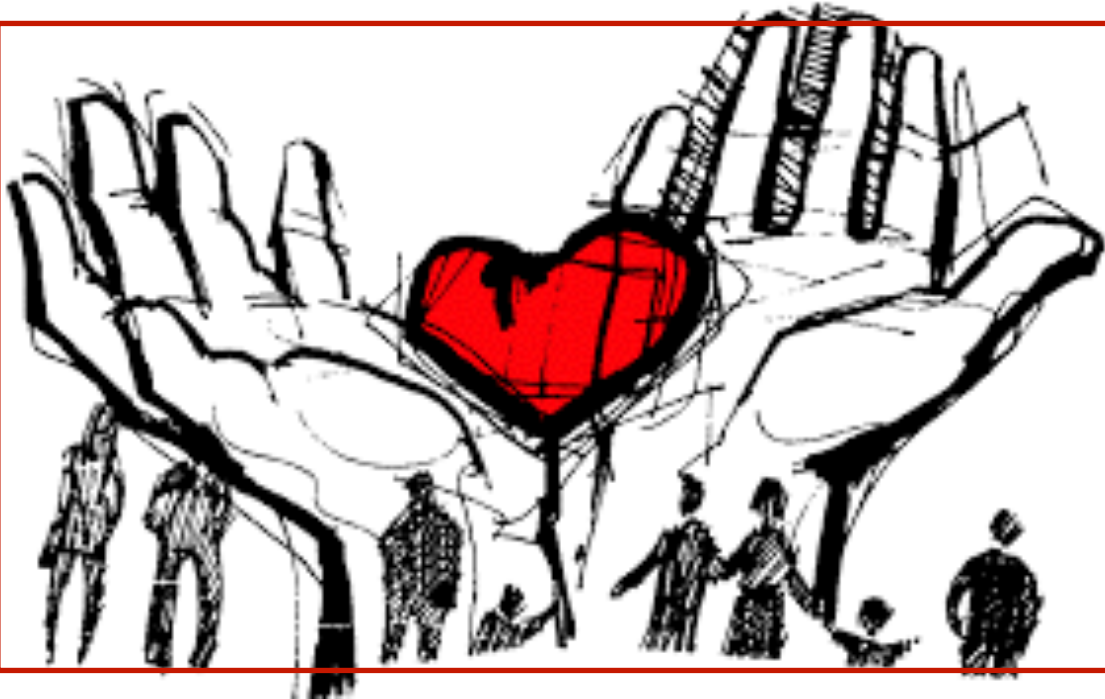
Joshua House is in Greenland and currently provides temporary housing for up to 4 families experiencing homelessness. We were expecting to receive an occupancy permit for the new section of the building this spring (which will house 4 more families), but that didn't happen because the current waterline access does not provide enough pressure to meet the minimum requirements of the new fire suppression system. This means that SFP will continue to operate at a reduced capacity until new pipes are installed and connected to the larger water line. This has increased the construction costs by \$35,000, bringing the total remaining construction costs to \$80,000.

Any donation, large or small - in Pati's honor - to help get the Joshua House expansion over the finish line would be most appreciated. SFP's tax ID number is 02-0529881.

Donations can be made through the website - <https://seacoastfamilypromise.org/give/> - Fill in the starred areas along with the tribute type - Honor - and tribute name: Pati Frew-Waters or by sending a check with "Honor Pati Frew-Waters" on the memo line to: Seacoast Family Promise, Attn: Ashley Miller, 27 Hampton Road - Exeter, NH 03833

Let's honor Pati and help complete the Joshua House expansion to provide a temporary home for more and larger families as they work toward a brighter future. Let's continue to make a difference!

Jen Berry



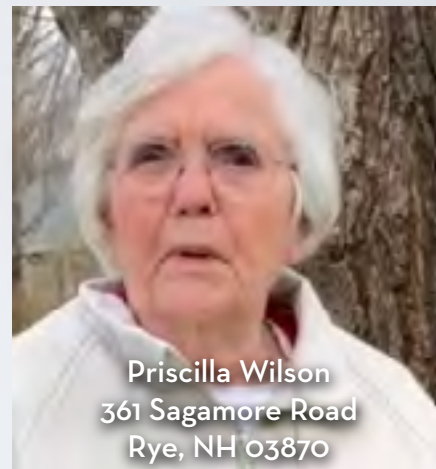
CHURCH FAMILY

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.



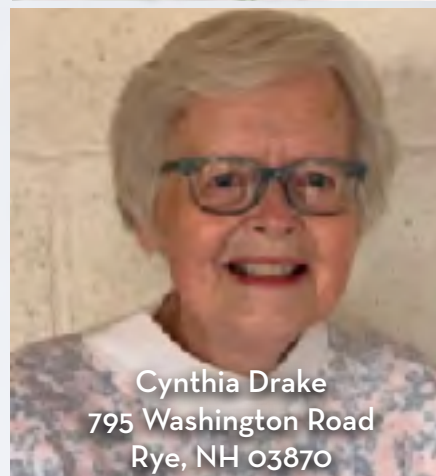
Jim Slater
75 State Street
Portland, ME 04101



Priscilla Wilson
361 Sagamore Road
Rye, NH 03870



Barbara Glidden
188 Jones Ave #101
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Cynthia Drake
795 Washington Road
Rye, NH 03870



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



On May 17th we welcomed new Members Diane and Toby Thompson to First UMC Church Family!

**I CALL ON YOU MY
GOD, TURN YOUR EAR
TO ME + HEAR MY
PRAYER.**

- PSALM 17:6

THERE IS POWER IN PRAYER!

Through prayer, we can connect with God, seek His guidance, and intercede on behalf of others.

Building on the prayers lifted up through our Sunday **Red Prayer Hearts**, we are launching a new initiative called the **First UMC Prayer Ministry**—providing a structured way for our community to support one another and amplifying the power of prayer.

Marilyn Stebbins will be leading this ministry, and we thank all those who have signed up to be part of the First UMC Prayer Ministry as Prayer Warriors. We will be launching the program very soon so stay tuned for more info to come.

WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER:

Sharon Rhodes, Brad, Janet Johnson, Diane Thompson, Bobbi & Fred, Kathy, Michelle Verrill, Sharon Stewart, Patricia Ross and her son, Ginger Ellenwood, Steve VanReenen, Cynthia Drake, travel mercies for all those traveling, the marginalized and scared, our country and the world as a whole, and those we silently lift up right now.



UPCOMING EVENTS

NATIONAL CANCER SURVIVORS DAY JUNE 6th



PENTECOST SUNDAY JUNE 8th



FATHER'S DAY JUNE 15th



TRINITY SUNDAY JUNE 15TH



CHILDREN'S DAY JUNE 15th




JUNETEENTH JUNE 19th



JUNE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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

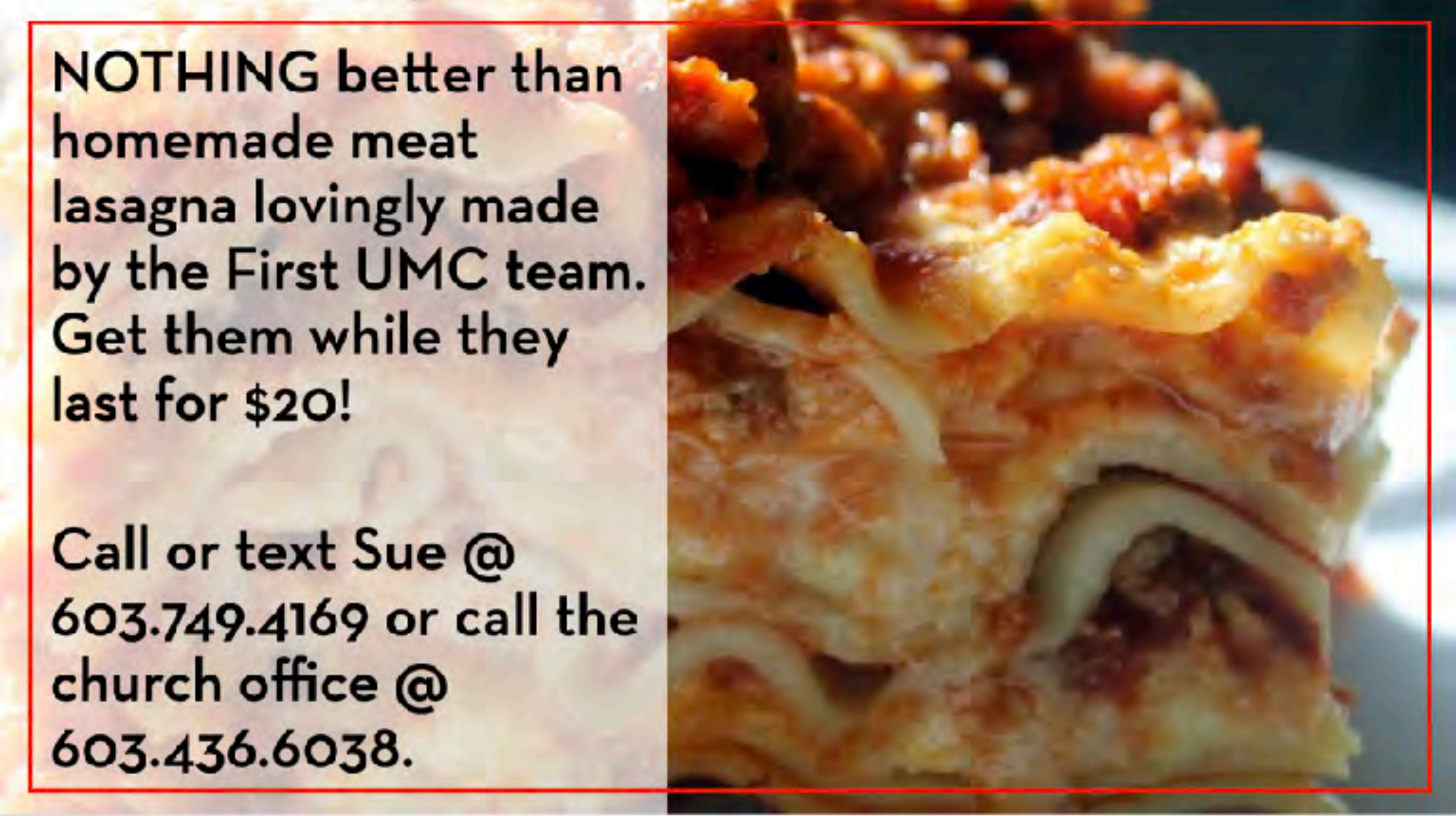
A background image for the June Birthdays & Anniversaries section. It features a central sparkler with bright orange and yellow sparks radiating outwards. To the left of the sparkler are several out-of-focus, colorful bokeh lights in shades of purple, blue, and white. The overall background is dark, making the lights and sparks stand out.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

**2 David Brown
4 Shawn Martin
5 Alexa Langs
5 Mike Lindgren
13 Jack Labadie
28 Christopher Laux**

**3 Toby & Diane Thompson
19 Hollen & Rosanne Groff**

YOU CAN ALMOST TASTE IT...MAKE IT COME TRUE!

A close-up photograph of a slice of lasagna. The layers of pasta, meat sauce, and melted cheese are clearly visible. The top is covered in a thick layer of melted cheese and a sprinkle of red sauce. The image is framed by a red border.

**NOTHING better than
homemade meat
lasagna lovingly made
by the First UMC team.
Get them while they
last for \$20!**

**Call or text Sue @
603.749.4169 or call the
church office @
603.436.6038.**

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!





June 2025

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	9:55 BELL RINGERS	GREETERS & USHERS	FACEBOOK LIVE	WORSHIP TECH	SOUND TECH	SUNDAY SCHOOL	COFFEE HOUR
6/1/25	M. Arcadipane	Liam	Dominic	H. Groff R. Groff	S. Richards	S. Scott	S. Sarosiak	S. Stewart M. Verrill	C. VanReenen Y. Griffin
6/8/25	B. Labadie	Daphne & Jack	Grayson	B. Kirkham S. Rhodes	S. Richards	S. Scott	S. Sarosiak	S. Labadie D. Richards	J. Berry M. Lindgren
6/15/25	K. Langs	Lily	Angelini Family	S. Beckert M. Stebbins	S. Richards	S. Scott	S. Sarosiak	—	R. Groff D. Pierce
6/22/25	Y. Griffin	Grayson	Rosie & Will	Sikempaw Family	S. Richards	S. Scott	D. Richards	—	Y. Griffin S. Lange
6/29/25	D. Richards	Maria	Norah	J. Berry S. Lange	S. Richards	S. Scott	S. Sarosiak	—	S. Labadie



YOU ARE LOVED
ACCEPTED &
CELEBRATED
JUST AS YOU ARE



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.