

BE
Still
AND KNOW
THAT I AM
God



FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BOB...

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ...in one week we will **celebrate Labor Day**. Celebrate... not sure that is an appropriate word for this moment. For many when we reach the Labor Day holiday weekend it means that summer is coming to a close. I can hear the screaming now... please say it isn't so! Our children will be heading back to school and all the busyness of our lives begin to ramp up. Everyone gets back into a routine schedule. Many will have to get up earlier to get prepared for the day that lies ahead. Even at church our schedules and routines will ramp up. For many when we think about what lies ahead we become anxious and overwhelmed. Take a deep breath and remember the words of the Psalmist, **"Be Still and Know that I Am God"** Psalm 46:10.

Sharon and I just returned from a week on Three Ponds in Milton, New Hampshire. We had a beautiful week. We had beautiful weather with the exception of one day, but we had a back up plan for that day. We enjoyed kayaking a couple of times each day. With Sharon's recent shoulder surgery, we weren't sure if we would be able to do what we love to do when we go to the lake for a vacation. I praise God for her healing, so we were able to kayak. It was a very relaxing and fun filled week. A day didn't pass by where we said to each other... "This has been a good week!" We are back home and ready to settle back into our routine and busy schedules that lie ahead. Yes, getting anxious and overwhelmed but I am focusing in on the words of the Psalmist above. With those words I am settled and peaceful and I am ready to CELEBRATE the Fall season that lies in wait. I hope you had a great summer and that you have cause to CELEBRATE life.

See you in September...well actually August 31st!

See You in Church...Pastor Bob.

FIRST UNITED 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 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

ABOUT ▾

CONNECT ▾

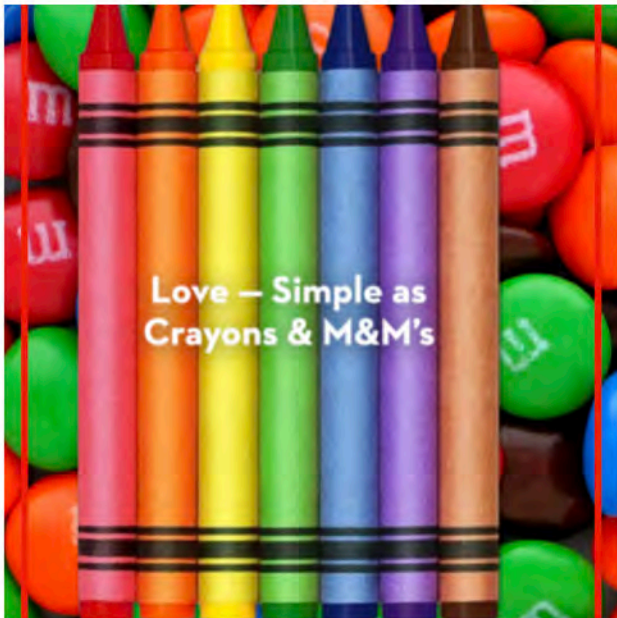
MINISTRIES ▾

PHOTO GALLERIES

VIDEO SERIES

REMEMBER

GIVE



Love – Simple as
Crayons & M&M's

CRAYONS AND M&M'S

AUGUST 17, 2025

[VIEW PHOTOS »](#)



PEOPLE GET READY!

AUGUST 10, 2025

[VIEW PHOTOS »](#)



WHEN IS ENOUGH... ENOUGH?

AUGUST 3, 2025

[VIEW PHOTOS »](#)



KAREN CASSIDY – LET US BE THE LIGHT



ARE YOU MORE LIKE MARY OR MARTHA?



WE ARE CALLED TO FINISH THE STORY

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 7

Jeremiah 18:1-11, Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18, Philemon 1-21, Luke 14:25-33

SEPTEMBER 14

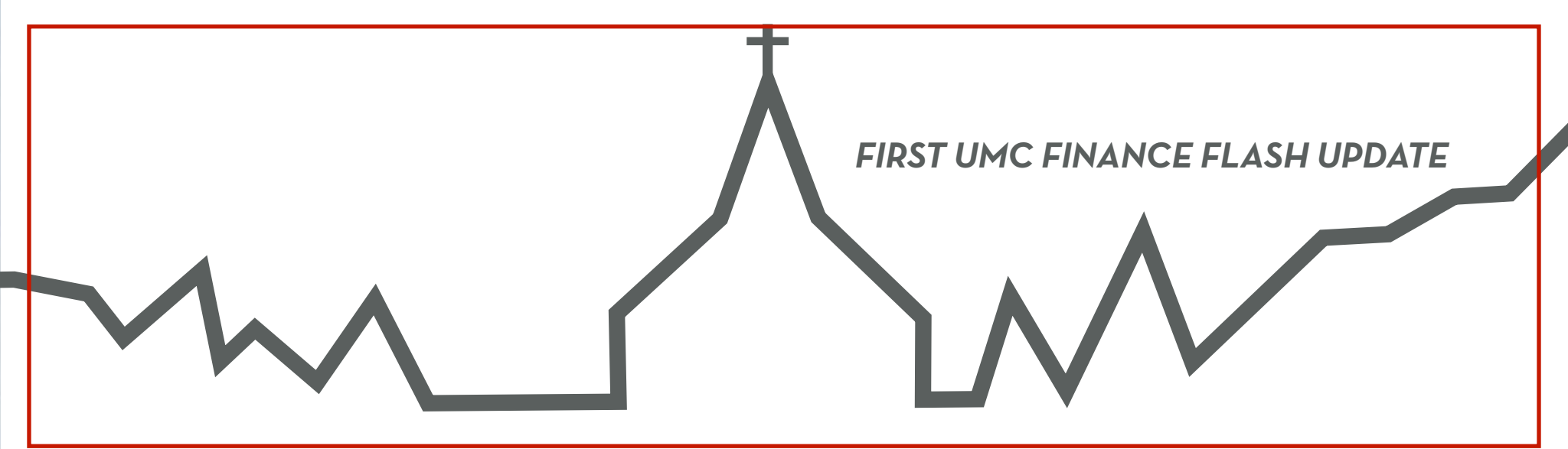
Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28, Psalm 14, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-10

SEPTEMBER 21

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1, Psalm 79:1-9, 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13

SEPTEMBER 28

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15, Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16, 1 Timothy 6:6-19, Luke 16:19-31



FIRST UMC FINANCE FLASH UPDATE

First UMC Friends and Family,

I recently offered a brief financial update to the congregation. Anyone who missed the presentation is welcome to call or email Airial Sillanpaa (garyairial@aol.com) for a fiscal synopsis.

As we move into a new season of ministry together, I want to take a moment to highlight some important potential transitions within our church's financial leadership.

For many years, Linda Rieber has faithfully served as our church treasurer. Linda's steady hand, attention to detail, and generous spirit have blessed First United Methodist Church in countless ways. She has not only managed numbers but has also offered wisdom and guidance, always keeping the mission of our church at heart. We are deeply grateful for the many hours she has given in service to God and this congregation.

We are pleased to share that Steve Scott has graciously agreed to step into the treasurer role, with the formal decision to be made at our upcoming church conference. Steve brings with him a strong commitment to our church family, and a robust background in banking. We are thankful for his willingness to serve in this vital position.

In addition, our financial secretary, Nancy Chesser, who has also given many years of faithful service, will soon be passing the baton. Nancy's dedication and reliability have been a blessing to all of us, ensuring that our records are carefully maintained and our financial processes remain strong. Following an upcoming church conference decision, Jennifer Berry will assume this role. We are excited to welcome Jennifer into this position and confident that she will continue the tradition of excellence and dedication set before her.

Transitions like these remind us of the many hands and hearts that quietly work behind the scenes to make our shared ministry possible. We give thanks to Linda and Nancy for their outstanding service, and we look forward to supporting Steve and Jennifer as they begin their new roles. Please join me in praying for each of them as they take on these important responsibilities.

If you or someone you know is interested in sharing their time and talents to serve within the leadership of our church, please see Pastor Bob or Airial Sillanpaa. On behalf of the Finance Committee, thank you to all who contribute your time, talents, and resources to the work of the church. Together, we are truly the body of Christ at work in the world.

Airial Sillanpaa
Finance Chair

FRIENDLY REMINDER...:

You can use our on-line "giving" tab tool on our website @ fumcportsmouth.com



FIRST UMC TRUSTEES UPDATE

STAIR LIFT

As many of you know, our stair chair is currently out of order. Unfortunately, the manufacturer is no longer in business and replacement parts are not available. There is only one local agency able to service this model, and their next available appointment is approximately three weeks away.

The chair was originally installed in the late 1980s, and the Trustees are actively gathering quotes for both a new stair chair and potential lift options. We will share more information as soon as updates are available.



DENOMINATION NEWS

Greetings in Christ,

We are excited to invite all members, congregations, clergy, and friends of the New England Annual Conference to Join the Journey—an online space where we come together in worship, justice, spiritual formation, and vibrant community life.

In today's connected world, our presence on social media offers a dynamic way to stay informed, inspired, and engaged with the work of the Conference. By following and subscribing to our official channels, you'll gain access to real-time updates, worship resources, stories from around the Conference, justice initiatives, and much more.

Connect with us online:

Facebook: facebook.com/NEUM

YouTube: youtube.com/@newenglandconferenceumc2273

Instagram: instagram.com/ne_umc

LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/108008070

TikTok: tiktok.com/@newenglandumc

Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/newengland-umc.bsky.social>

And of course, our official website remains your trusted source for Conference news and resources:
www.neumc.org



FIRST UMC WORSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

It's September already! Where has the year gone?!

With the beginning of the fall season our minds shift from summer mode to back to school and that also means Children's Church!!!! September 7th is the first day with September 14th being the official RALLY DAY with "Ask Pastor Bob". This is the time where the kiddos get to ask Pastor Bob some of their very important questions. OH and let's not forget the ever so yummy Ice Cream Bar during social hour that day!!! I don't know about you but I can't wait!!



Thank you to ALL who have stepped up to teach this year. Still considering?? Just speak to Stephanie Labadie, Dave Richards or Pastor Bob. It's never too late to join in the FUN!

There are many aspects of the worship service that touch each of us. One of the more touching is the reading of the Red Hearts. Each week we lift individuals up in prayer by placing their names on a Red Heart for Pastor Bob to announce. What about JOYS? The hearts are not just for healing or travel prayers but for prayers of JOY!

The next Worship team meeting is Sunday 10/12. If you have any thoughts about worship please speak to Pastor Bob or myself. Remember this is your worship time.

Peace in your Journey
PennySue Orr
Worship chair



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



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

We have lots of volunteer opportunities for almost all ages and physical abilities and it “takes a village” to make happen. Please spread the word to family and friends and especially on social media. You can sign up online, after church on Sundays, by texting/calling me at 603-749-4169 or emailing me at mksrichards@comcast.net.

Saturday, Sept. 20 from 9 a.m. until noonish: Help move pallets onto the lawn and/or put up signs.

Saturdays, Sept. 27 and Oct. 11 from 10:30 until early afternoon: Help move pumpkins and gourds from large cardboard bins and small boxes onto pallets, finalize customer purchases in the Booth, and/or bring in homemade goodies to sell like cookies, bars, whoopie pies, fudge, and flavored breads.

Daily from Saturday, Sept. 27 - Friday, Oct. 31:

-Sign up to help finalize customer purchases in the Booth. New volunteers will work with an experienced person who will show you how easy and fun it is...and how happy our customers are! We have heard many times that people wait until we open and only buy from us because they love how much we help our community!

-Bring in homemade goodies ready to sell in plastic wrap or baggies like cookies, bars, whoopie pies, fudge, and flavored breads. (Cookies and bars sell for \$1.00.)

On Tuesdays (starting Sept. 30) and Fridays (ending Oct. 31) from 9 a.m. - Noonish: Come be part of our Pie Team to make and bake yummy pies to sell. No experience needed!

Sunday, Nov. 2 around 11:30ish: Come help move pallets off the lawn and/or take signs down.

Any amount of help is greatly appreciated! Thanks for your continued support.

Love and Hugs,

Sue Richards,

Grateful Pumpkin Patch Coordinator

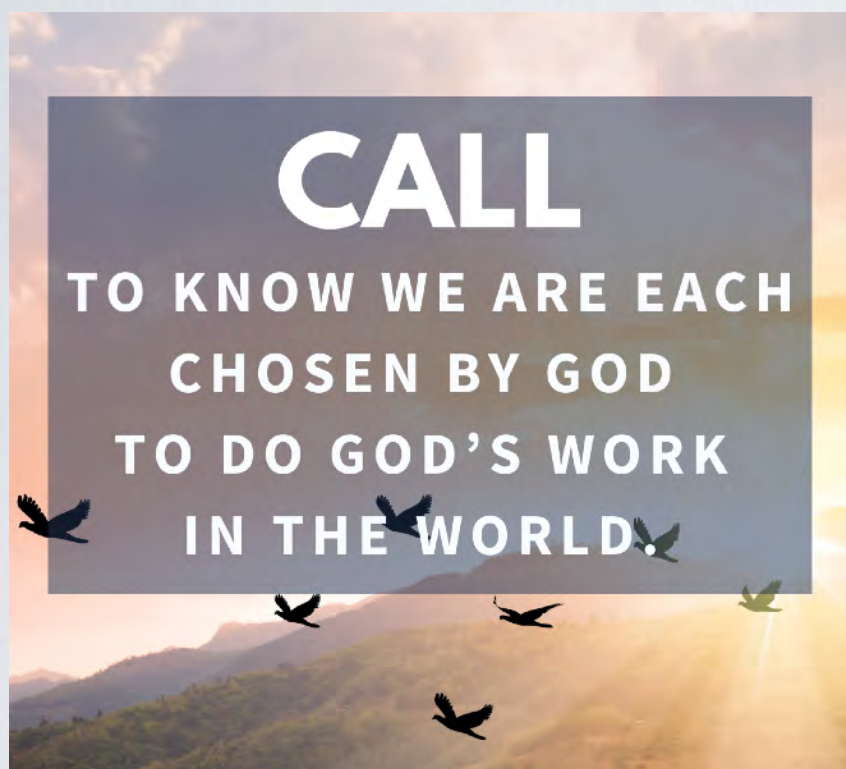


CHILDREN'S CHURCH UPDATE

Children's Church is Back!

Our 2025-2026 Sunday School program will begin with our first lesson on Sunday, September 7th during our Worship Service, directly following Children's Time.

We will continue to offer one-room, all-ages lessons this year, welcoming all of our younger attendees to participate. Our older youth participants will be offered opportunities to take on teaching assistant roles, helping the younger children complete lesson activities. Each lesson will be based on a Bible story, and include crafts, games, and other hands-on projects.



THANK YOU to our 15 volunteer instructors who have stepped forward to lead our lessons this year!

Thank you!

Stephanie Labadie

Rally Day - Ice Cream Sunday

Join us on Sunday, September 14th as we celebrate the start of another Children's Church year with the second edition of "Ask Pastor Bob" during Children's Time, and an ice cream sundae bar following worship service during Fellowship Hour!





SEACOAST FAMILY PROMISE UPDATE

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. Below are the remaining dates for 2025 that FUMC is responsible for providing dinner:

October 9, 10, 11

November 13, 14, 15

December 21, 26, 27 (21st is a Sunday - Temple traded days with us so they will provide dinner on Christmas Day.)

Volunteers cook the meal and deliver it to the Joshua House in Greenland ready-to-serve.

Updates to previous articles:

Joshua House - the new addition to the building is complete except for the kitchen stove and we have 4 families currently staying there (13 people). Renovations on the original house are in progress, and we hope to have them completed by the end of the year. I did a tour of the building a month ago and it is really impressive. This program has come a long way since its beginning.

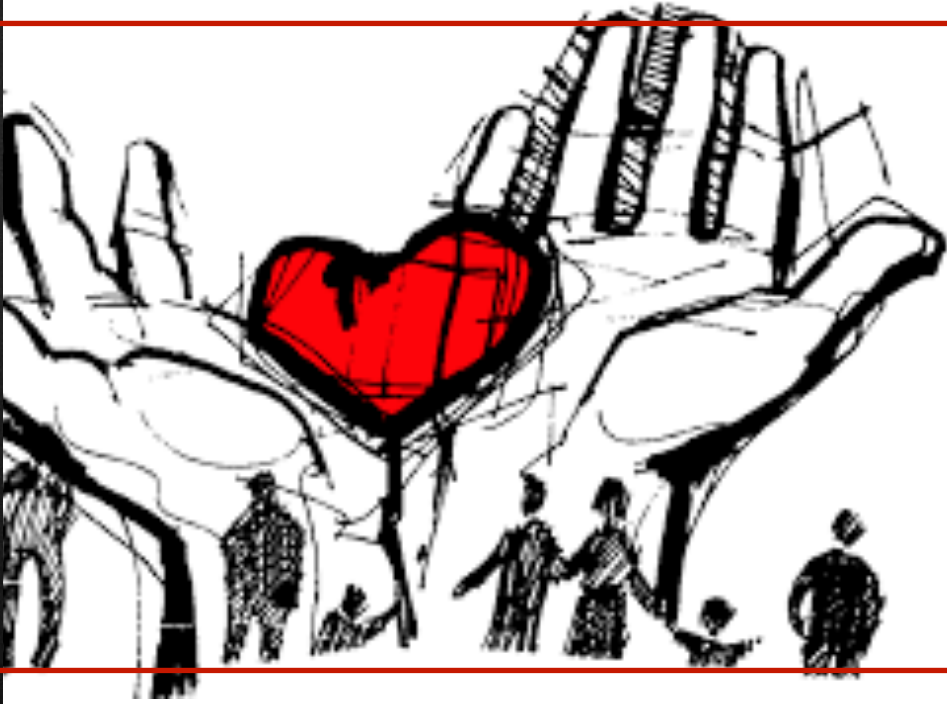
Donations for Joshua House in honor of Pati Frew-Waters - donations so far to honor Pati total \$15,982.50!

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

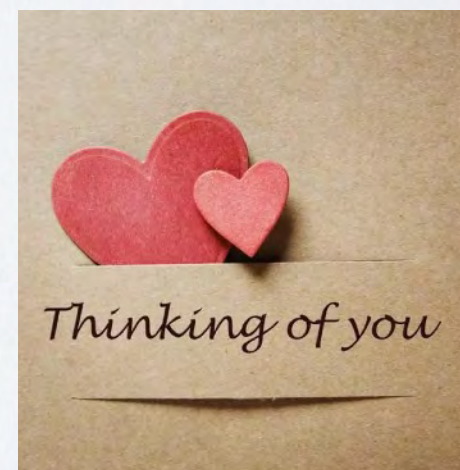
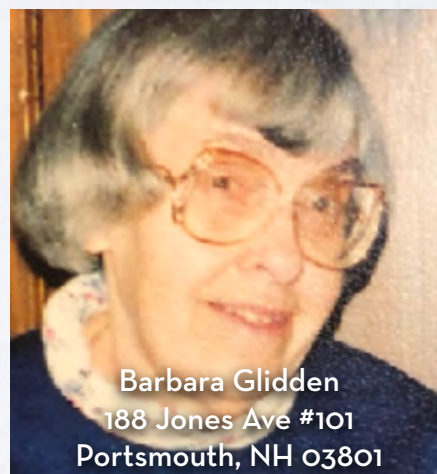


CHURCH FAMILY

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.


LOVE
IS CARING
FOR EACH
OTHER





WHATEVER YOU ASK
FOR IN PRAYER,
BELIEVE

| Mark 11:24 |

THERE IS POWER IN PRAYER!

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

WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER:

The people of Gaza and in the Sudan, All of God's children, Nancy's cousin Randy and his daughter, cousin Doug and Liz, The Family of Ed Correia, Steve Scott, George, Priscilla, and Martin, The Family of Gary Fisher, Charles Bradley, and Priscilla, Michelle Verrill and prayers of Thanksgiving for Elaine on a clear cancer scan. Kathy, and for all those impacted by all the gun violence that has been occurring, Sharon Rhodes, Patricia Ross and her son, travel mercies for all those traveling, the marginalized and scared, our country and the world as a whole, prayers for peace, and those we silently lift up right now.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & 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!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

6 Kellie & Steve Langs
7 Melanie & Mike Lindgren
14 David & Carol Bovee
30 Pastor Bob & Sharon Stewart



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- 9/7 - Sunday School begins again!
- 9/14 - Rally Day-Ice Cream Sunday
- 9/14 - Nominations & Leadership meeting
- 9/21 - Church Council meeting
- 9/27 - Pumpkin Delivery
- 9/28 - SPRC meeting
- 10/9, 10, & 11 - Seacoast Family Promise dinners
- 10/11 - Pumpkin Delivery
- 10/12 - Worship Committee meeting
- 11/13, 14, & 15 - Seacoast Family Promise dinners
- 12/21, 26, & 27 - Seacoast Family Promise dinners

GREATER SEACOAST POP-UP CARE VILLAGES

Creating connection, providing care, uplifting our community for those experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. September 10th, 1-5pm at First UMC!



Creating Connection, Providing Care, Uplifting Our Community

Join us for a one-day event offering essential services and support for individuals experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.

WEDNESDAY

SEPT 10, 2025

1:00–5:00PM

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
129 MILLER AVE PORTSMOUTH, NH



VILLAGE HIGHLIGHTS

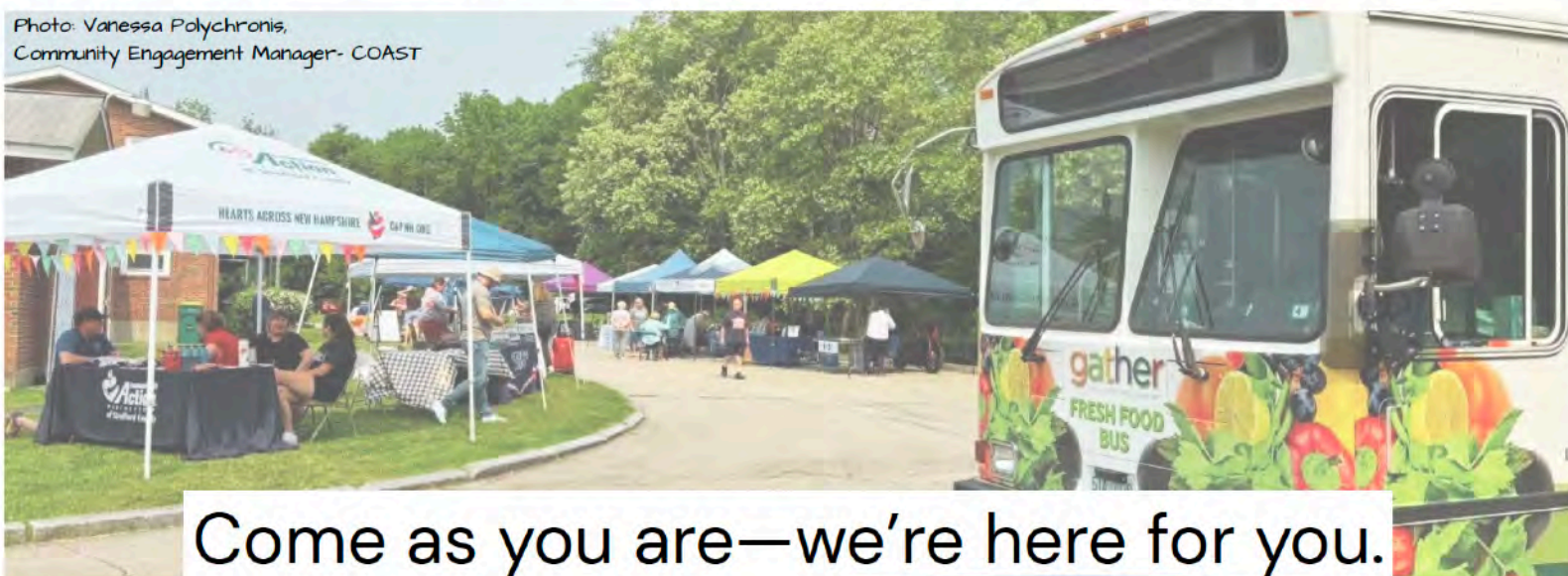
Basic Needs – Mobile showers, haircuts, groceries, donated goods, clothing & more

Community Resources – Housing help, benefits check-ins, legal aid, job support, recovery services, pet/vet care & more

Fun & Comfort – Free Wi-Fi, charging stations, coloring, games & friendly faces everywhere!

All services are **FREE**. Everyone is welcome!

Photo: Vanessa Polychronis,
Community Engagement Manager- COAST



Come as you are—we're here for you.

CORE PARTNERS:



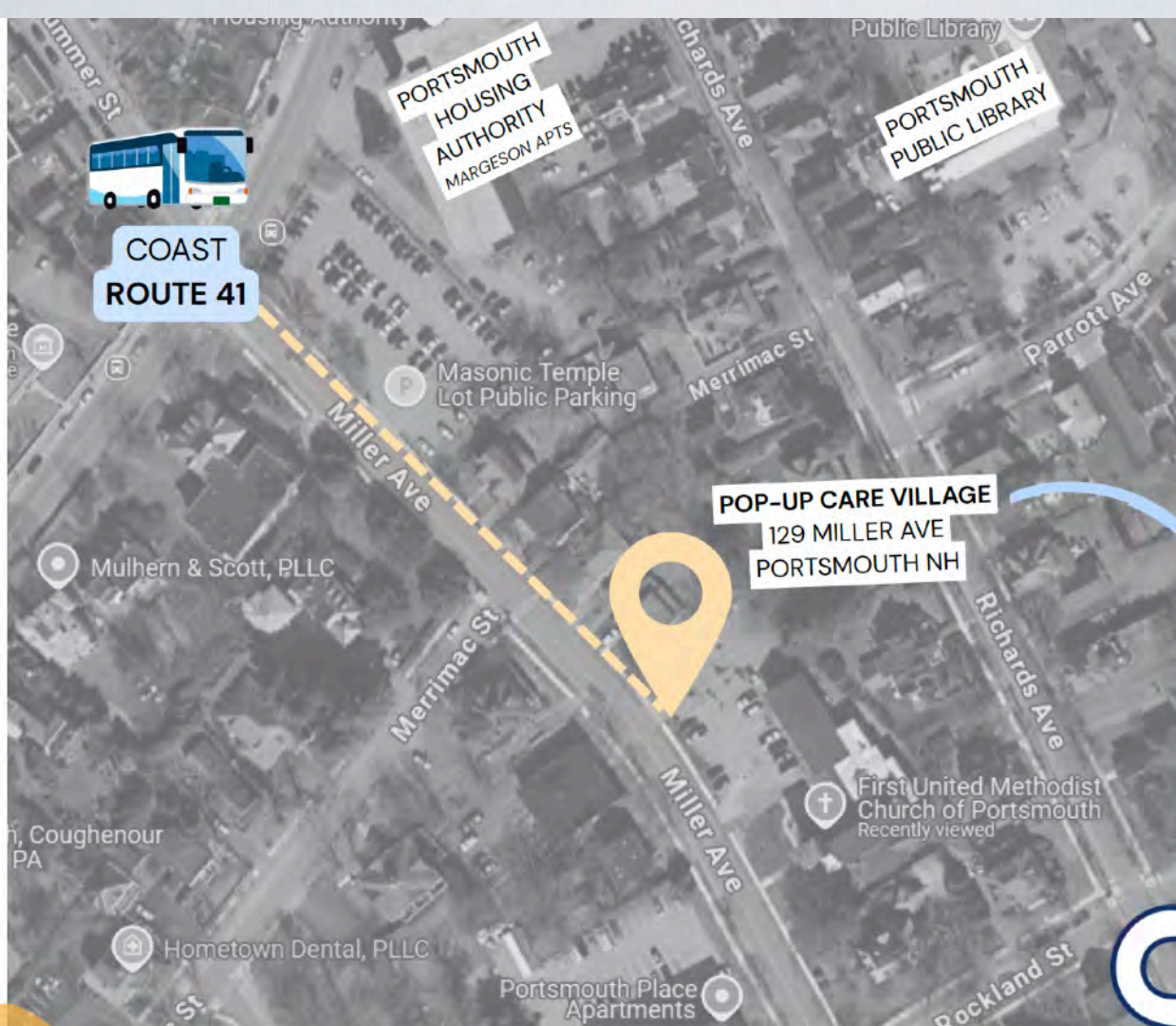
Lighthouse
Credit Union



LEARN MORE & JOIN OUR VILLAGE!

www.homeforall-seacoast.org/pucv

info@homeforall-seacoast.org



GREATER SEACOAST
Pop-Up Care Villages
 SEPT 10, 2025
 1:00-5:00PM



COAST

BUS ROUTE 41

OUTBOUND STOP: SUMMER/MIDDLE ST
 INBOUND STOP: MILLER AVE/MIDDLE ST



DONATIONS NEEDED!

Hygiene Essentials & Support Supplies

- Deodorant
- Body Wipes
- Toothpastes
- Lip Balms
- Towels
- Underwear
- Hand & Toe Warmers
- **Tents & Tarps**
- Bug Spray
- Flashlights
- Rain Ponchos
- Warm Clothing (Hats, Socks, Gloves)

Food & Drink

- High Protein Snacks
- Electrolyte Drinks/Powders
- Reusable Water Bottles

Pet Care

- Collapsible Pet Bowls
- Dry Cat/Dog Food
- Flea/Tick Medication



DONATION DROP-OFF: 2 - 5 SEPTEMBER 2025

Granite United Way
 110 Corporate Drive Suite 1
 Portsmouth, NH



Skip the Drop Off
 & Scan Here!

Pop-Up Care Village
 Amazon Wish List



Contact Us With Any Questions!



info@homeforall-seacoast.org



(978) 417-1270 - call/text



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

LIKING A POST



You

Your Friends

Your Friends, Friends

SHARING A POST



You



Your Friends



Your Friends, Friends

SHARING IS PART OF OUR OUTREACH!

Did you know that when you “like” our Facebook post, you show support. But when you “SHARE” it, you help spread the message to even more people! Sharing can make a real difference for someone who just might need it today. Thanks for helping us by clicking “share”!

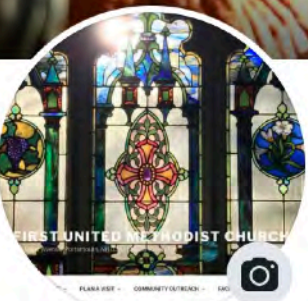
LET'S BE FRIENDS ON FACEBOOK!

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!





Edit cover photo



Fumcportsmouthnh Church

331 friends



Add to story

Edit profile



September 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
9/7/25	M. Giandomenico	Dominic	Daphne & Jack	K. Langs, S. Langs A. Langs	S. Richards	S. Scott	B. Labadie	D. Richards S. Labadie	A. Sillanpaa R. Buswell
9/14/25 Rally Day	Y. Griffin	Rosie & Will	Maria	M. Coffey A. Coffey	S. Labadie	S. Scott	S. Sarosiek	S. Richards PS. Orr	M. Lindgren J. Berry
9/21/25	K. Langs	Liam	Angilini Family	D. Pierce E. Pierce	S. Richards	S. Scott	S. Sarosiek	S. Stewart M. Lindgren	S. Labadie
9/28/25	J. VanReenen	Daphne & Jack	Grayson	S. Beckert M. Stebbins	S. Richards	S. Scott	S. Sarosiek	M. Verrill, M. Stebbins, Pastor B. Stewart	R. Groff



YOU ARE LOVED
ACCEPTED &
CELEBRATED
JUST AS YOU ARE



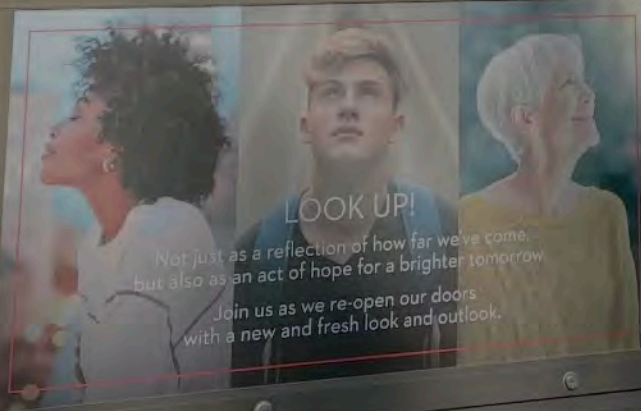
First UMC is a Reconciling Congregation dedicated to worshiping, learning, and serving with ALL people embracing Jesus Christ's message of love and acceptance.

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.

FIRST UNITED 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.