

STRICKEN SMITTEN

AFFLICTED PIERCED  
WOUNDED BRUISED

HE **DIED**  
SO THAT  
WE MIGHT **LIVE**



# HE IS RISEN!



*Luke 24:5b (NRSV)*

*Why do you look for the living among the dead?*

*He is not here, but has risen.*

Dear Friends,

We can only guess at the reactions the women at the tomb had on that early Easter morning. When the “men in dazzling white” told them that Jesus was not in the tomb but had risen from the dead, they must have been stunned, confused, angry, afraid, and yet maybe a little hopeful. In the Lukan story, the women ran to tell the disciples what they had seen, but even then, they weren’t believed. Luke says that it seemed like an idle tale to the men, but they eventually encountered the risen Christ, were commissioned by him to carry on his work in the world, and spread the news.

Easter is a celebration of hope, joy, new life, and commissioning for the followers of Jesus to share the good news of life in Christ with a world that so often doesn’t want anything to do with his teachings. In our call to follow Jesus, we carry on his work in the world as we offer God’s grace to all and hope for those who are outcasts and marginalized in our world. Faith in Christ means that we have a foundation on which to stand and hope for the future, as well as the ability to repent, be forgiven, and offer forgiveness. Let us live as Easter people, alive, hopeful, joyful, and sharing God’s love.

Grace and peace,  
Rev. Deb





## LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

Rev. Deb has put together a Lenten Devotional booklet for those who might like to read an extra devotion a day during the season of Lent. There are a variety of writers in the booklet, and their names are listed on the last page. The devotions are available on the table in the hallway near the *Upper Room* booklets.

## 40 DAY 40 ITEM CHALLENGE

It's a simple challenge...each day of Lent, remove one item from your closet/home that you longer wear or need and put it into the bag provided by us. Space will be available in Sanborn Hall to bring the filled bags where they will become part of a collective donation. We will donate the items to our community who can really use them. Thanks for continuing to "Give Hope".

## PALM SUNDAY

Join us on April 12th @ 10 am and celebrate the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem when palm branches were placed in his path, before his arrest on Holy Thursday and his crucifixion on Good Friday. It marks the beginning of Holy Week, the final week of Lent.

## HOLY THURSDAY MEAL

On Thursday, April 18th a Holy Thursday Stone Soup & Bread Meal will be available after service in Sanborn Hall at 6pm. There will be a communion service following the meal. All are welcome.

## GOOD FRIDAY PRAYERS

On Friday, April 19th the Sanctuary will be open for Good Friday prayers from 9:30 - 12:30 pm. There will also be an Ecumenical Service at 12 pm at St. John's Episcopal Church 100 Chapel St. Portsmouth, NH.

## EASTER SUNDAY

Join us on April 21st @ 10 am and celebrate Easter Sunday and the Risen Christ.





# A LETTER FROM JOHN VANREENEN

## GRATEFUL HEART PROGRAM

As an introduction to our upcoming Gratitude Campaign I had intended to compose an explanatory letter to the congregation for the April Beacon. To prepare, I read through the letter I wrote one year ago at this time. In my heart I wanted to say the same things to the congregation, in order to properly prepare us for this important time of the year. What I found was that the information I put together last year still applies. I have never done this before but I am going to leave that letter intact and it follows here. I am not trying to take the easy way out but felt this was the best way to introduce this year's Gratitude Campaign. Thanks in advance for your understanding and support.

*As I reflect on my seven or eight years of involvement with FUMC Trustees along with my four years heading up the Finance Committee, the only part of my work that I haven't enjoyed much is that of asking the congregation for money. Last fall the Finance Committee, with the support of Church Council decided to delay the normal Stewardship (Pledge) Drive, moving it to the spring. Well, spring has now arrived. We have a plan and the great thing about our plan is that I don't have to ask for money. We won't be holding up the 2018 budget from the pulpit and asking for your contributions to make sure we can pay our bills, meet payroll and satisfy what it takes to keep the church doors open through the rest of 2018.*

*What we will be doing is relying on a special book and the stewardship program found within that book, entitled the Gratitude Path, written by Kent Millard. We will look within the church and within our own religious lives at First Church for those things that we are grateful for. We want to promote the philosophy that we are part of a great situation in this wonderful congregation here in the greatest town in New England, and we have so much for which to be thankful.*

*Through our new Visioning Program which is opening our eyes, putting smiles on our faces and creating a great deal of enthusiasm, we see new potential for church growth and an infusion of young members. We are really on the verge of something great here and the positive feelings are building each and every week. We have so many faithful, hardworking and loving friends and members that really want to make our time together in doing God's work enjoyable and productive. Surely the direction we have chosen for FUMC will find favor with God.*

*So here is where we are: Certainly you should know that we have a budget and a plan. We would be remiss in not having those things in place as responsible leaders of this church. If you want to review that information, see me in church.*

*Going forward I will ask each and every one of you to answer the question "What is the Lord doing in your life in our church?" Translation; what do you and I as a part of the congregation of First Church have to be grateful for, are we excited about the church's growth into the future and what are we willing to commit to in order to see those wonderful things come to fruition?*

*Please join me in worship during the Sundays of April 7 and 28 along with a very special Gratitude Sunday on May 5. To complete the day the church will provide a special catered meal and celebration following worship on May 5. Please don't miss this event. Be a part of our new adventure building for the church's future.*

Respectfully submitted,

John VanReenen  
Finance Trustees Committee Chairperson



**IT'S TIME! THAT GLORIOUS  
SPRING TIME AND TIME TO  
CLEAN UP GOD'S HOUSE!**

**COME LEND A HAND AT  
THE SPRING CLEAN UP  
DAY ON APRIL 6TH @ 9 AM  
SIGN UP IN  
SANBORN HALL  
LUNCH IS ON US!**

**pampered**chef

There will be a **Pampered Chef Party** held in Sanborn Hall on May 4th. Please contact Sue Sarosiek or Melanie Berry for more details.  
**ALL are welcome!**

## **SFP CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**Monday, June 3rd at Pease  
Golf Course...Open to all!**

Win a Subaru Assent courtesy of Exeter Subaru. Silent auction, games, history of golf hole special and more.

1 PM shotgun and includes dinner and silent auction. \$125 per golfer [includes cart]. Buffet dinner and your friends and family can join for \$25 each. Registration underway on [seacoastfamilypromise.org](http://seacoastfamilypromise.org)

**NEW CHALLENGE - THE SWING FOR  
SEACOAST CHALLENGE** open to all area faith communities. Teams of four golfers...the faith community team that comes in first place will receive the **SWING FOR SEACOAST** trophy and a \$100 gift certificate to Cafe Nostimo.







thank you

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your prayers, cards, phone calls, visits, and gifts while recovering from my broken leg. I especially loved receiving the Sunday flowers filled with love from the congregation.

We are blessed to be in a wonderful, loving, and caring church. Thank you for your continued prayers as I continue to heal. Blessings & Love, Gil (and Marilyn, too) Stebbins

We have reached our goal for the TV Monitor!!! Thank you to everyone who contributed their generous support!

Many thanks for the cards, calls, and prayers that were extended to me during my sister's decline and death. I appreciate your care. Thank you, Jane Richards

While Bevan, our music director, is traveling in Asia from March 31 through April 14<sup>th</sup>, we want to thank Sal Hughes - March 31st and April 14th and fiddlers Paul and Sally Wells - April 7th who will lead our worship services. Thank you!



## **WELCOME DAVE!**

Welcome to our newest FUMC member, Dave Atkinson. Dave's membership has been transferred from the Goodwins Mills UMC in Lyman, ME. He is already active in the church, taking pictures, teaching Sunday school once a month, reading scripture, and helping Rev. Deb occasionally with the sermon. He is also married to Rev. Deb! Welcome, Dave!

## **FINANCE TRUSTEES MEETING**

There will be no Finance Trustees Meeting on 4/2. That meeting has been combined with the Church Council Meeting to be held @ 6pm on 4/16 at the church.

## **GRATITUDE SUNDAY - MAY 5TH**

Our [retiring] District Superintendent Jim McPhee will be joining us for worship. Please mark your calendars to be part of the service.

## **FUNDRAISERS NEWS**

At their March meeting, the Church Council voted not to hold the Bell Bazaar this year. After asking for feedback from the congregation (see the February Beacon), and receiving no input, the decision was made to focus on other possibilities.

We **WILL** hold the Golf Tournament in September, thanks to the leadership of Cathy VanReenen. We will be looking for people to help, so watch for "recruiting" information in a few months.

This summer, we will hold a "**rent a space**" yard sale, tentatively scheduled for June 22, 8 am – 1 pm with lunch. The church will have spaces, but others who might like to be part of a "giant yard sale" may rent space. We need a coordinator or two to take reservations for the sellers and help organize the day. Please contact Sue Sarosiek if you are willing to lead this.



# **WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER:**

**Joette MacKenzie**

**Vicky Fernandez**

**Woodie Lange**

**Roseanne**

**Rev. David Kerr**

**Jim New**

**Kim Hishop**

**Rev. Bill Gardei**

**Gayle Gardei**

**Marion Collishaw**

**Sue Goodhue**

**Hunter Pinkley**

**Sylvia Bartlett**

**BrianThompson**

**Barbara & Jim Slater**

**Barbara Sylvester**

**Pauline Boynton**

**Barbara Millar**

**Irene Derosier**

**Barbara Clement**

**Malia Broe**

**Gil Stebbins**

**Alissa Fernandez**

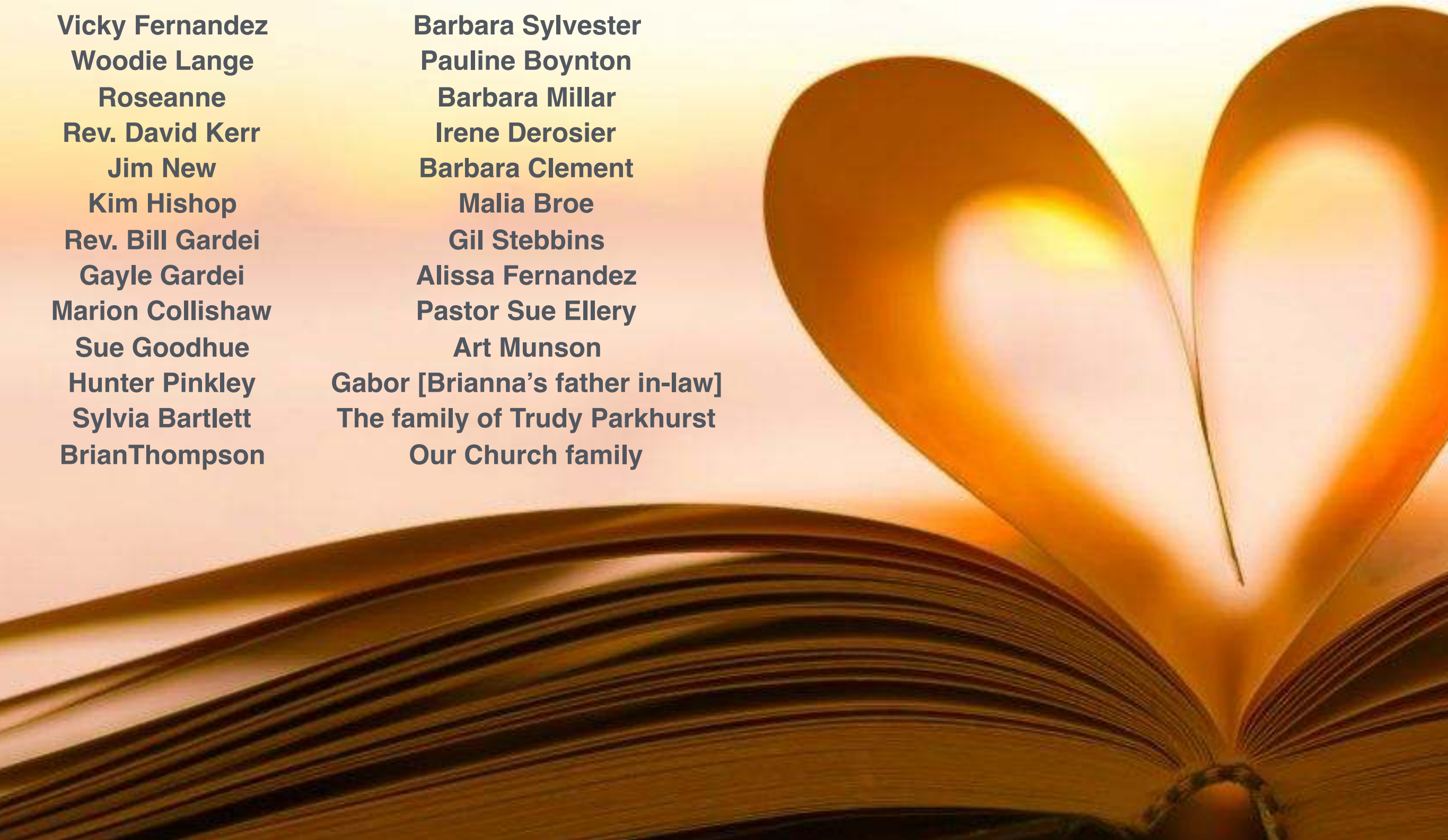
**Pastor Sue Ellery**

**Art Munson**

**Gabor [Brianna's father in-law]**

**The family of Trudy Parkhurst**

**Our Church family**





# *April* **BIRTHDAYS**

5 Amanda Veilleux  
6 Kathy Brown  
9 Angie Dewhurst  
15 Abigail Veilleux  
16 William Parsons  
16 Ruth Tuttle  
17 Brian Newbury  
21 Dale Smith  
22 Austen Kirk  
26 Sara Reed

**Ruth Tuttle will be celebrating her 90th birthday on April 16th! Join us in celebrating her by sending her wonderful 90 years by sending a Birthday card to:**

**Ruth Tuttle  
% Sharon Cannon  
145 Elm St.  
Windsor Locks, CT 06096**





A photograph of a sandy beach with footprints leading towards the ocean waves. The footprints are in the foreground, and the ocean is in the background. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

### Footprints

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed He was walking along the beach with the LORD. Across the sky flashed scenes from His life. For each scene He noticed two sets of footprints in the sand. One belonging to Him and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of His life flashed before Him, He looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of His life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times of His life.

This really bothered Him and He questioned the LORD about it. LORD you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me.

The LORD replied, my precious, precious child, I Love you and I would never leave you! During your times of trial and suffering when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you.

## ***THIS MONTH'S "SHARING MOMENT"*** ***by Steve Scott***

### **Why does it mean so much to me?**

When I was in my late teens, my parents bought a three family of beachfront property up in Maine with another couple. The other couple was very religious and in their unit, they had the poem "Footprints in the Sand" framed and attached to one of the posts. Over the 15 or so years that they owned it, I probably read it 100 times. It intrigued me. I didn't grow up in an overtly religious family. We went to church on Sundays and we'd help out with different church events when it was called for, but we didn't decorate our home with religious icons for the most part. I found myself reading the poem and it made me become quite emotional. It pointed out that when we need the Lord most...when we feel abandoned and alone, He is there to support us.

### **How has it impacted my life?**

I find myself going back to that poem again and again as a reminder of God's never-ending love for us. I take a lot of solace in the fact that even when I am struggling, that our God is nearby to help me through it. Even today, my eyes well up when I read it knowing that someone as powerful as God, who has much more on His plate than my problems is ever-present in all of our lives. Last Sunday, I'd walked to church. Between the time that I'd come to church and the time that I walked home, it'd snowed. As there hadn't been anyone walking on the sidewalk that I was, I couldn't help but smile at the singular set of footprints that I'd made in the freshly fallen snow.

### **What do I want others to take away from it?**

You're never alone. No matter the size of the issues that have you on your plate, our God is there to help.



I may only be one person, but I can be one person that makes a difference.

## Nurture Committee

We have a wonderful nurture committee that works “behind the scenes” to visit people, keep in touch with shut-ins, sends cards, and keeps the pastor informed about needs in our faith community. Barbara Slater has been the chairperson of this committee, and she has decided to step down. We are looking for someone who would be willing to be the team leader for this important committee. Please see Sue Sarosiek or Rev. Deb if you would be willing to step up.

***MANY THANKS to Barbara for her faithful leadership!***

## SENDING A CARD, MAKING A VISIT, OR CALLING SOMEONE...

These are all wonderful ways of making sure our FUMC family feels connected to what is going on in the life of the church and in your life. Just saying hello can make a huge difference in someone's day. Here are some folks that would love to hear from you.

Cards and Pictures are available in the church office to share, or provide your own. Behold the gift of friendship and joy!



Ruth Tuttle  
145 Elm St  
Windsor Locks, CT  
06096



Barbara Clement  
18 Sam Clark Road  
Barnstead, NH 03225



Gil Stebbins  
143 Rogers Rd. #105  
Kittery, ME  
03904



Barbara Sylvester  
346 Pleasant St. #242  
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Barbara & Jim Slater  
288 Wallis Road  
Rye, NH 03870



Marion Collinshaw  
111 Westwood Drive  
Nashua, NH 03062



James New  
Durgin Pines  
9 Lewis Rd #104  
Kittery, ME 03904



Barbara Millar  
220 State Road #110  
Kittery, ME 03904



Sylvia Bartlett  
231 Washington St  
Rye, NH 03870

JoEtte MacKenzie  
18 Woodman St  
Rochester, NH 03867



Barbara Glidden  
188 Jones Ave #101  
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Gayle Gardei  
2 Victoria Ct. #219  
York, ME 03909

Rev Bill Gardei  
Durgin Pines  
9 Lewis Road #127  
Kittery, ME 03904



Woodie Lange  
346 Pleasant St. #101  
Portsmouth, NH 03801





## **BACKPACK MINISTRY/END 68 HOURS OF HUNGER**

This program continues to thrive and we are now well into our 8<sup>th</sup> school year. We are currently serving 102 children total from all 6 Portsmouth schools. We continue to get amazing support from other churches and our community volunteers. In the past couple of months, we have received food donations from 5 food drives and cash donations from several other fundraisers. We were a participant again this year in “Spinning for Generosity” and over \$7,000 was raised in one week – amazing!!!! We have also been selected as the charity for the Pease Tenant Association this year and they will have several fundraising events for us throughout the course of the year. I also have a company at Pease purchasing hats and gloves for all the children, which will go out in the bags on 1/11. It’s really wonderful how giving this Portsmouth community is. God is good! If you would like to get involved in this ministry or learn more about it, please contact me directly at [jen\\_b76@yahoo.com](mailto:jen_b76@yahoo.com) or 603-801-3886. Blessings, Jen Berry - Portsmouth Coordinator

## **SEACOAST FAMILY PROMISE**

SFP is going stronger than ever. Our next rotation is January 20-27 and we currently have (3) families in the program – 3 single moms and a total of 10 children (8 under the age of 6). All of the families we worked with in 2018 (except for these 3 which are currently in the program) transitioned to stable housing and have remained there. The Day Center in Exeter is currently undergoing significant improvements due to the generosity of the community and Riverwoods, who made us their charity this year and raised thousands of dollars for the program. If you would like to volunteer, we have opportunities available to help with prepping the Sunday school rooms for family arrival, cleaning them up when it’s over the next week, dinner crew for Friday night and we could always use new overnight volunteers. Many of the current volunteers in this program have been doing it all 13 years, so some fresh volunteers would be appreciated. This program definitely changes lives and I am proud that our church is a part of it, along with 20+ other congregations in the Seacoast NH area. If you think you might like to help and experience the joy of changing people’s lives firsthand, please contact Jen Berry at [jen\\_b76@yahoo.com](mailto:jen_b76@yahoo.com) or 603-801-3886.

## **UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)**

Is an agency that reaches out to communities and countries who have gone through natural disasters, fires, and many other traumatizing events that have caused destruction and loss. They provide clean-up support, medical supplies, school supplies, and a number of other ways of helping those who are in distress. Even though we may not always see them listed in the newspapers, they are among the first ones to respond since teams are made up of people who live in the area.

Here at First UMC, we support UMCOR through our financial giving, as well as occasionally putting together kits or flood buckets to send wherever they are needed. All money we give goes to help wherever it is needed. On the Sunday designated as “One Great Hour of Sharing,” the money for that Sunday goes to help the administrative costs to run UMCOR. So, when we donate to a cause, we can be sure that 100% of the funds go to that cause. Each month we will collect mission money for UMCOR to go to a certain cause. For more information, go to GBGM.org. Thanks for all you do to help others!



# APRIL 2019 - SUNDAY WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

DATE	LITURGIST	GREETERS	USHERS	ACOLYTE	WORSHIP TECH	SOUND TECH	SUNDAY SCHOOL
4/7/19	Yvonne Griffin	Jane Richards & Marilyn Stebbins	Anne & Mike Coffey Ken Young	Nancy Cheser	N/A	Dave Richards	Airial Silanpaa Rosie Buswell
4/14/19	Sue Richards	Langs Family Marilyn Stebbins	Ken & Jenya Westbrook Al and Jan Cansdale	Alexa Langs	N/A	Dave Richards	Dave A. Airial
4/21/19	John VanReenen	Anne & Mike Coffey & Marilyn Stebbins	Yvonne Griffin Ken Young Anne & Mike Coffey	Sue Richards	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Children in Church
4/28/19	Dave Atkinson	Ken & Sharon Corpron	Anne & Mike Coffey Ken and Jenya Westbrook	Sue Richards	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Airial Silanpaa Kaya Sarosiek

**NOTE - IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO MEET THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE PLEASE LET US KNOW  
IMMEDIATELY SO WE CAN SCHEDULE SOMEONE ELSE.**



# **APRIL 2019**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 ♦April Fools Day ♦2pm Planet Rangers ♦7pm AA	2 ♦2pm Planet Rangers ♦6pm Promusica ♦6pm Finance Trustees Meeting ♦6:30pm NA	3	4 ♦8:30 Doris Rice ♦2pm Planet Rangers ♦7pm AA	5 ♦7pm AA	6 ♦9am Spring Clean-Up ♦1pm AA
7 ♦10am Worship ♦11am Coffee Hour	8 ♦2pm Planet Rangers ♦7pm AA	9 ♦6pm Promusica ♦6:30pm NA	10	11 ♦8:30 Doris Rice ♦2pm Planet Rangers ♦7pm AA	12 ♦7pm AA	13 ♦9am Spiritual Assembly of B'ahi ♦1pm AA
14 ♦Palm Sunday ♦10am Worship ♦11am SPRC ♦11am Coffee Hour	15 ♦Tax Day ♦2pm Planet Rangers ♦7pm AA	16 ♦2pm Planet Rangers ♦6pm Promusica ♦6pm Church Council ♦6:30 pm NA	17	18 ♦8:30 Doris Rice ♦6PM Holy Thursday Stone Soup Meal ♦7pm AA	19 ♦Good Friday ♦1:30pm AA High Nooners ♦7pm AA	20 ♦1pm AA
21 ♦Easter ♦10am Worship ♦11am Coffee Hour	22 ♦ Earth Day ♦ 7pm AA	23 ♦2pm Planet Rangers ♦6pm Promusica ♦6:30pm NA	24	25 ♦8:30 Doris Rice ♦7pm AA	26 ♦11:30am AA High Nooners ♦7pm AA	27 ♦10am Quebecois SuperJam ♦1pm AA
28 ♦10am Worship ♦11am Coffee Hour ♦SFP	29 ♦7pm AA ♦SFP	30 ♦6:30pm NA ♦SFP				





## **FUMC PORTSMOUTH A RECONCILING CONGREGATION**

We, the congregation of the First United Methodist Church of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, are dedicated to worshiping, learning, and serving with all people as we embrace Jesus Christ's message of love and acceptance. As a United Methodist Church we stand fully behind the statement "Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors" 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.



### **New England Annual Conference Tri-State District**

The Rev. Sudarshana Devadhar, Bishop  
The Rev. James McPhee, District Superintendent

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
129 Miller Avenue - Portsmouth, NH 03801  
Office Phone 603-436-6038 [office@fumcportsmouth.net](mailto:office@fumcportsmouth.net)  
Pastor office hours - Tuesday and Thursday 9 am - 12 pm  
[call to ensure availability]  
Pastor - Rev. Dr. Debra J. Hanson

Check out our website at [www.fumcportsmouth.com](http://www.fumcportsmouth.com)

Like and Follow Us On:

