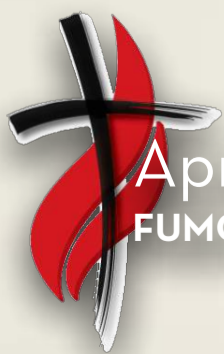


H E
i s
R I S E N



April 2021
FUMC BEACON

Dear Friends,

Jeremiah 31:31-33 - NRSV

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! We celebrate Easter and remember the covenant God has made with us as God's beloved children. It is the covenant of love, reconciliation and forgiveness. We have hope in our lives because of Jesus, and that is truly Good News, especially during these challenging times. God has not and will not abandon us. I share this prayer from Rev. Megan Stowe one of the district superintendents in our annual conference. May it remind you of the hope Jeremiah offered to the nation of Israel and the hope we have in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Blessings, Rev. Deb

God, You promised us that the days are surely coming ...
Days when we truly appreciate the work of our front-line workers. Days when all people can receive the vaccine.
Days when we can gather safely in our church buildings. Days when our kids will once again enter their schools to receive their education.

You are making a new covenant and calling us to: New commitment to care for the marginalized, New commitment to the immigrant and refugee, New commitment to the unhoused, New commitment to the neurodivergent, New commitment to people of color, New commitment to people of all ages.

You have put your law inside of us. We all know you and your promises. The days are surely coming. Thanks be to God.
Amen.

(Written by Rev. Megan Stowe, Superintendent
Commonwealth West District, March 19, 2021, used with permission)





THE CHURCH AT WORK

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

April 1, is Maundy/Holy Thursday, Eliot UMC, St. Mark's UMC, and First UMC will gather together on Zoom for a joint service at 7:00 p.m. Visit eliotumc.org to find the link for the Lenten services (these will be recorded for later viewing, too). People from all three churches, Rev. Deb, and Pastor Dawn will be leading the service. Holy Communion will be celebrated from our homes together. For further information, please contact Rev. Deb.

A Good Friday service will also be held on April 2 at 7:00 p.m. with the same three churches participating. Rev. Deb and Pastor Dawn will lead the service. Again, go to eliotumc.org to connect with the Lenten services link at 7:00 pm (this will also be recorded for later viewing).

EASTER SUNDAY

Join us for worship through our Easter Sunday video. We will have Holy Communion and a lot of celebrating! In spite of being apart physically, we are together as children of God and brothers and sisters in Christ! There may even be a few surprises! We will still have our Zoom gathering at 10:00 am Easter Sunday morning! Please mark your calendars!

REV. DEB IS ON VACATION

Monday, April 5 through Sunday, April 11. If anyone has need of pastoral care, contact David Richards or contact the church office.

CHURCH COUNCIL/FINANCE-TRUSTEES MEETING

Joint meeting on April 13 at 6:00 pm via zoom.

CHURCH OFFICE LIBRARY

We have some great adult and children's books if you are looking for something to read. The church office library is getting built up and you borrow these books by simply signing them out and returning when finished. Come and check it out the next time you are close by.



THANK YOU

THANKS FROM REV. DEB AND PASTOR DAWN

To all who participated in the Mid-Week Lenten Services from the three churches, Eliot UMC, St. Mark's UMC, and First UMC...thank you!

A special thanks to the children and youth from each church who provided the message for Palm Sunday Worship by presenting the play "Quite an Entrance!", which was written by Rev. Deb

THANK YOU FROM MARILYN AND GIL STEBBINS

To Everyone who sends cards to us...We appreciate so much your thoughts and continued prayers. They do brighten our day. Also, to whoever sends cards and prayers from our church family. We appreciate so much your love and caring. Blessings and love!

THANK YOU FROM BARBARA CLEMENT

You will never know the joy it brings to have have the cards arrive in my room...thank you! It is always great hearing your voices on the zoom call even though I don't always get to see you. Know that I miss you all very much.

THE CHURCH ON ZOOM



SUNDAY MORNING ZOOM CALL

It is so wonderful getting to see you all on Sundays virtually...we have had great discussions on the scripture for the week, as well as a time to catch up with each other.. Join us...it's less than an hour and Rev. Deb sends out the zoom link via email to each of us.

Every second Sunday of the month, we look forward to seeing the children at the beginning of the Zoom call for a time to check in with them and share a prayer.

See you on Sunday!



ZOOM BIBLE STUDY?...INTERESTED?

Several people have expressed an interest in participating in a Bible study. Would you be interested in being involved or leading it? Let us know by emailing Rev. Deb at PastorFirstUMC@outlook.com



RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTEERS

This month we recognize Rev. Deb Hanson and Dave Atkinson...while Rev. Deb is our part-time Pastor she goes above and beyond her paid "part-time" status in preparing sermons, writing liturgy, short stories, calling church family, sending cards and being a willing spirit in trying new and different things in these very different times to connect the community. Dave, is always in a good mood, willing to volunteer his help for anything, is a constant fill-in when there are no liturgist volunteers and is the resident photographer/videographer capturing beautiful moments of our church at work. Thank you both for ALL you do in keeping the church family connected not only to each other but also to our spiritual journey.



WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER

Juliann
Naomi
Erin Frane
Jim Slater
Charles Gilman
Barbara Clement

Harry Junkins
Sophia
Barbara Glidden
Bobbie Noble
Dan Strange
Danny Westbrook

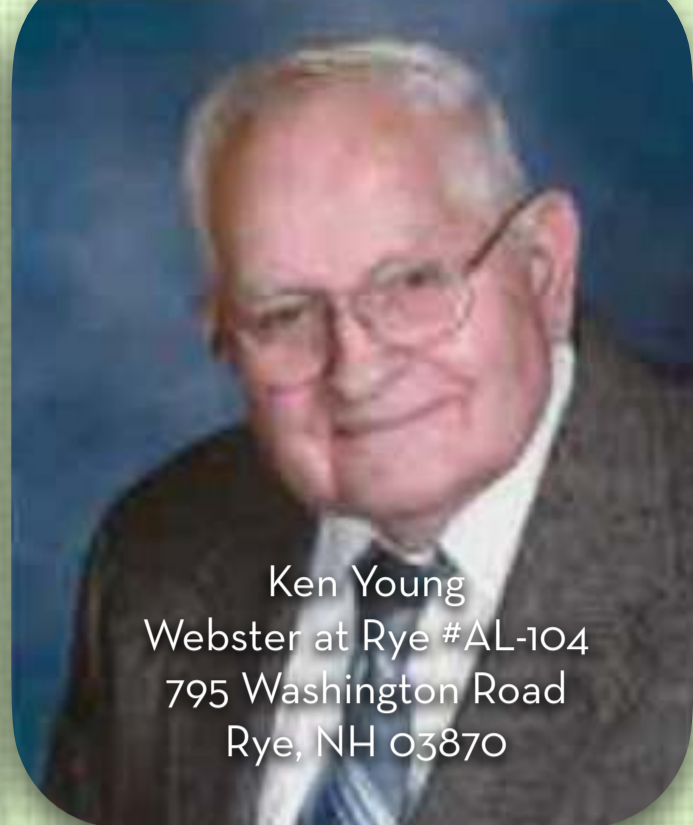
The Family of Jen Patria
Jen - Stebbins daughter-in-law
Those in nursing and assisted living care
Front line workers
Our Denomination
Our Country
Our Church family
Those who have lost loved ones to COVID



Barbara Clement
Riverside Rest Home
276 County Farm Rd #304
Dover, NH 03820



Marion Collishaw
50 Old Colony Way
Scituate MA 02066



Ken Young
Webster at Rye #AL-104
795 Washington Road
Rye, NH 03870

OUR FAMILY

WHO CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH

A card can make a big difference in someone's day!



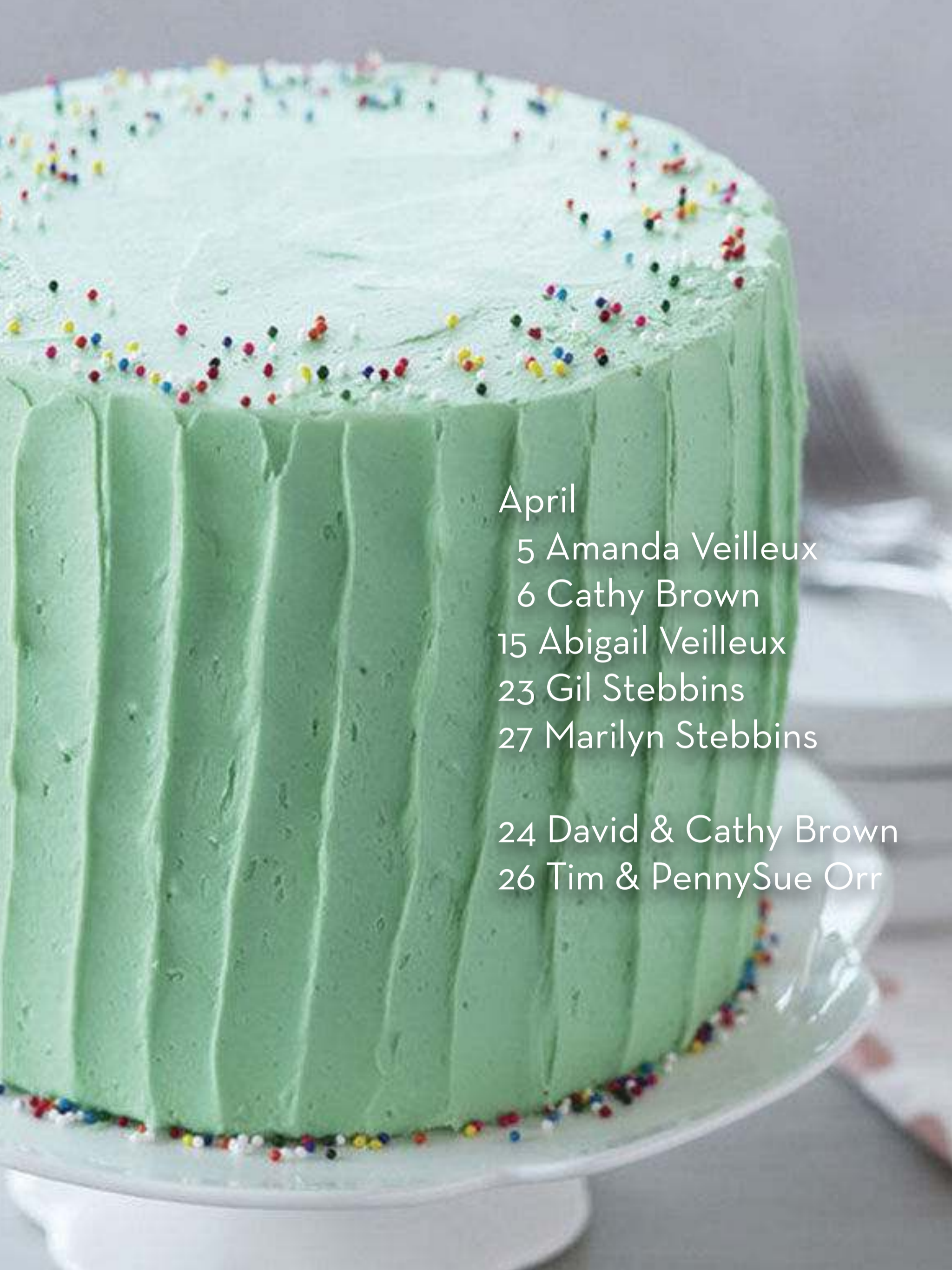
Barbara Glidden
188 Jones Ave #101
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Gil Stebbins
143 Rogers Rd #105
Kittery, ME 03904
207.807.6675



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



April

5 Amanda Veilleux

6 Cathy Brown

15 Abigail Veilleux

23 Gil Stebbins

27 Marilyn Stebbins

24 David & Cathy Brown

26 Tim & PennySue Orr

KIDS FIRST



KIDS FIRST OUTREACH

2020 was indeed a very challenging year for everyone but for some it has had serious consequences. Because of YOU and through the FUMC KIDS FIRST outreach program we have become a lifeline for our local at risk kids.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?...

You can use the website "GIVE" tab, use the QR code or write a check noting KIDS FIRST donation for all options. Wednesday is donation drop off day from 10 - 2 pm.

Thanks for making a difference!





MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN NICARAGUA

THIS EASTER LET'S HELP MAKE A BIGGER DIFFERENCE

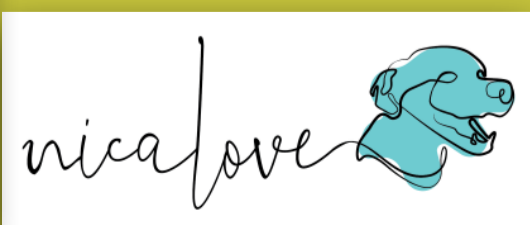
Easter is a celebration of Christ's resurrection and a time for new beginnings because He rose from the dead to save us from our sins. This Easter our offering will be going to 2 incredible missions creating new beginnings for all of God's creatures in Nicaragua the poorest country in Central America and the second poorest in the Western Hemisphere. Let's meet the folks who are already making a difference there and need our help in continuing their efforts...prayerfully give generously.



Meet Dr. Belinda Forbes she is a AMC international liaison for community health and serves by contributing to a community-based primary dental health program, mentoring volunteers and interacting with partner organizations. She also joined us via zoom on March 14th to speak to us about her work life and work in Nicaragua.



Meet Julie Coffey-Burke [Anne and Mike's daughter] who founded NicaLove an animal welfare organization serving animals and those who care for them in vulnerable communities. They partner with local animal welfare organizations to rescue and rehabilitate domestic and working animals and provide wellness clinics.



GIVING MADE EASIER!

We have added two digital ways you can now send your FUMC pledge or give a donation to the church for any of the following giving opportunities:

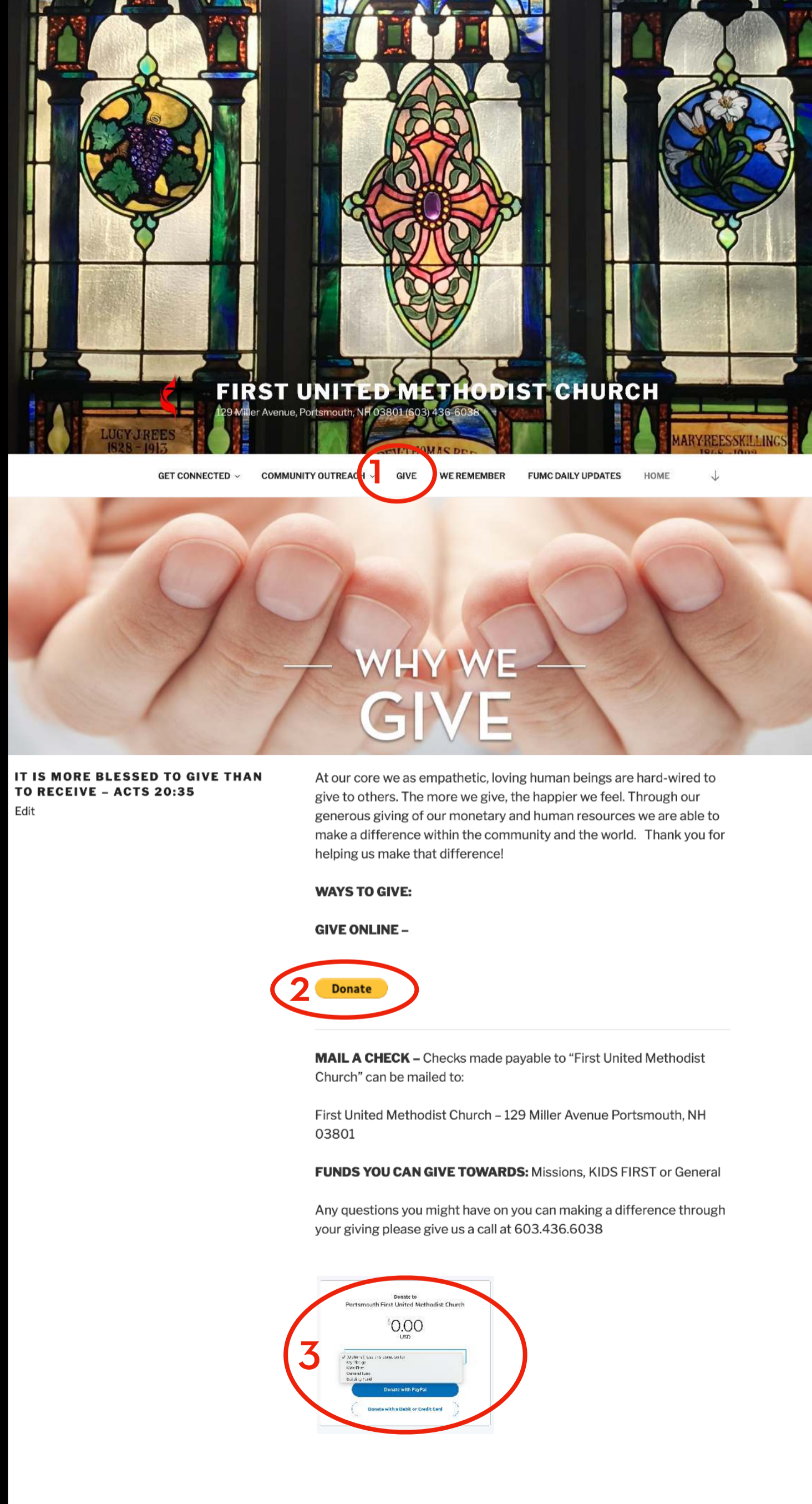
- My Pledge
- Kids First Fund
- General Fund
- Building Fund

Here's how...

1.] Visit our website at fumcportsmouth.com and follow the 3 steps shown to the right.

OR...

2.] Point your phone camera on the QR code below to view the online PayPal donation page.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the First United Methodist Church website. The header features a navigation bar with links: GET CONNECTED, COMMUNITY OUTREACH, **GIVE** (circled in red with a '1'), WE REMEMBER, FUMC DAILY UPDATES, and HOME. Below the header is a large image of hands clasped in prayer with the text "WHY WE GIVE".

IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE – ACTS 20:35
Edit

At our core we as empathetic, loving human beings are hard-wired to give to others. The more we give, the happier we feel. Through our generous giving of our monetary and human resources we are able to make a difference within the community and the world. Thank you for helping us make that difference!

WAYS TO GIVE:

GIVE ONLINE –

2 **Donate** (circled in red)

MAIL A CHECK – Checks made payable to “First United Methodist Church” can be mailed to:

First United Methodist Church – 129 Miller Avenue Portsmouth, NH 03801

FUNDS YOU CAN GIVE TOWARDS: Missions, KIDS FIRST or General

Any questions you might have on you can making a difference through your giving please give us a call at 603.436.6038

3 (circled in red) A screenshot of the PayPal donation page showing the amount \$0.00 USD and options to donate with PayPal, Debit, or Credit Card.



HOMEMADE EASTER PIES



CALLING ALL PIE LOVERS AND PIE ANGEL VOLUNTEERS!

Remember all the scrumptious Apple, Blueberry [\$12] and Pecan [\$14] pies that were made for Thanksgiving...[picture to the left as a reminder!]. Great news!...we are going to be offering “ready to bake” at your convenience fresh frozen pies for your Easter gatherings or a nice gift for a neighbor or friend. They will be beautifully boxed, tied and tagged with a note from the Pie Angel who made it for you.

Pie order deadline is March 26th

To order contact Sue Richards @ 603-749-4169 [text/call] or email at mksrichards@comcast.net

Pie order pick up will be April 3rd 9 am - 12 pm at the church

Packaging Angels are scheduled for April 3rd from 9 am - 12 pm



WHO WE ARE

FUMC PORTSMOUTH A RECONCILING CONGREGATION

We, the congregation of the First United Methodist Church of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, are dedicated in worshipping, 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.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
129 MILLER AVENUE
PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801
603.436.6038
fumcportsmouth.com

REV. DR. DEBRA J. HANSON