



**I lift up my eyes to the mountains –
where does my help come from?
My help comes from the LORD, the
Maker of heaven and earth.**

–Psalm 121:1-2

GOD'S GOT MY BACK

Psalm 121:1-2 (NRSV)

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Dear Friends,

If you have ever been to Iowa, especially northern Iowa, where I grew up, you may have discovered that the land is very flat and without many trees. Like a desert oasis dotted along the wilderness sands, trees can be found in little bunches wherever there are farmhouses or towns. The same holds true for bodies of water. Even though we have some lakes and streams, our biggest bodies of water border the state on each side: the Missouri River to the West and the Mississippi River to the East.

When I made my first trip to the East coast, I was fully enamored with the ocean and mountains, and I decided that this is where I wanted to live. I moved out here in 1972 and never looked back except, of course, to return to Iowa to visit my family regularly.

Maybe my love of the ocean and mountains is one of the reasons I like Psalm 121 so much. Of course, the message is far more than just “lifting my eyes to the hills” because the rest of the Psalm goes on to express the Psalmist’s joy in God’s presence with us. God’s help is always there for us, and God doesn’t go to sleep on the job.

Verse 7 declares that “The Lord will keep you from all evil,” which can be confusing in light of all the evil we encounter in our world. But when we read the second half of the verse, we find that it says, “God will keep your life.” Evils DO attack us, but when we have the presence of God in our lives and trust that God is with us in all things, we have assurance that God has our souls. Whatever befalls us, God holds us close to God’s heart. We are God’s beloved children.

Moving away from my family has been challenging and has brought some issues with it, but between the ocean and mountains, as well as finding friends and family out here, I am reminded that God continues to bless me. I am reminded that God “has my back” as well as “the backs” of those whom I love way out in Iowa.

Thank you for being part of my life as my church family. May God continue to guide and bless us all.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Deb



BE FAITHFUL IN PRAYER!

Barbara & Jim Slater

Barbara Sylvester

Pauline Boynton

Barbara Millar

Irene Derosier

Barbara Clement

Malia Broe

Gil Stebbins

Alissa Fernandez

Pastor Sue Ellery

Roseanne

Joette MacKenzie

Vicky Fernandez

Woodie Lange

Rev. David Kerr

Jim New

Rev. Bill Gardei

Gayle Gardei

Marion Collinshaw

Sue Goodhue

Hunter Pinkley

Sylvia Bartlett

Gabor

Charles Gilman

Bobbie Noble

John Richards

Anne & Mike Coffey

Judy Doyon

Brian Thompson

Jessie

Diederich Family

Maria Fernandez

Gigis Family

Our Church Family

UPCOMING EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sundays - Church Service starts at 10 a.m. Sunday school is right after the children's sermon and we look forward to catching up with you during coffee hour after the worship service. See you there.

August 1st - Help the Sunday School Kids help other Kids for local foster families and for a school in Cameroon, Africa. A list of donations needs and collection box is in the church narthex.

August 4th - SPRC meeting after worship service.

August 5th - 19th - Rev. Deb will be on vacation please contact the church office or Dave Richards - Pastoral Assistant with any pastoral needs.

August 13th - Finance Trustees and Church Council meeting 6pm in church office.

August 24th - Civilian Response to Active Shooter Event training by the Portsmouth Police Department 10-12 pm at the church.

August 31st - Saturday Night Supper Club will meet at the Old Salt in Hampton @ 5:30 pm.

September 1st - October 31st - bag or box up your good, clean, working, sellable items and donate them to the church and we will bring them to Savers Donation Center for cash supporting our annual budget. Sept. 1st is the first date for donations! - see Sue Sarosiek or Sue Richards for more info.

September 11th - Annual Golf Tournament at Pease Golf Course.

September 28th - Pumpkin delivery!

Everyday - Be a Prayer Warrior and lift up the world and it's people in prayer.

Sometime this week - jot a note, card or visit one of our family members who are either living in assisted living, nursing care or homebound.

POWER OF PRAYER

Starting Sunday, August 4, part of the Worship Team will be offering prayers for healing during communion. These prayers offered through the laying of hands are for the healing you or someone you know may need.

After you receive communion the Worship Team will be at the end of the communion rail and you can either kneel or stand to receive healing prayers. If you have any questions please contact
Rev. Deb.

THANK YOU

We were blessed to have Asel and Sal who substituted for Bevan while he was on vacation and want to thank Dave Richards and Kevin Fickenscher for leading the worship service while Rev. Deb is on vacation.

UMC MARKET PLACE

Do you shop on line? Have you ever heard of UMC Market Place? This is a place where you can shop on line with hundreds of places like Staples, Bed Bath and Beyond, Travelocity, and many other companies on-line, and when you go through the UMC Market.org, a percentage will be donated to the church. It's a great way to do fund-raising with what you are already doing! To learn more, go to UMCMarket.org and read about how it works, then sign up using First UMC, Portsmouth as the benefitting church. If you have any questions, please ask Rev. Deb.

FYI.
We thought you might want to know!



**KIDS HELPING OTHER KIDS!
SEE HOW YOU CAN HELP...**

Starting August 1st, the Kids in Sunday School invite everyone to help them collect school supplies for local foster families and for a school in Cameroon, Africa. A box will be in the narthex for all of your donations.
Thank you!

Here's what the kids are asking for:
backpacks. pencils, lined paper, markers
crayons, glue sticks, liquid glue, rulers
notebooks, composition books, pocket folders



Sylvia Bartlett
231 Washington St
Rye, NH 03870

JoEtte MacKenzie
18 Woodman St
Rochester, NH 03867



Marion Collinshaw
% Prudence Cullen
50 Old Colony Way
Scituate MA. 02064
Summer Address



Ruth Tuttle
145 Elm St
Windsor Locks, CT
06096



Barbara Clement
Riverside Rest Home
276 County Farm Rd
Room 304
Dover, NH 03830



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



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



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



Barbara & Jim Slater
288 Wallis Road
Rye, NH 03870



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



Barbara Millar
220 State Road, #110
Kittery, ME 03904

Make a *difference* for
someone today!!



August Anniversaries & Birthdays

Anniversaries

1 Jim & Barbara Slater
2 Bill & Connie Parsons
7 David & Sue Richards
9 Joseph & Kim Philbrick
13 Gil & Marilyn Stebbins
16 Steve & Janice Bakula
20 Charlie & Barbara Felton
31 Russell & Anita Bunting
31 Glenn & Linda Meadows

Birthdays

1 Glenn Meadows
8 Anne Coffey
8 John Pettigrew
9 Melissa Snodgrass
12 Art Munson
12 Roy Velez
13 Pastor Sue Ellery
13 Andrew Laux
15 Brianna Umbrus
18 Priscilla Zoffoli
20 Jesse Bennett
20 Sam Bovee
24 Will Crisp
25 Bevan Bloemendaal
26 Sarah Reed
27 Jan Cansdale
28 Russell Bunting, Jr
28 TJ Scott
29 Steve Bakula
30 Frances Snook
31 Sue Allen

Finance Trustees Committee; State-of-the-Church Report, July, 2019

Finance Trustees Committee Goals:

- Open communication; Financial transparency with congregation on all financial matters
- Efficient resolution of challenges
 - o Mission share obligations
 - o Open debt payments & closure
- Continuously improved operations
 - o Office computer & software upgrades
 - o Improvements in Church banking
 - o Emphasis on church facilities upkeep & maintenance
- Finance & Trustees committees combined for efficiency
- Congregation financial questions welcome – Please see Nancy, Linda or John

2019 Budget - \$172,309

2019 Church Income to Date - \$72,079

2018 Budget - \$172,752

2018 Church Income - \$169,193

Capital Campaign – 2016

- Total Campaign Pledge - \$156,766
- Funds Received to Date - \$159,833
- Projects Completed via Capital Campaign
 - o Kitchen Rebuild & Upgrade
 - o Alarm System Installation
 - o Roof Repairs; Sanctuary & Sanborn Hall
 - o Sanborn Hall Roof Replacement via Line of Credit

Gratitude Campaign Results

- 2019 Pledge Total - \$79,040 (27)
- 2019 Pledge Contributions - \$39,455
- 2018 Pledge Total - \$95,904 (34)
- 2018 Pledge Contributions - \$82,352

Mission Shares Payment

- 2019 Obligation - \$18,623
- 2019 Payments to Date - \$02018 Obligation - \$18,655
- 2018 Payment - \$18,655
- 2015, 2016, 2017 & 2018 Paid in Full

Invested Funds

- Total - \$117,166
- Available for capital improvements - \$71,664

Trustees; Recently Completed Capital Projects

- Sanctuary Roof Repairs
- Sanborn Roof Replacement
- Randall Room Upgrade

Recent Financial Successes

- Payment of Mission Shares 2015, 2016, 2017 & 2018
- Payoff of (2) Loans of \$35,000 & \$40,000 during 2017
- Payment on Line of Credit of \$12,000; Current balance \$24,261
- Copier costs cut in half with new copier agreement - 2018

Concerns & Actions

- Church attendance and resulting financial contributions
- Aging congregation combined with natural attrition; impact on pledges
- Fundraising concentration during 2nd half of year resulting in first half bill-paying challenges
- Several imminent Trustees projects including boiler replacement
- Sharp rise in utility costs of 43% in 2018 over 2017 to total of \$26,808
- Congregational concern for financial transparency and additional financial information
- Note: In response to the all-church survey the Finance Committee implemented the following actions during 2018 which continue thru 2019:
 - o Monthly committee meeting minutes posted in Sanborn Hall
 - o Monthly financial reports available for review & copy in church office
 - o Quarterly state-of-the-church financial reports published in Beacon

Respectfully submitted,
John VanReenen, Finance Trustees Chairperson

AUGUST 2019 - SUNDAY WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

DATE	LITURGIST	GREETERS	USHERS	ACOLYTE	WORSHIP TECH	SOUND TECH	SUNDAY SCHOOL
8/4/19	Sue Richards	Silanpaa Family	Jan & Al Cansale	Alexa Langs	Nancy Chesser	Dave Richards	Rosie Buswell Aerial Silanpaa
8/11/19 Dave R Preaching	John VanReenen	Jane Richards Marilyn Stebbins	Art Munson Nancy Chesser	Kaya Sarosiek	Sue Richards	Sue Sarosiek	Kaya Sarosiek Aerial Silanpaa
8/18/19 Kevin F Preaching	Marilyn Stebbins	Steve and Kellie Langs	Ken Westbrook Ken Young	Alexa Langs	Nancy Chesser	Sue Sarosiek	Rosie Buswell Aerial Silanpaa
8/25/19	Dave Atkinson	Shirley Russ Joyce Blanchard	Ken and Jenya Westbrook	Marilyn Stebbins	Sue Richards	Sue Sarosiek	Kaya Sarosiek Aerial Silanpaa

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



AUGUST 2019



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 ♦ 8:30am Doris Rice ♦ 7pm AA	2 ♦ Planet Rangers ♦ 7pm AA	3 ♦ 1 pm AA
4 ♦ 10 am Worship ♦ 11 am Coffee Hour	5 ♦ Planet Rangers ♦ 7 pm AA	6 ♦ Planet Rangers ♦ NA	7 ♦ Planet Rangers	8 ♦ 8:30am Doris Rice ♦ Planet Rangers ♦ 7pm AA	9 ♦ Planet Rangers ♦ 7pm AA	10 ♦ 1 pm AA
11 ♦ 10 am Worship ♦ 11 am Coffee Hour	12 ♦ GAPP ♦ 7pm AA	13 ♦ GAPP II ♦ 6pm Church Council ♦ 6pm ProMusica ♦ 6:30 pm NA	14 ♦ GAPP II	15 ♦ GAPP II ♦ 7pm AA	16 ♦ GAPP II ♦ 7pm AA	17 ♦ 1 pm AA
18 ♦ 10 am Worship ♦ 11 am Coffee Hour	19 ♦ Planet Rangers ♦ 7pm AA	20 ♦ Planet Rangers ♦ 6:30 NA	21 ♦ Planet Rangers	22 ♦ 8:30 am Doris Rice ♦ Planet Rangers ♦ 7pm AA	23 ♦ Planet Rangers ♦ 7pm AA	24 ♦ 9:30 CRASE Training - PPD ♦ 1pm AA
25 ♦ 10 am Worship ♦ 11 am Coffee Hour	26 ♦ 7pm AA	27 ♦ 6:30 NA	28	29 ♦ 8:30 am Doris Rice ♦ 7pm AA	30 ♦ 7pm AA	31 ♦ 1 pm AA



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

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

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