

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

In all your way acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6





PSALM 139

Dear Friends,

This month I share a prayer from one of my colleagues, Steve Garnaas-Holmes. This was sent in the conference daily prayer email on July 14, 2020. It is a wonderful prayer based on the Psalm below:

“Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.” Psalm 139:7-10

God of infinite love, awaken me like Jacob
to know you are in this place.
In strange times, in new places, in unfamiliar
circumstances, you are here.
You walk with me. You bear the burden with me:
you, my strength and wisdom.
With me you see with new eyes and guide me
as I find my way.
Though I may journey in an unknown land your
loving presence is steady.
Though I may face difficulty and uncertainty your
grace is sure and your blessing constant.
I thank you. Awaken my gratitude. I need you.
Deepen my trust.
Open my eyes. Open my heart.
God of infinite love, you who walk with me,
give me faith to walk with you. Amen.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes, Recently Retired Elder from a
Commonwealth West District Church

Grace and peace, Rev. Deb

Rev. Deb:

Rev Deb is back, and her knee is healing nicely. She has resumed her duties, and is working on catching up on her emails. Rev. Deb also would like to thank everyone for their cards and notes that were sent. Her new and final mailing address is 47 Dorfield Lane, Wells, ME 04090.

Opening our Building:

As soon as we know when it is all right to gather for worship again, we will put the word out. At this point, we will most likely not worship together until the Fall. In the meantime, the Finance Trustees and Church Council will address the process we need to take in order to make our building safe and sanitized so we can be together. We will most likely continue to wear masks and sit further apart. If there is a restriction on the number of people we are allowed to have in worship, we will address that as well. We will keep you informed to the best of our ability.

Please and Thank You:

We are so grateful for those of you who have been able to keep sending your pledges in. Thanks for your faithful donations. Please remember that our expenses continue even though we aren't having worship in our building. The AA groups are meeting in the basement (with proper precautions), and we have the End 68 Hours of Hunger group coming in weekly to set up the bags of food for delivery and there are occasionally people working in the building for repairs or other projects. Your faithful pledging will continue to keep the utilities, salaries, insurance, and other expenses paid. Thank you again! God bless your generosity and please keep up the good work!

Pumpkin Patch News:

We will follow all COVID-19 protocols and, only if the Portsmouth Health Dept. feels we can safely do so, our church's annual Pumpkin Patch will begin with unloading on Sun., 9/27 at noon and go through Sat., 10/31. A lot of our congregants may not feel comfortable helping, so we will need to rely heavily on community volunteers for unloading the trucks and staffing the Booth! More information will be sent later by email and social media. Please feel free to contact Sue Richards at 603-749-4169 (call or text) or mksrichards@comcast.net. Thanks!

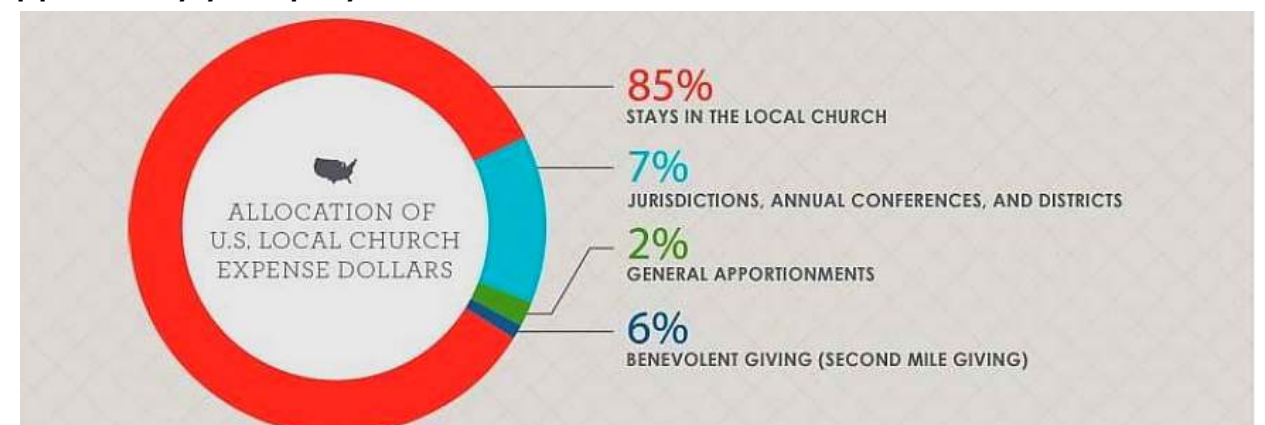


ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT UPDATE

There haven't been many parts of our lives that have not been affected or influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, what would have been the 13th annual FUMC golf tournament, originally scheduled for September 16, has been canceled via a report from tournament coordinator Cathy VanReenen received during this week's Church Council meeting.

Although every effort was made to work with Pease Golf Course to continue with this year's tournament, there were two primary reasons for the cancellation. First, in following with current safety guidelines, shotgun starts (where all golfers spread out over the entire course and start and end at the same time) are not possible. This would mean spreading the start and subsequent finish of the tournament over an hour and a half and would adversely affect the post-tournament meal, sharing of tournament results, and the silent auction. This would have made the golf itself still possible but compromise all the social and fellowship aspects of the tournament. Secondly, Cathy was only able to register 32 golfers last year against Pease's tournament minimum of 36. Putting together a list of even 32 golfers under the myriad of circumstances affecting people's lives right now did not seem feasible.

Having said all of this, the church can certainly use the contributions from those of you who had planned on playing or have played in previous tournaments. The greens fees would have been \$125 per person and hole sponsorships start at \$100 depending on the needs of the individual or business requesting the signs and other publicity advantages of sponsorship. Any and all monies received will be put toward the church's 2020 Mission Share obligations, which total approximately \$18,000. I've included a graphic which shows how our mission share contributions are utilized by the United Methodist Conference to help with your decision. Please give this opportunity your prayerful consideration.



Very sorry for the cancellation, but we remain hopeful for a successful 13th tournament in 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

John VanReenen, Finance Trustees Chairperson

Thank you Al and Jan Cansdale-

For singing church hymns with Bevan for all of us to enjoy online and sing along with at home. It lifted our spirits and helped to bring the FUMC family closer together.

Thank you FUMC-

The AA groups that meet at FUMC wanted to thank FUMC for continuing to support them. FUMC also wants to thank the members of AA for all the things they have done from little to big to help the church during this difficult time.

Please and Thank You -

We are so grateful for those of you who have been able to keep sending your pledges in. Thanks for your faithful donations. Please remember that our expenses continue even though we aren't having worship in our building. The AA groups are meeting in the vestry (with proper precautions), End 68 Hours of Hunger comes in weekly to set up the bags for food delivery, and there are occasionally people working in the building for repairs or other projects. Your faithful pledging will continue to keep the utilities, salaries, insurance, and other expenses paid. Thank you again! God bless your generosity, and please keep up the good work!

Thank you to Bevan Bloemendaal -

Words enough cannot express how thankful we are for you, Bevan. Here is just one note that was recently received about our Daily Devotions:

Just want to commend you for what you are doing through the "Daily Update". What a wonderful way to build community during these difficult days. Thank you for all that you do.

Signed Jim Batten

And Happy Birthday!!

WITH
THANKS



PRAYER LIST

Stephanie

Emily

John

Amelia and Michelle

Gil Stebbins

Shawn Griffin

Dennis Hoskins

Danny Westbrook

Dan Strange

Bobbie Noble

Judy Doyon

Rhonda Griffin and Family

Rev. Charles Hartman

Tim Card and Family

Family of Woodie Lange

Those who have lost loved ones to COVID-19

Those in nursing and assisted living care

Our Denomination

Our Church Family



OUR FAMILY

WHO CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH



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

James New
9 Lewis Road
Rm#104
Kittery, ME 03904

Marion Collishaw
50 Old Colony Way
Scituate MA 02066

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

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

Barbara Clement
Riverside Rest Home
276 County Farm Rd #304
Dover, NH 03830
bic10925@gmail.com

Barbara Glidden
188 Jones Ave #101
Portsmouth, NH 03801

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



August Birthdays

- 1 Glenn Meadows
- 8 Anne Coffey
- 8 John Pettigrew
- 9 Melissa Snodgrass
- 10 Steve Langs
- 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

August Anniversaries

- 2 Bill & Connie Parsons
- 7 David & Sue Richards
- 9 Joseph & Kim Philbrick
- 13 Gil & Marilyn Stebbins
- 16 Steve & Janice Bakula
- 31 Russell & Anita Bunting
- 31 Glenn & Linda Meadows

COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATES



Update From Jen Berry :

There will be no SFP (Seacoast Family Promise) at the church for the remainder of 2020. During our scheduled weeks (Oct and Dec), we will be delivering meals to the Joshua House at Bethany Church, where the families will be staying. They are currently at Christ Church in Exeter for the summer as missionaries are staying at the Joshua House, but they will return to the Joshua House after Labor Day and will be there for the remainder of the year.

KIDS FIRST PROGRAM



28 BACKPACKS
BASIC NEEDS KITS
28 KIDS HELPED



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

“Kids First”

We continue to meet the challenge during this pandemic time to support making a difference in our community.

Thank you all for your support. Please drop off donations on Wednesdays between 10:00 - 2:00 pm. If a different time is needed, please call the office (603-436-4038) and leave a message. A complete list of needed items includes:

Socks

Deodorant

Dry Shampoo

Toothbrush & Toothpaste

Hand Towels

Notebook & Pen

Baby Wipes

Chapstick

Small First Aid Kits

Hairbrush & Comb

If you'd like to make a monetary donation for supplies, please make a check out to FUMC, with Kids First in the memo section. Please direct questions to any church council member. Thank you.



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
NH District**

The Rev. Sudarshana Devadhar, Bishop
The Rev. Taesung Kang, 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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