






**FUMC PORTSMOUTH
A RECONCILING CONGREGATION**

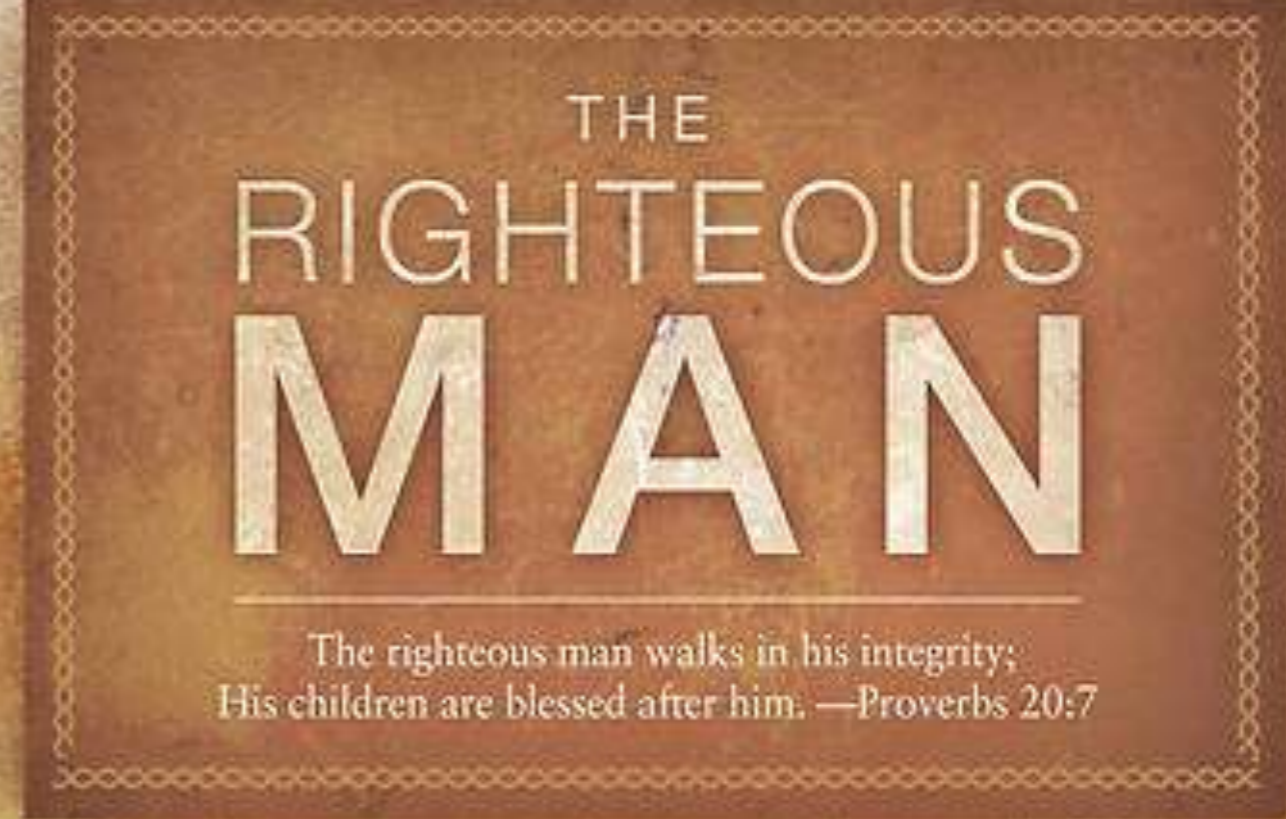
We, the congregation of the First United Methodist Church of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, are dedicated to worshipping, learning, and serving with all people as we embrace Jesus Christ’s message of love and acceptance. As a United Methodist Church we stand fully behind the statement “Open Hearts, Open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



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
Like and Follow Us On:   



**June 16, 2019
FUMC Portsmouth, NH
Father’s Day**

We Gather for Worship

Trinity Sunday / Peace With Justice Sunday / Father's Day

Prelude & Entrance of Christ's Light

Celebrations

***Call to Worship**

L: Let us worship the Triune God.

P: Let us worship the One who spoke in the beginning and created something out of nothing.

L: Let us worship the Triune God.

P: Let us worship the One who took on the clothing of humanity to set those who were oppressed free.

L: Let us worship the Triune God.

P: Let us worship the One whose Spirit rests continually upon us, calling us from sorrow-filled endings to bright new beginnings.

***Hymn:** "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty" v. 1,2,4 UMH #64

A Time for the Child in all of Us

Prayer (unison) "Prayer for Father's Day" insert

Sung Response: "O Lord, Hear My Prayer" TFWS #2200

Ministry of Music

We Proclaim the Word

Reading the Word: Scripture passages for Father's Day

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

Message: "A Father's Love"

We Respond to God's Word

***Hymn:** "Faith of Our Fathers" UMH #710

Concerns and Joys

Silent Prayer and Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not in temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

***Doxology:** (Please join in singing the following:) UMH #94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Prayer of Dedication** (unison)

Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are, that we may praise you not with our words only, but with our whole lives. Amen.

We Go Forth to Serve

***Hymn:** "For All the Saints" TFWS #2283

***Choral Benediction** (Congregation encircles the Sanctuary)

May the Lord, gracious God bless and keep you forever. Grant your peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor. Lift up your eyes and seek His face, and His grace forever. May the Lord, mighty God bless and keep you forever.

***Pastor's Charge**

Postlude

**Please stand as you are comfortable*

*UMH = United Methodist Hymnal TFWS = The Faith We Sing
Large print bulletins are available from the greeters*

Welcome!

Whether you are joining us for worship for the first time or after many years of attending here at First UMC, we want you to know that you are welcome!

We are an inclusive community that invites everyone to be part of our church fellowship. Thank you for being here, and we hope that you have had a meaningful experience of worshipping our God so you leave this place feeling that you have been blessed to be a blessing. Please join us again!

Rev. Deb Hanson



Pastor - Rev. Dr. Debra J. Hanson
Pastor's Assistant - David Richards
Liturgists - Sue and Dave Richards
Lay Leader - Susan Sarosiek
Acolyte - Marilyn Stebbins
Director of Music - Bevan Bloemendaal
Greeters - Dave Atkinson and Marilyn Stebbins
Ushers - Al and Jan Cansdale
Sound Tech - Sue Sarosiek
Worship Service Tech - Steve Scott
Photographer - Dave Atkinson

**In Honor of Barb Johnson,
Rev Deb's sister.
By Rev. Deb and Dave A.**



WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER...

Gayle Gardei
Marion Collinshaw
Sue Goodhue
Hunter Pinkley
Sylvia Bartlett
Brian Thompson
Malia Broe
Gil Stebbins
Rev. Bill Gardei
Woodie Lange
Roseanne
Rev. David Kerr
Jim New
Kim Hishop
Bobbie Noble
Art Munson
Pastor Sue Ellery
Judy Doyon
Charles Gilman
Diederich Family
Aunt Karen (PennySue)
Our Church Family
Barbara & Jim Slater
Barbara Sylvester
Pauline Boynton
Barbara Millar
Irene Derosier
Barbara Clement
Joette MacKenzie
Vicky Fernandez
Alissa Fernandez
Jessie
John Richards



Upcoming Events

FATHER'S DAY

Today we celebrate fathers, not yet fathers, and those who have been like a father to us. Please take the time to look at and enjoy all the pictures. See if you can match the fatherly picture to that of the child.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

From Thursday, June 13 through Saturday, June 15, Rev. Deb, John VanReenen, and several others will be at the New England Annual Conference. Delegates were elected to the 2020 General Conference. We also voted on decreasing conference from nine districts to seven. Please see Rev. Deb or John VanReenen for updates.

Our next **Church Council** meeting is this Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 6:00 PM in the church office.

JUNE 23rd

Widow/Widower's Support Group Meeting Sunday, June 23, at 1:00 pm, will be held at Temple Israel, 350 Court Street, Portsmouth. Chaplain Elisa Senter-Kaplan is the moderator, and all are welcome.

UMC Market Place

<https://umcmarket.org/>

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

Fundraising Ideas

Do you love **Texas Roadhouse Rolls**? Would you be interested in participating in a Fundraiser. This would consist of taking orders and distributing your orders upon delivery. Please let Rev Deb know you'd participate.

Would you participate in a **Flatbread Pizza** fundraiser? Once assigned a date, would you go have a flatbread and spread the word for our fundraiser night? Please Let Rev Deb know your interest. Thank you.

Thursday , June 20 Barbara Miller is celebrating her 103rd birthday. Please send her cards to help her celebrate this milestone.

Thank you to everyone for helping Alexa Langs collect all the food donations for "Gather" celebrating her birthday.



Come join us for coffee hour after the church service in Sanborn Hall...we'd love to catch up with you and see how your week has gone.



Giving Thanks for Fathers Near and Far

by Safiyah Fosua

**Oh God, we thank you for fathers near,
Fathers with strong arms,
And fathers with feeble knees, present at table,
And at bathtub, and at bedtime for prayers.
Thank you, God, for fathers near.**

**We thank you, O God, for fathers far away,
Fathers who ache for their families,
Fathers absent because of war, or disease, or despair,
Fathers who are present and absent at the same time.
Thank you, God, for fathers far away.**

**We thank you, O God, for caring communities,
Where mothers fill in for fathers,
And fathers fill in for mothers,
And grandparents put on the apron and the towel.
Where aunts and uncles,
And those who are absolutely no kin at all,
Make our communities a home fit for habitation.
Amen.**

*Center for Worship Resourcing
The General Board of Discipleship*



WHERE DO I BEGIN?

The Celebration Time on Sunday evening touched me deeply. Thank you, Tri-State District, for your love and grace and prayers -- and laughter.

Specifically, the following folks went way "above and beyond the call" in making the Sunday Celebration possible:

>Rich Hughen and Callie McMahon (co-District Lay Leaders) and all the members of the TRI Committee on District Superintendency who worked so hard on so many details. Henry Erelli offered much behind the scenes support.

>Ben Yosua-Davis for planning, recruiting, playing music, and generally shepherding our worship together. I am so grateful.

>For Dave Richards and the mighty First UMC, Portsmouth team for (once again) providing unmatched hospitality and a great dinner.

>For Sara and Allen Ewing-Merrill who presided over our gathering at Table.

>For the musicians and their wonderful gifts: young adult group from North Boston Korean UMC, W. Baldwin UMC music team led by Tony Landsperg, Amanda Lee-McPhee, Martin Turnidge, and the members of the "Pick Up Choir."

>For those who read and shared during this time: Jacob Lee-McPhee, Gary Richards, and, of course, Bishop Devadhar.

Thanks as well for the generous gifts in support of the New England JFON ministries.

I am humbled and blessed. Thank you so very much.

Peace,

Jim McPhee



SERMON GIVEN 6/16/19 BY
REV. DR. DEB HANSON

“A Father’s Love” – 6/16/19
First UMC – Rev. Dr. Debra J. Hanson

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 6:1-9 (reference to Matthew 22:37-40)

THEME: A father’s love can reflect God’s love for us.

As most of you know, today is Father’s Day. In the church calendar, it is also Trinity Sunday. The Trinity is all about God in relationship as the three-in-one, and how that Triune relationship interacts with all of us. The Trinity is a dynamic energy of love for us as human beings. Humans can learn a lot from our God who can relate to us in so many ways.

Our family systems are intended to teach us about how to live in healthy communities as we grow in love for God and one another. But we are, after all imperfect humans who tend to stray from the teachings of Jesus and sometimes destroy relationships. Fortunately, we, by the grace of God, we can keep trying to build and rebuild so that we have opportunities for reconciliation and healing.

Today’s scripture from Deuteronomy gives us a place to start. Our lives begin with and are grounded in God. Jesus repeated it when he taught or reminded the disciples what he called “The Greatest Commandment” - “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart soul, and mind and your neighbor as yourself.” In our Deuteronomy passage, this is Moses’ instruction to the people of Israel and it is called “the *Shema*.”

This is the core of the Jewish faith, recited twice a day and even put into a *mezuzot*, a small box that is on the doorpost of their homes to remind them of God’s presence in their lives very moment of the day. The instructions from Deuteronomy tell the families to “keep the words and to recite them to the children often and everywhere.” Since the male head of household was most often father, these instructions were mostly aimed at him, although it applied to the entire household.

The role the father played was important in teaching the children and setting an example for them. Mothers also played an important part but the fathers in those days were charged with religious education. Today, fathers are more involved in a wider variety of style life in the family, and, as many of us are aware, there have been some who have not taken that seriously, or haven’t been able to take on that role. That’s when grandfathers, uncles, godfathers, big brothers, coaches, teachers, and even mothers have stepped into the role of the father.

Some of you may have read some of the books by Erma Bombeck who wrote about her father:

“When my dad died in my ninth year, I ... was raised by my mother, giving rise to the ... question, “What do fathers do?” As far as I could observe, they brought around the car when it rained so everyone else could stay dry.

They always took the family pictures, which is why they were never in them. They carved turkeys on Thanksgiving, kept the car gassed up, weren’t afraid to go into the basement, mowed the lawn, and tightened the clothesline to keep it from sagging.

It wasn't until my husband and I had children that I was able to observe firsthand what a father contributed to a child's life. What did he do to deserve his children's respect? He rarely fed them, did anything about their sagging diapers, wiped their noses or fannies, played ball, or bonded with them under the hoods of their cars.

What did he do?

He threw them higher than his head until they were weak from laughter. He cast the deciding vote on the puppy debate. He listened more than he talked. He let them make mistakes. He allowed them to fall from their first two-wheeler without having a heart attack. He read a newspaper while they were trying to parallel park a car for the first time in preparation for their driving test.

If I had to tell someone's son what a father really does that is important, it would be that he shows up for the job in good times and bad times. He's a man who is constantly being observed by his children. They learn from him how to handle adversity, anger, disappointment and success.

He won't laugh at their dreams no matter how impossible they might seem. He will dig out at 1 a.m. when one of his children runs out of gas. He will make unpopular decisions and stand by them. When he is wrong and makes a mistake, he will admit it. He sets the tone for how family members treat one another, members of the opposite sex and people who are different than they are. By example, he can instill a desire to give something back to the community when its needs are greater than theirs.

But mostly, a good father involves himself in his kids' lives. The more responsibility he has for a child, the harder it is to walk out of his life. A father has the potential to be a powerful force in the life of a child. Grab it! Maybe you'll get a greeting card for your efforts. Maybe not. But it's steady work.

(Erma Bombeck, Field Enterprises, found at SpiritualElderCare.com)

For children who grow up without a father, having someone who steps in and affirms them, loves them, and supports them is so important. Years ago, being born to parents who weren't married was something that was considered shameful, as it was back in biblical times. Children who were raised by a single mother were often ridiculed and derided, made to feel shame and embarrassment.

Fred Craddock was a lecturer at Phillips Theological Seminary tells of a time he was on vacation in Tennessee. He and his wife were having dinner at a restaurant when an old man started talking to them, asking them how they were doing and if they were enjoying their vacation. When the old man asked Fred what he did for a living Fred saw the chance to get rid of him – "I'm a preacher."

"A preacher? That's great. Let me tell you a story about a preacher." The old man sat down at their table and started to speak. As he did Fred's annoyance was changed to one of profound humility. The old man explained that he was illegitimate. He was born without knowing who his father was, a source of great shame in a small town in the early twentieth century. One day a new preacher came to the local church. The old man explained that as a youngster he had never gone to church, but one Sunday decided to go along and hear the new pastor preach.

He was good. The boy went back again and again. In fact he started attending just about every week. But his shame went with him. This poor little boy would always arrive late and leave early in order to avoid talking to anyone. But one Sunday he got so caught up in the sermon that he forgot to leave. Before he knew it, the service was over and the aisles were filling. He rushed to get past people and out the door, but as he did he felt a heavy hand land upon his shoulder. He turned around to see the preacher, a big tall man, looking down at him asking, "What's your name, boy? Whose son are you?" The little boy died inside, the very thing he wanted to avoid was now here. But before he could say anything the preacher said, "I know who you are. I know who your family is. There's a distinct family resemblance. Why, you're the son, you're the son, you're the son of God!"

The old man sitting at Fred Craddock's table said "You know, mister, those words changed my life". And with that he got up and left. When the waitress came over she said to Fred Craddock and his wife, "Do you know who that was?" "No" they replied. "That was Ben Hooper, the two-term governor of Tennessee."

(Source: Reported in Tony Campolo, *It's Friday but Sunday's Comin*. (Word, 1985)

Everyone needs affirmation, acceptance, and respect. Ben Hooper is a great demonstration of the importance of identity and self-acceptance. Loving God with all our hearts, souls, and might bring us to a new way of being in relationship with each other, of accepting those who are different from us, and of teaching others that living in God's ways is a gift and a joy. Fathers and father figures are part of making that happen.

Think about your own father or father-figure, or maybe some influential person in your faith journey:

- What are some words you'd use to describe this person? It's true, of course, that some fathers weren't so good, but think about someone you love who acted like a good father in your life, such as an uncle, grandfather, friend, a friend's father, or an older brother. What was that person like? What qualities did he have? (strength, integrity, care, love, providing for family, discipline, power)
- What sorts of things did your father or father figure teach you?
- What did your father do for work? Around your home? In your community?
- How did this person bring the presence and love of God to your life?
- If this person has passed away, how does your life reflect the teachings you received from him?

Loving God with all our heart, soul, and might produces a life that offers Christ to the world, beginning with our closest relationships, and extending out to those whom we encounter every day. There are many fathers and father figures who have lived faithfully followers of Jesus and who have demonstrated Christian love, ethics, and qualities that made our lives and the lives of others better. As Erma Bombeck said, it is a lot of work to be a father/father-figure in this day and age.

Writer Melinda Clements shared a reflection called "Dad's Hands" (Spiritualeldercare.com)

This is a story about a dad and his daughter. "Have you ever looked at your hands?" a dad asked his daughter. "I mean really looked at your hands? "Stop and think for a moment about the hands you have, how they have served you well throughout your years. These hands,

though wrinkled, shriveled and weak, have been the tools I have used all my life to reach out and grab and embrace life. “They braced and caught my fall when as a toddler I crashed upon the floor. They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back. As a child, my mother taught me to fold them in prayer. They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots. They dried the tears of my children and caressed the love of my life. They wiped my tears when my son went off to war. “They have been dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent. They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold my newborn daughter. Decorated with my wedding band, they showed the world that I was married and loved someone special. “They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw. And to this day when not much of anything else on me works very well, these hands hold me up, lay me down, and again continue to fold in prayer. These hands are the mark of where I’ve been and the ruggedness of my life. “But more importantly, it will be these hands that God will reach out and take when God leads me home.”

I’m grateful for my Dad who worked hard to support a family of six and who with my mom brought us up in a Christian home and lives a godly life. At eighty years old he taught himself to use the computer (and, by his own admission messes it up regularly), and we still Skype on Sunday nights – he will be 96 in August. What I remember most is that he always said he was proud of us. That has stayed with me all my life, and I try to remember to affirm others and celebrate them as my parents did with all four of us children.

Maybe you have similar memories of a father or father-figure, or maybe someone you know who inspires you in their fathering. Let us take a moment to just lift up that person’s name – feel free to speak it out loud as it occurs to you. (PAUSE)

Being a father is a special calling and privilege. Building relationships with children or young people who they mentor, coach, teach, or whatever role they play in that child’s life means wearing many hats, living many roles. A father/father figure who lives the *Shema*: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and might” reflects God to others and becomes a living witness to the love of God. Today, may we appreciate those who were fathers to us, whether biologically related or not. May we give thanks for God, the Three-in-One who touches us in many ways, including through the special people we are blessed to have in our lives.

Let us pray:

Oh God, today we offer the names of those who have been fathers to us with thanksgiving and praise. May we live our lives reflecting the influence they have had on us and share that with others. May we live our lives wholly loving you with all our heart, soul, and might. Thank you for your acceptance, love, and presence with us always. Amen.