



**THERE IS ALWAYS  
HOPE!**

December 16, 2018  
FUMC Portsmouth, NH

*We Gather for Worship*

**Prelude & Entrance of Christ's Light**

**Celebrations**

**\*Call to Worship:**

L: The joy of the season is upon us. The time is almost here.

**P: We have come to praise the Lord!**

L: We are here to sing praises to God, the Holy One in whom we place our trust.

**P: God opens our eyes and lifts us up.**

L: Let us praise God

**P: Who reigns forever.**

**\*Hymn: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"**

UMH #206

**A Time for the Child in All of Us**

**Lighting the Advent Wreath – Steve, Kellie, & Alexa Langs**

**Prayer (unison):**

**It is getting more and more difficult, Lord, for us to keep our attention on the holy things. Our lives are caught up in the planning, parties, gifts, and other such things. We get side-tracked too easily and, exhausted, we fall into restless sleep. The cries of those in need abound, and we are overwhelmed by the need. Too often we turn a deaf ear because we feel we just can't meet all the needs that are presented to us. Heal our hearts and spirits, Lord. Help us understand that you do not ask us to heal everything but rather to find a simple way in which we might lighten someone else's burden, as you have lightened our lives. You have brought hope and peace to us. Now cause us to rejoice in the wondrous things that you have done. Teach us to use our gifts for the common good, and that in helping, we find great and abundant joy. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.**

*Words of Assurance*

L: The messenger has been sent to you, proclaiming that there is One who is Coming who will heal and lead you. Know that this is a great gift from God, who has always and will always love you.

**ALL: Amen.**

**Sung Response: "Emmanuel, Emmanuel"**

UMH #204

**Ministry of Music**

*We Proclaim the Word*

**Reading the Word: Isaiah 12:1-6; Philippians 4:4-7**

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

**Message: "The Gift of Joy" - Rev. Deb Hanson**

We Respond to God's Word

**\*Hymn:** "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"

UMH #240

**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).* (v. 3) UMH #87

*This gift we now bring, this present, this token, These words can convey it, the joy of this day! When grateful we come, remembering rejoicing, This song we now offer in honor and praise!*

**\*Prayer of Dedication** (unison):

**Holy One, this Advent season we wait in joy, and we give with joy.**

**Joy for all you have given us; joy because of your sacred promises.**

**Receive these generous offerings, and use them to spread your joy in our world.**

**Amen.**

We Go Forth to Serve

**\*Hymn:** "Joy to the World," vv. 1,2,4

UMH #246

**\*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*

*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

Liturgist - Yvonne Griffin

Lay Leader - Susan Sarosiek

Director of Music - Bevan Bloemendaal

Acolyte - Alexa Langs

Greeters - Joyce Blanchard & Marilyn Stebbins

Ushers - Ken & Jenya Westbrook & Ken Young

Sunday School - Pageant

Sound Tech - Sue Sarosiek

Worship Service Tech - Steve Scott

Photographer - Dave Atkinson

*Staff*  
CHRISTMAS  
GIFT



The Staff Parish Relations Committee will be collecting money for staff gifts.

If you are interested in contributing, please see Marilyn Stebbins. Please have all donations in by Thursday, December 20th.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

# Prayer for Healing



**Barbara & Jim Slater ~ Cynthia Drake ~ Jan Cansdale**

**Pauline Boynton ~ Barbara Millar ~ Clark Cole ~ Irene Derosier**

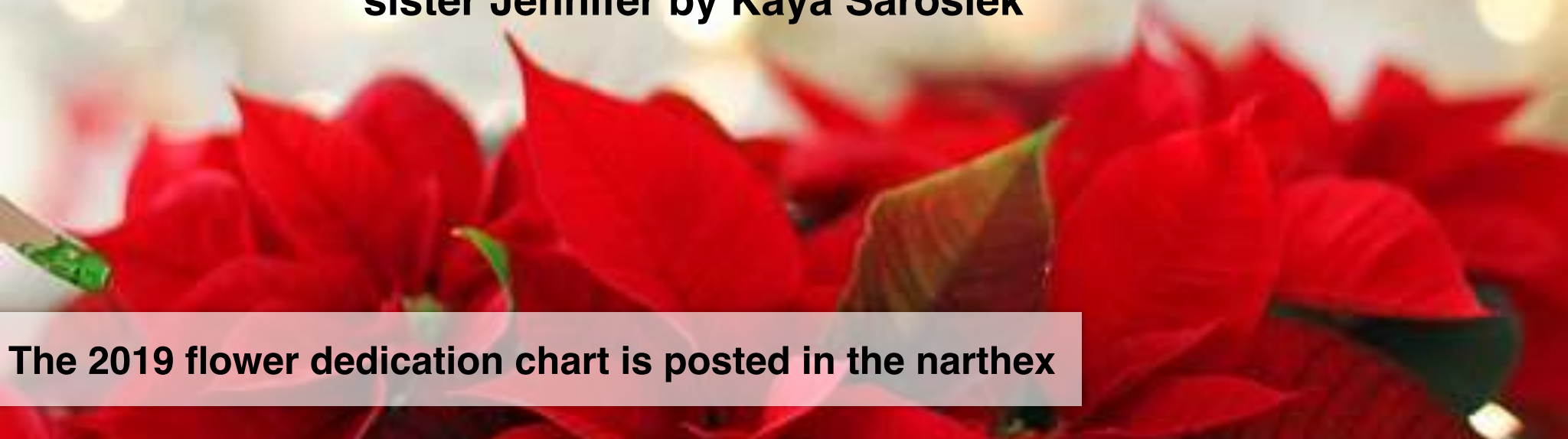
**Seraphim Afflick ~ Barbara Clement ~ Malia Broe ~ Trudy Parkhurst ~ Gerry Royer**

**Joette MacKenzie ~ Kim Hishop ~ Rev. Sue Ellery ~ Rev. Bill Gardei ~ Marion Collishaw**

**Sue Goodhue ~ Hunter Pinkley ~ Sylvia Bartlett ~ Brian Thompson**

**Fred Pettigrew's family ~ Our church family**

**Altar flowers this week are in loving memory of my  
sister Jennifer by Kaya Sarosiek**



**The 2019 flower dedication chart is posted in the narthex**

**F.Y.I.**

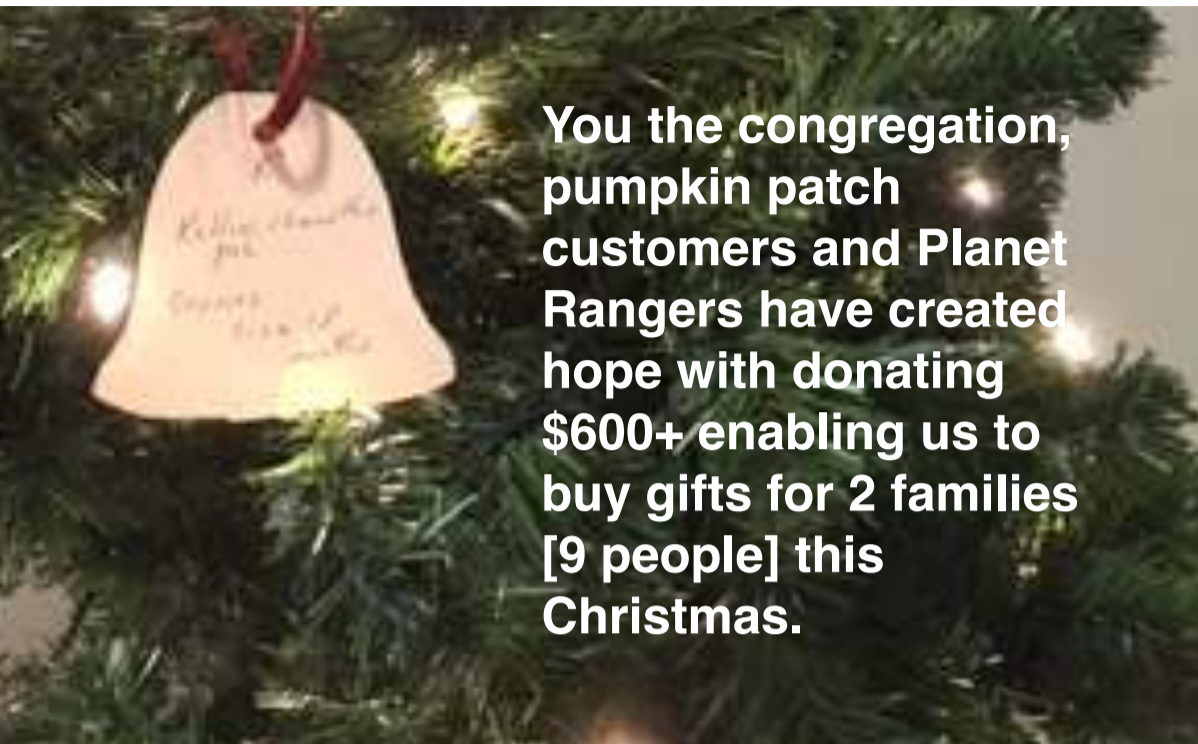
Things worth knowing

**TODAY - SPRC meeting directly after church service**

**DUE 12/31 - Pledge donations for year end tax purposes**

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - is at 7 pm on 12/24 bring the  
entire family**

# GIVING TREE UPDATE



You the congregation, pumpkin patch customers and Planet Rangers have created hope with donating \$600+ enabling us to buy gifts for 2 families [9 people] this Christmas.



# THANK YOU!



# ADVENT 2018

# BE THE HOPE

# THIS CHRISTMAS

It's becoming a tradition for us at FUMC in lieu of poinsettias this year we will again partner with Heifer International and the FUMC kids blessings project to honor our loved ones with a gift of kindness and BE THE HOPE this Christmas.

Please fill out this form and attach a check made out to FUMC Heifer Project 2018.

I want the HOPE [put in loved ones name]

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has always given to everyone around them to be felt this Christmas Season by those in need.

Your name

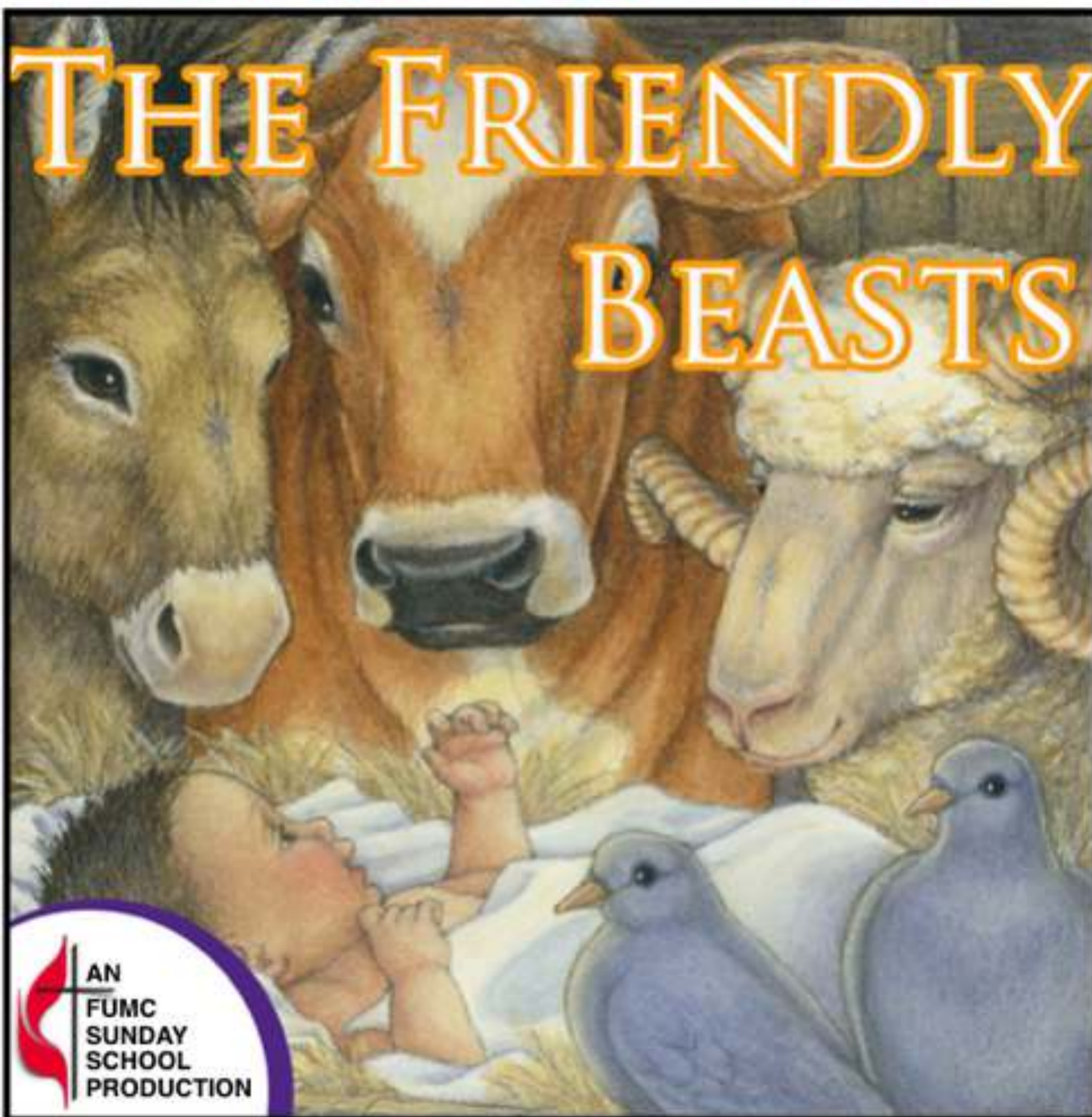
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# PLAYBILL

NEXT SUNDAY DECEMBER 23rd

## THE FRIENDLY BEASTS





# ACTS OF HOPE IDEA CALENDAR - Dec. 2018

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
					<b>1</b> Give someone a compliment	<b>2</b> Get in touch with an old friend or relative
<b>3</b> Donate a Christmas present to a charity	<b>4</b> Tell a joke to make someone smile	<b>5</b> Do something kind for yourself	<b>6</b> Hide a happy note for someone to find	<b>7</b> Tape some money to a vending machine with a note saying enjoy	<b>8</b> Smile and say hello to a stranger	<b>9</b> Bring someone to church
<b>10</b> Let a car in front of you in traffic	<b>11</b> Write or send a thank you note to someone for no reason	<b>12</b> Leave extra tip for someone who serves you	<b>13</b> Tell someone you love them	<b>14</b> Pay for someone's coffee	<b>15</b> Offer to help someone who needs help	<b>16</b> Feed the birds
<b>17</b> Give a treat to your postal worker	<b>18</b> Give or send flowers to someone	<b>19</b> Pay for someone's lunch	<b>20</b> Donate food for the food pantry	<b>21</b> Practice patience	<b>22</b> Visit someone who is unable to get out	<b>23</b> Open the door for someone
<b>24</b> Hug someone	<b>25</b> Think only positive thoughts all day long	<b>26</b> Donate unneeded clothes/jackets to someone	<b>27</b> Encourage someone	<b>28</b> Send a care package to one of our students	<b>29</b> Let someone in front of you in the check out line	<b>30</b> Forgive mistakes
<b>31</b> Respect others... always						

**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)**

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H O P E



P E A C E



J O Y



L O V E