

ADVENT 2018  
**BE THE  
HOPE**  
THIS CHRISTMAS

December 2, 2018  
FUMC Portsmouth, NH



We Gather for Worship

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

**Celebrations**

**\*Call to Worship:**

L: Have you seen it: the Spark of Hope, which God is placing among us.

**P: All we can see is hectic lives, crowded stores, darkness and fear.**

L: Look again: the spirit of God is moving, bringing hope.

**P: We need to place our hope in God, but we are afraid.**

L: A long time ago, people were afraid and God brought to them Light.

**P: May God bring that light to us today!**

**\*Hymn:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," vv. 1,2,6 UMH #211

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

**GIVE HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS**

**Lighting the Advent Wreath** – insert Nancy Chesser/Art Munson

**Prayer** (unison):

**It is so easy for us, Lord, to let the anger, frustration, and fear overshadow our lives. We can't seem to escape it. We try to find some way to cover it up, but it remains. And in our anxiety, we act out our fear in ways which are not helpful and, far too often, go against the ways you have taught us to live. We feel the pressure to give, and resentment in giving. We feel the push to be present at every upcoming event, and want to run and hide. Help us, Lord. Heal our wounded spirits. Free us again to look to you for Hope. Let us see the many ways in which you are present to us: guiding, healing, loving, encouraging us. Forgive us for our fears and our stubbornness. Bring us again to your light, for we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.**

Words of Assurance:

"The days are coming", says the prophet Isaiah, "when all God's promises will be fulfilled." These promises of hope, peace, joy, and love are for you.

Receive the hope that God offers to you today.

**Sung Response:** "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" – UMH #204

**Ministry of Music**

We Proclaim the Word

**Reading the Word:** Luke 21:25-36

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

**Message:** "The Gift of Hope"

Rev. Deb Hanson

We Respond to God's Word

**\*Hymn:** "What Child is This?"

UMH #219

**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!*

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

**Giver of all good things, as we offer these gifts to you, open our eyes to see more clearly all that we have been given and all that we have to give. Stretch our capacity to give of ourselves: our love, our companionship, and our material resources, wherever they are needed. Amen.**

**A Carol Communion** – please use the insert provided

We Go Forth to Serve

**\*Hymn:** "Star Child"

TFWS #2095

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

**May the Lord, gracious God bless and keep you forever. Grant you 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



## Sunday Worship Team

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Debra J. Hanson

Pastor's Assistant - David Richards

Liturgist - Nancy Chesser ~ Lay Leader - Susan Sarosiek

Director of Music - Bevan Bloemendaal ~ Pianist - PaulaJ Jacobson

Acolyte - Jenya Westbrook

Greeters - Yvonne Griffin ~ Marilyn Stebbins

Ushers -Mike & Anne Coffey

Ken & Jenya Westbrook

Sunday School - Evelyn New

Sound Tech - Sue Sarosiek ~ Worship Service Tech -Sue Richards

Photographer - Dave Atkinson



The Staff Parish Relations Committee will be collecting money for staff gifts in the month of December. If you are interested in contributing, please see Marilyn Stebbins on Sundays or leave your donation in an envelope in the SPRC mailbox in the church office. It can also be mailed to the church, attention SPRC. Please have all donations in by Thursday, December 20th. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

# SOMEONE NEEDS YOUR PRAYERS ON THIS DAY

Barbara & Jim Slater  
Connor Woldt ~ Missy Johnson  
Brenda West ~ Cynthia Drake  
Pauline Boynton ~ Barbara Millar  
Clark Cole ~ Sharon Garceau  
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  
BrianThompson  
Our church family  
California fire victims



Altar flowers this week are given by  
Barbara Clement  
in memory of  
Bob Clement and Michele Prince



**A BIG THANK YOU**  
To everyone who helped with  
the hanging of the greens and  
making the church ready for the  
Advent Season.



In a world filled with so much judgement, hatred, and violence, it's often difficult to look past that and view the world as a kind place. Even if the world around you seems like it will never be a peaceful, loving place, you can still make a small difference. Sure, a single person can't stop people from being mean or violent towards each other, and world peace is not within one person's reach. However, what we all can do to promote peace, love, and a general respect for others is practice random acts of kindness. An act of kindness, no matter how small, can have such a powerful ripple-effect on others. When people are treated with kindness, they will often convey that same kindness towards others and before you know it, you've impacted quite a few people. No act of kindness is menial or unimportant; anything done with kindness is significant and beneficial to our world today. Today we launch our BE THE HOPE campaign and we will decorate the Christmas tree with all of our offerings of hope and kindness accomplished each week.

**BE THE  
HOPE**  
THIS CHRISTMAS

## 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						

### THE GIVING TREE IS UP!

Our tradition continues in providing gifts for local families this Christmas. The bells are on the tree in the Narthex. Take as many as you wish and deliver wrapped gifts to the church by Sunday, December 9 with bells attached. Thanks for making this community outreach so powerful.

**6. Lamb of God – Tune: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

**ALL:** O Lamb of God from Bethlehem, where Mary gave you birth, grant us your mercy, gracious Lord, Redeemer of the earth. O Lamb of God, forgive us, for we still live in sin. O, come to us, abide with us, and grant us peace within.

**Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

**7. Prayer after Communion – Tune: “Away in a Manger”**

**ALL:** Lord, now in your mercy, your servants release. As your word has promised, oh, grant us your peace. Our eyes your salvation and mercy behold, prepared for the nations as prophets foretold.

A light to the Gentiles, by whom they now see, the glory of Israel, the Promised One be, who lives now and ever, the heaven's bright Son, with Father and Spirit, eternally one. Amen.

# ***A Carol Communion Service***



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Center for Worship Resourcing, Nashville, TN*



**1: Opening Dialogue – Tune: “Good King Wenceslas”**

L: May the Lord be with you all.

**ALL: And with you, God’s servant.**

L: Lift your hearts unto the Lord.

**ALL: Lift we hearts most fervent.**

L: Let us give our thanks to God.

**ALL: With thankful hearts we’re praising.**

L: Good and right it is to do,

**ALL: and it has God’s blessing.**

**2: Great Thanksgiving – Tune: “Good King Wenceslas”**

L: Blessing, honor, glory, power unto God almighty.

Praise to you, eternal Lord, giver of all mercy.

Long ago you made us, Lord, made us in your image

But through sin we broke the form of our Lord within us.

Still your love came shining through, from heaven you did send us

Christ to take on human flesh, here to live among us.

Christ has suffered for our sin, died a death most cruel.

Now he lives and reigns in heaven, as its brightest jewel.

**ALL: We the church on earth do sing—with the hosts of  
heaven, Glory to the one who died, for he has arisen.**

**Jesus born at Bethlehem is the king of heaven, and we praise  
your blessed name with the song unending.**

**3: Sanctus and Benedictus – Tune: “Angels We Have Heard on High”**

**ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts, all praise be given!**

**All your glory fills the earth; all your power fill the heavens.**

**REFRAIN:**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Blessed is the one who came, bringing love and light divine.**

**Blessed is the king who comes in the bread and in the wine.**

**REFRAIN: Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**4: Words of Institution – Tune: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”**

**REFRAIN – ALL:**

**Good Christians friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice**

L: On the night he was betrayed, Jesus to the Father prayed:

Bless this bread we are to eat, let it bring forgiveness sweet.

My body dwells therein; my body dwells therein.

**REFRAIN – ALL:**

**Good Christians friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice**

L: Then he took the blessed cup, praying as he raised it up:

In the wine forevermore is the way to heaven’s door.

My blood poured out for you; my blood poured out for you.

**REFRAIN – ALL:**

**Good Christians friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice**

L: Eat this bread and drink this cup; share the peace that’s from above.

Angels sing of heaven’s bliss, as we share the Eucharist.

Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this.

**5. Prayer for the Spirit – Tune: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

L: O send your Spirit now upon these gifts;

make them to be Christ’s body and Christ’s blood.

Make real in us his life and show

that we are one with him in ministry.

**ALL: Now, by your Spirit make us one with Christ  
until he comes in love’s great victory.**

L: Through Jesus, your Emmanuel,

and with the Spirit in your holy church,

all honor and glory are yours,

for now and forevermore.

**ALL: Amen! Amen! To God the glory be.**

**Amen! Amen! Alleluia! Amen!**



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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Website  
UPDATES



We continue to update our church website on a weekly basis with:

- Weekly bulletin
- Special music on YouTube link
- Photo gallery updates
  - Bell Bazaar 2018
  - Interfaith Service
  - Ken Westbrooks 90th celebration
  - Ruth L. Griffin Memorial Bridge
  - Pumpkin Patch 2018
- Mark Your Calendar
- Weekly inspiration

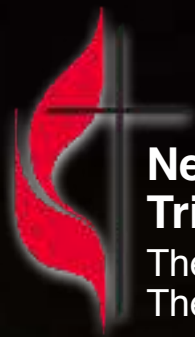
Please be sure to check it out and use the site as an opportunity to share with those who can't make it to church so they feel part of the community. You can load the site to your phone or we have a church iPad that you can use for visitation. Here is the link information to our church website - <http://fumcportsmouth.com>



**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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