



# THE *Light* HAS COME

December 22, 2019  
FUMC Portsmouth, NH

Isaiah 60:1-2

We Gather for Worship

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

**Gratitude Moments**

**\*Call to Worship**

L: This is a great day!

**P: We celebrate our children and the story of Jesus' birth!**

L: We receive joy from the gifts of children and teachers.

**P: We offer God praise for their presence in our midst.**

L: Let us worship our God!

**\*Hymn** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" v 1,3,6 UMH #234

**Lighting the Advent Candle** Anne and Mike Coffey

**A Time for the Child in all of Us** Celebrating our Teachers

**Ministry of Music**

**Prayer** (unison)

Thank you, God for the message of hope, peace, joy, and love that you send to us during this Advent season. As we prepare for Christmas, help us to remain mindful of the message of this season that reminds us of your love and salvation in Jesus. Bless our children as they present their pageant, and bless us all as we worship together today. Amen.

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

We Proclaim the Word

**Reading the Word** Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 2:1-2, 10-12

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

**Message** Children's Pageant "The Shiniest Star"

Hymns during Pageant (1 verse each)

"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" UMH #240

"Away in a Manger" UMH #217

"Angels We Have Heard on High" UMH #238

"Joy to the World" UMH #246

We Respond to God's Word

**Prayers of the People**

**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 into 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)

Like the "Wise Ones" we offer our gifts to Christ with full hearts and awe in his birth, life, and resurrection. May these gifts spread to others who are in need, and who seek hope and assurance of your love. Amen.

We Go Forth to Serve

**\*Hymn** "Go Tell it on the Mountain" UMH #251

**\*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*

*TFWS = The Faith We Sing UMH = United Methodist Hymnal  
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!

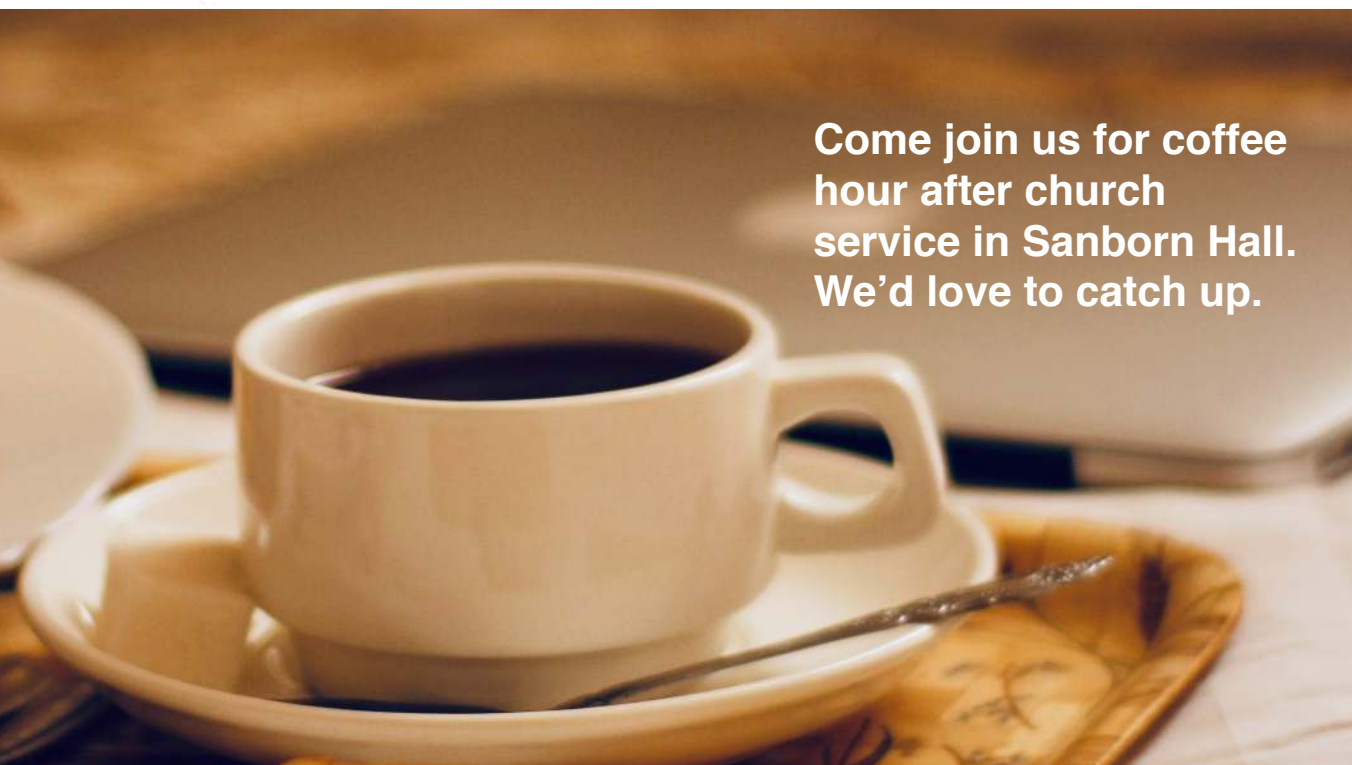
Rev. Deb Hanson



Pastor - Rev. Dr. Debra J. Hanson  
Pastor's Assistant - David Richards  
Liturgist - John VanReenen  
Lay Leader - Susan Sarosiek  
Acolyte - Linda Reiber  
Director of Music - Bevan Bloemendaal  
Greeters - Steve & Jeanne Westcott  
Ushers - Ken & Jenya Westbrook  
Sound Tech - Sue Sarosiek  
Worship Service Tech - Steve Scott  
Photographer - Dave Atkinson



**Come join us for coffee  
hour after church  
service in Sanborn Hall.  
We'd love to catch up.**



## **WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER...**

**Rev. Charles & Anona Hartman  
Dan Strange  
Ken Young  
Rev. Bill & Gayle Gardei  
Marion Collishaw  
Sylvia Bartlett  
Gil Stebbins  
Woodie Lange  
Jim New  
Bobbie Noble  
Barbara Glidden  
Judy Doyon  
Charles Gilman  
Ruth Griffin  
Jim Slater  
Barbara Sylvester  
Barbara Millar  
Barbara Clement  
Yvonne Griffin  
Our Denomination  
Our Church Family**





# UPCOMING EVENTS

# FRIENDLY REMINDERS

**12/22** - All are invited to be part of the lighting of the Menorah at the Temple downtown, it is the the candle of Peace. Ceremony to begin at 5 pm.

**12/24** - Christmas Eve service will begin at 7 pm.

There are only a few hand painted Christmas ornaments featuring FUMC in the office for sale at a price of \$14. Please feel free to drop in and see them. It might be just what your holiday tree needs.

**Staff Donation** - The Staff Parish Relations Committee will be collecting money for staff gifts through the month of December. The staff works tirelessly to make our church and worship special. From Maureen in the office, Bevan providing music, Cathy who keeps the church clean and Rev. Deb who is leading and teaching our church family. If you are interested in contributing, please see Marilyn Stebbins on Sundays or leave your donation in an envelope in church office. You can also mail to church, attention SPRC. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Blessings, SPRC.

Rev. Deb will be on vacation from Dec. 25 through Jan 1. If you have need of pastoral care, please contact Dave Richards who will be covering for her.

Reminder from the Finance Trustee committee: please make sure your pledges are up to date by 12/31 for 2019 taxes. Thank you for your faithful giving!

Donations are being accepted for computer updates. Computers are used in the office, our financial systems, our worship service and the Narthex. The amount needed for this upgrade is \$2,000. Please prayerfully consider donating to computer upgrade. Thank you.

## **Church Conference News**

Please pick up your Church Conference booklet in Sanborn Hall. They are alphabetical by last name.



**Altar Flowers are in Thanksgiving to all  
Giving Tree Donors**





## **FUMC PORTSMOUTH A RECONCILING CONGREGATION**

We, the congregation of the First United Methodist Church of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, are dedicated in 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. Taesung Kang, District Superintendent

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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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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