



*give hope this
Christmas*

ADVENT 2018

December 9, 2018
FUMC Portsmouth, NH

We Gather for Worship

Prelude & Entrance of Christ's Light

Celebrations

***Call to Worship:**

L: By the tender mercy of our God

P: The dawn from on high will break upon us

L: To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death

P: To guide our feet into the way of peace

L: Break us open. Shine your light. Guide our way.

P: Prince of Peace, we come to worship You.

***Hymn:** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" – UMH #196

A Time for the Child in All of Us

Lighting the Advent Wreath - *Rosie Buswell and Sue Sarosiek*

Prayer (unison):

Lord, hear us this day as we open our hearts and our spirits to you. These times in which we live are often confusing and fearful. We feel pushed to make preparations for a season, which is supposed to bring hope and peace; yet we crowd it with obligations and stresses and shut the door to your healing love and compassion. We find ourselves being on edge, fretful, wondering if we have done enough, can do enough. You answer our fears with your voice, "Peace, be still". Help us to hear you. Slow us down. Encourage us to take some time to listen rather than shout, to stop and rest rather than run. Cause us to look around at situations and people who are in need and to place our focus on helping them. For it is in helping your people and reaching out in love that we will find true peace. These things we pray, in Jesus' Name. Amen

Words of Assurance

L: Jesus said, "I am bring you peace, not the kind of peace the world would give to you. My peace I give to you, now and forever." Be at peace. Know God's love is given for you.

ALL: Amen.

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

Ministry of Music

We Proclaim the Word

Reading the Word: Luke 1:68-79

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

P: Thanks be to God.

Message: "The Gift of Peace" - Rev. Deb Hanson

We Respond to God's Word

***Hymn:** "Silent Night," vv. 1,3,4 – UMH #239

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 #87, v. 3

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):

We delight in your love and salvation, Lord, there can be no greater gifts than these. We will gladly serve you in holiness and righteousness. We offer ourselves. We offer all that you have provided us. May it be used to bring your light to those who dwell in darkness. Prepare us and complete us, Lord. Amen.

We Go Forth to Serve

***Hymn:** "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" – UMH #218

***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 - John VanReenen

Lay Leader - Susan Sarosiek

Director of Music - Bevan Bloemendaal

Acolyte - Rosie Buswell

Greeters - Cathy VanReenen & Marilyn Stebbins

Ushers - Ken & Jenya Westbrook & Ken Young

Sunday School - All Teachers

Sound Tech - Sue Sarosiek

Worship Service Tech - Steve Scott

Photographer - Dave Atkinson



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 ~ 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 ~ Brian Thompson

Fred Pettigrew's family ~ Our church family



**Altar flowers this week are birthday celebrations for
Shirley Russ, Priscilla Wilson & Evelyn New**

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

ACTS OF HOPE IDEA CALENDAR - Dec. 2018

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

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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

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