



*share the joy*





Dear Friends,

The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

LUKE 2:10-14 (NRSV)

The angels announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds with great joy. Wouldn't it have been wonderful to hear such a beautiful chorus! Maybe we can still be part of hearing and spreading joy, even in the midst of a pandemic! This year, our theme for Advent is “Sharing the Joy,” and it is helpful to think about how we define joy.

“Joy” is more than an emotion when we look at it in the Christian context. Joy grows within us as we begin to see the world through God's eyes and respond with the heart of God to those who are in need and who seek love and grace and assurance in their own lives.

“Sharing the Joy,” then, is a response to the power of God's love in our lives, and it becomes a way of living to help others, to share from our own bounty, and to BE the church in the world. We are the Church of Jesus Christ, building God's kingdom on earth, and sharing the joy of God's love with others. And it all began with a baby in a manger. “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.” Amen.

Dave and I wish you all a blessed Christmas, full of joy and love.

Love and Blessings, Rev. Deb



### **Advent Devotionals**

An Advent devotional is available either as an email attachment or paper copy. Please let Rev. Deb know if you would like one, or check in the church office. The same Advent Devotional has been recorded by people from the Eliot UMC, St. Mark's UMC in Kittery, and our congregation, as a daily reading. Go to [fumcportsmouth.com](http://fumcportsmouth.com) and click on the 2020 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL link.

### **Bishop's Day on the District**

Bishop Devadhar will hold a "Bishop's Day on the District" with the Granite State District on Wednesday, December 2 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Everyone is invited to join the ZOOM meeting. Links will be sent when the time is closer. This is a great way to connect with other church folks and to interact with our bishop.

### **Children's Christmas Pageant**

On Sunday, December 20, we will have a Virtual Children's Christmas Pageant that has been pre-recorded. This will include children from the Eliot UMC, St. Mark's UMC in Kittery, and our church. We will begin with a live presentation by Pastor Dawn DiManna and Rev. Deb who will introduce the pageant and share a little of what has gone into putting it together. We will begin at 10 am, the same time as our worship service normally is. Following the pageant, we will join with the other two congregations for prayer time and greetings led by Pastor Dawn and Rev. Deb. To access the service, go to [eliotumc.org](http://eliotumc.org) and click the link to the service and pageant. This will also be on YouTube and Facebook. Please plan to be part of this exciting new collaboration and support our children in presenting the pageant! Mark your calendars and tune in!

### **Christmas Eve**

On Christmas Eve, we will have a worship video that will be posted on YouTube, Facebook, and sent out to those with emails. Feel free to share it with others!

### **Rev. Deb's Vacation**

Rev. Deb will take a week's vacation from December 25 through December 31st. Anyone in need of pastoral care, please contact David Richards or leave a message at the Church office.

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GOOD  
TO  
KNOW

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— WE CAN USE YOUR HELP —  
IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE —  
**THIS CHRISTMAS**



This year has been challenging in countless ways and we are reminded of that family traveling to Bethlehem who had nothing, but through the kindness of an innkeeper they were given a place to stay.

Our fundraiser this year is “Share The Joy” a collaboration between the FUMC Kids First program and with Airial Sillanpaa who is the President of the NHFAPA [NH Foster and Adoptive Parent Association] and FUMC Kids First program in making a difference in some local kids lives this Christmas.

You can help by visiting [https://fumcportsmouth.com/?page\\_id=4152](https://fumcportsmouth.com/?page_id=4152) and share the joy this season.

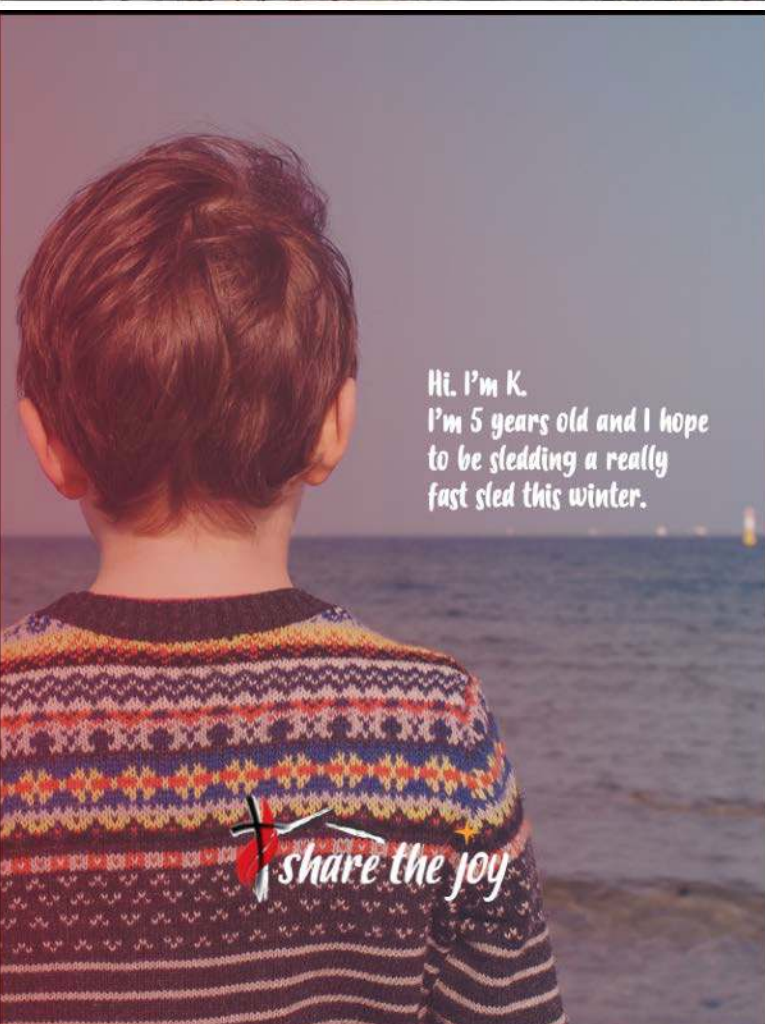




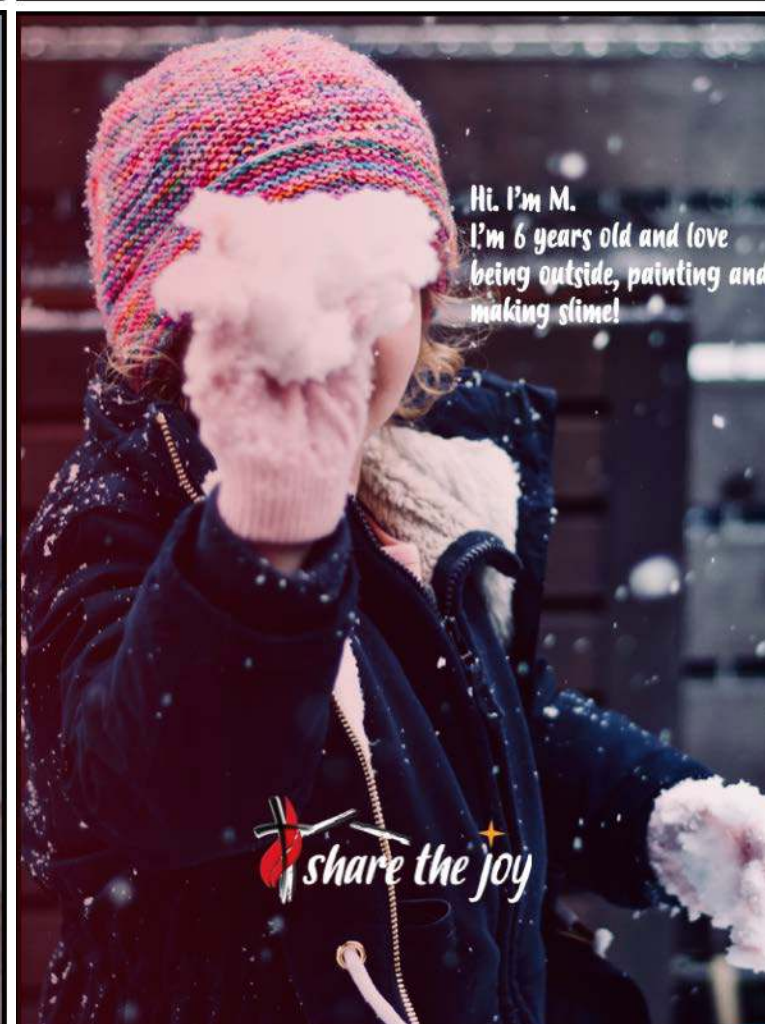
Hi. I'm MT.  
I'm 11 years old and love to  
build things, paint and eat  
Marshmallow Fluff!



Hi. I'm JM.  
I'm 6 years old. My  
favorite things are ponies,  
painting and dancing.



Hi. I'm K.  
I'm 5 years old and I hope  
to be sledding a really  
fast sled this winter.



Hi. I'm M.  
I'm 6 years old and love  
being outside, painting and  
making slime!



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# MEET THE KIDS

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MT, JM, K and M are local children right here in NH that we are looking for your help in supporting this Christmas. It has been incredibly challenging for everyone but even more so for these kids. Let's make their Christmas one to remember!





Hi everyone,  
I am beyond excited to be partnering with  
the FUMC Kids First program in making a  
difference in local kids lives this  
Christmas...thank you all for being a part  
of it. It's as easy as clicking on the  
Share The Joy link Fund Raiser on the  
[fumcportsmouth.com](http://fumcportsmouth.com) website and meet 4  
kids that can really use your help.

With love, Aerial







DAY 258 - November 27, 2020

## BLACK FRIDAY SALE OR SHARE THE JOY

Skip the Black Friday madness and make a difference in some kid's Christmas morning. It's as easy as clicking [HERE](#) and meet 4 kids that can really use your help.

The Share The Joy program is a partnership with the NHFAPA (NH Foster and Adoptive Parent Association) and FUMC Kids First program in making a difference in their lives this Christmas.

THESE LOCAL NH KIDS NEED YOUR HELP. WHILE THE YEAR 2020 HAS BEEN REALLY HARD JOIN US IN MAKING THEIR CHRISTMAS ONE TO BE REMEMBERED. VISIT [https://fumcportsmouth.com/?page\\_id=4152](https://fumcportsmouth.com/?page_id=4152) TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR THEM.

Hi everyone,  
I am beyond excited to be partnering with the FUMC Kids First program in making a difference in local kids lives this Christmas... thank you all for being a part of it. It's as easy as clicking on the Share The Joy link below [https://fumcportsmouth.com/?page\\_id=4152](https://fumcportsmouth.com/?page_id=4152) and meet 4 kids that can really use your help.

With love, Atrial

# DAILY UPDATES, WEBSITE, FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM



christmas list

1. legos
2. warm hat
3. marshmallow Fluff
4. Mp3 player
5. holiday decorations
6. more legos
7. colored pencils
8. sketch Book

Hi, I'm Matt. I'm 11 years old and love to build things, paint and eat Marshmallow Fluff! Here is my wish list for this year.

EVERY DONATION HELPS GET EVEN BASIC THINGS LIKE A WARM COAT

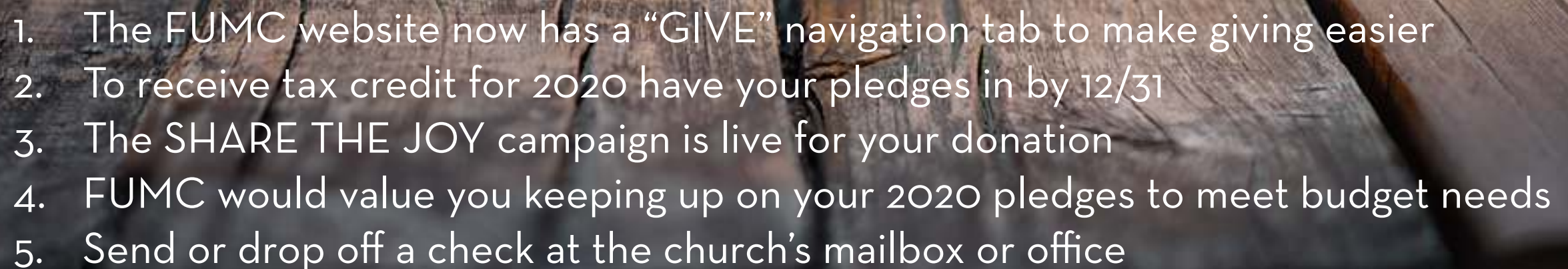
CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE [https://fumcportsmouth.com/?page\\_id=4152](https://fumcportsmouth.com/?page_id=4152)







# 5 HELPFUL TIPS TO MAXIMIZE YEAR-END GIVING

- 
1. The FUMC website now has a “GIVE” navigation tab to make giving easier
  2. To receive tax credit for 2020 have your pledges in by 12/31
  3. The SHARE THE JOY campaign is live for your donation
  4. FUMC would value you keeping up on your 2020 pledges to meet budget needs
  5. Send or drop off a check at the church’s mailbox or office





# THANK YOU

To every one who was part of the Thanksgiving Pie Team from prepping, baking, boxing, writing and ultimately buying our homemade pies...with a grateful heart thank you! There were 54 pies made with almost 50% of them going to new customers from the surrounding community.



 share the joy

— MAKE A DIFFERENCE —  
**THIS CHRISTMAS**



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

129 Miller Avenue, Portsmouth, NH 03801 (603) 436-6038

WELCOME ▾ WHO WE ARE ▾ PLAN A VISIT ▾ COMMUNITY OUTREACH ▾ GIVE ▾  
FACILITY USE AND RENTAL ▾ PHOTO GALLERY ▾ FUMC DAILY UPDATES ▾ WE REMEMBER ▾  
"SHARE THE JOY" CHRISTMAS FUND RAISER **2020 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL** HOME



**MyAdvent**

**2020 Advent  
Devotional  
readings read by  
congregation  
members from  
Eliot UMC, St.  
Mark's UMC and  
Portsmouth FUMC**

*by Rev. Dr. Debra Hanson*

**27**

# ADVENT DEVOTIONAL READINGS

In collaboration with the Eliot UMC, St Mark's UMC and FUMC Portsmouth there are Advent Devotional readings that were written by Rev. Dr. Deb and narrated by folks from all three churches. You can find the them on our FUMC website homepage. May you be blessed in listening to these daily devotions.





# PRAYER LIST

Scarlett  
Steve & Colleen Nelson  
Bill & Gayle Gardei  
Geisinger Family  
Erika  
Earl  
Jim  
Delores  
Juliann  
Jayne Griffin & Family  
Jim Slater  
Fickenscher Family  
Amelia and Michelle  
Barbara Glidden  
Gil & Marilyn Stebbins  
John  
Danny Westbrook  
Dan Strange  
Charles Gilman  
Bobbie Noble  
Pixie & Wayne Balt  
Fred

Durgin Pines Residents & Workers  
Riverside Rest Home Residents & Workers

Those who have lost loved ones to COVID-19  
Those in nursing and assisted living care  
Our Denomination  
Our Church Family





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# OUR FAMILY

## WHO CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH

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Gayle Gardei  
2 Victoria Ct. #219  
York, ME 03909

James New  
9 Lewis Road  
Rm#104  
Kittery, ME 03904

Marion Collishaw  
50 Old Colony Way  
Scituate MA 02066

Gil Stebbins  
143 Rogers Rd #105  
Kittery, ME 03904  
207.807.6675

Rev Bill Gardei  
Durgin Pines  
9 Lewis Road #127  
Kittery, ME 03904

Barbara Clement  
Riverside Rest Home  
276 County Farm Rd #304  
Dover, NH 03820  
[bic10925@gmail.com](mailto:bic10925@gmail.com)

Barbara Glidden  
188 Jones Ave #101  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Barbara Sylvester  
346 Pleasant St. #254  
Portsmouth, NH 03801



## December Birthdays

- 3 Al Cansdale
- 4 Jaime Berry
- 10 Jennifer Guilford
- 10 Shirley Russ
- 11 Matthew Allen
- 12 Lauren Littlefield
- 13 Evelyn New
- 16 Julia Burkes
- 23 Priscilla Wilson
- 25 Kimberly Philbrick



**FALLBACK**  
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1

Day 31 - October 31, 2020

Yep...it is that time of year. Remember to turn your clocks back tonight

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100 MILLER AVENUE  
PORTSMOUTH, NH 02871  
603.439.4900  
Sampson@fumc.org  
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Day 231 - October 31, 2020  
**WITH GRATITUDE**

Thank you, Sue Richards for your dedication and leadership to the biggest community outreach ministry FUMC has each year. Another year in Pumpkin Patch is winding down today and the Patch will close and while this year was quite different with all the COVID protocols the stories heard, the people we have met and the impact we have made has once again been priceless.

One last request...the Pumpkin Patch clean up is tomorrow 11/1 - many hands will make this task easier...please help.

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100 MILLER AVENUE  
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DAY 232 - November 1, 2020  
Today we will celebrate All Saints Day and be reminded of the powerful sentiment this poem has for all those who have gone on before us and is a message to all of us still on this journey of life to be sure to LIVE YOUR DASH.

**WHAT MATTERS IS HOW WE LIVE AND HOW WE SPEND OUR DASH**

THE DASH By Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend. He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning, to the end, and spoke of the following date with tears. But he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years. For that dash represents all the time they spent alive on earth and now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth. For it matters not, how much we own, the race, the house, the cash. What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash. So think about this long and hard, are there things you'd like to change? For you never know how much time is left that still can be most angled. So take time to speak to those you appreciate, those you love and the people in our lives who we never loved before. If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile, remembering that this spiritual dash night only last a little while. By when your relay is being read, with your life's actions to reflect, would you be proud of the things they say about how you lived your dash?

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**ALL SAINTS DAY**

DAY 232 - November 1, 2020  
Virtual Worship Service

Think of the many people who have touched your life, living or deceased. Think of those who brought you to Christ, who lived their lives as witnesses to their faith. We can name the ones who have been in the headlines, written books, and been publicly visible, but there are thousands more who have been witnesses to faith in Jesus Christ, some who have been part of our lives and brought the presence of God to us.

To watch Rev. Deb's message go to the YouTube icon here on our website.

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Sampson@fumc.org  
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**PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST WINNER**

CONGRATULATIONS MILLER FAMILY

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603.439.4900  
Sampson@fumc.org  
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**YOUR VOICE MATTERS VOTE**

DAY 233 - November 2, 2020

Don't forget to have a plan to get out and vote...if you need transportation to your voting poll please call the church and we will make arrangements...your voice matters.

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**THANK YOU**

To everyone who came out and helped us on the Pumpkin Patch CLEAN UP day. It was amazing to see all of you and we appreciate you being part of our family and helping!

And to our Seacoast community THANK YOU for your outpouring of support for the Pumpkin Patch Church! We love you!

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PORTSMOUTH, NH 02871  
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**VOTE TODAY**

DAY 234 - November 3, 2020

Your voice matters!

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PORTSMOUTH, NH 02871  
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...MAY THEY BE BROUGHT TO COMPLETE UNITY TO LET THE WORLD KNOW THAT YOU SENT ME AND HAVE LOVED THEM EVEN AS YOU HAVE LOVED ME. JOHN 17:23 (NIV)

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Sampson@fumc.org  
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**Let your faith be bigger than your fear**

DAY 236 - November 5, 2020

Can you do it?...let's all try. Make it a great day today!

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Morning is God's way of saying one more time, go make a difference, touch a heart, encourage a mind, inspire a soul and enjoy the day.

DAY 237 - November 6, 2020

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If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.

DAY 238 - November 7, 2020

Simple Faith

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REV. DR. DEBRA J. HANSON

Hello Church family,

We are coming into the Thanksgiving time period and thought it would be a wonderful idea to bring back the personal videos (Thank you Deb for the suggestion) and to connect everyone through spoken words and beautiful faces. So I am thanking you in advance for helping to make this happen.

We have been through unprecedented times...COVID, quarantine, layoffs, businesses shutting down, racism, riots, distrust of others, the political landscape etc...YET we find JOY and a sense of THANKFULNESS for things that we have become even more aware of due to these challenging times.

And that my friends is exactly what we want to hear...from all of this what are the 3 things that YOU are thankful for this Thanksgiving?

If it helps here is an example of how I would structure my quick video...

Hello church family...it's Bevan and I can hardly believe that we have been separated now for over 320 days. I miss you all! With everything swirling around us every day I wanted to just take a moment to stop that chaos and share what I have become even more thankful for during these times. I am thankful for the internet...for those of you who know me well that won't come as a surprise does it...but that has allowed me to keep connected with all of you, my family and friends and has provided an escape. I am thankful for all the extra walks and time outdoors that I have been able to have with Jeff, exploring and seeing things that I never took the time to see, smell and hear. I. When my eyes open in the morning and I realize that I have been given another day to make a difference in someone's life...means it's going to be a great day. So far now I hope this has put a smile on your face and you know how important you all are to me. Happy Thanksgiving Day!

Same process as before you can use the link HERE to watch the video to me at bevan.blossendahl@gmail.com or you can try and text it to me at 603.309.4996. Let the THANKFULNESS BEGIN...start doing your video...Thank you all!

Love and miss you, Bevan.

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Sampson@fumc.org  
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Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour - Jesus

DAY 239 - November 8, 2020  
Virtual Worship Service

Thanks for joining us for worship today...this DEBRA to watch the video.

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PORTSMOUTH, NH 02871  
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**LIVE IN SUCH A WAY THAT THOSE WHO KNOW YOU, BUT DON'T KNOW GOD, WILL COME TO KNOW GOD BECAUSE THEY KNOW YOU.**

DAY 240 - November 9, 2020

Wise words to live by on a daily basis. Be more like HIM!

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PORTSMOUTH, NH 02871  
603.439.4900  
Sampson@fumc.org  
REV. DR. DEBRA J. HANSON

**GOD IS NOT CALLING US TO GO TO CHURCH; HE IS CALLING US TO BE HIS CHURCH.** CRAIG GROESCHEL

DAY 241 - November 10, 2020

No perfect people allowed - Come as you are and let's be the church together.

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PORTSMOUTH, NH 02871  
603.439.4900  
Sampson@fumc.org  
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**THANK YOU VETERANS**

DAY 242 - November 11, 2020  
Veterans Day

Thank you Veterans for keeping us free and safe.

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**WE WILL NEVER CHANGE THE WORLD BY GOING TO CHURCH. WE WILL ONLY CHANGE THE WORLD BY BEING THE CHURCH.**

DAY 243 - November 12, 2020

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The world is changed by your example not by your opinion.

DAY 244 - November 13, 2020

Make a positive difference in someone's life today. It's good for your soul.

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Sampson@fumc.org  
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Our lives are like the talents in the parable of the three stewards. It is something that has been given to us for the time being and we have the opportunity and privilege of doing our best with this precious gift.

DAY 245 - November 14, 2020

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PORTSMOUTH, NH 02871  
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**THANK YOU**

PORTSMOUTH FIRE DEPARTMENT For your quick response to what was thankfully a false alarm last night to our church.

We appreciate you being there for us.

Thank you Sue S. for making the heart pounding trip down to the church too.

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PORTSMOUTH, NH 02871  
603.439.4900  
Sampson@fumc.org  
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Teach Us to Pray

DAY 246 - November 15, 2020

Thank you for joining us today for worship. Today's lesson from Rev. Deb's is on prayer. To watch our video worship service please click on the YouTube icon on our website.

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PORTSMOUTH, NH 02871  
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**PLUG INTO THE POWER OF PRAYER**

DAY 247 - November 16, 2020

God is making things happen for you...Even when you don't see it, feel it and its not evident...God is working on your prayers.

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Sampson@fumc.org  
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Want to find out more?...Visit our YouTube Channel to watch PennySue Daily Update videos. Here's a hint...it's about a pencil!

DAY 248 - November 17, 2020

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603.439.4900  
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To watch Sue's Daily "THANKFUL" video update click on our FUMC YouTube channel icon.

DAY 249 - November 18, 2020

SPOILER ALERT: It's about seeing the Birch trees!

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603.439.4900  
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Update click on the FUMC YouTube channel icon.

DAY 250 - November 19, 2020

SPOILER ALERT: It's about walks, internet & creation!

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PORTSMOUTH, NH 02871  
603.439.4900  
Sampson@fumc.org  
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**HOMEMADE PIES!**

Orders will be taken today through November 22nd and all pies being picked up at First United Methodist Church 100 Miller Ave, Portsmouth on November 23rd. \$10.00 for Pumpkin, Apple, Blueberry & Cherry (each for Pie) \$12.00 for Pecan

All pies come boxed with a handwritten note from the loving hands of one of the pie team members, perfect for gift giving too. To preorder your pies call Sue or call Sue at 603.309.4996 today!

DAY 251 - November 20, 2020

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Click HERE to watch Dave's Daily "THANKFUL" video update. Spoiler alert...it's visually captivating!

DAY 255 - November 24, 2020

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Sampson@fumc.org  
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## 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.



One way to make a donation to FUMC is  
to point your phone camera on QR code  
and it will guide you through the process...  
thanks for making a difference.



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
129 Miller Avenue - Portsmouth, NH 03801  
Office Phone 603-436-6038  
Email - [office@fumcportsmouth.net](mailto:office@fumcportsmouth.net)  
Website - [fumcportsmouth.com](http://fumcportsmouth.com)

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Debra J. Hanson  
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