



YOUR PERSONAL JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

LENT 2020



A Journey Through Lent

Dear Friends,

Easter is the reason we exist as a church and Easter Sunday is a great celebration of the gift of forgiveness and life in Christ. But...leading up to that celebration we take a 40 day journey to the cross called Lent. This Lenten journey is one that will help us understand Jesus' personal journey of love, devotion and sacrifice creating a better understanding of how we too can embody the daily ritual of being kind, of sacrificing something for others or making personal changes for good.

We will begin our Lenten journey together on Ash Wednesday, February 26 at 12:00 noon with a prayer service and moving through the weeks to Palm Sunday when we celebrate Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Holy Week, His death on the cross, arriving at Easter Sunday where we celebrate His resurrection.

I want to leave you with a question..."What are the plans for your personal journey and our journey as a church to the cross this Lent?" It is my hope that you will start it with open minds and hearts, learning something new, and growing in your spiritual life. In this February Beacon you will find ideas for you to consider making this journey a blessing to not only yourself but to others.

Grace and peace on your journey,
Rev. Deb

Lent

instead of

GIVING UP
SOMETHING

chocolate, tv, meat, dessert, alcohol, snacking, shopping, cursing, soda, cheese, social media, coffee, junk food, smoking, make-up

try

GIVING TO
SOMEONE

be kind, write a card, phone someone, donate to a charity, lift someone up in prayer, put a little extra in the offering plate for a cause, do more for the earth—plant something recycle more, visit our homebound or nursing facility members, forgive someone—reconcile with someone, share your favorite devotion article, make scarves or mittens for the homeless, help a neighbor, feed a parking meter, volunteer more at church, make or donate a meal, walk a shelter dog, hand out flowers at the nursing home

SMALL ACTS OF GENEROSITY CREATE LIFE-CHANGING MOMENTS



UPCOMING EVENTS

2/4 - Finance Trustee meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m.

2/11 - The Peace Circle will meet at Yvonne Griffin's on Tuesday, at 9:30. Our lesson is Martha, Chapter 3, in our study book. All are welcome to attend!

2/15 - Celebration of the life of Steve Westcott will be held at 11:00 a.m. The congregation is invited.

2/18 - Church Council will be held at 6:00 p.m.

2/26 - Ash Wednesday service will begin our Lenten season at 12:00 noon, with a service held in the Sanctuary. We will hold a prayer service and end with the imposition of Ashes.

Sundays - Church Service starts at 10 a.m. Sunday School is right after the children's sermon and we look forward to catching up with you during coffee hour after the worship service...see you there.

Everyday - Be a Prayer Warrior and lift up the world and its people in prayer.

Sometime this week - write a note, card or visit one of our family members who are either living in assisted living, nursing care or homebound. Cards are available in Sanborn Hall during coffee hour.

2020 Flower chart - is posted in the Narthex. You can bring your own arrangement or have the church order them at a cost of \$25 to you. This is a great way to honor, remember, thank or let someone know they are appreciated.

To the Congregation - Thank you for lifting our church and denomination up in prayer and for all you do not only on Sundays but each day of the week. Your continued support ensures our community presence, outreach programs and building are part of making a difference for so many.

A note from Barbara Clement - Hello congregation! I miss you all so much and getting to worship and visit with you all on a weekly basis. I do appreciate the cards and visits very much and I am grateful for the church website to keep up on what is happening at FUMC, reading the bulletin, Beacon and going to the YouTube channel for the special music. Please know that you are all in my prayers everyday. Sending much love, Barbara

To the Congregation - Have you thanked someone today?...put a smile on someone's face by letting them know you are grateful for what they do. If you can be anything today – be kind.

thankful
grateful
blessed



PRAYER LIST

Julia West

Dave Richards

Rev. Charles Hartman

The Steve Westcott Family

The Sylvia Bartlett Family

Dan Strange

Bobbie Noble

Judy Doyon

Charles Gilman

Our Denomination

Our Church Family

Communion Sunday Prayer Ministry -

The Prayer Team is made up of individuals who know the power of prayer and will be stationed near the communion rail to offer prayers of healing for yourself or someone you know needing to be lifted up in prayer after you have received the elements. February prayer team is Christine Williams and Marilyn Stebbins.

New Address information from Rev. Deb

Thanks to those of you who sent cards to welcome us into our new home! It was so thoughtful! We temporarily have a post office box since we are in a new construction area, and the carrier wants to wait until the work is completed before trying to negotiate the trucks and workers. So, if anyone wishes to send something, the way to address the envelope, according to the USPS is to put the PO Box on the third line so it would read: Deb Hanson/Dave Atkinson, 47 Dorfield Lane, PO Box 1363, Wells, ME 04090. For now, please call the church office if you have a need to reach Rev. Deb when she isn't in the office. Maureen or Sue Sarosiek can reach her, and she will get back to you as soon as possible. Thanks!

Blessings Bank -

The donations collected from the Blessings Bank at the beginning of each church service is going toward helping a school in Cameroon. Our Sunday school kids have a connection with the school and our donations provide them with supplies and the ability to keep educating the children. Thank you for sharing your blessings!

Lenten Devotional information from Rev. Deb -

As part of our "journey to the cross" I invite anyone who would like to write or submit a devotion for the season of Lent to do so. Please use a half page format (in the way the bulletin is set up) and do one devotion per page. We have some of Sylvia Bartlett's poetry and I have some things I have written. However many voices can make interesting and meaningful reading during the Lenten season. A theme might be how our lives are changed by Jesus or ways to make a difference for others, or pick a disciple to write a reflection about. The possibilities are wide open. If you find a poem or reading someone else wrote, be sure to give credit to that person. There are 40 days to fill. There will be a sign up sheet in Sanborn Hall for anyone who is willing to make a commitment to doing this. Hopefully it will fill up fast (and you can do more than one if you want!). Thanks!

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a person's hand holding a dark pen, writing on a white piece of paper. The background is a warm, out-of-focus yellow and orange. Overlaid on the right side of the image is the text "THINGS TO KNOW" in a large, white, sans-serif font, with horizontal lines above and below the text.

THINGS TO KNOW



THINGS TO KNOW

Finance Trustees State of the Church Report

January 2020

This report is intended to inform the greater FUMCP congregation of the overall financial health of the church and to inform you of specific transactions that occurred during 2019. Complete monthly financial reports are available in the church office for your review at any time should you have further questions.

2020 Budget - \$173,542

2019 Budget - \$172,309

2019 Church Income - \$169,068

2018 Budget - \$172,752

2018 Church Income - \$169,193

Gratitude Campaign Results

- 2019 Pledge Total - \$79,040 (27 pledges)
- 2019 Pledge Contributions - \$76,539
- 2018 Pledge Total - \$95,904 (34 pledges)
- 2018 Pledge Contributions - \$82,352

Invested Funds

- Total - \$111,599
- Available for capital improvements - \$68,692

Capital Campaign - 2016

- Total Campaign Pledge - \$156,766
- Funds Received to Date - \$164,733

Mission Shares Payment

- 2020 Obligation - \$18,494
- 2019 Obligation - \$18,623
- 2019 Payment - \$18,623

Recent Financial Successes

- Payment of Mission Shares in full; 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 & 2019
- Payoff of (2) Loans of \$35,000 & \$40,000 during 2017
- 2019 Payment on Line of Credit of \$5,500; Current balance \$24,796
- Copier costs cut in half with new copier agreement - 2018

Respectfully submitted,

John VanReenen, Finance Trustees Chairperson

United Methodist General Conference Actions -

New Separation Plan Proposal for 2020 General Conference
From Rev. Jill Colley Robinson (assistant to the bishop)

Many of you have heard or will soon hear of a proposed agreement for the separation of The United Methodist Church that was announced by the Council of Bishops on January 3rd on behalf of a diverse, 16-member Mediation Team comprised of representatives from UM advocacy groups with contrasting views and bishops for around the world.

This agreement, entitled the Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation is one of many plans that may be considered by the delegates who vote at the upcoming General Conference in May 2020. The agreement's proposals are not final, and the sixteen who signed it do not have the authority to make them so now or in May. Like any proposed legislation that comes before the General Conference delegates, the agreement only becomes a reality for the Church if it is approved by vote; and it can be amended.

Much work will need to be done and many answers discerned before we can fully appreciate what impact any General Conference decision will have on our life and ministry together in New England. In this effort, there will be events hosted in each New England District where options for our upcoming Annual Conference in June will be presented and disseminated. Our District's meeting will be held on Sunday, March 22nd from 2-4 pm location TBD.

Please find more information on this newest proposal by following this link: Separation Plan Information. <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/diverse-leaders-group-offers-separation-plan> and copy of the proposal will be posted on the bulletin board in Sanborn Hall.





Sometime this week -

Write a note, card or visit one of our family members who are either living in assisted living, nursing care or homebound. During coffee hour every Sunday is a great time to do this...there are cards available for you and just leave it in the office and we will make sure it is delivered!

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

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

Barbara Millar
220 State Road, #110
Kittery, ME 03904

Gil Stebbins
143 Rogers Rd #105
Kittery, ME
03904

Woodie Lange
346 Pleasant St. #101
Portsmouth, NH
03801

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

Barbara Clement
Riverside Rest Home
276 County Farm Rd #304
Dover, NH 03830

Marion Collishaw
111 Westwood Drive
Nashua, NH 03062

Barbara Glidden
188 Jones Ave #101
Portsmouth, NH 03801

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



February Birthdays

**7 Glenn Reed
10 Steve Scott
12 Charles Quackenbush
13 Connie Parsons
13 Jenya Westbrook
14 Amanda Timperman
25 Cian Philbrick**

February Anniversaries

**10 Judy & John Griffin
18 Rev. Deb Hanson & Dave Atkinson
24 Jessie & George Bennett
25 Nancy Chesser & Art Munson**



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

END 68 HOURS OF HUNGER is a private, not-for-profit, effort to confront the approximately 68 hours of hunger that some school children experience between the free lunch on Friday and the free breakfast they receive on Monday from their school. Food insecurity affects 1 in 5 children in the US today and is a serious problem that has to be addressed.

End 68 Hour of Hunger provides bags of food containing 7 simple meals each week during the school year and the children take them home and eat the food over the weekend. Volunteers pack the bags on Thursday nights and they are delivered to the schools on Friday morning. First UMC is the home base for the Portsmouth, NH program now in our 10th school year serving 100 children a week from all 6 Portsmouth schools and the BirchTree Center in Newington, NH. If you would like to get involved in this ministry or learn more about it, please contact Jen directly at jen_b76@yahoo.com or visit the End 68 Hours of Hunger website.

SEACOAST FAMILY PROMISE mission is to empower families with children experiencing homelessness to achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response. The program is made up of a network of congregations in the Seacoast, NH area and a day center in Exeter, NH.

Many families have transitioned successfully from this program into stable housing and remained in stable housing since its inception in 2003. First UMC hosts the families 5-6 weeks a year. If you would like to volunteer, we have opportunities available to help with prepping the Sunday school rooms for family arrival, cleaning after departure, dinner crew for Friday night and overnight volunteers. We welcome new volunteers as many of the current volunteers have been part of this great outreach for all 16 years. This program definitely changes lives forever and we are proud that our church is a part of it, along with the 20+ other Seacoast congregations. If you think you might like to help and experience the joy of changing people's lives please contact Jen at jen_b76@yahoo.com or visit Seacoast Family Promise website.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Introducing “Kids First”

The Giving Tree program was a wonderful success this past Christmas 2019 and we thank you for your generosity. With the support of our Congregation, Planet Rangers, and the Portsmouth community we provided Christmas gifts and essentials to 5 families.

Our five families this past year were comprised of children who needed to be removed from volatile family situations and placed into an alternate safe place with extended family.

Sadly, there is an alarming rise in the Seacoast area of children in these types of circumstances. When this happens the caregivers often times are not prepared to take on this emergency and there is an urgent need for essentials for both the children and caregivers.

That said, with our Giving Tree experience and the increased need in our community the Church Council has agreed that this should be a year-long mission program and would like to introduce the KIDS FIRST program. This new program represents another important outreach for FUMC as we continue increasing our presence and support in making a difference for our community in need.

On a situation by situation basis we will put out a call to action for us to respond to with either monetary donations or needed essentials i.e. diapers, clothing, car seats, grocery gift cards. If you would like to learn more about Kids First and the ways you can help, please contact a Church Council member.

FEBRUARY 2020 - SUNDAY WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

DATE	LITURGIST	GREETERS	USHERS	ACOLYTE	WORSHIP TECH	SOUND TECH	SUNDAY SCHOOL	PRAYER TEAM
2/2/2020	Sue Richards	Ken & Shannon Corpron Marilyn Stebbins	Nancy Chesser Art Munson	Linda Reiber	Steve Scott	Dave Atkinson	Rosie Buswell Aerial Sillanpaa	Christine Williams Marilyn Stebbins
2/9/2020	Dave Atkinson	Joyce Blanchard Marilyn Stebbins	Ken & Jenya Westbrook	Alexa Langs	Sue Richards	Sue Sarosiek	Aerial Silanpaa Kaya Sarosiek	
2/16/2020	Nancy Chesser	Jane Richards Marilyn Stebbins	John & Cathy VanReenen	Kaya Sarosiek	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Aerial Silanpaa Rosie Buswell	
2/23/2020	Graham Baker	Langs Family Marilyn Stebbins	Ken & Jenya Westbrook	Alexa Langs	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Dave Atkinson	

NOTE - IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO MEET THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE PLEASE LET US KNOW

FEBRUARY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 •1 pm AA
2 •10 am Worship •11 am Coffee Hour	3 •7pm AA	4 •5:30 pm Promusica •6 pm Finance Trustee •7 pm NA	5	6 •7 pm AA	7 •7pm AA	8 •1 pm AA
9 •10 am Worship •11 am Coffee Hour	10 •7pm AA	11 •5:30 pm Promusica •7 pm NA	12	13 •7 pm AA	14 •7 pm AA	15 •11 am Celebration of Life for Steve Westcott •1 pm AA
16 •10 am Worship •11 am Coffee Hour	17 •7pm AA	18 •5:30 pm Promusica •6 pm Church Council •7:00 NA	19	20 •7 pm AA	21 •7 pm AA	22 •1 pm AA
23 •10 am Worship •11 am Coffee Hour	24 •7pm AA	25 •5:30 pm Promusica •7 pm NA	26	27 •7 pm AA	28 •7 pm AA	29 •1pm AA



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. Taesung Kang, District Superintendent

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

129 Miller Avenue - Portsmouth, NH 03801

Office Phone 603-436-6038 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

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