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## **THIS WEEK'S REVERSE LENT CHALLENGE IS: "JOT A NOTE"**

All day long, everyday we see words...most often they come as emails, Facebook, tweets and blogs but we very seldom get an old-fashioned, handwritten sentiment delivered to our mailbox.

Here is what you do...Jot a quick note EACH DAY to one person in your life. To make it easy, purchase some simple note cards and stamps...place the stamps on the envelopes along with your return address [kind of makes it something you have to do now!] Have your addresses handy and each morning you get up or each night before you go to bed, or if you are a TV watcher do it during the commercials write a special message to someone.

At the end of Lent you will have made 40 souls smile.

### **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.



# FIRST SUNDAY <sup>IN</sup> LENT

## **THE REVERSE LENT CHALLENGE**

**DON'T GIVE SOMETHING UP.  
TAKE SOMETHING ON!**

### **CHALLENGE #1 "JOT A NOTE"**

Prelude & Lighting of the Candles

Gathering Prayer

\*Call to Worship

Psalm 25

L: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. Lead the humble and teach them your way.

**P: Make me know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.**

L: For you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

**P: Your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness for those who keep your decrees.**

L: Let us glorify God!

\*Opening Hymn "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" #269

\*Prayer of Praise and Adoration

**Your paths are straight and true, O God; they guide all who seek the way of salvation. By your mercy you instruct your children how to pursue steadfast love and faithfulness. Upheld by your covenant and enlightened by your testimony, we live securely in your goodness and truth. Hear us now as we lift our souls in praise to you. Accept our glad adoration, and teach us your will.**

\*Gloria Patri #71

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the**

**Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Special Music

"I Am Not Alone"

Karen Sarosiek

The Reverse Lent Challenge

Don't give something up. Take something on!

Time for the Child

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer, Lord's Prayer

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen**

\*Hymn

"Hope of the World" vs 1,2,3

#178

\*OT Reading

I Peter 3:18-22

\*Gospel

Mark 1:9-15

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

Morning Message

Giving of our Tithes and Offerings

\*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above the heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn

"Close to Thee"

#407

\*Choral Benediction

(The 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.**

Benediction

Postlude

Large Print bulletins are available from the greeters

Flowers are to the  
Glory of God

Sproule Fund





## LITURGIST PROGRAM

As part of the Visioning Committee work we invite those of you who feel called to be part of the Sunday Worship Team as a liturgist.

Today after the worship service we will have one of our first classes specific to the role of a Liturgist here at FUMC. It's only 1/2 an hour so if you are interested grab a cup of coffee and meet us in the Sanctuary.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LITURGIST

As a worship leader the Liturgist serves an important role and is a partner with the Pastor in setting the tone of the worship service. This role shares various parts of the service such as:

- Call To Worship
- Call for the morning offers
- Offertory prayer
- Scripture readings
- Assistance in serving communion

Great storytelling is at the heart of the impact a Liturgist will have on the congregation. The human voice as the instrument in telling a story through scripture reading or a prayer needs to be something that is emotional, stirring, understandable and most important relatable.



## “FIRST LIGHT” ACOLYTE PROGRAM

As part of the Visioning Committee work we invite those of you who feel called to be part of the Sunday Worship Team as an acolyte.

Today after the worship service we will have one of our first classes specific to the role of an Acolyte here at FUMC. It's only 1/2 an hour so if you are interested grab a cup of coffee and meet us in the Sanctuary.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ACOLYTE

Acolytes at FUMC Portsmouth are a vital part of the worship service each week. The Acolyte leads the procession by bringing the “Light Of Christ” into our worship service and lighting the candles on the communion table.

At the end of the service they will extinguish the candles after lighting their wand and carry the “Light Of Christ” out of the sanctuary reminding us to carry that light out into the world.

This program is offered to youth in grades 3-12 and adults of any age.



# FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

## THE REVERSE LENT CHALLENGE

DON'T GIVE SOMETHING UP.  
TAKE SOMETHING ON!

This year for Lent, don't give something up. Take something on. As a continuation of our "BE THE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS" - Random Acts Of Kindness Campaign let's celebrate the 40 days of Lent backwards!

In a way, you will still be giving up something...a little chunk of your time each day...for 40 days. What a difference you will make in someone's life, in the community and let's be honest it is just the right thing to do and will make us feel really good inside.

Your Lent challenges will be on the cover of each Sunday's bulletin with a description on the back take your bulletin home and use it as a reminder to "TAKE SOMETHING ON" that week.



WELCOME ▾ WHO WE ARE ▾ PLAN A VISIT ▾ COMMUNITY OUTREACH ▾ FACILITY USE AND RENTAL ▾  
PHOTO GALLERY ▾ CONTACT US

## WHEN YOU GET A CHANCE...

Take a look at the FUMC new website at [fumcportsmouth.com](http://fumcportsmouth.com). The site is something we as a congregation can use not only for ourselves but for sharing with friends letting folks see what we are all about as a Reconciling Congregation in the New England area..

Take your iPad with you when visiting friends and congregation members in the hospital or nursing facilities...they will enjoy catching up on what's happening in the church.

The site experience has:

- A Pastor's note
- The Beacon
- Church bulletins
- Upcoming events
- Event photos
- A link to our Facebook page
- A link to our Instagram page
- A YouTube channel to listen to videos
- And much more!





## GREETINGS FROM REV. BETSY

The door of inclusive fellowship in FUMC is wide and always stands open.

A warm welcome is extended to all. One is never a stranger here, for whoever names the name of Christ is at home in this church.

May today's message bring you strength and comfort.



Lord, hear our prayer

Barbara Slater

Mary Merrill

Carol Johnson

Barbara Millar

Juanita

Andrea

Adele Westbrook

Austin

Dorothy Steinmetz

Sylvia Bartlett

Steven Dietz

Arlene Johnson

Brian Thompson

Please continue to hold those in rehab and care facilities in your prayers



JOIN US FOR COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWING THE SERVICE



## TODAY !

10:00 WORSHIP

11:00 COFFEE HOUR

11:15 LITURGIST CLASS

11:30 ACOLYTE CLASS

## NEXT SUNDAY

11:15 USHER CLASS

## THIS WEEK

MONDAY

TUESDAY

7:00 NA

WEDNESDAY

10 AM AA

THURSDAY

8:30 AM AA

7:30 PM AA

FRIDAY

8:00 AA

SATURDAY

1:00 AA



Pastor - Rev. Betsy Webber

Pastoral Assistant - David Richards

Lay Leader - Susan Sarosiek

Liturgist - John VanReenen

Director of Music - Bevan Bloemendaal

Pianist - PaulaJ Jacobson

Greeters - The Langs Family, Paul Webber & Marilyn Stebbins

Ushers - Dave & Sue Richards, Ken & Jenya Westbrook

Acolyte - Sue Richards

Secretary - PaulaJ Jacobson

Sound Technician - Sue Sarosiek

## QUIET OFFERING

We are now collecting for UMCOR Flood Buckets

Supplies are still needed for families and communities that experienced much loss in the hurricanes this fall. Thank you.

