



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PORTSMOUTH, N.H.
January 28, 2018**

ODE TO FEBRUARY

“The sun was shining by the sea shining with all his might... And this was odd because it was the middle of the night.”

(The Walrus and the Carpenter from “Through the Looking Glass” by Lewis Carroll)

“Through the Looking Glass,” penned in 1872 by Charles Lutwidge Dodgson under the nom de plume of “Lewis Carroll”, while nonsensical on the surface, is well known to conceal a plethora of sarcastic political commentary. So extensive are Carroll’s social and political references, that in 1960 Martin Garder produced a complete volume explicating the symbolism in this and the companion Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland under the title “The Annotated Alice.” In the saga of “The Walrus and the Carpenter,” Carroll targets shady political fat-cats growing flush through corruption and the duping of a naïve electorate. Symbolically, in the opening quatrain, the illuminating property of the Sun, shining its light in dark places, directs us to peer into the shadows for that which is hidden from view. In his bid to raise consciousness, the chiaroscuro play on light and shadow, in metaphor and parable, dominates much of Carroll’s work. We are now in the dark, the nighttime part of the year, awaiting the return of the life-giving power of the sun. Winter is traditionally a time for turning inward. Perhaps activating our inner searchlight will yield clues to the deeper rhythms of life.



**THE BEACON
FEBRUARY 2018**

LENT

THE REVERSE LENT CHALLENGE
DON'T GIVE SOMETHING UP.
TAKE SOMETHING ON!

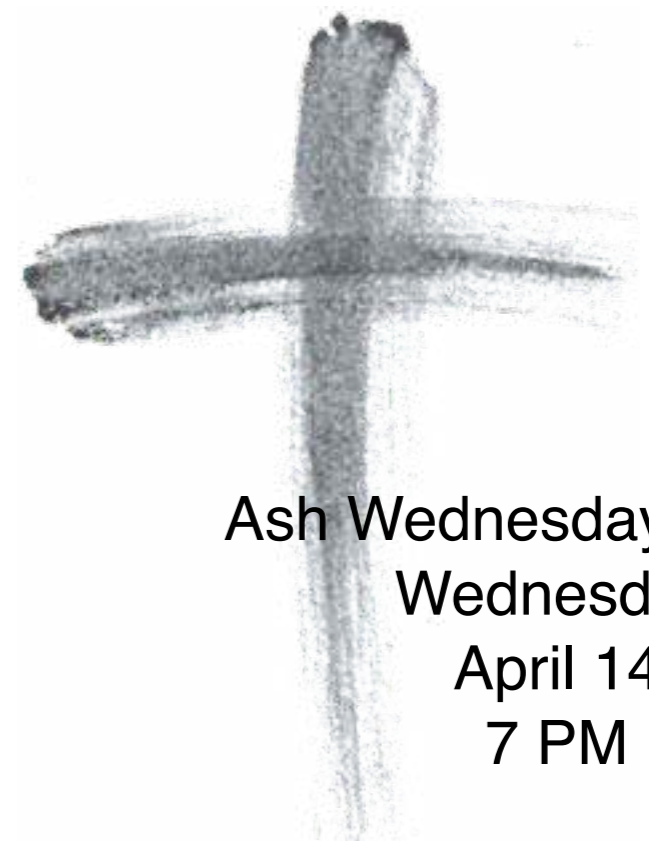


This year for Lent, don't give something up. Take something on.

As a continuation of our "BE THE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS" - RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS let's celebrate the 40 days of Lent backwards?

Instead of giving something up, take something on!

In a way, you will still be giving up something...a little chunk of your time each day...for 40 days. What a great way to continue something the congregation has given positive feedback on and a campaign that allows us to stretch in a more contemporary/youthful way and to continue our mission of reaching out into the community. Each Sunday we will announce that week's challenge and print it in the bulletin...see you there!!



Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday
April 14
7 PM



If you want to shatter darkness light a candle..... Better yet, be that candle!

YOUR RESPONSE to our partnership with Heifer International for the “**BE THE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS**” campaign was so positive as a congregation **THANK YOU!** The decision was made to continue this powerful act of kindness in **HONORING OUR LOVED ONES** this Easter and make a difference for the communities and families across the world.

The Heifer International Easter theme is “**HATCH HOPE THIS EASTER**”

Here is what we are asking...in lieu of lily, tulip, hyacinth or azalea plants being donated in memory/honor of our loved ones we ask you to consider “**HATCH SOME HOPE**” this Easter by donating to the “**chicks bundle**”. Your donation of \$10 or \$15 for a bundle share or \$35 for a full bundle will make **BIG DIFFERENCE**. Help us reach our goal is to donate a minimum of 10 bundles this Easter. Watch the upcoming bulletins for more info.



CHICKS BUNDLE *

\$ 35.00

A flock of chicks can be enough to help a struggling family turn their lives around. Chickens eat bugs and weeds and provide fertilizer for family farms, which can increase crop yields. And the eggs hens provide can be sold for more income for the family.

Celebrate Your Life!

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

10 John & Judy Griffin
24 George & Jessie Bennett



To my Church Family,
Many thanks for your prayers and
lovely get well cards and best wishes for my recovery.

I'm missing you and hope to be back soon.

Love and blessings,

Barbara Millar

Thank you

Special thanks to Mike Coffey, Dianne Crisp, Sue Richards and Sue Sarosiek for their efforts in organizing the Worship and Pumpkin Patch rooms...and the trips to the dump.

We invite you!

Join us for coffee and fellowship following the service. Cheese, cracker, cookie and coffee donations are needed every Sunday. See Ken Westbrook for more information.



Every Sunday we enjoy having fresh flowers that have been given in memory, honor or celebration of someone special to you or the church family. Please sign up on the Flower Chart in the narthex.

Portsmouth First United Methodist Church 2017 Finance Committee Report January 16, 2018

As promised during the recent all-church Visioning meeting in early December, this Finance Committee report presents an overview of PFUMC financial performance for year 2017. The church has been truly blessed through the generosity of its members and friends and by the success and fellowship experienced during its end-of-year fundraising activities. Some noteworthy accomplishments for this year include:

- Payment in full of our United Methodist Conference Mission Shares; this is just a huge accomplishment for the church as it represents the third year in a row we have been able to provide full funding for the ministry of the United Methodist Conference throughout New England and the world.
- Your Capital Campaign contributions have also allowed us to completely pay off both of the loans which were required for the construction of our new kitchen. Being debt-free will allow us to do some exciting things in the coming years.
- We have also continued to reach out into both the Portsmouth and general religious community through silent offering contributions to Habitat for Humanity and the Fuller House; special contributions to Seacoast Family Promise; support of Hurricane Relief through UMCOR and through our Christmas project donations to the Heifer Project along with sending our Christmas offering proceeds to the Methodist Higher Education Scholarship Fund, which provides welcome support for many Methodist college students including our own church kids. None of these great projects would have been possible without the love and caring of each one of you.

The following is a brief summary of “the numbers” for 2017:

2017 PFUMC Budget - \$169,264

- 2017 Income - \$166,636

2017 Pledge Drive Results

- Total 2017 pledges - \$90,551
- Total pledge contributions - \$77,773

United Methodist Conference Mission Shares

- 2017 PFUMC commitment - \$18,941
- 2017 Mission Shares payment - \$18,941
- Mission Shares paid in full – 2015, 2016 & 2017

Loan Payments

- United Methodist Foundation Loan
 - o Loan amount - \$35,000
 - o Payoff date – 4/6/2017

Loan Payments

- Piscataqua Bank Line of Credit
 - o Loan amount - \$40,000
 - o Payoff date – 9/30/2017

Capital Campaign Summary

- Campaign commitment total - \$156,776
- Funds received to date - \$134,787
- Capital expenditures against campaign goals:
 - o Kitchen Upgrade - \$72,772
 - o Alarm System - \$42,570
 - o Roof Repairs - \$7,606
 - o UM Foundation Loan Payoff - \$35,000
 - o Piscataqua Bank Line of Credit Payoff - \$40,000

A couple of important 2018 Finance Committee updates are also worth noting:

- Due to the high level of activity during the last quarter of 2017 the Church Council made the decision to delay our annual Stewardship Campaign until April 2018. We respectfully ask that you continue to contribute at your current pledge rate in the meantime.
- In conjunction with the church Visioning Program, we will be conducting our Gratitude Campaign during the last three Sundays of April, culminating with a special Gratitude Campaign celebration on May 6. Long-time PFUMC friend and United Methodist Foundation Director of Stewardship David Abbott will be preaching on that special day.

We pray that each of you will continue to support this church as only Portsmouth members and friends can, and that 2018 will be a blessed year for our entire church family.

Respectfully Submitted,

John VanReenen Finance Committee Chairperson



Greeter, Acolyte
Liturgist & Usher
CLASSES
FEBRUARY
11TH, 18TH &
25TH
IF YOU ARE
INTERESTED
SEE BETSY
OR BEVAN
DATES ON THE
CALENDAR



We are never alone when we pray

Barbara Millar

Sylvia Bartlett

Juanita

Andrea

Austin

Adele Westbrook

Dorothy Steinmetz

Arlene Johnson

Brian Thompson

Steven Dietz

Phillip Hood

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

MISSION AND OUTREACH



Backpack Ministry/End 68 Hours of Hunger Update

This program continues to thrive and our 6th school year is now on the backstretch and we are already starting to think about next school year and what we can do to make the program even more successful and give it even more outreach into the community. My co-coordinator has been meeting with school officials to determine what could be improved or changed in order to get more children/parents to take advantage of the program and they came up with some good ideas we are going to implement for next school year.

We are currently serving 67 children total from all 6 Portsmouth schools. We continue to get amazing support from other churches and our community volunteers. I get emails from folks regularly asking how they can get involved and volunteer. God is good!

If you would like to get involved in this ministry or learn more about it, please contact me directly at jen_b76@yahoo.com or 603-801-3886.

Blessings,

Jen Berry, Backpack Ministry Coordinator

Seacoast Family Promise

SFP is going stronger than ever. We currently have (4) families in the program – 3 of which are new from our last rotation, which means families once again have transitioned successfully from this program into stable housing. If you would like to volunteer, we have opportunities available to help with prepping the Sunday school rooms for family arrival, cleaning them up when it's over the next week, dinner crew for Friday night and we could always use new overnight volunteers. Many of the current volunteers in this program have been doing it all 12 years, so some fresh volunteers would be appreciated. This program definitely changes lives forever and I am proud that our church is a part of it, along with 20+ other congregations in the Seacoast NH area. If you think you might like to help and experience the joy of changing people's lives, please contact

Jen Berry, Coordinator

Contact information: jen_b76@yahoo.com or 603-801-3886.

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.

2018 FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:30 PM AA	2 8 PM AA	3 1:00 PM AA
4 10:00AM Worship 11:15 Congregational meeting & Potluck	5 6:15 PM Finance Mtg	6 7:00 PM NA	7 10 AM AA	8 7:30 PM AA	9 8 PM AA	10 1:00 PM AA
11 10:00AM Worship 11:15 Coffee Greeter class after church service	12	13 9:30 AM PEACE CIRCLE 6 PM Council 7:00 PM NA	14 Valentine's Day 10 AM AA 7 PM Ash Wednesday	15 7:30 PM AA	16 8 PM AA	17 1:00 PM AA
18 10:00AM Worship 11:15 Coffee Acolyte & Liturgist class after church service	19	20 7:00 PM NA	21 10 AM AA	22 7:30 PM AA	23 8 PM AA	24 1:00 PM AA
25 10:00AM Worship 11:15 Coffee Usher class after church service	26	27 7:00 PM NA	28 10 AM AA			

