



**“And lo a voice from heaven, saying,
This is my beloved Son, in whom I
am well pleased.”**

Matthew 3:17 (KJV)

King James Bible Online .org



We Gather for Worship

Prelude & Entrance of Christ's Light

Celebrations

***Call to Worship:**

L: Sisters and brothers, today we recall: Jesus came to the waters of baptism.

All: In baptism, our Creator claims us and frees us from the power of hatred and death.

L: In baptism we are joined to Christ and we are joined together in unity, recalling

All: "There is no longer Jew or Greek there is no longer slave or free there is no longer male or female for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

L: In baptism, the Spirit of God anoints us for ministry and makes us signs of divine love. It is the mark of acceptance into the church and the beginning of our growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

All: Therefore on this day, the whole church, the Body of Christ, remembers and celebrates.

L: Let us worship God!

***Hymn: "Spirit Song"**

UMH #347

A Time for the Child in all of Us

Prayer (unison):

Gracious God, we confess that too often we live as though we are fearful, not faithful. When we encounter the waters of chaos and confusion, we don't easily pass through them, but we obsess about the height of the water instead of the sight of the other side. You promised to walk through the rivers with us. Help us believe. And help our unbelief.

Assurance of Pardon

L: Thus says the God who created you and formed us in God's image:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."

This is the good news!

All: We belong to God.

Sung Response: "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

UMH #349

Ministry of Music

We Proclaim the Word

Reading the Word: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

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

P: Thanks be to God.

Message: "God's Beloved"

Rev. Deb Hanson

We Respond to God's Word

***Hymn: "Baptized in Water"**

TFWS #2248

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 #94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Prayer of Dedication** (unison):

God, you have given each of us gifts to use as members of the body of Christ. Here are our gifts – the work of our hands, our hearts, and our lives. We pray that they may help to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to our world, today and always, here and everywhere. Amen.

Renewal of Baptism Vows - insert

We Go Forth to Serve

***Hymn: "Blessed Assurance"**

UMH #369

***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

Today is the Baptism of the Lord Sunday and during the service we will reaffirm our baptismal vows.

January 15th there will be a Church Council Meeting at 6 pm here at the church.

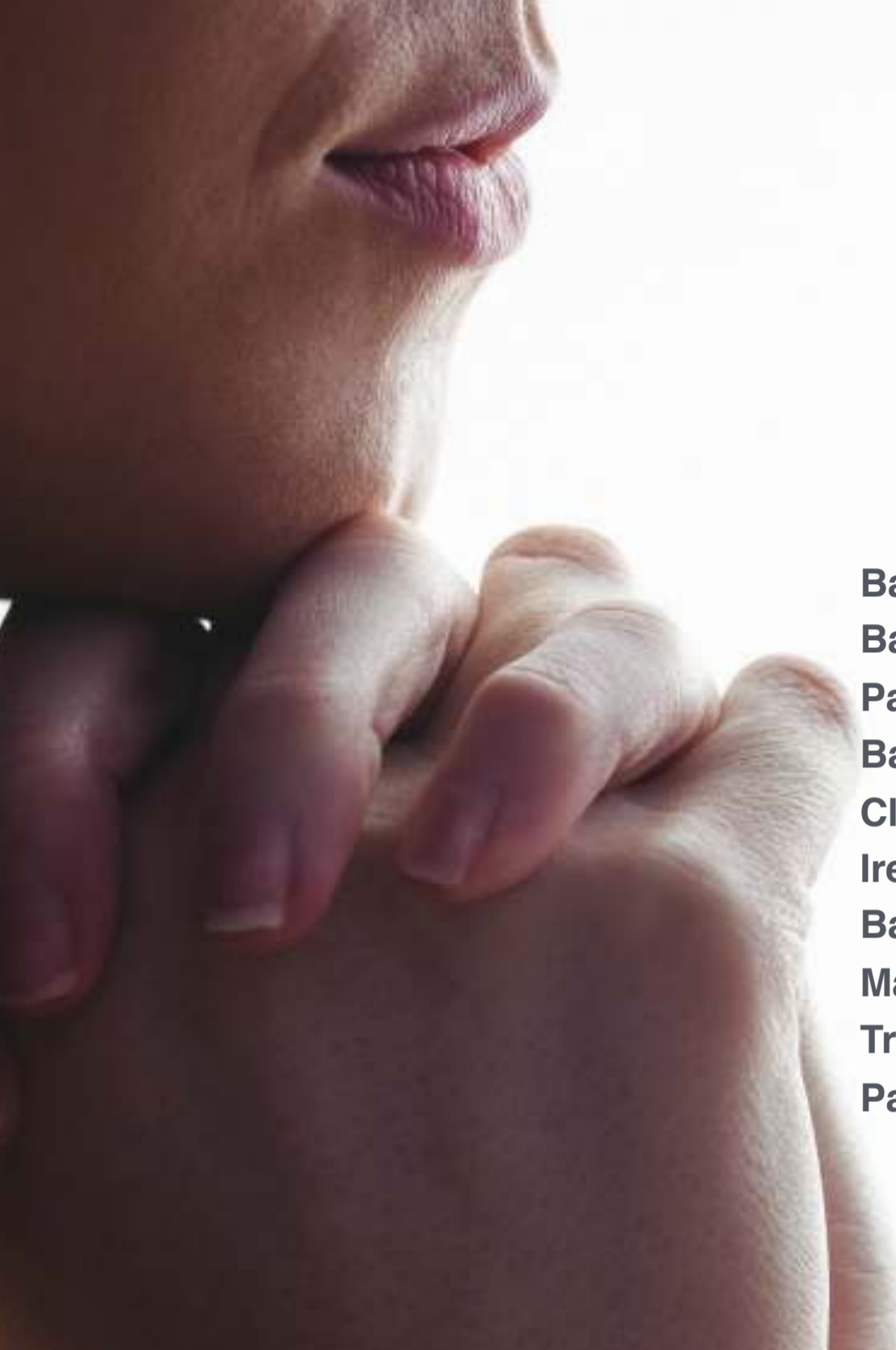
January 20th is Human Relations Sunday, we will receive a special Advance offering for Human Relations Sunday. Turn on the news or drive around the outskirts of your town and you will find what Jesus called “the least of these.” Those living in the margins of society, struggling to survive.

January 20th there will be a Martin Luther King, Jr afternoon celebration at New Hope Baptist Church - 263 Peverly Hill Rd, Portsmouth, @ 4 pm. The speaker will be Rev. Dr. Kirk Byron Jones who has met Dr. King and began preaching at the age of 12, and has served as a pastor for over thirty years. He is the author of many books for clergy, and persons seeking spiritual growth in this changing and challenging world. Everyone is invited.

January 21st We celebrate and remember Martin Luther King Jr. day

February 24th TO NOTE: SPRC meeting scheduled for 1/27 has been moved to 2/24 after worship.

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**
MARK YOUR CALENDARS



**WE WILL
GAIN COURAGE
FROM EACH OTHER
AND FROM OUR
SHARED STORIES OF
GOD'S MIGHTY POWER**

WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER:

Barbara & Jim Slater	Joette MacKenzie
Barbara Sylvester	Kim Hishop
Pauline Boynton	Rev. Sue Ellery
Barbara Millar	Rev. Bill Gardei
Clark Cole	Gayle Gardei
Irene Derosier	Marion Collishaw
Barbara Clement	Sue Goodhue
Malia Broe	Hunter Pinkley
Trudy Parkhurst	Sylvia Bartlett
Pat McLaughlin	BrianThompson

Our Church family

Today's altar flowers are in honor of all those who work behind the scenes ensuring the church continues to function as source of HOPE within our community.



Remember Your

Baptism

celebration



Remembering Our Baptismal Promises:

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be a disciple, to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, to resist oppression, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ, as best you are able? (Answer silently to ourselves; pause)

Pastor: And do you promise, according to the grace given to you, to grow in your faith and to be a faithful member of the church, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering God's mission in all the world?

Affirmation of Faith:

UMH #883

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called by the church: to celebrate God's Presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Reaffirmation of Baptism:

Pastor: If you choose, you may come forward to recall the promises of your baptism —made either by you or on your behalf by your parents/guardians. If you have never been baptized, consider whether this is the day you would like to start the journey toward your formal commitment. Please come forward to the font and as you touch your forehead with the water, say, **"I am God's beloved!"**

Unison Prayer of Recommitment:

By your Spirit, Almighty God, Grant us Love for others, Joy in serving you, Peace in disagreement, Patience in suffering, Kindness toward all people, Goodness in evil times, Faithfulness in temptation, Gentleness in the face of opposition, Self-control in all things. Then strengthen us for ministry in your name. Amen.



Sunday Worship Team

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Debra J. Hanson

Pastor's Assistant - David Richards

Liturgist - Kevin Fickenscher

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 - Dave Atkinson

Sound Tech - Steve Scott

Worship Service Tech - Sue Richards

Photographer - Dave Atkinson



**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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