

A silhouette of a sailboat with two large sails is positioned on the left side of the frame. The boat is dark against a bright, warm background of a sunset or sunrise. The sky is a gradient of yellow and orange, with some light clouds. The water is dark and reflects the light from the sky. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

# **Call to Discipleship**

January 19, 2020



## We Gather for Worship

Prelude & Entrance of Christ's Light

Gratitude Moments

\*Call to Worship

L: We have gathered to worship our God.

**P: We come with different experiences and different needs in our lives.**

L: Yet God has called us to be the Church.

**P: Thanks be to God!**

\*Hymn "We Are Marching"

TFWS #2235

A Time for the Child in all of Us

Ministry of Music

Prayer (unison)

**God who calls us, we sometimes hear that summons from our parents, a friend, a neighbor, or in the longing of our hearts. We are grateful for those who continue to set an example for us and teach us about what it means to follow Jesus' teachings and live our lives faithfully as those who seek to share your love in the world. Today, we ask that you would inspire us and continue to teach us about being a disciple and inviting others to join the journey. We pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Sung Response "Come and Fill Our Hearts"

TFWS #2157

## We Proclaim the Word

Reading the Word John 1:29-42

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

P: Thanks be to God.

Message "Andrew's Witness"

Rev. Dr. Deb Hanson

\*Hymn "Would I Have Answered"

TFWS #2137

## We Respond to God's Word

Prayers of the People

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 into 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)

**Giving God, may the gifts we offer today open doors for those who struggle and are in need. Help us to continue to give generously to build your kingdom here on earth. Amen.**

## We Go Forth to Serve

\*Hymn "The Summons"

TFWS #2130

\*Choral Benediction (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.**

\*Pastor's Charge

Postlude

*\*Please stand as you are comfortable*

*TFWS = The Faith We Sing UMH = United Methodist Hymnal  
Large print bulletins are available from the greeters*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**2/15** - Memorial Service for Steve Westcott.

**2/26** - Start of Lent, this year, our Ash Wednesday service will be held on February 26th at 12:00 noon instead of at night. 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 it's 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.

**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.

**Altar flowers** - this week are Dedicated in Loving Memory of Skip Sarosiek, Love Sue and Kaya.



## PRAYER LIST

Dan Strange  
Bobbie Noble  
The Westcott Family  
Sylvia Bartlett's Family

Judy Doyon  
Mohr Family  
Rev. Charles Hartman  
Our Denomination  
Our Church Family

All those living in assisted living, nursing care or homebound



## WORSHIP TEAM

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Debra J. Hanson  
Pastor's Assistant - David Richards  
Liturgist - Dave Richards  
Lay Leader - Susan Sarosiek  
Acolyte - Alexa Langs  
Director of Music - Bevan Bloemendaal

Greeters - Al & Jan Cansdale  
Ushers - Anne & Mike Coffey  
Sound Tech - Sue Sarosiek  
Worship Service Tech - Steve Scott  
Photographer - Dave Atkinson  
Sunday School - Airial Sillanpaa &  
Rosie Buswell





# THINGS TO KNOW

## **Welcome from Rev. Deb -**

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 worshiping our God so you leave this place feeling that you have been blessed to be a blessing. Please join us again!

## **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!

## **Coffee Hour -**

Come join us for coffee, snacks and fellowship directly after the church service in Sanborn Hall. We'd love to catch up.



# WITH THANKS

## **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.



## **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.



**New England Annual Conference Tri-State District**  
The Rev. Sudarshana Devadhar, Bishop  
The Rev. Taesung Kang, 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](http://www.fumcportsmouth.com)

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SERMON TRANSCRIPT GIVEN BY  
REV. DR. DEB HANSON

“Andrew’s Witness” – 1/19/2020  
First UMC – Rev. Dr. Debra J. Hanson

SCRIPTURE: John 1:29-42

THEME: God calls us to witness to others.

My younger brother Jack is about seven years younger than our older brother, Paul, and he always looked up to Paul, yet they have very different personalities. While Paul is a little quieter, Jack is an outgoing, friendly person, and he has been like that from the time he was little. His smile and laugh can brighten your day. My uncle Hermon used to pay special attention to Jack for some reason, and he teased him by calling him “Jackson” which eventually became “Andrew Jackson” and finally, he just called him “Andrew” a lot. One day when Jack was around three years old, he went with my mom to the farm implement dealership that my uncles owned and where my dad worked. Hermon hadn’t seen Jack for a while, and when he spotted him, he said, “Well, Andrew! Look how big you have grown!” To which, Jack proudly and quickly replied, “Yes, but you should see my big ‘bruder’!” (By the way, when Jack’s first child was born, it was a boy, and he named him Andrew.)

As I read today’s story, I thought about the disciple Andrew bringing his older brother, Simon – eventually Peter – to see Jesus, and I remembered my brother’s excitement about his “big ‘bruder’.” Today’s scripture contains a number of instances when people witnessed about Jesus, which often ended in following him. It begins with John the Baptist, who sees Jesus and introduces him as “The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” John makes it clear that Jesus is the true Messiah, and he can testify to that because he saw the Spirit descend on him. He then also calls Jesus “the Son of God.”

John had his own disciples who were his companions, but when Jesus appears, John once again introduces him as the Lamb of God, and two of John’s disciples decide to follow Jesus. If John had a big ego, he might have been quite upset that they had left him for Jesus, but given that John made a point of saying that he was NOT the Messiah, and given that he named Jesus as the Lamb of God and the Son of God, it is pretty clear that he knew his role was to pave the way, not to build up his own following. Perhaps he was thrilled that his disciples started to follow Jesus, we don’t know, but it is clear that the disciples heard John’s announcement of Jesus’ identity and wanted to know more.

That’s how evangelism works. Oh, I know, it’s that “E” word – EVANGELISM! David Lose, one of my favorite commentators writes:

If you really want to understand why the church is declining in North America, you need to recognize how frightened most of our people are by the word “evangelism.” For some, it comes from being on the receiving end of someone else’s evangelism. Whether asked “Have you accepted Jesus?” by a domineering [relative] or “Do you know where you’re going when you die?” by a well-meaning but intense co-worker, too many folks have experienced evangelism as coercive, even threatening.

For others, the explanation isn’t nearly as sinister. It may be a conviction that religion isn’t something polite people talk about; or that one’s faith is private; or simply the desire not to be perceived as one of those people (you know, the kind we just described). Whatever the

reason, most of our people not only have little experience in evangelism but are downright frightened of it. And that, of course, cripples our ability to reach out with the good news. (found at Text This Week under commentaries for today's gospel lesson).

I suspect that many of us have built up a whole scenario about how we are “supposed” to “do” evangelism. But it isn't necessarily as complicated or as hard as we imagine. When we look at the next part of the scripture, we find another example of evangelism when Andrew goes to find his older brother. A writer named Andrew King wrote his idea of how the disciple Andrew may have felt in “Andrew Autobiographical”

I remember that first time he spoke to me, that first day we met him, I and Simon, how there had been rain just before and flowers beginning to bloom, pink, white and yellow opening to the sun, fragrances fresh on the air and John saying look over there, at him, the one God has chosen to save the world; how when I walked over, my eyes squinting to see clearly against the afternoon sun the first thing he said to me was that one sharp, knowing question,

“What are you looking for?” - how there seemed to be a sudden knot in my tongue, the hundred things I could have said all stopped in my mouth: that even as John's follower I still felt empty, restless as a breeze on the lake, impatient with the unchanged world hard and hurting, with the way life pressed in with need all around me as if I were one of the fish caught in my nets; the heart of me so hungry, so like an unfilled jar, the mind in me itself a net being cast in unknown waters, uncertain even of what answers to seek, what to ask - the hundred things I could have said coming out instead as this question: “Rabbi, where are you dwelling?” Where can I find you if finally I feel able to sort through my thoughts, when I can speak of my aching, my hopes, desperate yearnings? Where can I find you should John be right and you the answer for a world so struggling, so suffering in its separation from God?

Am I able to find you when I am lost in my wandering, adrift as a boat on the sea? I remember his smile so wide, warm with welcome, his hand held out like a bridge to cross. “Come,” he said. “Come and see.”

How easy it was to be with him, listening and still, the knots falling loose in my chest, the empty jar of my heart beginning to be filled. How brother had to share it with brother. And how different all the days ever since. (Andrew King, Text This Week under commentaries for today's gospel lesson.)

It is Andrew's experience of Jesus that led him to run to find Simon Peter, to excitedly share with him that he had found the Messiah. Andrew recognized Jesus' identity and knew that his brother just had to be part of this experience. In his enthusiasm, he couldn't keep this good news to himself, and who to share it with logically was his own brother!

When Andrew first saw Jesus, he paid attention and noticed that there was something special about Jesus, finally understanding that this was the Messiah. He shared this with his brother, and then invited Simon to go and see for himself.



Jesus himself invited them to “Come and see.” That’s what evangelism is – news too good to keep to one’s self. “Come and see for yourself.” “Come and discover what it is that is taking place.” The question that the disciples asked about where Jesus was staying represented trusting Jesus enough to follow him. Seeing brings revelation, learning, trusting, and entering into a relationship with Jesus. We don’t hesitate to invite people to attend other events, but for some reason many of us hesitate to invite people to attend church or to discover Jesus in their lives.

Again – David Lose writes:

... think about it: we invite people to things all the time. To join a book club or play tennis, to go to an after-school event or to come over for dinner, to attend a sporting event or to go shopping. We’re actually quite good about inviting folks to come to things ... just not to church. And, of course, we invite people to those things we really like, those things we’ve enjoyed and think others would, too. We need to ask ourselves first, what elements of our church life do we most value? That is, we’re not just going because we have to but because we enjoy it . . . Then, our task is simply to think about who might also enjoy this event or activity and invite them. Framed this way, it’s probably not as hard as it seems. (ibid, David Lose)

John the Baptist was boisterous in announcing the presence of Jesus, the Lamb of God – the Son of God. Andrew was so enthusiastic he ran to bring his brother to meet Jesus. Jesus was intriguing and a compelling presence to those who chose to follow him. In all the gospels, Jesus modeled invitation because he regularly invited people to follow him. He welcomed them into his life and encouraged them to get to know him better. They would, after all be the ones to bring the Good News to the world after Jesus’ death, resurrection and ascension.

And we carry on that tradition. We are called to share our gifts and talents in the world in the name of Jesus. We often think of a calling as something to which we are drawn and expected to pursue because it is our unique and special service to the world. Many people see it as the choice they make for a career; others see it as a way of living in the world. Whatever it is, “it” may be more than one thing. As we saw in the children’s message this morning, there are many ways we can use our gifts and talents to make a difference for others, and that is one way we have doors open to us to share and invitation to know Christ.

Dave worked with a man who attended another church that was an independent denomination. The man knew that Dave was married to a United Methodist pastor, but one day, he said, “You should come to our church. Our pastor would really be really good for you.” Dave just looked at him without speaking, and finally, he said, “No thanks. I’m in the right place.” It happened several times, and finally Dave said, “No, you know that my wife is the pastor of the church where I belong, and I am learning and growing there. Please don’t ask me again.” We aren’t in the business of “stealing lambs” as one of my colleagues used to say. But we ARE called to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, and as Jesus told his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” (Matt 9:37b-38 NRSV)

Sometimes our witness isn’t verbal, and other times it is. Think of Martin Luther King, Jr. who never planned to be a spokesperson for the movement against racism, but his passion could

no longer allow him to be quiet. He invited people to see Jesus as an inclusive Savior and welcomed everyone into the family of God.

Inviting someone to know Christ could happen without our realizing it because we have demonstrated through our lives that we live in a way that touches someone else. We don't need to wave a Bible in their faces or judge them, but we can witness very effectively by living our faith for others to see. The opportunities for inviting people will open up unexpectedly. I mean, if we really like what we see happening in our church, and if we see Christ at work through us, isn't that something worth sharing?

Again, think of Andrew who was so excited he couldn't keep the fact that he had met Jesus, the Messiah, to himself. Churches grow spiritually, and when they are healthy in both nurture and outreach, they will continue to grow in numbers. Invitation is part of helping that to happen. During our workshop with Paul Nickerson, a church growth consultant, he showed a video with a group of people who were sharing their experience with inviting people to go to church with them. One young man, probably in his twenties, said, "I invited a friend, and he said "no." But my world didn't collapse; we are still friends, and who knows, maybe he will reconsider someday.

When we think of Andrew, we can also think of Jesus' invitation to "Come and See." That is the ultimate invitation, anyway. Jesus' invitation is extended often and in many ways: "Come and see",  
And he said to [the fishermen], "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Matt 4:19, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Matt 11:28,  
"Let the little children come to me." Matt 19:24,  
"Jesus said to [the rich young man], 'If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.'" Matt 19:21

John and Andrew set an example for us, and Jesus' invitation invites us - "Come and see." "Come and see."

Let us pray: Holy God, we are called like John the Baptist and Andrew and all the disciples to invite others to come and meet Jesus. We invite them into relationship with Jesus, even as we continue to grow in our relationship with him. Help us to trust your presence through the power of your Spirit to see places where we can live our faith for others to see and invite them when the doors open for us to speak the words. In the meantime, empower us to preach the gospel to all the world through the way we live our lives, and give us the words when the time is right. Amen.