

GO *&* **of all nations**
BAPTIZING *them in the*
name of the FATHER SON & OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Make Disciples

THEREFORE





Happy New Year!

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20a

On January 6, we will celebrate Epiphany, which is about God entering our world as a human being through Jesus. During this season, we are reminded again and again about God’s love for us as God’s children and how that love is intended to be made manifest through the church of Jesus Christ in the world. The story of Jesus, as you know, does not stop at the manger; that is only the beginning. Jesus’ life is revealed through the scriptures and followed throughout the church year, and the inbreaking of God doesn’t stop there, either.

As the Church, we all have been given the mission to carry on the ministry of Jesus. Do you know what the mission statement is for the United Methodist Church? *“The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”* That is what we are called to do. We may not do it perfectly, but we can be sure that God works through us by the power of the Spirit to make things happen. Our work is to plant the seeds, water them, and the Spirit helps them to grow.

Let us begin 2019 as a time when we live God’s grace through forgiveness, reconciliation, and hope for the future, following the light of Christ and led by the Holy Spirit. God bless us all.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Deb

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



January 1st This past year marked the passing of church family members we held near and dear to our hearts: Bea Randall, Beverlea Meadow, Mary Merrill, Alberto Jentimane, Martin McGough, Rose Arsenault. The denomination also marked the loss of multiple trailblazers and a world-changing evangelist who transcended denomination lines. To view that list go to <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/2018-remembering-influential-christians>



January 13th is Baptism of the Lord Sunday and during that service we will reaffirm our baptismal vows, and if anyone has not yet been baptized and would like to receive the sacrament of baptism, please let Rev. Deb know on or before January 6th. Those who have been baptized and want to renew their baptism with a laying on of hands and receiving the water of baptism should also let her know so she can plan ahead. A sign up sheet is on the table just outside the office door.



January 13th we will be packing up the Christmas decorations after church and could use your help. Grab a cup of coffee and snack and join us and have coffee hour with us packing up what was another wonderful Advent Season.



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. People like:

- an immigrant teenager in Texas' poorest county, being recruited by a local gang
- A father struggling for sobriety in Little Rock, Arkansas
- An Oklahoma woman recently released from incarceration looking for work

Over and over Jesus served people like this, embracing them. And that's what we want to model as the people of The United Methodist Church. To continue the ministry of Jesus we established Human Relations Day as a Special Sunday that calls all of our churches to participate in helping all God's children to realize their potential. Will You Support the Ministry of Christ Among Those on the Margins?

FYI.

Interested in
Membership?
Maybe NOW is the time!

Invitation to Membership

Anyone who is interested in becoming a member of the church is invited to speak with Rev. Deb. She can arrange for a transfer of membership from another church, or those who are not members somewhere else may join by Profession of Faith. When you join this church, you covenant with the congregation to support it with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Once we know how many people are interested, we will have a new member meeting to cover any questions people may have. Please prayerfully consider joining.



Have you moved?

If your address, phone number, or email address has changed please let the church office know and we will update our records to be sure we stay connected. Thank you!



Flower Dedication chart

The 2019 calendar is in the narthex. Please write your name on the Sunday you want the dedication to be made. Provide a check for \$25 to the office.

ADVENT 2018
**BE THE
HOPE**
THIS CHRISTMAS
UPDATE

Heifer Project update

Our tradition of honoring our loved ones with a BE THE HOPE gift of kindness to Heifer International instead of purchasing poinsettias totaled \$350.00 this year! We have created some much needed gifts/acts of kindness and HOPE for folks so desperately needing it. Thank You!



The New Coat Closet

Is now ready for your winter coats to be hung up in Sanborn Hall... it's the second closet as you enter into the hall and its even marked COATS!

Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

1/1 - Bill Crisp
1/3 - Tenley Westbrook
1/4 - Bert Eckert
1/5 - Joseph Philbrick, Jr.
1/6 - Barbara Felton
1/6 - David Richards
1/11-Cathy Martin
1/16-William Dewhurst
1/23-David Bovee
1/25-John VanReenen
1/27-Tammy Bunting
1/29-Thomas Reed
1/31-Yvonne Griffin
1/31-Tim Orr
1/31-Karen Scott
1/31-Vicki David

MILESTONES

Congratulations to Cian Philbrick
[Anne & Mike Coffey's grandson]
who received early admission to
Maine Maritime.

Congratulations to Melanie Berry
& Mike Lindgren got engaged.

Congratulations to Bevan
Bloemendaal who was honored
with the Crystal Apple Design
Award for the Timberland 5th Ave
pop up store in New York City.



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

WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER:

**Joette MacKenzie
Kim Hishop
Rev. Sue Ellery
Rev. Bill Gardei
Gayle Gardei
Marion Collishaw
Sue Goodhue
Hunter Pinkley
Sylvia Bartlett
BrianThompson**

**Barbara & Jim Slater
Barbara Sylvester
Pauline Boynton
Barbara Millar
Clark Cole
Irene Derosier
Barbara Clement
Malia Broe
Trudy Parkhurst
Jim Pisani's Dad**

Our Church family



**SENDING A CARD,
MAKING A VISIT,
OR CALLING
SOMEONE...**

These are all wonderful ways of making sure our FUMC family feels connected to what is going on in the life of the church and in your life. Just saying hello can make a huge difference in someone's day. Here are some folks that would love to hear from you.



**Say hi to -
Ruth Tuttle
145 Elm St
Windsor Locks, CT
06096**



**Say hi to -
Rev Bill Gardei
9 Lewis Road, #127
Kittery, ME 03904**

**Gayle Gardei
2 Victoria Court #219
York, ME 03909**



**Say hi to -
Barbara Millar
220 State Road #110
Kittery, NH 03904**



**Say hi to -
Barbara Clement
18 Sam Clark Road
Barnstead, NH 03225**



**Say hi to -
Sylvia Bartlett
231 Washington St
Rye, NH 03870**

**JoEtte MacKenzie
18 Woodman St
Rochester, NH 03867**



**Say hi to -
Marion Collinshaw
13 Pheasant Run
Stratham, NH 03885**



**Say hi to -
Trudy Parkhurst
Wentworth Senior
Living #351
346 Pleasant St
Portsmouth, NH
03801**



**Say hi to -
Barbara & Jim Slater
288 Wallis Road
Rye, NH 03870**



**Say hi to -
James New
Durgin Pines
9 Lewis Rd #104
Kittery, ME 03904**

Thank You!

Thanks to all who sent cards, gave gifts, or contributed to the monetary gift from the church. Your thoughtfulness is wonderful, and I am blessed to be the pastor here.

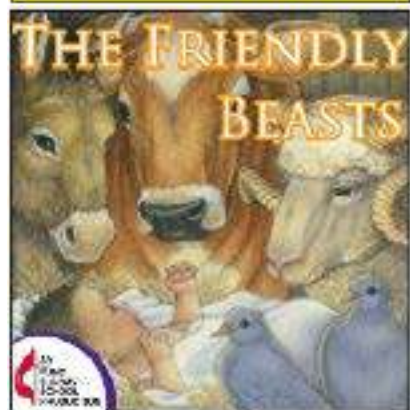
*Grace and peace,
Rev. Deb*

*All,
It is such a blessing to have a family like FUMC...thank you for the Christmas gift and for your continued passion for the music ministry.
Love and Hugs,
Bevan*

“What’s next!”
“Ingenious costume design” “Beautiful”

The Reviews are in!

PLAYBILL



“Outstanding narration”



“5 stars”

“Amazing production”

“Emotional”



CANDLE OF HOPE

As a gentle snow is falling, as the day fades into night, glows a candle in my window, for those who seek its light. May it flame with ardent passion, may its brightness still increase; and at last reach to all nations, to a world in search of peace.

Candle of hope, shine through the darkness. Burn with the light of a thousand bright stars. Kindle a spark in minds of indifference, illumine the shadows in cold, lonely hearts.

As I ponder in the stillness, as I see my world today; I've just one wish for this Christmas before it slips away; That all conflict and oppression, all senseless aggression, shall succumb to the warmth, be led by the light, be surrounded by the peace of my one candle of hope.

Candle of hope, shine through the darkness. Burn with the light of a thousand bright stars. Kindle a spark in minds of indifference, illumine the shadows in cold, lonely hearts.

Candle of HOPE bring us peace.

Let's be the candle of HOPE everyday in 2019.

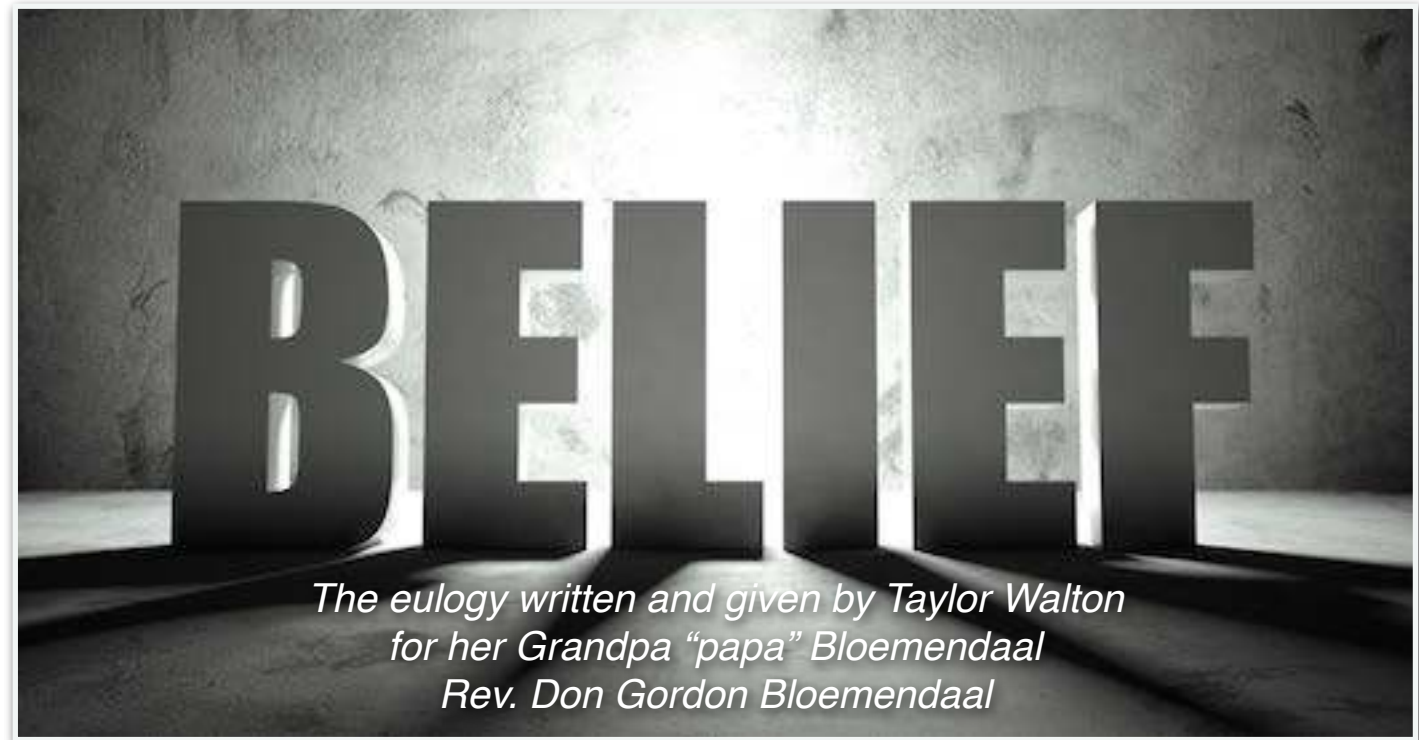


**BE THE
HOPE**

MONTHLY Sharing

January Share submission is from
Bevan Bloemendaal

- **WHY does it mean so much to you?**
Bevan: This was written in 2013 by my 12 year old niece wiser than her years for my Dad's funeral.
- **HOW has it impacted your life?**
Bevan: It has reminded me to love life and those who are in my life each and every day.
- **WHAT do you want others to take away from it?** *Bevan: Don't be afraid - believe and have faith, and we will see those who have gone before us again!*



People leave us every day, some not ready to and some to soon.
But I believe Papa was ready.
Instead of being scared and frightened afraid of what is up ahead
He had belief.

And in that belief he accepted death with open arms never being afraid
of the unknown but believing that so many great people that loved him
will be right there to welcome him home.
And in that belief, he had for so many years is what we must honor.

We cannot mourn and be scared and frightened of what happens next,
We can't be afraid of what is up ahead without him in our lives.
Instead we must believe just as he did that there is another place, and
he is watching over us never really leaving us.
Believe he is in peace, and with people he loves.

So even though you may not have been ready to let him go...He was.
And though it may take time for the sadness that eats us alive to stop,
And the tears that spring out of us uncontrollably at any given moment,
The wishing you could say more or wanting to go back one more time...

You must believe and have faith, just as he did, and always will.



BACKPACK MINISTRY/END 68 HOURS OF HUNGER

This program continues to thrive and we are now well into our 8th school year. We are currently serving 102 children total from all 6 Portsmouth schools. We continue to get amazing support from other churches and our community volunteers. In the past couple of months, we have received food donations from 5 food drives and cash donations from several other fundraisers. We were a participant again this year in “Spinning for Generosity” and over \$7,000 was raised in one week – amazing!!!! We have also been selected as the charity for the Pease Tenant Association this year and they will have several fundraising events for us throughout the course of the year. I also have a company at Pease purchasing hats and gloves for all the children, which will go out in the bags on 1/11. It’s really wonderful how giving this Portsmouth community is. 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 - Portsmouth Coordinator

SEACOAST FAMILY PROMISE

SFP is going stronger than ever. Our next rotation is January 20-27 and we currently have (3) families in the program – 3 single moms and a total of 10 children (8 under the age of 6). All of the families we worked with in 2018 (except for these 3 which are currently in the program) transitioned to stable housing and have remained there. The Day Center in Exeter is currently undergoing significant improvements due to the generosity of the community and Riverwoods, who made us their charity this year and raised thousands of dollars for the program. 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 13 years, so some fresh volunteers would be appreciated. This program definitely changes lives 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 firsthand, please contact Jen Berry at jen_b76@yahoo.com or 603-801-3886.

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)

Is an agency that reaches out to communities and countries who have gone through natural disasters, fires, and many other traumatizing events that have caused destruction and loss. They provide clean-up support, medical supplies, school supplies, and a number of other ways of helping those who are in distress. Even though we may not always see them listed in the newspapers, they are among the first ones to respond since teams are made up of people who live in the area.

Here at First UMC, we support UMCOR through our financial giving, as well as occasionally putting together kits or flood buckets to send wherever they are needed. All money we give goes to help wherever it is needed. On the Sunday designated as “One Great Hour of Sharing,” the money for that Sunday goes to help the administrative costs to run UMCOR. So, when we donate to a cause, we can be sure that 100% of the funds go to that cause. Each month we will collect mission money for UMCOR to go to a certain cause. For more information, go to GBGM.org. Thanks for all you do to help others!

JANUARY 2019 SUNDAY WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

DATE	LITURGIST	GREETERS	USHERS	ACOLYTE	WORSHIP TECH	SOUND TECH	SUNDAY SCHOOL
1/6/19	Nancy Chesser	Yvonne Griffin Marilyn Stebbins	Mike & Anne Coffey Ken & Jenya Westbrook	Jenya Westbrook	Sue Richards	Sue Sarosiek	Evelyn New Kaya Sarosiek
1/13/19	John VanReenen	Cathy VanReenen Marilyn Stebbins	Ken Young Ken & Jenya Westbrook	Rosie Buswell	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Dave Atkinson
1/20/19	Yvonne Griffin	Kellie & Steve Langs Marilyn Stebbins	Mike & Anne Coffey Ken Young & Steve Scott	Alexa Langs	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Kaya Sarosiek Dave Richards
1/27/19	Kevin Fickenscher	Mike & Anne Coffey Marilyn Stebbins	Dave & Sue Richards Jan & Al Cansdale	Kaya Sarosiek	Nancy Chesser	Sue Sarosiek	Airial Doubleday Silanpaa Kaya Sarosiek

NOTE - IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO MEET THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE PLEASE LET US KNOW IMMEDIATELY SO WE CAN SCHEDULE SOMEONE ELSE.

FEBRUARY 2019 SUNDAY WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

DATE	LITURGIST	GREETERS	USHERS	ACOLYTE	WORSHIP TECH	SOUND TECH	SUNDAY SCHOOL
2/3/19	Sue Richards	Ken & Sharon Corpron Marilyn Stebbins	Anne & Mike Coffey Ken Young	Marilyn Stebbins	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Evelyn New
2/10/19	Dave Atkinson	Joyce Blanchard Marilyn Stebbins	Ken Young Ken & Jenya Westbrook	Kaya Sarosiek	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Airial Silanpaa Kaya Sarosiek
2/17/19	Marilyn Stebbins	Jane Richards Joyce Blanchard	John & Cathy VanReenen Ken Young	Jenya Westbrook	Sue Richards	Sue Sarosiek	Sue & David Richards
2/24/19	Nancy Chesser	Kellie & Steve Langs	Marilyn Stebbins	Alexa Langs	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Dave Atkinson

NOTE - IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO MEET THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE PLEASE LET US KNOW IMMEDIATELY SO WE CAN SCHEDULE SOMEONE ELSE.



JANUARY 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	Happy New Year 1	2	3	4	5
				♦7pm AA	♦7pm AA	♦1pm AA
Epiphany of the Lord 6	7	8	9	10	Human Trafficking Awareness Day 11	12
♦10am Worship ♦11am Coffee Hour	♦6pm Promusica ♦7pm AA	♦6pm Promusica ♦6pm Finance/ Trustee meeting		♦8:30am Doris Rice ♦7pm AA	♦7pm AA	♦1pm AA
Korean American Day 13	14	15	16	17	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18	19
♦10am Worship ♦11am Coffee Hour	♦7pm AA	♦6pm Promusica ♦6pm Church Council		♦8:30am Doris Rice ♦7pm AA	♦7pm AA	♦1pm AA
Human Relations Day 20	21	22	23	24	25	26
♦10am Worship ♦11am Coffee Hour	♦10:30am AA ♦7pm AA	♦6pm Promusica		♦8:30am Doris Rice ♦7pm AA	♦7pm AA	♦1pm AA
International Holocaust Remembrance Day 27	Martin Luther King Jr. Day 28	29	30	31	1	2
♦10am Worship ♦11am Coffee Hour	♦7pm AA	♦6pm Promusica		♦8:30am Doris Rice ♦7pm 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. James McPhee, 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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