



WHO  
WE ARE

**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. James McPhee, District Superintendent

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

129 Miller Avenue - Portsmouth, NH 03801

Office Phone 603-436-6038 [office@fumcportsmouth.net](mailto: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](http://www.fumcportsmouth.com)

Like and Follow Us On:



*Trust God  
& BELIEVE  
IN GOOD THINGS  
to come.*



**July 7, 2019**

**FUMC Portsmouth, NH**

We Gather for Worship

**Prelude & Entrance of Christ's Light**

**Celebrations**

**\*Call to Worship**

L: We gather as God's family to worship our God.

**P: We trust and believe that Christ is in our midst.**

L: How will God speak to us today?

**P: We seek God's message in the reading of the word, prayers, singing, and fellowship.**

L: Let us open our minds and hearts to receive the power of God's Spirit.

**\*Hymn:** "Down to the River to Pray" Insert

**A Time for the Child in all of Us**

**Prayer** (unison)

**Gracious God, we come before you today admitting our tendency to think we know what is best for ourselves. We long for healing and wholeness and think we can fix everything on our own. Time and time again, we discover that we really don't have all the answers, and that when we listen to your guidance, we are healed and shown the right direction. Thank you for not giving up on us. Forgive us for our lack of trust. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon:

L: God's grace is far greater than our understanding. Know that, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**P: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**Sung Response:** "I Love You, Lord" TFWS #2068

**Ministry of Music**

We Proclaim the Word

**Reading the Word:** 2 Kings 5:1-14

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

**Message:** "Humility vs. Power"

We Respond to God's Word

**\*Hymn:** "Just As I Am," vv. 1,2,3,6 UMH #357

**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)

**Lord, we know that there is much work to be done; far more than we ever imagined. We ask that you bless these gifts that they be used for the work you have set before us, for we place our lives and trust in you. Amen.**

**A Service of Holy Communion** - insert

We Go Forth to Serve

**\*Hymn:** "The Lord Bless and Keep You" TFWS #2280

**\*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*

## 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



Pastor - Rev. Dr. Debra J. Hanson  
Pastor's Assistant - David Richards  
Liturgist - Dave Atkinson  
Lay Leader - Susan Sarosiek  
Acolyte - John VanReenen  
Director of Music - Bevan Bloemendaal  
Greeters - Jane Richards & Marilyn Stebbins  
Ushers - Ken & Jenya Westbrook  
Sound Tech - Dave Richards  
Worship Service Tech - Nancy Chesser  
Photographer - Dave Atkinson

## WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER...

Gayle Gardei  
Marion Collinshaw  
Sue Goodhue  
Hunter Pinkley  
Sylvia Bartlett  
Brian Thompson  
Malia Broe  
Gil Stebbins  
Rev. Bill Gardei  
Woodie Lange  
Roseanne  
Rev. David Kerr  
Jim New  
Dan Hislop and family  
Bobbie Noble  
Pastor Sue Ellery  
Judy Doyon  
Charles Gilman  
Diederich Family  
Aunt Karen (PennySue)  
Our Church Family  
Barbara & Jim Slater  
Barbara Sylvester  
Pauline Boynton  
Barbara Millar  
Irene Derosier  
Barbara Clement  
Joette MacKenzie  
Vicky Fernandez  
Alissa Fernandez  
Jessie  
John Richards  
Dotty Prince  
John Erickson



Come join us for coffee hour  
after the church service in  
Sanborn Hall...we'd love to  
catch up with you and see how  
your week has gone.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Summer Sunday School

Sunday school will continue for the summer. The children will be watching DVD's on the "Ten Commandments" as well as learning about some of the biblical stories we will be focusing on during our worship time. All are welcome, and if there are those who would be willing to give the regular teachers a break, even if it is for one Sunday, please let Rev. Deb know.

**Camperships** are available for children and youth who would like to attend Wanakee! We pay part of the cost. Contact David Richards if you are interested.

**Finance Trustees** Meeting on July 9, 2019 at 6:00 pm at the Parsonage. All are welcome.

**Memorial Service** for Fred Pettigrew on July 20th at 11am.

**Church Council** meeting on July 23, at 6 pm in the church office.

The **Finance Trustees** and **Church Council** will have a combined meeting on August 13, at 6 pm in the church office.

**SPRC** will meet after worship July 28, 2019

**11th Annual Golf Tournament** will be held on Weds., September 11 at Pease Golf Course. For more information check in the office or this months Beacon.

## Fundraising Ideas

Do you love **Texas Roadhouse Rolls**? Would you be interested in participating in a Fundraiser. This would consist of taking orders and distributing your orders upon delivery. Please let Rev Deb know you'd participate.

This week's **altar flowers** are for all the **July** birthdays so we thought we would list them out and say Happy Birthday to all those July birthdays and to all other Birthdays in months past and months to come.

**1 Harold Whitehouse**

**6 Barbara Slater**

**9 Ruth Griffin**

**9 Gail Sanders**

**10 Robert Smith**

**13 Jim Sanders**

**16 Valerie Quackenbush**

**18 Susan Sarosiek**

**23 Eric Littlefield**

**25 Jean Ordione**

**25 Lori Beth Ordione**

**27 Rachel Kirk Minnhan**

**28 Lauri Gagnon**

**29 David Stanley**

**Flower Dedication:** 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 if you want the Church to order them for you.





# DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

**A Service of Holy Communion**  
*from UMC Board of Discipleship*

L: The Lord be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**P: We lift them up to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

L: Almighty God, Creator of the universe, Ruler of all nations, Judge of all flesh, you have placed us, your people, in this land made rich with rivers, forests, mountains, and creatures great and small. Here, you set before the founders and pioneers of this nation an opportunity beyond measure to build a realm of justice, peace, and freedom. Here you continue to call your people, freed from the law and baptized into Christ Jesus, to be a sign of your reign in all the world. For such a place, such a vision and such a calling we give you thanks, praying we may ever join afresh the dreams you set before us as we join with your people in every land on earth and with all the company of heaven in your unceasing praise:

**ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

L: Above all we give you thanks for the gift of your Son Jesus Christ, who sends us into the world to declare the good news of your kingdom to every creature: Justice to all peoples, good news to the poor, release for prisoners, sight for the blind, and freedom for the oppressed. On the night before he was arrested and sentenced to death by the authorities of his own nation, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you."

When supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the covenant poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins." And so we remember and proclaim the mystery of faith.

**ALL: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

L: We pour ourselves out before you in praise and thanksgiving, a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us. So pour out your Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and the cup. Make Christ known to us in the breaking of this bread, and the sharing of this cup. Renew our fellowship in him, so that we may be for the world his body poured out for the world at this time in this nation, and at that great banquet in the fullness of your new creation where justice flows like rivers, righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, where none shall hunger or thirst, neither shall they learn war anymore.

**ALL: By him, with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, now and ever. Amen.**

*Sharing the Bread and the Cup*

*Unison Prayer following Distribution*

**We thank you, O God, that through Word and Sacrament, you have given us your Son, who is the true bread from heaven and food of eternal life. So strengthen us in your service that our daily living may show our thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



# DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.



## **A Prayer for Suffering Children**

**God of All Children Everywhere,  
Our hearts are bruised when we see children suffering alone.  
Our hearts are torn when we are unable to help. Our hearts are  
broken when we have some complicity in the matter. For all the  
times we were too busy and shooed a curious child away,  
forgive us, oh God. For all the times we failed to get down on  
their level and look eye to eye with a child, forgive us, oh God.  
For all the times we did not share when we saw a hungry child  
somewhere in the world, forgive us, oh God. For all the times  
we thought about calling elected officials to demand change,  
but did not, forgive us, oh God. For all the times we thought  
that caring for the children of this world was someone else's  
responsibility, forgive us, oh God.**

**With Your grace, heal our hearts. With Your grace, unite us in  
action. With Your grace, repair our government. With Your  
grace, help us to find a way to welcome all children everywhere,  
That they may know that Jesus loves them, Not just because  
“the Bible tells them so,” But because they have known Your  
love in real and tangible ways, And they know that nothing,  
absolutely nothing, can separate them from Your love.  
Amen.**

### **“Down to the River to Pray”**

As I went down to the river to pray,  
Studyin' about that good ole way  
And who shall wear the starry crown,  
Good Lord, show me the way.

1. O sisters, let's go down,  
Let's go down, come on down.  
Come on, brothers, let's go down,  
Down to the river to pray.

As I went down to the river to pray,  
Studyin' about that good ole way  
And who shall wear the starry crown,  
Good Lord, show me the way.

2. O fathers, let's go down,  
Let's go down, come on down.  
Come on, mothers, let's go down,  
Down to the river to pray.

As I went down to the river to pray,  
Studyin' about that good ole way  
And who shall wear the robe and crown,  
Good Lord, show me the way.

3. O sinners, let's go down,  
Let's go down, come on down.  
Come on, sinners, let's go down,  
Down to the river to pray.



SERMON TRANSCRIPT GIVEN BY  
REV. DR. DEB HANSON

“Pride and Humility” – 7/7/19  
First UMC – Rev. Dr. Debra J. Hanson

SCRIPTURE: 2 Kings 5:1-14

THEME: God works through us to minister to others.

When Dave and I were the leaders of youth groups in two different churches, we learned a lot about teenagers and how they operated. Of course, about the time we thought we had things figured out, they always surprised us with some new tactic. However, there was one tactic that we recognized immediately – one that we both have experienced, Dave when his children were growing up and me from teaching.

It happens when they come up to us, usually in a small group, with little smiles on their faces, and their feet shuffling. We could tell they were uncomfortable, but we let them ask us their question, which usually started, “We were wondering. . .” Eventually, we just skipped over their question and asked, “Okay, what are you going to ask us?” Most of the time, it was something that they wanted to do that was outside the box, but rarely, was it ever unreasonable, and we were able to negotiate with them as long as they could justify the activity and how it tied into church, faith, growing in God’s grace.

We can usually tell, can’t we, when someone wants something from us? The boss calls us into the office, a friend calls us on the phone or emails and gives us a long dissertation on what is on their minds, our children beg us to “please, please, please” let us have this or that. Of course, they bargain – if you will let us do \_\_\_(fill in the blank)\_\_\_ we will clean our rooms every week. Never mind that they are supposed to be cleaning their rooms anyway!

In our society, we expect to receive something for favors. We live in a commodity driven world: pay for services; buy groceries, clothing, or other items; switch shifts with someone at work; and so on. Our expectations are that, in order to receive something, we have to pay for it in some way. Namaan, the leader of the Aramean Army was no different.

And Namaan had a problem. He had leprosy. Leprosy could be any skin eruption that left scaling, redness, or other discoloration or lesion. We often think of it as the more modern understanding of Hansen’s disease, but during Biblical times, science and superstition were closely related. When someone wasn’t “perfect,” they were considered unclean and outcast. It would appear that Namaan actually was not outcast, but he was certainly upset and embarrassed by his skin issues, and he wanted to be healed.

The word of encouragement came from a young girl in Namaan’s household. This girl had apparently been captured in one of the Aramean army raids in Israel, and she had been given to Namaan’s wife to be her servant girl. When she heard of Namaan’s condition and his agony, she told the wife that there was a prophet in Israel who could heal him. After negotiations with the King of Aram and then appearing with a large army of chariots, horses, and gifts in front of the King of Israel, Namaan was sent to see the prophet Elisha.

Just picture the mass of people, animals, gifts, and chariots parked in front of Elisha’s humble rural home. The contrast between wealth & power and humble, simple surrounding must have been startling. We can see Namaan stepping out of his chariot and sending a servant to pound



on the door of Elisha's house. Deep inside the house Elisha listens to his own companion servant explain why this mass of people and vehicles waited outside his door, and he gives very simple instructions to be carried to Namaan: *"Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean."* (v. 10)

Namaan is incensed that the prophet didn't even come out to see him in person and perform some sort of ritual. He was insulted that he was supposed to go to the Jordan River (which, I can tell you from having seen it in person is dirty and not particularly desirable for taking a dip). Even as he raged on, then prepared to leave, another humble voice from one of his servants calmed him down. "Well, we're already here. If he had told you to do something fantastic you would have done it. This is simple and easy, so why not give it a try?"

Within a short time, Namaan had returned to Elisha's house to thank him and to praise God. He was a changed man, and his arrogance and pride had been changed to humility. Oh, he was still a powerful and influential man, but his attitude was one of realizing that he couldn't have everything his own way. He might even rule his armies with a little kindness and compassion, and he might not even think of himself as invincible. Through Elijah's humility, confidence in God and trust in God's ability to heal Namaan, God was able to touch the great army leader and reach not only his diseased skin, but also his arrogant heart.

It's interesting to me that there are many people whom I know or have had to deal with who have an attitude of manipulation and power because they either have a lot of money, position, and power in their work or in their communities. When that somehow convinces them that they are better than someone else, pride takes over. They can't see that they ultimately are the same as someone else. It happens even in churches where leaders of churches become so sure that they know what is best that they don't see another way something could be accomplished. They stop listening to others and push their own agendas. I'm not pointing any fingers, but it's something that I believe all churches need to be aware of as we go about the work of carrying on the ministry of Christ.

As I was writing this sermon, I was thinking of examples and illustrations to use help us understand what this scripture passage might be telling us. Rather than offer a negative example, I want to share a very positive and personal experience. Some of you may know who Jared Allen is. He was a five-time Pro-bowler defensive end in football who played for the Minnesota Vikings most of 12 year career.

Jared has strong military roots with his grandfather, father, uncles, and younger brother. One day he visited a military hospital. We can imagine that those who knew who he was – a famous football player – must have been honored to have him there, but what Jared saw was injuries that had claimed limbs and altered their lives forever.

In an interview he said, *"Football is what I do, it's not who I am. The things that we do today — to impact these lives, to change people's lives — can last forever,"* (he told SB Nation). *"We have a great responsibility to the community that supports us, and to our veterans who allow us to do what we do."*

Talk is big, but in practice, Jared Allen is much, much bigger than just words. He formed the Jared Allen Homes for Wounded Warriors, which is an organization that raises money and finds house renovators to make a wounded soldier's house accessible. Since its founding in 2009, his organization has helped raise funds to build or revamp homes for injured veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, raised tens of thousands of dollars from corporations like Wal-Mart and Proctor & Gamble to provide everyday household goods for veteran families in need, and on Veterans Day, you can always find the now-retired Allen doing something to help veterans in need.

(<https://www.wearethemighty.com/sports/jared-allen-football-charity?rebelltitem=2#rebelltitem2>)

Some of you know that my nephew Andrew Hanson lost the lower part of both his legs from an IED explosion while he was serving in Iraq. His name was submitted to Jared's foundation, and he was chosen to have his house renovated. What a gift it was to a young man who had both prosthetic legs and a wheel chair to get him around! I saw the house before and after, and it was great. I couldn't find a picture of the house in all my albums, but I did find a picture of Jared and Andrew and another friend at a game:

This is but one example of someone who has influence and the means to make a difference through his position of power and his ability to rally others to help. I don't know how religious Jared is, but I do know he has a heart that isn't expecting anything in return. He wants to help because he can make a difference.

We may think we can't make a difference because we don't have the same situation as Jared or others, but we can. God calls us to work together, to be in ministry together as God's family. As Colossians 3:11-13 reminds those of us who are called to serve God: <sup>11</sup> . . . *there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!* <sup>12</sup> *As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.* <sup>13</sup> *Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.* (NRSV)

Humility is a recognition that God is the focus of what we do. We glorify God in our lives, in our church, and in our world. We can have confidence in the presence of the Holy Spirit, and we can trust the teachings of Jesus who calls us to serve him by carrying on the work of sharing God's love, compassion, kindness, and acceptance in our world. We can be inspired by Jared Allen, for sure, but we can also be inspired by the people of this church and so many churches who quietly go about the work of ministry for Christ – and there are many. Thanks be to God!

Let us pray: *Gracious God, help us to keep our focus on you and on the ways we are called to serve you wherever you have planted us. Help us to use our resources, our community of faith, and so many other ways that you teach us and lead us. Help us to give you the glory. Amen.*