

The Staff Parish Committee is very pleased to announce that Reverend Debra Hanson, DMin. will be joining First United Methodist Church as our pastor effective July 1, 2018. She has accepted the role in a half-time capacity and they have recently moved to Eliot, Maine. "Reverend Deb" has previously served in a variety of pastoral positions in Wareham, MA, Seabrook, NH and in Maine at Kennebunk, Goodwin Mills and Hampden. She is a graduate of the Andover Newton Theological School and previously served as an elementary music teacher. In addition, she has been active in Nicaragua and Guatemala on various mission trips over the years.

More recently, Rev. Deb – and, her husband, David Atkinson – have served as youth ministry and group leaders for a program affiliated with the Tuttle Road UMC in Cumberland, Maine. She holds a philosophy of "walking the walk and talking the talk" by empowering the laity to develop leadership skills for bringing the Word of God to reality for the missions she serves. We anticipate everyone will welcome her with open arms and look forward to her leadership in helping us to meet not only the needs of our members but of the greater communities we also serve.



Welcome to FUMC Rev. Dr. Deb Hanson and Dave Atkinson



It is my privilege to be appointed to the First United Methodist Church as the pastor beginning July 1, 2018. Some of you may be apprehensive or wondering about me, so I will give you a brief introduction which you may also see in some of the material the SPRC sends out.

I was born and raised in Iowa and moved to the east coast after graduating from college. I have a BA in music education, MM in choral conducting and performance (voice), MDiv, and DMin. As you can see I have been studying many years!

My true love has been answering my call to serve God as a minister for 26 years. I retired last year; however, after a year of participating as a parishioner in a church near us, I once again heard God's call to serve as a pastor.

I look forward to learning your names (be patient with me!), getting to know you better, and having you meet my wonderful husband, Dave Atkinson. You will hear more about him as time goes by. Also, I have to be honest, I don't like being called Debbie, so please call me Deb. If you like titles, "Rev. Deb" is fine, but that's really up to you. We have been called to be a team in ministry, and I believe God has brought us together to make a difference to others. Ever since my appointment was announced you all have been in my prayers, and I hope you will pray for me, as well.

God bless! Rev. Deb



**THE BEACON
JULY 2018**



July Celebrations!

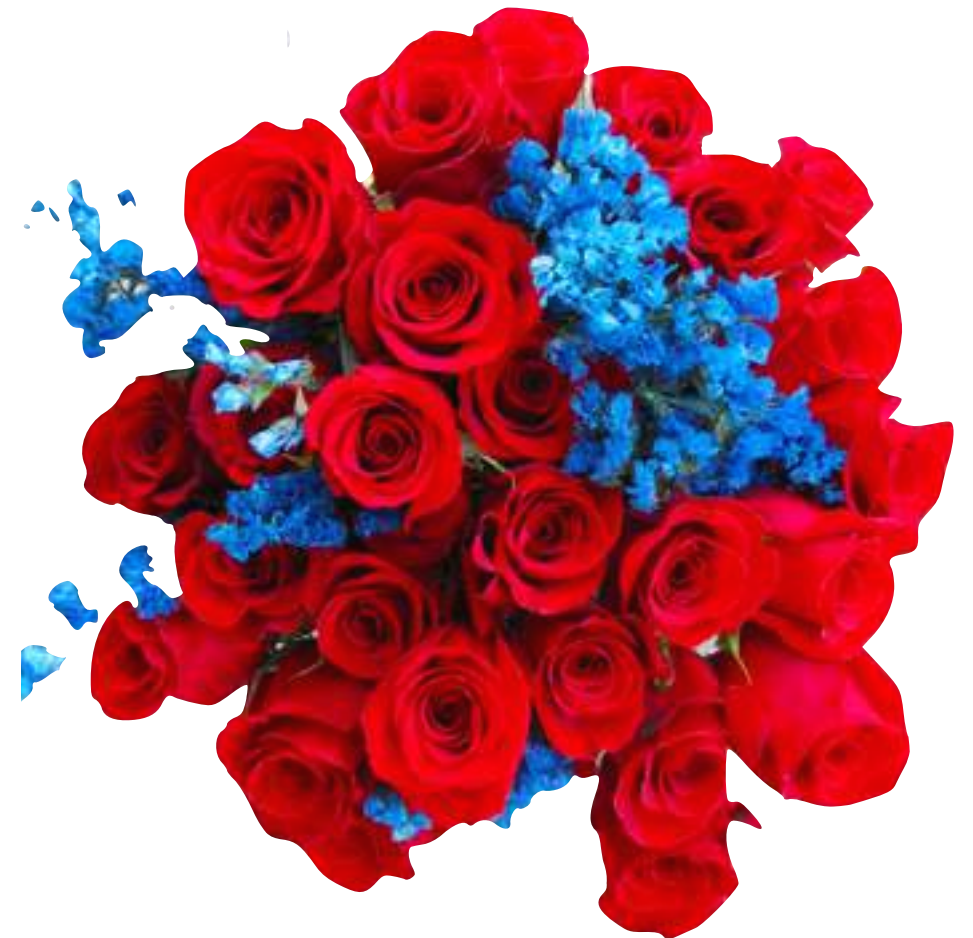
- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Harold Whitehouse | 16 Valeria Quackenbush |
| 4 Dino Argentini | 18 Susan Sarosiek |
| 6 Barbara Slater | 23 Eric Littlefield |
| 9 Ruth Griffin | 25 Jean Ordione |
| 9 Gail Sanders | 25 Lori Beth Ordione |
| 10 Robert Smith | 27 Rachel Kirk Minnhan |
| 13 Jim Sanders | 28 Lauri Gagnon |
| | 29 David Stanley |
- Happy Anniversary
7 Steve & Lauri Gagnon

Please complete the survey that Church Council emailed to you. If you don't have email, or didn't receive it, please pick one up in the office.
Thank you.

Every Sunday we enjoy having fresh flowers on the altar 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.



In our prayers...
Family and friends of Beverlea Meadow
Family and friends of Rose Arsenault
Barbara Glidden Barbara Millar Cynthia Drake
Sue Goodhue Kim Hishop
Sylvia Bartlett Brian Thompson
Our church family
Those in rehab and care facilities





**Beginning this Sunday!
Same bucket
new cause
Puerto Rico
Hurricane Disaster Fund**



Our “Silent Offering” donations will now go to continued Disaster Relief in Puerto Rico. The UMCOR article below shows the God was present throughout this storm.

“On September 20, 2017, Hurricane Maria wrecked the building of La Iglesia Methodist Pena de Horeb in Palo Seco, Puerto Rico, destroying the structure but not the church-the church being members of the community of faith who would rally to worship God in another space and minister to their neighbors. After the wind subsided members crept into what was left of the gutted, roofless sanctuary to find a kind of miracle. The lectern stood upright and on it the Bible open to Psalm 84, beginning “How lovely is you dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!...my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.”

The hope, the strength of faith voiced in Psalm 84 became the anthem of Pena ed horeb as well as that of other Methodist congregations in the wake of one of the most devastating hurricanes ever to hit the island, a storm leaving millions without electric power for weeks”

Please continue your generosity in your donations to help our Puerto Rican brothers and sisters in Christ as they rebuild their homes, businesses and lives.

Thank you.
Sue Richards
Mission Outreach



Puerto Rico

A note from Laurie Stevens

These are current photos from the home of my friend Bill's neighbor. He has not lived in his house for 8 months as the hurricane took out the back windows of his home and caused several ceilings to be unstable or missing.

Many hotels have reopened in cities for business and restaurants are serving the tourists. Streets are mostly cleared of the debris.

Neighborhoods outside the tourism hub still have damaged trees, downed power lines and shuttered businesses are commonplace.



TECH CHECK



We are currently doing an update to our contact list.

Please email or drop by the office with new listings, changes, updates or additions.

No changes? Make sure your information is current and correct in our files. Stop by on a Sunday morning and talk to PaulaJ!

call 436-6038

email office@fumcportsouth.net



In May Church Council applied to the United Methodist Foundation for a technology grant. This would include a large screen monitor with a smaller monitor on the side wall, electrical work, tablets to bring to nursing home/homebound members the wonderful music we enjoy on a weekly basis. These monitors would alleviate the screen being up in the pulpit area. However, the Grant Ministry Committee could not support our request this year. The committee received double the grant requests that could be funded. In the meantime, Church Council will continue to search out grants for this purpose. If you are feeling called to support this endeavor, please note Technology on donation. Thank you.

Sue Sarosiek
Church Council Chair

Don't forget to check us out online to see and hear the latest from Sunday morning services!



We invite you to join us for coffee and fellowship following the service. Cheese, cracker, cookie and coffee donations are greatly appreciated.

See Ken Westbrook for more information.



The Planet Rangers summer season has begun with six weeks of educational day camp for local elementary aged kids all generously hosted by the First United Methodist Church.

The first week is an entrepreneurial camp where the kids learn to run an event, a carnival, to benefit a local charity of their choosing. Week two is Geology themed with SherRock Holmes and Dr. Rockson solving mysteries and learning about volcanoes and earthquakes. Later in July campers arrive for Wild New Hampshire week, an immersion in wildlife biology and creatures from all parts of the state.

In August, Planet Rangers hold two weeks of culinary camp where kids get to go into the kitchens of fantastic local restaurants and then recreate what they learn at a finale at the end of the week. The final week of the summer is Mission Incredible with a superhero theme and lots of great learning opportunities for kids to strengthen mind, body and spirit.

Each camp ends with a finale and all church members are warmly invited to attend:

Kids Inc Carnival: Friday, June 29th 12:30-2:00

Geology Rocks Geo Expo: Friday, July 13 1:15-2:00

Wild NH Creature Feature: Friday, July 20 1:30-2:15

World's Best Chefs: Friday, August 3 and Friday, August 10
12:45-2:00

Mission Incredible: Thursday, August 23 1:15-2:15

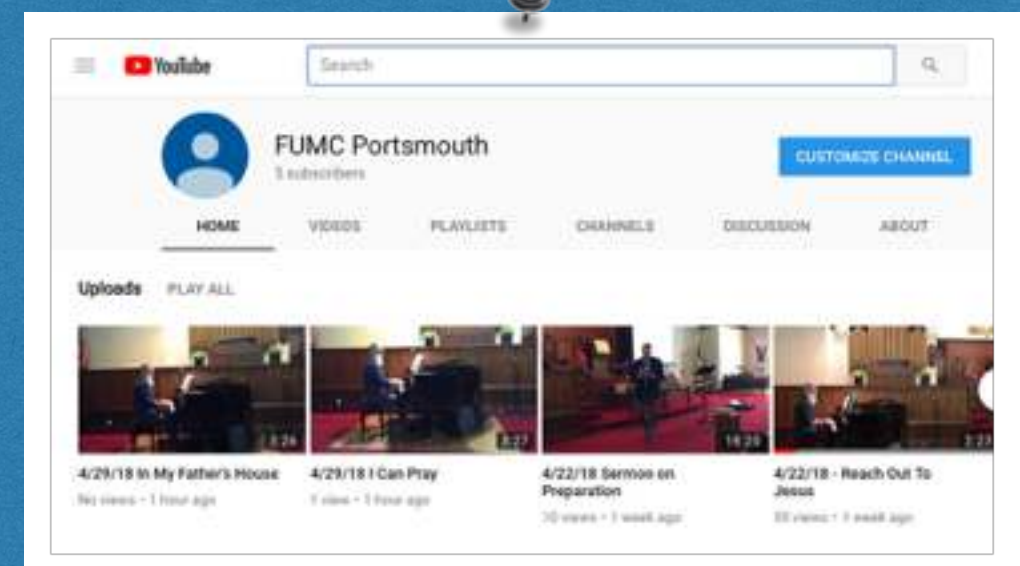
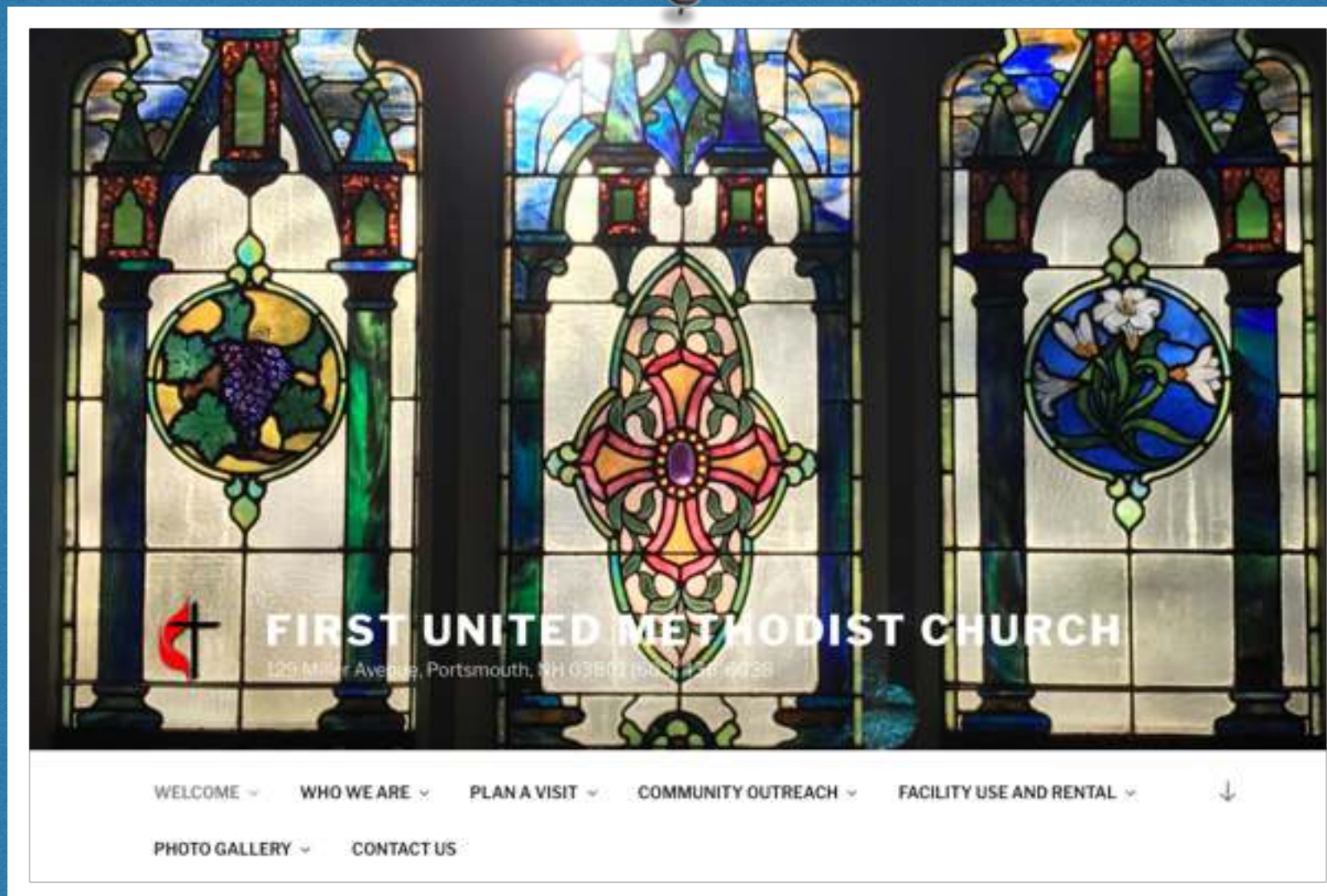
Thank you so much for your support!
~John and Susan



JULY 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
10:00AM Worship 11:15 Coffe Welcome Rev Dr Deb Hanson and Dave Atkinson 1	2	7:00 PM NA 3		7:30 PM AA 5	8 PM AA 6	1:00 PM AA 7
10:00AM Worship 11:15 Coffee 8	Planet Rangers					1:00 PM AA
	9	6:15 PM Council 7:00 PM NA 10	11	7:30 PM AA 12	8 PM AA 13	14
10:00AM Worship 11:15 Coffee 15	Planet Rangers					1:00 PM AA
	16	17	18	7:30 PM AA 19	8 PM AA 20	21
10 AM Worship 11:15 Coffee 22		Trustees 5:30 7:00 PM NA 24	25	7:30 PM AA 26	8 PM AA 27	1:00 PM AA 28
10 AM Worship 11:15 Coffee 29	Planet Rangers					
	30	31				

CONNECT WITH US ON ALL OUR CHANNELS... WEBSITE, FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM & YOUTUBE



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.