



*Faith is not believing that God can,
it is knowing that He will*

It is a challenge to find the words for my last piece in the Beacon. In the past I have found bits of meaningful scripture or poetry to share with you, but now it is difficult to find what expresses my feelings adequately.

What can I say?

I love FUMC. Paul loves FUMC. First Church is our home church; you are our church family where we have renewed friendship with many beloved folks; where we have made so many wonderful new friends. However, as your retiring pastor I must leave you—at least for a while. Thank you for the blessing of your send off all those years ago as I moved into my first pastorate; I took you with me wherever we found ourselves. Thank you for the wonderful, warm welcome home again; it seemed to take forever to come back here. Thank you for being the warm, loving family into which we have assimilated. God has blessed us beyond belief. Paul and I will not say “Goodbye”...because neither of us is willing nor able to. We do say “We love you and so long for a little while”.

Blessings on you all.

Betsy and Paul



THE BEACON
JUNE 2018



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

FAREWELL POTLUCK

JUNE 17, 2018

FOLLOWING WORSHIP

IN SANBORN HALL TO
THANK PASTOR BETSY
AND WISH HER WELL ON
HER RETIREMENT!

SPRC IS COLLECTING FOR
A RETIREMENT GIFT SO
PLEASE SEE MIKE COFFEY
OR SUE SAROSIEK WITH
YOUR CONTRIBUTION.



AND THAT IS A WRAP FOLKS!...

FROM THE
TRUSTEES...



The new roof for
Sanborn Hall and
the sanctuary
slate rook repairs
are COMPLETE!

WELCOME OUR NEWEST ACOLYTE...



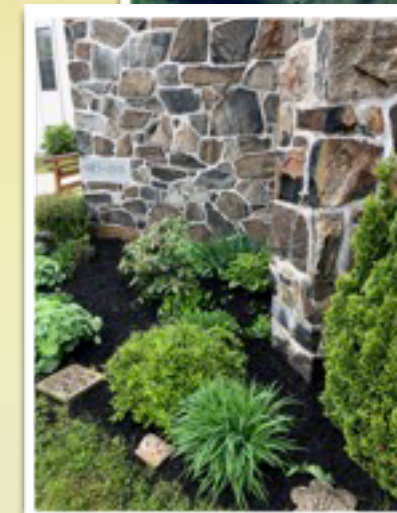
Please welcome Alexa
Langs to our Sunday
Worship Team, as she
has completed the
training class to become
our newest and youngest
Acolyte.



UMCOR
FLOOD BUCKET
UPDATE...

\$ 435.00
and counting!
THANK YOU

SPRING CLEAN UP...THANK YOU!



There was a
team of
helpers led by
Dave and Sue
Richards to
please thank
them for their
hard work!



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.

Peace Circle Luncheon
Tuesday June 12
Contact Jane Richards or Yvonne Griffin

June Celebrations!



- 2 David Brown
- 4 Shawn Martin
- 6 Ryan Chesser
- 10 Carol Johnson
- 11 Peter Robitaille
- 14 Nicole Richards
- 18 Alan Timperman
- 20 Barbara Millar (102 years!)
- 21 James New
- 22 Anissa New-Walker
- 28 Christopher Laux

- 29 Bill & Gayle Gardei

LET US PRAY FOR....

Family of Bill Geeslin

Cynthia Drake Bobbie Noble

Gail Guarini Peter Guarini

Sue Goodhue Kim Hishop

Sylvia Bartlett Richard Mullikin

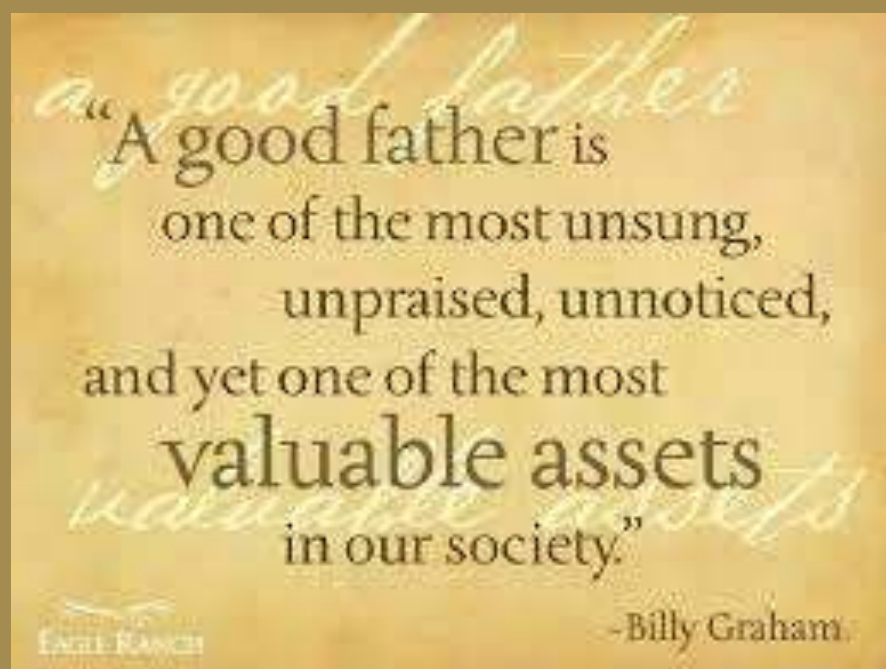
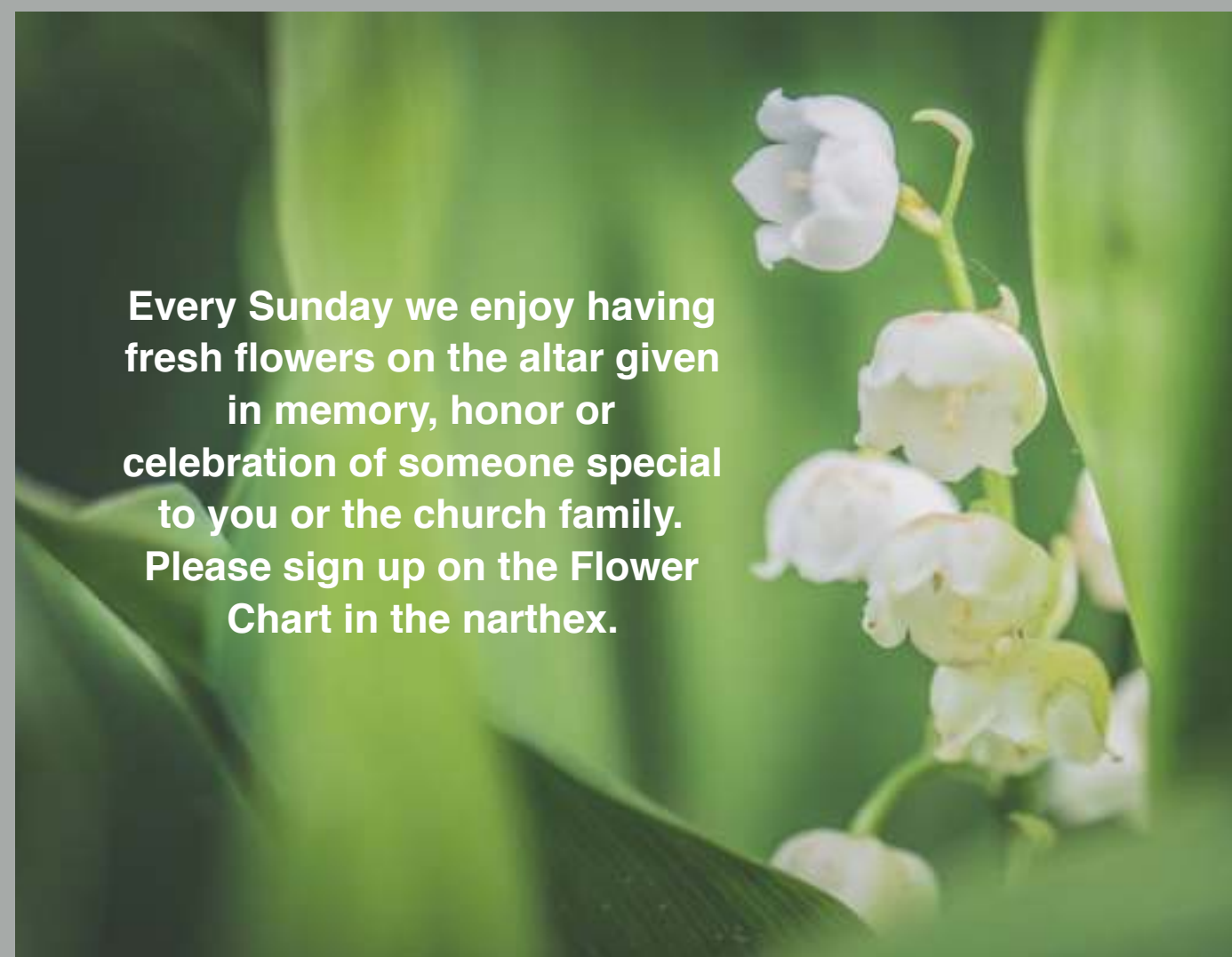
Brian Thompson

Our church family

Those living in rehab and care facilities



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.





First United Methodist Church of Portsmouth Trustees & Finance Committee Update

There's nothing better than when a plan comes together. For the FUMC pledge drive this year the Finance Committee really wanted two things; to do something different that would stand out and be appreciated, and to create a program that would be successful. I can say with confidence that we accomplished the first goal and the tabulation of the pledge results, currently in progress, will determine how we did against the second goal. The committee had the foresight to invite David Abbott down to Portsmouth to help us in our initial planning meeting last October. Many of you met David, Director of Stewardship, United Methodist Foundation of New England, when he preached on Gratitude Sunday on May 6. One of David's suggestions was for us to consider using the Gratitude Path, written by Kent Millard, as a resource in our planning for the campaign. We did exactly that and appreciated the book's message so much that we patterned the majority of the campaign after the book. The framework, scheduling, the congregational letters from members and the Gratitude Moments were all things taken from the book. Frankly, the Committee is pleased with the results and we hope that you are too.

Having said that, the main reason for this message was not to pat ourselves on the back but rather to thank each and every one of you for participating in the Gratitude Campaign in any way that you did, by being in attendance on Sunday mornings during April and on Gratitude Sunday on May 6, by contributing to the Gratitude Moments, through your participation in the Sunday brunch or through your response to the Gratitude Pledge for the coming year. We as a church aren't very consistent in thanking the congregation for their generous contributions of time, talents, prayer and support along with the obvious financial support. It's all very much appreciated and helps keep our congregation a viable and generous contributor to the community and to God's work around the world. Things are changing here at First Church and this is one area where we all agree improvement is in order. So please accept a big *THANK YOU* to each and every one of you from the Finance Committee for your commitment to the Gratitude Campaign.

Respectfully submitted,

John VanReenen
Finance Committee Chairperson

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

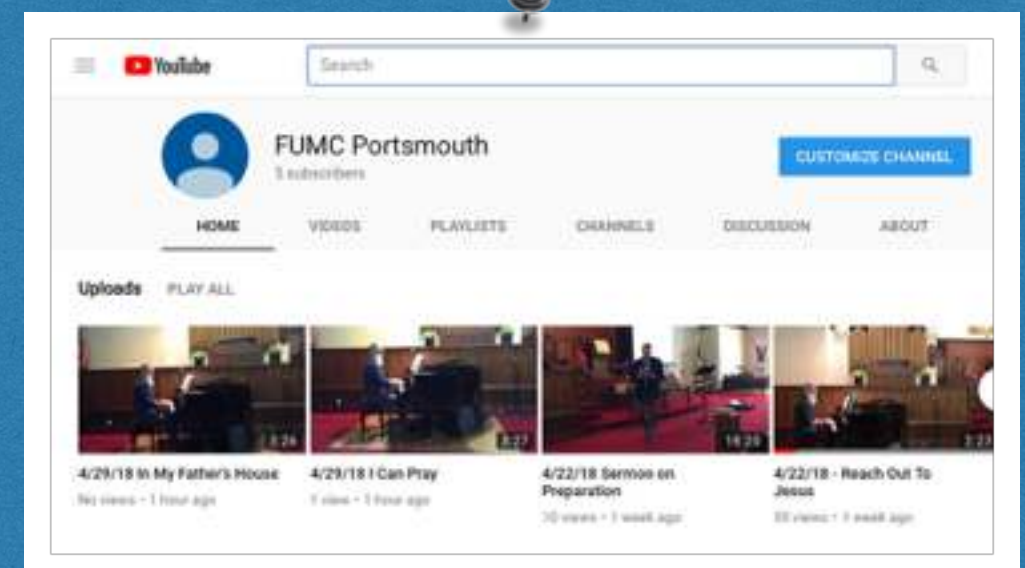
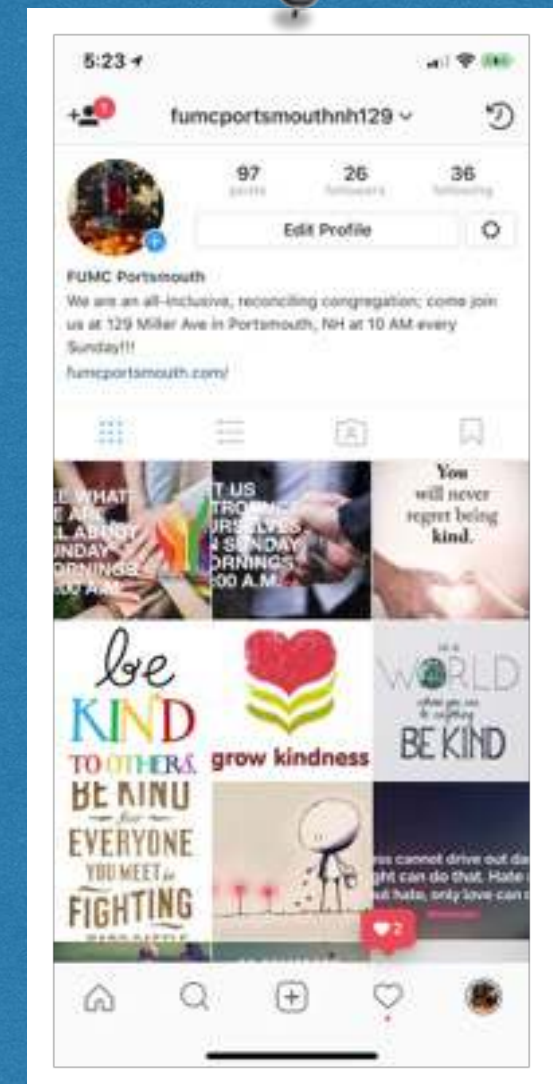
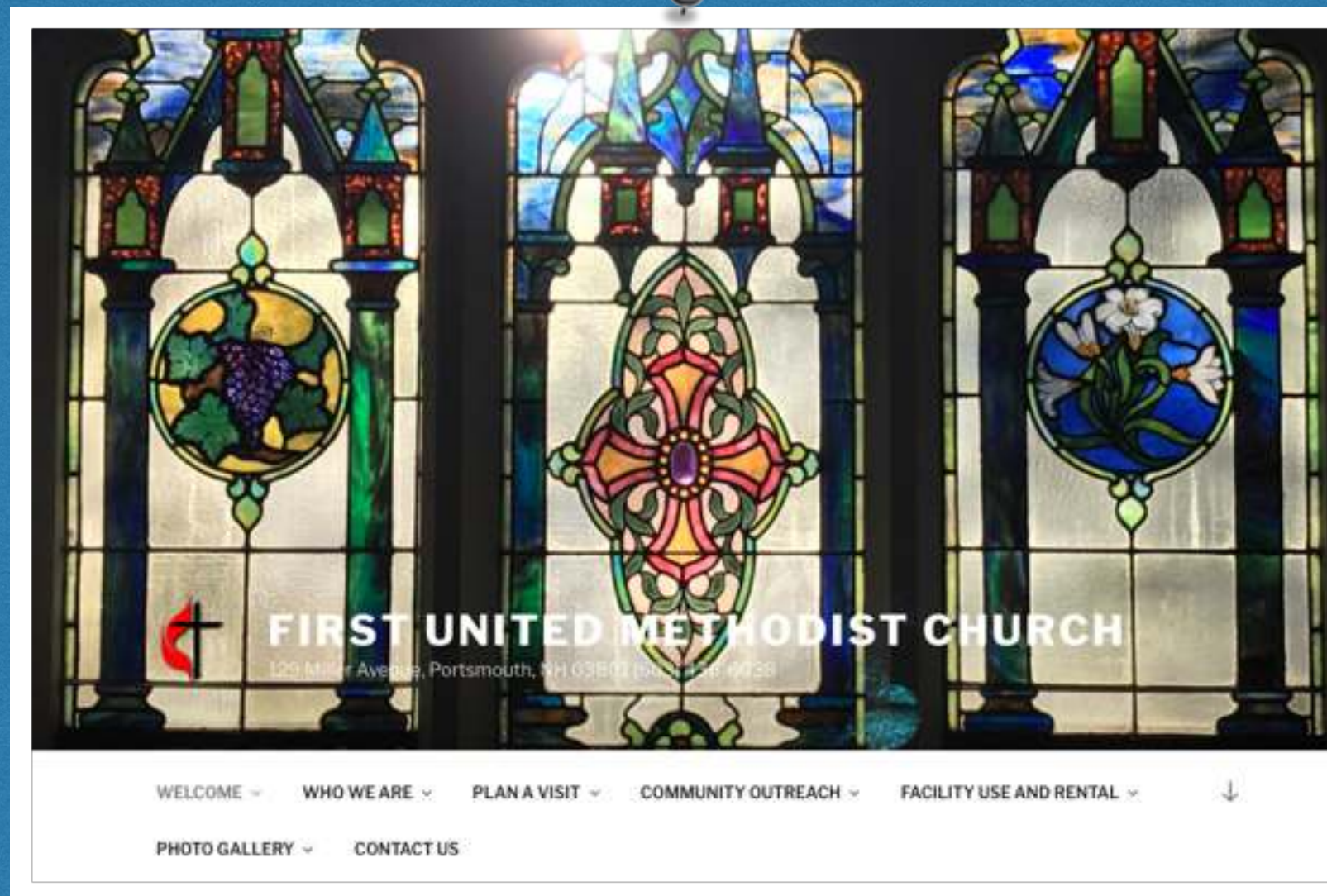
Jen Berry, Coordinator

Contact information: jen_b76@yahoo.com or 603-801-3886.

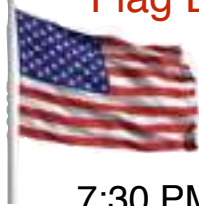
FUMC Portsmouth a Reconciling Congregation

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.

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



JUNE 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 1:00 PM AA
3 10:00AM Worship 11:15 Coffe	4 6:15 PM Finance Mtg	5 7:00 PM NA	6	7 7:30 PM AA	8 8 PM AA	9 1:00 PM AA
10 10:00AM Worship 11:15 Coffee	11	12 PEACE CIRCLE noon luncheon 6:15 PM Council 7:00 PM NA	13	14 Flag Day  7:30 PM AA	15 8 PM AA	16 1:00 PM AA
17 Father's Day 10:00AM Worship 11:15 Betsy & Paul Farewell Potluck	18	19	20	21  Summer Solstice 7:30 PM AA	22 8 PM AA	23 1:00 PM AA
24 10 AM Worship 11:15 Coffee SPRC Meets	25	26 7:00 PM NA	27	28 7:30 PM AA	29 8 PM AA	30 1:00 PM AA