

YOU MAY TRAVEL FAR,
BUT GOD IS

A L W A Y S

N E A R .





Dear Friends,

Psalm 150, verse 6 is a great reminder to praise God in all things, and we can praise God with joy! Psalm 148 also came to mind as I thought about the month of June. In it, the Psalmist encourages all of creation to praise God, and Psalm 150 follows with music, percussion, and dance. What a glorious way to end the book of Psalms.

I was also reminded of the song from the old Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *Carousel*:
*June is bustin' out all over, All over the meadow and the hill!
Buds're bustin' outa bushes, And the rompin' river pushes
Ev'ry little wheel that wheels beside the mill!*

*June is bustin' out all over; The feelin' is gettin' so intense,
That the young Virginia creepers Hev been huggin' the bejeepers
Outa all the mornin' glories on the fence! Because it's June...
June, June, Just because it's June, June, June!*

What a celebration – just because it's June! June brings school vacation for the summer, many weddings, more sunshine (hopefully!), greenery, flowers, warmer temperatures (also hopefully!), and much more. We are blessed with so many of God's gifts through our world. June also brings vacation times, summer cottages, and other summer activities, which often lead to a reduced attendance at worship services.

This year, let us celebrate June, July, and August with joy and may we praise the Lord wherever we are, since God is with us in all places, all circumstances, and all that we do. And when we find ourselves at home, maybe we can plan to come to worship with our church family as often as we can. Or, invite company to attend with us. If we are somewhere else, try out a different church. Worship takes many forms and can happen in any place.

As a congregation, our “boost” for the week happens with the times we gather together and find ourselves energized for the week ahead. Hopefully, it opens our eyes to the possibilities for a lively, vibrant faith witness in the ways we live our lives in our world. God can be on vacation with us, even at the same time as God is with us in worship at our church building.

May your summer be truly blessed, and we hope to see you in church as often as possible!

Grace and peace, Rev. Deb

p.s. Just a little reminder: Please remember that our church expenses continue during the summer, so even if you aren't here, please try to keep your giving up to date. Thanks!

THIS MONTH AT A GLANCE

SFP CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT Monday, June 3rd at Pease Golf Course...Open to all! Win a Subaru Assent courtesy of Exeter Subaru. Silent auction, games, history of golf hole special and more. Registration underway on seacoastfamilypromise.org

Pentecost and Children's Sunday

On Sunday, June 9, we will celebrate Pentecost as well as our Sunday school. Our children will share some of the things they enjoyed learning this year, and they will also present the Pentecost story in a dramatic reading with the congregation participating. We will thank our teachers, as well.

Also, since it's Pentecost, you are invited to wear **RED** if you wish!

We are looking to do summer Sunday school, and it would be nice to have some new folks teach the children during the months of July and August to give our teachers a break. If you are interested or feel called to help, please let Rev. Deb know.

DS Jim McPhee's Retirement Party

On Sunday, June 9 from 5-7 pm, we will host the Tri-State District retirement party for our District Superintendent, Jim McPhee. If anyone can help with set-up, cooking, serving, or cleanup, please contact David Richards. OR come to support Jim as he begins a new chapter in his life.

Father's Day

On Sunday, June 16, we will remember fathers, not-yet-fathers, and those who have been father figures in our lives. Everyone is welcome to bring in a picture of their father or someone who has been like a father to them, and we will have the pictures on display to see if people can match the picture with the child. Please put your name on the back of the picture so we can double check! Also, the picture may be of any stage in that person's life.

Widow/Widower's Support Group Meeting

On **Sunday, June 23**, at 1:00 pm, another meeting of the Widow/Widower's Social Group will be held at Temple Israel, 350 Court Street, Portsmouth. Chaplain Elisa Senter-Kaplan is the moderator, and all are welcome.

BE A PRAYER WARRIOR THIS MONTH AND LIFT UP IN PRAYER...

Barbara & Jim Slater

Barbara Sylvester

Pauline Boynton

Barbara Millar

Irene Derosier

Barbara Clement

Malia Broe

Gil Stebbins

Alissa Fernandez

Pastor Sue Ellery

Art Munson

Gabor [Brianna's father in-law] Charles

Gilman

Bobbie Noble

Our Church family

Joette MacKenzie

Vicky Fernandez

Woodie Lange

Roseanne

Rev. David Kerr

Jim New

Kim Hishop

Rev. Bill Gardei

Gayle Gardei

Marion Collishaw

Sue Goodhue

Hunter Pinkley

Sylvia Bartlett

Brian Thompson

Jessie

Thank You

To the teachers who have so generously given of your time and talent to lead our children in Sunday school: Dave Atkinson, Rosie Buswell, David Richards, Sue Richards, Kaya Sarosiek, and Aerial Sillpanaa. Thanks to all who donated items for crafts, helped in any way, and to all of the First UMC congregation who supports our children in their Christian learning and journey. Also, thanks to Bevan Bloemendaal for working with them on music.

Congratulations

Kaya (Karen) Sarosiek has received her Master of Science Degree in Environmental Science, with a concentration in Wildlife Biology, from Green Mountain College. Good work and congratulations, Kaya!

Please Welcome

Say hello to our new Secretary, Maureen Denyou, who joined us on May 28th.

Please stop by the office during the week to welcome her to our church family. The office hours are Tuesday through Friday, 9 am - 2 pm.

We Celebrate

The baptism of Jackson Stone Geoffron the son of Donald and Lauren Geoffron on Sunday, May 23rd and look forward to having them all be part of our congregation!



FYI.

FINANCE TRUSTEES MEETING

The Finance Trustees meeting will be held on **6/4**, at 6:00 pm at the Parsonage. All are welcome.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

From Thursday, June 13 through Saturday, June 15, Rev. Deb, John VanReenen, and several others will be at the New England Annual Conference. We will be electing delegates to the 2020 General Conference, hearing more about the ramifications of the special General Conference session this past year, and reviewing where we are as a conference.

Another decision we will be making is whether or not to go from nine districts to seven. We are part of the Tri-State District, and that is one of the districts that would be split up and moved to another district. At this point, no successor to Jim McPhee has been named, and the three district superintendents around us will be covering until the vote has been finalized. Once we know how this will all work out, we will fill you in on what is happening.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Our next Church Council meeting will be on **6/18/19**, at 6:00 pm in the Church Office. All are welcome.

FUNDRAISERS NEWS

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.

Would you participate in a **Flatbread Pizza** fundraiser? Once assigned a date, would you go have a flatbread and spread the word for our fundraiser night? Please Let Rev Deb know your interest. Thank you.

We **WILL** hold the Golf Tournament in September, thanks to the leadership of Cathy VanReenen. We will be looking for people to help, so watch for "recruiting" information in a few months.

NO Yard Sale

Since no one came forward to be the organizer of a yard sale, we will not be having one this month. If someone would like to do this, please let John VanReenen or Sue Sarosiek know, and they can fill you in on what the plan was. See the other fund-raising ideas in this newsletter!



GRATEFUL HEART PROGRAM

Gratitude Campaign Update

Just a quick update for the congregation regarding our Gratitude Campaign. Procedurally everything went according to plan and was extremely successful. The participation by the congregation in writing letters, Gratitude Moments and general interest was exceptional and much appreciated. District Superintendent Jim McPhee's message on Gratitude Sunday was also well received. The results to date are lagging behind those from last year but there is still time. To date we have received 24 pledges for a total of \$68,952. Last year the final results were \$95,904 from 34 pledges. The importance of the pledges is that they allow the Finance Trustees Committee to budget our spending, plan possible projects and support our mission commitments for the coming year. The more we know about the churches finances the better we can plan and support the work of the church.

If you have not yet pledged, please consider doing so as soon as you can. Information and pledge cards are available in the church office. Please see Nancy Chesser or myself if you have any questions or concerns. Also, if you have changed your pledge amount for the coming year the time to make that change is now. Again thanks to one and all for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

John VanReenen, Finance Trustees Chairperson



Marion Collinshaw
111 Westwood Drive
Nashua, NH 03062



Sylvia Bartlett
231 Washington St
Rye, NH 03870

JoEtte MacKenzie
18 Woodman St
Rochester, NH 03867



Barbara Clement
Riverside Rest Home
276 County Farm Rd
Room 304
Dover, NH 03830



Ruth Tuttle
145 Elm St
Windsor Locks, CT
06096

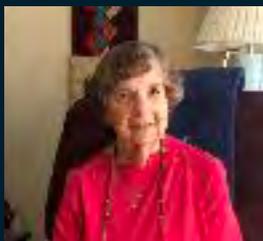


Gil Stebbins
143 Rogers Rd. #105
Kittery, ME
03904



Barbara Glidden
188 Jones Ave #101
Portsmouth, NH 03801

MAKE A *Difference* FOR SOMEONE TODAY!



Barbara Sylvester
346 Pleasant St. #242
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Barbara & Jim Slater
288 Wallis Road
Rye, NH 03870



Gayle Gardei
2 Victoria Ct. #219
York, ME 03909



Woodie Lange
346 Pleasant St. #101
Portsmouth, NH 03801



James New
Durgin Pines
9 Lewis Rd #104
Kittery, ME 03904



Barbara Millar
220 State Road #110
Kittery, ME 03904

Rev Bill Gardei
Durgin Pines
9 Lewis Road #127
Kittery, ME 03904

June **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

**2 David Brown
4 Shawn Martin
5 Alexa Langs
6 Ryan Chesser
11 Peter Robitaille
14 Nicole Richards
18 Alan Timperman
20 Barbara Millar
21 James New
22 Anissa New-Walker
28 Christopher Laux**

29 Bill & Gayle Gardei





COMMUNITY OUTreach GROUP UPDATES

BACKPACK MINISTRY/END 68 HOURS OF HUNGER

This program continues to thrive and, though it's hard for me to believe, we are now in the back stretch of our 8th school year. We are currently serving 102 children total from all 6 Portsmouth schools and Birch Tree Center (school for Autistic children in Newington). On May 2nd, a service team from Liberty Mutual, led by April McGough, will be helping us to pick-up, unload and store the food for the 7 weeks remaining of the school year, as well as pack all the Ziploc bags that go inside the weekly bags. They have done this for 5 or 6 years now and it is always a fun day. Portsmouth Rotary donated \$2,000 to the program in April so big thanks go out to them also. As always, I want to thank the faithful volunteers who work all school year to make this happen. I certainly couldn't do it without them! 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/End 68 Hours of Hunger - Portsmouth Coordinator

SEACOAST FAMILY PROMISE

SFP is going strong. Our next rotation is June 9 - 16; and we currently have (3) families in the program – 2 single moms, a single dad and a total of 9 children (5 under the age of 7). All of the families we worked with in 2018 have moved to stable housing and have remained there. We have had 7 cars donated this year for our current and former families. This is such a blessing, since without reliable transportation, these families cannot succeed. If you know of anyone who might have a vehicle available to donate (it is a tax deductible donation), please let them know we always have a need for them and they will change a family's life forever by doing so.

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. We also need cash donations to purchase breakfast and lunch food items when the families are here.

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.

JUNE 2019 - SUNDAY WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

DATE	LITURGIST	GREETERS	USHERS	ACOLYTE	WORSHIP TECH	SOUND TECH	SUNDAY SCHOOL
6/2/19	Dave Richards	Jane Richards Marilyn Stebbins	Ken & Jenya Westbrook	Marilyn Stebbins	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	All Teachers Sue R., Kaya, Aerial, Rosie, Dave A.
6/9/19 Pentecost Children's Sunday	Children	Children	Children	Children	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Children in Service
6/16/19 Father's Day	Sue Richards	Dave Atkinson Marilyn Stebbins	Al & Jan Cansdale	Marilyn Stebbins	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Rosie Buswell
6/23/19	John VanReenen	Yvonne Griffin Marilyn Stebbins	Ken Young Ken Westbrook	Kaya Sarosiek	Sue Richards	Sue Sarosiek	Dave Atkinson
6/30/19	Dave Atkinson	Steve and Kellie Langs	Nancy Chesser Art Munson	Alexa Langs	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Summer Sunday School

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



JUNE 2019



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 ◆11am Bridal Shower ◆1pm AA
2 ◆10am Worship ◆11 am Coffee Hour	3 ◆7pm AA	4 ◆6pm Finance Trustees Meeting ◆6:30pm NA ◆Drop the Rock	5	6 ◆8:30 Doris Rice ◆7pm AA	7 ◆7pm AA	8 ◆12pm SetUp/ Cook Retirement Party ◆1pm AA
9 ◆10am Worship ◆11am Coffee Hour ◆5pm SFP ◆5pm Jim McPhee Retirement Party	10 ◆5pm SFP ◆7pm AA	11 ◆5pm SFP ◆6:30pm NA	12 ◆5pm SFP	13 ◆5pm SFP ◆7pm AA	14 ◆5pm SFP ◆7pm AA	15 ◆1pm AA ◆1pm Planet Rangers CIT ◆5pm SFP
16 ◆SFP ◆Father's Day ◆10am Worship ◆11am Coffee Hour	17 ◆ 9am Planet Rangers ◆ 7pm AA	18 ◆9am Planet Rangers CIT ◆6pm Church Council ◆6:30pm NA	19 ◆9am Planet Rangers	20 ◆8am Doris Rice ◆9am Planet Rangers ◆7pm AA	21 ◆9am Planet Rangers ◆7pm AA	22 ◆9am Planet Rangers ◆1pm AA ◆4pm Portsmouth Pride After Party
23 ◆10am Worship ◆11am Coffee Hour	24 ◆9am Planet Rangers ◆7pm AA	25 ◆9am Planet Rangers ◆6:30pm NA	26 ◆9am Planet Rangers	27 ◆9 am Planet Rangers ◆7pm AA	28 ◆9am Planet Rangers ◆7pm AA	29 ◆1pm AA
30 ◆10am Worship ◆11am Coffee Hour						



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
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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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