



**“O Lord, we are the clay, and
you are our potter; we are all
the work of your hand.”**

Isaiah 64:8



Dear Friends,

“O Lord, we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.” Isaiah 64:8 (NRSV)

A friend of mine has many gifts and skills, among them is being a potter. I have never actually seen her at her potter's wheel, but I have seen the end result of all her work, and it's amazing to me how she can take a lump of clay and mold it into something beautiful. One year, she made all the communion chalices for the International Clergywomen's conference. It was wonderful and beautiful.

This passage above from Isaiah reminds me that we really are clay in God's hands. The song “Spirit of the Living God” is a wonderful expression of this understanding: “Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.” It is actually a prayer that we sing, and it is one that can bring amazing results in our lives as we trust in God's guidance on our journeys.

God works in us and with us to help us grow in our faith and become who God envisions us to be. Our job is to be willing to be molded and shaped so that we can continue to carry out the work of Christ in the world.

We really don't know what's next with the COVID-19 pandemic. But we do know that God is with us and ready to help us become even more beautiful and more able to be the Church of Jesus Christ - however that may look. Let's work together to discover that!

Grace and peace, Rev. Deb

Annual Conference:

This year's annual conference will take place virtually with a one time session in October. The clergy meeting will be held on line this month. We will keep you informed as to decisions made and share other information as we receive it.

General Conference moved to 2021:

The United Methodist Church's General Conference has been moved to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This postponement is challenging for all of us because of the church's issues around division and probable split. However, the issues will be taken up when the General Conference convenes next year, and we will have more information for you then. For the time being, the issues are set aside as we all deal with our world situation.

Rev. Deb on Medical Leave:

Rev. Deb will have surgery for a left knee replacement on June 24th and anticipates being on medical leave for about three weeks. While she is gone, we have coverage for Sunday worship thanks to Kevin Fickenscher, David Richards, and John VanReenen. If anyone has need of pastoral care, please contact Dave Richards or call the church office and leave a message. Please be sure to Keep Rev. Deb in your prayers.

Sanctuary Worship:

There is an incredible amount of information in the news on the web and in the denomination regarding the process in opening churches for worship. First we want you to know that the FUMC church leadership is taking a "PEOPLE FIRST" approach. This will ensure everyone's safety as we consider both the state and denomination recommendations in our decision making process. You will hear more about when and how FUMC will open its iconic red doors in the coming weeks. Until then please remember Rev. Deb's message last Sunday - we the PEOPLE are the church not just the church building.



GOOD
TO KNOW

Father's Day - is an opportunity to tell dad or the father figure in your life how much you appreciate him. New dads, old dads, granddads, dads-in-law, stepdads, serious dads, dad figures, goofball dads and moms who are dads...There must be a million fatherly types out there, and without a doubt, there are at least that many reasons to honor them on Father's Day. Please take time on their special day and reach out with love and thanks.

A big thank you to Bevan Bloemendaal - for all he does to keep us in touch with the Daily Updates. It's a lot of work to organize, edit and post on YouTube and our website so we can all stay connected during this challenging time.

Thank you FUMC Family - for supporting and helping members of the community. It is truly inspiring to see how so many people can come together to support one another.

Thank you to Sue & Kaya Sarosiek - for the Friday Bell Ringing honoring our essential workers and the incredibly beautiful Mother's Day display created and placed in front of our iconic red doors for all the women in the community to come and get their carnation - a tradition for FUMC each year.

Thank you to Rev. Deb and Dave - for bringing us together to worship virtually through message and varying places/backgrounds reminding us that we the "people" are the church no matter where and how we worship together.

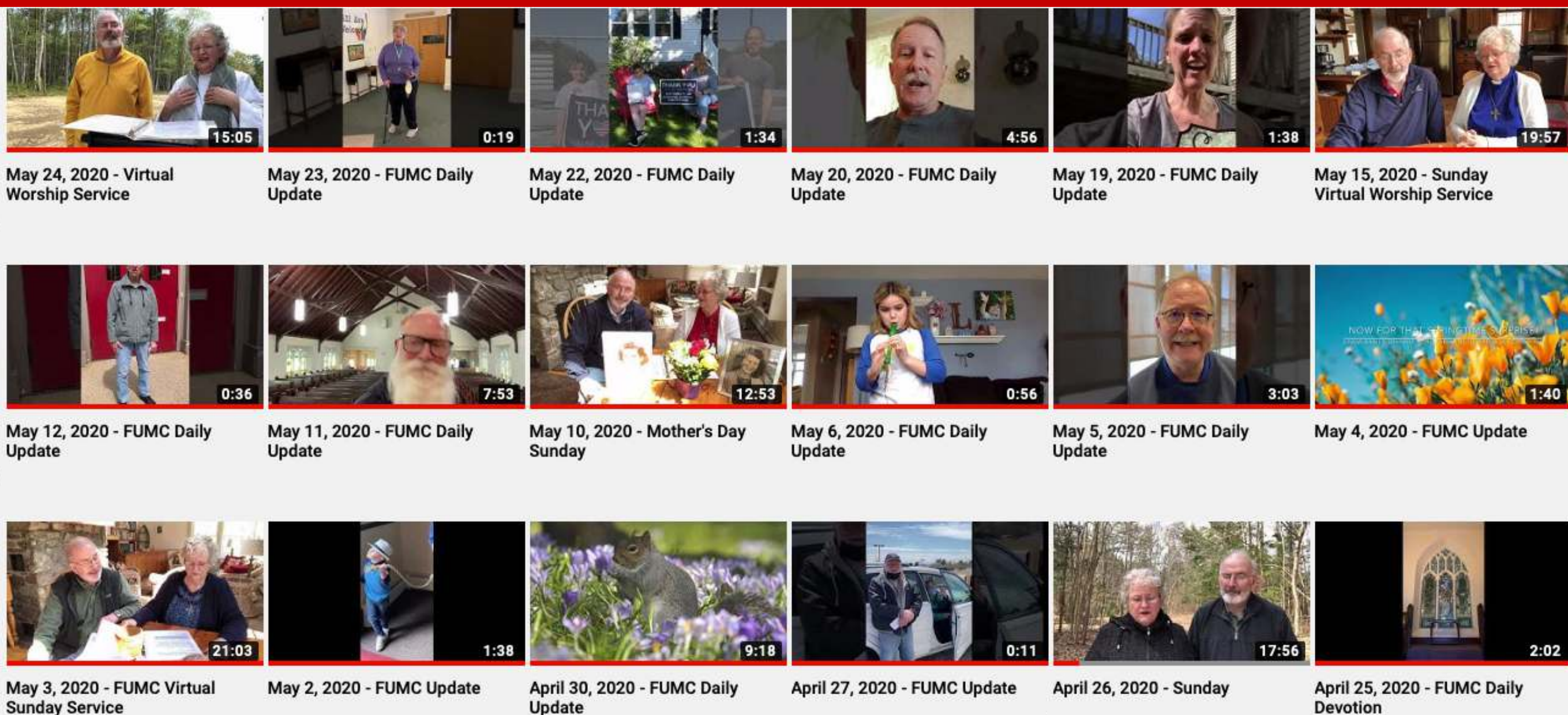
Thank you to all of the Prayer Warriors - that take time to lift up the world in prayer!



WITH
THANKS

STAYING CONNECTED

Thank you to everyone who has been and will be part of the Daily Updates being sent out via email, Facebook and YouTube. We are a family, a community of believers who know that with God's grace we will get through these challenging times together.





PRAYER LIST

Emily

Cathy Bends

Gayle Gardei

Dan Strange

Bobbie Noble

Judy Doyon

Rev. Charles Hartman

Ginger Tague

Family of Peter Harney

Family of Erdogan Secilmis

Those who have lost loved ones to COVID-19

Those in nursing and assisted living care

Our Denomination

Our Church Family

CDC and WHO both say use of masks will help slow transmission of Covid 19.

When you wear a mask, it is important to know how to wear it properly. When using a mask, you should:

- Wash your hands with soap and water before putting on the mask. If you do not have soap and water available, used an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Cover your mouth and nose with the mask. Make sure it is snug to your face.
- Do not touch the mask while using it. Do not touch any other areas of your face.
- As soon as you return home, take the mask off and put it in the wash.
- Remove the mask by touching it from behind. Do not touch the front of the mask. Throw it in the washing machine and wash your hands immediately.

Note that children under the age of 2 and anyone who has trouble breathing should not wear a face mask.





Sometime this week you might consider a call, email and of course a prayer for our family members living in assisted living, nursing care or are homebound.

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

James New
9 Lewis Road
Rm#104
Kittery, ME 03904

Marion Collishaw
50 Old Colony Way
Scituate MA 02066

Gil Stebbins
143 Rogers Rd #105
Kittery, ME 03904
207.807.6675

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

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

Barbara Clement
Riverside Rest Home
276 County Farm Rd #304
Dover, NH 03830
bic10925@gmail.com

Barbara Glidden
188 Jones Ave #101
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Barbara Sylvester
346 Pleasant St. #254
Portsmouth, NH 03801

A photograph of a pond with several mallards swimming. The background features a lush green lawn and a tree with vibrant red leaves. Large rocks are visible along the shoreline. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

June Birthdays

2 David Brown

4 Shawn Martin

5 Alexa Langs

6 Ryan Chesser

11 Peter Robitaille

14 Nicole Richards

18 Alan Timperman

21 James New

22 Anissa New-Walker

28 Christopher Laux

Anniversaries

29 Bill & Gayle Gardei



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

“Kids First”

Increased emergency placements and the willingness of FUMC to meet this challenge head on represents the support in making a difference in our community.

The current need is for neutral color backpacks and new, neutral color twin bed sheet sets. Please drop off donations in the basket in the office. A complete list of needed items includes:

Socks

Deodorant

Dry Shampoo

Toothbrush & Toothpaste

Hand Towels

Notebook & Pen

Baby Wipes

Chapstick

Small First Aid Kits

Hairbrush & Comb

If you'd like to make a monetary donation for supplies, please make check out to FUMC, with Kids First in the memo section. Please direct questions to any church council member. Thank you.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

END 68 HOURS OF HUNGER is a private, not-for-profit, effort to confront the approximately 68 hours of hunger that some school children experience between the free lunch on Friday and the free breakfast they receive on Monday from their school. Food insecurity affects 1 in 5 children in the US today and is a serious problem that has to be addressed.

End 68 Hour of Hunger provides bags of food containing 7 simple meals each week during the school year and the children take them home and eat the food over the weekend. Volunteers pack the bags on Thursday nights and they are delivered to the schools on Friday morning. First UMC is the home base for the Portsmouth, NH program now in our 10th school year serving 100 children a week from all 6 Portsmouth schools and the BirchTree Center in Newington, NH. If you would like to get involved in this ministry or learn more about it, please contact Jen directly at jen_b76@yahoo.com or visit the End 68 Hours of Hunger website.

SEACOAST FAMILY PROMISE mission is to empower families with children experiencing homelessness to achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response. The program is made up of a network of congregations in the Seacoast, NH area and a day center in Exeter, NH.

Many families have transitioned successfully from this program into stable housing and remained in stable housing since its inception in 2003. First UMC hosts the families 5-6 weeks a year. If you would like to volunteer, we have opportunities available to help with prepping the Sunday school rooms for family arrival, cleaning after departure, dinner crew for Friday night and overnight volunteers. We welcome new volunteers as many of the current volunteers have been part of this great outreach for all 16 years. This program definitely changes lives forever and we are proud that our church is a part of it, along with the 20+ other Seacoast congregations. If you think you might like to help and experience the joy of changing people's lives please contact Jen at jen_b76@yahoo.com or visit Seacoast Family Promise website.



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
NH District**

The Rev. Sudarshana Devadhar, Bishop
The Rev. Taesung Kang, 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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