# THERE S HERE HER



Dear Friends,
Jeremiah 29:11 (NRSV) "For surely I
know the plans I have for you, says the
Lord, plans for your welfare and not for
harm, to give you a future with hope."

God spoke these words of assurance to the people of Israel who were in exile in Babylon. They must have felt like they would never be able to return to their homeland in Israel, and I'm sure they were filled with anxiety, fear, and despair. Yet, God's words through the prophet Jeremiah must have brought them hope.

We may have felt that way over this past year and months as we hoped and waited for assurance of healing for a world infected with a virus that claimed many lives. Now we are beginning to see the hope through vaccinations and protocols that are intended to keep us safe. We face other challenges, too, such as racism, violence, and division in our country and our world.

Yet, God's vision and intentions are for our welfare, not for harm, and to look toward the future with hope, even though we will forever be changed by this journey and continue to work toward peace. How will we learn from these months of isolation, loss, and possibilities? What lessons will help us grow in faith and care for each other and others? What is God's vision for us? The Visioning Committee has been hard at work during this time, prayerfully seeking God's guidance as they look toward the future of First UMC, Portsmouth. They will be sharing some of their plans and ideas with you. We hope you will come to the presentation to learn more!

Blessings, Rev. Deb



# FIRST UMC "VISION FOR THE FUTURE" IN-PERSON PRESENTATION Saturday, June 26th @ 11:00 am 129 Miller Ave. Sanborn Hall

Oh how wonderful it will be to see all of you...
YES IN PERSON!...we will of course be
following the Denomination protocols of social
distancing and wearing masks even if you have
been vaccinated.

The Visioning Team would like to share the results of the past 18 months of work with each of you.

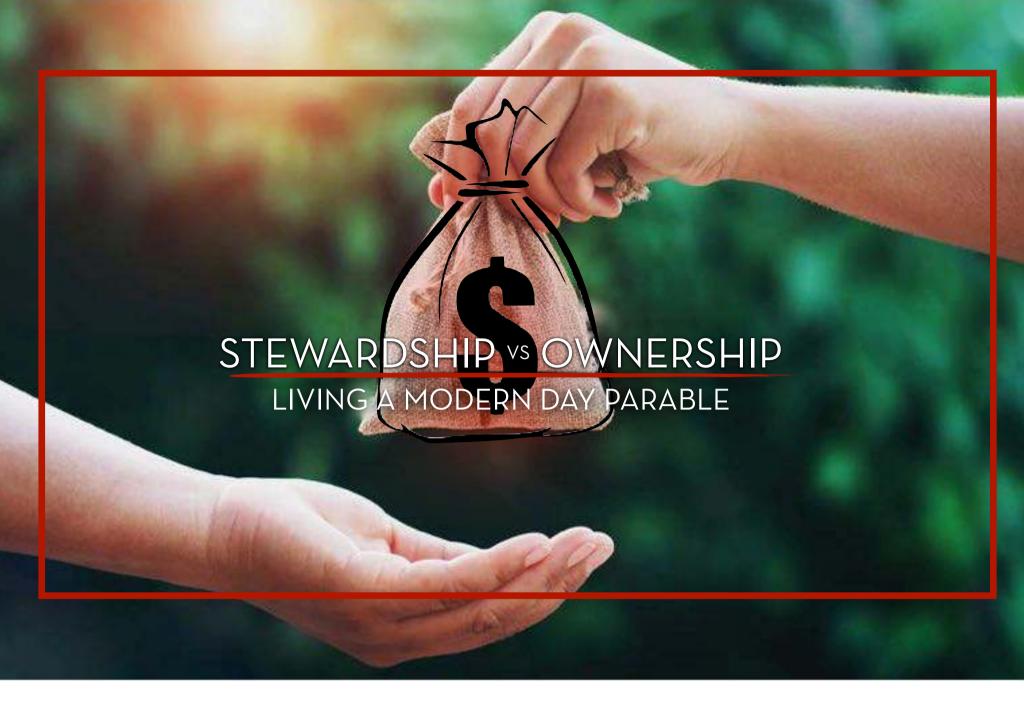
These plans and strategies are pivotal milestones in creating a defined purpose and a focus for the future of FUMC.

During our time together we will...

- 1. Share our Denomination vision statement
- 2. Share our journey in getting to today
- 3. Share our new Purpose Statement
- 4. Unpack the statement ensuring clarity
- 5. Share our 3 core pillars
- 6. Share the activations

And to help celebrate this important milestone meeting...it's going to be LUNCH ON US!...we will be providing each of you a bag lunch that you can either take home or eat outside at the tables set up.

You are all so important to us, so please mark your calendars to set aside the time together we can't wait to see you!



## LAUNCH OF OUR STEWARDSHIP VS OWNERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Do you remember the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30?...hint it's the story of the master and three servants being entrusted with gold coins. This month we will begin a church-wide focus for this summer on what we can learn from this parable about being stewards of God's gifts to us.

## EVERYTHING IS GOD'S - OWNERS vs STEWARDS

As Christians, we have been entrusted with a stewardship; the things we call our own are not really ours, but God's. Let's ask ourselves...are you the "owner" of your stuff or are you a "steward" of what God has given to you?

## "OWNERS" SAY

I own my body, time, possessions...I own it all and do what I want with it.

## "STEWARDS" SAY

My stuff has been entrusted to me...it's not mine but is a gift to be shared.

## WE ARE CALLED TO BE STEWARDS OF OUR GIFTS

Watch for more information about the challenge and investment the church will make in each of us to invest our talents to help grow the church's outreach and mission.

## CHURCHIS REOPENING.

## **SEPTEMBER 12TH**

## **FUMC RE-OPENING**

September 12th is the target date to re-open FUMC for worship and we can't wait! Things will be different as to how we will be able to hold worship, and we will be updating everyone over the summer with information that will continue to help us all feel safe following the CDC and Conference guidelines.

The Finance/Trustees have been busy this past year approving and implementing recommendations of the Visioning Facilities Task Force in doing some much needed repairs and upkeep of our beautiful building. Here are a few of the exciting improvements you will see when returning:

## **OUTSIDE:**

- Repair and repointing of the stone facade
- Repainting of iconic red doors and handrails
- Planters adorn entrances
- Removal and replanting of dead trees
- Reseeding of front lawn
- Church sign update

## INSIDE:

- Deep clean of sanctuary
- Painting of sanctuary, sanctuary entrance and narthex
- Painting of downstairs hallway and bathrooms
- New flooring

### **COMING SOON:**

- We will share the other exciting plans at the in-person Visioning presentation on June 26th at 11:00... remember lunch is on us that day too

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Building
Beloved
Community

021
Annual Conference

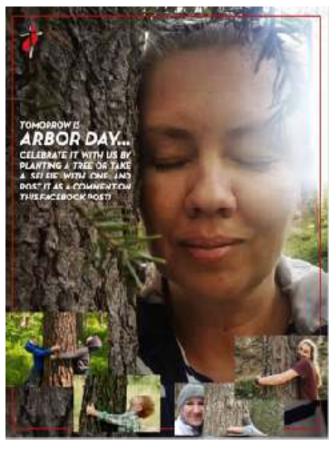
NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The New England Annual Conference will meet on Zoom Friday, June 11 and Saturday, June 12. John VanReenen is our lay member, and Rev. Deb is a member of the annual conference as an ordained Elder (due to a nephew's high school graduation, Rev. Deb will not be attending this year). Please keep us in prayer as we address issues, pass policies, and worship together with people from the New England United Methodist Churches. The General Conference, which had been postponed last summer due to COVID, has been postponed again to the summer of 2022.

Happy Father's
Day to all the
great dads. The
positive role
models and the
real men. The
world appreciates
you.

## FATHER'S DAY

Father's Day is June 20, and we will be celebrating the fathers and father-figures in our lives. Watch for more information to come along with a special surprise!



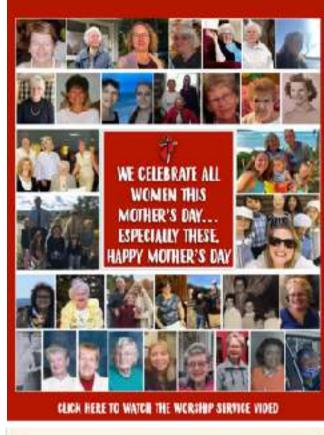




# OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT WITH YOU THE CHURCH

## THANKS FOR PARTICIPATING!









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## **RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTEERS**

This month we recognize this little guy who decided that he was going to give Rev. Deb a run for presenting the Ascension Sunday Kids kit. Will, you did an amazing job [along with Rosie] in telling us step by step how to make the "Jesus disappearing into the clouds" mobile and telling us story of Jesus going up into heaven. We love you Will and Thank You for being so enthusiastic!





## SUNDAY MORNING ZOOM CALL

Zoom in on Sundays at 10 am! Please join us. Watch for the link in your email!

On the second Sunday of the month, we have children's time at the beginning of the Zoom gathering. They stay for about ten minutes to check in and say "hi." We hope to see those of you who can join us on Zoom!



## **ZOOM BIBLE STUDY?...INTERESTED?**

Several people have expressed an interest in participating in a Bible study. Would you be interested in being involved or leading it? Let us know by emailing Rev. Deb at <a href="mailto:PastorFirstUMC@outlook.com">PastorFirstUMC@outlook.com</a>



## **REV. DEB'S VACATION**

Rev. Deb will be taking vacation from June 9 - 15. She and Dave will be celebrating the high school graduation of their nephew, Alex Atkinson from Foxcroft Academy on June 12. Anyone who needs pastoral care may contact David Richards who will be covering.

A Big Thank You from the weekday noon-time AA group. We're relocating during the summer months but we'll be back in September, just in time for Pumpkin Patch. Have a wonderful summer!



Thank you to Rev Deb and our Church Family for thinking of and sending "thinking of you" cards. Gil especially enjoys getting mail. Gil has moved to Durgin Pines and can now have visitors - with a mask from 9-4:30 every day (except during lunch 11:30-1).

Gil's new address is: 9 Lewis Road, #104-2, Kittery, ME. 03904. He would enjoy company. Thank you for ALL your love and caring for both of us. We are so blessed to have our FUMC family. Gil & Marilyn Stebbins



Juliann Smith
Joan Allen
Naomi
Erin Frane
Madeline
Charles Gilman
Josh Jones
Airial Sillanpaa

Harry Junkins
Marilyn & Gil
Donna Smith
Sophia
Bobbie Noble
Dan Strange
Danny Westbrook
Pastor Sue Ellery

Christine & her parents

Jenn - Stebbins daughter-in-law

Those in nursing and assisted living care

Our Church family





Ken Young Webster at Rye #AL-104 795 Washington Road Rye, NH 03870

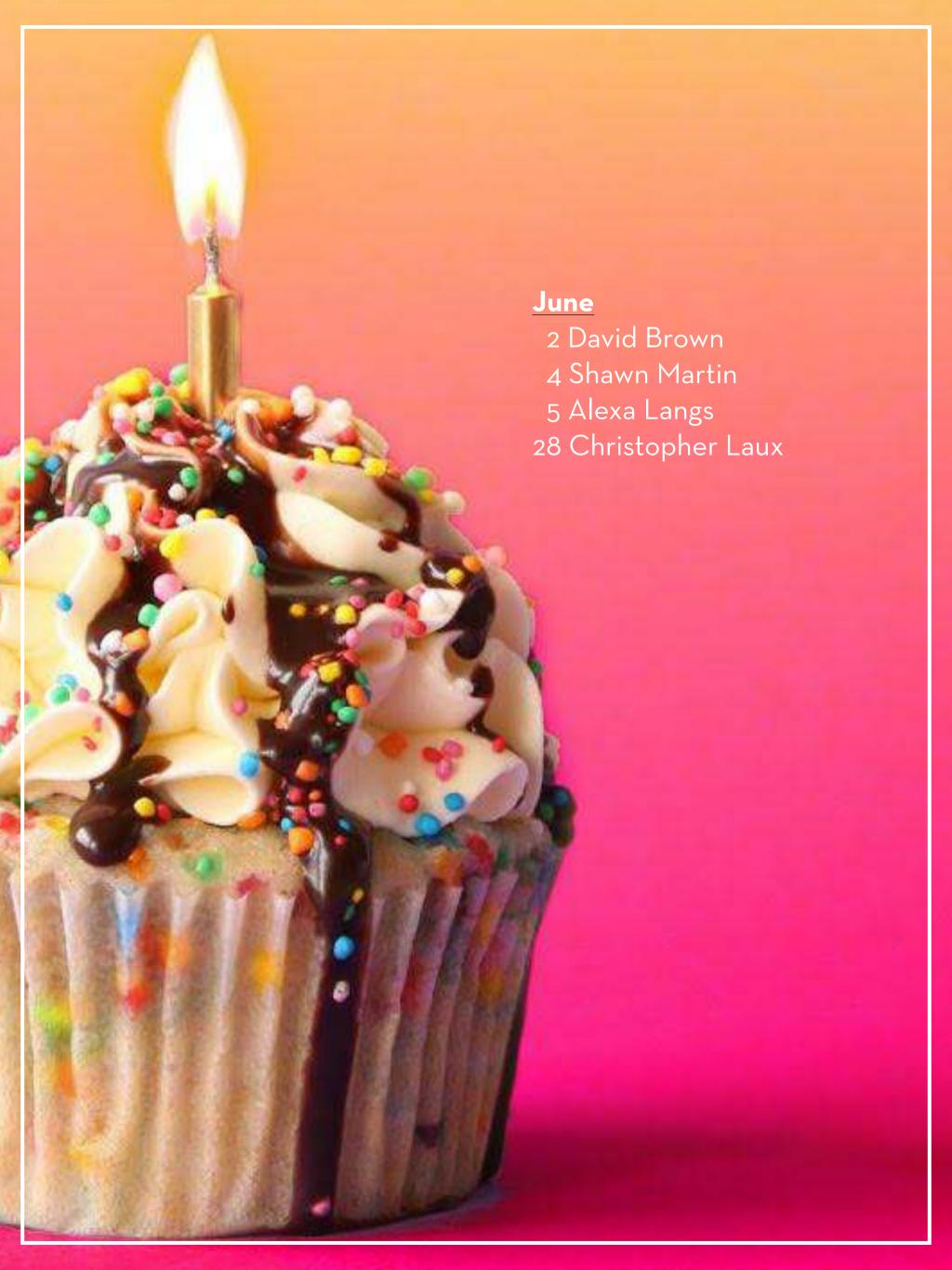
## OUR FAMILY WHO CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH

A card can make a big difference in someone's day!





















# HERES HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

We can use any of the following gently used or new items:

Leashes, Muzzles, Collars
Slip leads. Harnesses
Nail clippers
Grooming gloves, Brushes
Indestructible toys (like Kong)
Sweaters, Costumes
Gently expired chewable flea,
tick and heart worm pills
Wee wee pads [new]
Doggie diapers [new]
Travel/Collapsible bowls
Cat toys

You can drop them off at: First United Methodist Church 129 Miller Ave Portsmouth, NH

Or

Send directly to: NicaLove 306 West Road Rye, Nh 03870

THANK YOU FOR CARING!





## WAYS TO GIVE, DONATE & TITHE



BY MAIL First UMC 129 Miller Ave Portsmouth, NH 03801



ONLINE fumcportsmouth.com "GIVE" button



IN PERSON First UMC 129 Miller Ave Portsmouth, NH 03801 Wednesday's 10-2pm

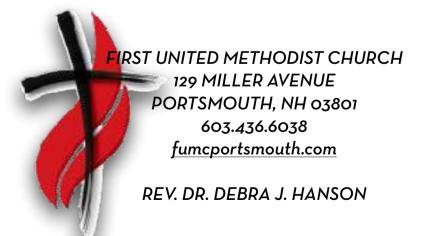


QR code

Point your phone camera on the QR code to the left to view the online PayPal donation page







## 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.