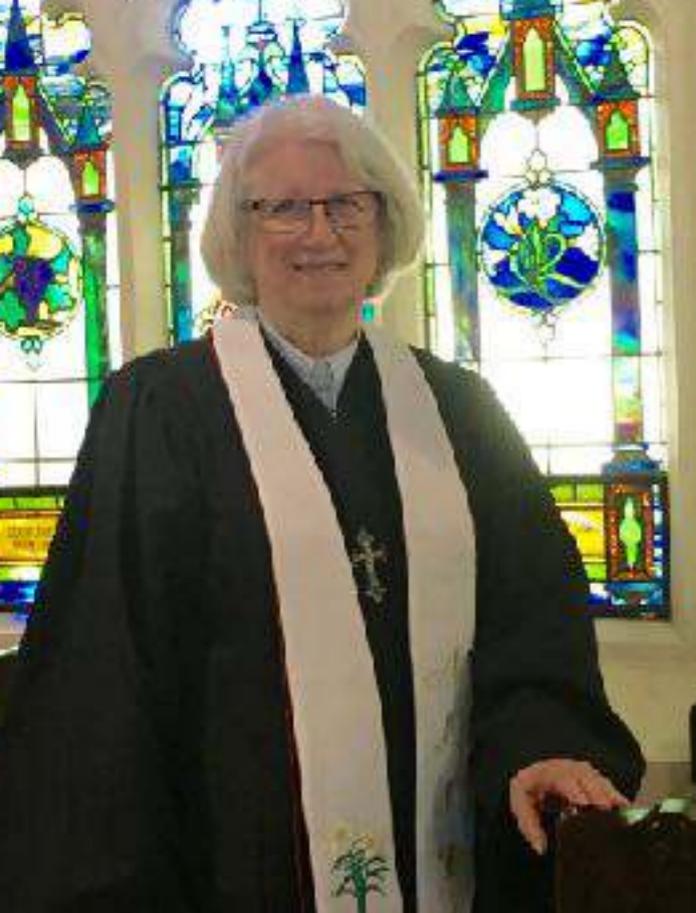


LENT

**THE REVERSE
LENT CHALLENGE
DON'T GIVE SOMETHING UP.
TAKE SOMETHING ON!**



**THE BEACON
MARCH 2018**



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The boy is five. He arrived for a summer visit. Excited to find the toys that stay here, he chose playing over dessert. Later he wanted dessert. "BUT I WAS WORKING!" he said, when reminded of his choice. "I was working," he insisted. He is right. Work is child's play. Work is our play too. To put it another way, the opposite of play is not work. This is a dualism we often misunderstand. Play is a practice we bring to the whole of life, including our work. What are some of the practices of a playful heart?

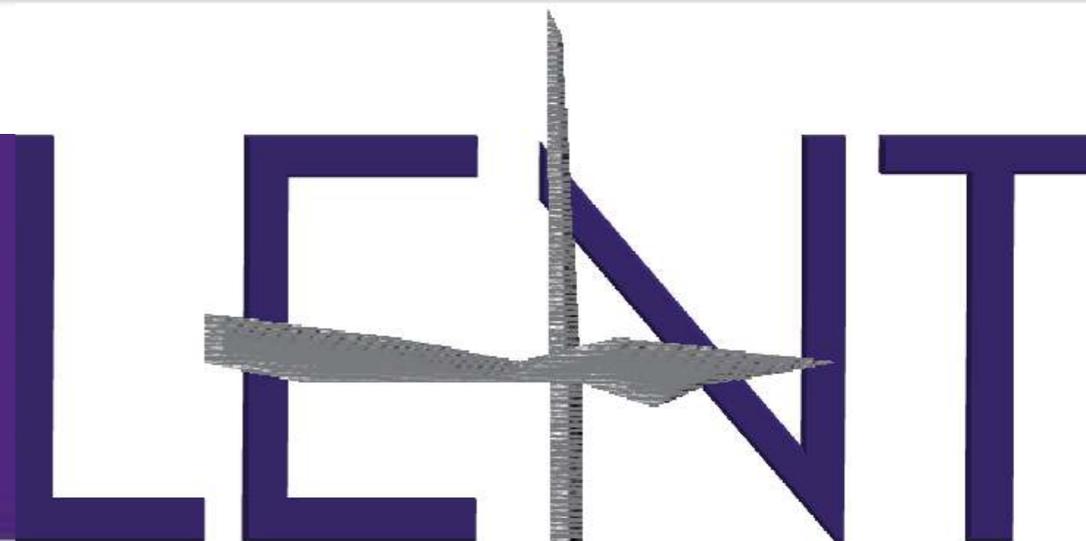
Gratitude - Curiosity - Being in the moment - Beholding a sight - Doing things at the right speed - Celebrating glimpses of glory.

A Playful Prayer: The Alphabet Prayer of Gratitude. Begin with "A" and name one thing beginning with this letter for which you are grateful; continue naming through the alphabet. And so be it!

Blessings,
Pastor Betsy



**THIS YEAR FOR LENT, DON'T GIVE SOMETHING UP.
TAKE SOMETHING ON!**



**THE REVERSE
LENT CHALLENGE**
DON'T GIVE SOMETHING UP.
TAKE SOMETHING ON!

As a continuation of our "BE THE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS" - RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS let's celebrate the 40 days of Lent backwards? Instead of giving something up, take something on!

In a way, you will still be giving up something...a little chunk of your time each day...for 40 days. What a great way to continue something the congregation has given positive feedback on and a campaign that allows us to stretch in a more contemporary/youthful way and to continue or mission of reaching out into the community. Each Sunday we will announce that weeks challenge and print it on the bulletin...see you there!!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



- 1 Roberta Noble
- 1 Michael Gagnon
- 3 Megan Brown
- 7 Devin Scott
- 13 Carson Crisp
- 17 Bonnie Timperman
- 19 Alberto Jentimane
- 19 Mara Bovee
- 22 Diane Debloius
- 23 Joseph Philbrick
- 24 Melanie Berry
- 26 Amy Bovee
- 27 Anita Bunting
- 27 AshleyJanvrin
- 28 Tim Walker

WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER...

Barbara Johns
Ruth Tuttle
Barbara Millar
Sylvia Bartlett
Arlene Johnson
Sue Goodhue
Mary Merrill
Brian Thompson

Dorothy Steinmetz
Kim Hishop
Adele Westbrook
Steven Dietz
Austin
Juanita
Andrea
Louise Drolet Family

Those in rehab and care facilities



**— HURRICANE —
RECOVERY EFFORTS**

The quiet offering baskets at the front of each aisle in the sanctuary are for donations to the hurricane relief bucket program through UMCOR.

Every Sunday we enjoy having fresh flowers that have been 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.



CHICKS BUNDLE *

\$35.00

A flock of chicks can be enough to help a struggling family turn their lives around. Chickens eat bugs and weeds and provide fertilizer for family farms, which can increase crop yields. And the eggs hens provide can be sold for more income for the family.

HATCH HOPE THIS EASTER

Fill out one of the "HATCHING FORMS" and place it inside the egg basket in the sanctuary.

Your donation of \$10 or \$15 for a bundle share or \$35 for a full bundle will make **BIG DIFFERENCE**. Help us reach our goal is to donate a minimum of 10 bundles this Easter.

TRUSTEES & FINANCE UPDATE

Two required building repairs were discussed at the Church Council meeting on February 13. First, recent damage around the tower windows will require stonework repair. The estimated cost for this critical repair is \$8,500.

Secondly, the two sanctuary roof valleys on the north side of the church require repair and replacement of slates. Other broken slates will also be replaced as needed. It is estimated this work will cost \$22,000 and is necessary to prevent further water damage within the church sanctuary.

Both repairs were discussed and unanimously approved by the Church Council, pending Trustees approval. The Church Council, after discussion, felt that funding for both projects fall within the Capital Campaign perimeters.

If you should have any questions regarding the scope of the proposed work, please speak with David Richards or any member of the Trustees.

John VanReenen
Finance Committee Chairperson

From week to week you may have noticed that the altar is dressed in different colored paraments and wondered why. What is a parament? It is the official name for the linens and cloth hangings used on communion tables, altars, pulpits and lecterns.



The colors of the paraments reflect the traditional colors of the seasons of the Christian year.

The paraments are changed as the seasons of the Christian year change. Often the paraments are embellished with specific symbols appropriate to the Christian season. The Christian year has two cycles: the Christmas Cycle (Advent-Christmas-Epiphany) and the Easter Cycle (Lent-Easter-Pentecost). Within each cycle are a preparatory season symbolized by the color purple and a festival season symbolized by the color white. After each cycle there is an ordinary time of growth symbolized the color green. Thus there is a sequence of seasons using purple, white, and green in that order twice each year. (*The United Methodist Book of Worship*, Copyright © 1992 The United Methodist Publishing House)

- **Purple**, representing both royalty and penitence, is traditionally used during Advent and Lent.
- **Blue** symbolizes hope and may also be used during Advent.
- **White** and **gold** are used at Christmas and Easter to symbolize joy and festivities.
- **Red** symbolizes the color of fire to represent the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and times when the work of the Holy Spirit is emphasized. During Holy Week it represents the blood of Christ. Red is also used for ordinations, church anniversaries and civil observances such as Memorial Day and Thanksgiving.
- **Green** represents growth and is used during Ordinary Time (the season after Epiphany and the season after Pentecost.)

<http://www.umc.org/search/gcse?q=paraments>

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY March 25

Worship 10 AM

HOLY THURSDAY March 29

Communion meal and service 6 PM

GOOD FRIDAY March 30

Open sanctuary hours 12-3 PM

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

Sunday, 6 AM APRIL 1ST

New Castle Commons

Let PaulJ know if you have any questions

GET IN THE SOCIAL SWING



5 REASONS OUR CHURCH'S SOCIAL MEDIA NEEDS TO BE A PRIORITY

Let's face it, there are a lot of churches and ministries vying for people's attention out there. Social media offers so many perks and possibilities, it'd be foolhardy not to spend more time devoted to our social media channels. In fact, it might be the secret weapon for gaining new members. It can be a great tool to boost our attendance for important holidays and reaching out into the community.

1. Social media might be the first place people find our church
2. We can build a relationship with all of your friends
3. Facebook's groups and events rival some church social networks
4. We will be meeting people where they are
5. Our social media accounts represent our church's vitality

Our church's new website & Youtube channels are updated weekly and our social media channels [Instagram & Facebook] are updated daily. Here are our links:

WEBSITE

<http://fumcportsmouth.com>

INSTAGRAM

www.instagram.com/fumcportsmouthnh129/

YOUTUBE

FUMC PORTSMOUTH

FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/fumc.church.376

BYOD

Bring Your Own Device

NEXT SUNDAY!!!!!!!



BRING YOUR SMART PHONES, IPADS, KINDLES, LAPTOPS TO CHURCH NEXT WEEK!

As part of the Visioning Committee work next week we will have a BYOD [bring your own device] to worship service and we will begin to work on how we can use these tools to more effectively engage with our community and also amplify the storytelling of what's happening at FUMC.

Next Sunday's scripture reading is John 12:20-33...."the old passes away, the new emerges...." You can imagine if Christ was going to come and speak to us today like he did with his disciples so many years ago...He would say come on folks you have the digital tools to help spread the good news so much quicker today...get busy! We're on it!



JOIN US FOR COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWING THE CHURCH SERVICE



OUTREACH

BACKPACK MINISTRY/ END 68 HOURS OF HUNGER

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.



2018 MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Sunday, April 1 6 AM sunrise service 10 AM Worship</p>				1 7:30 PM AA	2 8 PM AA	3 1:00 PM AA
4 10:00AM Worship 11:15 Coffee	5 6:15 PM Finance Mtg	6 7:00 PM NA	7 10 AM AA	8 7:30 PM AA	9 8 PM AA	10 1:00 PM AA
11 10:00AM Worship UMCOR Sunday 11:15 Coffee	12	13 9:30 AM PEACE CIRCLE 6 PM Council 7:00 PM NA	14 10 AM AA	15 7:30 PM AA	16 8 PM AA	17  Saint Patrick's Day 1:00 PM AA
18 10:00AM Worship 11:15 Coffee	19	20 first day of SPRING! 7:00 PM NA	21 10 AM AA	22 7:30 PM AA	23 8 PM AA	24 March for Our Lives 1 PM Market Sq. 1:00 PM AA
25  Palm Sunday 10 AM Worship 11:15 Coffee SPRC	26 6 PM Trustees	27 7:00 PM NA	28 10 AM AA	29 Holy Thursday meal and service 6 PM 7:30 PM AA	30 GOOD FRIDAY quiet hours in the sanctuary noon-3 8 PM AA	31 1:00 PM AA