



Lent

A SEASON OF RESTORATION





These Forty Days

A Lenten Journey

Dear Friends,

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights . . .” Matthew 4:1-2a (NRSV)

Jesus spent forty days and nights in the wilderness. It was a time of preparation for the beginning of his ministry which would last only three short years. He often spent time in solitary prayer, refocusing, strengthening himself, and preparing himself for the crowds, the healings, the teachings, and for what he needed to do every day as he moved toward Jerusalem.

These forty days of Lent are an opportunity to do some “spiritual housecleaning” as we move toward Easter. It is a time for prayer and meditation, self-examination. Some people give up something for Lent, which is a tradition in many denominations. Maybe this year, we can also add something: doing the Lenten devotional, praying more, or read the Upper Room regularly. Even just one thing can improve our relationship with God, so start with only one and give it a try for the forty days. Maybe it will stick!

Grace and peace, Rev. Deb

Lent

instead of

GIVING UP
SOMETHING

chocolate, tv, meat, dessert, alcohol, snacking, shopping, cursing, soda, cheese, social media, coffee, junk food, smoking, make-up

try

GIVING TO
SOMEONE

be kind, write a card, phone someone, donate to a charity, lift someone up in prayer, put a little extra in the offering plate for a cause, do more for the earth—plant something recycle more, visit our homebound or nursing facility members, forgive someone—reconcile with someone, share your favorite devotion article, make scarves or mittens for the homeless, help a neighbor, feed a parking meter, volunteer more at church, make or donate a meal, walk a shelter dog, hand out flowers at the nursing home

SMALL ACTS OF GENEROSITY CREATE LIFE-CHANGING MOMENTS



UPCOMING EVENTS

3/3 - Finance Trustee Meeting, 6 p.m. at the Parsonage. All are welcome.

3/7 - Visioning meeting, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the church. This committee is in the final stages of redefining FUMC's mission, purpose and core pillars of needed growth on our journey of faith within the community.

3/10 - Peace Circle meeting, 9:30 a.m. at either Yvonne's or Darlene's.

3/17 - Church Council, 6:00 pm at the church. All are welcome.

3/26 - Nurture Team [small group] Meeting, 11:00 am at the church. Goal of this meeting is to establish a new vision for the team and its role within the community and congregation. More information will be in next month's Beacon.

Looking Ahead - Easter is on Sunday, April 12th. Holy Week activities leading up to Easter Sunday - Maundy/Holy Thursday service April 9 at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary, an Ecumenical Good Friday service will be held on April 10 at St. John's Episcopal Church downtown at 12 noon. All are welcome!

Lenten Devotional information - Lenten Devotional books are available through the office or on the narthex table. The devotions were written by Rev. Carroll Moore who is a retired Elder in the New England Annual Conference.

2020 Flower chart - is posted in the Narthex. You can bring your own arrangement or have the church order them at a cost of \$25 to you. This is a great way to honor, remember, thank or let someone know they are appreciated.

Sundays - Church Service starts at 10 a.m. Sunday School is right after the children's sermon and we look forward to catching up with you during coffee hour after the worship service...see you there.

Everyday - Be a Prayer Warrior and lift up the world and its people in prayer.

To all Volunteers - Thank you to all the people behind the scenes who do all the little and big tasks that keep FUMC running. There are people who do everything from watering plants to caring for plumbing issues that come up occasionally. All the little jobs and big jobs you do are greatly appreciated. If you know a volunteer thank them and maybe join in by volunteering yourself. When you volunteer you not only help others but you gain so much more back for yourself.

To the Congregation - Thank you for lifting our church and denomination up in prayer and for all you do not only on Sundays but each day of the week. Your continued support ensures our community presence, outreach programs and building are part of making a difference for so many.

To the Congregation - Have you thanked someone today?...put a smile on someone's face by letting them know you are grateful for what they do. If you can be anything today – be kind.

**BE GRATEFUL FOR
SMALL THINGS,
BIG THINGS,
AND EVERYTHING
IN BETWEEN.**



PRAYER LIST

The Cassie Heppner Family

Timberland Family

Barbara Clement

Sue Ellery

Julia West

Dave Richards

Rev. Charles Hartman

The Steve Westcott Family

Dan Strange

Bobbie Noble

Judy Doyon

Charles Gilman

Our Denomination

Our Church Family

Communion Sunday Prayer Ministry -

The Prayer Team is made up of individuals who know the power of prayer and will be stationed near the communion rail to offer prayers of healing for yourself or someone you know needing to be lifted up in prayer after you have received the elements. March prayer team is Sue Richards and Yvonne Griffin.

United Methodist General Conference Actions

The Open Spirit Task Force is a group that was formed at last year's annual conference in order to gather, share, and process information around the LGBTQIA+ issues that will be addressed at this year's General Conference. There will be an informational meeting on Sunday, March 22 from 2-4 at St. John's UMC, Dover, NH for our district where there will be a presentation and dialogue concerning the issues facing the United Methodist Church. Everyone is invited. For more information, their web site is ostfne.org and their most recent letter is available through the church office.

Blessings Bank -

The donations collected from the Blessings Bank at the beginning of each church service is going toward helping a school in Cameroon. Our Sunday school kids have a connection with the school and our donations provide them with supplies and the ability to keep educating the children. Thank you for sharing your blessings!

Lenten Devotional information from Rev. Deb -

As part of our "journey to the cross" I invite anyone who would like to write or submit a devotion for the season of Lent to do so. We have some of Sylvia Bartlett's poetry and I have some things I have written. However many voices can make interesting and meaningful reading during the Lenten season. A theme might be how our lives are changed by Jesus or ways to make a difference for others, or pick a disciple to write a reflection about. The possibilities are wide open. If you find a poem or reading someone else wrote, be sure to give credit to that person. There are 40 days to fill. There will be a sign up sheet in Sanborn Hall for anyone who is willing to make a commitment to doing this.

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a hand holding a dark pen, writing on a lined notebook. The background is a warm, out-of-focus yellow and orange. Overlaid on the right side of the image is the text "THINGS TO KNOW" in a large, white, sans-serif font, with horizontal lines above and below the words.

THINGS
TO KNOW



First United Methodist Church
129 Miller Avenue
Portsmouth NH 03801

Dear Congregation and Volunteers,

I can't express how badly I feel after the 2019 pumpkin season. We disappointed many of you, our partners. Many of your organizations have come to depend on the revenue produced by the patches. In recent years our partners collectively have realized over \$6,000,000. per year for your charitable causes. This year our partners were down to around \$4,000,00. Over 160 partners either received no pumpkins, only part of their regular shipments or damaged pumpkins loaded after the freeze.

In 2019, the freeze involved record lows. In the 28 years we've grown in New Mexico we have never experienced a complete destruction of the crop as early as October 10th. Over 300 acres were lost.

In order to prevent this from happening in future years, we have secured an additional growing location at a lower altitude. We will grow a portion of the crop at these spots. Since the best quality pumpkins are grown at higher altitudes, we will still grow the majority of our crop on the Navajo Farm.

Many of our partners have expressed concern regarding Pumpkin Patch's financial situation. We will plant our normal 1100 acres of pumpkins and ornamentals and will be able to fully supply all of our existing and new partners in 2020. We mechanized our harvest process in 2019 to increase our capacity to harvest miniatures, gourds and pie pumpkins.

Due to the losses of 2019, we have been forced to liquidate some assets and we have laid off 1/2 of our permanent employees. We hope to be able to rehire them as things improve.

Please thank all of the volunteers at your church for all their work. Please share this letter with your congregation and volunteers.

Thank You,

Richard Hamby

United Methodist General Conference Actions -

New Separation Plan Proposal for 2020 General Conference
From Rev. Jill Colley Robinson (assistant to the bishop)

Many of you have heard or will soon hear of a proposed agreement for the separation of The United Methodist Church that was announced by the Council of Bishops on January 3rd on behalf of a diverse, 16-member Mediation Team comprised of representatives from UM advocacy groups with contrasting views and bishops for around the world.

This agreement, entitled the Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation is one of many plans that may be considered by the delegates who vote at the upcoming General Conference in May 2020. The agreement's proposals are not final, and the sixteen who signed it do not have the authority to make them so now or in May. Like any proposed legislation that comes before the General Conference delegates, the agreement only becomes a reality for the Church if it is approved by vote; and it can be amended.

Much work will need to be done and many answers discerned before we can fully appreciate what impact any General Conference decision will have on our life and ministry together in New England. In this effort, there will be events hosted in each New England District where options for our upcoming Annual Conference in June will be presented and disseminated. Our District's meeting will be held on Sunday, March 22nd from 2-4 pm location TBD.

Please find more information on this newest proposal by following this link: Separation Plan Information. <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/diverse-leaders-group-offers-separation-plan> and copy of the proposal will be posted on the bulletin board in Sanborn Hall.





Sometime this week -

Write a note, card or visit one of our family members who are either living in assisted living, nursing care or homebound. During coffee hour every Sunday is a great time to do this...there are cards available for you and just leave it in the office and we will make sure it is delivered!

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

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

Barbara Millar
220 State Road, #110
Kittery, ME 03904

Gil Stebbins
143 Rogers Rd #105
Kittery, ME
03904

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

Marion Collishaw
111 Westwood Drive
Nashua, NH 03062

Barbara Glidden
188 Jones Ave
#101
Portsmouth, NH
03801

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



March Birthdays

- 1 Roberta Noble
- 7 Devin Scott
- 13 Carson Crisp
- 17 Bonnie Timperman
- 19 Mara Bovee
- 24 Melanie Berry
- 26 Amy Bovee
- 27 Anita Bunting
- 27 Ashley Janvrin



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

“Kids First”

Last month, Kids First was introduced. Increased emergency placements and the willingness of FUMC to meet this challenge head on represents the support in making a difference in our community.

This month, the need is for new, neutral color twin bed sheet sets and/or new twin blankets. Please drop off donations in the basket in the office. A complete list of needed items includes:

Deodorant
Dry Shampoo
Toothbrush & Toothpaste
Hairbrush
Hand Towels

Notebook & Pen
Baby Wipes
Chapstick
Small First Aid Kits (bandages, pain reliever, small cleaning wipes)

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.

March 2020 - SUNDAY WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

DATE	LITURGIST	GREETERS	USHERS	ACOLYTE	WORSHIP TECH	SOUND TECH	SUNDAY SCHOOL	PRAYER TEAM
3/1/2020	Dave Atkinson	Ken & Shannon Corpron Marilyn Stebbins	Nancy Chesser Art Munson	Alexa Langs	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Rosie Buswell Aerial Sillanpaa	Sue Richards Yvonne Griffin
3/8/2020	Declan Baker	Shirley Russ Marilyn Stebbins	Ken & Jenya Westbrook	Linda Reiber	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Dave Atkinson	
3/15/2020	John VanReenen	Sue Lange Marilyn Stebbins	Jan & Al Cansdale	Christine Williams	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Sue & Dave Richards	
3/22/2020	Graham Baker	Langs Family Marilyn Stebbins	John & Cathy VanReenen	Alexa Langs	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Aerial Sillanpaa Kaya Sarosiek	
3/29/2020	Nancy Chessier	Sillanpaa Family	Ken & Janya Westbrook	Sue Richards	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Aerial Sillanpaa Kaya Sarosiek	

NOTE - IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO MEET THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE PLEASE LET US KNOW

MARCH 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 • 2 pm Planet Rangers	3 • 2 pm Planet Rangers • 5:30 pm Promusica • 6 pm Finance Trustee • 7pm AA	4	5 • 8 am Doris Rice • 2 pm Planet Rangers	6	7 • 9 am Visioning Com. • 1 pm AA
8 • 10 am Worship • 11 am Coffee Hour	9 • 2 pm Planet Rangers • 7pm AA	10 • 2 pm Planet Rangers • 5:30 pm Promusica • 7pm AA	11	12 • 8 am Doris Rice • 2 pm Planet Rangers • 7 pm AA	13 • 7pm AA	14 • 1 pm AA
15 • 10 am Worship • 11 am Coffee Hour	16 • 2 pm Planet Rangers • 7pm AA	17 • 2 pm Planet Rangers • 5:30 pm Promusica • 6 pm Church Council • 7 pm NA	18	19 • 8 am Doris Rice • 11 am Nurture Team • 2 pm Planet Rangers • 7 pm AA	20 • 7 pm AA	21 • 1 pm AA
22 • 10 am Worship • 11 am Coffee Hour	23 • 2 pm Planet Rangers • 7pm AA	24 • 2 pm Planet Rangers • 5:30 pm Promusica • 7:00 NA	25	26 • 8 am Doris Rice • 2 pm Planet Rangers • 7 pm AA	27 • 7 pm AA	28 • 1 pm AA
29 • 10 am Worship • 11 am Coffee Hour	30 • 2 pm Planet Rangers • 7pm AA	31 • 2 pm Planet Rangers • 5:30 pm Promusica • 7 pm NA				



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. 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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