



THE BEACON
MAY 2018

*Dear friends,
We know it's only May, but the delights of
summer will be here in no time.*

*For a foretaste or two, here's Mary Oliver's "The
Summer Day".*

*May the freshness of spring revive your winter
worn spirits.*

*Best,
Rev. Betsy*



The Summer Day

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean—
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down—
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?

—Mary Oliver



May Celebrations!

4 Gayle Gardei
12 Henry Berry
13 Jennifer Berry
17 Cathy VanReenen
17 Michael Sanders
18 Peter Timperman
20 Sharon Stopf
23 Cicero Lewis
23 Charlie Felton
24 Darlene Newbury
25 Susan Richards
25 Debbie Ridgely
25 Charles Gilman
27 Stephanie Gagnon
28 Jane Richards
28 George Bennett
30 Amy Newbury

1 John & Cathy VanReenen
6 Dave & Sue Allen
8 Mike & Anne Coffey
16 Dennis & Amanda Veilleux
28 Chuck & Val Quackenbush



Please join us...


*At the Grateful Heart
Luncheon following the
worship service May 6th in
Sanborn Hall.*



Every Sunday we enjoy having fresh flowers on the altar
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





*I CAN PRAY,
THOUGH THE STORM
AROUND ME RAGES, I CAN
TRUST THE ROCK OF AGES
WHEN I PRAY. AND THE
PEACE I CAN'T EXPLAIN
WHEN I CALL UPON HIS
NAME...I JUST KNOW
I'M NOT THE SAME,
WHEN I PRAY.*

LET US PRAY FOR....

Gertrude Parkhurst

Bill Geeslin

Ruth Tuttle

Gail Guarini

Peter Guarini

Sue Goodhue

Kim Hishop

Steven Dietz

Richard Mullikin

Sylvia Bartlett

Brian Thompson

Juanita

Andrea

Austin

Those living in rehab and care facilities



There will be a National Day of Prayer service for our community at the Lion's Club in Kittery, Thursday May 3 at 6 AM. It is open to all and they are looking for area churches to participate.

If you would like to represent FUMC please talk to Sue Sarosiek.



First United Methodist Church of Portsmouth Trustees & Finance Committee Update

During the ongoing repair of the sanctuary slate roof, the contractor observed age and extensive damage of the asphalt shingles covering Sanborn Hall. To insure we stay on top of the situation and avoid potential leakage through this roof, Church Council, at the recommendation of Trustees voted to authorize up to a \$30,000 for the replacement of the Sanborn Hall shingles, which will be funded through our Piscataqua Bank Line of Credit. (If enough money is donated toward this project, we won't need to borrow any.) Having this work completed in the next few months will avoid any possible leakage similar to what we have experienced in the Sanctuary over the past several months. We will keep you informed on our progress with this project.

While we have your attention and to promote financial transparency within the congregation, we would like to provide an update on both Capital Campaign and the church loan activity.

The following is a summary of the campaign that was kicked off two years ago:

- Total campaign pledges - \$156,766
- Funds received to date - \$134,787
- Current Capital Campaign fund balance - \$839
- Capital expenditures paid to date:
 - o Kitchen upgrade - \$72,772
 - o Alarm system - \$42,570
 - o Roof repairs - \$21,606
 - o Total expenditures = \$133,948
- United Methodist Foundation Loan - \$35,000*
- Piscataqua Line of Credit Advance - \$40,000*
- *Both loans paid in full during 2017
- Projects currently under contract:
 - o Slate roof repair - \$24,000 (Church Council approved funding for 50% from the Piscataqua Line of Credit)
 - o Masonry repair - \$6,000
- Other projects under consideration:
 - o Boiler repair or replacement
 - o Vestry carpet
 - o Randall Room flooring

If you have any questions regarding this information, please speak with David or John.

Respectfully submitted,
David Richards
Trustees Chairperson
Chairperson

John VanReenen
Finance Committee



Thank you for NOT just walking by this display on Sunday 4/29...in one Sunday you raised \$30. for the hurricane relief bucket program through UMCOR.

Let's keep it going!



THANK YOU LADIES...

Marilyn, Rosie, Jane, Cynthia, Dianne, Jan, Laurie, Barbara and PaulaJ for all the folding, stuffing, sealing and stamping done for the Grateful Heart Project.



We invite you to join us for coffee and fellowship following the service.

See Ken Westbrook for more information on how you can help with time or donations.

See you there!

MISSION AND OUTREACH



Backpack Ministry/End 68 Hours of Hunger Update

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

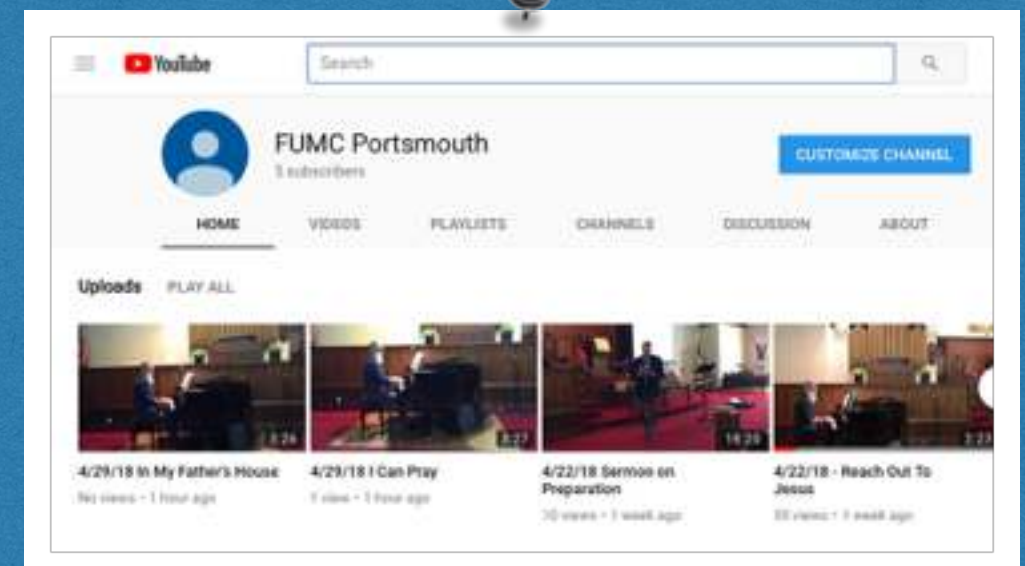
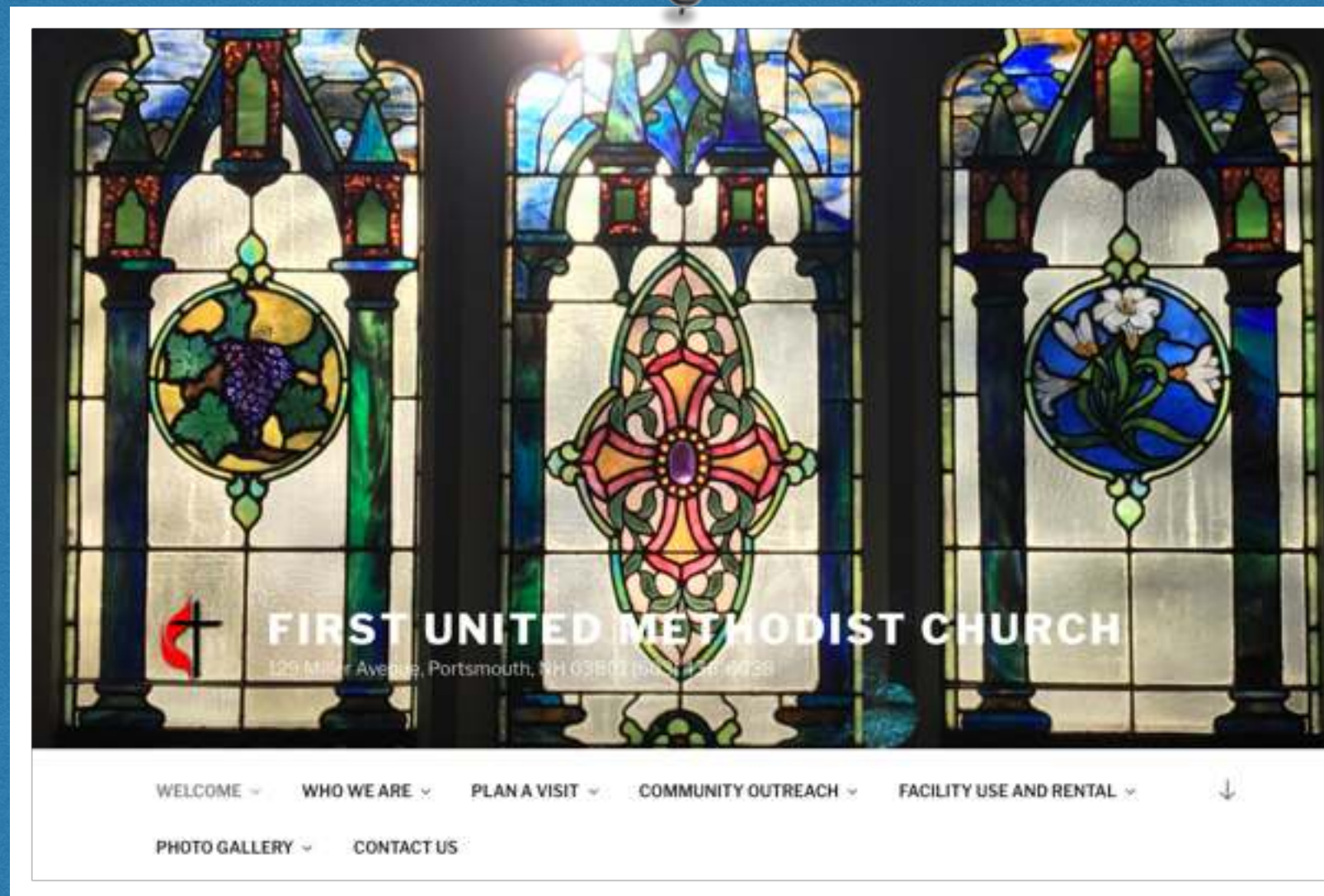
Jen Berry, Coordinator

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.

CONNECT WITH US ON ALL OUR CHANNELS... WEBSITE, FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM & YOUTUBE





Today
I am
grateful for [You fill in the blank daily!] .



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 7:00 PM NA	2	3 National Day of Prayer 6 AM 7:30 PM AA	4 8 PM AA	5 1:00 PM AA
6 10:00AM Worship Gratitude Luncheon	7 6:15 PM Finance Mtg	8 7:00 PM NA	9 10 AM AA	10 5:30 PM Trustees 7:30 PM AA	11 8 PM AA	12 1:00 PM AA
13 Mother's Day 10:00AM Worship 11:15 Coffee	14	15 9:30 AM PEACE CIRCLE 6:15 PM Council 7:00 PM NA	16 10 AM AA	17 7:30 PM AA	18 8 PM AA	19 1:00 PM AA
20 10:00AM Worship 11:15 Coffee	21	22 7:00 PM NA	23 10 AM AA	24 7:30 PM AA	25 8 PM AA	26 1:00 PM AA
27 10 AM Worship 11:15 Coffee	28	29 7:00 PM NA	30 10 AM AA	31 7:30 PM AA		1:00 PM AA