

**STOP EXPECTING
OTHERS TO ACT FIRST,
BE THE ONE WHO MAKES
A POSITIVE CHANGE.**



REFUEL

CONNECTING WITH GOD IN PRACTICAL WAYS

Psalms 146:1-2 (NRSV)

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Dear Friends,

The month of May is here, and we have entered into Eastertide! What a wonderful celebration we have when we remember the resurrection of our Savior and are reminded of God's love for us. Did you know that every Sunday is actually a celebration of Easter?

Our worship services on Sundays are a regular reminder of God's gift of life in Christ and of our call to be together as the Body of Christ. When we remember what God has done for us, it is cause for celebration and praise. The disciples would gather together to remember, praise, and celebrate communion whenever they could because they needed reminding of Jesus' teachings and his commissioning of them so they could carry on his work in the world.

Sunday worship is designed for us to worship God, to regroup, to remember Christ, and to "refuel" for the coming week. Ultimately, we come together on Sunday for the purpose of worshiping God. It's our weekly offering to God within our community of faith, and we are connected to many other faith communities throughout the world who also carrying on the work of Christ wherever they are.

Praising God is a life-long process, and for those who follow Christ, it stems from our baptism and in the context of a faithful community. Let us renew, restore, re-gather so we can continue singing praises to God all our lives, even as we build up one another in the faith and send each other forth into the world.

Grace and peace, Rev. Deb

THIS MONTH AT A GLANCE

Gratitude Sunday

On **Sunday, May 5**, we will welcome our District Superintendent Jim McPhee to our worship service. Jim will deliver the morning message, and we will celebrate communion together, as well as offer our financial pledges. Following the service, we will have a free luncheon provided by the Finance/Trustees, as well as a cake to celebrate Jim's retirement. Please plan to come. We hope to see you then.

Funeral Pre-Planning Workshop

On **Thursday, May 9 at 4:00** pm in Sanborn Hall, we will host a workshop by J. Verne Wood Funeral Home on pre-planning funerals. This is sponsored by our church, and it is open to anyone who is interested.

The workshop will be informational about how to pre-plan and what options people have in making their arrangements. Pre-planning is a gift we can give our families by taking some of the stress off their list of things they need to do.

We hope to see many of you there, and please feel free to bring a friend or some of your family members. If anyone has questions, please speak with Rev. Deb.

Mother's Day

On **Sunday, May 12**, we will remember mothers, not-yet-mothers, and those who have been mother figures in our lives. Everyone is welcome to bring in a picture of their mother or someone who has been like a mother to them, and we will have the pictures on display to see if people can match the picture with the child. Please put your name on the back of the picture so we can double check! Also, the picture may be of any stage in that person's life. (We will do the same on Father's Day!)

Rev. Deb's Vacation

Rev. Deb will be on vacation from Monday, May 13 through Sunday, May 19. If anyone needs pastoral care, please contact David Richards.

Congratulations to Kaya Sarosiek!

On **May 19th**, Kaya (Karen) Sarosiek will receive her Master of Science Degree in Environmental Science, with a concentration in Wildlife Biology, from Green Mountain College. Good work and congratulations, Kaya!

Widow/Widower's Support Group Meeting

On **Sunday, May 19** at 1:00 pm, another meeting of the Widow/Widower's Social Group will be held at Temple Israel, 350 Court Street, Portsmouth. Chaplain Elisa Senter-Kaplan is the moderator, and all are welcome.

Seacoast Family Promise

On **Sunday, May 26**, Pati Frew-Waters from Seacoast Family Promise will join us to share the message about their ministry. We support SFP by hosting them during the year and working with other faith organizations who provide food and shelter, as well as support while people who are in this program search for places to live. Please join us to learn more about this amazing organization that has changed many lives.

BE A PRAYER WARRIOR THIS MONTH AND LIFT UP IN PRAYER...

Barbara & Jim Slater

Barbara Sylvester

Pauline Boynton

Barbara Millar

Irene Derosier

Barbara Clement

Malia Broe

Gil Stebbins

Alissa Fernandez

Pastor Sue Ellery

Art Munson

Gabor [Brianna's father in-law]

Charles Gilman

Bobbie Noble

Our Church family

Joette MacKenzie

Vicky Fernandez

Woodie Lange

Roseanne

Rev. David Kerr

Jim New

Kim Hishop

Rev. Bill Gardei

Gayle Gardei

Marion Collishaw

Sue Goodhue

Hunter Pinkley

Sylvia Bartlett

Brian Thompson

Tony & Family

SUNDAY FLOWER DEDICATIONS

The 2019 calendar is in the narthex. Choose your dedication date and give the office your \$25 check.

pampered^{ch}ef

There will be a **Pampered Chef Party** held in Sanborn Hall on May 4th at 1:00. Orders may be taken early. Brochures are on the kitchen counter. Please contact Sue Sarosiek or Melanie Berry for more details.

ALL are welcome!

SFP CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, June 3rd at Pease Golf Course...Open to all!

Win a Subaru Assent courtesy of Exeter Subaru. Silent auction, games, history of golf hole special and more.

1 PM shotgun and includes dinner and silent auction. \$125 per golfer [includes cart]. Buffet dinner and your friends and family can join for \$25 each. Registration underway on seacoastfamilypromise.org

NEW CHALLENGE - THE SWING FOR SEACOAST CHALLENGE open to all area faith communities. Teams of four golfers...the faith community team that comes in first place will receive the **SWING FOR SEACOAST** trophy and a \$100 gift certificate to Cafe Nostimo.



A graphic featuring the letters "FYI." in a large, white, sans-serif font, enclosed within a white rectangular border. The background consists of diagonal stripes in various shades of teal, blue, and green, transitioning from dark on the left to lighter on the right.

FYI.

FINANCE TRUSTEES MEETING

The Finance Trustees meeting will be held on **5/7**, at 6:00 pm at the Parsonage. All are welcome.

LAY SERVANT MINISTRY CLASS

May 11, 9-4 at FUMC. More information on the bulletin board or see David Richards.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Our next Church Council meeting will be on 5/21/19, at 6:00 pm in the Church Office. All are welcome.

UMC Market Place

<https://umcmarket.org/>

Do you shop on line? Have you ever heard of UMC Market Place? This is a place where you can shop on line with places like Staples, Bed, Bath, and Beyond, and many other online stores, and when you go through the UMC Market.org, a percentage will be sent to the church. It's a great way to do fundraising with what you are already doing! To learn more, visit the website above and read about how it works, then sign up using First UMC, Portsmouth as the benefiting church. If you have any questions, please ask Rev. Deb.

FUNDRAISERS NEWS

At their March meeting, the Church Council voted not to hold the Bell Bazaar this year. After asking for feedback from the congregation (see the February Beacon), and receiving no input, the decision was made to focus on other possibilities.

We **WILL** hold the Golf Tournament in September, thanks to the leadership of Cathy VanReenen. We will be looking for people to help, so watch for "recruiting" information in a few months.

This summer, we will hold a "**rent a space**" yard sale, tentatively scheduled for June 22, 8 am – 1 pm with lunch. The church will have spaces, but others who might like to be part of a "giant yard sale" may rent space. We need a coordinator or two to take reservations for the sellers and help organize the day. Please contact Sue Sarosiek if you are willing to lead this.



A LETTER FROM EVELYN LAUX

GRATEFUL HEART PROGRAM



My roots in FUMC run deep. Very deep. In 1897-98, my 18 year old grandmother came here from Newfoundland. She lived on Parrott Ave with four uncles, brothers, who had come before her, and kept house for them. She had been raised Anglican, but the uncles were all Methodist so she went to the State Street church with them. Family history has it that her Anglican upbringing was very strict: a two hour service on Sunday morning, two hour Sunday School in the afternoon, and prayer meeting at night. She maintained a strict lifestyle throughout her 90 years, walking to church from her house on Pearl St. well into her 80's. If she came to our house after church, we would eat, sit and talk. No activity allowed. She was not happy when my mother told her the MYF had played baseball in the parking lot on Sunday evening!

In 1901 she and a fellow Newfoundlander were married by Rev. Thomas Whiteside. Four years later her husband and a daughter had died, and she was expecting their second child. She never remarried, raised her daughter by herself, and after my mother was grown she started all over again raising a two year old nephew. She worked hard all her life, renting rooms and apartments until moving into the Wentworth Home. Her life was much more difficult than I can imagine, and I think her faith in God was a big part of that life. It gave her strength to face adversity, and solace when needed. She honored Him by her faithful attendance, her gifts, and service. She passed this faith on to my mother, and through her to me.

I was fortunate to grow up with faithful Methodist parents, in a loving church surrounded by caring, nurturing adults; and full of kids! It was a fun atmosphere, where I always felt the spirit of God. I have been with this church during good times and leaner times, and my soul is here. As an adult, I have been honored to serve this church in many capacities, as Sunday School teacher and superintendent, Church Council chairperson, and many others. I have always felt God leading me, not only in church, but in my personal and professional lives also.

I am committed to supporting a successful Gratitude Campaign, in thanks for all that God has given me through FUMC. I will be increasing my gift this year, and pray that some of you may be able to also. I invite you to join us on May 5 on Gratitude Sunday to pledge what you can, and stay for the meal after worship. In the meantime, pray for guidance about your giving.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Laux

FUMC Historian



Marion Collinshaw
111 Westwood Drive
Nashua, NH 03062



Sylvia Bartlett
231 Washington St
Rye, NH 03870

JoEtte MacKenzie
18 Woodman St
Rochester, NH 03867



Barbara Clement
Riverside Rest Home
276 County Farm Rd
Room 304
Dover, NH 03830

Ruth Tuttle
145 Elm St
Windsor Locks, CT
06096



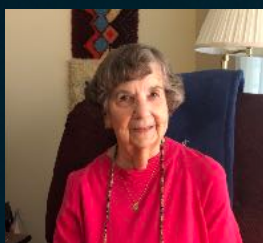
MAKE A *Difference* FOR SOMEONE TODAY!



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



Barbara Glidden
188 Jones Ave #101
Portsmouth, NH 03801



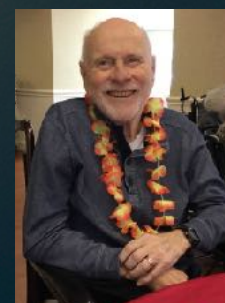
Barbara Sylvester
346 Pleasant St. #242
Portsmouth, NH 03801



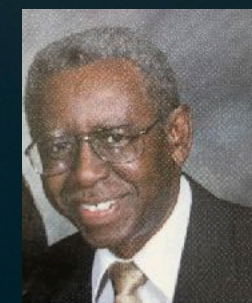
Barbara & Jim Slater
288 Wallis Road
Rye, NH 03870



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



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



James New
Durgin Pines
9 Lewis Rd #104
Kittery, ME 03904



Barbara Millar
220 State Road #110
Kittery, ME 03904

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

Thank you!



Thank You to Barbara Slater:

As many of you know, Barbara Slater has given up being the chairperson of the Nurture Committee due to health reasons. We invite everyone to send Barbara a note of thanks - shower her with love and gratitude.

Thank you, Barbara, for your faithful leadership of our Nurture Committee for so many years. It is our turn to nurture you! You are such a blessing! Many blessings from your Church Family.



**SPRING CLEAN UP - 24 PEOPLE, 3 HOURS, ENTIRE CHURCH DUSTED,
FLOORS WASHED, CURTAINS FIXED, WINDOWS WASHED,
1 AWESOME DAY!!...THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CAME TO HELP!**



THANK YOU

To everyone who participated in the 40 DAY 40 ITEM challenge. We collected 65 bags that were donated to the Epilepsy New England Foundation helping our community here in NH.



May

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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
26 Will Minnihan
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 Bill & Dianne Crisp
28 Chuck & Val Quackenbush



BACKPACK MINISTRY/END 68 HOURS OF HUNGER

This program continues to thrive and, though it's hard for me to believe, we are now in the back stretch of our 8th school year. We are currently serving 102 children total from all 6 Portsmouth schools and Birch Tree Center (school for Autistic children in Newington). On May 2nd, a service team from Liberty Mutual, led by April McGough, will be helping us to pick-up, unload and store the food for the 7 weeks remaining of the school year, as well as pack all the Ziploc bags that go inside the weekly bags. They have done this for 5 or 6 years now and it is always a fun day. Portsmouth Rotary donated \$2,000 to the program in April so big thanks go out to them also. As always, I want to thank the faithful volunteers who work all school year to make this happen. I certainly couldn't do it without them! 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/End 68 Hours of Hunger - Portsmouth Coordinator

SEACOAST FAMILY PROMISE

SFP is going strong. Our next rotation is April 28 – May 5 and we currently have (3) families in the program – 2 single moms, a single dad and a total of 9 children (5 under the age of 7). All of the families we worked with in 2018 have moved to stable housing and have remained there. We have had 7 cars donated this year for our current and former families. This is such a blessing, since without reliable transportation, these families cannot succeed. If you know of anyone who might have a vehicle available to donate (it is a tax deductible donation), please let them know we always have a need for them and they will change a family's life forever by doing so.

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 13 years, so some fresh volunteers would be appreciated. There is a training session for new volunteers at St. Mary's in Newmarket on Thursday 5/2 if you think you might be interested. We also need cash donations to purchase breakfast and lunch food items when the families are here.

This program definitely changes lives 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 firsthand, please contact Jen Berry at jen_b76@yahoo.com or 603-801-3886.

MAY 2019 - SUNDAY WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

DATE	LITURGIST	GREETERS	USHERS	ACOLYTE	WORSHIP TECH	SOUND TECH	SUNDAY SCHOOL
5/5 Jim McPhee, DS Preaching, Gratitude Sunday	Rev Deb Hanson	Dave & Sue Richards Marilyn Stebbins	Al & Jan Cansdale Ken Young	Sue Richards	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Rosie Buswell Aerial Silanpaa
5/12 Mother's Day	Kevin Fickenscher	Silanpaa Family Marilyn Stebbins	Ken & Jenya Westbrook Al & Jan Cansdale	Kaya Sarosiek	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Dave Atkinson
5/19 Heritage Sunday John VanReenen Preaching Rev. Deb Off	Marilyn Stebbins	Kellie & Steve Langs Yvonne Griffin	Ken & Jenya Westbrook Ken Young	Alexa Langs	Steve Scott	Dave Richards	Sue Richards Aerial Silanpaa
5/26 Memorial Weekend	Dave Atkinson	Nancy Chessser & Art Munson	Nancy Chessser & Art Munson	Marilyn Stebbins	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Aerial Silanpaa & Kaya Sarosiek

NOTE - IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO MEET THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE PLEASE LET US KNOW IMMEDIATELY SO WE CAN SCHEDULE SOMEONE ELSE.



MAY 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1 ♦5pm SFP	2 ♦8:30 Doris Rice ♦5pm SFP ♦7pm AA	3 ♦5pm SFP ♦7pm AA	4 ♦1pm Pampered Chef ♦1pm AA ♦5pm SFP
5 ♦Gratitude Sunday ♦10am Worship ♦11am Luncheon	6 ♦7pm AA	7 ♦6pm Finance Trustees Meeting ♦6:30pm NA	8	9 ♦8:30 Doris Rice ♦4pm Funeral Pre-Planning Workshop ♦7pm AA	10 ♦7pm AA	11 ♦9am Lay Servant Ministry ♦1pm AA
12 ♦Mother's Day ♦10am Worship ♦11am Coffee Hour	13 ♦7pm AA	14 ♦6:30pm NA	15	16 ♦8:30am Doris Rice ♦7pm AA	17 ♦7pm AA	18 ♦9am Spiritual Assembly of B'ahi ♦1pm AA
19 ♦Heritage Sunday ♦10am Worship ♦11am Coffee Hour	20 ♦ 7pm AA	21 ♦6pm Church Council ♦6:30 pm NA	22	23 ♦7pm AA	24 ♦7pm AA	25 ♦9am Spiritual Assembly of B'ahi ♦1pm AA
26 ♦10am Worship ♦11am Coffee Hour	27 ♦7pm AA	28 ♦6:30pm NA	29	30 ♦7pm AA	31 ♦7pm AA	1



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. James McPhee, District Superintendent

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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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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