





Dear Friends,  
Song of Solomon 2:11b-12 - NRSV  
"... for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

May 1st is known as "May Day," and a reminder of the newness of spring, growth of flowers, budding trees, and return of many birds. There are many traditions throughout the world, including May Poles, May Day parades, and giving of May baskets. I remember making May baskets from construction paper. We would decorate, glue, tape, or staple them together, fill them with candy and small trinkets, and then take them to a favorite person's house, hang them on the door knob, ring the bell, and run like crazy. The person would answer the door to find an anonymous gift. It was fun not only to make them, but also to share them as we gave a little token of love without expecting anything in return.

We continue to remember all that God has given us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Of course, God doesn't send a May basket, but God has gifted us with the beauty of creation, and the promise of new life in Christ. May we celebrate every day of our lives, and while we are at it may we also share some surprise gifts of appreciate and love with someone else!  
Blessings, Rev. Deb







## CHURCH OFFICE LIBRARY

We have some great adult and children's books if you are looking for something to read. The church office library is getting built up and you borrow these books by simply signing them out and returning when finished. Come and check it out the next time you are close by.

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING MEETINGS

Church Conference followed by Church Council May 13, 2021



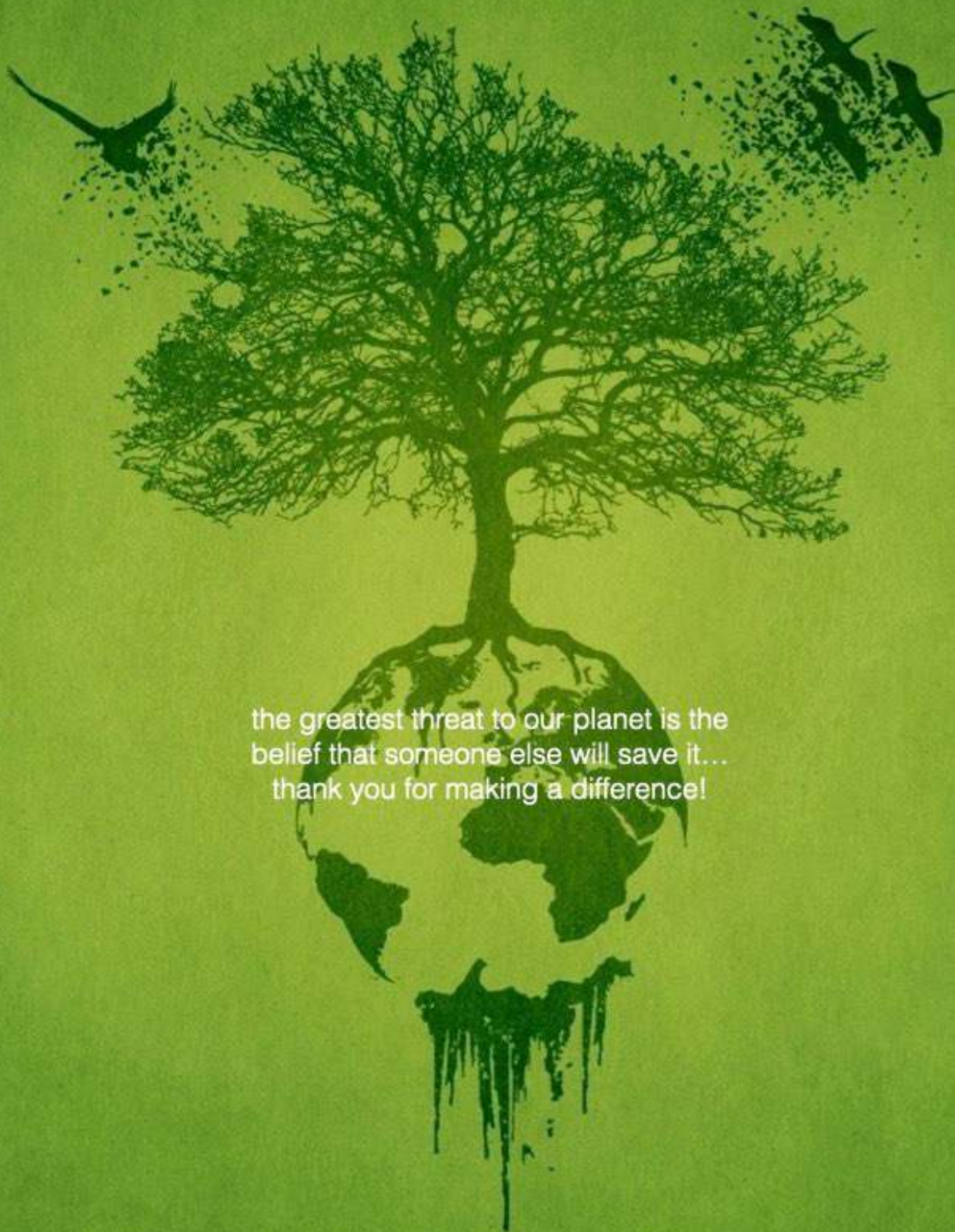
## LUNCH FOR AA GROUP

A grab "n" go lunch was prepared for the Wednesday AA group that put lots of smiles not only on the bags but on the faces of group members.

Turkey or ham sandwiches, tomato, lettuce, onion, cheese, chips, Lindt chocolate, tangerine and a bottle of water.

Small act of kindness that made 23 individual's day.





the greatest threat to our planet is the  
belief that someone else will save it...  
thank you for making a difference!





## CELEBRATING EARTH DAY FUMC KID'S KIT







## CELEBRATING EARTH DAY FUMC KID'S KIT





**Hello Church Family**

**We sure miss seeing all of you and thought one way of connecting is to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day together—virtually on the 22nd. We can all do our part and add some color into the world by planting some flowers and we've made it easy for you by enclosing them right here.**

**Why are flowers so important to the earth? Well they feed insects, birds and they produce oxygen through the process of photosynthesis... a big word isn't it for taking carbon dioxide out of the air through their leaves and use it to make oxygen for a better earth.**

**Have fun, be well and thanks for making God's creation just a little prettier too!**

**We love you!  
First UMC**



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
129 MILLER AVENUE  
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603.436.6038  
[fumeportsmouth.com](http://fumeportsmouth.com)

**REV. DR. DEBRA J. HANSON**





# MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN NICARAGUA

## UPDATE

**The Easter offering totaled \$545.00 and the FUMC Finance team has added \$455.00 making it \$1,000.00 in total giving each mission a gift of \$500.00  
Thank you church family!**

## THIS EASTER LET'S HELP MAKE A BIGGER DIFFERENCE

Easter is a celebration of Christ's resurrection and a time for new beginnings because He rose from the dead to save us from our sins. This Easter our offering will be going to 2 incredible missions creating new beginnings for all of God's creatures in Nicaragua the poorest country in Central America and the second poorest in the Western Hemisphere. Let's meet the folks who are already making a difference there and need our help in continuing their efforts...prayerfully give generously.



Meet Dr. Belinda Forbes she is a AMC international liaison for community health and serves by contributing to a community-based primary dental health program, mentoring volunteers and interacting with partner organizations. She also joined us via zoom on March 14th to speak to us about her work life and work in Nicaragua.



Meet Julie Coffey-Burke [Anne and Mike's daughter] who founded NicaLove an animal welfare organization serving animals and those who care for them in vulnerable communities. They partner with local animal welfare organizations to rescue and rehabilitate domestic and working animals and provide wellness clinics.





# THE CHURCH ON ZOOM



## **SUNDAY MORNING ZOOM CALL**

It is so wonderful getting to see you all on Sundays virtually... we have had great discussions on the scripture for the week, as well as a time to catch up with each other.. Join us...it's less than an hour and Rev. Deb sends out the zoom link via email to each of us.

Every second Sunday of the month, we look forward to seeing the children at the beginning of the Zoom call for a time to check in with them and share a prayer.



## **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 [PastorFirstUMC@outlook.com](mailto:PastorFirstUMC@outlook.com)



## **A GENEROUS DONATION!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

An anonymous donation of an iPad has been made to the church for anyone who does not have this type of technology. Having this would make it possible for you to join our Sunday Zoom calls, read the FUMC Daily Updates, visit our website and play some word games with friends if you want to. Please let the church office know if this is something that would be of interest for you...you will need an internet connection. A BIG Thank You to the individual who was so thoughtful in donating the iPad.





## RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTEERS

This month we recognize a group of kids from Planet Rangers who made a huge impact with their actions of service and kindness shown through the amazing work they accomplished at First UMC. A shed was demolished, furniture painted, suctions, hymnals and bibles were moved and 55 bags of debris collected...amazing! We say THANK YOU to them for taking time out of their weekend to make a difference for us.





# WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER

Juliann  
Joan Allen  
Erin Frane  
Madeline  
Charles Gilman  
Josh Jones  
Jenn Stebbins

Harry Junkins  
Marilyn & Gil  
Donna Smith  
Sophia  
Bobbie Noble  
Dan Strange  
Joyce & Jerry  
Christine's parents

Those in nursing and assisted living care  
Our Church family





Barbara Clement  
Riverside Rest Home  
276 County Farm Rd #304  
Dover, NH 03820



Marion Collishaw  
50 Old Colony Way  
Scituate MA 02066



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

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# OUR FAMILY

## WHO CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH

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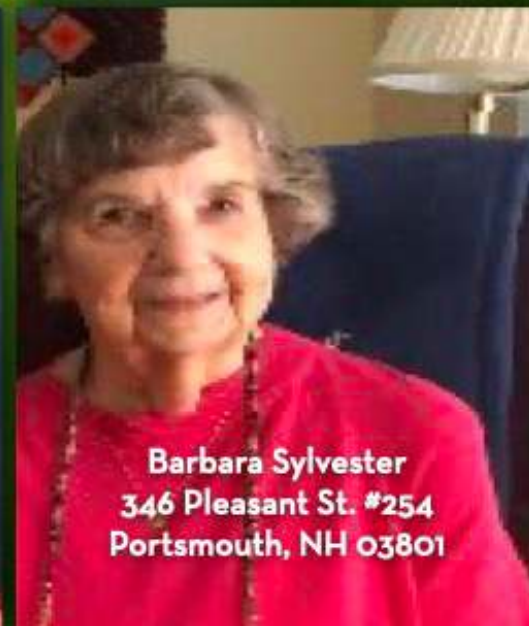
A card can make a big difference in someone's day!



Barbara Glidden  
188 Jones Ave #101  
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Gil Stebbins  
143 Rogers Rd #105  
Kittery, ME 03904  
207.807.6675



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





## May

5 Joyce Blanchard  
13 Jennifer Berry  
17 Cathy VanReenen  
25 Susan Richards  
28 Jane Richards  
28 George Bennett

1 John & Cathy VanReenen  
8 Mike & Anne Coffey  
16 Dennis & Amanda Veilleux





## MAY DAY BASKET CHALLENGE

We dare you!...dare you to make someone's day a lot brighter with a simple act of kindness. Be sure to take a picture of your creation and post it on our Facebook page or send it to us.

You are awesome and happy May Day!  
The next page has some ideas for you...



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MAY DAY BASKET  
CHALLENGE  
SIMPLE IDEAS  
THAT WILL MAKE

**A BIG  
DIFFERENCE  
IN SOMEONE'S DAY**







### **MOTHER'S DAY PICTURE**

As a special tribute and thank you to all of the Mother's and/or women that have played an important role in our lives please send us a picture of her!

We will be using those pictures as part of our church bulletin for May 9th.

Send the picture to Bevan @ [bbloemendaal@comcast.net](mailto:bbloemendaal@comcast.net) by May 4, 2021





# KIDS FIRST



## KIDS FIRST OUTREACH

2020 was indeed a very challenging year for everyone but for some it has had serious consequences. Because of YOU and through the FUMC KIDS FIRST outreach program we have become a lifeline for our local at risk kids.

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?...

You can use the website "GIVE" tab, use the QR code or write a check noting KIDS FIRST donation for all options. Wednesday is donation drop off day from 10 - 2 pm.

Thanks for making a difference!



# GIVING MADE EASIER!

We have added two digital ways you can now send your FUMC pledge or give a donation to the church for any of the following giving opportunities:

- My Pledge
- Kids First Fund
- General Fund
- Building Fund

Here's how...

1.] Visit our website at [fumcportsmouth.com](http://fumcportsmouth.com) and follow the 3 steps shown to the right.

OR...

2.] Point your phone camera on the QR code below to view the online PayPal donation page.



The screenshot displays the website of the First United Methodist Church. At the top, there is a header with the church's name and address: "FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 129 Miller Avenue, Portsmouth, NH 03801 603.436.6038". Below this is a navigation bar with links: "GET CONNECTED", "COMMUNITY OUTREACH", "1 GIVE", "WE REMEMBER", "FUMC DAILY UPDATES", and "HOME". The "1 GIVE" link is circled in red. The main content area features a large image of hands clasped in prayer with the text "WHY WE GIVE". Below this, a quote reads: "IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE - ACTS 20:35". To the right, a paragraph states: "At our core we as empathetic, loving human beings are hard-wired to give to others. The more we give, the happier we feel. Through our generous giving of our monetary and human resources we are able to make a difference within the community and the world. Thank you for helping us make that difference!". Under the heading "WAYS TO GIVE:", there is a section for "GIVE ONLINE -" which includes a "2 Donate" button circled in red. Below this, a section for "MAIL A CHECK" provides the church's mailing address: "First United Methodist Church - 129 Miller Avenue Portsmouth, NH 03801". Another section for "FUNDS YOU CAN GIVE TOWARDS:" lists "Missions, KIDS FIRST or General". At the bottom, a paragraph asks: "Any questions you might have on you can making a difference through your giving please give us a call at 603.436.6038". Finally, there is a screenshot of a PayPal donation form circled in red, with a "3" next to it. The form shows a donation amount of "0.00" and a "Pay" button.





## **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.



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