A serene sunset scene with a tree in a field, serving as a background for the text. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, and the ground is a soft green field. A single tree stands on the right side of the frame.

GIVE
THANKS
TO THE
LORD

We Gather for Worship

Prelude & Entrance of Christ's Light

Celebrations

***Call to Worship:**

L: Come, let us give thanks to God!

P: We gather together to praise the One who strengthens the weak, and hears the prayers of the forgotten.

L: Come, let us give thanks to Christ!

P: We gather together to sing of the One who calls us to serve those who are hungry and alone at this time of year.

L: Come, let us give thanks to the Spirit!

P: We gather together to exalt the One who provokes us to love not only our family and friends, but the guest among us.

***Hymn:** "Now Thank We All Our God" UMH #102
A Time for the Child in All of Us

Prayer (unison):

We have to admit, Holy God, that we are more likely to be irritated by others, rather than being moved to love them. When we are called to encourage those around us, too often our actions and words discourage them. Offered lives of peace and hope, we wander around filled with anxiety and despair.

Forgive us, O God. Cleanse our hearts, so we might be more loving; keep us on the path of faithfulness, so we might find those whom we are called to serve; give us your words, so we might confess your hope offered to all who are broken, who are lost, who cry out to you. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Assurance of Pardon:

L: This is the good news: God gives us hope, God gives us peace, God gives us joy so we may share these gifts with everyone we meet.

P: Thanks be to God, who has forgiven us and moved us to love others and to serve all who are around us. Amen.

Sung Response: "Jesus, Remember Me" UMH #488
Ministry of Music

We Proclaim the Word

Reading the Word: 1 Samuel 1:4-20

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

Message: "Hannah's Prayers" Rev. Deb Hanson

We Respond to God's Word

***Hymn:** "A Mother Lined a Basket" TFWS #2189

Concerns and Joys

Silent Prayer and Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (unison):

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not in temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

***Doxology:** (*Please join in singing the following*) - UMH #94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Prayer of Dedication (unison):**

We who are blessed by you, O God, can be blessings to others.

So, we pray that the gifts we offer may give hope to the despairing, strength to the weak, and justice to the oppressed. Amen.

We Go Forth to Serve

***Hymn:** "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty," vv. 1,3,5 UMH #139

***Choral Benediction:** (*Congregation encircles the Sanctuary*)

May the Lord, gracious God bless and keep you forever. Grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor. Lift up your eyes and seek His face, and His grace forever. May the Lord, mighty God bless and keep you forever.

***Pastor's Charge** **Postlude**

**Please stand as you are comfortable
Large print bulletins are available from the greeters*



Welcome!

Whether you are joining us for worship for the first time or after many years of attending here at First UMC, we want you to know that you are welcome!

We are an inclusive community that invites everyone to be part of our church fellowship.

Thank you for being here, and we hope that you have had a meaningful experience of worshipping our God so you leave this place feeling that you have been blessed to be a blessing. Please join us again!

Rev. Deb Hanson



Please Pray for
Brenda West ~ Cynthia Drake
Pauline Boynton ~ Barbara Millar
Clark Cole ~ Sharon Garceau
Irene Derosier ~ Seraphim Afflick
Barbara Clement ~ Trudy Parkhurst
Joette MacKenzie ~ Malia Broe
Rev. Sue Ellery ~ Rev. Bill Gardei
Gerry Royer ~ Barbara Glidden
Marion Collishaw ~ Sue Goodhue
Kim Hishop ~ Hunter Pinkley
Sylvia Bartlett ~ BrianThompson
Our church family



Sunday Worship Team

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Debra J. Hanson

Pastor's Assistant - David Richards

Liturgist - Dave Atkinson ~ Lay Leader - Susan Sarosiek

Director of Music - Bevan Bloemendaal ~ Pianist - PaulaJ Jacobson

Acolyte - Jenya Westbrook ~ Greeters - Joyce Blanchard ~ Marilyn Stebbins

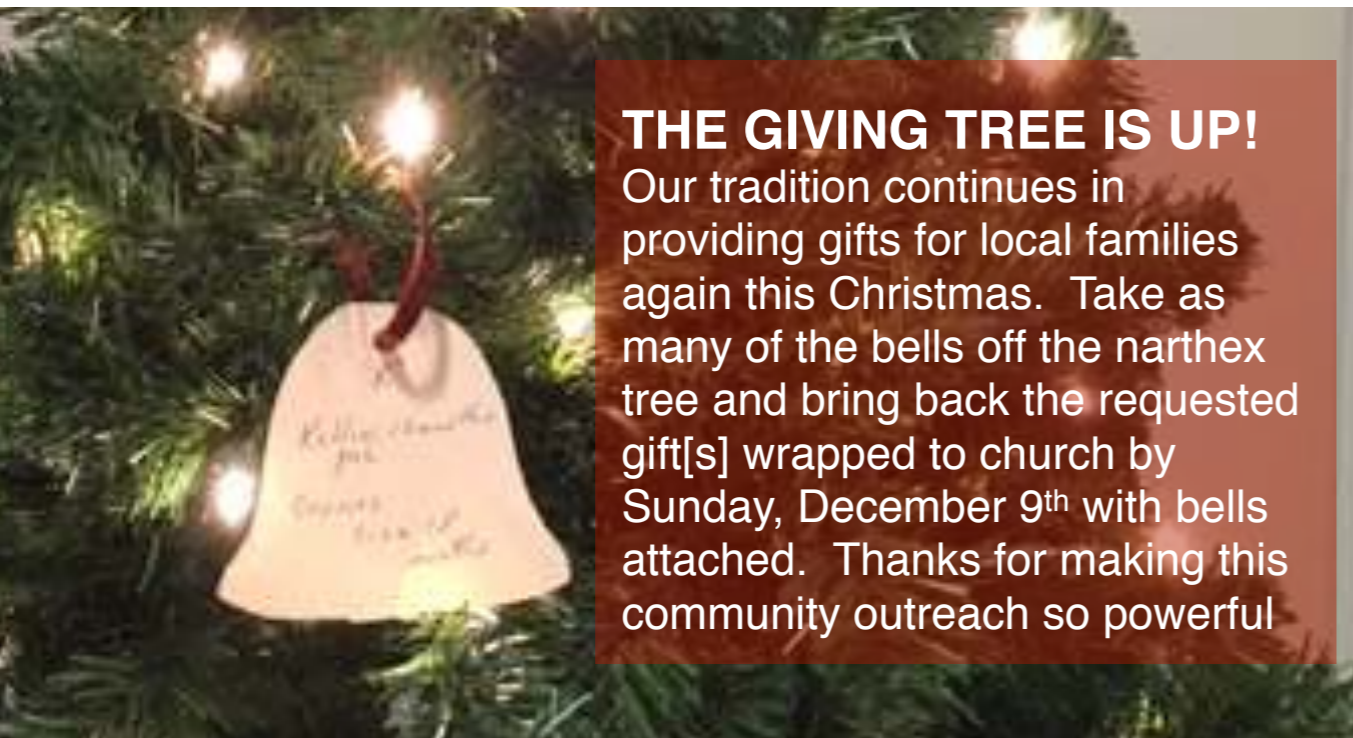
Ushers - Ken & Jenya Westbrook ~ Sunday School - David & Sue Richards

Sound Tech - Sue Sarosiek ~ Worship Service Tech - Steve Scott

Photographer - Dave Atkinson ~ Secretary - PaulaJ Jacobson

**CHURCH
CONFERENCE
November 19**

**To everyone that
helped set up,
prepare, cook, bake,
create, sell, eat**



THE GIVING TREE IS UP!

Our tradition continues in providing gifts for local families again this Christmas. Take as many of the bells off the narthex tree and bring back the requested gift[s] wrapped to church by Sunday, December 9th with bells attached. Thanks for making this community outreach so powerful



**Join us to learn the
best ways to grow
our church**



**and enjoyed the
Bell Bazaar...you
are amazing!**



**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
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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