

thankful
&
blessed

NOVEMBER 2019



terima kasih

Danke sehr

Merci

Grazie

Thank You!

DOMO ARIGATO

dhanyavaad

spasiba

Gracias

Khop Mak Kha

xie xie

Dear Friends,

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.” Philipians 4:4 (NRSV)

As you know, November is a time when we think of the things for which we are thankful. Some times around the Thanksgiving meal or during the day, many families share their thankfulness for something, someone, some event, or whatever is in their hearts.

It’s interesting to note that, at least in my experience, most of us would name our spouses, family members, friends, or special events in our lives. Of course, children offer a whole new perspective, as well. So as I thought about November’s pastor letter, I wanted to give thanks.

The top of my list is rejoicing in God’s love and presence in my life and how I see that manifested in the Body of Christ – which is all of you. God has blessed us so abundantly. We are truly like a family: most of the time we work well together and cooperatively. However, there are also times when not everyone likes everyone else; we don’t always agree; we may do things that others don’t like; and we sometimes hurt each other’s feelings. I suspect that most of the time that is totally unintentional; at least, I hope that is the case. So I thank God for forgiveness, reconciliation, and the ability to talk through issues, as well as productive and effective ministry that takes place as the Body of Christ.

We also act like a family in that so many are caring people who want what is best for others. I see genuine support and caring in a lot of different circumstances, and I see not only the “in-reach” or nurture that is offered, but the amazing and generous outreach/mission helping others we don’t even know. In this case, I thank God for kind hearts that reflect the love of Christ to each other and others.

I’m thankful for our Sunday school children, who teach me something new every week, for the teachers who have dedicated themselves to bring the word of God to the children, for this church who supports having the children here. I’m thankful for those who work behind the scenes to visit those who are sick, send cards, make phone calls, reach out to someone who needs to know that someone else cares, and who work with our outreach programs.

I’m thankful for others who do things around the church building to help us stay in good repair; most of the tasks are done without comment or mention – they are just done. I’m thankful for the people who faithfully bring in fellowship food, work at the Pumpkin Patch, come to church to bake pies, donate baked goods, and for those who continue to make suggestions for something we could do to improve how we are in mission and ministry.

Most of all, I’m grateful that God is at work in and through us as a congregation, drawing us together for rejuvenation on Sunday, and sending us into the world to BE the church. Thank you for who you are and Whose you are. May God continue to bless us and help us grow in grace and love.

Grace and Peace, Rev. Deb



Pumpkin Unloading
9/29/19





Backpack Ministry/End 68 Hours of Hunger Update

This program continues to thrive and, though it's hard for me to believe, we have now started our 10th school year. We are currently serving 96 children total from all 6 Portsmouth schools and Birch Tree Center (school for Autistic children in Newington). We have been very fortunate with fund-raising this summer – Pease Tenant Assoc., Liberty Mutual/Protective Insurance and Proulx Real Estate all did big fundraisers for us and we added over \$16,000 to our funds. Amazing how God makes things happen! As always, I want to thank the faithful volunteers who work all school year to make this happen. 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.

Jen Berry, Backpack Ministry/End 68 Hours of Hunger - Portsmouth Coordinator

Seacoast Family Promise – SFP is going strong. Our next rotation is December 22 - 29, and we currently have (4) families in the program – a total of 14 people. All of the families we worked with in 2018 and 2019 to date have moved to stable housing and have remained there. We have had 9 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 15 years, so some fresh volunteers would be appreciated. There is a training session for new volunteers at Bethany Church in Greenland on Sunday Nov 3rd if you think you might be interested. I will be attending. 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.

Remember in your prayers...

**Dan Strange
Anne Coffey
Ken Young
Rev. Bill & Gayle Gardei
Marion Collishaw
Sylvia Bartlett
Gil Stebbins
Woodie Lange
Jim New
Bobbie Noble
Barbara Glidden
Judy Doyon
Charles Gilman
Ruth Griffin
Jim Slater
Barbara Sylvester
Barbara Millar
Barbara Clement
Rev. Charles & Anona Hartman
Our Denomination
Our Church Family**



UPCOMING EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDARS

11/2, Barbara Slater's Memorial Service is at 11:00 am with reception to follow in Sanborn Hall. Anyone who would like to contribute or help with refreshments, please see Sue Sarosiek.

11/3, Sunday, the clocks change, so remember to turn your clocks back! Everyone gets an extra hour of sleep!

11/3, There will be a pizza party for all who helped with the Pumpkin Patch, in Sanborn Hall at 12 pm.

11/5, The Finance Trustee meeting will be held at 6 pm at the Parsonage.

11/6, We will be delivering our Savers donations and will need volunteers to help with the loading. Please contact Sue Sarosiek for more information.

11/12, Peace Circle meets at 9:30 am at FUMC. All are welcome.

11/16, Our annual turkey supper will take place in Sanborn Hall at 5 pm. It is a wonderful time to be together. All are welcome!

11/19, Church Council meeting will be held at 6 pm.

11/20, Annual Church Conference at 6 pm.

11/26, Tuesday, there will be an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service held at the North Church of Portsmouth at 7:00 pm. The address is 7 Congress Street, Portsmouth, NH. If you have any questions see Reverend Deb.

12/1, Advent begins!

Congratulations to Suzanne Olbricht who received the International Leadership Award from the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV), the leading association of dermatologists from across Europe. She received the award from the incoming President, Alexander Stratigos, in Madrid, for her work in fostering international dialogue and communication in support of people with skin diseases throughout the world. Suzanne is only one of a few Americans to receive such recognition over the last couple of decades.



Barbara Clement would like to thank everyone for their cards, prayers and best wishes that made her birthday so special this year. Also, a special thanks to Bevan and the congregation for singing and wishing me a Happy Birthday.

The Peace Circle meets at FUMC on 11/12, at 9:30 am. Refreshments are served, and we have devotions, a business meeting, and a Bible/Book study. This fall we began studying *Strong Was Her Faith* by Kalas, which is about women in the New Testament. All women are welcome to attend, and books are available in the church office at \$12 per copy. (Checks may be made out to FUMC.)

POWER OF PRAYER

The prayer team is made up of people who would like to offer prayer during communion. There are two people who pray from a card for anyone who would like to receive a healing prayer either for themselves or someone else. Just come up, take communion, and then, if you would like a prayer for healing, step over to the team who will then pray with you.

The prayer team for November is Dave Richards and Yvonne Griffin.

FYI.
We thought you might want to know!

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Blessings Bank

Any money collected from the Blessings Bank at the beginning of the service will go toward helping a school in Cameroon. Our donations to the school where we have a connection through our Sunday school will provide them with supplies and the ability to keep educating the children. Thank you for sharing your blessings!

Golf Tournament Results

On September 11, we held a golf tournament fundraiser at the Pease Golf Course. We had a smaller turnout than usual, but we still had enthusiastic golfers who enjoyed themselves and helped us raise money for our church. The total raised was \$3,002. Thanks to Cathy VanReenen for ALL her organizing, setting up and her hard work to make this a success. Also, thanks to MANY who helped with set up, spent the day helping at the tournament, donated money and silent auction goods. We couldn't do it without you! Thank you again!

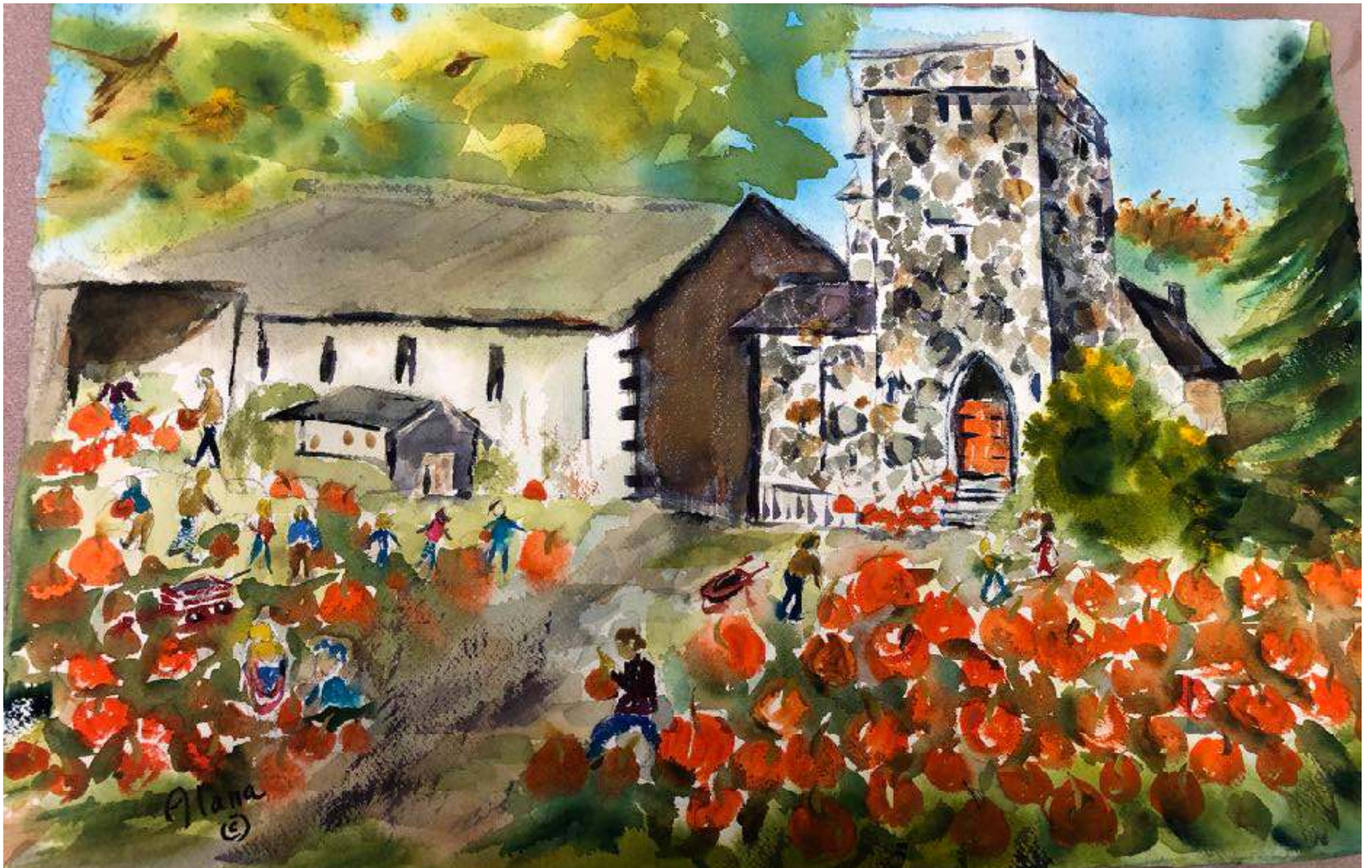
Bishop Devadhar in our District

Our church will host the Bishop's evening on the district on Wednesday, November 13 from 6-9 pm. We will meet in Sanborn Hall, and the bishop will share his thoughts and get to know us all better. Everyone is welcome! Please come and join in!

Our Annual Church Conference

We will have our annual Church Conference on 11/20, at 6:00 pm, when we share reports from groups and committees, vote on several issues such as salaries. This will be in the context of worship, ending with a communion service. Because our new district superintendent, Rev. Taesung Kang, has added 21 churches to his schedule, the part time churches will be covered by ordained Elders in our district. Rev. Lynne Mentzer will preside with us. The Church Conference is our primary administrative body, and all are welcome to attend. All members have a vote and all who attend have voice. Please plan to join us. It will be about an hour and a half.

There is no Bell Bazaar this year.



The above art work was donated by Maddi Nana and will be framed and displayed for all to enjoy in the Narthex.

She does a variety of works in many different mediums. If you would like to check out more of her work, she is located at 58 Cornfield Street, New Castle, NH 08854. Phone # is 603-431-8726.

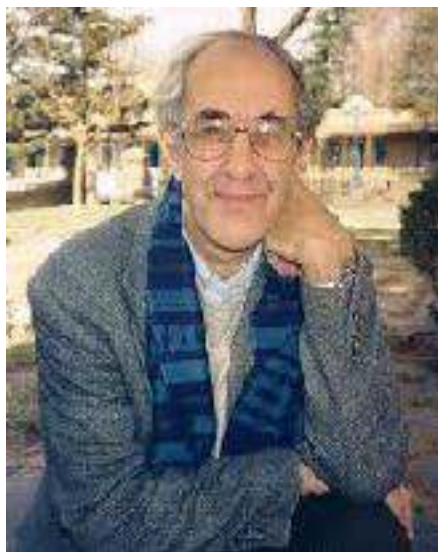
Take time to check out the walls in FUMC where many works of art are displayed for all to enjoy. Many of the artists, young and old, are FUMC members. We have everything from photographs to original music here. It makes for an interesting tour around FUMC.

New Column:

The Finance/Trustees are studying a book by Henri Nouwen, **Spirituality of Giving**, each month, we will be sharing little “snippets” from what we are learning.

From *Finding My Way Home* by Nouwen: “You are sent into this world to believe in yourself as God’s chosen one and then to help your brothers and sisters know that they also are beloved sons and daughters of God who belong together.” (p. 35 in our lesson book)

Whether we are rich or poor, we are called by God to give whatever we can of ourselves: prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness, to glorify God and to be good stewards of all those qualities. We honor God, ourselves, and others when we give of ourselves from those qualities. Let us reflect on our call to give and how we will give from our relationship with God.



The international renowned priest and author, respected professor and beloved pastor, Henri Nouwen wrote 39 books on the spiritual life. He corresponds regularly in English, Dutch, German, French and Spanish with hundreds of friends and reached out to thousands through his Eucharistic celebrations, lectures and retreats. Since his death in 1996, ever-increasing numbers of readers, writers, teachers and seekers have been guided by his literary legacy. Nouwen's books have sold over eight million copies and been published in over 28 languages.



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YOUR CARDS & NOTES CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR SOMEONE TODAY!

If someone would like to have a visit, or if you know a card would help, please let the church office know. We have people who send cards, and we have people who will visit. Rev. Deb gets out as often as she can, but it's so important to have congregants watching out for each other. Also, if someone is in the hospital, please let Rev. Deb know.

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

1 Jenna Kirk
4 Ken Westbrook
6 Scot Newbury
7 Maureen Denyou
12 Marion Collishaw
12 Mike Coffey
16 Evelyn Laux
17 Debbie Woods
20 Sylvia Bartlett
23 Pamela Smith
30 Elmer Sewell

Anniversaries

20 Scot & Darlene Newbury





Happy Thanksgiving!

*For each new morning with its light,
for rest and shelter of the night,
for health and food,
for love and friends,
for everything Thy goodness sends.*

November, 2019 - SUNDAY WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

DATE	LITURGIST	GREETERS	USHERS	ACOLYTE	WORSHIP TECH	SOUND TECH	SUNDAY SCHOOL
11/3/19	Dave Richards	Jeanne & Steve Westcott	John & Cathy VanReenen	Alexa Langs	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Airial Sillanpaa Rosie Buswell
Prayer Team: Dave Richards & Yvonne Griffin							
11/10/19	Marilyn Stebbins	Al & Jan Cansdale	Ken & Jenya Westbrook	Kaya Sarosiek	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Dave Atkinson
11/17/19	Kevin Fickenscher	Sue Lange	Anne & Mike Coffey	Marilyn Stebbins	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Sue Richards Dave Richards
11/24/19	Art Munson	Joyce Blanchard	Yvonne Griffin David Richards	Jan Cansdale	Steve Scott	Sue Sarosiek	Airial Sillanpaa Kaya Sarosiek

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

NOVEMBER 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 ♦7pm AA	2 ♦1 pm AA
3 ♦10 am Worship ♦11 am Coffee Hour	4 ♦7 pm AA	5 ♦5:30 pm Promusica ♦6 pm Finance Trustees ♦7 pm NA	6 ♦SAVERS Delivery	7 ♦7pm AA	8 ♦11 am AA ♦7 pm AA	9 ♦1 pm AA
10 ♦10 am Worship ♦11 am Coffee Hour	11 ♦11 am AA ♦7pm AA	12 ♦11 am AA ♦5:30 pm Promusica ♦7 pm NA	13 ♦11 am AA	14 ♦8:30 am Doris Rice ♦11 am AA ♦7pm AA	15 ♦11 am AA ♦Turkey Dinner Set Up ♦7pm AA	16 ♦1:00 pm AA ♦5:00 Turkey Dinner
17 ♦10 am Worship ♦11 am Coffee Hour	18 ♦7pm AA	19 ♦5:30 pm Promusica ♦6 pm Church Council ♦6:30 NA	20 ♦ 6 pm Church Conference	21 ♦8:30 am Doris Rice ♦7pm AA	22 ♦7pm AA	23 ♦1pm AA
24 ♦10 am Worship ♦11 am Coffee Hour	25 ♦ 7pm AA	26 ♦5:30 pm Promusica ♦7 pm NA	27	28 Happy Thanksgiving!! Office closed.	29 ♦7pm AA	30 ♦1pm AA



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

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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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