



WHO
WE ARE

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.

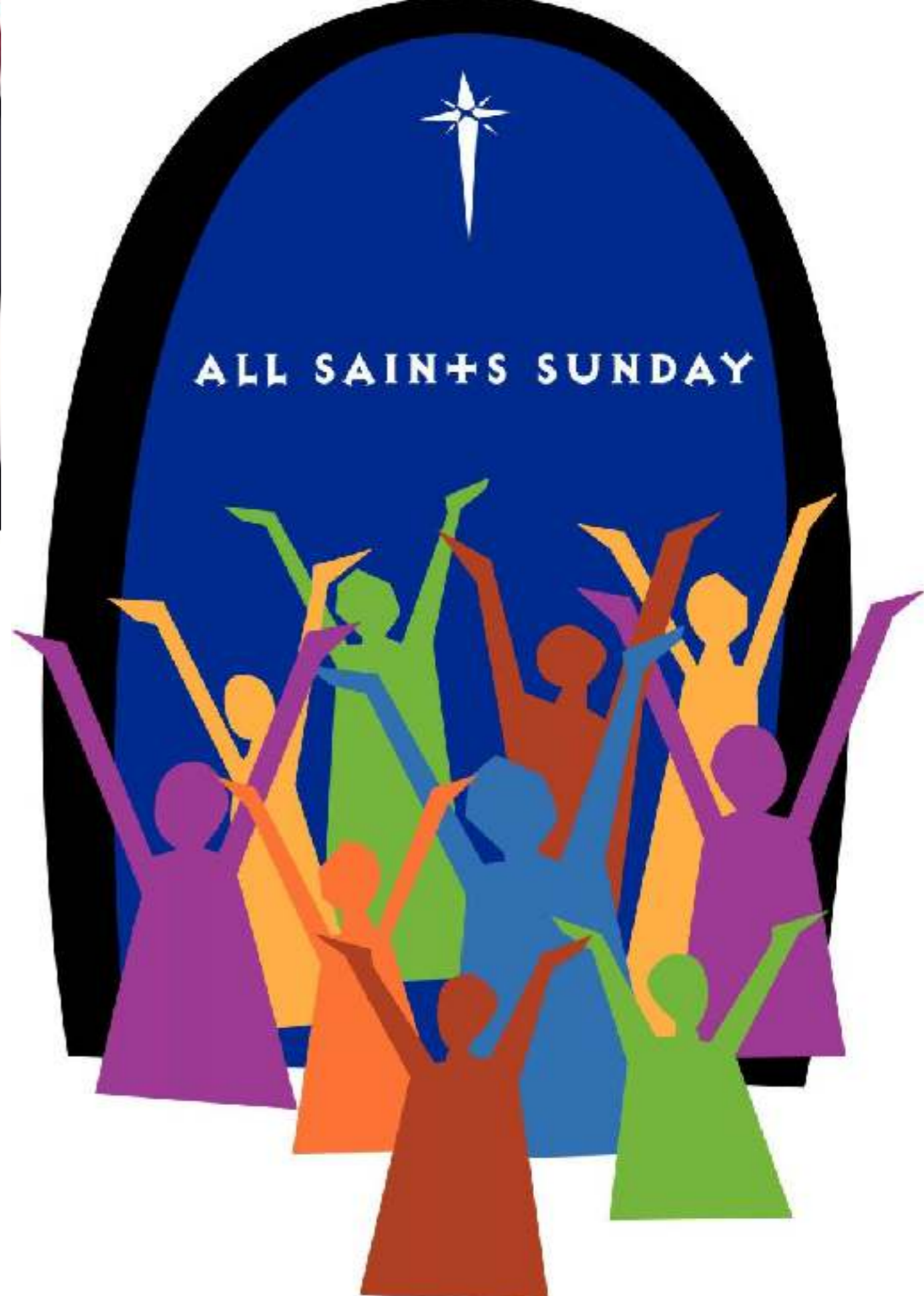


New England Annual Conference Tri-State District
The Rev. Sudarshana Devadhar, Bishop
The Rev. Taesung Kang, District Superintendent

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

Like and Follow Us On:   



November 3, 2019
FUMC Portsmouth, NH

We Gather for Worship

Prelude & Entrance of Christ's Light

Gratitude Moments

***Call to Worship**

L: Today, Gracious God, we worship again in the midst of all those who have been the saints in our lives.

P: Those who build this church both spiritually and physically.

L: We know that their spirit is still with us through the legacy they left for us.

P: We are thankful for the saints who have gone on before us and the saints who are still in our midst!

ALL: Let us worship our God together!

***Hymn**

"For All the Saints," v. 1,2,5

UMH #711

A Time for the Child in all of Us

Ministry of Music

Prayer (unison)

On this All Saints Sunday, O God, we come together in the spirit of the saints in our lives. We long to live up to their teachings and example, but we know that we often fall short. Yet, we are reminded again and again that they were human beings with their own faults and flaws, and yet, they served you faithfully. So forgive us for our lack of confidence in your guidance and leadership, and help us to also serve you faithfully in our own way and with the gifts you have given us to share with others. Forgive our worries and our doubts, and may we continue to learn from the saints who have gone on ahead and all those who are right here in our midst. Amen.

L: God forgives us and knows that we try to do our best to live faithfully. Know that you are forgiven, and God is with you in all circumstances.

P: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response

"Spirit of the Living God"

UMH #393

We Proclaim the Word

Reading the Word

Ephesians 1:11 - 23

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

P: Thanks be to God.

Message

"Saints"

Rev. Dr. Deb Hanson

Remembering All the Saints in Our Lives

We Respond to God's Word

***Hymn**

"Blest Are They"

TFWS #2155

Prayers of the People

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 into 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! Alleluia!

***Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

Generous God, we know that our ancestors in the faith sometimes wondered how they could make a difference in the world. They consistently gave of their resources to try to help others. Accept these offerings in the same spirit of giving, and may they touch lives here in our community as well as far away. Amen.

A Service of Holy Communion

insert

We Go Forth to Serve

***Hymn**

"Rejoice in God's Saints"

UMH #708

***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*

*TFWS = The Faith We Sing UMH = United Methodist Hymnal
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



Pastor - Rev. Dr. Debra J. Hanson
Pastor's Assistant - David Richards
Liturgist - Dave Richards
Lay Leader - Susan Sarosiek
Acolyte - Alexa Langs
Director of Music - Bevan Bloemendaal
Greeters - Al & Jan Cansdale
Ushers - John & Cathy VanReenen
Sound Tech - Sue Sarosiek
Worship Service Tech - Steve Scott
Photographer - Dave Atkinson
Sunday School - Aerial Silanpaa & Rosie Buswell
Prayer Team - Sue Richards & Christine Williams



WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER...

Rev. Charles & Anona Hartman

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

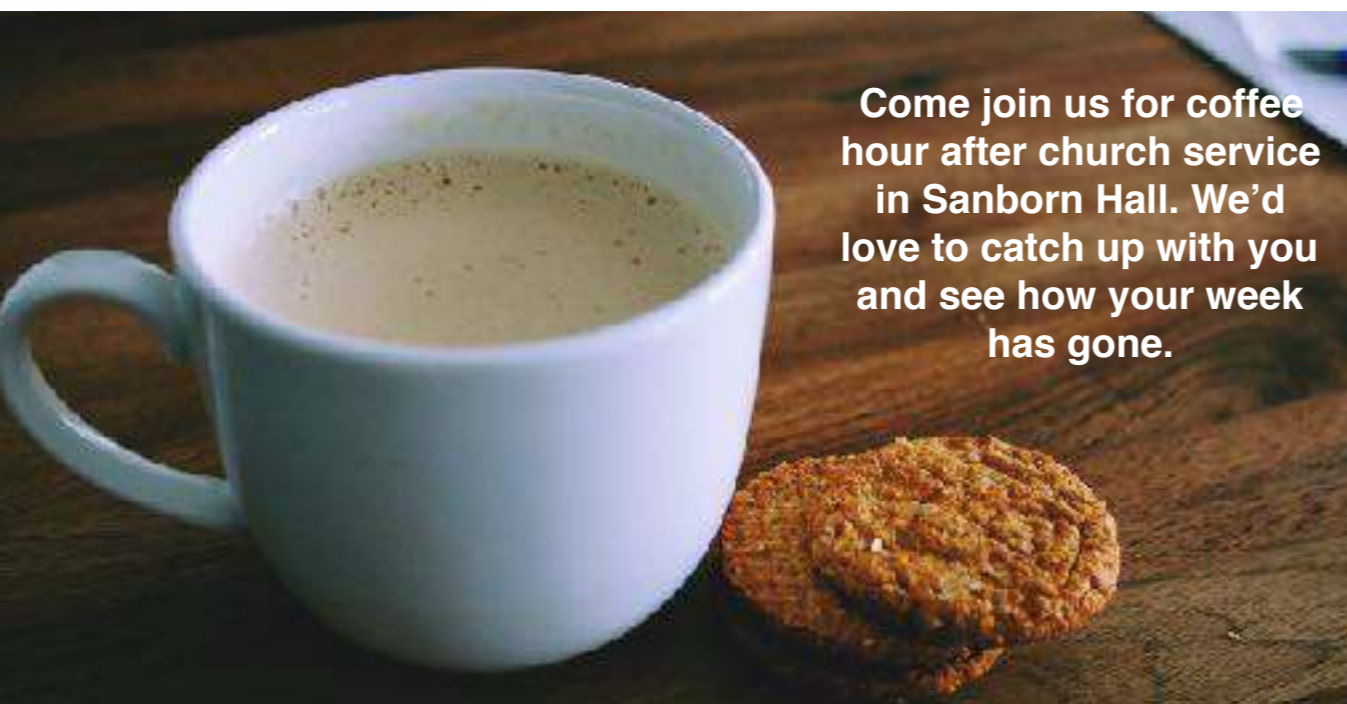
Barbara Sylvester

Barbara Millar

Barbara Clement

Our Denomination

Our Church Family



Come join us for coffee hour after church service in Sanborn Hall. We'd love to catch up with you and see how your week has gone.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

11/5, Finance Trustee meeting at 6 pm in church office.

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

11/16, Our annual turkey supper will be held in Sanborn Hall at 5 pm. Adults are \$10 and kids under 12 are \$5.

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

11/20, Annual Church Conference is 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 please see Reverend Deb.

12/1, Advent begins!


Pumpkin Patch is done. Thanks to all our volunteers. This season was a record year for sales. It is a great boost to our general fund plus our missions. A special thanks to our chief organizer Sue Richards and to Dave Richards. It was a great season and again thanks to everyone. See you at pizza party!

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

Upper Room devotionals are available near the Narthex monitor.

Just a friendly reminder, please try to keep your pledge up to date so we can meet our financial obligations as a church. Thank you for your faithful giving!

We continue to celebrate those in Senior Living. Please send a card from the table in Sanborn Hall to brighten their day. Stamps are available in the office or leave on counter for mailing. Thanks!



In Memory of
**Arthur H. Munson,
Sr., Capt., USN
(Ret.) WWII, Korea,
Vietnam.**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

All Saints Sunday

L: May the God of all saints be with you!

P: And also with you!

L: Lift your hearts to God, all you who seek God's face.

P: We offer them to the One whose heart weeps with ours.

L: Lift up your heads, O people, singing glad songs of praise to God.

P: With joy in our hearts, with words of truth and life on our lips, we give thanks to our God.

L: With a simple Word, with a gentle Breath of life, Wondrous God of glory, you shrouded chaos with your imagination, earth spinning and whirling through space the seas teeming with new life. All that is in creation is yours, all that lives in it is your gift. You shaped us in your image, gathering us in your garden of joy. But we turned our backs on you, seeking the seductive face of sin. You would show us the way, filling us with hope's promise, through the gifts of those saints we call the prophets, but we were deaf to their words. So, deeply moved by our helplessness, you sent Jesus into our presence, the One we waited for that we might be saved. So, with that community of faith from every place and time - with saints and sinners, with apostles and angels, with those who know how deeply you love us, we forever sing to the glory of your name:

P: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, strong and gentle. As they await their renewal, heaven and earth glorify you. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes to call us from death.

Hosanna in the highest!

L: Gracious are you, Creator of suns and saints, and blessed is Jesus Christ, Sharer in our lives. With clean hands and a pure heart he descended from your holy side, coming to wipe away our tears, to remove the disgrace of our sin, to walk with those who seek your face, to stand with us at grief's doorstep. With scarred hands and a shattered heart, he descended into the grip of the grave, taking off the swaddling clothes of death, leaving them behind as you called to him to come out of the tomb



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As we wait to come to this gracious feast, as we remember the spirit in which Jesus lived, served, died, and was raised, we speak of that mystery we call faith.

P: In Christ, the shroud of death has been destroyed. In Christ, all creation is given new life. In Christ, we will be God's people forever when he returns.

L: Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts of the Table and on your children in this sacred space. With a simple cup filled with hope, with bread broken in love, you make a feast for those who are with this band of believers. As we open our hands to receive grace's brokenness, may we go forth to dirty them in service to all around us. As we swallow the well-aged hope of your Spirit, may we discover our hearts to be as broken as yours, by the injustices of our world. And when all things become new, as we are gathered in the New Jerusalem with our sisters and brothers of every age, we will join our voices together, singing before your throne of grace, God in Community, Holy in One. *(Thom M. Shuman)*

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Unison Prayer following Distribution:

As we adore you, O God, who alone are holy and wonderful in all your Saints. We implore your grace, so that, coming to perfect holiness in the fullness of your love, we may pass from this pilgrim table to the banquet of our heavenly home, through Christ our Lord. Amen. *(CanticaNova Publications)*

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SERMON TRANSCRIPT GIVEN BY
REV. DR. DEB HANSON

“Saints” – 11/3/19

West Kennebunk & Goodwins Mills UMC’s – Rev. Dr. Debra J. Hanson

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 1:11-23

THEME: God has put Saints in our world.

Deacon Syl Galvan shared this thought and story for All Saints Sunday: *It has been said that "a saint loves people and uses things, whereas a sinner loves things and uses people". I think that this can be well exemplified in the following story.*

Thirteen-year-old Joey Russell's most prized possession was a 1912 postcard of the original Titanic, signed by an actual survivor of the ship's sinking. Four years ago, before the release of the movie Titanic, Joey had saved up all his chore money to buy the postcard at an auction. Now the mania surrounding the movie assured Joey of an excellent deal if he ever decided to sell his card. And he did decide to sell it, but not for his own benefit. When Joey learned that the mother of his best friend Kate needed a bone-marrow transplant, Joey offered to sell his card to raise money for the procedure. She would need at least \$60,000 in order to get the transplant, and without it she might die. When talk-show host Rosie O'Donnell heard about Joey's act of kindness, she invited him on her show. There, she introduced him to the cast of the musical Titanic. But that wasn't the only reason she had invited him on that day. O'Donnell, along with the Titanic's producers, had arranged to buy Joey's postcard for \$60,000. Now Mary Shelley, Kate's mom, could get her transplant. (2)

In doing what he did so unselfishly, Joey put people above things; he put the life of his friend's mother above a valuable postcard. Material values would dictate that we cherish things for the security that they can give us. But I'm sure that this boy lived with himself more peacefully because of his act of kindness. He was truly "poor in spirit" because he put people above things. He was an ordinary person who did an extraordinary thing.

I'm sure that if Joey had not done what he did, he probably would not have been able to live with himself. He probably would not have been at peace with himself knowing that he could have done something to help his friend's mother but didn't. (found at Deacon Sil's Homiletic Resources - <http://www.deaconsil.com/content/page/14281.html>)

This is All Saints Sunday when we remember the saints in our lives and in our world. So many of us think that being a saint means we must be holier than anyone else, totally dedicated to God's work, and look very pious. But being a saint is much more than that, as Deacon Syl indicated. The passage from Ephesians reminds us that our lives are given to us for the glory of God. Verses 15 and 16 read, *"I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason, I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers."* Faith is active and lived because of God's love and grace in our lives.

A saint is one who lives in the present moment, doing the work that God calls him or her to do, and knows that God has already prepared the way and has gone ahead into the future. There is hope in that belief, and a saint is one who lives in the hope of Jesus Christ. That person's life not only inspires us, but sets an example for us as to how to follow Jesus faithfully.

As a congregation who worships and believes in Jesus Christ, we live in the hope and promise of God's future, and we also live in the present as God's children who are called to make a

difference in the world. When I was at the West Kennebunk church, the matriarch of the church who had been a member over 50 years passed from this world to the next right before All Saints Day, and I blogged about her life and the influence she had, so I would like to share that reflection with you.

This morning one of the saints, Barb Stone, of the West Kennebunk UMC passed on to greater glory at the golden age of 95. She was not a celebrity, never ran for office, didn't do the really noticeable things that so many of us seem to want in our lives. But she was an amazing woman who had no idea that she WAS amazing.

Someone like this is every pastor's blessing. She attended church regularly, participated fully in the life of the church, was a generous giver both financially as well as with her time and talents. She was a great baker, and her filled date sugar cookies were the star of every bake sale we ever had. People flocked to the church's bake sales to buy them before they were all gone. More than that, she loved her church family and all the people in it.

It didn't matter to her if there was controversy or dissension (although it bothered her when it was happening), and it certainly didn't chase her away. She was a member of the church for well over fifty years and was thoroughly part of that congregation. Nearly everyone called her "Grammy Stone," young and old alike. She brought a quiet, unassuming presence that provided some stability in tough times and reinforced God's love during calmer times.

Her biological family reflected the solid upbringing they had under her mothering with open hospitality, welcoming all to their home, weekly Sunday dinner gatherings at her house, sticking together even when there were some tensions, and loving, respecting, and adoring their mother, grandmother, great-grandmother.

Barb loved her pastors - every one - and supported them whether she thought they were great pastors and preachers or not. This was HER church family, HER church home, and she found God here as well as friends who loved her as much as she loved them. She lived her faith without even knowing it.

Oh that we could have many more saints like this in our churches, those who witness their faith in their lives wherever they are; those who don't even know that they are special beyond words; those who love with God's love and receive that same love back; those who are the backbone of healthy churches and peacemakers in the midst of conflict; those who generously share their talents and resources.

Barb would not have even considered getting up in front of everyone to help lead worship; she left that to those who had the gifts to do it. But she was a worker bee in the background, washing dishes when needed, preparing coffee for fellowship, baking her famous cookies, tending the bake table at bake sales, donating toward fund raisers, pitching in to help wherever she was needed. More than that, even on her deathbed she wanted to know how someone was doing - always putting others before herself.

Thanks be to God for the saints who keep us all on track and calm us down, pointing us to what is really the most important thing: Love of God in Christ Jesus.

As I reflected on this blog and considered this congregation, I know that there are saints in this congregation, people who are using their time, talent, and treasure to further the ministry of Christ's church. Remember, all saints are human; not perfect, but they live their faith openly and put God first in their lives. By living our faith, we share what we have with others, reach out to our communities, offer a listening ear to someone who needs to talk, comfort those who are grieving or sad or in a crisis, collect food for the hungry, give clothing to those who have little or nothing, care about each other, offer prayer and friendship to others both those in the congregation and elsewhere. Saints are the ones who bring the presence of Christ to the world.

Saints are the ones who are the hands and feet and voice of Jesus, and sometimes there isn't a voice, only actions that lead others to know God's love and grace. We don't have to be a mother Teresa or Saint Francis of Assisi. We don't have to do the things that make headlines. We only need to live faithfully to the best of our abilities. Paul wrote most of his letters by starting them with "to the saints at [whatever church]" he was addressing.

In the Ephesians passage, there is an interesting list of qualities God has that are passed on to us. Professor Karoline Lewis wrote: *The aspects of God that were given glory and praise are now that which is requested be given to the Ephesians. That is, as wisdom is God's (1:8), the author prays that God "may give you a spirit of wisdom" (1:17); as hope is set on Christ (1:12), the prayer is for knowing "the hope to which he has called you" (1:18); as he chose us in Christ (1:4), so also may we know that it is hope to which we are called (1:18); as we are destined for adoption (1:5), the prayer is that we see with the eyes of our hearts "the riches of the inheritance" given to Christ. The cohesion of chapter one underscores the union between God, Christ, and the believer . . . (found at commentaries for the Ephesians passage at Text This Week).*

Saints are those who receive and claim God's wisdom and hope as well as recognize the inheritance we have as God's children. My prayer for all of you, Saints at the First United Methodist Church, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, is that you will continue to strive toward growing into and sharing the perfect love of Christ with each other and the world.

Let us pray: *God of all those who have gone on before us and still are very much alive in our hearts and lives, grant us the grace to follow in their steps. May the lamp of faith by which they walked, and then handed on to us, never be hidden under a multitude of worldly cares. Help us to treasure the light and share it with those around us, and then pass it on for generations that are to come. To your praise and through the name of Christ, our light and salvation. Amen. (B.D. Prewer 2003, found at worship liturgies for All Saints Day at Text This Week, <http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocC/C61sts.htm>)*