

Hi!

Please be sure you read *The Beacon* because it holds a lot of information, schedules, and material you might need to know! Our newsletter is one of the best ones I have ever seen, and it is a team effort of all those who write and design it, lead fundraisers, head committees, and want you all to know what's going on with all the opportunities available in our world at First UMC!

As I have become a little more familiar with First UMC and all of you, I have begun to see what a great group of people you are! I'm still learning names and trying to "get my head on straight" so I can serve as your pastor with knowledge, love, and care. It will take time, but I appreciate your patience, help, and guidance.

One of the areas I realize we need to highlight is the role of the **Staff Parish Relations Committee**. The SPRC is a group of people who have been elected at the Church Conference and is made up of the pastor, lay leader, and nine people who are members of the church. Our primary responsibility is to promote good relations with the pastor, staff, and between members of the congregation.

The folks who serve on the committee agree to serve for three year terms or "classes," so we have three who will leave the committee at the end of December this year, three in two years, and three in three years. Starting January 1, 2019, three new people will begin serving to fill the slots of the 2018 class.

The following people are currently serving: (through December 2018) Scott Stevens, Evelyn Laux, JoEtte Mac Kenzie, (through December 2019) Karen Sarosiek, Kevin Fickenschier, Cathy VanReenen, and (through December 2020) Mike Coffey (chairperson), Barbara Felton, Nancy Chessier. Sue Sarosiek is the lay leader.

If anyone has questions or concerns about me, the staff, or other congregational relationship concerns, please speak to one of the SPRC members or me. We, on the SPRC, would like to have you all speak to us directly and not go to someone who either doesn't really know or only has part of the information. If anyone has a gripe with me, please talk with me or go to the SPRC folks. We want truth and honesty and straightforward conversations so issues can be resolved in fair and loving ways.

Those who would like more information about the work of the SPRC, please contact us, and we can provide you with information either in print or on the internet if you have access to that. The work of the SPRC is held confidential so we can make decisions that are fair and have as much information as possible. We will share what we can with the congregation when it is appropriate. Also, the SPRC reports a basic report to the Church Council for information. SPRC meetings are not open because of the confidentiality; however, all other meetings are open to everyone. If someone would like to meet with the SPRC about a concern, that can be done by contacting Mike Coffey the chairperson or me.

I realize this is long, but I'm hoping that it will help to clarify the role of the SPRC in the church and clear up some of the misinformation that has gone out.

Thank you, and God bless, Rev. Deb

REV. DEB'S OFFICE HOURS:

Rev. Deb plans to be in the office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from about 9-12. There may be times when she has to leave early for a meeting, or an emergency arises, but in general, her intention is to be available those mornings during the week. It is a good idea to call first to be sure she is available.



THE BEACON
SEPTEMBER 2018

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Sunday school has been going on all summer! Thank you to Karen Sarosiek, Aerial Sillanpaa, Evelyn New, and several others who have pitched in to make a great experience for our children. Starting September 2, we will kick off a new pattern for our classes. A theme for the month will be introduced using the book *It Is Easy Being Green: 60 Bible Stories and Crafts with the Earth in Mind*.

Sunday #1, the children will hear the Bible story and review it, as well as hopefully learn a song to go with the theme.

They will hear that song every Sunday if possible.

Sunday #2, will be a DVD of the story (with popcorn);

Sunday #3, will provide the children with a chance to act out the story in a drama, have it video-taped and shown in church on the following Sunday.

Sunday #4 will be a craft that relates to the theme.

If there is a fifth Sunday, we will work with the theme in some way.

Thanks to the following people who will be the teacher and or helper for one of the weeks: Evelyn New, Karen Sarosiek, Aerial Sillanpaa, Dave Atkinson, Sue Richards, Dave Richards, and other helpers who have put their name on the list to help when they can. This is great! Thank you to them and to First UMC for your support! We may occasionally need some materials to help with the craft projects, so we will put that information out when needed. This will be great!

Schedule of themes through 2018:

September – Creation

October – Noah and the Flood

November – Thanksgiving and Praise

December – the birth of Jesus including a pageant!



Our Church Conference is on November 19. The nominating committee will be seeking volunteers for the following positions. More positions may become available.

Financial Secretary

Sound Technician

Videographer

SPRC - 3 members

Trustees - 2 members

Committee on Lay Leadership & Nomination - 4 members

Christian Education Helpers - 3 members

Please see Rev. Deb or Sue S. for more information.



**Woman's Peace Circle
will resume their
monthly meetings on
September 11, 9 AM at
the home of Barbara
Millar. The gathering
centers on a short
business meeting,
shared devotions, a
book reading, good
company and
refreshments of course!
All are welcome**

Please continue prayers for...

Malia Broe Rev. Bill Gardei Rev. Sue Ellery

Gerry Royer Cynthia Drake PennySue Orr

Barbara Millar Trudy Parkhurst Barbara Glidden

Marion Collishaw Sue Goodhue Kim Hishop

Hynter Pinkley Sylvia Bartlett Brian Thompson

Family & Friends of Barbara John

Our church family

Those in rehab and care facilities



September Celebrations

3 Nancy Chesser

6 Alverta Jentimane

7 PennySue Orr

8 Laurie Stevens

9 Jeffrey Sanders

10 Kenneth Young

13 Veronica Bennett

15 Gertrude Parkhurst

17 Megan Hopley

22 Walter Laux

24 Jemes Batten

27 Kellie Langs

27 Janice Bakula

29 Dianne Crisp

5 William & Angie Dewhurst

6 Kellie & Steve Langs

14 David & Carol Bovee

28 Peter & Bonnie Timperman

Every Sunday we
enjoy having fresh
flowers on the altar
given in memory,
honor or celebration
of someone special
to you or the church
family.

Please sign up on
the Flower Chart in
the narthex.





Pumpkin Delivery 9/29
 Golf Tournament 10/19
 Pumpkin Delivery 10/13
 Laity Sunday 10/21
 Turkey Dinner 11/3
 Bell Bazaar 11/17
 Annual Conference 11/19



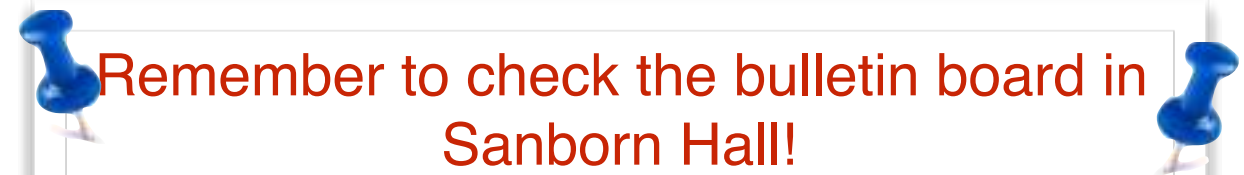
Join us for an:
*Adoption
 Party!*
 Honoring
 Liam & Georgia



Student Addresses
 As our students begin another exciting year of learning please keep them in your prayers and drop them a line to let them know you're thinking of them!



**First United
 Methodist Church**
 129 Miller Ave.
 Portsmouth, NH. 03801
 (the pumpkin church)
Saturday Sept. 22, 2018
From 1-4pm



Remember to check the bulletin board in Sanborn Hall!

All the current Church Council, Finance and Trustee meeting minutes are posted there.

Also find the latest news about church members and recent correspondence from our church family.
 Looking for information? Something to do? You'll find that information on the board!



Scott Stevens
 3836 Blvd Edouard Monpetit
 Montreal Canada H3T 1K9

Carson Crisp
 1946 Campus Drive
 Hyde Park NY 12538

TJ Scott
 NU Box 1387
 158 Harmon Drive
 Northfield, VT 05663

**First United Methodist Church
of Portsmouth**

**11th Annual Golf Tournament
Friday, October 19 at
Pease Golf Course
Portsmouth, NH**

7:30am breakfast & registration
9:00am shotgun start

Four person scramble, silent auction, longest drive & closest-to-pin, \$10,000 putting contest & hole-in-one prizes (\$20,000 on #9). Continental breakfast & dinner included.

\$135 per player (\$90 for Pease passholders)

Registration Form (single player to 4-person team)

Name:_____	Phone:_____
Name:_____	Phone:_____
Name:_____	Phone:_____
Name:_____	Phone:_____

Please make checks payable to First United Methodist Church and mail application to Cathy VanReenen, 44 Peabody Drive, Brentwood, NH 03833 (603) 498-9810 FUMC Tax ID#02-0275507

**First United Methodist Church
of Portsmouth**

**11th Annual Golf Tournament
Friday, October 19, at
Pease Golf Course**

Four person scramble, silent auction, longest drive & closest-to-pin, putting contest & hole-in-one prizes. Continental breakfast & dinner included.

Sponsorships Available:

Corporate: \$500
Name: _____

Hole: \$50
Name: _____

Gift Prizes:
Item: _____

Monetary Donations:
Amount: _____

Contact: Cathy VanReenen (603) 498-9810
Pease Golf Course (603) 433-1331
FUMC Tax ID# 02-0275507



*Thank
you*

Dear Portsmouth First UMC

We so much appreciate your continuing interest in and donations to Heifer International.

“How wonderful it is that nobody has to wait a single moment before starting to improve the world”

Anne Frank

Thank you for ‘not waiting’

Stephen and Donna Beaupre Heifer Volunteers



Dear friends, Thank you for your generous gift to The Fuller Center for Housing. You have made a profound difference in the life of a family in need, family that will move from a shack into a simple, decent home.

The family will work along side the volunteers in the construction effort and will pay the costs, on terms they can afford, with no interest charged or profit made.

The result will be that they will be true owners of their home in every sense. They will have the pride of ownership and the dignity that goes with it. What a tremendous gift you have given!

Thank you for being part of this great work. We are honored to have your partnership.

David Snell

President and Co-founder

To My Church Family,

Words cannot convey all that I feel in my heart. Your support throughout these months of tests and treatment with your cards, notes, calls, e-mails, visits, hugs, and most of all your prayers and positive thoughts have gotten me to this point in the healing process.

I love you and look forward to being back in church.

Cynthia Drake

**Peace Circle resumes meeting on
September 18 at 9:30 AM**

We invite you to join us for coffee and fellowship following the service. Cheese, cracker, cookie and coffee donations are greatly appreciated.

See Ken Westbrook for more information.





GAPP GIRLS

The final week of the summer was **Mission Incredible** with a superhero theme and lots of great learning opportunities for kids to strengthen mind, body and spirit. Another summer filled with learning, exploration and fun has come to a close. New adventures next year! Thank you so much for your support! ~John and Susan



The main focus of **GAPP GIRLS (Girls About Personal Power)** is to promote positive growth and development for adolescent girls.

There's no question that true beauty comes from what's on the INSIDE, but let's face it, when you are a tween & teenage girl, there is so much emphasis and pressure on what you look like on the OUTSIDE.

Our goal at GAPP GIRLS is to deal with BOTH the inside and outside issues.

Now more than ever is the time to help equip adolescent girls with the skills they need to overcome challenges, gain self-esteem, develop their talents, set goals for their lives, put forth their personal best and empower them with a sense of control over their minds and bodies at a time when things can often seem "out of control."



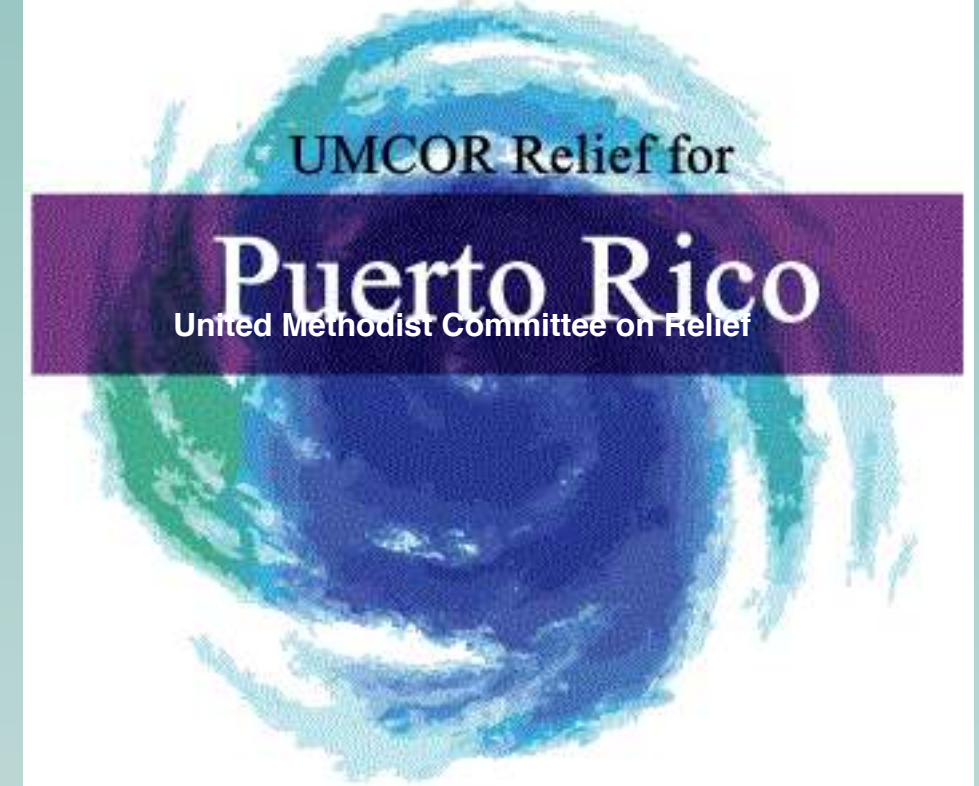
Finance Committee Update for August, 2018

Many of you will recall that we patterned our spring Gratitude Campaign on the book *Gratitude Path*, written by Kent Millard. What you may not realize is that another book we considered using but instead chose to do a five-week, all Finance Committee book review on was *Rich Church, Poor Church*, written by Clif Christopher. I would highly recommend your reading this book to gain some amazing insights into ways to improve our outlook on church finances and some very constructive suggestions on how not to become *THAT CHURCH*, the *poor church*. The entire committee learned a lot and enjoyed our review. The committee will make our copies of both books available for you to read. Please see Paula for a copy of either book.

Further, and in support of the ongoing Church Council survey, the Finance Committee will be posting monthly meeting minutes on the bulletin board next to the office. We will also have copies of our monthly Finance Reports that are reviewed in each monthly meeting available for your review, or to take home to read. As always, Nancy Chesser, Financial Secretary, Linda Reiber, Treasurer, or myself are always available to answer your questions.

Respectfully submitted,

John VanReenen
Finance Committee Chairperson



relief efforts continue through the generosity of your donations of spare change every Sunday morning!



Portsmouth First United Methodist Church
Finance Committee Report Church Council Meeting July, 2018

Committee Members:

Susan Sarosiek – Lay Leader
Mike Coffey – SPRC Chairperson
David Richards – Trustees Chairperson
Sue Richards – Mission & Outreach Chairperson
Nancy Chesser – Financial Secretary
Linda Reiber – Treasurer
Yvonne Griffin – Member at Large
Reverend Deb Hanson
John VanReenen – Finance Chairperson

Finance Committee Goals:

- Open communication; financial transparency with congregation
- Efficient resolution of challenges
 - o Mission share payments
 - o Prior debt payments
- Continuously improved operations
 - o Office computer & software upgrades
 - o Upgrades in Church banking
- Congregation questions welcome – Nancy / Linda / John
- Current church survey

2018 Budget - \$172,752

2017 Budget - \$169,264

2017 Church Income - \$166,636

Capital Campaign – 2016

- Total Campaign Pledge - \$156,766
- Funds Received to Date - \$146,868
- Current Fund Balance - \$839
- Projects Completed to Date via Capital Campaign
 - o Kitchen Rebuild & Upgrade
 - o Alarm System Installation
 - o Roof Repairs; Sanctuary & Sanborn Hall

Gratitude Campaign – May, 2018

- Pledges to Date - \$95,904 (34)
- Pledges Received YTD - \$39,719
- 2017 Pledge Total - \$90,551 (32)
- 2017 Pledge Contributions - \$77,773

Mission Shares Payment

- 2018 Obligation - \$18,655
- 2018 Payments to Date - \$0
- 2015, 2016 & 2017 Paid in Full

Invested Funds

- Total - \$114,007
- Available for capital improvements - \$56,208 (approx.)

Trustees; Recent Capital Projects

- Sanctuary Roof Repairs
- Sanborn Roof Replacement
- Church Tower Stonework Repairs
- Randall Room Upgrade

Recent Financial Successes

- Payoff of (2) Loans of \$35,000 & \$40,000 during 2017
- Payment of Mission Shares 2015, 2016 & 2017

Concerns

- Church attendance and resulting financial contributions; summer specifically
- Aging congregation combined with natural attrition; impact on pledges
- Fundraising in 2nd half of year resulting in first half bill-paying challenges
- Several imminent trustees projects including boiler replacement
- Payment of \$24K Sanborn roof replacement bill
- Congregational concern for financial transparency and additional financial information

Rich Church, Poor Church book review (by Clif Christopher)

- Book review conducted in conjunction with Gratitude Path use in Pledge Campaign
- Five weeks with full Finance Committee; Spring, 2018
- The book starts with a gut check on current church giving
- The book contained many reminders of how poor churches operate and in many cases how FUMC operates; one of the most obvious examples was being a slave to balancing the budget
- Multiple examples of what not to do as a church and a Finance Committee
- Motivation for how to put a positive spin on challenges and on the future of the church
- A general sense of “we don’t want to be that church”; we can do better
- Spiritual reminders of what a rich church aspires to and toward
- Lessons on how to be aware of the church’s generous givers; the desire to take continually thank all contributors
- Future resulting church goals:
 - o De-emphasis the need to balance the budget
 - o Church mission vs. survival
 - o Continued thanks to contributors
 - o Spiritual goals to replace financial goals
 - o Positive communication of good and not-so-good news
 - o Adaptation of the Gratitude Path approach all year long

Respectfully submitted,

John VanReenen, Finance Chairperson



before

15th Annual Pumpkin Patch!

**Pumpkin Unloading Party !
Saturday, September 30 at 9AM**

Please save and share these dates:

- **Sat., 9/22 from 9 AM-Noonish**: Set-Up - Put tent up, move pallets (with the help of a pallet jack and operator!), clean and put shelves and vinyl lattice inside tent, put signs up, clean Booth, and organize inside of Booth.
- **Sat., 9/30 at 9 AM**: Pumpkin Unloading Party - Help unload a tractor trailer truck full of pumpkins and gourds! Young children can help stock the tent with small pumpkins and gourds. Adults, young children and youth can be on the Pumpkin Line bringing medium to large pumpkins from inside the truck onto lawn pallets, help customers finalize their purchases in the Booth and/or sweep the straw out of the truck.
- **Sat., 9/30 through Wed., 10/31**: 2 adults (+ your children/grandchildren) per 2-3 hour shift in the Booth helping customers finalize their purchases. Consider working the same shifts each week. This is our GREATEST NEED!!! Continue spreading the word to folks in the community to ensure we can continue having the Patch!
- **On/Near Sat., 10/20**: 2nd Pumpkin Unloading Party - Since we only need 1/3 of a truck, PumpkinsUSA must fill the rest with other deliveries close to us. ACTUAL DATE AND TIME TO BE SHARED LATER IN OCTOBER.
- **Early Nov.** (Date to be determined): Pumpkin Patch Take Down - Take tent down, move pallets (with the help of a pallet jack and operator!),
- move Booth and fill with tent, shelves, vinyl lattice, and signs.

Other ways to help during the Patch:

-Help bake pies at church on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 AM - 2 PM

On-the-job training provided.

-Bake/make goodies any day!

Our customers LOOK TO BUY homemade goodies

(pies, brownies, cookies, cupcakes, fudge, candy, flavored breads, etc.) every day.

-Pray for everyone who comes to the Patch.



after!



PumpkinsUSA's Patch Manual recommends that different committees coordinate specific areas. However, for all but the first few years of ours, I have shouldered the bulk of the coordination. So Church Council encouraged me to list the areas we need help with. **Any amount of time is appreciated and I'll provide training.** A great big THANK YOU to those who checked off areas of interest on the recent survey!

-**Co-Coordinator**: Someone to help me keep/maintain my sanity and divide tasks between us.

-**Booth Schedulers**: The online [Signupgenius.com](https://signupgenius.com), office, and weekly schedules in the Booth need to stay updated when people sign up in any of these places. A few people are needed to call and/or email from a list of active congregants and past community volunteers to fill remaining 2-3 hour shifts for the coming week. You can do this for a week or more, and will be trained.

-**"Emergency" Booth Staffers**: Anyone who may be available to fill last-minute shifts.

-**Small Group of "Counters"**: Typically volunteers working the 4-6:30 p.m. shift stay to count the Pumpkin and Food Sales that day. As we continue to expand our Booth Staffing base into the community, it seems wise to limit the number of people having access to the church offices and key locations.

-**Small Group of Patch "Tarpers" and "Untarpers"**: Frost kills pumpkins, so whenever it is expected, we tarp the lawn pumpkins at 6:30 p.m. and untarp them the next day before the Patch opens.

-**Food Coordinator(s)**: At least 1 person to sign a few people up to bake/make homemade goodies, hopefully for each day of the Patch. "Church Pies" are ready on Tuesdays and Fridays around noon.

-Only on Pumpkin Unloading Party days:

-**"Tent Unloading Coordinator"**: 1 person to guide people on how and where to unload boxes of small pumpkins and gourds onto tent shelves.

-**"Inside Truck Coordinator"**: 1 person to coordinate/manage safe pumpkin unloading inside the truck.

-**"Pumpkin Line Coordinator"**: 1-2 people to manage the Pumpkin Line when people add to or leave it, and guiding pumpkin placement on pallets.

-**"Clicker"**: 1 person to use clicker to count the number of bulk pumpkins (including rotten ones) as they come off the truck. Can be done standing or sitting near the open end of the truck. Give "clicker" to me at end of unloading.

-**Sweeper(s)**: After pumpkins are unloaded, sweep the floor of the truck, putting straw onto tarp at end of the truck. Then drag tarp to designated location.

-**Refreshments**: 2-3 people to set up 2 tables, a trash can and recycling bin near Booth; arrange bottled water, homemade and/or store-bought snacks, and napkins on tables. Clean up and put stuff away after unloading.

Please feel free to text (the fastest way to reach me)/call 603-749-4169, email to mksrichards@comcast.net, or talk with me at church.

Love and Hugs, Sue Richards





The Portsmouth Maritime Folk Festival Showcase Concert at First United Methodist Church of Portsmouth

We do hope you can join us for this unique celebration of traditional maritime music which takes place smack dab in the middle of the historic maritime port city of Portsmouth, NH.

Our Saturday evening concert will feature:

--David Jones--

a legendary singer in the British style presenting songs from the great days of sail, Music Hall favorites, traditional ballads and works by contemporary writers.

--Tim Eriksen--

who combines hair-raising vocals with inventive accompaniment on banjo, fiddle, guitar and bajo sexto, a twelve string Mexican acoustic bass

--The Johnson Girls--

a female a cappella ensemble performing traditional and contemporary songs of the sea and the shore.

Time: 7pm--9pm

Date: Saturday, September 29th, 2018

Place: Sanborn Hall, at the First United Methodist Church, 129 Miller Ave., Portsmouth

What: PMFF Showcase Concert

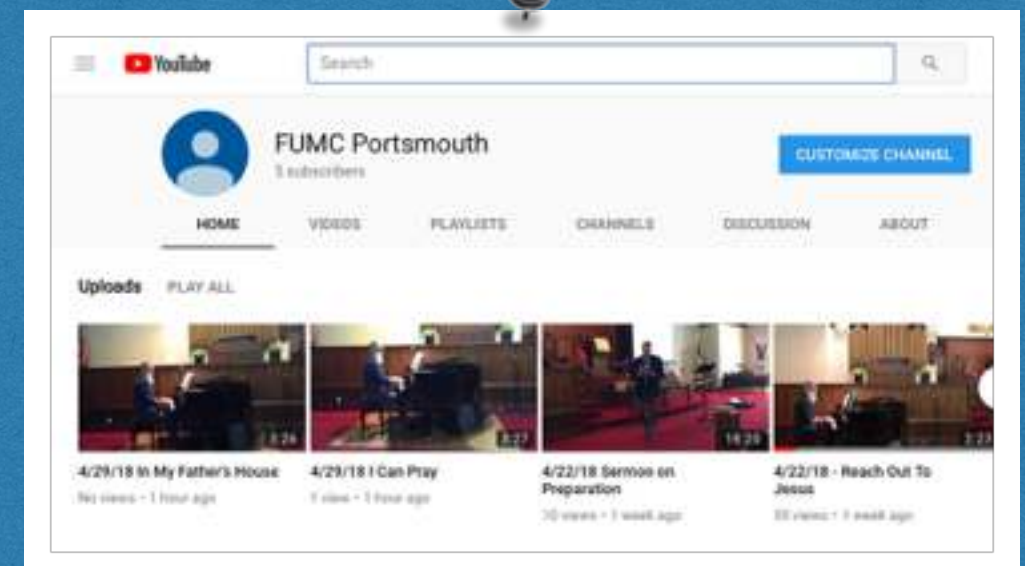
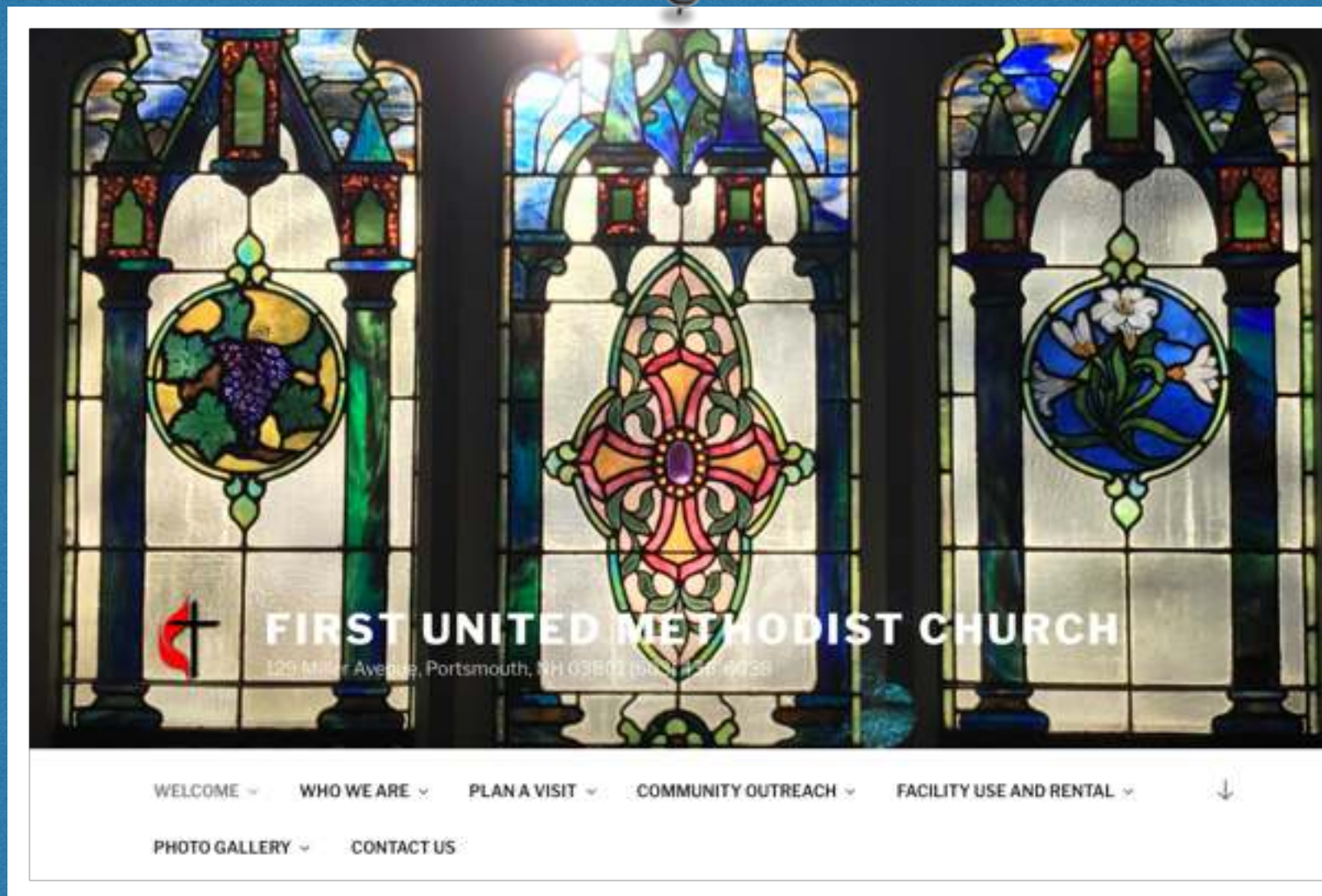
Cost: Free will donations

Remember, these performers can also be seen and heard throughout the day both Saturday and Sunday at certain of our many small venues all adjacent to Market Square. Also performing will be Jeff Warner, Craig Edwards, Ken Schatz, Anayis Wright, London Julie, Two Old Friends, Gina Dunlap, Mudhook and the Vox Hunters.

September 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1:00 PM AA 1
10:00AM Worship 11:15 Coffee 2	Labor Day 7:00 PM AA 3	7:00 PM NA 4	5	7:30 PM AA 6	8 PM AA 7	1:00 PM AA 8
10:00AM Worship 11:15 Coffee 9	6:30 PM Finance 7:00 PM AA 10	9:30 AM PEACE CIRCLE 7:00 PM NA 11	12	7:30 PM AA 13	8 PM AA 14	1:00 PM AA 15
10 AM Worship 11:15 Coffee 16	7:00 PM AA 17	6 PM Church Council 7:00 PM NA 18	19	7:30 PM AA 20	8 PM AA 21	1:00 PM AA 22
10 AM Worship 11:15 Coffee 23	7:00 PM AA 24	6 PM Trustees 7:00 PM NA 25	26	7:30 PM AA 27	8 PM AA 28	 DELIVERY!!! 29
10 AM Worship 11:15 Coffee 30						1:00 PM AA Maritime Festival 7PM

CONNECT WITH US ON ALL OUR CHANNELS... WEBSITE, FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM & YOUTUBE



MISSION AND OUTREACH



Backpack Ministry/End 68 Hours of Hunger Update

This program continues to thrive and our 6th school year is now on the backstretch and we are already starting to think about next school year and what we can do to make the program even more successful and give it even more outreach into the community. My co-coordinator has been meeting with school officials to determine what could be improved or changed in order to get more children/parents to take advantage of the program and they came up with some good ideas we are going to implement for next school year.

We are currently serving 67 children total from all 6 Portsmouth schools. We continue to get amazing support from other churches and our community volunteers. I get emails from folks regularly asking how they can get involved and volunteer. God is good!

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 Coordinator

Seacoast Family Promise

SFP is going stronger than ever. We currently have (4) families in the program – 3 of which are new from our last rotation, which means families once again have transitioned successfully from this program into stable housing. 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 12 years, so some fresh volunteers would be appreciated. This program definitely changes lives forever 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, please contact

Jen Berry, Coordinator

Contact information: jen_b76@yahoo.com or 603-801-3886.

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.