

First United Methodist Church
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The Messenger
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"For we have observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." Matthew 2: 2b



OFFICE CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1st
Regular office hours on Thursday, January 2nd

MONDAY, JANUARY 20th



Save the Date

February 15th from 9-1

Sign up at <https://www.redcross.org>

Feed the Need

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Family and Friends of FUMC,

I recently came across an article in a boating magazine that shared tips for entering an unfamiliar harbor. One of the tips stood out to me: *“Follow the leader—or don’t.”* Boaters might feel safe following the boat ahead of them while navigating an unknown channel, but the author warns against assuming that the captain of the boat ahead knows what they’re doing. He writes, *“Certain boaters know just enough to be dangerous.”* However, there’s an exception to this rule: commercial vessels like charter fishing boats, dive boats, or commercial fishing boats. These boats enter and leave local harbors almost daily and are alert to any changes in the water—things that recreational boaters might not notice. By observing how these experienced captains approach an unfamiliar harbor, you can quickly learn what to do and what to avoid. The lesson is simple: you must know whom to follow when entering unfamiliar waters.

When Jesus said, *“Follow me,”* to Simon and Andrew, then James and John (Mark 1:16-20), it might have seemed like they were doing exactly what the boating article warned against. Simon, Andrew, James, and John were local fishermen. They knew the waters, the best fishing spots, and how to navigate the channels and harbors. They were experts in their routine. On the other hand, Jesus had no experience as a fisherman. Yet, he called them to follow him so that he could teach them how to fish for people.

What’s remarkable is that they all immediately followed. They left behind their nets, their boats, their families—everything that gave them comfort, security, and familiarity. Fishing was their livelihood. They knew how to fish, where to sell their catch, and how to return to the safety of home each night. By leaving it all behind, they let go of everything they knew about life. They began a new journey, learning a new way of living—a life defined by the Kingdom of God.

As we begin 2025 together, I believe this story speaks to us as a congregation. We, too, are in this boat together, entering unfamiliar waters. We can’t know for certain what lies ahead, both in our individual lives and in the life of our church. As we prayerfully discern God’s leading—especially with the Capital Campaign for our Steeple Restoration Project—we are navigating new territory.

And yet, I have great confidence that we, like the disciples, will move forward with faith. Jesus calls us to follow him, not because the journey will be familiar or easy, but because he leads us to the Kingdom life. He is the one we can trust, the one who knows the way, even when we don’t.

I pray that in this new year, we will follow Jesus with purpose and clarity, that we will trust his leading, and that our journey will not only bring us closer to the Kingdom but also inspire others to join us. May we step forward together, in faith, into this new harbor where God is waiting to do something beautiful among us.

Blessings,
Ho-Soon

JANUARY

If you do not see your birthday listed, or date is incorrect, please contact the church office to update your information.



1	Linda Smith	12	Melissa Poliquin
1	Emily Cameron	12	Selma Combs
2	Amy Cook	15	Ashley Miltner
2	Ken Manning	15	Cindy Edgerly
3	Karen Manning	18	Donna Brill
4	Lester Huckins	19	Janice Keefe
4	Jack Jones	19	Gail Burns
5	Bill Burns	19	Patricia Foster
6	Kyle Libby	19	Paul Mercer
8	Mark Gagne	21	Tammy Roberge
8	Marge Mersereau	25	Elaine Menard
8	Aileen Orchard	26	Gerry McDevitt
8	Katherine Pyrich	29	Jennifer Murphy
9	Kaitlin Ciccarello	29	Sherry Libby
11	Eric Tompson	29	Cheryl Arnold
12	Brian Arnold	29	Tyler Arnold
12	Deborah Lotter	31	Doug Coons



January 21st – Katie (Menard) and Dylan Faucher

January 31st – Charles and Gail Karcher

Liturgists

Greeters

5	Karen Manning	Sam and Lorie Tweedy
12	John Wilderman	Sharon Parker/ Sue Parsell
19	Jon Pyrich	Pat Hewitt/ Eileen Foss
26	Cynthia Sparks	Carl Mallabar/ Beverly Wheeler

JANUARY



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 <i>Happy New Year</i> OFFICE CLOSED	2 10am AA Group 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Seacoast Carvers 7pm-District 15 AA	3	4 10am AA Group
5 9:30 am Worship COMMUNION 5pm Fellowship Kitchen	6 10:30am AA Group 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 6 pm Project Linus 7pm FINANCE	7 9:30am Sip N Share 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 6pm Witherell Bells 7pm Boy Scouts	8 9am Project Linus 6pm Cub Scouts PACK 184	9 10AM AA Group 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 6:30 pm Choir	10	11 9am Take Down Creche 10am AA Group
12 9:30am Worship <i>10:45am Christian Ed meeting</i> 5pm- Fellowship Kitchen	13 10:30am AAGroup 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 6:30pm WORSHIP COMMITTEE	14 9:30am Sip N Share 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 6pm Witherell Bells 6:30pm Troop 7pm Boy Scouts	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 8:30am Rochester Mental Health 9am Project Linus 6pm Cub Scouts PACK 184 7pm STEEPLE COMMITTEE	16 10am AA Group 3pm- Fellowship Kitchen 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Seacoast Carvers	17 8am Lifeline Screening 6pm- Tentative Scouts lock in	18 11am UWif Meeting 10am- AA Group Scouts lock in ends
19 9:30 AM- Worship SOUPED UP SUNDAY 5pm- Fellowship Kitchen	20 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30am AAGroup 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 6 pm Project Linus 7pm ADMIN COUNCIL	21 9:30am Sip N Share 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 6pm Witherell Bells 7pm TRUSTEES	22 9am Project Linus 6pm Cub Scouts PACK 184	23 10am AA Group 5pm- Fellowship Kitchen 6:30 pm Choir 6:30pm Pack committee	24 5pm- Tentative Scouts Sleep over	25 10am- AA Group 10am Pinewood Derby 5pm- Tentative Scouts Sleep over
26 9:30 AM Worship 12:30pm David Wold Recital 5pm- Fellowship Kitchen	27 10:30am AA Group 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 6 pm Project Linus 6:30pm SPPRC	28 9:30 Sip N Share 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 6pm Witherell Bells 7pm Boy Scouts	29 9am Project Linus 6pm Cub Scouts PACK 184	30 10am AA Group 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 6:30 pm Choir 6:30 Seacoast Carvers	31 Pinewood Derby	

Acolytes

- 5 Charlotte Pyrich
- 12 Sophia Rice
- 19 Nora Rice
- 26 Declan Meehan

Ushers

- Donna Walter/ Sharon Parker
- Pat Hewitt
- Don and Sue Raab
- Marianne Gustafson/ Debbie Boynton

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP IN JANUARY

January 5th
Epiphany Sunday
Isaiah 60:1-6
Matthew 2:1-12
“Elevator to God”

January 12th
Baptism of the Lord
Lay Speaker

January 19th
Second Sunday after Epiphany
1 Corinthians 12: 1-11
John 2: 1-11
“Party for All”

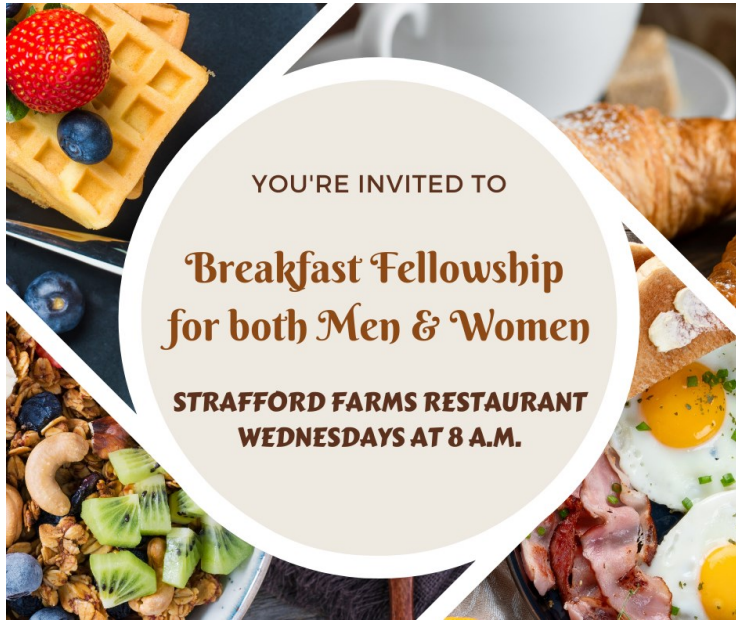
January 26th
Third Sunday after Epiphany
1 Corinthians 12: 12- 31a
Luke 4:14-21
“Annual Health Exam”

Pastor’s Retreat and Pastoral Care Availability

From January 5th to 13th, Ho-Soon will be on a retreat at Eastern Point Retreat House in Gloucester, MA in preparation for the ministry in 2025 as well as Lent and Easter season. If you require pastoral care during this time, please contact the office for our Visitation Team. If you have any prayer requests, please reach out to Dennis Schafer at 603-335-1088 or dennis.s@worldpath.net.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the members of the congregation for their Christmas cards and generous gifts. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated and will be remembered with fondness.

In peace, Ho-Soon



FUMC HERITAGE HAPPENINGS

In June of 1964 certain pieces of real estate on Portland St. and Central St. were acquired. This was done to immediately relieve the shortage of rooms for the Church School and for an increase in income.

Upon the recommendation of a twelve member committee on Research and Planning, and with the encouragement of Rev. William Sleamaker, a Capitol Funds Drive was initiated to provide for a much needed building to accommodate the rapidly growing Church School.

In the Spring of 1965, the land and building adjacent to the Church suddenly became available. After a few weeks of negotiations this property was acquired for \$59,000 (\$591,243 in 2024 dollars). Plans for the renovations of the concrete block structure were prepared by Hershey Associates of Durham, NH.



All classes

Future Gen

January 5th- Worship together, please stay in church (except nursery age) with your families

Prek-5th

January 12th -Simeon and Anna- Luke 2:1-20 (Donna Brill)
 January 19th- Boy at the Temple Luke 2:41-52 (Michelle Pyrich)
 January 26th-John the Baptist (Luke 3:1-18 (Tammy Roberge)

Jr. Sr. High- 6-12th

January 12th — Echo
 January 19th- Echo
 January 26th- Echo

The building was insulated throughout, partitions and ceilings were installed and a new brick face was put on the front of the building. There were nine rooms available for Church School, a recreational room in the basement which would serve as a meeting room for MYF, sanitary facilities and storage space. This entire project, excepting the brick front, was accomplished under the direction of Wendell Nickerson at a cost of about \$12,000 (\$120,253 in 2024 dollars). Many people devoted time and energy to this effort. The building was consecrated and occupied in December 1965.

To be continued

Kent Marzoli, Records and History



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Personal Concerns- cont

Marlene Guay; Debbie; Bill Hoelscher; Marilyn Ives; Joel Ferreira; Dona Sanborn; Fran Decker; James; Dave and Natalie Lemier; Faith Williams; Franchesca Panniello; Barb and Ron Rafferty; Carol Thibeau; Kelsie Sargent and parents; Benjamin Horta; Lamie Family; Debra Scarponi; Milton Smith; Dottie Bickford-Longo; Karen Downes; Ken Downes, Elaine Hartford; Monique Bamford; Edna Carr; Lillian; Nancy Dibble; Carol Chick; Maddie Rankins; Pat Hewitt and family Israel and Jordan for peace; Mary Beth and family; Lisa; Julie Tweedy; Kelly; Tracy Lang; Debbie Smith; Sam and Lorie Tweedy; Shirley Brannock, Celeste Lofaro, her ferret and father-in-law; Carrie Rice and family; Carolyn Wilderman; Macee; Maggie; Lily Hess; Tina Weaver; Lily Miles; those traveling during the holidays; **Doug Lindsay; Michael; Chantelle; Carolyn Meehan; Lisa McDevitt; Carolyn Wilderman; Tracy Lange; Roxanne Benoit; Amanda and family; Bertha Huckins**

Renewed prayers for:

Janice Wolforth, Marian Veno; Ken Manning Sr. and his wife Nancy; Marilyn and Jack Jones; Robin Stevens; Mona Hawkins; Marianne Gustafson; Diane Jones; Carole Casey; Jessica Parker; Brad Town

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Celebration:

New members Rich, Erin, Emily, Richie and Paul Southard MeCa concert a big success bringing in \$2,550 Fellowship kitchen Christmas dinner a huge success Birth of Mazikeen Ashley Lafond (Parents are Ben Lafond and Katee Millette, Grandparents Becki Fournier and Pat Robinson, Great-grandparents Ken and Donna Downes; Great-great grandmother Marian Veno)

Prayers of condolences for the Family and Friends of:

Carol Hartigan, Susan Anderson; Millie Henderson; Linda Maynard; Nancy Trask; Family of Baby Jack; Robert Munkittrick; Donna Chick; Celia Rannels

Prayers for the Ministry we support:

Dr. Belinda Forbes and Family

We try to keep the lists as current as possible. If there is someone that should be removed, please contact Donna Downes at kldd@metrocast.net. Thank you.



A Special Thank You

To Pastor Ho-Soon and the Church Family

Thank you so much for all the well wishes, prayers, cards and visits during my time of illness. Words cannot express how grateful and touched I am. It is a blessing to be part of this church family. This congregations truly is a ministry of love and hope for those beyond its walls. You have made me feel a very special part of FUMC. With love and blessings, Marian Veno

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the following individuals for their exceptional contributions during the season of Advent and Christmas.

To the Choir members, guided by Kevin Lindsay, and the Witherell Ringers led by John Wilderman, along with other gifted musicians, for enhancing our worship services.

To the members of the Worship Committee, for their seamless coordination for creating a worshipful and spiritual atmosphere in the sanctuary during this sacred time.

To the children, youth and their leaders for their active participation and contribution to the worship services.

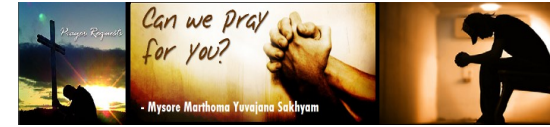
To Roseann Benoit, for managing the increased demands of the office, and to Diane Jones, Sue Raab, and Eileen Foss for their invaluable support throughout this busy season.

To Rich and Erin Southard for the donation of the figurines for the manger scene, Gail Burns for the signs and Ken Downes for the construction of the Creche.

Your time, talents, and tireless efforts have truly blessed our church family. Thank you for generously sharing your gifts!



Fellowship Kitchen Christmas



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Please let the office know if there is someone to add or also to remove from the ongoing prayer list. We try to keep this list up to date. **Bold indicates new addition to prayer lists.**

Concerns- at home and world-wide

Those who are homeless, hungry and/or unemployed; who struggle with chronic pain; with medical illnesses; safe keeping for our armed service members; an end to gun violence; all who are celebrating LOVE; an end to the war in Ukraine; those dealing with personal stress; those suffering from loss; families in turmoil; those suffering from loss due to hurricanes and natural disasters; those suffering from the messiness in their lives; friends and family fighting cancer; those with financial issues; those struggling with substance abuse and mental health issues and their caregivers; **Israel and Jordan for peace; Middle East conflicts**

Personal Concerns-

Warren Carr; Bill Casey; Olin Jackson; Jennifer Philips; Christin; Megan; Baby Archie; Nicholas; Jennifer Carter; Monica and Richard; Jacki Emma McQueen; David Goethel; John Leary; Jacolyn Hartford; Makayla Herget; Joseph; Donette Sylvester; Carrie; Donna Brills' sister; Gina; Amy B; Dahriz Colwell & Family; John; Sister Katie Hoelscher; Valerie; Susan Morisette; Nancy; Joel Ferreira; Katie Jean Sharp; Fred Hildebrant; William Bujold; Robert; Robert and Dan Devioid; Genny Farkas' dad; Jeanne; Jennifer Livingston, Jill; Callan Mimmon; Tim Hill; Ann Moynihan; Jillian; Kelly; Jose Ferreira; Ginny and Kerry; Sherry; Charles Crone; Priscilla; Jim and Becky McQueen; Melissa White; Mary Jane and Carly; Hayden Kessey; Valerie; Patsy Jackson; Jeff; Jackie and Bill Smith; Brannon; Lynn Ricker; Bernie; Gabby; Carol Wiltse; Les Huckins; Jessica; Lisa Staple; Rosemary Lucus; Cheryl Flamen; Arlene and Joy; Glenn Gault; Deven Colwell, Lino Mion; Sherry Cathoart; June Knight; Bob Walker; Amber Hall; Kevin; John; Vivian; David Ericson; Rachel G; Cassidy Brennan; Kevin Menard; Janet Berube; Jon Menard; Steve Marison; Paul and Angie; David; David Ericson; Madelyn; Brittany's niece; Kay Sylvain; Michael Bujold; Logan & family; Matt G; Lisa Staples; Paul; Angie; Nathan; Irene; Bill; Karen; Mary Heather; Marcy; Melissa; Rosemary; Carol; Pauline Graham; Anthony; Alieyah, Bud Lee; Rosemary Guptill; Ron Town; Bob Mankittick, Warren Cummings; Zach Foss; Kelly Merrihew; Henry McMullen; Nancy-Ann Ferrer; Cheyenne Noble; Mikey Spell; Mary; John; Jean Brisco; Timothy Branyen; Rachel and Lorena; Katherine Brody; Beth Gould; Anita Brown; Ida Kneeland; Betsy and Dale Kneeland; Dan Goethel; Timothy Branyen; Barry Nation; Peter Rankins; Carol McMullen; Joyce Goodberry; Natalie and Dave; Leo Rankins; Cindy and Larry Edgerly; Ron Menard; Katie Fawcher; Dean and Lori; Bill Burns; Dave Ropel; Diane and Herb Manwarring; Mei Hayes; Jay Tanger; Eugene and Ruth Hoelscher; Pat Demaris; Lindsay; Todd Masker; Samantha Battis; Beth Allard; Kevin Magner & Family; Randy Marcotte; Phyllis England; Hazel; Joanne Sylvain, Amy Cook; Vicki; Joann Schafer;

Christmas Pageant





Recipe(s) of the Month

Sick Day Chicken Noodle Soup

- 1 TAB avocado or olive oil
- 1 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breast, cut in to 1/2" pieces
- 1 TAB chopped garlic
- 2 tsp Finely chopped fresh ginger***
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 TAB white miso
- 8 cups unsalted chicken broth
- 3 cups egg noodles (6 oz)
- 1 cup frozen mixed vegetables
- 1/4 tsp crushed red pepper
- 2 TAB thinly sliced scallions

Heat 1 TAB oil in a large dutch oven over medium heat, add chicken, cook, stirring often, until no longer pink, about 5 minutes. Add garlic and ginger, cook stirring about 1 minute until fragrant.

Add miso and 1/2 tsp salt; stir to coat. Stir in 8 cups of broth; bring to a boil over high heat. Add three cups noodles and frozen vegetables; return to simmer over med-high heat, cook, stirring until noodles are tender and chicken is cooked thoroughly, about 8 minutes. Stir in scallions and crushed red pepper.

***Ginger substitute= 1/2 tsp ground ginger = 1 TAB fresh

Missions and Outreach

NEWS FROM N.O.W.

Nature, Outreach and Witness

NOW Committee meets on the third Sunday of the month after church. All are welcome to attend. We would love to have you come join us.

Pat Hewitt



FELLOWSHIP KITCHEN

We are looking for donations of bottled water to give out with the meals.

Birthday and Blessings Celebration

Come and celebrate on January the 5th during fellowship after the morning worship service.



SOUPED UP SUNDAYS IS BACK!!!



We will be hosting Souped up Sundays on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Scheduled Dates are:

January 19th, February 16th, March 16th

A Free Will Offering will be taken. Donations go to support various mission in our church, community and beyond.

Missions and Outreach



Thank you everyone from FUMC and community members for your time, talent and financial donations making 2024 a very successful year.

Meetings will remain on Monday evenings from 6-8 and Wednesday mornings from 9-11, except for holidays and weather conditions. All are welcome, no experience is necessary. All materials are available whether you work at home or at church.

If you have questions about this ministry, please contact Cindy Edgerly at 603-534-8346.



8th Annual Rochester Community Photography Show

Wednesday, May 15th

Photo intake will be on April 25th and 26th

If you haven't started taking your photos, there is still time.

For more information contact Donna Downes or Cindy Edgerly.

Missions and Outreach

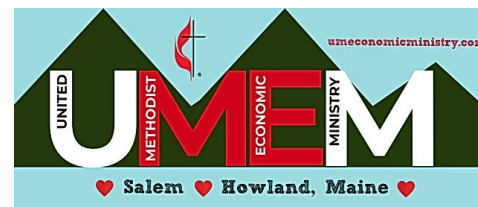
Rural Mission Update

A mission date has been set for June 1-6.

We would love to have a full crew attend. If you cannot attend for the full week, then come when you can. We will leave on Sunday afternoon and return Friday evening.

The Economic Ministry is located in Salem, Maine, about a 3 hour drive from Rochester. There are many jobs to be done. Please prayerfully consider this ministry that helps the needs of the rural communities of Maine.

If you are interested in being a part of this mission trip, please contact Ken Downes at 603-970-0131.



♥ Salem ♥ Howland, Maine ♥

