

First United Methodist Church
 34 South Main Street
 Rochester, NH 03867
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www.firstumcrochester.org



The Messenger

Published monthly September 2025

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We welcome new and returning members to
 Choir Rehearsals.



Adult Choir rehearsals begin
 Thursday, September 4th from 6:30– 8pm.

Handbell Rehearsals begin
 Tuesday, September 9th from 6-7 pm.



RALLY DAY & MINISTRY FAIR

Sunday, September 21

Support Sunday School &
 Learn more about how you can be part of
 the Ministry Team at FUMC

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st

Winter hours resume on September 2nd
 Monday– Friday from 9am– 1pm

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear family and friends of FUMC,

This summer, during our family vacation to Seattle, one place left the deepest impression on me—the Hoh Rainforest in Olympic National Park. Stepping into that deep, green sanctuary felt like entering another world. The air was thick with life yet also touched by the quiet presence of death. Everywhere I looked, life and death coexisted—fallen trees becoming moss-covered nurseries for new saplings, vibrant leaves growing alongside decaying branches.



What struck me most was the forest's quiet dignity. It did not boast of its beauty or diminish what was dying. It simply revealed itself as it was, as if the trees were saying to every visitor, "This is my home. This is who I am." Whether someone came or went, there was no change in its sense of worth, no effort to alter its image. The forest was steady, rooted, and faithful to its purpose.



As I walked among those ancient trees, I thought about how human life—and human history—is often marked by constant change, fluctuation, and uncertainty. Yet, in the midst of it all, God's faithfulness remains steady, like the forest itself. And those who are deeply rooted in God's love also live a life that represents the steadfastness of God.

This summer has reminded us of that need for steadfastness. We have witnessed hardship both near and far—illness and loss, natural disasters, wars devastating communities (especially the most vulnerable), rapidly shifting national and international events, and uncertainties that change as quickly as the summer heat—one day sweltering and relentless, the next offering only

brief and unpredictable relief. Many have felt the weight of these turbulent times.

As we turn the page into September, we long for the cool breeze of relief—for renewal in both body and spirit. This is where the ministry of the church matters so deeply: offering strength to the weary, hope to the discouraged, and the reminder that God's love is steadfast through every season.

My prayer is that FUMC would be like that rainforest—rooted deeply in God's love, unshaken by the winds of change, revealing God's steadfast love to all who enter. May we be a place where people encounter God's presence and leave strengthened, knowing that no matter what changes in the world, God's love endures forever.

Wishing you deep peace and blessings,
Ho-Soon

SEPTEMBER

Happy Birthday!

3 Lois Coate	17 Chloe Molinaro
3 Cheryl Wachter	19 Susan Nolan
6 Cheryl Roy	21 Sandi Morrow
6 Micah Smith	24 Michele Leahey
7 Ho-Soon Han	27 Dottie Bickford-Longo
7 CJ Lotter	28 Linda Boisvert
9 Lynda Ward	28 Beverly Wheeler
16 Sylvia Dowst	

Happy Anniversary

September 3– Karen and Ken Manning

September 9– Kate and Randy Marcotte

September 11– Julie and John Wilderman

September 13– Jennifer and Dan Saucier

September 16– Cindy and Larry Edgerly

September 18– Michele and Mark Leahey

September 25– Judy and Claude Saddler

September 26– Jane and Rich Combs

September 27– Jen and Buck Elliot

September 29– Lynette and Robert Molinaro

Congratulations



James has graduated from Baylor University and is starting his PhD degree in medical research.

His new address is:

James Lotter
7714 Louis Pasteur Drive #1215
San Antonio, TX 78229

Jameslotter@comcast.net

He so loves receiving cards from the church!!

A very special thank-you.

To Pastor Ho-Soon for her home, hospital and recent visits, for the flowers, and continued prayers.

To the Congregation and Sip and Share, for your prayers, concerns, cards and your visits and for the support for my family and friends.

With love and thanks— Marian Veno

Worship Assistants

Liturgists

- 7 Eileen Foss
- 14 Patrick Meehan
- 21 Sharon Parker
- 28 Jon Pyrich

Greeters

- Sam and Lorie Tweedy
- Sue Parsell
- Pat Hewitt
- Beverly Wheeler and Carl Mallaber

Acolytes

- 7 Charlotte Pyrich
- 14 Nora Rice
- 21 Declan Meehan
- 28 Natalia Hernandez-Parsell

Ushers

- Donna Walter/ Mary Rosic
- Pat Hewitt
- Don and Sue Raab
- Debbie Boynton/ Marianne Gustafson

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

September 7th

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Luke 14:25-33

“Prescriptions from Jesus 1-No Half-Doses”

September 14th

Exodus 32:7-14

Luke 15:1-10

“Prescriptions from Jesus 2-Restorative Care”
Children’s Message-Michele Leahey

September 21st

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

Luke 16:1-13

“Prescriptions from Jesus 3-Alternative Therapy”
Children’s Message-Kristen Sturtevant

September 28th

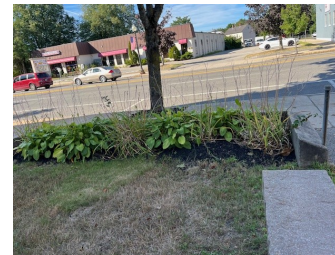
Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Luke 16:19-31

“Prescriptions from Jesus 4- Time for New Glasses”
Children’s Message-Michelle Pyrich

Looking for Volunteers to help

Do you have a green thumb?
Maybe some extra time on your hands?



The outside gardens of the church need tender, loving care and maintenance.



Gail Burns has been lovingly keeping them weeded and looking wonderful, but needs help. Please see her if this calling is something you help with.

Capital Campaign Update

We received 59 pledges totaling \$307,615 toward our campaign goal, and as of July 31, we have received contributions totaling \$50,000.50. We give heartfelt thanks to God and to each of you who responded with faith, generosity, and hope. If you haven't had a chance to turn in a pledge, it's not too late! Commitment cards are available at church and can be dropped off or mailed. The pledge period for our Capital Campaign runs from July 2025 through June 2028. There are Capital campaign envelopes in the Welcome Center and in the Sanctuary. If you've made a pledge and have questions about using Vanco for giving, please reach out to Mark Leahey or Jon Pyrich for Assistance. Every gift, of any size, helps us carry the light forward. Let's keep shining-together!

Report on Pastor's Continuing Education

As you know, in July I began a Post-Master's Certificate in Spiritual Formation – *The Art of Spiritual Direction*, offered by Boston College. This program consists of a two-week summer session each year for three years. I have long been interested in deepening my understanding of spiritual direction and formation, particularly within the Ignatian spirituality tradition. Boston College, a Jesuit institution founded on the Ignatian tradition, provides a rich context for this study. The program is equipping me with the theological, pastoral, and practical skills needed to help our congregation grow in their relationship with God and to cultivate a life of spiritual formation.

The majority of the participants are Catholic, representing a variety of professions—educators, mental health professionals, and college staff—who desire to integrate spiritual formation into their work. I was the only mainline Protestant in the group and one of only two ordained clergy women, which made for a unique and enriching experience of ecumenical dialogue.

Each morning, we received lectures from experienced professors and practitioners, followed by afternoon practicum sessions to apply what we learned to our own ministry settings. The lectures explored creative perspectives on spiritual listening, historical models of direction, and the theological foundations of spiritual accompaniment. We also examined the psychological dimensions of spiritual direction, the role of imagery, and how to walk with people through grief, trauma, forgiveness, and healing. The sessions further invited us to revisit the meaning of vocation and human flourishing, concluding with case studies that brought these concepts into real-life ministry contexts.

I am deeply grateful for the congregation's support in making this continuing education possible. This experience is already shaping my pastoral work and will continue to bear fruit in our shared ministry at FUMC. I look forward to applying what I have learned to help our community grow in faith, deepen our connection with God, and live out our call to serve others in Christ's love.

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 10:30am AA Group 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 6pm Project Linus <i>7pm Finance</i>	2 9:30 am Sip N Share 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 7pm Boy Scouts	3 9am Project Linus 6pm Cub Scouts PACK 184	4 10am AA Group 5pm Fellowship kitchen 6:30pm Choir 7pm- District 15 AA Monthly	5	6 10am AA Group
7 9:30 am Worship COMMUNION <i>Birthdays and Blessings</i> 5pm- Fellowship kitchen	8 10:30am AA Group 5pm Fellowship Kitchen/FTR 6 pm Project Linus <i>6:30pm Worship Committee</i>	9 9:30am Sip N Share 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 6pm Witherell Bells 7pm Boy Scouts	10 9am Project Linus 6pm Cub Scouts PACK 184 <i>7pm Steeple Committee</i>	11 10am AA Group 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm Seacoast Carvers	12	13 10am AA Group
14 9:30am Worship 10:45am Christian Ed meeting 5pm Fellowship kitchen	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 10:30 am AA Group 5pm Fellowship Kitchen/ FTR 6 pm Project Linus 6:30pm RFK Mgrs. Meeting in Chapel <i>7pm Admin. Council</i>	16 9:30am Sip N Share 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 6pm Witherell Bells 6pm Patrol Leader Council Meeting 7pm Boy Scouts <i>7pm Trustees</i>	17 8:30am Rochester Mental Health Alliance 9am Project Linus 12pm Tentative Mental Health Summit 6pm Cub Scouts PACK 184 <i>6pm UWIF</i>	18 10AM AA Group 5pm Fellowship kitchen 6:30pm Choir	19	20 10am AA Group
21 9:30 am Worship <i>Ministry Fair</i> 5m Fellowship kitchen	22 10:30 am AA Group 5pm Fellowship Kitchie 6pm- Project Linus <i>6:30pm SPPRC</i>	23 9:30am Sip N Share 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 6pm Witherell Bells 7pm Boy Scouts	24 9am Project Linus 6pm Cub Scouts PACK 184	25 10am AA Group 5pm Fellowship kitchen 6:30pm Choir	26	27 10am- AA Group
28 9:30 am Worship 5pm Fellowship Kitchen	29 10:30am AA Group 5pm Fellowship Kitchen/ FTR 6pm Project Linus	30 9:30am Sip N Share 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 6pm Witherell Bells 7pm Boy Scouts				



Just a reminder to keep your contact information in the directory updated.

If you move, change your email address, or phone number, please be sure to contact the church office with your updated information.

New Address:

**Lois Coate
Brookdale Spruce Wood, Apt 205
25 Worthen Road
Durham, NH, 03824**

FUMC HERITAGE HAPPENINGS

In August of 1986, the Administrative Board approved a motion made by Trustee John Bryant to make the needed repairs to our steeple. The Trustees had received an estimate from steeplejack John Madden that the repairs would be in the range of \$20,000 - \$25,000 (\$58,661 – \$73,326 in 2025 dollars). In another meeting between the Finance Committee and the Trustees it was decided to take the money to pay for the repairs from our invested funds with Conference.

In September of 1986, the Greater Rochester Interfaith Council was formed. The Council was an outgrowth of the Rochester Clergy Association which had been meeting for years. Each member church of the Council was to have three representatives, two lay and one clergy. At its November meeting, the Administrative Board voted to join the Council.

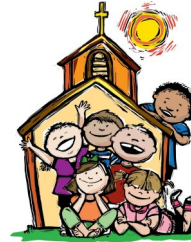
The apartment house that sat facing Central Street directly behind the Masonic Building was a matter of hot discussion during 1986. It had become a major headache for the Trustees as it seemed that we were pouring more money into it than we were getting out in rent. A committee was formed to study the problem and come up with suggestions as to how to proceed with the building. Suggestions were presented to the congregation in a meeting after church on November 23rd. They ranged from selling to a complete refurbishment and conversion to office space rentals. The Board decided to sell the building but to retain the right-of-way past the building from Central Street into our parking lot.



To be continued
Kent Marzoli, Records and History

Christian Education

Future Gen



WELCOME BACK!!!

Pre-K through 12th grade classes will
Classes begin on September 14th.

We cannot wait to see you in class!!!!

The Future Gen Team

Starting Soon!!!!

MYF

**Come and join us for
fellowship, food and fun!**

Watch the bulletins and email messages for updates.

**For more information please contact
Alex Wilderman, or Maddie Adams.**



**CROSSROADS EMMAUS
OF NEW ENGLAND**

Upcoming Walk Dates:

Thursday, October 16 to Sunday, October 19, 2025

Deadline for registration submission is September 12th.

The Walk to Emmaus is a journey of fellowship, fun and renewal, helping the participants renew their connections with Christ and consider Christ's model of servanthood.

If you are interested in attending the upcoming combined Men and Women's Walk, or have already attended and wish to sponsor someone, please contact Kelly Hearn or Donna Downes.

Missions and Outreach

NEWS FROM NOW

Nurture, Outreach, Witness

September and October - Mission of the Month

**Collect Paper products and cleaning supplies
for the Strafford Country Warming Shelter**
(items needed are paper towels, toilet paper,
facial tissues, disinfectant wipes)

September 7th— Birthdays and Blessings

September 21st— Ministry Sunday. Fellowship after service in Hurd Hall. Each committee is asked to set up a table display and offer a snack or treat. NOW will provide beverages.

October 26th— Potato Bake. We will offer russets and sweet potatoes. There will be toppings, desserts, treats and snacks and beverages.

November 16th— Souped up Sunday. Mark your calendar for other dates of January 18, February 15th, March 15th and April 12th.

Now committee meets the on the third Sunday of the month after worship service. All are always welcome. We would love to have you come and join us. For more information please contact Pat Hewitt.



FUMC HOLIDAY FAIR



**A planning meeting will be held on Sunday,
September 28th after worship service.**

Holiday fair date: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd

Rooms/tables will be Books, Christmas, Gifts, Crafts & Jewelry, Garden & Plants, Toys & Games, Attic Treasures, RADA, Cookie Walk, Bake Sale, Homemade Pies and luncheon area.



Personal Concerns— cont

Ron Menard; Katie Faucher; Dean and Lori; Dave Ropel; Diane and Herb Manwarring; Mei Hayes; Jay Tanger; Eugene and Ruth Hoelscher; Pat Demaris; Lindsay; Todd Masker; Kevin Magner & Family; Randy Marcotte; Joanne Sylvian; Hazel; Marilyn Ives; Dona Sanborn; James; Dave and Natalie Lemier; Faith Williams, Franchesca Panniello; Barb and Ron Rafferty; Carol Thibeau; Kelsie Sargent and parents; Benjamin Horta; Debra Scarponi; Elaine Hartford; Monique Bamford; Lillian; Nancy Dibble; Carol Chick; Maddie Rankins; Lisa; Julie Tweedy; Kelly; Tracy Lang; Shirley Brannock, Celeste Lofaro, her ferret and father-in-law; Carolyn Wilderman; Macee; Maggie; Lily Hess; Tina Weaver; Doug Lindsay; Michael; Chantelle; Carolyn Meehan; Lisa McDevitt; Tracy Lange; Roxanne Benoit; Amanda and family; Marilyn and Jack Jones; Robin Stevens; Marianne Gustafson; Jessica Parker; Brad Town; Sara; Seth Jones; Doreen Menard; Michelle Leclair; Bill Hoelscher; Dean Miles, Jennifer Livingston; Henry and Janice Wolforth; Tracy; Baby Alice; Zayla Rosea; Bishop Mariann Bedde; Russell Scott; Ron Town; Bill; Steve; Gary and Elaine Leughmyer; Michele Leahey; Brenda Sewall; Dottie Bickford-Longo; Sue St.Peter; Camden; Stephanie; Kristen; Dave Lemire; Glen Foss; Janet Berube; David Lindsay; Elaine Lindsay; Mike; Francine Dion; Devin Schafer; Mike; Carol; Larry; Elaine Hartford; Janet Berube; Francine Dion; Frank Locke; Jan Becker; Margo the dog; Peter; Hunter; John Hebert and wife Tina; Debbie Smith; Mike Buceiri; Lee and Michael Wygant; Hamas for the return of hostages; Carol Bolduc; Mary Jane Locke; MaBetsy Fisher; Linda Rankin, Charlotte Pyrich; Margaret and Makeyla, Elizabeth Wood; Amanda Tweedy; Lynda Ward; Sarah; Tri-State Rural Mission Team; Jonathan Dowst; Wally Fengler; David Smith; Anthony Mozalak; Debbie Smith; Tom Melzoni and Wife ; Glenn Cooper; Lois Coate; Bob Morse; Laura Puglise; Marian Veno; **Patty Ernest; Texas Flood Victims; Kevin and Karen Lindsay; Declan Meehan; Braden Ross; Trica Oliver; Sharon Parker; Christina Napolitano; Randy; Steve; Jakob; Braden Ross; Pastor John Hutchinson; Carl Mallaber; Nell Sylvain; Sam Tweedy; Rebecca Laurion; Bonnie Succi**

Prayers of condolences for the Family and Friends of:

Ralph Scott; Priscilla Lassar; Chris Bergeron; Phyllis England; William Sullivan, Jr; Carol Thibodeau; Betsy; George

Prayers for the Ministry we support:

Dr. Belinda Forbes and Family

If you have

Prayer Requests

Contact Dennis Schafer
at dennis.s@worldpath.net
or 603-335-1088
or
office@firstumcrochester.org
for inclusion/correction
in the bulletin.



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- General

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; People affected by the wildfires that have lost their home; First Responders; Israel and Jordan for peace; Airline tragedies; Gaza; People affected by the earthquake- loss of jobs, healthcare and other services, deportation; Homeless; unemployed; Military and Veterans; All children; People of Ukraine

Personal Concerns-

Warren and Edna Carr; 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 Hildebrandt; William Bujold; Robert; Robert and Dan Deviooid; Genny Farkas' dad; Jeanne; Jennifer Livingston, Jill; Callan Mimmon; Tim Hill; Ann Moynihan; Jillian; Kelly; Jose Ferreira; 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 and Bertha Huckins; Jessica; Lisa Staple; Rosemary Lucus; Cheryl Flamen; Arlene and Joy; Glenn Gault; Deven Colwell; Lino Mion; Sherry Cathcart; June Knight; Amber Hall; Kevin; John; Vivian ; David Ericson; Rachel G; Cassidy Brennan; Kevin Menard; 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; Bob Mankittick, Warren Cummings; Zach Foss; Kelly Merrihew; Henry McMullen; Nancy-Ann Ferren; Cheyenne Noble; Mike 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; Peter Rankins; Carol McMullen; Joyce Goodberry; Natalie and Dave; Leo Rankins;

(cont. next page)

Missions and Outreach



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith welcomes women of all churches and faiths. Whether near or far, we invite you to support our mission, join us for fellowship, and share with any woman in your life who might also be interested?

Annual Outing



Wednesday, September 17 at 6pm/ Snacks and Beverages

Theme: The Healing Power of Nature

Activity: Indoor Garden Plant

Mission: Project Linus/ Cards for NH Veterans Home

Saturday, October 18 at 11:30 PM/ Bring lunch

Theme: Spreading Holiday Cheer

Activity :Make crafts to be sold at the Holiday Fair

Mission: Waypoint Youth Center/ Cards for NH Veterans Home

Saturday, November 15 at 11:30am/ Bring Lunch

Theme: Hearts of Gratitude

Activity: Gratitude Sharing/ Craft finishing for Holiday Fair

Mission: Hope on Haven Hill/ Cards for NH Veterans Home

Saturday, December 20 at 11:30am/ Dessert Social and Yankee Swap

Theme: Holiday Blessings

Activity: Vote on and finalize budget for 2026

Mission: Project Linus/ Cards for NH Veterans Home

Missions and Outreach

A special thank you to all who donated their time, talents and financial support to the mission trip in June to the United Methodist Economic Ministry.

Another trip was made in August to bring more items up and I was able to be the site coordinator for several groups from the NY area.

Save the date for next years trip. It is scheduled for June 28– July 3, 2026. We are looking for youth and adults to participate that have the call to this mission.

Ken Downes
Tri-State Rural Mission
Group Coordinator



FUMC CASSEROLE COMMITTEE

This committee provides meals for people in our church family during difficult times.



Anyone who is in need of meals, please contact one of two chairpersons: Diane Marzoli 332-1766 or Dottie Bickford-Longo 664-5552, or contact the office for assistance.

Please let us know of any dietary restrictions. We always bring enough for the whole family. If you can help, either by cooking or buying a meal, we need you!. Thank you in advance.



If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Cindy Edgerly for more information. You do not need to know how to sew. There are a lot of different steps to putting a quilt together, cutting fabric, pinning, tacking, and ironing, maybe you could help.

The next dedication of quilts/blankets will be on Sunday, November 9th. Thank you for your continued support.

Church Happenings

VBS Camp Firelight: A Summer Camp Adventure with God 2025

We had a great week at Camp firelight: A Summer Adventure with God! Through several Bible stories, games, snacks, and crafts we learned how we can trust God to go with us, lead us, share wisdom, give us peace, and spark joy.



We read scripture about Jacob (Genesis 28:10-22), Ruth (Ruth 1), Jesus sharing wisdom (Luke 2:41-52), Jesus calming the storm (Mark 4:35-41), and the good news (Acts 8:26-40). It helped us remember that we can Trust in God as we focused on our key scripture all week "Whenever I'm afraid I put my Trust in God Psalm 56:3."



Throughout the week, we had 12 children participate with 9 youth helpers and 16 adult volunteers. Michelle Arthur, Jen, Bethany, and Kathy fed us dinner each night. So many others led stations or groups, donated money or supplies, and prayed and supported us as the week went on.



Thank you all for making VBS happen every year! Special thanks to Kristen, Erin S., Kaitlin, Donna B., Pat, Tammy, Maddie, Erin S., Donna W., Kathy, Sarah, and Alex for leading stations and kids this year! Thank you for the work you do to plan and prepare so we can learn and have fun at the same time! Extra thanks to all of those who volunteered their time throughout the week to lead the children or assist in activities!

See you next year!

Dan Saucier and The VBS Team
dasaucier@gmail.com