The Messenger

Published Monthly November 2026

First United Methodist Church, 34 South Main Street, Rochester, NH

office@fumcrochester.org
603-948-1179

Donna L. Downes, Editor
kdld@metrocast.net



Don't forget to set your clocks back November 1st

Church Conference 2026
Tuesday, November 10, 6:30 pm
Portsmouth UMC

FUMC HOLIDAY FAIR

Saturday, November 21 from 8am-1pm

Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday, November 13 from 8-1



Church Office Closed

Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11
Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 26

Feed the Need

To be Disciples. living and teaching the Word of God

PASTORS CORNER

Dear family and friends of FUMC,

In October, I enjoyed watching highlights of the Asian Games, the Asian version of the Olympic Games. It is heartwarming to see athletes who have devoted so much time and effort to their sport, along with families and friends cheering them on. One moment always moves me to tears: when an athlete wins a medal, the national flag rises, and the national anthem plays. Seeing the flag and the athlete's face together touches something deep within me.

A national flag or anthem is more than a symbol or a song. It connects us to something bigger than ourselves, reminding us that we belong to a community with a shared identity, history, and hope. At its best, this sense of belonging moves us beyond personal interests and individual achievements toward a greater purpose. There is something beautiful and sacred about this experience. It is love that reaches beyond ourselves and seeks the common good.

When we think of people who embody this kind of sacrificial love, our veterans come to mind. Their service reminds us that we are capable of putting others before ourselves and working together for something greater. Jesus said, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). He reminds us that sacrificial love is a calling for all of us. We may not all serve in the military, but we can all care for our neighbors, protect the vulnerable, and contribute to the common good.

November offers us several opportunities to practice this calling. We honor our veterans, participate in elections, and celebrate Thanksgiving. As we participate in elections, we have the privilege to advocate for the common good. We are reminded that true leadership is defined not by power or prestige, but by humility, compassion, and a commitment to helping every neighbor flourish, especially those whose voices are often overlooked.

At FUMC, we pursue this vision through our ministries and acts of generosity. Whether we serve meals through the Rochester Fellowship Kitchen, make blankets for those in need, support community organizations, or offer a welcoming place to belong, we help build a community of love that reaches beyond ourselves and seeks the common good.

As Thanksgiving approaches, may we honor those who have sacrificed for the common good, support leaders who serve with wisdom and compassion, and continue to make God's love visible in our community. Together, may we build a commonwealth of humanity, one act of love, one generous gift, and one faithful step at a time.

With a thankful heart,
Ho-Soon

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

November 1

All Saints Sunday

Genesis 28:10-22

John 14:1-3

Crossing the Threshold 1: When the Familiar Falls Away

November 8

Genesis 32:22–32

Luke 22:39-44

Crossing the Threshold 2: Wrestling Our Way Through

Children's Message: Michele Leahey

November 15

Genesis 35:1–15 (Altar in Bethel)

John 4:23-26

Crossing the Threshold 3: Returning to What Grounds Us

Children's Message: Michelle Pyrich

November 22

Reign of Christ

Genesis 46:1-7

John 12:20–26

Crossing the Threshold 4: Embracing God's Unfolding Future

Children's Message: Jane Combs

November 29

1st Sunday of Advent

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Luke 1:1-23

How Does a Weary World Rejoice? 1—We Acknowledge Our Weariness

Children's Message: Michele Leahey

Upcoming Events

All Saints Sunday

On Sunday, November 1, we will remember the saints whose lives continue to inspire our love for God and others. Please sign up in the Welcome Center with the names of your loved ones to be remembered during the worship service.

2026 Church Conference

The Church Conference will be held on Tuesday, November 10, at 6:30 p.m. at First UMC in Portsmouth as part of the Oceanside Cooperative Parish gathering. Please plan to attend as we celebrate the ministry of 2026 and explore the future mission and ministry of the Oceanside Cooperative Parish, including how it can strengthen FUMC. Sign up in the Welcome Center, and please indicate if you need a ride.

Veterans' Breakfast

Sign up for the Veterans Breakfast, honoring veterans and their family members for their service and sacrifices, on Wednesday, November 11 at 9:30 a.m.

Pre-ordering pies

We are continuing with pre-order for pies until November 14th for those who have not yet had a chance to order theirs. Pies are $15.00 each, and funds are due at the time of sale. Please pick up your pies from the Baked Goods table during the Holiday Fair. A limited number of extra pies will also be available for sale at the holiday fair.

Advent Daily Devotional

You are invited to reflect on an Advent Scripture passage and write a brief devotional and prayer to share with the congregation. These devotionals will be emailed daily throughout Advent to enrich our shared spiritual journey. A sign-up link will be posted on our website and in the Weekly Updates.

Upcoming Events

Advent Study

The angels' messages offer meaningful insights for us, just as they did for those who first heard them. Please sign up in the Welcome Center Join us for a four-week Advent study based on ***The Angels of Christmas: Hearing God's Voice in Advent*** by Susan Robb. Sessions will meet on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., beginning December 1. As we explore the four angelic visits surrounding the birth of Jesus—to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds—we will reflect on God's presence in history and in our lives today.







Lights of Love Celebration

Wednesday, December 2, 2026
FUMC
4:30 refreshments
5:00 Event

Upcoming Events

FUMC HOLIDAY FAIR

Saturday, November 21 8am-1pm

Lunch will be served!

Set-up Rooms- Saturday, November 14 at 9 AM
Donation drop-off times
Sunday, November 15th from 9-noon
Monday-Wednesday 9am – 1pm and 5-7pm

NO ITEMS ACCEPTED AFTER WEDS.... NO EXCEPTIONS
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY ARE WORK DAYS

FOOD ITEMS MAY BE DROPPED OFF ON FRIDAY
OR EARLY MORNING (8AM) SATURDAY

ROOMS: Cookie Walk, Attic Treasures, Gift Room, Jewelry, Christmas Room, Garden Gallery, Used Books, Toys, Games and Puzzles, Movies and Music, Baked Good, Cookies, Candy and Pies.

Please mark all baked goods to indicate if items are gluten free, dairy free, nut free and sugar free.

STEWARDSHIP

On October 25th, Stewardship Sunday was celebrated with the congregation bringing forth their Estimate of Giving cards for 2026. These were dedicated to God's continued work. Thank you to all who returned their cards.

If you have not returned your card, please prayerfully reflect on your Estimate of Giving for next year. The cards can be turned in the office, mailed, or placed in the offering plate.

Offering Envelopes

Next years (2027) offering envelopes will be available for pick-up in the Welcome Center starting mid- December.

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion. For God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Future Gen

Elementary Sunday School Class K-5th grade

November 1st- A Ruler From Bethlehem - Teacher Erin
November 8th- Angels Visit- Teacher Tammy
November 15th- Mary Visits Elizabeth- Teacher Michelle
November 22nd- Jesus is Born- Teacher Jane
November 29th- Simeon and Anna- Teacher Tammy

Jr. and Senior High Class

November 1st- Worship Together- stay in church
November 8th- Advent Study- Teachers John and Kristen
November 15th- Advent Study- Teacher Kristen
November 22nd- Advent Study- Teacher John
November 29th- Advent Study- Teachers- John and Kristen





Youth Group - Apple Picking









Youth Group- Corn Maze
Copple House Farm







MYF meets Sunday, November 15th from 5:30-7:30 pm for a movie night


Pie Making Team
Apple picking



Coffee hour hosted by
Sam and Lorie Tweedy





Turkey Supper - Saturday, October 17, 2026













In loving memory of Janet Walker



A special Thank-you to the pie makers

We want to thank all who volunteered to make pies for the turkey supper. We ran out of pumpkin pie only and we will add a few extra next September. I think it was October and people were thinking of pumpkins. But the good news is that we had plenty of pieces of pie for all people coming through our long line. They were all delicious from the news we got from customers. Thank you all again and looking forward to the next turkey dinner in the spring for the steeple. Of the 44 pies we had for the supper and a few pieces sold after church the following day, we had only 14 pieces of pie left. THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!!

Sharon and Michelle Parker

Missions and Community Outreach

Casserole Committee

You may have just come home from the hospital or are at home, and are unable to prepare meals while recovering. We can help!

Anyone who is in need of meals, please contact Diane Marzoli 332-1766 or Dottie Bickford-Longo 664-5552 or call the office for assistance. Please let us know if there are any dietary restrictions.

Also, if you can help with cooking, buying or delivering a meal please let us know. Thank you in advance.

Missions and Community Outreach

NEWS FROM N.O.W

Nurture, Outreach, Witness

Upcoming Missions
Continued- Personal Care Items
for the Rochester Middle School and UMEM

November 1st- Birthdays and Blessings

November 14th- Accepting food donations for Scouting Food Baskets

Sunday, November 22nd- You are invited to bring in donations of canned goods, perishable and non-perishable items to be added to the Thanksgiving baskets.

Holiday Food Baskets

Special request items are fresh produce such as apples, pears, oranges, potatoes, carrots, squash, mixed bags of nuts, holiday candy, stuffing, gravy, olives, pickles, canned vegetables such as peas, corn, carrots, instant potatoes, pie crust, pie filling, cranberry sauce, rolls and bread.

The Joy of Giving- Blessing Stars Tree

Stars will be on the tree in the Welcome Center.
Socks and gloves are always needed.

Souped up Sundays will be back in January- watch your bulletin for announcements



As of December 31st, the current NH Seacoast Project Linus Chapter Volunteer will be retiring and a new coordinator is needed. Please keep this Chapter in your prayers that the position is filled.

The next Linus dedication will be on Sunday, November 15th. Please bring your blankets to the church by Friday, November 13th. Thank you.

Wednesday Morning Breakfast Group

Come and join them- 8am at Strafford Farms







Can we Pray for you?

In our Thoughts and Prayers

Please let the office know if there is someone to add or remove from the ongoing prayer list. Bold indicates a new addition to the prayer list.

Concerns- General

Prayers for those who are homeless, hungry, unemployed; those affected by natural disasters; those who struggle with chronic pain, mental and medical health, addiction, cancer, loss of jobs, healthcare or other services; families in turmoil; deportation; those suffering with financial issues, personal stress, those who are celebrating LOVE; People of Ukraine, Minneapolis, Gaza, Middle East, Nigeria,; victims of violence; end to gun violence; Armed Service members and First Responders

Personal Concerns- general Warren and Edna Carr; Tim Hill; Bertha and Lester Huckins; Henry and Janice Wolforth; Carol Bolduc; Lois Coate; Robin Stevens; Olin Jackson; Jennifer Philips; Christin; Megan, Baby Archie; Nicholas; Jennifer Carter; Monica and Richard; Jack Emma McQueen; David Goethel; John Leary; Jacolyn Hartford; Makayla Herget; Joseph; Donette Sylvester; Carrie; Amy B; John; Valerie; Susan Morisette; Nancy; Katie Jean Sharp; Fred Hildebrant; William Bujold; Robert and Dan Devoid; Jenny Farkas' dad; Jeanne; Jill; Callan; Jilliam; Kelly; Jany and Carly; Hayden Kessey; Valerie Hoelscher; Pat Demaris; Lindsay; Gabby; Lisa Staple; Rosemary Lucus; Cheryl Flamen; Arlene and Joy; Glen Gautl; Lino Mion; Sherry Cathcart; June Knight; Amber Hall; Kevin; John; Viviam; 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 and family; Batt G; Lisa Staples; Angie; Nathan; Irene; Bill; Karen; Mary Heather; Marcy; Melissa; Rosemary; Carol; Pauline Graham; Anthony; Bud Less; Rosemary Guptiill; Bob Mankittick; Warren Cummings; Zach Foss; Kelly Merrihew; Henry McMullen; Timothy Branyen; Rachel and Lorena; Katherine Brody; Beth Gould; Anita Brown; Ida Kneeland; Betsy and Dale Kneeland; Dan Goethel; Thimothy Branden; Peter Rankis; Carol McMullen; Joye Goodberry; Natalie and Dave; Leon Rankins; Ron; Dean and Lori; Dave Ropel; Mei Hayes; Jay Tanger; Eugene and Ruth Hoelscher; Pat Demaris; Kevin Magner; Joanne Syvain; Hazel; Dona Sanborn; James; Dave and Natalie Lemier; Faith Williams; Franchesca Panniello; Barb and Ron Rafferty; Kelsie Sargent and parents; Lisa; Julie Tweedy; Kelly; Doug Lindsay; Chantelle; Carolyn; Zayla Roosea; Bishop Mariann Bedde; Russell Scott; Bill; Steve; Sue St. Peter; Benjamin Horta; Debra Scarponi; Elaine Hartford; Monique Bamford; Maddie; Camden; Stephanie; Kristen; Dave Lemire; mike; Carol; Larry; Francine Dion; Frank Locke; Jan Becker; Peter; John and Tina Hebert; Debbie Smith; Mike Bucieri; Lee and Michael; Betsy Smith; Glen Cooper; Patty Ernest; Tricia Oliver; Christina Napolitano; Cole; Asa; Martha Fantasia; Matt Chase; Denise C.; Nancy Warren; Lee and Michael; Betsy Smith; Glen Cooper; Barry Ellsworth; Bob E.; Pat Neal; Dale Marino; John Landers; Mike and Carol Chick; Carole Albert; Rebecca Laurion; Carol; Tammy and Charlie Allard; Alison; Paul and Cheryl, Robin Sanborn; Carol; Denise Wilcox; Erin; Emily;

Personal Concerns- cont.

Aden; Jane; Carole; Mike Torres; Hailey Raab; Deb Storrs; Marian Miller; Carol Raab; Bill Hoelscher; Leslie Keller; Marie; Jeff Grote; Amy; Lexi Keyer; Nick; Patrick Combs; Ellen Drew; Ron Zielfelder; Carole; Roger Frasier; Phil; Sarabeth and Peter; Bob H; Gary; Mr. Cormier; Martha Fantasia; Sue Yun; Messila Milliard; Carol Park; Katrinka Walsh; Bruce Perry; Paul Lessard; Betty; Cory; Bob Walker; Carol Carr; Jackie and Husband; Donna Blair; Doug Coons; Tori; Rosemary Guptill; Glenn LaRoche; Clio; Jeff Grote; Jack Jones; Chris Pinckey; Jackie Morganti; Clair; Claudette and Deb; Frank Coleman; Elzabeth and Matt Wood; Jane; Pat Froh; Paul; Bill Wise; Julie Carle Albert; Abbie; Stephanie; Avery Therrien; Jade; Dan Morisette; Karen's Husband; David Kovar ad Hilary Justice; Bob Hollis; Nancy Maning; Cheryl; Dottie Bickford-Longo; Carole; Kristy Tweedy; Lorie Tweedy; Karen Clarke; Jesse Eldrich; Rich and Jane Combs; George; Bill Benson; Joe Ferriera; Mark Coons; Arty Jones; Brenda; Bob and Roxanne Benoit; Jesse Eldridge; Leon Benoit; David Jones; Karen Labreques's husband; Gerry; Kathy McHugh; Mike Lemieux; Larry Edgerly; Kathy; Donna Downes; Carol Park; Susan Varney; Margaret Combs; Jennifer Livingston; Michael; Project Linus to find a coordinator; Pilgrims and team for Walk to Emmaus; ***Baby Natalie***; ***CJ Lotter***; ***Larry Scannon; Peter and Kaitlin Cicerello; Karen and Ken Mannings niece; Michael; Dave and Elaine Lindsay; Mary Rosic; Nick Rosic; Carol; Heather and Ed Cole; Pope Leo; Skylar***

Prayers of condolences for the Family and Friends of:

Richard Jackson; ***Mary Ann Weiss; Laura on the loss of her brother; Mary Grindstaff; Jessica Cox; Steve Dube; Brian Lizotte; Carole Casey; Sister Katie Hoelscher; Herndez Family on the loss of Fermin's brother***

Prayers of Thanksand gratitutude:

Charlotte Libby came home from the hospital this past week; Disciple Bible Study graduates; Barry Cone's successful surgery; Carol is cancer free

Prayers for the ministry we support:

Dr. Belinda Forbes and Family



FUMC Heritage Happenings

In 1829-30 Rev. Samuel Norris was the preacher in charge and organized the first Sunday School in connection with this society. Prior to this time, however, a Union Sunday School had been held in the village schoolhouse. It is regretted that the Sunday School records for these and many subsequent ears are now lost.

Mr. Norris was born in Dorchester, N.H., March 8, 1801. At the age of seventeen he joined the New England Conference and was in active service as a minister for twenty-two years. He was dignified, gentlemanly, and fearless, commanding the esteem of friends and the respect of opponents. He was twice Delegate to the General Conference. On account of defective hearing, he held a superannuated relation for forty years. His name appears on the general minutes for sixty-two years. He died in South Newmarket June 23, 1880. (McDuffee, 1988, 265-6)

In 1831-32, Rev. Benjamin C. Eastman, better known as “Father Eastman,” was the pastor. He was a man of great energy and devotion. His principal theme was Holiness, and it is believed that he had a greater influence for the spiritual improvement of the people than any preceding pastor. Mr. Eastman was born in Canterbury June 16, 1788. He joined the New England Conference in 1825. His first wife died in Rochester Oct. 5, 1832, and the following year he married Mary, sister of Rev. James Warren of Rochester. He was thirty-three years in the ministry and died in triumph July 12, 1858. (McDuffee, 1988, 266)

In 1833 Rev. Leonard Bennett was pastor. A religious work of unusual interest was in progress. But the year closed unfavorably both to pastor and people. Mr. Bennett was born in Dublin, Ireland, June 16, 1786, landed in America June 16, 1807. In 1841 he removed to Illinois, where he died in 1846, having been thirty-six years in the ministry. (McDuffee, 1988, 266)

McDuffee, Franklin. 1988. *History of the Town of Rochester New Hampshire 1722-1890.* Re-print. Somersworth, NH: New England History Press.

To be continued

Kent Marzoli, Records and History

November- Special Events

November 1- All Saints Day
November 2- 7pm FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP
November 5- 12:30 Men's Group
November 7- FUMC Concert of Gratitude
November 9-6:30pm WORSHIP COMMITTEE
November 10- 6:30pm Church Conference
November 11- 9:30am Veterans Breakfast
November 13- 8am Red Cross Blood Drive
November 15- NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
November 15- Linus Blanket Dedication
November 15-20 Holiday Fair Set-up and Drop offs
November 16- 6pm LAY LEADERS
7pm ADMIN
November 17- 7pm TRUSTEES
November 21- 8-1pm HOLIDAY FAIR
November 22-4pm- GSCS Concert
November 23- SPPRC
November 27- RFK Thanksgiving Dinner
November 28- Set up Creche
November 29- First Sunday of Advent

	Liturgists	Ushers
1	Ken Manning	Donna Walter/ Stephanie Brown
8	Jane Combs	Pat Hewitt
15	Pat Croteau	Don and Sue Raab
22	Donna Downes	Deb Boynton Marianne Gustafson
29	Youth	Youth

NOVEMBER



2	Madilyn Gabbard	16	Ludwig Hallatu
2	Gail Karcher	19	Cecelia Avelino
4	Susan Michalsky	19	Robert Sturtevant
6	Erin Saucier	22	Patrick Parsell
9	Lisa Hernandez Parsell	24	Mary Marquardt
12	Bethany Saucier	26	Killian Brown
13	Richard Wiltshire	28	Gwen Gulinello
13	Teresa Rasmussen	29	Jenn Elliott
16	Charle DeVito		



19- Roy and Donna Brill

25- Arty and Diane Jones

	Acolyte	*Greeters*
1	*Alejandra Hernandez Parsell*	*Sam and Lorie Tweedy*
8	*Charlotte Pyrich*	*Steven and Meridth Thibeau*
15	*Katie Pyrich*	*Eileen Foss* *Bill Benson*
22	*TBD*	*Pat Hewitt* *Sue Parsell*
29	*Youth*	*Youth*

First *United Methodist Church*
34 South Main Street
Rochester, NH 03867