

First United Methodist Church
34 South Main Street
Rochester, NH 03867
603-948-1179

MARCH



The Messenger
Published monthly March 2026

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603-948-1179 kdld@metrocast.net

A time for
praying, fasting, reflection



LENT



**Don't forget to set your clocks ahead
Sunday, March 8th, at 12 AM**

Ecclesiastes 3: 1

*For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven.*



WELCOME SPRING!!

*God is making something beautiful
through every change.*

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear family and friends of FUMC,

I love Lent. There is something about this season that draws me in every year. The images alone are powerful: ashes, deep purple, palm branches, bread and the chalice, a basin and towel, silver coins, a rugged cross, a crown of thorns. Each image carries layers of emotion and meaning. Each one tells a story, inviting us to slow down and pay attention.

One of my favorite Lenten moments is burning the palms from the previous Palm Sunday to create fresh ashes for Ash Wednesday. There is something deeply meaningful about last year's shouts of "Hosanna!" becoming this year's quiet reminder of our need for grace. Praise turns to prayer. Celebration becomes confession. The journey begins again.

This year, Kenny Downes helped burn the palms in his grill. Each time we lifted the lid to check on them, we had to close it quickly because the ashes were so light they would blow away in an instant. Watching those brittle palms lose their shape and turn to fine ash stirred something in me. It struck me that, in God's grace, our sinfulness can lose its shape too. What once seemed so solid, so defining, so heavy can, in the refining fire of God's love, become weightless and carried away. The love and grace of God in Jesus Christ are stronger and greater than anything that binds us. That is good news. And that good news is where we will dwell this season.

Our Lenten theme this year is "Tell Me Something Good — Grounding Ourselves in Good News This Lent." In a world that often feels heavy with anxiety, division, and discouragement, we are choosing to anchor ourselves in the goodness at the very heart of the Gospel. When we listen closely to Jesus, we hear words of liberation, love, mercy, and grace. These are not passing sentiments or shallow optimism. They are steady promises. They are life-giving truths.

Throughout March, we will return again and again to that good news — the deep assurance that God's redeeming love is stronger than sin, stronger than sorrow, and stronger even than death. As we continue our Lenten journey in March, my prayer is that we will honestly face our humanity, walk closely with Jesus, and experience the transforming grace that reshapes our lives.

In peace,
Ho-Soon

March

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:30am Worship COMMUNION 5pm Fellowship Kitchen	2 10:30am AA Group 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 6 pm Project Linus 7pm FINANCE	3 9:30am Sip N Share 10am Lenten Study 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 6pm Witherell Bells 7pm Scouts 7pm Lenten Study	4 9am Project Linus 6pm Cub Scouts PACK 184 6:45 Disciple Bible Study	5 10AM AA Group 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 6:30 pm Choir 7pm District 15 AA	6	7 10am AA Group 6:30pm MYF Italian night (full dinner, desserts)
8 9:30am Worship Birthdays/ Blessings/ Baptism// Send-off after worship 10:45am CHRISTIAN ED 5pm Fellowship Kitchen	9 10:30am AA Group 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 6pm Project Linus 6:30pm WORSHIP COMMITTEE	10 9:30am Sip N Share 10am Lenten Study 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 6pm Witherell Bells 7pm Scouts 7pm Lenten Study 7:30pm STEEPLE COMMITTEE	11 9am Project Linus 6pm Cub Scouts PACK 184 6:45 Disciple Bible Study	12 10am AA Group 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Seacoast Carvers	13	14 10am AA Group
15 9:30am Worship SOUPED UP SUNDAY 5pm Fellowship Kitchen NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 10:30am AA Group 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 6pm Project Linus 6pm LAY LEADERS 7pm ADMIN	17 9:30am Sip N Share 10am Lenten Study 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 6pm Witherell Bells 6pm Patrol Leader 7pm Scouts 7pm Lenten Study 7pm TRUSTEES	18 8:30am Rochester Mental Health All. 9am Project Linus 6pm Cub Scouts PACK 184	19 10am AA Group 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 6:30 pm Choir	20 	21 10am- AA Group
22 PALM SUNDAY 9:30am Worship 5pm Fellowship Kitchen	23 10:30am AA Group 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 6pm Project Linus	24 9:30am Sip N Share 10am Lenten Study 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 6pm Witherell Bells 7pm Scouts 7pm Lenten Study	25 9am Project Linus 6pm Cub Scouts 6:45pm Disciple Bible Study	26 10am AA Group 5pm Fellowship Kitchen 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm Seacoast Carvers	27	28 10am- AA Group

Liturgists

Greeters

1	Brogan Meehan	Sam and Lorie Tweedy
8	Ariane Ludwig	Sue Parsell
15	Ken Manning	Eileen Foss
22	Suzanne Basso	Pat Hewitt
29	Youth	Youth Group

March

Happy Birthday!

2	Kate Marcotte	15	Mark Morrow
3	Tom Sturtevant	16	Andrew Gagne
4	Hagdu Rufael	16	Danny Hughes
5	Diane Jones	16	Scott Mayotte
5	Margaret Combs	18	PJ Miltner
5	Joellen Meehan	18	Joshua Miltner
5	Diane Jones	20	James (Gibb) Hearn
5	Judy Saddler	20	Mike Roy
6	Todd Hearn	20	Jennifer Saucier
6	Donna Hughes	21	Kevin Lindsay
7	Katie Meehan-Ross	21	Peter Miltner
7	John Sheehan	22	Sam Fortier
8	Ivanna Hallatu	22	Aliza Rice-Comeau
8	Jon Pyrich	23	Hillary Mayotte
9	Mona Hawkins	24	Mary Fortier
9	Cory Walker	29	Gary Leughmyer
10	Marlene Guay	29	Kent Marzoli
10	Katie Faucher	30	Margareta Hogue
14	Beth Allard	30	Sally Riley
15	Rick Mills	30	Edna Carr

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP IN MARCH

March 1

Second Sunday in Lent

Luke 7:36-50; Matthew 25:35-40

“The Good News Is... great love for God and neighbor”

March 8

Third Sunday in Lent

Ephesians 3:20-21

Mark 6:32-44

“The Good News Is...together the impossible is possible”

Children’s Message Michelle Pyrich

March 15

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 24:31-32

Matthew 19:13-15

“The Good News Is...protection and care for the vulnerable”

Children’s Message Kristen Sturtevant

March 22

Fifth Sunday in Lent

John 8:2-11; Matthew 23:23

“The Good News Is... rooted in justice, mercy, and faithfulness”

Rev. Pat Williams Preaching

Children’s Message Michele Leahy

March 29

Palm Sunday

Mark 11:1-11

“The Good News Is...inspiring us to act”

Children’s Message Jane Combs

Happy Anniversary

March 5– Elaine and Ron Menard

Acolytes

1	Madilyn Gabbard
8	Charlotte Pyrich
15	Nora Rice
22	Declan Meehan
29	Madilyn Gabbard

Ushers

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

Pastor’s Continuing Education

Ho-Soon will be participating in the Wesleyan Heritage Tour in England from March 15 to 24. This trip brings together leaders from the New England and New York Conferences to accompany this year’s ordinands at the invitation of Bishop Bickerton. It is a meaningful time of learning, connection, and reflection on our Wesleyan roots.

On Sunday, March 22, Rev. Pat Williams will be preaching. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, please contact the church office for the on-call pastor and Visitation Team.

Church Happenings



**Kenny Downes
burning palms
to make ashes for
Ash Wednesday.**



**Children's Moment on
Scout Sunday**



FUMC HERITAGE HAPPENINGS

Rev. Noah Bigelow, from the New York Conference, was pastor in 1815. As a minister, and presiding Elder, he was abundant in labors. He was born in Conway, Mass., March 4, 1783, and died Aug. 2, 1850. His testimony was, "My only hope is in the atonement, on that I really lean, through that I expect to be saved." (McDuffee 1988, 262)

Bigelow, Noah, a Methodist Episcopal minister, was born in Mass., March 4, 1783, converted in 1803, entered the New York Conference in 1810, was transferred to the New England Conference in 1813, readmitted to the New York Conference in 1823, superannuated (retired) 1827, effective from 1828 to 1836, superannuated till his death Aug. 2, 1850. In the outset of his career he endured great opposition from his father and relative, but God rewarded his constancy with a long and useful life. *Minutes of Conferences, 4:445.* (The Cyclopaedia of Biblical, Theological and Ecclesiastical Literature. James Strong and John McClintock; Harper and Brothers: NY; 1880)

Rev. Noah Bigelow, son of Simeon and Sarah (Foster) Bigelow, was born in Conway, Mass., March 4, 1783. His father soon after moved to Brandon, Vt. When a young man he became a convert to the Methodist faith, and was licensed to preach in 1809. He was the first of the family to be converted, but afterwards most of the family came to accept the same doctrine. He married Sally Jackson in the spring of 1819, and for many years he preached the doctrines of Methodism in Vermont and the upper valley of the Hudson River. He finally settled in New York City, where he died. His widow died in New York City. 1887. (The Genealogy of the Bigelow Family of America by Gilman Bigelow Howe, published 1890)

An interesting note: A picture of Rev. Bigelow's grave stone clearly shows the date of his death to be Aug. 2, 1849.

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

United Women in Faith– Survey (cont.)

3. What would make you more likely to attend or get involved in the future? (open-ended)



4. If you would like an UWIF Executive Board member to reach out to you so you can share more about your experience or vision, please provide your name and the best way for us to reach you (phone number or email address). This is optional and you can skip this if you prefer to remain anonymous.

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this survey.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts and experience. We are committed to listening, learning, and creating a United Women in Faith community where all women feel welcomed and supported. We are open to change and want to better understand our collective vision, so it can shape our direction and decisions moving forward.

Please don't hesitate to contact any of the UWIF Executive Board members to share more of your thoughts or ask questions!

Amy Cook, President, (603) 978-4527 CookFamily_2013@yahoo.com

Gayle Richards, Vice-President gaylewr@gmail.com

Eileen Foss, Treasurer, (315) 427-8444 fossimoto@yahoo.com

Donna Downes, Secretary 603-767-4092 kdld@metrocast.net

Everyone is invited to attend a virtual meeting on **March 14th, 10:30am-11:30am** to review the results of this survey and participate in a discussion about how to organize UWIF efforts in the coming year! Please look for this virtual link to be shared in FUMC communications such as the Weekly Bulletin and Messenger.

In faith and fellowship,

*United Women in Faith
Executive Board*

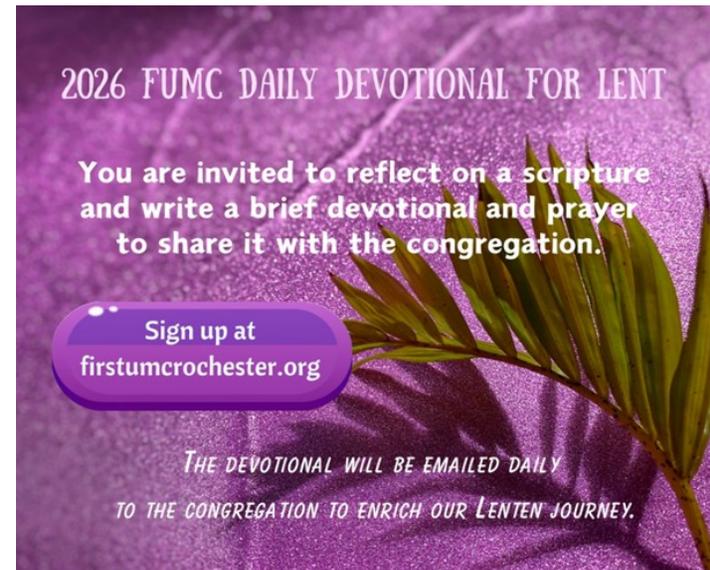
Christian Education Future Gen



Prek– 5th grade

Jr. and Sr. High

March 1st	Stay in church– worship together	
March 8th	Worship theme– lent curriculum	Lenten Study– The Way
March 15th	Worship theme– lent curriculum	Lenten Study– The Way
March 22nd	Worship theme– lent curriculum	Lenten Study– The Way
March 29th	Worship theme– lent curriculum	Lenten Study– The Way



Vacation Bible School

July 20-24

More information will be coming in upcoming Messengers and bulletins. Watch for updates!!!!

Christian Education

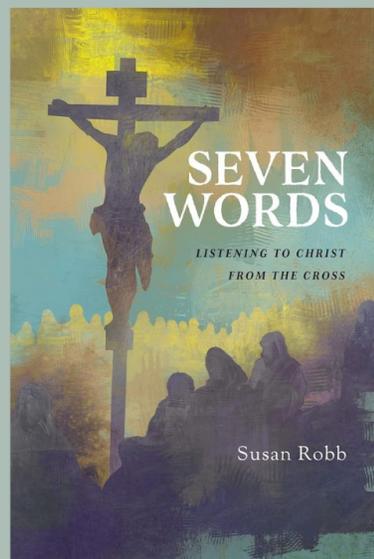
Lenten Study

FEB 24-MAR 31

TUESDAY MORNINGS
AT 10 AM

TUESDAY EVENINGS
AT 7 PM

Sign up and
order your copy



CROSSROADS EMMAUS
OF NEW ENGLAND

Walk Dates:

Thursday, October 15– Sunday, October 18, 2026

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 servant-hood.

While this is not an actual physical "walk", it is a weekend that focuses on God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The walk structure is designed to make Christ known in the world and equip the participants with the tools and resources they need to keep moving forward in their faith journey, adding strength to their local congregations, and to keep the freshness and enthusiasm they received on the weekend

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 Pat Hewitt, Kelly Hearn or Donna Downes.

**And Jesus said to them,
"Follow me and I will make you fish for people. (Mark 1: 17)**

United Women in Faith Outreach & Listening Survey--

We want to hear from you!



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?

Whether you have been involved with UWIF in the past or not, **your voice matters** and we want to hear about what you need and get to know you better as we work to revitalize the UWIF chapter at FUMC to better meet the needs of the women in our church and community! The Executive Board will be reviewing feedback and results on **Saturday, March 14th** so please **complete the survey by March 10th** and return to the church office ensuring your feedback will be a part of that conversation!

1. What would you most hope to gain from our local United Women in Faith? (Check all that apply)

- Spiritual growth / faith-based discussion
- Social connection/fellowship with other women
- Service and outreach opportunities within our community
- Support during life transitions or challenges
- Learning opportunities (speakers, topics, skills)
- I'm not sure yet
- Other: _____

2. What has made it hard for you to participate in the past or what might make it hard in the future? (Check all that apply)

- Schedule or time constraints
- Not feeling personally invited or welcomed
- Not knowing what to expect
- Childcare or family responsibilities
- Transportation or accessibility concerns
- Activities don't feel relevant to me
- I've never attended, so I wasn't sure if it was for me
- Other: _____



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Personal Concerns- cont.

Tracy Lang; Shirley Brannock; Carolyn Wilderman; Macee; Maggie; Lily Hess; Tina Weaver; Doug Lindsay; Michael; Chantelle; Carolyn Meehan; Tracy Lange; Roxanne Benoit; Amanda and family; Leclair; Dean Miles, Jennifer Livingston; Tracy; Baby Alice; Zayla Rosea; Bishop Mariann Bedde; Russell Scott; Bill; Steve; Sue St.Peter; Camden; Stephanie; Kristen; Dave Lemire; Glen Foss; Janet Berube; David Lindsay; Mike; Francine Dion; Devin Schafer; Mike; Carol; Larry; Elaine Hartford; Francine Dion; Frank Locke; Jan Becker; Peter; John Hebert and wife Tina; Debbie Smith; Mike Buceiri; Lee and Michael Wygant; Betsy Fisher; Linda Rankin, Margaret and Makeyla, Amanda Tweedy; Sarah; David Smith; Glenn Cooper; Laura Puglise; Patty Ernest; Texas Flood Victims; Braden Ross; Trica Oliver; Christina Napolitano; Randy; Steve; Jakob; Pastor John Hutchinson; Bonnie Succi; Samantha Cole; Ara Tamzarian; Martha Fantasia; Elaine Lindsay; Matt Chase; Denise C; Nancy Warren; Barry Ellsworth; Bob E.; Pat Neal; George Livingston; Combs Family; Dale Marino; John Landers; David Lindsay; Mike and Carol Chick; Carole Albert; Rebecca Laurion; Michael Mercier; Nell Sylvain; Carol; Tammy and Charlie Allard; Allison; Paul and Cheryl; Tammy and Charlie Allard; Robin Sandborn; Carol; Denise Wilcox; Steve; Don Raab; Barbra Abrams; Claude Saddler; Nate Phinney; Erin, Emily, Richie and Paul Southard; Aden and Jane; Carole; Mike Torres; Robbie's father Dean; Hailey Raab; Nick Rosic; Deb Storrs; Elaine Leughmyer; Jerry Nickless, Charlie and Gail Karcher; Marian Miller; Carol Raab; Pam Ferriera; Bill Wise; Ginny Veno; Sherry; Jen Livingston; Nancy Manning; Bill Hoelscher; Leslie Keller; Marie; Jeff Grote; Amy; Lexi Keyser; John Peterson; Rick Wiltshire; Nick; Patrick Combs; Michael Mercier; Paul Mercier; Ellen Drew; Ron Zielfelder, Carole; Roger Frasier; Ric and Cheryl Wachter; Vicki Wachter; **Raab Family; City of Minneapolis; Phil; Sarabeth and Peter; Bob H.; Gary; Mr. Cormier; Michelle Pyrich; Martha Fantasia; Carole; Sue Yun; Jessica Milliard; Carol Park; Katrinka Walsh; Bruce Perry and Family; John Boudreau; Geraldine Boudreau; Elizabeth Wood; Sharon; Arty Jones; Ron Meehan; Leon Benoit; Uncle Nick; Donna; Bob H.; Paul Lessard; Betty; Cory; Carol Carr**

Prayers of condolences for the Family and Friends of:
Jessica Mallard's Mother, Brian James Perry

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.

Save the Date

MYF Presents
ITALIAN NIGHT
STORE WARS
RETURN OF THE PRO-TI
MARCH 7, 6:30PM
COME & ENJOY AN ITALIAN DINNER AND THEATER PRODUCTION
ADULTS \$13 / KIDS 6-14 \$7 / KIDS UNDER 5 FREE

Turkey Supper & Silent Auction
TO BENEFIT STEEPLE RESTORATION
Saturday, April 25, 4:30-6 p.m.
First United Methodist Church
34 S. Main St. Rochester, NH
 Adult \$12 (Advance) / \$15 (At the door)
 Children ages 5-12 \$6 / under 5 free
 For tickets, contact 603-948-1179 or
office@firstumcrochester.org
ROAST TURKEY, STUFFING, MASHED POTATOES, GRAVY, VEGETABLES, CRANBERRY SAUCE, ASSORTED PIES & DRINK



Save the Date

SPRING FAIR

Saturday MAY 2, 2026

8am-1pm

Spring Cleaning? Consider donating your items in good usable condition!

**Please sort & clean donations before them bringing in.
It costs the church to discard junk items. Thank you!**

**BRING BOOKS EARLY AS WE QUICKLY GET OVERWHELMED
AND HAVE TO CUT OFF DONATIONS!**

PLEASE NOTE CHANGES TO DROP OFFS!!

SUNDAY, APRIL 26 from 9am-12noon

MON-WEDS, APRIL 27-29 from 9am- 1pm and 5pm-7pm

**Items can be brought in the week before the fair with
some help available after church until noon.**

**NO ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER WEDNESDAY. THANK YOU!
THURSDAY & FRIDAY ARE SET-UP WORK DAYS.**

*Many hands make light work and help will be needed throughout
the week sorting out, displaying items and pricing.
Come in when you can to help! Thank You !!*

FRIDAY DROP OR EARLY SATURDAY (BY 8AM)

**ONLY ITEMS ARE FOOD FOR BAKE SALE, PLANTS AND SMALL FURNITURE.
THE FURNITURE MAY TAKE UP SPACE TO GET AROUND.**

Clothing Rummage Sale ~ new or Gently worn items.

PLEASE NO stains, rips, missing buttons or broken zippers.
No used undergarments , hats or socks.

Yard Sale ~ We will accept small furniture- table bureaus, desk, etc. All leftover furniture must be taken home by donor.

Attic Treasures ~ Items should be clean & in good usable condition. No old computers or old tv's (only flat screen) .



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

Prayers for those who are homeless, hungry and/or unemployed; those affected by natural disasters such as fires, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes; those who struggle with chronic pain, mental and medical health illness, addiction, cancer, loss of jobs, healthcare and other services, families in turmoil; deportation; all children; those suffering with financial issues and personal stress, the messiness in their lives, the darkness of the season and those who are celebrating LOVE; People of Ukraine; victims of violence; airline tragedies; Gaza; Middle East Conflicts; Israel and Jordan for peace; Christians in Nigeria; Victims of Brown University shooting ; an end to gun violence; Armed Service members; First Responders

Personal Concerns-

Warren and Edna Carr; Tim Hill; Les and Bertha Huckins; Henry and Janice Wolforth; Larry and Cindy Edgerly; Marilyn and Jack Jones; Karen Clarke; Lynda Ward; Carol Bolduc; Lois Coate; Robin Stevens; Marianne Gustafson; 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; Amy B; John; Sister Katie Hoelscher; Valerie; Susan Morissette; Nancy; Katie Jean Sharp; Fred Hildebrant; William Bujold; Robert and Dan Devoid; Jenny Farkas' dad; Jeanne; Jennifer Livingston, Jill; Callan Mimmon; Jillian; Kelly; Charles Crone; Priscilla; Jim and Becky McQueen; Melissa White; Mary Jane and Carly; Hayden Kessey; Valerie Hoelscher; Pat Demaris; Lindsay; Kevin Magner; Jeff; Jackie and Bill Smith; Brannon; Lynn Ricker; Bernie; Gabby; Lisa Staple; Rosemary Lucus; Cheryl Flamen; Arlene and Joy; Glenn Gault; 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; Angie; Nathan; Irene; Bill; Karen; Mary Heather; Marcy; Melissa; Rosemary; Carol; Pauline Graham; Anthony; Bud Lee; Rosemary Guptill; Bob Mankittick, Warren Cummings; Zach Foss; Kelly Merrihew; Henry McMullen; Nancy-Ann Ferren; 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; Peter Rankins; Carol McMullen; Joyce Goodberry; Natalie and Dave; Leo Rankins; Ron Menard; Dean and Lori; Dave Ropel; Mei Hayes; Jay Tanger; Eugene and Ruth Hoelscher; Pat Demaris; Kevin Magner; Joanne Sylvian; Hazel; Marilyn Ives; Dona Sanborn; James; Dave and Natalie Lemier; Faith Williams, Franchesca Panniello; Barb and Ron Rafferty; Kelsie Sargent and parents; Benjamin Horta; Debra Scarponi; Elaine Hartford; Monique Bamford; Carol Chick; Maddie Rankins; Lisa; Julie Tweedy; Kelly; (cont. next page)

Recipe(s) of the Month

Hot Mulled Cider

From the kitchen of Susan Parsell

1/2 cup brown sugar	1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
2 quarts apple cider	1 lemon, sliced
1 tsp allspice, ground	1 orange, sliced
1 1/2 tsp. cloves, ground	

Add all ingredients (except fruit) into a crock pot. Stir. Add fruit and let it float on top. Cover and heat on low setting for 2-6 hours (the longer, the better).

Chunky Chicken Mediterranean Soup

In Memory of Diane McManus

1 TAB olive oil	1 TAB mined fresh basil or 1 tsp. dried
1 medium yellow onion, chopped	6 medium carrots, peeled and sliced
1 medium pepper, chopped	1 lb. skinned and boned chicken breast, cubed
2 cloves garlic, minced	1/2 cup chopped black olives
4 cups chicken stock	1/4 tsp. black pepper
2 cups water	1 (10.oz) package frozen green beans
1 (15.oz) can diced tomatoes	1/2 cup long grain white rice

In a stock pot, heat oil; add onion, green pepper and garlic. Sauté for 5 minutes or until vegetables are soft. Stir in tomatoes with their juice, chicken stock, water, rice, basil and bring to a boil. Adjust heat and simmer for 10 minutes. Add carrots and cook 5 minutes longer. Add chicken, green beans and olives and cook uncovered for 5-7 minutes until the chicken is cooked through. Stir in black pepper. Makes 4 servings.

Oatmeal Banana Cookies– Gluten Free

From the kitchen of Cindy Edgerly
She served these at the last “souped up”

3 large ripe bananas, mashed
2 cups rolled oats
1 cup chopped dates
1/3 cup oil
1 tsp. Vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 350 degrees
Combine all ingredients and let sit for 15 minutes
Drop by teaspoons onto an ungreased baking sheet
Bake for 20 minutes or until brown



Save the Date

SPRING FAIR

Saturday MAY 2, 2026

8am-1pm



Garden Gallery ~ Plant donations of house plants & perennials are accepted! Please label your plants as many buyers want to know what the plant/flower is. Also donations of plant pots, vases, watering cans and gardening essentials!

Used Books ~ **No Encyclopedias, National Geographic, textbooks, or magazines of any kind!** ANY QUESTIONS ON BOOK DONATION PLEASE TALK TO MARIANNE GUSTAFSON or DEBBIE BOYNTON. Books can be hard cover or paper back in gently used condition. Please, no torn covers or pages ;not musty smelling .

Gifts/ Crafts ~ We will have a gifts & crafts area and Jewelry. Think about Mother's Day, Prom, Weddings, Birthdays, Graduations and Dads.

Toys~ should be clean, not broken or parts missing! Stuffed animals should be clean & not musty/smoke smelling or torn.

Games & Puzzles ~ should be in the box with instructions. No missing pieces.

Movies and Music ~ CDs & DVDs, especially for kids! Any players donated should be in working condition.

Baked Goods, Cookies, Candy & Pies Please mark all baked goods. Please be mindful and indicate if any nuts & types of nuts if any. Gluten Free , Dairy Free & Sugar Free are welcome!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pat Hewitt at 603-948-5935 , or email her at pugles4@yahoo.com.

May 16th from 9-1

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

SAVE THE DATE



FUMC has been invited to the
NH State Home Show
 Double Tree by Hilton
 700 Elm Street
 Manchester, NH



Saturday, March 14 from 10-6pm
Sunday, March 15th from 10-4pm

The benefit of this home show is that FUMC will get exposure as we transition into the public phase of the Capital Campaign. We will set up a booth with informational literature on "Restore the Beacon of Hope", and our Capital Campaign. The steeple committee would like to have baked good available at the booth to help us interact with the general public.

We are asking members of the congregation for donations items for the bake sale, such as cookies, brownies, muffins, etc. All donations need to be individually wrapped and dropped off to the church office no later than Thursday, March 12th. Thank you in advance for your help.

If you haven't started taking your photos there is still time!
**9th Annual Rochester Community
 Amateur Photography Show**



Photo intake
Friday, April 24th from 6-8 pm

Saturday, April 25th from 10am -12pm.

A total of three (3) photos per exhibitor may be entered.

- A. Scenic
- B. People
- C. Animals
- D. Juvenile photographer (age 12 and under)
- E. Youth photographer (age 13-19)
- F. Miscellaneous

Awards Ceremony
Wednesday, May 20th from 7-9pm

*For more information please see
 Cindy Edgerly or Donna Downes*

PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS NEEDED FOR FELLOWSHIP KITCHEN

DROP THEM OFF IN HURD HALL

Fuel Fund for FUMC

To keep the home for our church family and a mission center for community warm and running

Use the envelopes in the Sanctuary or Welcome Center

Fellowship Kitchen Volunteers

Have passion for feeding the hungry?
 Do you hear Jesus saying
 "You gave me food when I was hungry?"
 Join the Fellowship Kitchen volunteers

YOU CAN JOIN A CURRENT TEAM OR
 BUILD YOUR OWN TEAM OR
 VOLUNTEER AS NEEDED

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT ELAINE MENARD
 KQUIGLEY150@GMAIL.COM

Missions and Outreach

United Methodist Economic Ministry– Salem Maine



Tri State Rural Mission Team

Would you like to share your skills and love of God with others? The next mission team date has been set for June 28- July 3. We would love to have a full crew attend and are looking to get youth, chaperones and church members involved. We leave on a Sunday afternoon and return Friday evening. Can't attend for the full week, that's fine. Come when you can.



The cost for the week is \$350. The cost can be prorated on a daily basis (\$70) based on attendance. The cost includes lodging at the facility, food, and help with the cost of materials needed for the ministry to complete the work. Financial scholarships are available through UMEM and also through FUMC for participants.



There are many jobs to be done. Everyone is an asset to the team. You could plant a garden, sort greeting cards or clothes, prepare meals, paint, hang sheet rock, or build a deck with an access ramp are just a few items on the “to do” list. Please prayerfully consider this ministry that helps the needs of the rural communities of Maine.

The United Methodist Economic Ministry is located in Salem, Maine, about a 3 hour drive from Rochester Cannot participate? Monetary donations are gratefully accepted.



Mission applications will be available March 1st in the Welcome Center. If you are interested in learning more or being a part of this mission team, please contact Ken Downes at 603-970-0131 or kdld@metrocast.net.

IT'S TIME AGAIN TO THINK ABOUT GOING TO WANAKEE FOR SUMMER CAMP.



Another wonderful summer at Wanakee is just around the corner. We are excited to welcome new and returning campers for a season full of growth, friendship and adventure.

Families who register by March 15th will receive a **\$50 early registration discount** on full-week sessions. It's a great way to save and reserve your camper's spot before sessions fill up.

Wanakee is a co-ed sleep-away camp in Meredith, NH, in the foothills of the White Mountains. It is located on 227 acres that include wooded trails, half a mile of lakefront on Lake Pemigewasset and open fields.

The camps mission is to love, accept, challenge and provide opportunities for growth to all God's people, help individuals interact with one another, build relationships and grow in their Christian faith through experiences with a Christian community .

If you are interested in more information, program details, dates, and rates are available at wanakee.org/dates-and-rates.

Financial hardships should not stop a child from attending camp. Scholarships are available through the camp and also in the church office for youth attending.

Wanakee Outdoor Chapel

For more information please contact Kelly Hearn, at 603-781-3710 or kmhearn63@gmail.com Wanakee Representative



Missions and Outreach

NEWS FROM N.O.W. Nuture, Outreach and Witness



Birthdays and blessings celebrations on March 8th

Celebrations of baptism and new members and sending off party for Anni and Charlie DeVito (who are moving to NY)



March 15th, SOUPED UP SUNDAY!

It is a joy to see everyone enjoying delicious soups and great fellowship. Your generous donations are helping us support mission trips and various missions in church and the community.

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



Would you like to provide flowers for the altar on any Sunday? Please sign-up on the bulletin board in the Welcome Center.

You will be responsible to order, pay for, deliver to worship and retrieve the flowers after service.

Please notify the office a week in advance with any dedications to be included in the weekly bulletin.



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 your help!. Thank you in advance.

Missions and Outreach

Project Linus



"Providing Security Through Blankets"

On February 15th, a **Project Linus** blanket dedication was made to the service of God.

Thank you to all who made this possible; from the quilters, those who tied the quilts, knitted and crocheted the afghanis and those that donated their financial resources. Even after taking off December, due to lack of batting, we were still able to dedicate 217 blankets.



If you would like to help with this ministry, we gather on Mondays nights from 6-8 and Wednesday mornings from 9-11.

All are welcome to come, no experience is necessary, beginners welcome. Especially needed are quilt makers. No need to be fancy, just warm and comforting. If you know a child who needs comforting, please let us know.

Even if you do not know how to sew, there is always something for everyone to do to help bring comfort to children through a blanket. Many of the team work at home. All materials are supplied.

L-R: Sally Dyer, Cindy Edgerly, Ginny Phinney, Sharon Parker and Eileen Foss

For further information please contact Cindy Edgerly at 603-534-8346.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Do you crochet or knit? This ministry is for you!!!

This ministry reaches out to people that are in need of shawls for comfort. Anyone is welcome to take a prayer shawl and give it someone they know who needs one. There is nothing more comforting than wrapping yourself in a warm shawl and feeling the love of the one who gave it to you and also the one that made it.



The prayer shawls are located in the upstairs hallway next to the Historical Display of the church. There is a shawl rack and a container with some yarn and information about the ministry and suggested pattern. However, the shawl count is getting low. We are looking for donations towards this ministry.

Using your yarn and pattern to make a shawl would be welcome gift to keep this ministry supplied. Thanks and blessings. For more information please contact Cindy Edgerly.