



CHURCH NEWSLETTER-February 1, 2024

Church for All People

Jesus prayed for his disciples and the future generations of believers to be of one heart and mind. – John 17:20-21

Can you imagine a church where Christians of every denomination worship and work together? Believe it or not, this happens every week on US military bases worldwide. I often describe my experience growing up in this kind of church as being part of a convertible church. This is because it was designed to be changed to accommodate a wide variety of worship styles and theological perspectives. The walls had depictions of religious art that celebrated Catholic and Protestant stories of faith. The cross had a swivel, so it could be turned to show the crucifix on one side and the standard protestant cross on the other. We even celebrated communion in three different ways every month.

This does not mean those who came were unclear in their understanding of faith. Instead, each person was encouraged and challenged to dig deeper to understand their faith so they could live more fully into who God had called them to be. As a young person in the church, I remember being surrounded by Christian leaders from various backgrounds who were passionate about their faith. They didn't always agree, but they celebrated God and the diversity of their perspectives and worship together.

I wonder what it would look like for believers today to grasp the truth that Jesus is the true Lord of the church regardless of the denomination. We might learn to appreciate a Jesus who is larger than our own limited personal experience.



As we begin the season of Lent this month, we will hear several perspectives of what Jesus has done for us at the cross. This great mystery is far greater than any one person's understanding. Through the centuries, different groups of Christians have understood this mystery in diverse ways. Each of these has something to teach us if we are listening. You are invited to come and discover the depths of God's love and grace through Jesus.

Pastor David





Tuesday, February 6th - Trustees - 7pm

Wednesday, February 14th - Ash Wednesday Service - 7pm

Friday, Feb. 16th - Messy Church - 5:45pm w/dinner

Sunday, Feb. 18th - Laity Sunday - 1st Sunday in Lent

Thursday, March 7th - Wesley Group - 6:30pm

Tuesday, March 19th - Finance Committee - 6:30pm

Ash Wednesday Services

Lent is an intentional time to pray, reflect, and devote oneself to following Jesus.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. There are two options this year: 11:45am at Londonderry UMC, and 7pm at First UMC in Manchester. There will be time of singing songs, prayer, scripture, self reflection, and receiving ashes.



Lenten Sermon Series "Journey to the Cross"

As Passover approached, Jesus turned his face toward Jerusalem, knowing that he was going to suffer death on the cross. As we turn toward Easter, we will be uncovering the many ways that Christians have understood Jesus' death on the cross. Come and discover the mystery of the cross this season.

Calling All Actors

We are looking for a few people to help put together a dramatic presentation for Holy Week. If you're interested, don't hesitate to get in touch with Pastor David at 603 728 8760.

Youth and Family Snow Play Day

We are venturing into the snow on Saturday, February 17th. We will gather at the First UMC in Manchester at 2 p.m. and then travel to McIntyre Ski Area for a fun time of tubing and snow play. We will return to the church for some well-earned hot cocoa.



Lay Servant Ministries Granite District

The Committee on Lay Servant Ministries
offers many different courses including,
Basic Classes and Advanced Classes.
There is always a Basic Lay Servant
Course available.

For more information click on the link

<https://www.neumc.org/LSM-courses>



END OF YEAR MUSINGS FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Hello, Members and Friends of FUMC –

We want to give you an end-of-year financial update for 2023 and a look ahead to 2024. There is **GOOD NEWS!** In 2023 we received more than we spent! This is largely thanks to YOU and your generous and consistent giving to our ministries, which enables us to reach out to our community, provide a place in which life-changing ministry happens, and support a pastor and staff who keep things organized, clean, and moving forward in faith.

As far as our budget goes, in 2023 we spent only \$1844 more than we took in thanks to your generosity in regular giving and for the new door, and a couple of grants from the Conference for the door and toward parsonage expenses. We do have some non-budgeted income and expenses as well, which can vary year to year, with the result that in that category in 2023 we received \$2,206 more than was spent. So for the year in total we received \$1,855 MORE than we spent. How great is that! We are grateful for these blessings.

The figures below are SUMMARIES ONLY and not based on the final figures, but they are at least 99% accurate – if you would like a copy of the full report(s) on which they are based please contact me (beasliff@comcast.net or 717-215-8845) or Treasurer Wade Ewing (wademewing@aol.com or 603-486-5282) and we will gladly email or hand you the complete figures.

CASH ON HAND: Through January, we have just over \$30,000 available in the Operating Checking Account which does give us a bit of a “cushion” should expenses go up or income go down. We also have \$18,700 in funds that are earmarked for special ministries (almost \$11,000 of that is for the Food Pantry). In addition, we have invested funds with the United Methodist Foundation, many of which are restricted as to the use the income may be put to, totaling \$277,842 from which we receive \$1,000-\$1,500 a year. Most of these are from bequests from or in honor of former members, for which we are very grateful. We also have a few other accounts for special purposes adding up to \$6,080.

BUDGET REPORTS: You should know that we seldom receive OR spend the budgeted amounts, which in actuality are more of an estimated income/expense guide than a formal budget. Therefore every year the budget shows a potential deficit; but every year by God's grace we still have money enough for our ministries.

2023 ACTUAL THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023

2024 BUDGET

INCOME	Budget	Actual	2024 Budget
Pledges	90,000	96,717	90,000
Other Offerings	16,050	15,004	12,500
Building use	3,000	3,315	2,500
Fundraising (net income)	6,000	2,364	5,000
Investments	4,200	3,143	4,200
Trustees (incl. fundraisers)	1,000	12,235	0
Equitable Compensation Grant	0	3,500	5,000
Holiday flowers/study books	2,000	982	1,000
Non-budgeted	0	6,696	
TOTALS	122,250	143,596	121,200

EXPENSES	Budget	Actual	2024 Budget
Missions Shares (incl prev)	19,521	19,521	15,598
Worship/Music	9,050	12,074 new projector	4,150
Educ/Stewardship	4,500	2,030	4,200
Mission/Outreach	1,850	173	1,300
Office	4,400	2,214	3,200
Administrative exps.	6,035	3,628	6,000
Pastoral Compensation	28,617	25,631	51,822
Other Staff Salaries	27,610 incl. Mus. Dir.	15,213	26,161
Property/Utilities	38,597	32,975	42,005
Trustees Expenses	12,500	21,955 incl. door	12,500
Non-budgeted	0	6,335	
TOTALS	152,680	141,749	167,136

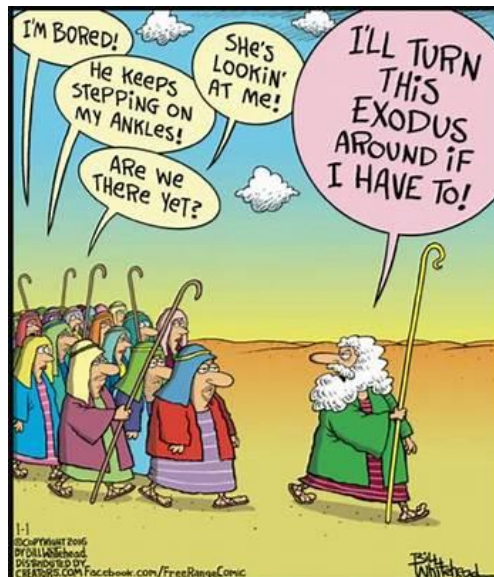
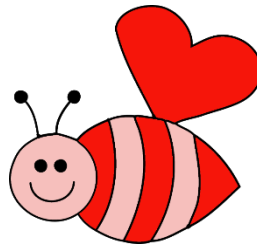
We hope that this will give you a good picture of the strength of our financial situation and the ways in which we expect to spend the money we receive from you and from other sources. May it all be to God's glory as we give thanks for God's amazing grace.

Carola Beasley-Topliffe, Finance Team Chair





"JONAH UNSTUCK" January 2024



Visit us on the web at fumcmanchester.org




First United Methodist Church - Manchester, NH | Facebook



First United Methodist Church of Manchester NH



 **Need Someone
to talk to?
Help is at
your
fingertips**

Pastor David	603-728-8760
Friendship line	800-971-0016
Mental Health	988
General Help	211
NH Mental Health	833-710-6477
Addiction: 1-844-711-HELP (4357)	
NAMI	800-242-6264



Pastor David-Contact Info

Email: missionalchurch101@gmail.com

Ph#: 603-728-8760



Messy Church

**Please join us for Free
Worship, Dinner, Activities & Crafts**
February 16, 2023, 5:45PM – 7:30PM
“Coming Home”

**First United Methodist Church
961 Valley St., Manchester**

email - office@fumcmanchester.org or
Call the church office at 603.622.8863
Visit fumcmanchester.org or on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/fumcmanchester>

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February 2024						
◀ Jan 2024						Mar 2024 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 AA – 7pm Sacred Dance -7pm	2 AA 8:30am	3 Women of Today 10am w/Breakfast
4 Worship 9am	5	6 Trustees – 7pm Food Pantry 8am to 11:30am AA – 1pm	7 Choir 7pm NA 7pm	8 AA – 7pm Sacred Dance -7pm	9 AA 8:30am	10
11 Worship 9am	12	13 Food Pantry 8am to 11:30am AA – 1pm	14 Ash Wed. 7pm Service NA 7pm	15 AA – 7pm Sacred Dance -7pm	16 AA 8:30am Messy Church 5:45pm	17
18 Worship 9am Laity Sunday	19	20 Food Pantry 8am to 11:30am AA – 1pm	21 Choir 7pm NA 7pm	22 AA – 7pm Sacred Dance -7pm	23 AA 8:30am	24
25 Worship 9am	26	27 Food Pantry 8am to 11:30am AA – 1pm	28 Choir 7pm NA 7pm	29 AA – 7pm Sacred Dance -7pm	First Sun. in Lent – 2.18.2024	

