

The Messenger

News and Information for the First United Methodist Church, Hudson, MA
September 2021

Join us this Sunday!

Current Schedule:

11:00am - **In-Person / Online** Worship Service

Our Online Worship services are broadcast on YouTube.

Office Hours: Mon – Fri, 9:30am – 1:30pm

Church Phone: 978-562-2932

Email Church Office:

bonnie@hudsonfumc.org

Web Page: www.hudsonfumc.org

Staff Leaders 2021:

Pastor: Kim Gold

Music Director: Lisa Schliker

Organist: Margarita Merriman

Administrator: Bonnie Elman

Newsletter Editor: Lisa Schliker

Sexton: Mario DiMare

Nursery Care: Kerry Mason

Spiritual Lay Leader: Barbara Robinson

Lay Leader: Ada Arenstrup

TV Ministry: The DiMare family



October Newsletter Deadline

All news articles for the October Newsletter are due Monday, September 27. Please send all articles to me at: lpattovb@yahoo.com. Early submissions are always welcome!

Lisa Schliker – Newsletter Editor

A word from our Music Director...

I am excited to announce that rehearsals for our amazing choirs will resume in September 2021:



- **Chancel Choir** rehearsals will begin on Thursday, September 9th at 7pm. We will be singing at the Annual Block Party which is scheduled to take place on Sunday, September 12th.
- The **FUMC Handbell Choir** will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 15th at 6:15 pm. We will spend the first rehearsal cleaning the bells and our rehearsal / performance space, so dress down! Masks are recommended for everyone, but not required for those who are fully vaccinated.

Both groups are open to any youth / adult who are interested in joining us! Just come to a rehearsal!

Lisa Schliker – FUMC Music Director

From Pastor Kim Gold

September 2021

The Tom Hanks movie **Forrest Gump** is a classic and meaningful film. I am sure most of you know the movie well. It captured the imagination of our collective culture years ago by telling the story of America in the latter half of the 20th century. Throughout the film, Forrest finds himself in many of the meaningful events of the later 20th century. Those events were witnessed by a man who desired nothing but to live simply as the man he was born to be; a friend who loves the people closest to him.

Like the film, how we move through our lives and encounter people says a lot about who we are and what is valuable to us.

So how do we encounter each other?

Well, it seems a lot of what we do involves food. Our mission and outreach often provide food through the Agape Café, Friendship Dinner, and Women's group Ladies night out. There is pie baking and, of course, the COVOD food distribution program. Even the recent Open House at the Parsonage was not short on goodies. As gifted and talented as many in this congregation are in the kitchen, it is important to remember that serving is more than food. As much as food is a facilitator of our interactions, it is the fellowship that happens around the food! The connections that we make with each other around a plate of cookies or while we work together in the dishpan make the lasting joy. Christ has called us to serve food and more. People hunger for place, belonging, and meaning too. There are so many more gifts and skills within our faith community that can be used to convey God's love.



Food is the common thread in so much of what we do that sometimes we forget about the mission because of the meal.

I want to challenge everyone as I am challenging myself to engage in a mission or education program that is not food-based. In the gospel of **John 6:35**, Jesus said to them, "*I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.*" As we begin the fall season, I encourage you to stretch your devotion routine and try faith practices and services that may be a bit outside your comfort zone because that is when we find the food that will truly satisfy our hunger.

Peace to you,
Pastor Kim

Editor's Note: Pastor Kim has asked that everyone, through whatever channels you use to communicate with her, to please indicate "Hudson" in the Subject area. This will make things a bit less confusing for her to try to distinguish which church she is hearing from, us or Marlboro.

Young Adult Ministries

For Young Adults age **18-30-ish**, Join Pastor Kim at the Parsonage for our first YAM's gathering. **YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES (YAM's)** will focus on opportunities to serve and engage with other Gen Y folks.

Our first gathering will be at the Parsonage at 8 Laurel Drive on **Saturday, September 18, at 6 pm**. We will determine how YAM's will be organized, what events and activities are of interest, and how we can live our faith well in the busy and sometimes overstressed world. Pizza will be served.

September Birthdays

8 Ken Lizotte
12 Anthony Curtis
14 Pastor Kim Gold
14 Darnell Butler
16 Linnea (Elman)Bates
16 Gregory Sniffin
17 Erika Eastman
19 Doris Downey
24 John DeRusha
26 Brad Lowe
29 Bonnie Elman



Youth Group

Smoke, Soot, and S'mores. Sunday, September 19 at 7 pm. At the Parsonage: 8 Laurel Drive, Hudson.

Any youth grade 6-12. Bring your friends! Bring your music and bring a chair to gather around the fire pit in the backyard.

Mosquito spray and s'more supplies will be provided. We need you!



September Anniversaries

3 Eric & Trelawney Grenfell-Muir
19 Don & Edwina Eastman

Book Discussion:

Sept. 13 and Oct.4 from 8pm – 9pm

This will be led by Bishop Devadhar, via ZOOM. **“Faith After Doubt; Why your beliefs stop working and what to do about it”**. Speak with Pastor Kim for more details.

Prayer Joys and Concerns

Mary C.; continued prayers for Mary's hospitalizations and ongoing health concerns. The Kerner's son-in-law, Joe.

Mille A.; hospitalized due to problems with medications.

For all affected by the fires out west and for the safety for those with respiratory issues.

Prayers for Jo & Dennis' nephew, Adam; also for them to find affordable housing.

Christine's friend who lost her partner, Russ.

Lisa C.'s mom, Joan V.; health concerns.

The Wolfe's nephew, Mark in hospital in VA with Delta Virus.

For our Friendship Dinners; wonderful fellowship and support and gratitude for those who prepare and provide the meals that we all enjoy.

- Prayers for families as schools begin to open and the preparations necessary.

- Continued prayers for all affected by natural and man-made catastrophes.

- Gratitude for answered prayers.

Confirmation Classes

Are you in 8th grade or older and have not been through the confirmation process? Have you gone to some classes but not yet decided to become a confirmed member of the church? Do you have questions about faith or feel that you do not have faith?



Well, this class is for you!

No Worries, No problem! We are a questioning people, and we do not learn anything about ourselves or God if we do not ask hard questions.

Youth between 8th – 12th grade (no matter your previous participation in the Confirmation process) who are not confirmed are encouraged to join Pastor Kim with a parent to learn more about confirmation. Bring questions, concerns, and ideas about what you think the church is and/or what it should be.

A letter will be mailed soon to those we know are of age to invite candidates to the 2021-2022 confirmation program. The first information session will be held on the back deck of the Parsonage on **October 3 at 4 pm.**

Parent(s) will be asked to attend four sessions throughout the year to help facilitate the program conversations surrounding your child's faith. Please contact Pastor Kim with questions and for details.

Watch for a letter coming to you soon.!

Do you have the making of a Confirmation Mentor?

Do you have a love for the Youth of our church? Do you enjoy what belonging to a faith community means for you? Do you like to have fun? Are you curious about why some things in the church are the way they are? Are you willing to share what you think even if your ideas differ from others in the church?

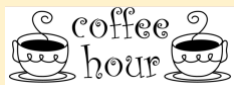
Then have we got a job for you! Our 2021-2022 confirmands will begin their classes soon and will, as part of the experience, require forging a Christian fellowship bond of Christian fellowship with an active adult in their faith.

Please contact Pastor Kim and let her know you are interested in walking with a youth of the church in their confirmation process.

Requirements for mentors:

- You a member of the Hudson FUMC.
- You need to meet with your confirmand at 6 Sunday afternoon sessions between October and May. During these sessions, you will help the student discuss topics of faith as guided by Pastor Kim.
- You'll need to attend an afternoon retreat on Saturday, June 4, 2022
- You'll need to be present with your confirmand at Worship on June 5, 2022 (Pentecost/Confirmation day).

Please consider these questions as you may be asked by one of our Youth to mentor them in our Confirmation process.



Sunday Coffee Hour has resumed

For those who are here to worship in-person, we invite everyone downstairs in Lamson Hall for coffee hour following the service. Come relax, get to chat with Pastor Kim and enjoy the fellowship.

Adult Education Class

It is often said that you can't know where you're going if you don't know where you've been. For many of us, we may find that we are part of this faith community of United Methodists and don't know much about what it is and even less about what it was.

A new Adult Education opportunity will take place beginning **October 3 at 1pm** in Lamson Hall. We will meet and talk about what we know, what we think we know, and what we want to know about the Methodist Movement in America.

Then you will receive the book **The Heritage of American Methodists** by Kenneth Cain Kinghorn to take home to read at your leisure

You will be invited to return on **November 7 at 1pm** for a conversation about what everyone learned about our Methodist background. We will also chat about how we understand our denomination and how we move into the future. All are welcome to attend the conversations whether you have read the book or not.

Please contact the church office to sign up for the book.

Meeting for Caregivers

1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 11am

The purpose of this group is to listen and give each other positive encouragement and hope. There is no obligation to talk if you're not comfortable with doing so but sometimes a listening ear is a big help! Please feel free to join us!

Care  Givers

FUMC Adult Membership classes

Are you interested in becoming a member of the First UMC of Hudson? Pastor Kim will be holding membership classes in October and November. These classes will be done in conjunction with the Adult Education Class on The Heritage of American Methodism,

The Membership inquiry class will further discuss:

- The history and culture of Methodism
- What does FUMC of Hudson mean in your understanding of faith.
- The reasons for membership which are specifically rooted in Wesley's Three Simple Rules: **Do No Harm, Do Good, and Stay in love with God.**
- Why is music so important in our tradition?
- What is a Women's role in Methodism?
- What does the "United" in United Methodist mean?
- The doctrine of Grace and the Wesleyan Quadrilateral
- What is God speaking to you now?
- And so much more!



Please contact Pastor Kim for more information.

Bible Study to Resume

Starting Wed, September 8th at 10:00am

This will be a 5-week study on Ecclesiastes. The message this gives is certainly relevant to the world today. Indeed, there is a time for everything under the sun. Things may change, but God never does. Let's explore how He always has a meaning and a purpose for each one of our lives. We will meet in Lamson Hall and observe safety standards regarding COVID. Please join us!

A Message From Ada

I have had an exceptionally difficult year. Losing Steve so suddenly and right in our own backyard...

My church family, OUR church family, is made up of many angels from God. Everyone that stepped in my life knew exactly what I needed at that exact time.

From praying for me from wherever they were to running all over the place to track me down, I could not have asked God for more love and caring.

There is so much more I want to say but the tears still get in the way of my words.

Please know that I pray for all of you with a grateful heart. Your kind words and actions will forever be with me and my family.

Blessings,
Ada

Church Yard / Craft Sale

Saturday, October 2nd from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Reserve your spot NOW! The event will be held rain (indoors) or shine (outdoors).

Now is the time to start putting aside those items in your home, attic, basement, garage, etc. that you no longer wish to keep but are too good to just throw away. Call the office or send email to reserve a table for just \$15.00

It's a fun way to enjoy the day and it makes a little money for the church General Fund. Containers of chicken salad and chili will also be sold.

MISSION, OUTREACH and OPPORTUNITY (MOO)

Coming this Fall:

Mission: Friendship Dinner (4:30pm – 5:30 pm)

September 25th - Pulled Pork Sandwiches

October 23rd - Spaghetti

November 27th - Spaghetti

Outreach:

September - **Pastor's Discretionary Fund**

October - **UNICEF** (Take 2 boxes: 1 to fill, 1 to leave by the washing machine)

November - **Roland's House**

Opportunity: Girls Night Out

September 17th, 5pm, Marlborough Country Club

October 15th, TBA

November 19th, TBA

E-Cycle Program

Saturday, October 2nd from 9:00am to 2:00pm.

In conjunction with our Yard Sale, we

traditionally host the E-cycle program where people bring in their no longer used electronic items. This includes:

computers, keyboard, appliances, etc. **ANYTHING** with a cord!



There is a small fee to get rid of your "stuff". The church's General Fund receives a portion of the monies that the event collects.

Name Tags - Indicate Social Distancing Preference with Red/Yellow/Green Stickers

Each of us has our own comfort level in our physical interactions with other people, and this is especially true during COVID. How can you let others know if you're comfortable or not with shaking hands or hugging? How can you easily gauge someone else's preference? Following the examples of other organizations, FUMC has instituted a color-coding system to let others know your preference. Red, Yellow, and Green stickers are available at the 3 entrances to the sanctuary.

- Choose **RED**, if you prefer no physical contact – smile and wave.
- Choose **YELLOW**, if you're being cautious and want minimal contact – elbows only.
- Choose **GREEN**, if physical contact is ok – handshakes and/or hugs.

We're using name tags again so you can apply your sticker to your name tag. The stickers are removable so you can switch to a different color as your comfort level changes.

Cloudy Day

Looking at the cloudy sky today; straining to see a break, a crack, a hint of a ray of sunshine sandwiched between the clouds. I think of how hopeful that ray is. It's a promise that even on a day of depressive gray, there is a natural light strong enough to enable me to see a light strong enough to cast shadows of hope between those clouds. I kept searching for just a little crack, a tiny opening that would enable the brightest light to shine through.

Is that what you do Lord? Do you look at your people, searching for just one tiny crack, one tiny opening that would enable your light to shine in us. How many layers of darkness do we allow to build within us blocking your light? How many times have we rushed to close any potential opening that would allow you in?

Even though there are cloudy days, we know there is still some light. We know days can be brighter. The light, your light, is always there. It never goes completely out.

In our humanness, we know there are times when we take it for granted that you, as our sunshine, your ray of hope, is always somewhere within us. At our best of times, we forget to enjoy and absorb it, but at our worse of times we cry out proclaiming that you have left us alone. In our grayness, we weep. Every day that passes without our acknowledgement of your presence we allow another layer of darkness to attach itself to us, dimming your light. Layer upon layer – smoky – gray- grayer – grayest – black – blacker. But somehow it never gets blackest because it is usually at that time when we cry out. We create a crack, one tiny opening, the one you have been waiting for and suddenly, in comes your light.

It can be manifested in many different ways, a small still voice, a calmness, a warmth, a sense of hope, a friend, an ear, a touch, a hand extended in loving care. Eventually the light increases – a burst of hope, joy, peace, all signs which you so freely give penetrates the darkness.

All it takes is one tiny crack to reverse an otherwise hopeless day – an otherwise hopeless us.

Praise God! (By Barbara Robinson)

21ST ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY!

Sunday, September 12

Schedule of events:

- 10:45am **HYMN SING**
- 11:00am **OUTDOOR WORSHIP**
- 12:15pm **BUBBLES McGee**
- 12:15pm **FREE HOT DOG LUNCH**
- 12:30pm **TOUCH A TRUCK**
- 12:30pm **Child IDENTA KITS** will be handed out by the Hudson Police Dept.
- 12:30pm – 3:00pm - **GAMES & Prizes** including **SPONGE the NEW PASTOR!**
- 1:00pm **MAKE YOUR OWN SUNDAE**
(Ice cream provided by Hudson’s “REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL”)
- 1:00pm – 4:00pm **FLU CLINIC** (provided by Walgreens - This is NOT for COVID)
- 2:00pm **ANIMAL ADVENTURES**
- Enjoy **POP CORN** and **COTTON CANDY**
- **HOT DOGS SERVED ALL DAY**

Consider purchasing and bringing a Potted Plant to the morning worship service! The plants will be placed on or in front of the flatbed Altar to be enjoyed during Worship. You can take your plant home after Worship)

HERE IS HOW YOU CAN HELP MAKE THIS DAY A HUGE SUCCESS!!

Please reach out to Ada to offer your help setting up and/or taking down what needs doing for this event:

- 9:00am - Help to take out and set up tables and chairs
- Several hands to bring out hymnals and place them on the chairs.
- Set up games (someone will be there to guide you in what to do)
- Need help setting up sanitizing stations.

