

The Messenger

News and Information for the First United Methodist Church, Hudson, MA
April 2022

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:

HUDSONFUMC@gmail.com

Web Page: www.hudsonfumc.org

Staff Leaders 2022:

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

SAVE THE DATES

Dinners:

April 14, 2022 **Seder Supper** Religious Service and Turkey Dinner 6pm

April 23, 2022 **Friendship Dinner** – Barbara's Pot Roast Dinner 5pm

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF TIMES OF DINNERS

Looking Ahead:

April 30, 2022 Service and collation for Millie Sawyer.

May 7, 2022 UMW - **Mothers' and Others** Annual Tea

May 8, 2022 **Mother's Day service** by UMW

May 21, 2022 **Pie Sale** at Hudson Town Hall

June 18, 2022 Annual **Yard Sale**

June 19, 2022 Father's Day & Children's Day Service

*Please note: **CANCELLED** - E-Cycle and food Sale on Saturday, April 2nd.*

E-Cycle will be at our Yard sale Saturday, June 18th.

May newsletter articles are due Monday, April 18

Please note this is a week earlier because I am traveling on business the last week in April. I cannot accept late submissions as I will be publishing the newsletter before I leave.

Lisa Schliker – Newsletter editor Email: lpattcnvb@yahoo.com

A Note from Pastor Kim

Finally!



Spring has Sprung! Robins are bopping in the grass and the Daffodils are sprouting! There are signs of hope and change. We are leaving behind winter and what has been our challenges and difficulties of the Lenten season, our personal struggles make us long for and strive for the work of the future when our hope is again active and responsive to our needs our desires and our intentions. Let us continue to be reflective on the season we are in and not rush the journey! I was told not long ago concerning my personal journey that you must go through it to get through it. Just as Jesus walked his 40 days in the wilderness we too must realize that we are still traveling our road of prayer, penitence, and contrition. We can see that the weather has improved and Christ's journey toward Jerusalem is nearing completion.

As we turn the corner to the experience of our eternal hope provided through the loving sacrifice of our Savior Jesus Christ, celebrate with me. As I gain strength and side effects dissipate, be glad! I also pray that the encounters of your Lenten journey bring you to joy and wholeness as we journey together on our shared path let us be joyful for the shared disciple road.

Blessings,
Pastor Kim

P.S.
God is Good. Your kindness, and support for my health through your prayer, your cards, thoughts, and love has meant a great deal to me and how I know that I have a God who cares for me, through your actions and love. Thank you!

Maundy Thursday Vigil

³⁶Then Jesus went with them to a garden called Gethsemane and told his disciples, "Stay here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷Taking along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he plunged into an agonizing sorrow. ³⁸Then he said, "This sorrow is crushing my life out. Stay here and keep vigil with me." *

On the night that Jesus was at the most vulnerable time of this life, he asked a few of his disciples to stay with him and pray. On Thursday, April 14, keep vigil with Jesus by setting aside an hour before you go to bed and pray.



**The Message – Eugene H. Peterson*



Holy Week notes from Michelle...

As we approach Holy week, there are so many of the traditions of the FUMC Congregation that I am eagerly and excitedly anticipating! On **Palm Sunday**, we will share the Palm & Passion of Christ through scripture and song. The **Maundy Thursday** Seder Supper that recounts the deep and meaningful history of the Hebrews exodus from Egypt out of Slavery to the and the events of the betrayal, denial, death, and ultimate victory of Christ when we declare Alleluia! Christ is Risen indeed!

Join in the activity of this Most Holy time in our life of faith.

Placing our hearts and our hands at the cross: On Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday please see the display which will be created in the Narthex and will be available at the Passover Seder. Strips of simple fabric will be available with markers to write your prayer, your sin, your regrets, or anything you would like to have symbolically left at the cross. Nail them to the cross which will be erected in the church yard. As the events of Holy week progress, be sure to drive by the church to witness the transformation of what we lay at the cross transformed through the power of Christ.

Good Friday Worship at 6:30 at the FUMC in Marlborough all are invited and welcome.

Be sure to attend **Sunrise Worship on Easter morning**. This will be a brief but meaningful worship where we will witness the new day beginning as we join with Marlborough FUMC to share this first sign of the empty tomb together.

What happened to the alleluias?

On **Easter Sunday** after the sunrise Service, after the Breakfast and after the Egg hunt find out how Alleluias come back! A “Hands-on” interactive new and fun tradition will be part of the Easter celebration. We have spent the season of Lent thinking about how we may be falling short and what we might recognize as our sin and asking forgiveness. Traditionally “Alleluia” is not part of the vocabulary of worship. Although it means “Praise Be to God”, our focus is to ready our self for the salvation that we receive on Easter. Be part of the celebration as the “Alleluias” return and we take part in a tradition that dates to the earliest years of the church.

Prayer – Sue Yeaton

Prayer is talking with God through whispers and sighs
or with tears.

It is sharing all our fears and joys.

Prayer quickens the soul
And gives the heart a stronger beat.

Prayer is power that pours forth when something good
happens
And is our strength and solace when we grieve.

Prayer makes the poor man rich
And the rich man humble.

Prayer lessens the burden
And rejuvenates the body, mind and spirit.

Prayer lights our path toward heaven
And is our bond with our Creator.

With prayer, we hold eternity in our hands.

April Mission, Outreach, Opportunity (M.O.O.) Fresh Start Furniture Bank

Fresh Start Furniture Bank is a volunteer run charity which helps restore hope, dignity, and stability in our community by recycling donated furniture and housewares, for free, to people in need. Our secondary goal is to keep these items out of the waste stream. In 2019, our volunteers put in over 16,000 hours of service.

Presently, Fresh Start is critically low on almost everything, so whatever we can donate will be well received! Housing is opening up and they have a lot of clients who have been living in shelters or hotels for years and now need EVERYTHING, from rugs and couches and beds and dressers to kitchen appliances and silverware, sheets and towels. Fresh Start Furniture Bank receives good, usable or brand-new donations, which are distributed, free of charge, to clients who work through a social services agency. Fresh Start helps a lot of formerly homeless veterans, and has helped several Afghan refugee families, some with extended families of 10 or more.

Please visit at their website: <https://freshstartfurniturebank.org/>. The home page has links to Amazon and Target wish lists where you can order new items. If you click on the Donate Furniture link at the top of the page, there's a list of what they DO and DO NOT take, as well as the hours Fresh Start is open for donation, etc. Used items need to be in good condition; if you would not give it to a good friend, please do not consider donating it. And Fresh Start can always use financial donations, so if you want to donate money, make your check out to FUMC, with "Fresh Start" in the memo line.

A bin will be placed in the area outside Lamson Hall, for any donations. Questions? Contact Diana Andrews (dimandrews@comcast.net or text: 978-618-3042)

Items needed:

Dishwasher and microwave safe dishes, glasses & flatware (sets of 4+)	Irons & Ironing Boards
Kid Friendly Plastic Dishes & Cups	Vacuums
Pots & Pans	Fans (Only summer months must be clean)
Oven Safe Cookware	Electric heaters (Only during cold months)
Bakeware, Mixing Bowls, Measuring Cups & Spoons	Lamps (Floor and Table)
Cooking Utensils, Kitchen Knives, Cutting Boards	Sheets, Blankets, Comforters (all sizes)
Colanders	New Bed Pillows
Can Openers	Decorative Pillows
Small Trash Cans	Tablecloths
Tea Kettles – Stove Top & Electric	Shower curtains & Hooks
Small Microwaves (Within 5 years old)	Shower curtain liners – new only
Coffee Pots (No Keurigs)	Bathroom Towels – including washcloths
Crock Pots with lids	Bathroom Rugs
Toasters & Toaster Ovens	Laundry Baskets
Blenders, Mixers	Kitchen Towels, Oven Mitts
George Foreman type grills	

We will be decorating our altar with beautiful Easter flowers “In Memory” or “In Honor” of a loved one. Please complete this order form and return it, with your check, made payable to “First United Methodist Church.” Note: “Easter plant”.

Deadline for ordering: **Palm Sunday, April 10th**. The cost is \$12.00 per plant.

Thank you.

NAME: _____

PHONE #: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

Lily _____ Jonquil _____ Daffodil _____ Tulip _____



Trustees Updates

Not too much going on but:

- Continuing with the roof issues, met with contractor and exploring all our options.
- Spring clean-up will happen before Easter.

If anyone has any ideas or suggestions on improvements around the church please bring your ideas or concerns to one of the trustees.

Thanks - Bob Scerra

Worship Committee Update

Holy week will provide several opportunities to worship with the Marlboro church.

Marlboro has nothing scheduled on Maundy Thursday and so they will be invited to join us at the Seder supper that is organized by UMW.

Several years ago, we stopped having a Good Friday service in the evening, so we are invited to attend their service which will begin at 6:30 pm.

Return of Coffee Klatch

Starting April 5th, a group will meet on Tuesday mornings at 10am outside under the trees.

Bring your own chair and choice of beverage. A fun morning of sharing and checking in with each other. Everyone is welcome. Enjoy the fellowship!!

Seder Supper

Thursday, April 14 at 6pm in Lamson Hall. We will be celebrating the Passover as Christians.

We will enjoy an interactive program and a delicious turkey dinner. Sponsored by the United Methodist Woman of our church.

Girls Night Out

April 15th at 5pm – Location TBA
(Third Friday of the month)

FRIENDSHIP DINNER

April 23rd at 5pm in Lamson Hall
Barbara's Pot Roast Dinner
(Fourth Saturday of every month)

Spring Markets at Hudson Town Hall

SATURDAY APRIL 23rd

MAY 21st

11am - 2pm

Featuring FUMC's Famous PIES
and HAND PIES



Outdoor Annual Yard / Craft Sale and E-Cycle Event

Saturday, June 18th from 9:00 - 2:00

Time for Spring cleaning and all those items you now longer need or wish to keep can be a treasure for the right person coming to see what we have. Email or call the office to reserve your spot in the parking lot. Only \$12 for a space. This is always a fun day and there will be delicious food items for sale too...

April Birthdays

9	Alan Peterson
14	Kaly Kendrick
15	Carol Stacey
15	Kevin Dunnell
17	Audrey Burney
22	Dennis Gour
22	Rick Hartford
24	Cliff Roberts
25	Becky Berube
28	Jim McGowan
29	Justin Brown
30	Shawna Jean Sniffin

April Anniversaries

1	Joan & John Vincent
19	John & Bonnie DeRusha



March 20, 2022 - Call to Conference 2022 Beloved in Christ:

Greetings in the precious and matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

I am once again blessed to cordially invite each and every one of you to our 2022 Annual Conference hybrid session to be held from June 9-11 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Manchester, NH. The Clergy Session will be held on June 8.

After two years of holding annual conference online, I am very much looking forward to being together in person. That said, I encourage you to participate in whichever way is most comfortable for you and your safety and wellbeing.

As your Episcopal leader, I am grateful for your steadfastness, faithfulness and determination as we continue to deal with the challenges of COVID-19, and with the ongoing changes in our denomination. Despite the further postponement of the General Conference, the uncertainty around the jurisdictional conferences, and the yet unknown effects of the formation of another denomination, we will be gathering for Holy Conferencing as an Annual Conference this year.

As your resident bishop, let me say that I have seen a new spirit emerging in our Conference, and despite these uncertainties, I am confident about our future. I want to reassure you that the work we will undertake at this

Annual Conference session is vital, and we will do it together guided by the Holy Spirit. In fact, I must add that I appreciate the ways I have seen our clergy and laity already acting on this year's theme of "Envisioning a Beloved Community."

As we gather for holy conferencing, let us remember the words of Paul in our guiding scripture:

I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward — to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back. (Philippians 3:12-14 The Message)

May this verse remind us that we are all imperfect, but in our Wesleyan spirit, "moving on to perfection" in our relationship with God and one another. Let's run this race together in harmony with all God's children!

A hybrid session means that some of us will be participating virtually at least part, or perhaps all, of the time. We will again be using electronic voting – the same system for both those in person and online. Good News TV (GNTV), will be with us again this year to provide A/V support, including their voting platform, in which each voting member has a secure individual login.

The Sessions Team and I feel confident that the GNTV platform will enable us to engage in Holy Conferencing and accurate, secure voting in order to complete the business of the Annual Conference. This work, which includes the Clergy Session, is required before we can ordain and commission the Class of 2022 and further our shared mission and ministry.

In accordance with our Conference rules around electronic voting, I want to include the following reminder here: Conference Rule VI. C. 11 states "... if 10 percent of the members oppose use of remote voting by submitting their signatures within 30 days of the announcement, there will not be remote voting used as proposed by the Bishop." Objections can be sent to Conference Secretary Preeti Pabreja at secretary@neumc.org

Friends, Holy or Christian Conferencing is a sacred trust! Kindly take time to read all the materials and participate in pre-conference conversations, ask questions, and engage in prayerful discernment, so we might experience true Holy Conferencing and celebrate our work together to build God's beloved community.

Additionally, may we keep in mind the three simple rules from the Wesleyan tradition: Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God.

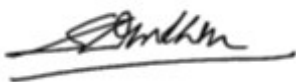
May we remind ourselves that a hybrid session will be a new experience for us and will bring some unique challenges as well as benefits. God has blessed us with participants for whom English is not their first language and others who may not be as familiar with Roberts Rules of Order, computer technology or the workings of Annual Conference. Realizing all of this, may we come willing to extend Christian love, patience and understanding to all!

We are blessed to have the presence of our own sister, Bishop LaTrelle Easterling, who has graciously agreed to join us as our Conference preacher and Bible Study teacher and participate in our Service of Ordination and Commissioning. I am also excited to share that Dr. Marcia McFee and Dr. Mark Miller are returning as our Conference worship leaders.

Friends, I look forward to our joining hearts with one another to have truly blessed Holy/Christian Conferencing.

Most importantly, may I request that we hold one another, our guests, and our Annual Conference in our prayers. I would also ask that we, as people of God, continue to pray for peace for Ukraine and our world.

In Christ's love,



Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar

Many of us use substitutes in our diets for various reasons. Some of us have been told that in order to remain healthy, we must avoid salt, sugar, fats, gluten, dairy products, etc. Whatever the reason, we soon come to realize that we have become addicted to certain foods because we love the taste. When we are deprived of the familiar taste, we seek alternatives in order to satisfy our taste buds.

When a doctor tells us that we must refrain from consuming certain products, we usually try to do so. We are not only addicted to the taste; we are also addicted psychologically to that which we have always known and must retrain our thought process to accept something new. One substitute which is always necessary in our lives and which is one of the most important to accept is our need to believe that Jesus Christ is the substitute for all of mankind's sins. He is the substitute for all the wrongs we commit in our lives. All the wrongs which keep us from the peace and assurance of an everlasting, life.

Jesus is the only substitute perfectly given to forgive us and remove us from the punishment we deserve for those wrongs. Our earthly life will one day end, that is a certainty. It is also certainty that we will live again in a new life, and eternal life, because of Him. The availability of this substitute is guaranteed. We will never run out of this substitute, no matter how many times we use it. Because of our humanism, we will always need to reach for it. Jesus Christ is the only substitute which is always good for us. We have only to have to reach up to Him, in faith to use it.

Deacon Barb

Alphabetical Jesus

During our informal discussion following the Wednesday Bible Study, I asked those attending to describe Jesus in one or two words. Here are the responses:

Amazing	Immanuel	Righteous
Beautiful	Justice	Sacred
Caring	Kind	Triumphant
Divine	Loyal	Understanding
Ever Lasting	Mighty	Worthy
Faithful	New born life	X – symbol for Christ
Grateful	Omnipresent	Yahweh
Heavenly	Prince of peace	Zealous
	Quick	

The next time you find yourself unable to sleep, or even find yourself struggling with prayers, try to find some words you would use.

Knowledge and information are important to how we go forward.

In the early days of the UNITED Methodist Church, language was placed in the **UMC Book of Discipline** that since its beginning has caused harm and injury to many generations of our Church Family and to how we as followers of Christ are understood. You may understand this language which infringes on the divinely created value of some as fully recognized and divinely created children of God. Over the last several decades, attempts to change language for clergy to live as God has created them and be less hostile and more inclusive of the LGBTQIA Community, to permit Gay Marriages performed by clergy, and to allow full inclusion of LGBTQI persons as ordained clergy to life fully as God has created.

Currently, churches from both the conservative community opposed to the full inclusion of Gay people as clergy and marriage and progressive congregations who can no longer stand by witnessing what they feel is an injustice and even violence upon those who are left outside the current discipline definition of “incompatible with Christian Teaching” (UMC Book of Discipline ¶304). The decision of our General Conferences and the Council of Bishops have made way for churches to disaffiliate from the United Methodist church. Churches aligned with both the conservative theological and social perspective and congregations aligned and allies of the LGBTQI Communities have taken steps to disaffiliate with the UMC. You may understand this is not a process that is taken lightly by any congregation, and they must adhere to specific protocols with specific costs to sever the ties with the UMC. On March 15, 2022, the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church met to discern ways for churches choosing to separate from UMC. Efforts to seek court's guidance on Jurisdictional Conferences to formulate protocols and rules for the process of disaffiliation.

It must be said for the record that the Changes and departures of congregations from the UMC is nothing new and the United Methodist Church is a church that has roots in many incarnations, splits and joined affiliations.

It is important for us as members of the UMC to be aware and have conversation about and hear your perspective in this important matter. Additionally, we must also consider what the action of disaffiliation is for the greater United Methodist church. What these steps and changes mean for this local congregation and how the changes to the denomination may be understood as time goes on?

I will be hosting casual conversations at the parsonage in the month of May to discuss questions and comments you may have. Please note and understand these conversations are conversations only. These are conversations for our benefit to be ready and able to participate in the changes undergoing our denomination and for our own mutual knowledge. There is no current or anticipated call for or expectation of disaffiliation by this congregation.

A section of the bulletin board in Lamson Hall will be a center for information concerning this and other communication from the NEAC or the UMC General Conference or Council of Bishops. An Anonymous question may be left in the box on that board. – Pastor Kim