

The Messenger

*News and Information for the First United Methodist Church, Hudson, MA
December 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:

HUDSONFUMC@gmail.com

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

FUMC Communications team

It is a wonderful testament to the Hudson FUMC that the leadership of the congregation is so dedicated to the mission of being Christ's hands and feet in the world. To help us keep everyone informed and in the know, we have initiated a **Communications team** that will help provide timely and appropriate information to the congregation and to the community. To help us do that, the Communications Team and myself, ask that you please do the following:

- All committees and teams that are part of the FUMC of Hudson, provide for inclusion in the monthly newsletter a short submission including articles, announcements, or notices about the work that has been going in your group. This may be celebrations of work completed or requests or information about upcoming events or projects.
- Outline meeting dates, and any expected special events and program specifics as needed so everyone will know what is happening in our church through the Monthly Messenger Newsletter.
- Email these notices and articles to **Lisa Comeau by the 20th of each month**. She will be our gate keeper for these communications. lelecojo@hotmail.com
- Lisa Schliker will continue to create our monthly Newsletter.

Please contact me, or any member of the Communications team with any questions. Thank you for your help in making FUMC a wonderful church home.

Blessings - Pastor Kim

A Note from Pastor Kim:

I am not sure if time goes faster in Hudson & Marlborough! For some reason, it feels like some days have fallen off the calendar. It feels like we have bounced from the sweltering and rainy days of July into the frosty mornings of late November in the blink of an eye. In reflecting on how the time I have first come to Hudson has flown, I am a bit anxious about how fleeting our time of Advent, our Holy waiting, and anticipation might try to speed past without our recognition and reflection. In the rush and bustle of an increasingly busy life of commitments and demands on our time and attention. It is easy to hold Christmas - Christ's Mass at bay and not deeply consider what this season of waiting can mean as we anticipate the arrival of our King.

The excellent book The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe, by C.S. Lewis can help us reflect on what gifts we receive can be. As father Christmas in that story says, offering the children presents, "These are your presents," was the answer, "and they are tools, not toys. The time to use them is perhaps near at hand. Bear them well."¹ For the characters in this book, the long wait of an endless winter the anticipation and expectation of the King mean new hope and renewal of what had been a long cold time of waiting. And the gifts they received in the waiting would be necessary for what would be ahead. Not distractions and entertainment but skills and time to ponder what we truly hope for and anticipate as our Joy.

There are gifts in the darkness and quiet of this time advent. When we slow to encounter the waiting of Advent, we are given space to reflect. Awaiting Christ's arrival to the world, we have time to grow and change and develop a fuller appreciation for the gifts we are given and how we can use these tools for the Kingdom the infant King was sent to deliver.



Please accept the gift of worship, fellowship, and knowledge that is made present to you in the waiting time of Advent. Join us in Worship on Sunday at 11 am. You are also invited to join in Bible Study on Wednesday Mornings at 10am. There is also a Zoom Bible Study offered on Thursday evening at 6pm on December 2nd and 9th. Be encouraged by the Joy of the season while joining in the fun of a No Muss-No Fuss Christmas Pageant on December 19th. We are also offering Christmas Eve Service(s) and a special combined Service celebration at FUMC in Hudson with FUMC Marlborough December 26th at 10 am.

May God bless you all in the waiting and in the arrival of the Infant King, who is the hope of the world.

Merry Christmas & Christ's Peace to you - Pastor Kim

Pastor Kim can be emailed at: pastorkimlumc@gmail.com

Please be sure to include HUDSON in the subject line so she knows which church she is addressing.

¹ Lewis, C.S: Chronicles of Narnia

An important “PS” from Pastor Kim...

As you have probably heard, I have recently received a cancer diagnosis. While my privacy is important, I know you will respect my need for space for healing. I intend to keep you all informed of my progress. However, to heal, I first need surgery. Sunday 12/5 will be my last day in the pulpit, which means I will not be with you for the bulk of the Advent and Christmas Season. I have every expectation the gifts present in this congregation will provide adequate care, and the District Superintendent: Megan Stowe, will provide clergy coverage as appropriate. I expect a full recovery and hope to be back with you as soon as I can. I thank you in advance for your understanding and patience.

M.O.O. Moment - December

On **Sunday, December 12**, the Missions, Outreach & Opportunity (M.O.O.) Team will be sponsoring a “**Cookie Walk**”, to benefit FUMC! We are asking FUMC bakers to bake about three dozen cookies.

After church that day, we will have cookie tins / boxes for sale (\$10) and folks are welcome to fill their tins with a sampling of the yummy cookie varieties available!

If you are willing to share your recipe with your church family, we would be delighted to add it to an upcoming recipe booklet!

Caregivers meeting

On the first and third Monday of each month we meet from 11:00 – 12:00. If you are a caregiver and feel alone and helpless sometime; we are here to help you through some of the tough emotions that come up.

If you can get away for little while, please join us. You can share your thoughts and feelings or just sit, relax and listen.



Agape Cafe

Since Covid moved us to outdoor, to-go meals, we've seen some great changes. Being in the parking lot has caused many people to notice us for the first time. Most of those who come are truly in need of food, many of whom are not interested in the social aspect of eating indoors. For that reason, we will always have the to-go option. The number of meals we serve had gradually increased into the 70's and the past 2 weeks...80 and 84 meals!

You may remember that in the past, we've given people items they could use for Christmas gifts and that has been so rewarding. So, if you have any items you've never used that you could donate as gifts, I'll have a collection bin in the church next to the Food Pantry bin. Feel free to purchase items as well, when you're out shopping. We like to give these out early in December so they will know who they can gift.

And speaking of the Food Pantry, since Stacey ended the church's grocery giving, I'd be happy to see you put items in the Pantry box again!

Thanks - Cindy

The Hope of All the World

by Christine DiMare

A little child is born tonight,
A star shines above oh so bright.
Angels appear from heavenly flight,
Shepherds in fields full of fright.
Yet in the manger,
There is no danger.
The Hope of all the world,
God's Love, a bright banner, is finally
unfurled.

Poinsettia Orders now being taken!

Every year we deck our altar on Christmas Eve with Poinsettia plants that you have ordered.

They can be taken home after Christmas. Your orders can be "in Memory" or "in Honor" of someone in your heart.

Please contact the church office for more information.



FUMC Trustees updates

- A new stair-lift was installed and being used.
- New outside lights being installed, both parking lot entrance and handicap entrance.
- Roof upgrades still being considered. There is a meeting with the slate roof installer in the next few weeks.

That's all for now - Robert A Scerra
Trustee chair

Looking Ahead...

Friendship dinners:

January 1, 2022 (for December)

January 22, 2022

Community Christmas Dinner:

December 11 in Lamson Hall at 4:30pm

Soups On:

Saturday January 8, 2022

Mission Trip Fundraiser Dinner:

Saturday February 9, 2022

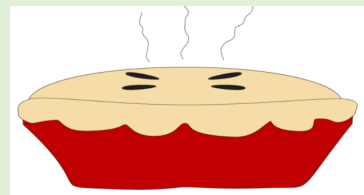
December Mission Outreach CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Each Christmas we work with SMOC (the South Middlesex Opportunity Council) to get gifts for children or gift cards for families that are in need. Tags are on the tree for you to choose a child or teen to shop for. Take as many names as you like and please remember to tape the name tag onto your wrapped presents.

Gift must be wrapped and brought back to church no later than Wednesday, December 15th.

Winter Market at the Town Hall Saturday, Dec. 18th 11:00am – 2:00pm

Come do some shopping for the holidays AND be sure to visit our FUMC table to purchase homebaked pies and handpies to enjoy over Christmas.



Blue Christmas service

December 8 at 7 pm
led by Susan Niro

There will be a small collation in Wesley Hall following the service.



November M.O.O. update

November's Roland's house mission was very successful! Bob Scerra cooked a homemade meal once a week for the men living in the shelter. Agape also delivered leftovers to them on Thursday nights. This adds to the friendship dinner leftovers that we normally provide.

Bob enjoyed this mission and would like to see it continue with a meal once a month.

Contact him with any questions

Worship Committee Updates

December is always a busy month for the Worship team as we strive to make Advent as meaningful as possible. We help decorate the sanctuary, set up for special services, and offer suggestions to worship leaders. We are responsible for the Christmas Eve survey that you were asked to complete a few weeks ago. Thank you for your input. Sometimes, however, changing events require us to change our plans, and that is what has happened for Christmas Eve. There will be 2 services that evening, one at 7 pm and the other at 11 pm, both led by laypeople.

The Worship team has one request. For those who physically attend church, please refrain from talking (and whispering) in the sanctuary as soon as the gathering music begins at the beginning of the service until the postlude is over at the end of the service. We ask this as a courtesy to others in the congregation and because we have been told that conversations are being picked up on the microphones and being broadcast on YouTube.

December Birthdays

- 2 Gaytha Montgomery
- 3 Mariah Latzka
- 7 John Comeau
- 10 Lynn Spencer
- 13 Sarah Percuocco (Berube)
- 13 Bonnie McLean
- 16 Carolyn Paskavitz
- 17 Kathy Kittredge
- 17 Ada Arenstrup
- 20 Allen Brown, Jr.
- 22 Stella Brown
- 22 Jim Niro
- 25 Carol Griffin
- 28 Dee Jordan



M.O.O. missions for December

12/12 Cookie Walk

12/18 Bonnie is collecting warm winter items
contact her in the office for more details.

Upcoming in January we will be making a good push for the Downeast Maine mission trip. Diana Andrews is coordinating her SOUPS ON event. Envelopes for supplies for the mission trip will be posted in Lamson Hall.

If anyone has any ideas or thoughts on other outreach opportunities, feel free to contact us with your ideas!!

Sunday School / Christian Ed

We had a great month learning about Jesus as a young adult. The kids decorated wooden crosses. They are excited share with the congregation over this Sunday school year in the sanctuary. Keep a look out for their awesome creations. The kids are all proud of their crosses.

Our Flat Jesus traveled to Switzerland and Greece with Barbara Robertson on her amazing trip. The kids loved all the photos with Flat Jesus in places the Bible was written!

The Christmas pageant will be December 19th during worship. We will be doing an interactive pageant this year make sure you are there so you do not miss out on the fun!

The Christian Ed team will start meeting in January.

Stacey Hartford - Christian Education
Superintendent



December 24 - Christmas Eve Services at Hudson FUMC

7:00 pm – Susan Niro will be leading our annual Candlelight service. Children are encouraged to attend this service with their families.

11:00 pm – Stacey Hartford will be leading this service



December 26 - Combined service with Marlboro at FUMC of Hudson

Please note the service will begin at **10 am**. The Offering from that morning will go to Roland's House. There will be a Coffee Hour following the service.

MARY'S LITTLE LAMB

No, I'm not going to read a nursery rhyme or talk about a fairy tale.

I'd like to talk about Advent - a time of expectation.

Mary had a son, the Lamb of God, who was to become the Sacrifice of all who would believe in Him.

Nine months can seem like an eternity when you are awaiting the birth of a child. For Mary, the nine months must have been a time of extreme emotions. "Do not be afraid", the angel told her. "You will bring forth a son and you shall call him "Emmanuel", which means, God with us. She was a virgin. How could she possibly give birth? She was betrothed to Joseph. What would he think? But, God spoke to him in a dream. He was a man of faith and accepted what God had revealed to him. Prophecy was to be fulfilled.

Did Mary walk counting pebbles along the way to Bethlehem because she was ashamed to walk with her head up? (I could not find any scripture reference that said Mary rode on a donkey during the journey to Bethlehem.) Did she understand what the birth of her son really meant? Could she feel the stirring of the baby she carried? Did that stirring bring her joy? Was she praying to God for strength? She needed to feel God's presence to give her confidence in the coming birth. Within days, the Messiah was to be born.

During the time of Jesus' birth, inns were rooms behind the place where animals were kept. That place was the stable. The warmth of their bodies helped to provide warmth to the area of the inns. One had to pass through the animal's stable before they came to the comfort of the inn. So perhaps that was the place of Jesus' birth. People passed through quickly to reach the "better" area.

Anyway, Joseph was probably the only person with Mary at the time of birth. Mary's little lamb was born. Our Lamb of God was born. That lamb was destined to become our Sacrificial Lamb. No one noticed no one cared. But God in the flesh was now with Mary, Joseph and us. Bethlehem means house or loaf of bread. Jesus was to become the bread of heaven.

The shepherds were first told of this "earth shattering event" Shepherds tending flocks of sheep. Were those sheep sacrificial sheep? It was night. The angel of the Lord came to them. The Lord's glory shone around them. Everywhere that God is there is light. Were the shepherds afraid? Would we be afraid if suddenly the night became as bright as day? But again, God spoke through the angels, "do not be afraid, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born a savior, who is Christ the Lord."

In the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, do we forget the significance of the story? Has Christmas become so commercialized that we seek gifts to please people rather than to seek the gift of Jesus given to us? Charles Swindoll wrote in his book "growing deep in the Christian life" a story about an advertisement by a large department store. They were selling a doll in the form of the baby Jesus. It was advertised as being unbreakable, washable, and cuddly. It was

packaged in straw with satin crib and plastic surroundings, and appropriate Biblical texts added here and there to make the scene complete. It didn't sell. In a last-ditch promotion to get rid of those dolls a huge sign was placed outside the store that read:

Jesus Christ -

Marked down 50%

Get him while you can

Mary's little lamb did not come to be packaged and offered for half price. He came as the Lamb of God. Out of his love for us, He paid with His life to give us the greatest gift He could.... Eternal Life. A gift not meant for a season rather a gift forever.

Mary's little lamb in the nursery rhyme was a white as snow. The Virgin Mary's little lamb was purer than white snow. He was not so little either, He was great, He was the wonderful counselor, mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. As we await His Second Coming let us pray, that God will mold our hearts in preparation for His return.

Barbara A. Robinson



November 8, 2021

First United Methodist Church
34 Felton Street
Hudson, MA 01749

Dear Pastor Kim Gold,

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your recent donation of \$200! Your support will help us build a new home for the ARC, for recovery, and for people suffering from substance use disorder and their family members.

You are creating a space large enough to accommodate everyone who needs help. You are helping people land in a safe space, where they can find recovery and recovery resources – not just today, but for generations to come. You are ensuring that ARC will be here for another 45 years. You are providing enduring social value to those living and working in Marlborough and the MetroWest area. Because you care, we're able to continue being committed, capable, and motivated to stand on the front lines, making a difference in the lives of the people we serve.

You are disrupting the terrible cycle of addiction by providing substance use disorder recovery services for those in need, as well as their family members and loved ones. Please know that your kindness and financial support matters greatly. Your support means the world to us, and even more to those who turn to the ARC for help.

With deepest gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elsbeth Simoni'.

Elsbeth Simoni
Executive Director

For your records and tax purposes, The Addiction Referral Center's EIN number is: 52-1334719.
No goods or services were provided for this donation.



CHRISTMAS Country Fair

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Themed Gift baskets
Gift Shop, Baked
Homemade Goodies &
Knitted Goods

Silent Auction
Visit from Santa
11:30 - 1:00

Country Store

*including Sharp Cheese
& Olde Tyme dill pickles*

Lunch 11:00 - 1:30

*including Chili &
Chili dogs, hot dogs
& More!*



DEC
4th

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

34 FELTON ST. HUDSON MA

9 AM-2PM