

The Messenger

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

March Outreach / BRIDGES TO MALAWI

During the month of March, we will be supporting Dr. Brian Lisse's organization "Bridges to Malawi". The website is: bridgestomalawi.org

Proceeds from the Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner along with all other monies donated will be used to purchase Chlorinators and Filtration systems for safe water usage.

There will be interesting and creative craft items for you to purchase, made by African artisans.

Dr. Lisse will all so be doing a sermon from the pulpit on Sunday, March 13 about this organization.

Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner
Saturday, March 12th, 6pm

Tickets \$12.00 each available in church office
Eat In or To Go please reserve dinners:
978-562-2932



FROM OUR PASTOR

Appreciation and Gratitude

I must thank all of First UMC for your care and keeping of me during my diagnosis, surgery, recuperation and now my ongoing treatment regimen. Your uplifting prayers, cards, gifts, mementos, and compassion have been a buoy to me on low days and a source of consistent love on those days which have not been so low. I thank you and appreciate the blessings that God has placed upon me during this challenging time through your kind thoughts, prayers and actions. My hope is that the tough time will soon be behind us, and we can return to the path of exuberant joy of service and worship.

I am doing well, and the doctors are pleased. God is Good! May God bless you all!

Your Sister Pastor Kim

A Note from Pastor Kim

“The season of Lent in the early church was meant to be a time of preparation for baptism. For people to prepare themselves through prayer, fasting and penitence to enter the body of Christ”. According to the Handbook of the Christian Year, “it is a time for those who have sinned to reconcile with the faith community and be restored to fellowship of the church.” The handbook clearly points out that though these traditions were not indicated as practices of the season they developed and were meant to feed those seeking to become members and be baptized and the community of their also urgent task of forgiveness and contrition for the weakness as humans allow to create division.

Both were urgent because from the earliest of church development we know the expectation of Christ’s returning, was expected to be immediate. Today, we must still prepare for that return. We are able through the 40 days of Lent to take those tasks on ourselves to ready ourselves for the return of Jesus and the celebration of the resurrection.

On Ash Wednesday, we remember the delicate and blessed importance of the life we have been given. As we receive ashes, we recognize that only through the blessing so God we out of the dust of the universe, and one day we will return. On Sunday before Ash Wednesday, you will receive a small packet of Ashes in worship. You can also contact the Church office to arrange pick up or mail delivery. You may implement then on yourself to remind you of that humbling realization that of Ash you were made and to ash you will return. There will be an accompanying Devotional reflection for the day. There will also be an option to receive Ashes in the sanctuary at Noon on Ash Wednesday

I look forward to our journey through Lent together this year. I also recognize that we due to ongoing Covid and other health concerns must adjust how we do what we do. Please continue to be patient, flexible and actively care for those you encounter by remaining as masked and distanced as you feel appropriate. The virus is not gone and caring for each other remains a vital part of showing our love as community. Check out the calendar of events what will assist you in your efforts to worship, serve, fellowship as well as ask and receive forgiveness through this Holy Season elsewhere in this newsletter.

¹ Handbook of the Christian year: (1992) Abington (Hickman, Sailors, Stookey, White p. 112

40 Days 40 Bags (from Pastor Kim)

What kind of practice of devotion has special meaning for me during Lent? For years, I have done a daily devotional practice of removing excess items, stress, and clutter from my life. It is called **40 Bags in 40 Days**. This takes place every day between Ash Wednesday and Easter (excluding Sundays). It doesn't take a lot of time but it creates significant rewards both aesthetically and spiritually. Initially begun as a Facebook challenge years ago, I have been following this for the last few year. Here is what happens: Each day I approach a space in my home. It may be a kitchen junk draw, a closet, a bathroom shelf or the stack of junk mail on the kitchen island. I don't attempt an entire room or major project like the garage or attic. Only a section of a space like a shelf or draw in that space.



Step 1: Identify the one space for the day and plan your time to do it. Go to that space with a bag a box or another item like a recycle bin.

Step 2: Pick up an item from that space. Examine the item. Ask yourself: Where did it come from? How has it blessed me? Does it continue to bless me? Am I called to pass the item? These questions will help you determine if this item has value to you now and respects it history in your life.

Step 4: Thank God for the blessing you have received from it. Then if you have determined it is a keeper, put it back. If you want someone else to have it like a family or friend label it and place aside for them. If it has no further use or meaning, then make it go away.

Step 5: Place it in a bag appropriate for where it will go. A brown paper bag, trash bag, recycle bin or other. It does not matter... as long as the items are collected into bags and the clutter diminishes.

Step 6: Make it go away. You can recycle it, donate it to Savers, Goodwill, Salvation Army or church yard sale*. You can even throw it away as appropriate. Do not keep it around. TAKE IT TO ITS DESTINATION EACH DAY or at the earliest possible time.

I find this practice helpful to reflect on the blessings I have, encounter, and reflect of the challenges I have faced as I prepare for Easter with more clarity of mind and less clutter in my home.

For more details on **40 Bags in 40 Days** please go to the link below or google the topic. There are many variations to see. God Bless you in the gifts and the clearing. Lenten Blessings to you. <https://goloadup.com/40-bags-40-days-decluttering-challenge>

** (Please note the church does not want to collect your stuff all year only donate during arranged times).*

FUMC Craft Group

Beginning on March 8, the Craft Group will start meeting once again. We will meet on Tuesday afternoons from 1-3 in Lamson Hall. We will begin getting ready for the Christmas Fair.

One craft that I'm considering is "broken plate" mosaic decorations on plant pots. All are welcome (and heartily encouraged!!) to join us, regardless of whether you feel that you're "not crafty!" You'd be surprised with what you can do, believe me!! And the fellowship is the most important benefit of getting involved!!

We haven't had much success in selling tree ornaments that we've made over the past couple of years, so I'm trying to come up with ideas other than ornaments. Any ideas are welcome!!

Hope to see you on the 8th!!
Blessings - Diana

Girls Night Out!

This popular event is returning on Friday, March 18th! Dinner will take place at 5pm at the Horseshoe Pub which is located at 29 South St. in Hudson.

We look forward to dining at other restaurants on the 3rd Friday of each month.

Monthly Friendship Dinner

Join us on March 26th at 5pm
Dine-in or To-go
Spaghetti & Meatballs
Notice the Time Change!



FUMC Trustee updates

We welcomed our new Brazilian UMC church to use our building. Trustees cleaned out some rooms to offer to them. It was an opportunity to get rid of old things hanging around. We look forward to the two churches working together.

The roof issue is an ongoing project. We are still waiting for the roof company to come back with their proposal. Then the work starts as we look to finance the project.

Ben purchased the church a new air purifier for Lamson Hall. Hopefully we will some better air quality. Thank you Ben!

Bob Scerra - Trustee Chair



Birthday Sunday

On Sunday, March 6th we will celebrate Birthday Sunday. There will be a cake for every month in Lamson Hall after church.



Fat Tuesday / Pancake Dinner

Join us on March 1st at 6pm in Lamson Hall
(dine-in only).

We will "Get the fat out of the house" before we start Lent.

March Birthdays

4	Adam Krasinski
6	Janice Owen
6	Frances Wolfe
10	Chris Jordan
10	Brody O'Leary
11	Karen Wetherell
15	Rosanne Roberts
16	Melissa Sniffin
23	Deb O'Malley
24	Meaghan Scerra
28	Becky Millbury (nee Kauffman)

March Anniversaries

31	Rosanne & Cliff Roberts
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ECycle / and FUMC Food Sale

Saturday April 2: 9am-2pm

Susan's Chili: Quart - \$12 / Pint - \$6

Large Corn Muffins: \$3 each

Barbara's Chicken Salad: Pint \$10

Bob's Baked Beans: Quart - \$8 / Pint - \$4

Thank You...

Thank you so much for your donation to Roland's House. We are blessed to have you in our life.



Bulletin Board Refresh

The bulletin boards are getting a refresh if your committee or group would like information about what you do or upcoming events on bulletin boards, please see Christine to coordinate ideas.

Thanks - Christine DiMare

Help needed...

The FUMC Handbell choir is looking for 2-3 stools for the members to use during practice and playing. If you have one that you can donate, please drop it off in the sanctuary near the handbell tables. Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Thanks – Lisa Schliker / Music Director

SAVE THE DATES

Dinners:

March 1 st , 2022	FAT TUESDAY – Pancake Dinner 6pm
March 12, 2022	MALAWI FUNDRAISER – Corned Beef and Cabbage 6pm
March 26, 2022	Friendship Dinner – Spaghetti 5pm
April 14, 2022	Seder Supper - Religious Service and Turkey Dinner 6pm
April 23, 2022	Friendship Dinner – TBA 5pm

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF TIMES OF DINNERS

Looking Ahead:

April 5, 2022	RETURN of Coffee Clash – Tuesday Mornings, 10am. Outside
April 23, 2022	SPRING MARKET – Town Hall, 11am-2pm FUMC Pies & Hand Pies
May 21, 2022	SPRING MARKET – Town Hall, 11am-2pm FUMC Pies & Hand Pies

Special Thanks from Pastor Kim

While I was out for surgery, the FUMC Pulpit was blessed with many voices, gifts, and graces. I thank those who stepped up to cover worship tasks: leading worship and prayer, offering music, and preparing and preaching sermons of the day. I would also include our Superintendent Megan Stowe for her preaching, and for her kindness and direction during this time.

I wish to recognize Stacey Hartford, Jim Niro, Susan Niro, Barbara Robinson, Chris Jordan, and all those who stepped up to assist. For the skills and talents of the Choirs, Lisa Schliker and the *Amazing* Margarita Merriman. Thanks to all of you and any I may have missed (Please accept my apologies). God has given you great skill and has placed a call to respond in your heart. I thank you for your time skill and effort. I would not have been able to rest and heal as needed if it were not for your willingness and ability.

I would also like to thank the congregation for your excitement and eagerness to play along with the Christmas Pageant. I am sorry I had to miss it. I knew it would be great fun and everyone would enjoy letting their childlike sense of play out for the day. Nothing is better than celebrating the divine gift of the Birth of Christ like acting like a *child* of God.

Thank you all.

Kim

Meditation... – Barbara Robinson

It began with love

Sin

It ended in death

Surrender

It begins again -

Because it began with love.

A circle of life

A pattern of a life in Christ that knows no time.

Count the days

A repetition of generations.

We have not learned.

Love is from God, it is of God, it is God.

Sin is our desire to become our own god.

Death is our separation from God and all that is good.

Surrender is our acknowledgement of the sin...the confession of it.

Love is because it is God's desire for us to have it..