

The Messenger

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

JUNE Mission, Opportunity, Outreach (M.O.O.)

This month we are dedicating our Outreach efforts to saving the Tabernacle at the Jacksonville campground in East Machias, Maine. The tabernacle needs repair and is in danger of collapsing. The East Machias Camp Meeting Association is working to raise funds for its repair.



Jacksonville camp is the center of operation for Down East Maine Missions, where our church goes for its summer mission trip and the Tabernacle is the center of worship for the camp. To contribute, send your donation to the church with a notation in the memo: *Save the Tabernacle*.

Saturday, June 11th Old Fashioned Meatloaf Fundraiser dinner at 5:00pm to help restore the Tabernacle! You are invited to enjoy a delicious meatloaf, mashed potato and vegetable FUNDRAISER dinner, served along with dessert and drinks to help raise funds!

Annual Yard/Craft Sale & E-Cycle Event

Saturday, June 18th 9:00am to 2:00pm

If you've never had a yard sale and are wishing there was some way to pass on some of your now unwanted "stuff" but the items are too good to just throw away....then a yard sale is the way to go. You'll have your own spot to show off your wares, meet some very nice people/shoppers AND make a little cash when you sell something. Give it a try. Reserve your space for the small fee of only \$12.00 AND! we will be selling a variety of foods made in church, of course! Come hungry and purchase some Chili, Corn Muffins, Baked Beans or Chicken Salad. *Please call or email the office to reserve your space!*



Also on Yard Sale Day, the truck will be set up in the lower parking lot for you to drop off all your unwanted electronic items, anything with a plug. The company will also take your old bicycles to be fixed and refurbished to be given to someone who can't afford to buy new.

June Birthdays

- | | |
|----|------------------------------|
| 1 | Justice Sara Bates |
| 2 | Telynna Jeansun Grenfell-Lee |
| 4 | Elaine Gjeltrema |
| 4 | Trina (Elman) Zompetti |
| 6 | Tallessyn Zawn Grenfell-Lee |
| 6 | Trelawney Grenfell-Muir |
| 7 | Cory Comeau |
| 7 | Bonnie DeRusha |
| 11 | Diana Andrews |
| 12 | Heather Bruce |
| 19 | Eric Grenfell-Muir |
| 23 | Teague O'Leary |
| 26 | Mario DiMare |
| 26 | Cookie Lizotte |
| 28 | Christine DiMare |
| 29 | BonnieJean Bancroft |
| 29 | Mike Gigliotti |

June Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 6 | Ernest & Carol Sahlin |
| 14 | Dave & Jean James |
| 22 | Dennis & Joann Gour |
| 24 | Kevin and Cheryl O'Leary |
| 26 | Mike & Deb Kauffman |

Coffee Klatch

Wednesday, June 8th 10:00am
We will begin gathering under the trees.
Bring a lawn chair and join us outside (or in, if rainy) to chat and catch up with each other.



Friendship Dinner

Saturday, June 25th at 5:00pm – We begin our outdoor dining on the lawn (weather permitting). Come and enjoy the evening warmth and fellowship! Bob's firing up the grill!



Celebrate Stacey Hartford's Farewell at FUMC


On Sunday, June 12 following worship, please join us downstairs for refreshments in Lamson Hall, as we host Stacey Hartford's Going Away Party. Stacey has been a valued member of FUMC and spearheaded the Covid Food Relief program during the pandemic. Many of you got to know Stacey during this time. Perhaps you or someone you know, may have benefitted from it.

We wish Stacey blessings on becoming the local Pastor to the Athol Methodist Church. Come downstairs to say "thank you" and bid her a goodbye.

Gifts/donations for Stacey can be dropped off at the office or sent to the church c/o Ada Arenstrup.

Ukraine Relief

Please Note that if you wish to donate to the Ukraine Relief message below, you may also choose to write a check to FUMC with the Advance # in the Subject line and we will group the checks together and send to UMCOR



Ukraine Relief

United Methodists and others wishing to provide humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people in the wake of the Russian invasion of their country may contribute to **Advance #982450, UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery**. This fund will provide direct assistance to those in Ukraine as well as assistance to Ukrainians fleeing to neighboring countries.

Gifts to support the people of Ukraine can be made in the following ways:

- Online at <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/982450>
- By toll free telephone: 888-252-6174
- By check with "Advance #982450-Ukraine" written on the memo line, either mailed and addressed to Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY, 10087-9068 or given at or through any United Methodist church

One hundred percent of all Advance contributions go to the designated cause.

Girl's Night Out

Friday, June 17th 5:00pm - Location to be announced so ladies, put the date in your calendars!

July / August newsletter deadline

There will be a combined newsletter for the month of July and August. Please send submissions to Lisa Schliker by **Monday, June 27**. Her e-mail is: lpattovb@yahoo.com

Music notes...



I will be taking my annual "Summer Vacation" starting mid-June. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank a few folks:

- I'd like to thank members of the FUMC Handbell and Chancel Choir for all their hard work and dedication throughout the season. I am blessed to have such amazing folks in both choirs.
 - I'd like to thank Margarita for sharing her keyboard talents, both on the organ and on the piano. Her talent is amazing!
 - I'd like to thank members of the congregation for all your support.
- Rehearsals will resume in September! Be watching for announcements in the fall! New members welcome!

- Lisa Schliker, FUMC Music Director

The Cracked Pot

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on each end of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, and while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.



For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water in his master's house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect to the end for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream.

"I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you."

"Why?" asked the bearer. "What are you ashamed of?"

"I have been able, for these past two years, to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your master's house.

Because of my flaws, you must do all this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts," the pot said.

The water bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot, and in his compassion, he said, "As we return to the master's house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path.

Indeed, as they went up the hill, the old cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it some. But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because it had leaked out half its load, and so again it apologized to the bearer for its failure.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of your path, but not on the other pot's side?"

That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I took advantage of it.

I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you've watered them.

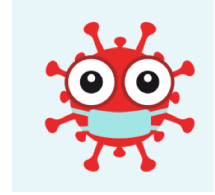
For two years, I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my master's table.

Without you being just the way you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house."

Each of us has our own unique flaws. We are all cracked pots. But if we will allow it, the Lord will use our flaws to grace His Father's table.

Submitted by Barbara Robinson

Just a friendly reminder...per Church Council:



Cases of Covid are going up again so please take precautions.

- If you are sick for any reason, please stay at home.
- If you're not feeling well but are planning to come to worship, please wear a mask.
- If you have not been vaccinated, you must wear a mask.

Remember, we need to care for others as well as ourselves.

Sermon presented by Chris Jordan on 5-29-22

Good morning... Today's scripture is filled with imagery of the power and beauty of this earth. And I was ready to write a whole feel-good sermon about how glorious nature is when I learned about the tragic shooting in Texas and was reminded of the horrific shooting in Buffalo. Something so unnatural and terrible. And it flooded my mind of most other thoughts this week. This world is broken and it needs mending. And we pray to God, Jesus, and the holy spirit to guide us in this wilderness.

God created this earth and everything in nature to work together in a biosphere of life. We see that just like Jesus was a great healer even to the point of rising from the grave, nature also heals itself. When Covid 19 brought about lock-downs across the world, the air quality in many cities became less polluted. When a branch from a plant is snapped, it can fuse itself together and continue to grow. There are species of animals that can lose a limb and it regenerates. We exist amongst miraculous things all around us.

But we must remember, that we are a part of this eco-sphere of life. We do a good job, as humans, to say that we love "being in nature" as if we aren't a part of it. The way we look at a deer in the woods as being one with nature is exactly how one with nature we are too. We are nature. We are part of this ebb and flow, we exist in this multitude of symbiotic relationships. We are rooted and grounded to this very earth, free to tap into its powerful energy. We hear in the scripture "Let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift."

God is a great delegator though. God created these systems these things that work together. Bees pollinating flowers, flowers creating fruit, animals scattering the seeds of the fruit, and life continuing on. Since we are a part of this glory, I wonder what God is asking of us. How can we be involved in this natural healing? How can we make life continue on?

Often, for me, when horrific tragedies arise, I feel this voice within me have a knee-jerk reaction of being angry with and blaming God. And that is okay if you're feeling that. That is part of the faith journey, because when we doubt God and come back to God, we are doing so

not out of obligation, but out of true faith. Faith is ever evolving and every part of the faith journey is important to the destination.

So, when faced with difficult times, after my initial anger fades away I find myself remembering that we are called by God. We are a part of humanity, we are one with this earth, the healing power is in our hands too. After I feel the call to arms fading away, I feel the call to loving arms crying out loudly. We are being called to love. We are being called to heal this world. We are being called to love each other as Jesus loves us.

Just as we trust that the flowers will grow, the trees will sprout leaves, and the birds will sing under God's creative and working hands, we must believe that God is at work with us as well. That we have been planted here on this earth to grow. That we are rooted in the love of Christ and can draw from his love when our own hearts are heavy, and angry, and burdened. That love can outlast and overpower anything. That is why when we lose someone we love; our love never goes away. Our love is not affected by time, distance, or even death. Love stands strong against a storm because love is rooted in good. All that is rooted in goodness will remain.

It is our duty to spread kindness to those who are not experiencing it. It is our job to bring healing to those who are wounded. We are being asked to provide food for the hungry, love to the un-loved, understanding to the misunderstood, and openness to those who feel closed off from the world. We are a part of this natural world. This beautiful tapestry woven from heaven, each thread with a unique gift and purpose.

And just as God has artfully and thoughtfully created the trees to provide oxygen, the moon to pull the tides, the sun to warm the earth, and the animals to interweave and balance with each other. We have some tasks on this earth as well. In times such as these one of our most crucial purposes is to care for one another. To heal what is broken and make changes when changes must be made. To believe in the power of God's love and to share that love with everyone we come in to contact with.

In these trying times I am reminded that church is not a book club. We are not just here to read the bible and recite the verses. We are here to become inspired by the stories within the pages. To hear the word and weave those words into caring actions. There is so much love and care within these walls how could it possibly not overflow into the world? We are an integral part of this universe and all its complex beauty. And just as we find peace in wooded paths, sunny mornings, and bright stars, we can find the beauty in humankind too. We can be the hope that others are desperately looking for.

When we are facing difficulties, it is crucial to check in with ourselves and see what we are rooted in. When the storms come, when things get bad, when stressors enter our lives. What are we grounding ourselves upon? Is it solid ground? Are we rooted firmly in Christ? Because if we are, our roots will spread wide because they have access to a wellspring of the living water that Jesus supplies. This world can feel overwhelming at times. But it is ever growing, ever changing, and ever healing and so are we. We are a holy work in progress, like an unfinished painting that is becoming more and more beautiful with each stroke of the brush.

When I am in the woods I love looking up to the canopy of trees as the sun shines between the leaves and branches. We must reach out to others until our caring arms form a canopy protecting all and soaking up light from above. The ocean seems to go on forever and ever. Our love must be like this too, fluid, and without boundaries or guidelines. God created a world both in need of healing and able to heal itself. And so, we must go out into this world, in need of healing for ourselves, but also ready to heal others.

All is not lost here. And it never is. We can build the world we wish to live in and the world we want for generations to come after us. God has given us the tools and all we have to do is use them properly. We can create dissonance or harmony. The decision is ours. Breathe in deeply this cleansing air we have been provided with. This is the start of a brand-new day. This can be a brand-new chapter. God is at work here and has given us a job to do. Hear this call to loving arms, healing is happening, we are being called to act in love. I will leave you with this quote by John Wesley. "Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways, you can. In all the places, you can. At all the times, you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can." - Amen

