

The Messenger

News and Information for the First United Methodist Church, Hudson, MA
December 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: Pastor Chris Jones

Certified Lay Minister: Susan Niro

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

Caregivers & Grief Support Group 1st and 3rd Monday - 11:00am

Thanks to all who have used our support group for the often- challenging times we experience in a caregiver capacity.

Agape Café Thursdays 4:30pm

Dine Inside or order “To Go” and pick-up in our parking lot.

These free dinners are for everyone; all are welcome to partake. Be sure to check out the table with all the desserts and take what you like!

MASK Update: A Friendly Reminder from our Church Council

We ask you to please take the following 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. Thank you for your understanding and consideration of this request.



A Special Christmas Gift

There are many symbols for Christmas - angels, candles, bells, trees, Santa, holly, stars and Nativity scenes to name a few. But there is one more - one not usually associated with Christmas- and that is us, you and I. We have more Christmas in us than any other symbol designed for the season.



We were given the gift of Jesus Christ, God's gift to us of love, joy, peace, and hope. Once we received that gift, we became that gift. Because Christ dwells in us and we in Him we can share the precious gift of His love with all those we meet. This special gift was not meant to be possessive; it was and is meant to be shared and shared and shared.

This love is a kind word, an offer of assistance, a smile, a hug, just being present with someone in times of turmoil or sorrow, or loneliness. It's also sharing joyful experiences as well. It's a gift of selflessness. This gift is one we can all afford regardless of our financial status. The cost was paid for on a special Friday long ago and insured for a lifetime on the following Sunday.

We don't have to spend days on end shopping for this gift. We only have to reach within ourselves and begin to share what we find there. Other people giving the same gift to us replenishes this gift. There is no greater gift available than this. We are now his hands and feet and voice and because of this we are the best symbol of Christmas that anyone can find. Jesus Christ -is the reason not the season.

Blessings to all, Merry Christmas
Deacon Barbara

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

Free Community Turkey Dinner and Entertainment Saturday, December 10th 5:00pm

Plan to dine with family and friends this evening as we welcome people from Hudson and surrounding communities, to a delicious home cooked Turkey dinner, served in the spirit of meeting new friends and sharing fellowship with others.

As an added attraction, many of you have met and enjoyed listening to Tony Funches, formerly one of the lead vocalists with Herb Reed and the Platters. Please join us!



Thoughts on Stewardship by Pam Sherman

Stewardship is living the vows we took when we joined the church; we promised to support the church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. This month I'd like to focus on **presence**.

When was the last time you were in church? Have you been to church in the last week, the last month, the last year, the last decade? Why is it so important to be present anyway? During the pandemic, when the church was closed for in-person worship, how many of you yearned to get back to church? On-line worship was better than nothing but it just wasn't enough. We learned that being present at worship is more than just sitting in a pew, singing a few hymns, and hearing a sermon. There is something about being physically present at the church that is different than watching on-line. I know because I continued to worship remotely for 10 months after the church reopened for in-person worship in 2020. I loved being able to watch on-line every Sunday morning and on Christmas eve, but it wasn't the same as being there.

The most important part of being present has to do with relationships. Waving across the sanctuary at someone who has just walked in the door. Knowing that the pastor knows your name. Greeting visitors and making them feel welcome. Clapping at the end of the service after Margarita has just finished yet another beautiful postlude. Telling Lisa personally how much you enjoyed listening to both the Chancel choir and the handbell choir. Catching up with people while sitting in Lamson Hall during coffee hour or standing in the parking lot after worship.

I know that some of you desperately want to attend but can't because of health issues. Others worship together as a community at the Artisan, which is wonderful. Still others live too far away and attend only when you're in the area. We miss you and wish you could join us. Some of you, however, stopped and "got out of the habit", and may now feel embarrassed about coming back after so long. We miss you too and would love to see you again! It's never too late to reconnect and Advent is the perfect time to do it. We'll save a pew for you.



DECEMBER MOO The "Giving Tree"

For the month of December, your M.O.O. (Mission, Opportunity, Outreach) committee is sponsoring the "Giving Tree", now set up in the sanctuary.

Choose as many kid's names as you'd like to shop for and be sure to have the wrapped gifts, with the names attached, brought back to the sanctuary no later than **Monday, December 19th**.

Cookie Swap Fundraiser Sunday, December 18th



We're asking all you bakers out there to bake 4 dozen of your favorite cookie(s) for our Cookie Swap. Drop off the cookies in the church kitchen BEFORE the service. After worship, head on downstairs to Lamson Hall, purchase a special gift box for \$10.00 and fill it with the selection of cookies that will be offered. This is a tradition that the late Pastor Kim started last year.

Blue Christmas Service
Wednesday, December 14th, 7:00pm

The "Blue Christmas" service is a time of prayer and quietness, to comfort and soothe the weary soul.

Winter Market, Town Hall Common
Saturday, December 17th from 11am -2pm

We will have our pie table set up so you can shop the vendors and pick up your Christmas pie (or hand pie!). Please stop by to say hello!

Christmas Eve Worship
Saturday, December 24th



There will be two celebrations of Jesus' birth; one at 7:00pm with candlelight and one at 11:00pm, a more mellow service with communion and candlelight.

New Year's Eve Friendship Dinner -
Saturday, December 31st.

Why not plan to spend a nice evening with us and enjoy a delicious Pot Roast Dinner prepared by Barbara Moore and her talented helpers! Join us on NEW YEAR'S Eve. Bring your family, invite a neighbor and friends and ENJOY!

IT'S TIME TO ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS!

As we do each year, you may purchase a poinsettia plant for the altar in honor or memory of loved ones

for a cost of \$12.00 per plant. Please return this order form, with payment, to the Church Office or the Collection plate, **no later than Sunday, December 18th.**

Name: _____

Number of plants: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Please make checks payable to "FUMC" with Poinsettia in the Subject line.

(You may place the order form, with payment, in the collection plate or drop off in the office.)

SAVE THE DATES:

Dec 3 - ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR

Dec 10 - Community Turkey Dinner. ENTERTAINMENT by Tony Funches

Dec 16 - Girls Night Out: Location TBA

Dec 18 - 2nd ANNUAL COOKIE SWAP

Dec 24 - **NO** FRIENDSHIP DINNER

Dec 31 - FRIENDSHIP DINNER



TOWN EVENTS / FUNDRAISERS FOR CHURCH:

Dec. 17th Winter Market – Hudson Town Hall

MISSION, OUTREACH & OPPORTUNITY:

December – THE GIVING TREE

ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS PIES !!

UMW annual fund raiser **\$12.00 per pie** (pre-pay only)

Last Day to Pre-pay Order: **Sunday, December 18th.**

Pie PICK-UP **Friday, December 23rd between 5pm - 7pm**



_____ APPLE # _____ BLUEBERRY

_____ CHERRY # _____ PUMPKIN

_____ SUGAR FREE APPLE

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Place this order form, *with payment*, in the UMW mailbox or in the offering plate. You may mail orders to FUMC, 34 Felton St., Hudson, MA 01749

Checks payable to UMW. Please include 'UMW pie fund raiser' on the memo line of your check.

Email Ada at arenstrup@netzero.net with questions or additional orders.



Game Night – Spare your Time for Fun!

It's here! Friday Nights at 6:00pm come on over to the church for fun and friends; and it's free!

Welcome to a wonderful experience and extremely refreshing time! ***Welcome to game night!***

Fun and Free night of gaming with family, friends, or soon to be both! Card games and board games will be available. The list of games will increase as will the players.

Where: First United Methodist Church (978-562-2932), 34 Felton St., Hudson, MA 01749

When: Fridays 6:00pm – 9:00pm. Please note there will be NO Game Night on Fri. November 25 and Fri. December 2. We will resume the fun activities on Fri. Dec. 9

With the cost of EVERYTHING on the rise, entertainment seems to take a backseat to essentials. The need to have companionship and fun is what we want to achieve. So come on over for an escape from the routine and enjoy some wonderful people and experiences. All levels of experience are welcome and encouraged! Have a game you want to learn or teach to others, we want you!

We will play a variety of games and will expand as the need of the players wants.

Available to play are cards, cribbage, Scrabble, Rummikub, backgammon, trivial pursuit, Pictionary, and others.

Come and join the fun!

Can't make it at the start, come when you are able! Refreshments will be available!