

The Messenger

News and Information for the First United Methodist Church, Hudson, MA
February 2023

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 2023:

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: Sarah DiMare

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 Word from the Pastor...

Beloved,

February is the month I love least. The days are frigid, the sunlight is sparse and Spring seems eons away. I slog through the month; grumbling about the present ice or snow or slush, kvetching about past awful storms, and anxious about the weather to come. In the song that we call Psalm 118, The poet reminds himself that: *“This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.”* This is a verse that is pulled out of the whole psalm and put on postcards or placards, and it loses something when taken out of the whole lyric. The psalm begins and ends with giving thanks, but the body of the poem is about the tough time he is having. The poet is calling out from his distress. He has much more to worry about than a cold winter night. The might of nations are weighed against him. They surround him like a “swarm of bees.” They “blaze like a fire of thorns.” In the midst of all this, he asks that: “the gates of righteousness, open that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.” I think what the poet is trying to tell me is that he is not going to let circumstances tell him who he is and how to act. He puts his faith in God and he will act in joy and truth. He is the “stone that the builders rejected [and he] has become the chief cornerstone. The poet, despite his enemies, chooses to rejoice.



Circumstances of all kinds will beset us. How should we respond? First, by knowing we are loved and that we are worthy. Second, though we may have no control over the weather or the actions of others, we can control our response. Lucinda Williams is another songwriter, and though the psalmist and she are over two thousand years apart, and both are singing about different circumstances, the themes of each are similar. In Joy, Williams writes about someone who has stolen her Joy her determination to take her joy back. I cannot do anything about the weather, but I can control my response. I am not going to let winter steal my Joy. I will look to the Lord and rejoice. I will choose joy.

God Bless – Pastor Chris

Lenten Bible Study

Beloved,

I invite you to take part in a Lenten Book study. The week after Ash Wednesday, I will lead a seven week study, Thursdays at 7 pm, on Adam Hamilton’s **24 Hours that Changed the World**. Hamilton writes that the book will help us: “better understand the events that occurred during the last twenty-four hours of Jesus’ life, to see more clearly the theological significance of Christ’s suffering and death, and to reflect on the meaning of those events for our lives” If you would like to take part please let me know and I will order the book for you. I hope you will join me on this journey.

Blessings - Pastor Chris

Lenten Meditation

“Jesus Wept” – John 11:35

How great the pain must have been in the loss of His friend. How great the love must have been.

Isn't it strange that we begin to experience the life of Christ in relationship to what we experience in our own life? To feel the deep pain of someone else's suffering is to experience the pain Christ must have experienced while being punished when there was no true reason, abandoned by those whom he loved and finally crucified by those who mocked Him...and all for our sake.

To feel the deep pain of false accusations from someone we care about is to experience the deep pain that Christ must have experienced when His beloved disciples remained silent and did not defend Him..

To be vulnerable – to be sensitive – to care – All these are risks we take when we respond in love to each other. Does the pain really help us to grow as stated in Hebrews 5:7? (NIV) “” To trust more that God will be our strength because surely, we are weak and unable to cope? To absorb the pain in order to relate more with others who have had or will experience the same pain?

To weep is to experience the deepest kind of tears and pain. Tears that flow from every part of us – deep within in. Like a dam bursting because it's boundaries can no longer contain water a necessity in order to be refilled calmly, slowly by a little rain each day. To weep is to be in touch with love. It's an opportunity to grow in the love we receive and are to share though the first one to weep, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

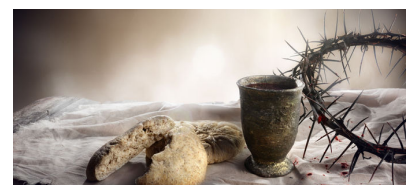


During the coming Lenten, remember Christ's sacrificial love that we may receive eternal life with Him. Amen

Submitted by Barbara Robinson

Worship Committee Update - Communion

Communion is celebrated during worship on the first Sunday of the month. Starting in February, we will resume Communion immediately following the worship service on the other Sundays. If you wish to receive, gather around the Communion table at the front of the sanctuary after the Postlude.



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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 witness.

Many people think of witnessing as the activity done in several faiths where members are expected to knock on stranger's doors, hand them brochures, and ask them if they have a personal relationship with Jesus. I don't know about you, but I wouldn't be a member of any faith that required me to do that. Fortunately, there is more than one way to witness. The key is that what you are doing is public.

A few weeks ago, when I said to someone "Sorry, I can't work out on Sunday morning because that's when I go to church. How about Sunday afternoon?", I was witnessing. When I share stories with co-workers about mission trips that I have been part of, I'm witnessing. Every person who stands in the booth at Rec Fest or one of the Markets outside the town hall is witnessing. Are you witnessing without even realizing it? Hmm, something to ponder...

February Birthdays

2	Don Eastman
7	Ron Paskavitz
14	Jean Luther
16	Cheryl O'Leary
19	G. Mike Kauffman
20	Lynn Kerner
23	Katie Krasinski
25	Joan Vincent
25	Bob Berube
27	Katie Dunnell
29	Keaghan O'Leary

Valentine's Day Dinner Fundraiser

On Saturday, February 11th, at 5:00pm, we are going to have a little something special to celebrate Valentine's Day. Those who have dined with us already know that First United Methodist Church has a reputation for serving wonderful dinners. This is going to be a sit-down dinner prepared by Barbara Moore and her "crew". You will be served stuffed chicken breast, mashed potatoes, salad and a veggie and dessert.

And we are delighted to announce that once again, we have been able to secure Tony Funches, from the "Platters", to complete the festive holiday spirit so be sure to put this in your calendars,

This is a fundraiser for our church and the cost is only \$10/per person. Please spread the word... Invite your friends to come and enjoy this delightful evening.



February Anniversaries

14	Trina (Elman) & John Zompetti
14	Christine & Mario DiMare
24	Allen & Laurie Brown



Ash Wednesday – February 22



A service will be held at the Marlboro church at 7 pm for anyone in Hudson who wants to attend a traditional Ash Wednesday service.

Hudson FUMC will also provide self-service ashes at the church on Ash Wednesday service. Be watching for more details.

Thank You to Everyone...

I wanted to take this opportunity to give a tremendous *Thank You* for this holiday and every other gift given to me this year and every year! Your generosity wonderful and pales to the love you have shown me. Thank you very much! – Mario DiMare

FUMC Access via Streaming

Have you cut the cable and are now solely using streaming services? Maybe you have a Roku device or TV.

You can easily add the YouTube app to your line up of services available.

1. Simply scroll down to Free Channels and Press OK. A list of free channels is displayed.
2. Scroll through and locate YouTube and click OK. The channel options is displayed.
3. Select Add Channel and click OK. YouTube is now available on your list. With the YouTube channel highlighted, click OK to launch.
4. Search for @FUMCHudsonMA and you will come to our channel. Subscribe to the channel and it will appear every time you access YouTube.

Thank you from UMCOR



The church recently received a “Thank you” from UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) for a donation that the church made in the amount of \$845. The donation was to support **UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery**.

FUMC YouTube Channel Access through Cable Provider

Whether your cable provider is Comcast Xfinity or Verizon FiOS, you can watch the Livestream of the church service through YouTube without the need of a computer!

1. If you have Xfinity, press the Xfinity button on your remote and go to the Apps section and launch YouTube. Or say ‘Launch YouTube’ on your voice remote. For FiOS, enter the channel 837 to access YouTube.
2. After launching YouTube, search and subscribe to the @FUMCHudsonMA. From here, you can watch any of the services – past or current.

To watch scheduled viewing on either provider Comcast channel 8 or 1070/
Verizon FiOS channel 47:

Hudson

Wednesday at 9:00 pm

Thursday at 2:00 pm

Sunday at 9:00am & 7:30pm

Marlborough

Saturday at 1:30 pm

Sunday at 1:30 pm

Monday at 9:00 pm

Friday at 9:00

The service was previously limited to 60 minutes, but an extension for 90 minutes has been requested.

Prayer Requests:

- Dr. Brian: for the people of Malawi and surrounding nations facing a worsening famine and cholera epidemic
- Deb K.: for John, looking at a difficult recovery from a heart valve replacement.
- Janet; for daughter Marianne, in hospital for hypertension and severe anemia.
- For the families and friends of the mass shooting in a Chinese New Year celebration in California, on Saturday night.
- Barbara R.: for Michael to find a job and Terry, suffering with depression.
- For Bonnie's granddaughter Brittny; into Mass General for a week for chemotherapy and working through the bone marrow transplant process.

11 FEB

Love One Another

VALENTINE'S

Fundraiser Dinner

5:00 PM

\$10 per person

Baked stuffed chicken breast, mashed potatoes, carrots, a wonderful dessert, and sparkling juice

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
34 FELTON STREET
HUDSON, MA

WWW.HUDSONFUMC.ORG

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