

The Messenger

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

May 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

Pastor Chris, at 978-877-9757, now has office hours on Fridays from 1:00-3:00pm

If you need more time, please arrange with the church office.

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.



Prayer Cards in the Pews

The prayer cards are for you to write your joys, concerns and prayers for Pastor Chris to acknowledge during worship. You will see a place to indicate if you wish your prayer to only be addressed privately by Pastor Chris.



Bible Study

Join Barbara Robinson as she leads a new bible study journey on Wednesdays beginning at 10am in Lamson Hall.

May Birthdays

1	Sarah Brown
1	Joann Gour
4	Iris Lucy
5	Barbara Moore
7	Caralyn Addy
9	James Collins
15	Judy Jewett
15	Kelly Albino
15	John Wesley Taylor
15	Marianne Saluk
20	Heleena DiMare
22	Oliver Dean Williams
24	Susan Niro
25	Carol Sahlin

May Anniversaries

5	Dennis & Pam Sherman
24	Daniel & Tallessyn Grenfell-Lee



Prayer Requests

- For the lives torn apart by the house explosion in Berlin. Mother, Judy Christiansen, died, daughter is in the hospital.
- For those affected by floods, tornadoes and other natural disasters.
- Those struggling with daily pain; may they find relief.
- Barbara M.; blessings for her great niece Erin...ran the Boston Marathon.
- Barbara R.; Joy over the recent marriage of her granddaughter.
- For Carol S., having surgery on April 27th.
- Bob S. shares a message from the men's shelter in Marlboro...they are so very grateful for the awesome home cooked meals that FUMC drops off
- Elaine; prayers that our country would lay down their guns and embrace life and non-violence.
- Bonnie; gratitude for all the thoughts, cards and prayers received for Brittny.



Agape Café Thursdays at 4:30pm

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!

Friendship Dinner

On the 4th Saturday of each month, at 5pm, we host a free homecooked meal, open to the public.

Our next dinner will be Saturday, May 27th.

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 gifts, specifically on tithing.

Tithing is giving a portion back to God. Here is the way it is described in Leviticus 27: 30, 32: *³⁰All tithes from the land, whether the seed from the ground or the fruit from the tree, are the Lord's; they are holy to the LORD. ³²All tithes of herd and flock, every tenth one that passes under the shepherd's staff, shall be holy to the LORD.*

Is the idea of giving 10% of your income to the church scary? It was for me at one time. Of course, I hadn't actually calculated it because I've never been good with percentages. So, first I figured out how to calculate what percentage of my salary I was giving. Here's how you do that:

To determine the percentage of your current giving, divide the amount you give by your income and then multiply by 100 (amount given \div income \times 100).

Example: *If you have \$800 and you gave \$25 to the church then here is the calculation:
 $25 \div 800 = 0.03125 \times 100 = 3.125$. You've given a little over 3%.*

When I did the calculation, I was embarrassed to discover that I was giving less than 1% of my income to the church. Then I figured out how to calculate 10% of my income. Here's how you do that if your income is \$800:

To determine how much you would have to give if you gave 10% of your income, multiply your income times .10 (income \times .10)

Example: *$800 \times .10 = 80$. You would need to give \$80 if you wanted to tithe 10%*

To determine 9% of your income, multiply your income by .09

Example: *$800 \times .09 = \$72$*

To determine 1% of your income, multiply your income by .01

Example: *$800 \times .01 = \$8$*

When I calculated 10% of my take home pay, I thought, "Yikes! That's a lot!" Even 1% felt like a stretch, so I prayed about it and then I set my calculations aside. From time to time those calculations would surface in my mind and I felt a nudging in my heart to make a change to my giving. When the annual stewardship drive arrived that year, I committed to tithing 1% of my income for the next year. My goal was to increase my giving by an additional 1% each year until I was tithing 10%. I eventually reached that goal, but not in the way I expected. Someday I'll share that story, but the important point today is that the first step to tithing is to do the calculations.

I encourage you to take a few minutes to figure out your percentage of giving and what a 10% tithe would be for you. If you have access to the internet then search for a percentage calculator and plug the numbers in. No pencil, paper, or calculator needed! Then pray about what changes, if any, you can make to your giving.

Worship Committee Update

At the Worship Committee meeting in April, we discussed ways to expand our ministry. We talked about our growing connection with the small, but faithful, group of people at the Artisan. We talked about starting another worship service targeted towards unchurched people in their 30's. We talked about ways to expand our on-line presence. During the conversation someone told Pastor Chris that during those times in the past when the whole church was praying about something, amazing things happened. And so, we need your help! When you pray, we're asking you to add this prayer:

“Where can our congregation be of service to others?”

Would you pray this prayer for the rest of 2023? If everyone prays, we believe amazing things can happen again.



Annual OUTDOOR YARD & CRAFTS Sale

Saturday, June 10th
9:00am – 2:00pm

SIGN UP Now! This is always a fun day for everyone and we hope you'll consider reserving a table. Held in conjunction with Hudson Fest, the sale will be held outdoors, weather permitting, or in Lamson Hall.

The good news is there is NO table fee! All we ask is that you agree to donate a minimum of 10% of what you take in. We count on your honesty at day's end and feel it's much nicer than paying a “fee”. Your “donation” will help the church's General Fund meet some of its financial obligations.

If you'd like to reserve a spot to set up your table, we have unlimited space for you in our parking lot. We will provide folding chairs or bring your own. Call the office (978-562-2932) or email your request to HUDSONFUMC@gmail.com to reserve your space.

E-Cycle event in our parking lot

Saturday, June 10th
9:00am – 2:00pm

If you have any electric items, anything with a cord i.e. keyboards, computers, appliances, anything metal; bring them to the parking lot. A small fee is charged but you'll finally have a chance to get rid of some clutter! If you have old or unwanted bikes, now you can bring them to our parking lot where a truck will be parked ready to take all drop-offs which will be cleaned, re-cycled and given to youngsters who doesn't have or can't afford to buy one.

Articles for the June newsletter are due Tuesday, May 30. Please send articles to me at: lpatttonvb@yahoo.com. Early submissions are always welcome! - Lisa Schliker