

The Messenger

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

*Newsletter articles for the August newsletter are due Monday, September 25th. Please send articles to me via e-mail: lpattonyb@yahoo.com
Thanks! Lisa Schliker – Newsletter Editor*

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

This month we are focusing collecting donations of health items for the recent influx of immigrants to Hudson. Toiletries and other personal care items can be dropped off in the big blue containers across from the church office. Please purchase whatever you can afford to give to people who have been moved from their home country to be resettled in America. They are starting with nothing and we, as an open and caring church are here to help.

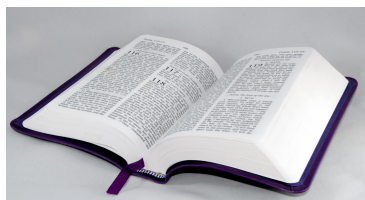


For those who wish to donate by check, please make checks out to "FUMC" with "Hudson Homeless Fund" on the Subject line. Thank you.

New Bible Study group

Wednesdays at 10:00am

A new Bible Study group will commence at 10:00am on Wednesday, September 13th. We're so happy that Sue Yeaton will be leading the study and all are invited to come as you are able. We will be studying the book of Acts which is found in the New Testament in your Bible.



September Anniversaries

3 Eric & Trelawney Grenfell-Muir
19 Don & Edwina Eastman
24 Pastor Chris & Linda Jones

Block Party help - We are also still focusing on all the preparations needed to pull off a successful **"23rd Annual Block Party"** to be held on Sunday, September 10th. We now have cards posted on the easel with what is needed.

PLEASE take one or more cards and consider helping out in any way you can by speaking to Ada or Barbara. This is our big event that welcomes the Hudson community and surrounding towns to join us for a day of fun, games, entertainment, kicking off with an outdoor worship service with a hymn sing. Spend the afternoon enjoying activities and ALWAYS great food prepared on site. A former lead vocalist with the 50's group, the Platters, Tony Funches, will once again be one of the guest entertainers performing, along with Filippo the Clown, Trombetta's Ice Cream truck will be set up, the always popular Animal Adventures and Magic by Jay, and of course good food!

September birthdays

8 Ken Lizotte
12 Anthony Curtis
14 Darnell Butler
16 Linnea Elman
16 Gregory Sniffin
17 Erika Eastman
19 Doris Downey
22 Chris Jones (Pastor)
24 John DeRusha
26 Brad Lowe
29 Bonnie Elman

A note from the Music Director...

Hello everyone - I hope you all had a wonderful summer. My summer has been a mix of emotions... As many of you know, my sister in law Melissa passed away after a battle with Cancer. Continued prayers for my brother Kenny and his two boys Alex and Anthony as they mourn the loss of Melissa.

Earlier this summer, I also shared that my dad Ken was struggling with breathing issues due to the Canadian smoke and humidity. He was in the hospital a few times over the summer. I am happy to report that he is doing much better thanks to the staff at his assisted living facility!

I have also had a busy summer! I had an opportunity to travel to Boulder CO in August for a work project. I will be making a few more trips this coming fall, but I'll be back on Sundays for Choir!

Choir members are invited to join me at 9:30 am on Sunday, September 10th to prepare for the annual block party. More to come!

Lisa Schliker – FUMC Music Director

Prayer Concerns And Celebrations

A close friend of Pastor Chris & Linda; Edmonds; diagnosed with cancer.

For the people of Maui; safety from the fires ravaging the area.

Frances' sister, age 80, 20yr breast cancer survivor, diagnosed with lung cancer.

For lost loved ones and healing for broken hearts.

For all in CA and other states impacted by Hurricane Hilary.

Christine; for a friend, Rich, recovering from triple by-pass surgery and for his wife, Denise

Prayers for those lifted during Sunday's worship service.

For all the world where there is tension; prayers for peaceful resolutions that will end fighting.

For all humanity being affected by fires, hurricanes, other natural disasters. Prayers for survivors and the grueling road of recovery ahead.

Prayer for God to help those struggling with fears, doubts and insecurity.

For those in any program of recovery.



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**.

Many Christians these days have stopped going to church. Some stopped attending for a specific reason and then got out of the habit. Others moved away and never found a new church. Still others returned after a length of time and found, to their surprise, that it wasn't identical to what it was when they left. I these people forgot what they're missing: being part of a community. Being part of THIS church, in my opinion, is being part of a caring and giving community. This church community who cared for me when I grieved after the death of each of my parents is the same community who sent me and others on mission trips. This church cared for me and helped me learn how to care for others. If you're not present then you'll miss out on being cared for and having opportunities to care for others.

Thank you very much for sharing your space at the church with us over the past few years while we have packed Kylee's Kare Kits for kidz. We appreciate the support from you and others at the church over the years. The Kare Kits program will be transitioning to a new non-profit, Bright Eyed, Inc., over the summer. We are very grateful to your generosity over the years. Sincerely, Sasha + the Hudson Kare Kits crew

What will be new for the *Christmas Fair* in 2023?

Our much loved traditions will be alive and well this season! The *Silent Auction*, a *Visit with Santa*, tons of themed gift baskets, hot beverages & treats from the start, lunch, the *Children's Corner Store*, *Mrs. Claus' Bling*, *Red Christmas* décor, homemade baked goodies and more. HOWEVER ~ We want to add "flair to our fair" so that our *Christmas Fair* will appeal to a broader base in our local community in 2023. And, we also desire to honor words we hear from the pulpit each Sunday. Therefore, this year, with "flair", we share the *Christmas Fair's* theme of ***Peace, Love and Cheer!***

Responding to the current economic climate, a push in society to move to a more minimalist culture and increasing concerns over global warming & the earth's long-term sustainability, we will focus on providing Affordable, Consumable, Repurposed and Purposeful items for sale this year, in part, to model good stewardship. To attract and promote town-wide community, we plan to offer experiences, such as the *Visit with Santa*, during the day. Additionally, we will ask each fair attendee to hand-write a Christmas card for our deployed military. Kids can color pictures to send to the enlisted. We will be having "Take What You Need" Christmas trees set-up for all to . . . well, if I told you, then you wouldn't come and see!

As September rolls in, watch for Craft Groups to restart, new & changing donation asks to be made, additional opportunities for you to join in and this year's plans to firm-up a bit more. Please think *VERY* creatively as to what you could offer in the *Silent Auction*. And, as always, more to come!

Many, many thanks to all of you, especially for your "Christmas in July" donations!

Questions? Need some ideas on how you fit in? Comments?

Please reach out ~ Elaine Gjeltema ~ elainegjw@yahoo.com ~ 978-875-5292