

# The Messenger

News and Information for the First United Methodist Church, Hudson, MA  
December 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](mailto:HUDSONFUMC@gmail.com)

Web Page: [www.hudsonfumc.org](http://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

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*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 January 2024 newsletter are due Wednesday, December 27 by 5pm. Please send articles to me via e-mail: [lpatttonvb@yahoo.com](mailto:lpatttonvb@yahoo.com)  
Early Submissions always encouraged!  
Thanks! Lisa Schliker – Newsletter Editor*

## **Christmas Season Service Schedule:**

**Sunday, December 3 at 11am** – Hanging of the Greens service

**Wednesday, December 13 at 7pm** – Blue Christmas service

**Sunday, December 24 at 11am** – Christmas Eve morning

**Sunday, December 24 at 8am** – Christmas Eve candlelight service



## A Christmas Poem submitted by Christine DiMare

**M** is the Manger, the babe's first bed.  
**E** is Everyone, the Child came to save.  
**R** is the Radiant light from the star.  
**R** is for Rejoicing, the birth of the Savior.  
**Y** is for You and me Jesus came to set free.



**C** is the Christ Child, born in a stable.  
**H** is for the Holiest of nights.  
**R** is for the Redeemer who reigns forever.  
**I** is the Inn, where there was no room for the babe.  
**S** is the Star, shining bright in the sky.  
**T** is the Town of Bethlehem, where he was born.  
**M** is Mary, the mother of our King.  
**A** is the Angel, who summoned the shepherds.  
**S** is the Savior, born on this night.

## 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**.



**Witnessing** is sharing your faith with someone else. Every year, when someone asks me what I'm doing for Christmas, I start by saying "I'm attending the Christmas Eve service at my church". That simple sentence lets the other person know that I'm a Christian and that church is an important part of Christmas for me. If someone tells me that they find Christmas to be difficult either due to a recent loss or due to turmoil within their family during childhood, I'll mention that my church has a Blue Christmas service that is for those who find the holidays difficult (this year's Blue Christmas service will be held on Wednesday, December 13 at 7 pm).

Do you witness to people you come into contact in a similar way? If not, try it out. Even if the people you talk to don't step foot in our church, they may be moved to deepen their relationship with God. You never know how many seeds you may plant or nurture from your words.

## 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



## Gift Tags for our "Giving Tree" available in the Sanctuary

We are happy to help bring smiles to less fortunate children and teens by providing you with gift tags with their wishes. The gifts go to the South Middlesex Opportunity Council's Children's Center in Marlboro.

Please take as many tags as you like. Be sure to sign the clipboard with the child's name and your name so we can keep track. Wrapped gifts must be brought back to the church **no later than Sunday, December 17th** so don't delay in choosing your tag(s).

## Women's UWF Christmas Party

Sunday, December 10th at Deb Kauffman's home, 58 Parmenter Rd, Hudson - Once again Deb is hosting our annual Christmas get together. Deb is asking us to bring a covered dish and if you wish to join in the gift swap, something in the \$15 range.

## December Community Dinner

Join us on **Saturday, December 9th at 5:00pm** for a Community Dinner with guest entertainer Tony Funches. Tony was one of the lead singers of Herb Reed's '70's vocal group *The Platters*.

Come and enjoy a delicious, home-made dinner with two choices; roasted turkey and ham, with all the fixin's.

You can reminisce over some of the popular tunes you'll hear.



There is no charge for the dinner but donations are welcomed!



## Annual Cookie Swap

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>!  
Start thinking about what

delicious cookies you can make! Share your family favorite at our Swap during Coffee Hour after church. Everyone is asked to make 3 or more dozen cookies.

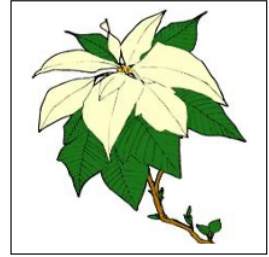
Bring them to Lamson hall before church. After church, come downstairs and buy a COOKIE BOX for \$10 and fill your box with the variety of delicious cookies that will be available for your holiday treats!

## December Friendship Dinner

Saturday, December 30th - 5:00pm  
As we prepare to enter the New Year, why not take a break from cooking and come enjoy a delicious home-cooked stuffed Pork Loin dinner? Join us in Lamson Hall for food and fellowship.

## IT'S TIME TO ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS!

As we did last 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 place your check and order form in the collection plate or return the form, with payment, to the church office **no later than Sunday, December 17th.**



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of plants:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the First United Methodist Church  
with Poinsettia in the Subj. area.

## Last Call!!! – Annual Christmas Country Fair!!! Saturday, December 2nd - 9:00am – 3:00pm



Please support your church and come to the fair. There will be lots of things to admire, to purchase, to eat, to bid on at the Silent Auction, perhaps you'll find that little extra stocking stuffer or Christmas gift, and be sure to consider a beautiful gift basket for someone who's done something especially nice or to give as a Thank you. Bring your kids or grandkids to enjoy a special visit by "you know who" (hint: look for someone dressed in red with shiny black boots and a snow white beard!)

*We are hoping some of you might step forward to help with a task or two...like setting up for the fair the night before, coming after the fair to help clean up the hall, etc. Please speak to Barbara or Ada if you have questions.*

## The Saints in our lives...

The following is a list of all of the Saints that were submitted during the All Saints Day service in November:



- My Grandfather Fred Scerro - Giving me my work ethic, my family, and church values
- My brother Tim, my Dad, and many of my friends
- Mary Collins, Jean Luther, and Barb Robinson
- Grandmother Anne Elizabeth Pearce, mother Blanche Soper, father Richard Soper, Cousin and his wife Rev Harry and Valjean Soper, friend Dottie O'Conner, grandfather George Pearce
- Beth Kelleher and Lousie Izzo
- My dad Fred Elliot who taught me to "choose life" and Mario when I am at lowest is there to lift me up and remind me I am loved.
- My parents Ralph and Alice Moore
- My mother Barbara, my MIL Ruth, and my grandmother Mildred
- Sherrie, Chris, Tom, Elaine, JoAnn, Mike, Mario, Shellie, Amy Pam, Diana, Jerri, Kim, and Beth
- Velma Temple, my maternal grandmother - such an encouraging unconditional ever present affirming nurturer, teacher, and Christian role model in my life every day until dementia totally overclouded her mind in my late 20s.
- Lori Robak, Chuck McElroy, and Tom Ventura
- My dad who adopted me, St Michael has guided me in my faith journey
- The saint I choose is the little flower St Theresa - She wasn't a big saint but she counted all little things she did as precious to God providing her love. My mom and Grandma loved me so much.
- My mother Dotty was the most loving and gracious person! Dee
- Marie Orcutt, Frank Orcutt, Mary Periera, Antonio Niro, Irving Bergeron, Elizabeth Bergeron, Susan Niro, and Adele Trudell, and Jim Niro
- John Price and Shirley Price
- My dad Carl Wendel - quiet faithful man who loved his Lord, All who God has put in my life that has made me who I am about today, Amen!
- Grace Georges
- My mother Hildegard Reininga, my aunt Dena Heckerman, my neighbor Marjory Marks
- Richard, my husband, has always been a Saint in my life
- My mother-in-law, my husband, and my children who now take care of me
- Rebecca, Elizabeth, Deborah, and Bob
- My grandmother Bertha Bailey who taught me all about Jesus as a child. Norm Swenson who showed me how to study the Bible as an adult.
- My family and the good life I have
- Alex & Edith Chapman and William & Theresa Buckley
- Minnie Thomas (grandmother)



Visit  
with  
Santa

First United Methodist Church  
presents the Annual

Themed  
Gift  
Baskets  
& Boxes

# Christmas Country Fair

Peace

Love

Saturday  
December 2nd 2023  
9 am-3 pm

Prior to the town's Holiday Stroll

Homemade  
Baked  
Goods

Handmade  
Gifts  
for the  
whole  
family

34 Felton St. Hudson, MA  
over the hill from the rotary

Thoughtful, upcycled, affordable  
handmade gifts for all!

Community

Silent  
Auction

Bring your  
gift list