

The Messenger

News and Information for the First United Methodist Church, Hudson, MA
January 2024

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 2024:

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 February 2024 newsletter are due Monday, January 29 by 5pm. Please send articles to me via e-mail: lpattonyb@yahoo.com Early Submissions always encouraged!

Thanks! Lisa Schliker – Newsletter Editor

Prayer Requests

Dennis' sister Susan in the ICU.

Doris; friend Geoff in the hospital and thank you for successful cataract surgery for Maris.

Those suffering with dizziness.

For Laura G.; healing after multiple infections.

For Jody, grieving the loss of good friend, Mary.

Those struggling with mental health issues.

Happy Birthday wishes to Ada and prayers for healing following her recent surgery.

Doris; Gaytha had been in the hospital but is now home. Prayers for courage and strength to deal with her pain relief and healing.

Elaine; prayers for peace in all the areas of the world that are being torn apart by war. May God bring peace to our hearts so that we may live in love, not hate and ill-will.

Happy 91st Birthday wishes to Bob Scerra's mom.

Diana: for an end to the destruction of Gaza and a return to peace.

Doris; for Sue Y.; prayers that her house problems will be taken care of.

Rejoice birthday celebrations for great grandson Isaac, 18yrs, granddaughter Ariana; 35yrs

For the family and friends of John Snyder.

Prayers for Mike Moran and family on the passing their dad, Hugh.

MANY, MANY THANK YOUS and A CHALLENGE

I so appreciated everyone's willing spirit to contribute Time, Talents and Treasures to the overwhelming success of the our Christmas Country Fair. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Oh, the wonderful things that community can do!



I would like to challenge each of us to be thinking about our church community, its outreaches and the needs in the Hudson community all year long. Yes, I do know that we do outreach every week in one way or another and I have some type of an idea what goes on when. But life happens and I get caught up in the day-to-day. I find that if I am not intentional and forward thinking, I do not and cannot use my Time, Talents and Treasures to their maximum potential. Instead, it takes a notice in the bulletin or an email from the church office to prod me into action.

New Year ~ new intentions. I have put 2 bags and 2 boxes in key places in my home. One bag is for purchases at the grocery ~ things that I pick up on sale (especially those B1G1 deals & necessary non-food items like t.p., soap, shampoo, diapers, etc.). When the bag is full, I will bring it in & drop it in the box for the Food Pantry. Another similar bag I am using to continue collecting items that support the Hudson immigrant & homeless families monthly independent of church outreach. A plastic storage box that slides under my bed will get those gifts I know I will never use; end of season clearance sale items too good to pass up; and other treasures from my adventures to pass on to Agape next Christmas when Cindy asks for donations; and the final box is in my craft room closet to collect bling; the fronts of this year's received Christmas cards to craft with; Red Christmas décor that I am retiring; and any gift basket items that I come across during the year at a price that I cannot say no to. Oh, and tucked away with my recipe cards is a cookie cutter in the shape of a teapot that I thought would be great to make iced cookies with for the Women's Tea in May!

The Challenge ~ How can you embrace intentionality to move you to action in this New Year to better support our community outreach efforts within our church family and into Hudson and the world?

To all who gave towards our staff gifts, I can only say how moved I am to see how supportive you all are and that we mean something to you all. I am forever grateful for you, and pray that we will go well into 2024 with the confidence that faith will prevail on seeing us through whatever lies ahead.

Thank you so much for my gift.
Sincerely - Bonnie

Thank you to my church family for your generous Christmas gift! I am blessed to be part of the FUMC family.

Warm Regards,
Lisa Schliker
Music Director



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 prayers.

We talk a lot about prayer at church but do you actually do it? When I was younger, I felt awkward praying, even when I was alone. I would start my prayers with something like I heard in church: "Oh loving God who created the heavens and the earth...". It sounded too formal and not genuine. Then I met someone who referred to prayer as talking to God and my whole idea of prayer shifted. If God is like a parent, then why not talk to God like I would talk to my parents? My prayers turned into conversations and I felt a deeper connection with God. Have you tried talking to God like you would talk to one of your parents? "But", you may say, "I whined A LOT with my parents". That's okay. God still wants to hear from you. Give it a try today.

January Birthdays

4	Dave James
5	Patricia Gigliotti
6	Kevin O'Leary
9	Carol Lazzaro
10	Melissa Cronin
11	Caitlin McGowan
13	Tom Barry
15	Ernest Sahlin
16	Brittany Scerra
18	Leyalyn Jisun Grenfell-Lee
20	Dennis Sherman
25	Doug Wolfe
31	Vicki Peterson

January Anniversaries

8	Skip & Karen Wetherell
11	Rick & Diana Andrews
29	Ken and Cookie Lizotte



For the month of January, the M.O.O. committee will be accepting donations for help with our fuel expenses. Thank you for whatever you can give.

