

# The Messenger

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

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

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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.*

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*Newsletter articles for the January newsletter are due Monday, December 30 by 5pm. Please send articles to me via e-mail: [lpatttonvb@yahoo.com](mailto:lpatttonvb@yahoo.com) Early Submissions always encouraged!*

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## Recent Prayers

Prayers for Ken P, currently in Marlborough Hospital  
Rejoicing that Margarita is back from a short absence.

Doris' niece Susan, under hospital care.

Bonnie's cousin, Michael Carter, now under hospice care.

Barbara R., not feeling well.

For Ian; difficult choices on his journey.

Prayers for acceptance of things we cannot change.

Frances' sister, Carole passed a few days ago; prayers for Frances, family and friends.

Healing prayers for Florence's health.

Carol and her son's friend, George, received a new heart yesterday...prayers for his healing and recovery

Prayers for Joan Vincent currently at Marlboro Hospital.

Safe business travel for Trina.

Bonnie E.; gratitude for prayers: two successful procedures: cataract surgery and spine infusion.

Diana; for Julie's 84 yr old mother; broken pelvis following a fall.

Families in crisis. healing of broken bones, those coping with mental health issues.

Healing for our aches and pains.

For victims of the hurricanes.



## 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.



“Now wait”, you may be thinking, “We heard about gifts at the end of October and beginning of November”. Yes, you did. I had a few more thoughts, however, that I wanted to share with you.

For those of you who pledged, THANK YOU! Your pledge has enabled the Finance team to plan for the mission and ministries of our church in 2025.


For those of you who considered pledging, but haven't, it's not too late. Maybe you're still trying to figure out your budget for next year. For example, if you're on Medicare, you may still be weighing your options during open enrollment. Whenever you're ready, fill out a pledge card, put it in an envelope with “Financial Secretary” written on it, and then either put it in the offering place, bring it to the church office, or mail it to the church.

I know not everyone who gives, pledges. Maybe you don't like the word “pledge”. Recently, I read a book entitled “Embracing Stewardship” and the author suggested using the term “estimate of giving”. That made sense to me because I think the word “pledge” can sound intimidating. What do you think?



Did you know that you don't have to be a member of the church to pledge?

Did you know that you don't have to make a pledge to get your own offering envelopes? All you need to do is ask Bonnie for box. You can email her at [HUDSONFUMC@gmail.com](mailto:HUDSONFUMC@gmail.com), call her at the church office, or stop by the office.

 Did you know you don't have to get offering envelopes if you pledge? Some people are content to put a check in the plate or mail it to the church. Others use online bill pay and still others go to the church website and give online. There are so many options nowadays. I'm old school. I like to write a check, put it in the envelope, and place the envelope in the offering plate. How about you?

**Attention Ladies -- "Girl's Night Out"** is moving to the 3rd Friday AFTERNOON of each month during January, February and March. We'll meet at a local restaurant at noon and have the same good food, laughs and fellowship as ever. Watch for the latest emails so you'll know where we'll be dining in January. No night time driving should make it easier on all of us who have driving concerns after dark.

## 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                 |
| 28 | Dee Jordan               |



## Blue Christmas

Wednesday, December 11 at 7pm

The "Blue Christmas" service is a time of prayer and quietness, to comfort and soothe the weary soul.

There will be a Collation following the service. Light refreshments will be served.

## From the trustees corner:

We would like to thank Bob Collins for becoming a trustee.

-Thanks to Bob for fixing the dishwasher. He replaced some old brittle hosing.

- Shout out to Mike Kaufman for getting rid of the bird problem in the front entrance. Both jobs well done!

Still in the works, is fixing the gutter that are falling apart. Replacing the kitchen flooring.

If anyone has concerns or any new ideas how to make our church appearance better please let any trustee know.

Bob Scerra

## Christmas Eve services

Tuesday, December 24

### 7:00 pm service:

Join us for Readings, Carols, Communion, and more...

### 11:00 pm service:

Communion will be served



## Advent Devotion

by the Rev. Jerry Chism



Oh Immanuel, God with us, truly in this Advent season we celebrate that you are not hidden in some faraway cloud, but you chose to be with us in the blur and mystery of our lives.

In the midst of lists and rush, you are with us as a song that echoes in our minds, as the light of a candle, as a card from a friend. They are signs of your presence.

We turn to you this season and pray that you would birth joy and healing, blessing and hope in us. Let something wonderful begin in us — something surprising and holy.

May your hand be upon us. Let your love fill us. Let your joy overwhelm us. Let our longing for you be met on a coming holy night. Immanuel with us once again. Amen.

# First United Methodist Church of Hudson

## GRATITUDE AND PLEDGE CARD - 2025

You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous in every way

--2 Corinthians 9:11

I/We want to express my/our gratitude to God for all blessings God has given us by giving

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per \_\_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

[Please check box] to support God's work through our church.

Print name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

“Count your many blessings, name them one by one, count your many blessings, see what God has done.”

--Johnson Oatman Jr. “Count Your Blessings”



THANK YOU!!!

Thank you for your commitment to support God's work through our congregation.

*[Jesus said:] “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap.”*

--Luke 6:38 NRSV

Please return to church with “Financial Secretary” or “Pledge” on the envelope

Cut on the dotted line below and save a copy of your commitment:

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I/We want to express my/our gratitude to God for all blessings God has given us by giving

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per \_\_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_



## The "Red Elephant" table will be returning to the Christmas Country Fair this year!

As the holidays draw near, we will soon start pulling out decorations we've displayed or used over the years. There may be items that have served you well in the past, but you're ready to put them aside or give them away. We will welcome any gently used Christmas ornaments, decorations, Christmas- or winter-themed linens that might be taking up space in your home.

Perhaps you've decided to part with some of the decorations you've used for years but they're too nice to drop off at a thrift store. Please consider donating them for our Christmas Country Fair on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. A shopper will look at them with a fresh eye and delight in purchasing them to decorate their home during the holiday season, and of course their purchase will help our church.

There will be a box in Wesley Hall on Sundays, and downstairs in the entry-way during the week, just waiting for your donations.

Thank you for supporting your church!



### **3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL COOKIE SWAP** **Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>** **After the Church Service**

While you are in your Christmas baking mood, please bake some extra cookies to help the church. On Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, bring 8 dozen of your favorite cookies to church. The more people who participate the more choices we will have. Add your 8 dozen cookies to the table with everyone else's.

Buy a COOKIE BOX for \$10. Choose cookies from the selection to fill your box. Maybe you will need 2 cookie boxes ...

MERRY CHRISTMAS

# PLEASE HELP!

## CHRISTMAS FAIR, SATURDAY DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>



Join us Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> any time after 12 noon. Come and help transform Lamson Hall into a Christmas Wonderland. Drop off your donation to the fair.

### What is needed?

**Themed Gift Baskets** - Deb Kauffman has announced ways to participate.

Make a complete basket. Purchase items for Deb and she will make a complete basket. We are in need of baskets with handles, medium to large sizes.



**Silent Auction** - Items that have been gently appreciated and could use a new home. Purchase gift certificates for local stores or restaurants. Look for sale items or purchase items that would make a great gift. Homemade items.

**Red Elephant** - Christmas items that are gently used that you are done using. Decorations of all kinds and sizes, gift paper and bows, cards, working lights, etc.



**Mrs. Claus's Bake Table** - Make a few extra goodies to place on our famous bake table. Handheld or whole pies and cakes and breads. If you can wrap, them decorated for Christmas, if not we will decorate for you.



**Crafty Elves** - Are you a Crafty Elf? Whatever it is that you make please donate a few for the Crafty Elves Table.



**North Pole Country Store** - Items for children, Books, coloring books, small games, candy, fudge, cheddar cheese, pickles, inexpensive gifts children can buy for friends and family members, if you do canning—pickles, jams, sauce. Donate 1 or 2 jars. Be creative!!!

**Give of your time** - Man a table during the Fair anytime between 9am and 3pm.

Come join us for LUNCH!!



Silent  
Auction

**First United Methodist Church**  
presents the Annual

Themed  
Gift  
Baskets  
& Boxes

# Christmas Country Fair

Peace

Love

Saturday  
December 7th 2024  
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, affordable, handmade  
gifts for all!

Community

Visit  
with  
Santa

Bring your  
gift list