

The Messenger

News and Information for the First United Methodist Church, Hudson, MA
January 2025

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: Marcia Desilets

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 newsletter are due Monday, January 27 by 5pm. Please send articles to me via e-mail: lpatttonvb@yahoo.com Early Submissions always encouraged!

Prayers and Joys

Barbara R.'s neighbor, Bill, who is ill, in your thoughts and prayers.

Also prayers for Barbara's niece, Terry whose husband is ill.

Pam; for the victims of the plane crash on this day.

Bonnie D.; Nice to hear the sound of children in church.

Mary; Bob, my dad; to have a clear mind and body, sister Jody, husband Dave, daughter, Alyssa for peace, love, joy and faith.

Diana; for a friend and classmate, Gary, experiencing complications; prognosis not good.

Thoughts and prayers for a brother, battling cancer.

Blessings and good wishes for a new year filled with hope and promise.

For those who were blessed with being with family, friends or others important in our lives.

Prayers for finding joy and gratitude for what we have been so generously given.

For the healing of heartaches, wounds and sadness; that the hurting will lessen over time.

Comforting and healing prayers for those who are struggling with some of life's challenges.

For our "Grief Support" group; our hopes that it will help comfort the hearts it touches.

Prayers for peaceful resolutions to conflicts anywhere.

Gratitude for our blessings.



Christmas Thought by Barbara Robinson.

Early in the morning I was awakened by a faint sound that sounded like a baby bird. At first, I thought it was a dream and settled in to go back to sleep. Then I heard it again. I thought it was strange and I listened a little more closely. Then I knew what it was...It was my smoke detector letting me know that the battery needed to be replaced. Then, I eventually fell back to sleep.

The next morning, I wrote a message to my nephew as follows: "The day after Christmas I have a visitor who decided to visit me last night. This visitor decided to stay here but I would like him to leave. Can you help me? He doesn't have a name, but I call him "Chirp". Every so often he says that and Krisit (my dog) and I find him annoying. He is living in my living room." "Of course, I have a fresh battery ready...'He" is my smoke detector.

Because I am a visualist, I thought about that and related it to a sort of Christmas message.

Some people only attend church services only on Christmas and Easter. It is a time when, hopefully, they will hear a Christmas message. My hope is that they will think about the Pastor's words and be filled with a desire to return to worship more often. Most of the messages, as was the one we heard this Christmas, offers hope. Hope is an anticipation of something. Hope often gives us a reason for continuing to live always looking forward for something better, something more, more joy or a feeling of wellbeing, or less of something like depression, just plain feeling no good.

Now, how does that fit into the beginning of my words. First, we must hear the words, the chirp if you will. Then you must identify the word with the words of Christ. What is He trying to say? In the case of the smoke detector, it was telling me to get up and change the battery. In the case of Christ, His words tell us to do the same....Get up and change...Change..dare to abide by His words...go to church more often....listen more intently.

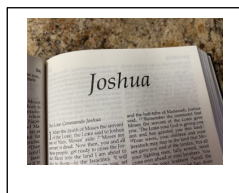
I asked my nephew to help me change the battery because I could not do it myself, it was too high. In order to know the meaning of the words of Christ, we need help at times, so ask for it...Make the change and live in peace...Live in the peace that can only come from Christ. Our Savior, our Redeemer.



My hope, my wish, is always that all those attending worship services on Christmas will be motivated to seek change as we sing hymns and hear the word of Christ and in so, be filled with the hope and promises of Christ, our Savior and Redeemer.

Bible Study

Beginning Wednesday,
January 8th at 10am. We will
be starting a study on Joshua.
It is a book about
strength and courage and the source from which both
come. We need both of these abilities as we live in
difficult times. All you will need is a Bible. All are
welcome.



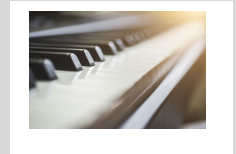
Thank you!

I'd like to thank my Church family for your generous
Christmas gift which was presented to me on
Christmas eve!
I am blessed to be able to be a part of this amazing
community.
Warm Regards – Lisa Schliker, Music Director

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2025!

On Sunday, December 29th we said farewell to Margarita, our organist for the past 5 years, feeling grateful for her years of sharing her talents and accompanying us musically.

On Sunday, January 5th, we welcome our new organist, Marcia Desilets who hails from Sterling and has many years of experience with church music both on organ and piano. Be sure to stop by after worship service to introduce yourself and say "Hello".



January Birthdays

- 5 Patricia Gigliotti
- 6 Kevin O'Leary
- 9 Carol Lazzaro
- 10 Melissa Cronin
- 11 Caitlin McGowan
- 13 Tom Barry
- 16 Brittany Scerra
- 17 Marcia Desilets - Organist
- 20 Dennis Sherman
- 25 Doug Wolfe
- 31 Vicki Peterson



January Anniversaries

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

Thank you to my church family for your most generous "gift" on Christmas Eve. For lo, these many years that I have been the secretary at FUMC, I am honestly still so grateful for your prayers and the friendships I've made. Thank you again.
Bonnie

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. I view witnessing as sharing my faith with someone else. I'm not trying to persuade others; I'm just sharing my thoughts on my faith. When others are sharing their faith with me—witnessing to me—it usually leads to a deepening of faith for all of us and a deepening of our relationships with each other. This happened in the fall when I started attending the Thursday showing of the "The Chosen". After watching each episode, we shared our thoughts about what we just watched and very often we ended up sharing our faith with each other. As much as I have loved watching "The Chosen", I value the developing relationships even more.



Have you watched "The Chosen" with other people? If not, I encourage you to do so. Join us in Wesley Hall on Thursdays at 6 pm or Saturdays at 10 am. If you're not able to come to the church then how about making plans with family, friends, and/or neighbors to watch the series together? After each episode, ask "What do you think?", and before you know it, you too will be witnessing to each other.

Girl's Lunch Out – January 17th at noon

Ladies, hope you will put this in your calendars! Join us for lunch at the "Olive Garden" in Marlboro. Please let Bonnie know if you hope/plan to come so reservations can be accurate. Thanks!

Communion reminder

Each Sunday, Communion is available immediately following the worship service.

Communion will be also be served to the entire congregation, during worship, on the first Sunday of the month.

