

Happy
New
Year

THE MESSENGER

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

16 Court Street, Westfield, MA01085

413-568-5818

E-mail: FUMC01085@GMAIL.COM

Website: <http://umcwestfield.org>

January 2022



Dear Members & Friends,

One of the great blessings in life is that it is ever changing. We move from one season to the next, each offering new possibilities and opportunities. The ministry of a pastor is no different, and with time new seasons with new opportunities arrive. On Sunday, January 2nd, I will share with the church that I am retiring from active parish ministry as of July 1, 2022. I will miss you and the experiences we have shared, but I am also excited about the new opportunities that I will pursue in retirement.

Over the next six months I hope to share with you in worship and fellowship a celebration of ministry and friendship. Together we will prepare for the new days ahead for First United Methodist Church.

WORSHIP IN A NEW SPACE

For the months of January and February we will be worshipping in Fellowship Hall. This will allow for some different experiences in how we experience worship together.

For example:

- *We will share communion in the round, the communion table being the center piece and focus.*
- *We have also added some additional safety items to minimize the spread of COVID. Two air filter boxes have been added to keep the air circulating and fresh.*
- *We are wearing our masks in the church building and reminding people that if you are not feeling well to stay home and join us on Facebook Live.*

JANUARY 9th SPECIAL WORSHIP

We have planned a very special day of worship on January 9th. The service will begin with the Church School Presenting the story of the Birth of Jesus. We will then celebrate the Baptism of the Lord through renewing our baptismal vows and sharing in a baptism. This service will take place in the Sanctuary and begin at our regular time of 10am. The service will also be shared via Facebook Live.

TIME FOR A CHANGE LONG OVERDUE

Over the past seven years the Property Committee, Worship Team, and others have expressed concerns about the platform steps at the front of the church (where the communion table and Lectern sit). The steps present an injury hazard and several people have either fallen or hurt themselves while stepping up or down from the platform.

With the sanctuary empty for January and February we are gifted with an opportunity to make some changes to make the area safe and accessible for all. Two big steps will take place.

First, the platforms will be removed leaving the single platform.

Second, to re-carpet the platform.

An estimate is being done and will include the cost of replacing the red carpet throughout the sanctuary (*yes the faded stained carpet we have longed to see go*).

We would like to offer you the opportunity to support this project with a financial gift to help cover the cost of the purchase and installation of the carpeting (or floor covering - we will see if there are affordable alternatives to carpet that might be more practicable). **If you would like to make a gift to support this project please make your checks out to the church and write in the memo “Carpet.”**

Once the work plans are finalized, **a call for Saturday work teams will go out.**

A good time will be had by all.

ONE COMMITTEE MEETING

The One Committee will have its first meeting on January 9th following Coffee hour in the Stephen Ministry Room. This meeting will be Hybrid on Zoom. If you have interest in serving on this committee you are welcome to come sit in on the meeting (either virtually or in person). The meeting will last one hour.

The Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89661843793pwd=cThyS2dYMFF1cIN6UXcwWDhEaC9jdz09>

Meeting ID: 896 6184 379 Passcode: 188367

CALL FOR VIDEO VOLUNTEERS

We are in need of volunteers to join our team that helps provide the Facebook Live streaming. We have a new simplified device for doing this so it is a great time to join and be trained on how it works. Please see Rev. Bruce if you are interested in learning more about this great opportunity to help reach out beyond the walls of our church in worship.



SOUP KITCHEN MINISTRY

The Westfield Soup Kitchen is located on the corner of
101 Meadow Street & White Street in Westfield.

Entrance is through White Street.

A small but dedicated staff with the help of many volunteers, local churches, businesses and civic agencies provide a nutritious evening meal to approximately 70 needy people in our community 6 days a week.

Our church provides that meal on the 3rd Friday of each month.

Our next meal will be on Friday, January 21st

MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM (MMT) Meeting

The next MMT via ZOOM meeting will be

February 1, 2022 at 6:30 PM

If you would like to join us please call the church office or email Rev. Bruce and a link to the meeting will be sent to you.

A Beautiful Christmas Eve Worship Service 2021



STEWARDSHIP THROUGH NOVEMBER 30.2021

Here's how we're doing on our stewardship:

Number of pledgers: 44 (individuals or families)
Amount pledged: \$70,150.00 for January-November 30, 2021
Amount given: \$64,923.75 for January- November 30, 2021
Amount under: \$ 5,226.25 through November 30, 2021

Non-pledged giving January - November 30, 2021: \$18,540.23

Thank you for all of your gifts to FUMC!



ADDRESSES OF OUR SNOWBIRDS

KEVIN & JUDY MEALEY

#43 7th street East
Nokomis, Florida 34275

AUDREY WHEELER

33-104 vista Gardens Trail
Vero Beach, FLA 32962

CINDY BLACK

2092 Culbreath Rd A-21
Brooksville, FL 34602

Recuperating from a fractured ankle:

Mary Eileen Casey

Heritage Hall North, Room 109

55 Cooper Street

Agawam, MA 01001

*To my FUMC Family,
Thank you so much for the wonderful
Christmas goodies. That was so thoughtful
and much appreciated!*

Sincerely, Joyce



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
OVER 80!**

January 9th Grace Phelps 92

"FIRST WARNING WEATHER STORM CLOSING SYSTEM"

In the event our Church services are canceled due to adverse weather conditions, we will notify westernmassnews.com.

WGGB ABC 40, WSHM CBS 3, and EGGB FOX 6-Springfield
will broadcast that closing information during their regularly

January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
						1 <i>HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022</i>		
2 9:15am Choir 10AM WORSHIP & Facebook live 10AM CHURCH SCHOOL 11am Coffee Hour	3	4 7:30am Bible Study	5	6 6:30-7:30 Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room	7	8		
9 9:15am Choir 10AM WORSHIP & Facebook live 10AM CHURCH SCHOOL 11am Coffee Hour 11:15AM ONE COMMITTEE - SMR	10	11 7:30am Bible Study	12	13 6:30-7:30 Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room	14	15		
16 9:15am Choir 10AM WORSHIP & Facebook live 10AM CHURCH SCHOOL 11am Coffee Hour	17 OFFICE CLOSED 	18 7:30am Bible Study	19	20 6:30-7:30 Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room	21 FUMC AT SOUP KITCHEN	22		
23 9:15am Choir 10AM WORSHIP & Facebook live 10AM CHURCH SCHOOL 11am Coffee Hour	24	25 7:30am Bible Study	26	27 6:30-7:30 Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room	28	29		
30 NO Choir Rehearsal 10AM WORSHIP & Facebook live 10AM CHURCH SCHOOL 11am Coffee Hour	31	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> PASTOR OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT NURSERY DIRECTOR SEXTON MESSENGER EDITOR TREASURER FINANCIAL SECRETARY </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> REV. BRUCE T. ARBOUR JOYCE M. SCANLON BENJIMAN DURFEE HEATHER WHITE KAREN WEGIEL LEE ST.ONGE JOYCE M. SCANLON SALLY J. TEMPLETON JOYCE M. SCANLON </td> </tr> </table>					PASTOR OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT NURSERY DIRECTOR SEXTON MESSENGER EDITOR TREASURER FINANCIAL SECRETARY	REV. BRUCE T. ARBOUR JOYCE M. SCANLON BENJIMAN DURFEE HEATHER WHITE KAREN WEGIEL LEE ST.ONGE JOYCE M. SCANLON SALLY J. TEMPLETON JOYCE M. SCANLON
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First United Methodist Church

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These Doors Are Open to All

*First United Methodist Church Westfield is committed to welcoming and affirming all people into the life of our church community. We celebrate people of all races, ethnicities, places of origin, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, relationship statuses, abilities, and socioeconomic situations. All people are welcome to participate fully in the life of our faith community. We are blessed and strengthened by the rich diversity of our life experiences and celebrate and affirm this diversity that our differences bring. At **First United Methodist Church** all children of God are safe, welcome, and affirmed, including people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.*

FUMC Welcome Statement