

The Messenger

January – February 2024

The First Church of Monson, Congregational/UCC

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The Church Office is usually open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Interim Pastor Jack is in the office Tuesday and Thursday morning or by appointment.

Please visit our website for additional information.

***No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you welcome here!***

Our Mission

The Mission of the First Church of Monson is
to praise God through prayer,
to share the Word and love of God by promoting fellowship in the community,
and to serve as stewards of God's creation –
all in a manner that glorifies God and emulates Christ.



The Settled Pastor Search Committee is very pleased that seven church families have offered to open their homes and host a Home Meeting as part of our search for a new settled pastor. Everyone's thoughts and ideas are important, and the Search Committee hopes that our church family will take advantage of these small group gatherings to share their ideas.

Sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Room. The gatherings will be held in the morning, afternoon, and evening. Choose the time and location that works best for you. If you are not able to sign up in the Fellowship Room, please contact a Search Committee member listed below. We are happy to help you. Two members of the Search Committee will attend each Home Meeting.

Please look at the following dates and times. You may contact the Church Office to indicate your interest in attending one of these gatherings if you are unable to sign-up in Fellowship Hall.

Saturday, January 20, at 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 20, 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 24, 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, January 25, at 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 31, at 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, February 7, at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 11, 1:00 p.m.

The Settled Pastor Search Committee looks forward to meeting with you, our church family, at these small group Home Meetings.

In faithful service, Your Settled Pastor Search Committee

Lisa, Keith, Laurie, David, Deb, Roy, Elaine, Judy, and Chris



The 262nd Annual Meeting of the First Church of Monson, Congregational, United Church of Christ, will be held on Sunday, February 4, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. A soup and bread luncheon prepared by the members of Church Council will precede the meeting. All covenant members are encouraged to attend.

Annual Reports will be available in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 28, 2024. Please pick up an Annual Report prior to Annual Meeting.

Lenten Meditation Booklet: The 2024 Lenten Meditation Booklet will be available on Sunday, February 11, 2024. Ash Wednesday is February 14, 2024. There will be an Evening Service at 7 p.m.

Winter Weather Cancellations: Watch local stations WFSB Channel 3, ABC 40, FOX 6, WWLP-TV 22 or go to www.wfsb.com, www.WWLP.com, or www.westernmassnews.com to see if worship services or church activities are canceled due to inclement weather.

As we are now in the **heating season**, please be certain to close the exterior doors tightly upon entering or exiting the church. Also, if you want heat for your meeting or event, please contact the Church Office to have your event listed on the church calendar. Thermostats are usually programmed at the beginning of each week.

The Importance of Fellowship Time



"Koinonia," from the New Testament, is the idea of being with others in Christian fellowship for mutual benefit. This is what fellowship time is about. It is a time to build relationships, exchange ideas, and share food. Fellowship time at First Church will **not** continue unless people step up to share the responsibility of hosting fellowship. Coffee, tea, cream, milk, juice, and paper goods are provided. Food can be simple, either homemade or purchased. There are many experienced fellowship hosts who can help. There is a sign-up sheet for January and February 2024 in the Fellowship Room. Please help continue this important ministry at First Church.



The Hearts Willing Club invites all women of First Church to an **Afternoon Tea** on Saturday, February 24, 2024 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. Sample several varieties of tea, accompanied by mini sandwiches, scones with jam, and sweet treats. All women affiliated with First Church are welcome. Hostesses are Elaine and Diana.

Hearts Willing Club Bake Sale

Sunday, February 11, 2024 after the worship service

"Sweets for the Sweet Ones in Our Lives"

Valentine's Day specials baked with love by members of Hearts Willing Club.