



The Steeple

August 2019



NHN FOOD PANTRY IS IN NEED OF FOOD

Some of the shelves in the pantry are empty. Donations of food or money would be greatly appreciated. There are more people and more people who are in need. Will you help? Needed are cereal, canned fruit and canned protein.

BREAKFAST ON SUNDAYS

During July we have been enjoying breakfast before worship on Sundays thanks to Jim Corey; and Jim will continue to cook breakfast for us during August if you come to church between 7:30 and 9:30. Jim will be in the kitchen, ready to whip up eggs any style, bacon, sausage or ham, a few pancakes, French toast, or whatever is your pleasure. He even makes eggs benedict. All this for a free will offering. Good food, good friends, good Sunday morning!
The last summer breakfast by Jim is on August 25.

CALLING ALL VOICES

The choir took the summer off but now it's time to get busy warming up our voices and your voice is wanted. Rehearsals will begin on Thursday, August 29 at 7:00 p.m. It would be great to have more voices. It is fun and Heather Reichgott, our Music Director, gives us chocolate every week. Heather has been talking about doing some fun & different things. She is also looking for suggestions.



It's a summer rerun!

The peach festival is back on Saturday, August 17

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

at the

So. Hadley Methodist Church

30 Carew St., So. Hadley Falls

Pulled pork sandwiches Coleslaw

Peach shortcake

Adults \$10 Children 6-12 \$5

Reservations (helpful but not required): 532-0500

Takeout available



PASTOR'S PAGE

Where do we go from here?



I get blank stares sometimes during my sermon. This is especially common when I'm talking about the afterlife.

Because my sermons are related to the Bible, I'm often describing the afterlife for Christians in terms of the Second Coming of Jesus and the resurrection of our bodies. I often also mention the expectation that Christians will run the world. Believe it or not, I get why people are puzzled.

The way we've heard it before, our future as Christians goes something like this: Our bodies die. Our souls stay alive. Our bodies are disposed of. Our souls go to heaven. This separation is permanent. Our souls in heaven are reunited with our loved ones who died before us, and then a while later others die and join us. Somewhere up there also is Jesus, smiling contentedly as he observes these reunions. This situation lasts forever. We have no further dealing with planet Earth.

Why is all this so different from the way I usually describe it? Because there have been changes over the centuries in what Christians expect to happen.

When I'm preaching on New Testament verses, I'm trying to explain them the way the early Christians would have understood them. There are a few verses which can be read as endorsing some parts of the 3rd paragraph above. For other parts, there are no verses in support at all.

But for most of the Christians who contributed to our New Testament, the main thing they confidently looked forward to was Jesus' return to Earth to get rid of the bad people and fix the world's problems, either by ruling directly or by putting the Christians in charge. This included raising dead Christians back to life. Some writers believed we'll have the same bodies; at least one writer was certain we'll have improved bodies, made of different material. But material bodies nevertheless (not just souls). On earth. Some said it will be the same Earth; others said it will be an improved Earth, replacing the present one—but still Earth, not up in the sky.

So how and why did our scenario for the future change? One clue is in the last paragraph: even in the first century, the Christians didn't agree on all the details. So if there was some diversity of opinion among Christians then, we should not be surprised if further differences eventually arose.

In the long run, though, the thing that made the biggest difference was this: although early Christians expected dramatic changes in our world to occur soon, they didn't happen. Jesus didn't come back. Most Christians' bodies stayed in their graves. Evil marched onward triumphantly. The Christians had to go back to the future and re-write it.

So which picture of the afterlife should we adopt? As I've said many times over the last eight years, it doesn't matter. We won't be able to figure out exactly what God is going to do with us. All we need to do is trust God and expect that something good is in store for us.



HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT THE SOUL CAFE?

Faith UMC Soul Cafe - too busy Sunday mornings? still at the beach? No need to worry, come to Soul Cafe at 6:30 pm for a potluck with worship starting at 7:00 pm. Very low key worship time. Sometimes we sing, pray, watch videos...always something different. Led by lay people, always relaxed! More info <http://chicopeeumc.org/ministry/worship/summer-worship/>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



During August we are serving
breakfast from 7:30-9:30 a.m.

August 10 2nd Saturday Fun 4:00-6:00 p.m.

August 17 Pulled pork sandwiches & peach
shortcake festival 5-6:30 p.m.

August 20 Women's Gathering 9:30 a.m.
Education meeting 6:30 p.m.

August 25 Casseroles for Kate's Kitchen due.

August 26 Trustee meeting 6:30 p.m.

August 27 Church council 6:30 p.m.

August 29 Choir rehearsals resume 7:00 p.m.

September 8 Rally Day 10:00 a.m. & pot luck

The **2nd SATURDAY FUN** on August 10 from 4-6 p.m.



It's gonna be a Sunny Beach kind of Day!

Make: -an ocean in a bottle -some sand play dough

-pictures with sand -decorate cookies

Have some sea shell pasta and ice cream cones for dessert.
play in the gaga pit and other games

Join in the fun at **the So. Hadley Methodist Church**
Everyone is welcome. Bring friends.

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

Prayer List: Carol Brunelle, Carol Szulc,



Prescott Grout, Eunice Mittler, Harry Thomas, Barbara Ryan, Doris Gagnon, Beth Dietz, Pauline Kiakis, Samantha Snopek & Family, Adele Reynolds, Frank Northup, Bev Pead & Family, Doug & Dee Brooksbank, Frank Hudgik, Viola Mortimer, Dan Mortimer, Martha Dunn & Family.

*The Bible speaks of “feeding my lambs” & “take care of my sheep”.
Help “spread the Word”.*

MISSION PROJECTS FOR ALL OF US. How will you help?

Food For Friends (FFF) Once a month a group of 3 or 4 of the churches in So. Hadley/Granby deliver food to about 90+ shut-ins. We help by delivering meals. Kay Washburn can tell you about driving. They are in need of drivers.

Casseroles for Kate’s Kitchen Make at least one casserole and bring it to church. These are delivered about 9:30 on the last Monday of the month. The August casseroles will be due Sunday August 25. Our goal each month is 15.

All you need to do is combine one pound of cooked pasta, some cooked meat, and tomato sauce. Put it in a pan that the women’s group supplies, cover it, put it in a bag and put it in the freezer at church anytime before the last Monday of the month. Our goal each month is 15.

NHN Food Pantry Housed right here at our church. You can give non-perishables, money (\$1 can be leveraged to distribute 14 pounds of food), and/or time volunteering. The pantry is open Wednesdays from 12:30 – 3:30 and 6:00 – 7:30 and Saturdays from 10:00–12:00. If you want to volunteer talk to Mary Lou Guarnera.

Angels without Wings There are more than 30 people we would like to let know we are thinking of them with through cards or notes, calls or any way you might be inspired to use. If you want to be an angel you can see Ann or Kay and they will give a name. It may be a student or a shut-in or any of the other people we want to let know they are in our hearts, thoughts and prayers. It does not matter how young or old you are, whether you are always on the run or if you stay at home, you can be an angel without wings.

Prayer shawls Are available for anyone who is in need of a hug. You can help by knitting, crocheting or sewing a shawl or lap rob. They are given to people who are shut-in, sick, or just need to be reminded of God’s love. There are Pocket Prayer Shawls available for everyone.

UMCOR - United Methodist Committee on Relief - Not many charities can say that 100% of your donation goes to help survivors, but UMCOR can! UMCOR responds to natural or civil disasters of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community’s ability to recover on its own. Through UMCOR, United Methodists extend loving care to people within the United States. When disaster strikes, it is local churches that provide the first response to their communities. This basic understanding—that disaster response is local—forms the foundation for UMCOR’s US disaster training and response. When responding to a disaster in the United States, UMCOR provides training, financial assistance, expertise, community collaboration to churches and partners making them more resilient to disasters.

4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS

The church sponsored a booth at the South Hadley fireworks. The customers kept coming and were delighted in the glow in the dark toys that were offered. Everything sold out! A big thank you to Tom and Carol Deren and Steve and Donna Pinciak who donated their time to benefit the church. They do it all - ordering items, setting up, selling, answering question about our church, taking down and cleaning up. Seeing the smiling faces on the customers made the evening even more special.

JULY FUN DAY SCIENCE EXPERIMENT

We put water in a cup, added food coloring and some cooking oil. The oil made little balls in the water that floated to the top. When we added salt the oil swirled around in the water. The more salt we added the more the oil moved around until it melted.

Everyone was fascinated from the 4 year old to the 80 plus year old. We made floppy fish, ate gold fish, and octopus on a bed of sea weed (which was a hot dog on top of green spaghetti) and played games inside because it was too hot to play outside in the gaga pit. Join us on August 10 and see what Donna has planned for us to do.



All are welcome! Join us for worship or join in one of our missions.

South Hadley Methodist Church
30 Carew Street
South Hadley MA 01075



Love. Grow. Serve.

Rev. Peter Milloy: 413-310-5027

Worship Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Church office: 413-532-0500

e-mail: churchoffice@thesteepinthefalls.org

web site: www.thesteepinthefalls.org

Dr. Heather Reichgott, Minister of Music

Ann Felsentreger, Secretary

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: 413-437-7593



SOUTH HADLEY METHODIST CHURCH

30 Carew Street

South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075-2705

Return address service requested.