



The Steeple

September 2019



RALLY DAY is for everyone

On September 8: Come as you are. Everyone welcome.

9:00 a.m. -Gather in the Fellowship Hall for **fruit, warm cinnamon buns, an egg**, bacon and cheese casserole, juice, and more

-Make music with Heather -Craft or experiment with Mark & Donna

10:00 a.m. -Worship with Pastor Peter - we'll celebrate God, the Sunday school, Grandparents, the return of choir

After worship - There'll be lunch for all including **pulled pork sandwiches, salads, sausage with peppers & onions, fruit**. If you would like to add to the food bring dessert, chips or drinks.

-There will be **games** to play and crafts to finish.

The fun is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Weather permitting we will be outside.

Food Games Fun

Have a fun time sharing your summer vacation experiences and making plans for our year ahead.

Here's an IDEA! Invite a friend.



COME AND MAKE MUSIC!

Hello and happy summer! I am writing to invite everyone to come and experience the joy of making music with one another. I hope this year not just to have the choir sing, but to make more use of the various talents in our congregation: individuals, small groups, playing instruments, handbells. We may be a small congregation but it is a congregation of diverse music lovers.

Choir rehearsals are scheduled for Thursday evenings 7-8:30pm, beginning on August 29. If you can't come every Thursday or every Sunday, you are still very welcome to participate. Choir sings a variety of music, chosen each week especially to suit the group we will have on that day.



If you are interested in making music in church in some other way-- presenting a solo, playing an instrument, playing bells-- I would love to hear from you! You might be hearing from me, too!

Music is a joyful and powerful way to praise God. I am honored to be here to do that with you, and I invite you to come and share the joy.

Rev. Peter Milloy: 413 310-5027 Church office: 413-532-0500 Worship Sunday 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
e-mail: churchoffice@thesteepleinthefalls.org web site: www.thesteepleinthefalls.org

PASTOR'S PAGE

Not Whether But How

A few months ago I described for you the outcome of the special meeting held in St. Louis in February. I spoke of the dissatisfaction many people felt about the outcome. Some were dissatisfied because the voting didn't go their way (toward abolishing restrictions on same-sex weddings and LGBTQ pastors). Others were dissatisfied because many leaders announced they were going to ignore the voting results and just do what they thought should be done. I told you I didn't see a clear way out but I expressed the hope that some people on both sides of the issue would find a way for each side to get what it wanted, even if it meant dividing The United Methodist Church into two separate groups.



I am now able to bring you a glimmer of hope. Not hope for keeping The UMC together, but hope for the end of the strife we've had for several decades. The trend of the international discussion has shifted from WHETHER to divide the denomination toward HOW to do it in a way that everyone can live with. Several small groups have met semi-privately to craft various plans, and both sides in the debate have been represented in each group. They didn't discuss the substance of the issue but just worked out plans that might be broadly acceptable to a large majority of delegates when General Conference meets next May.

The devil's in the details, of course. The proposals seek to trace a plan of separation that won't require any constitutional amendments, because that process takes a very long time and requires a supermajority. They also need to divvy up (or somehow share) the ASSETS and AGENCIES. The assets are campgrounds, office buildings, and other properties owned by parts of the denomination. The agencies are the publishing house, the pension board, and about a dozen other entities which have been serving all the churches for many years. I believe they'll find a way, because so many people are now highly motivated to make this happen.

By the way, it happened once before. The main body of American Methodists split in 1844. The issue? Slavery. The separate denominations created in that split came together again in 1939, after nearly a century of being apart. So if we split next year, it may not be permanent. What we want to pray for now is that the separation can happen without too much conflict in local churches over which group to belong to.

COFFEE AND ?

Now that we are getting back into our school year schedule, we are hoping folks will stay for a bit after worship and have a cup of coffee and visit. We always enjoy having a little snack too, be it fruit, cheese, cookies or whatever. If you would sign up to bring something one week, I am sure we would all appreciate it



METHODIST WOMEN GATHER

The Methodist women had a short meeting on August 20th. We hope you will join us in preparing for our missions on September 10 at 9:30 a.m. Preparations for the Secret Santa program have been started and your input would be gratefully welcomed as we make changes. Come and pray, laugh & have a snack with us

COME LAUGH AND LEARN



We are all invited to join Pastor Peter & Joanne Milloy on Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. (If you are wondering, Peter is very prompt on starting and ending on time.) They are leading a Bible study held at the Faith United Methodist Church. We have heard that there is a lot of laughter that goes on along with talking about the Bible.

BREAKFAST, THE MEAL OF CHAMPIONS!

Jim Corey, Chef



For years, Moms & Doctors have said, “Breakfast is the most important meal of the day.” For the first meal “of the week”, this is the start of awakening the spirit with conversation, fellowship, and great food.

With My #1 waiter/kitchen staff, Bill Beyer, doing what was needed to get the food of the soul to those joining us on Sunday morning -THANKS BILL.

During this season, June thru August, \$674 was raised thru good will donations.

Through fellowship and the sense of family, with the joy of giving and pride in my talent, this is to those who joined us. THANK YOU.

For those who missed out, give us a try next year.

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Thank you to Jim Corey for making breakfast and to Bill Beyer for serving & cleaning up all with a smile.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sundays: Sunday School 8:55 a.m.
Choir rehearsal 9:15: a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Coffee 11:00 a.m.
Thursdays: Choir rehearsal 7:00 p.m.

September 8: Rally Day 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.
September 10: Women’s Gathering 9:30 a.m.
Education meeting 6:30 p.m.
September 14: 2nd Saturday Fun 4-6:00 p.m.
September 23: Trustee meeting 6:30 p.m.
September 24: Church council 6:30 p.m.
September 29: Casseroles for Kate’s Kitchen

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, Martha Dunn & Family.



Prayer and sympathy to the family of Dan Mortimer who died in July.

STEEPLE LIGHTING

The Steeple is lit during the month of September in memory of Homer Washburn and in honor of Alston Delano Clark by the Washburn Family.



If you would like the steeple lit for one month, the fee is \$25.00. Forms are in the back of the sanctuary. More than one person/family may participate. You can light the Steeple in celebration, honor or memory of someone.

FROM OUR LAYLEADER

My summer was...we'll say interesting, but with the caution that interesting does not connote super duper. Things happened within my family a mile a minute, often leaving me bewildered, sad or worried and as I tried to deal with the crisis of the moment, it occurred to me I needed to include myself in the concerns. There are times when I feel like I alone am responsible for keeping the earth spinning on its axis. What a blessing that isn't the case!

With life unraveling before my eyes, I needed some sanity and I was grateful I had the pantry to distract me from the craziness. Being able to help others was a strong counterpoint to all that my personal life held. At the pantry we hear stories that are incredibly difficult and it is heartbreaking to know we can't make everyone whole. But we can help them gain strength by providing groceries. A hungry person cannot do much of anything but struggle to live. When we simply listen to their stories, we offer compassion, love and support. By feeding our neighbors, we help them try to deal with their problems, or concentrate in school; many of our customers are children.

Jesus wants us to feed his sheep, and to be his hands and feet on earth. Helping to maintain physical life with food and offering compassion and a caring heart are ways of fulfilling that charge. Have you fed any sheep today?

FEEDING CHILDREN EVERYWHERE

Dear Members and youth of UMC of Holyoke, SH & Granby,

My name is Jackson Skibel and I am a junior at the MacDuffie School in Granby. I am working together with my youth group at Faith United Methodist Church in Chicopee and Feeding Children Everywhere (www.feedingchildreneverywhere.com) to host a Meal Assembly Hunger Project. Our goal is to prepare over 30,000 meals for the hungry in the course of a two-hour block. The date for this hunger project will be on **Saturday, October 26, 2019 from 9-12 at The MacDuffie School Gymnasium at 66 School Street in Granby.** This mission can only be accomplished if we can provide enough volunteers and funding. We are asking the local schools, churches and community businesses to pair up with us to fight hunger in the United States. All meals prepared will be staying in the U.S. We are hoping your youth group will join us and get one group of 12-13 together to volunteer an hour or so of time, which could be used as community service. Each team will work with Feeding Children Everywhere and work on an assembly line to prepare meals. After all meals are made, we invite you to stay to enjoy food, music and meet others in our area.

For more information check the bulletin board at church or call the church office. We already have people from our church signed up to help. Will you join them? Let Ann know.



SOUTH HADLEY METHODIST CHURCH

30 Carew Street

South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075-2705

Return address service requested.