



The Steeple

November 2019



FROM THE PASTOR *Quid Pro Quo*

Lots of people on TV recently are using the phrase “quid pro quo.” I’ve heard it before, but never as often. I took Latin in school, so of course I can translate it literally as a question: “What for what?” or as a statement: “Something for something.” I don’t remember any of my favorite ancient authors using that phrase (I’m looking at you, Catullus), so I wasn’t surprised when the Internet told me it was first used about 500 years ago by pharmacists when they referred to substituting one medication for another.

In current English, it means an agreement to exchange goods or services. I offer to give you X, but only if you’ll give me Y. It’s equivalent to “You scratch my back, and I’ll scratch yours” or “One hand washes the other”.

I got to wondering whether I could make a deal like that with God. Being an ordained minister, I have a hot line to heaven, so I had a little chat with The Big Guy. It was a perfect conversation. It went like this:

“Hey, God, how do like my sermons lately?”

“Well, Peter, to tell you the truth (and I always do), your sermons could be a little shorter.”

“Yeah, well, so could your Holy Bible. Takes quite a while to get through, you know?”

“I wanted to keep it short, but Moses kept bugging me to add more stuff. You, on the other hand, don’t have any excuse. Nobody’s asking for longer sermons. So I suggest you take responsibility to make your message effective but brief.”

“OK, I get that. But aside from length, you must be pretty happy with what I say, am I right?”

“I’ve been meaning to talk with you about that, too. I wonder if you could work harder at making your sermons more relevant to daily life. Use more examples from your own personal experience. Tell a story now and then. Give the folks some practical help with how to handle life’s problems. Talk more about current issues.”

“You’re asking for a really big change, here. Don’t you know I’ve been a minister for 35 years? It would be hard to do the whole preaching thing in such a different way. But I’ll tell you what: I can deliver what you’re asking for. But I’m gonna need you to do me a favor.”

“A quid pro quo?”

“Talk English, now, Big Guy. We’re not in the Middle Ages anymore. Oh, wait, I see: you just mean I’m proposing an exchange. A deal, sort of. Yeah, I guess I am.”

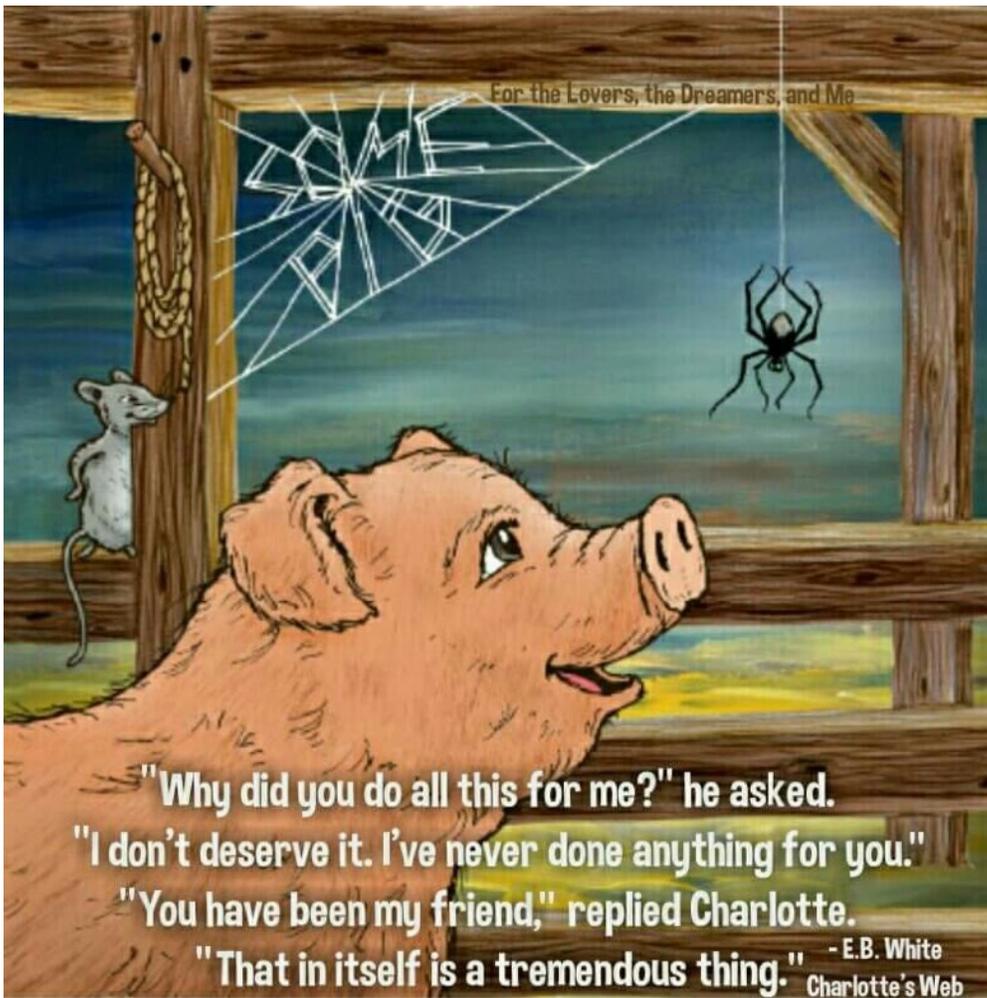
“Sorry, Peter, I don’t do that anymore. Deals used to be my thing. Covenants, we called ‘em. But they never worked out very well. So I changed to a different way of dealing with people. Hear that word, Peter? Change? Yeah, me--even though I’d been doing the quid pro quo thing since 4004 B.C., which was quite a bit longer than your measly 35 years. I gave up telling people I’d only do something for them if they did something for me. Nowadays, I try to persuade, gently. It’s a lot less stressful for me. My blood pressure has really improved.”

“So we’re not gonna make a deal?”

“Not gonna happen. I’m simply asking you to do your best. Forget about quid pro quo. I’ve borrowed my new slogan from Alfred E. Neumann: *Quid, me vexari?*”

“I remember that. ‘What, me worry?’ Right?”

“You got it, my man. These days I’m reading Lucretius more than Caesar. I’m done letting every little thing disturb my tranquility.”



FROM OUR LAY LEADER

Sometimes the message of God's grace comes from unexpected places.

Just as these two are bound by unseen love, so we are bound to God. If Thanksgiving is a time when you may feel you haven't much to be thankful for, think of God's unfailing presence in our lives.

Yours in the dance,
Mary Lou



November 3 is All Saints Sunday when we remember those who have passed. Join us for this special service.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sundays: All are invited to share coffee downstairs before & after worship.

Thursdays: Choir rehearsal 7:00 p.m.

November 1: Turkey Supper 5:00-6:30 p.m.

November 3: Education meeting 11:15 a.m.

November 3: All Saints service 10:00 a.m.

November 4: Trustees 6:30 p.m.

November 5: Church Council 6:30 p.m.

November 9: 2nd Saturday Fun 4:00-6:00 p.m.

November 10: Worship committee 11:15 a.m.

November 12: Women's Group 9:00 a.m.

November 18: Annual Charge Conference 6:30 p.m. All are invited to attend.

November 21: SPRC 5:00 p.m. at Faith UMC

November 24: -UMW Bake Sale 9-11:30 a.m.

-Casseroles for Kate's Kitchen due

December 1: Advent workshop & luncheon 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE

Official Notice: The regular annual session of the charge conference will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, November 18, 2019. Rev. Byungmoo Lee has been assigned to preside at this session.

The Annual Charge Conference is the annual meeting for our church. Every church member is invited to attend. During this meeting we will review what has happened during the past year, consider the Nominating Committee's work of forming committees, consider the recommendations of the Staff Pastor Relations Committee and look ahead to 2020. The charge conference is our church's form of democracy. All church members can vote at it and all are invited to attend.

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY



Come worship, give thanks for all that's good in our lives and pray for the future on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 24. You are invited to help those in need by bringing non-perishable food or a financial donation for Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

While hunger is a year round issue, the upcoming holidays tug at our heartstrings and we tend to be more aware at this time of year. As you consider what you might bring to be blessed on November 18th we suggest you might mark each month of your calendar and make either a food or monetary donation to any of the feeding ministries in our area on a regular basis. **"Whatever you did for one of the least you did for me."**

ANNUAL UMW THANKSGIVING BREAD & BAKE SALE

Sunday, November 24th 9:00 a.m. until food is gone
in Fellowship Hall

Reason: To raise money for the Methodist's Women's Mission Projects and Pledges

Who can Participate: All bakers *and eaters* of our church!

How: **Bake** your favorite bread/muffin/cupcake/cookie/pie recipe.

Bring to church that day packaged to sell.

Buy some goodies that appeals to your taste!

Get a head start on your Thanksgiving baking!

There will be new mammoth Georgia pecans for sale.



2ND SATURDAY FUN DAY

Join us on Saturday, November 9 from 4 - 6 p.m. We will make pretzels, play games and have fun.

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,
Adele Reynolds, Frank
Northup, Bev Pead & Family,
Doug & Dee Brooksbank,
Frank Hudgik, Viola
Mortimer, Dave
Fanaras, Mary Lou
Guarnera



STEEPLE LIGHTING

The Steeple was lit during the month of October memory of my husband, John, by Lois Felsentreger.

The Steeple is lit during the month of November:

- † In honor of Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar by David Simmons, a visitor who found our church on line.
- † In memory of my wife, Judy, by Bill Beyer.

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.



FEEDING CHILDREN EVERYWHERE

Seven people from our church helped put together the meals and many more made donations.

From Jackson Skibel
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT!!
FEEDING CHILDREN EVERYWHERE
EVENT

Your support helped us assemble 50,000 meals plus and for the canned goods for Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

SECRET SANTA



This year we will have a Christmas Wish Tree. The tree will be decorated with wish cards. On each card will be a child's name and their wish. You can pick one or more if you would like to shop for a child.

Our church will once again help families by purchasing and wrapping gifts for them. I know someone is always asking you to give, but what better reason than for a child.

Last year we helped forty children have a happy Christmas

The deadline to donate money is December 8. If you would like to shop or wrap, contact Ann at 695-1212 or email the church. We will be wrapping on December 10.

If you know of a family who will go without gifts, give their information to Ann. Names and all information will be kept confidential.

Open Faced Turkey Sandwich Supper!



Friday November 1, 2019
continuous seating 5:00 until 6:30

Menu:

**turkey sandwich with gravy
stuffing
mashed potatoes
cranberry sauce
dessert & more**

Cost: \$10 for adults \$5 for children 6-10
Children 5 & under free

Reservations: Call 532-0500

UM VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

Connecting Neighbors training will be Nov. 9 at Connexion UMC, Sommerville, MA **United Methodist(UMVIM) Team Leader training** is designed to promote, encourage, and enable Christians to exemplify "Christian Love in Action" through short-term mission service *with* those in need throughout the United States and abroad. UMVIM provides opportunities for service by developing and nurturing relationships with domestic and international leaders. **This 6-hour course is**

an important step in preparing for your journey.

Ministry of Care training provides an overview of a "ministry of presence" for disaster survivors, survivor caregivers, and congregations. This course, offered by the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church in partnership with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), will show how Care Teams fit into overall UM disaster response that covers the basics of:

- Considerations when responding to the spiritual

needs of individuals, congregations, and communities following disasters and

- strategies for disaster responders' self-care, as well as
- how to train just-in-time volunteers (not only your congregation members) in faith-based community needs-assessment canvassing.

Contact Barbara Burnside at baburnside@neumc.org or call (978) 682-8055, ext. 135 to schedule a training or for more information.

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**



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.