



The Steeple

August 2020



PASTOR'S PAGE

How are you surviving in this odd time of pandemic? I have to say my own life has changed less than many others'. I'm usually alone or nearly so at my place of work. I've found a place to swim where there's almost never anybody else. The big difference is that I can't go to hospitals and nursing homes to visit people. I also don't go visiting in members' homes unless I'm invited. I will certainly visit you if you wish, and we can sit on your porch or lawn six feet away from each other and wear masks. So please don't hesitate to invite me.

Another way I try to stay in touch with you is through the Weekly Invitation. But I wonder if you're all getting it. Since it's sent out to so many people, I suspect it doesn't go directly into everyone's email *inbox*; sometimes it goes to another folder, such as *Spam* or *Promotions*. Check yours to see if you might have missed it.

Most of you also know that you can watch our 10:00 Sunday service on Facebook. Some of you were also present at many of our parking lot services during the three months we had them. Starting August 2, we plan to worship outdoors again. You can stay in your car, or you can bring a chair and put it in our picnic area. We plan to erect a 10' X 20' canopy next to the pavilion to provide extra shade.

Our sister church, Faith UMC, has also begun holding outdoor worship under the leadership of their new pastor, Rev. Wanda Santos-Perez. She, by the way, isn't living in Faith's parsonage but in one that's owned by Trinity UMC, which her husband serves. So the trustees at Faith are preparing to rent their parsonage to tenants, who are [*drum roll*] the same ones who are moving out of our own parsonage in Granby!

Why are they moving out? Because our trustees are planning to sell our parsonage. It should go on the market in early August. Despite the rental income, that house was costing us more than we took in.

Which brings me to my final piece of news: we still need money, even during this pandemic when church activities must be kept to a minimum. We still have most of the same expenses: utilities, payroll, insurance, inspections & permits, repair & replacement of equipment, plus the parsonage mortgage until we can sell it. And when we do, we can't use the proceeds of the sale for regular current expenses. So you can bring your offerings to our outdoor services or mail them to the church.

Peter Milloy

CHARGE CONFERENCE

The date for our church Charge Conference will be Tuesday, September 29, at 7:00 p.m.

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



email yes-no DAILY PRAYER and WEEKLY INVITATION

If you are not receiving then Daily Prayer or the Weekly Invitation in your email and would like to have it or if you want to be removed from either list please let me know.

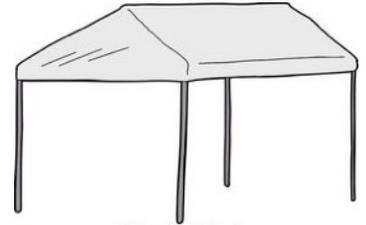
Email the church office at churchoffice@thesteepinthefalls.org

Ann

UPDATE FOR THE SERVICES

Starting August 2, we plan to worship outdoors again. You can stay in your car, or you can bring a chair and put it in our picnic area.

Thank you to Donna & Steve Pinciak and Pastor Peter for erecting a 10' X 20' canopy next to the pavilion to provide extra shade. Thank you to Jim Anspach for providing us with his electric piano so we will have music, Heather Reichgott for use of her speakers and Mark Hudgik for recording the service each Sunday so it may be seen on Facebook.



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MORE THANK YOU'S

The paver stones in the front sidewalk have been replaced thanks to Jim Anspach and his helpers Ron Motyka, Pastor Peter and Steve & Donna Pinciak. Replacing the paver stones required digging out the old dirt, replacing it with the correct type of soil and pounding it down so the stones would have a flat, sturdy place.



While they continued work on the stones Donna Pinciak & Mary Lou Guarnera were doing battle with the weeds in front of the church - at least that is what it looked like as they pulled on some very long, thick vines. Thank you to all who have helped with weeding and more around our church.

PLANS FOR OPENING

The Church Council met on Thursday to discuss when & how we can resume services in our sanctuary. With all the restrictions on gathering and concerns for the health of everyone due to COVID19 its was decided to continue with having parking lot services. It is hoped that we can worship in our sanctuary this fall. To make that happen we will have to clean/sanitize the sanctuary and all places where people enter and exit the building after every service so it will be ready for the next service. That means we will need lots of sanitizing products - sanitizing sprays and wipes. And we will need hand sanitizer and extra masks (for people who forget theirs). If you would like to donate any to the church or if you want to pick up any of these sanitizing items for the church it would be greatly appreciated; as we all know they can be hard to find. We are trying to plan ahead.



P.S. We are looking for Scott 1000 sheet single ply toilet paper. This is what we are supposed to use so we do not block the pipes, it is also hard to find.

CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS



PRAY FOR: Carol Brunelle,
Carol Szulc, Eunice Mittler,
Harry Thomas, Beth Dietz, Pauline
Kiakis, Samantha Snopek, Adele Reynolds,
Bev Pead & Family, Doug & Dee
Brooksbank, Frank Hudgik, Dave Fanaras,
Tom Deren, Tim O'Donnell, Vinnie Deitner,
Darlene Dout, Stafford Bent, Tom O'Dea

CASSEROLES

Eleven casseroles were delivered in July to Kate's Kitchen. Casseroles will be delivered at 9:30 a.m. on August 31. If you need your casserole picked up call Ann 695-1212 or Carol at 575-1491 and make arrangements for your casserole to be picked up curbside. Thank you to Carol Deren for delivering them.

Congratulations to Mary & Brian Lassard on the birth of a daughter Quinn: Grandparents Judy & Tom O'Dea & great grandparents George & Pauline Kiakis.

PRAYER

***Based on: Romans 8:12-25 Psalm
86: 11-17***

We've had so much to pray for, Living God...
Our lives have been stirred and mixed-up by a tiny virus.

We've turned to you to help us through days of change.

We've had so much to pray for, Living God...

As we recognize that injustice continues in our world, pandemic or not.

We've turned to you to help us through days of unrest and protest.

We've had so much to pray for, Living God...

As we realize the worship services we return to will not be the ones we left.

We've turned to you to help us through still more days filled with change.

And so, we come to You and we pause...

We stop to listen: where should we pay attention?

(silence)

We stop to listen: to whom should we be listening?

(silence)

We stop to listen: who has been ignored, unheard, unloved?

(silence)

We stop to listen: who is our neighbor who is in need of love?

(silence)

We stop to listen, to simply sit with You, to be with You,

We stop to remember that You are not going anywhere.

(silence)

May our time of shared silence with You, Living God, remind us that You are with us, no matter what. And we're grateful, for we need You now more than ever!

AMEN

Catherine MacGovern, Retired Diaconal Minister, Member of Trinity UMC in Springfield, Commonwealth West District

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.

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



In our parking lot service on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m.



SOUTH HADLEY METHODIST CHURCH

30 Carew Street

South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075-2705

Return address service requested.