



The Steeple

June 2021



FROM THE PASTOR

June will be my last month as your pastor. I am writing this to say how much I have enjoyed my time with you and how much I appreciate the support and encouragement you have given me. And of course I also appreciate your laughing at my jokes. Laughing together is a good thing - even when the jokes are bad!

So as you make yet another pastoral transition, I pray things go well for you and that God will bless you in every way.

Rev Jim

GOODBYE JIM HELLO JOE

June will be a month of change as we say goodbye to Pastor Jim and welcome Pastor Joe DeGrande. Our brief time with Jim has been sweet and we are thankful he was willing to come out of retirement to be with us through June. He has been a blessing to us and we are richer for having known him. So, thank you, Jim, for four lovely months. We have enjoyed your sermons, your humor and your patience as we wrestled with technical troubles and that darned virus. We appreciate you interrupting your settled life, to come to South Hadley. DS Megan hit a home run when she matched us with you. It was a joy getting to know you. We wish you many happy and healthy years filled with blessings.

Our next chapter, beginning July 1 will be with Joe DeGrande. Joe is enthusiastic to be with us and although his official start date is July 1, he is chomping at the bit and will begin getting to know us in June. He will be meeting with Jim and with Peter to learn about us. **Not all our warts, ok guys?

Born in the Bronx, Joe insists on rooting for the Yankees, but being Christians, we must forgive him for that. He does have some redeeming qualities, however. His heart led him to be a hospital chaplain and he uses his guitar to provide a music ministry at nursing homes. For us, that means we can count on him to visit us in the hospital and our wonderful music program will be further enhanced. There are many things for us to discover about each other, and the coming year promises to be unique, so please be sure you are part of it.

We have always appreciated our pastors' sense of humor and I am happy to say Joe has a great one and isn't afraid to use it. Alan Dout worked with him back in a different century, and when the SPRC met Joe, Alan asked him if he remembered 'the fish.' We then heard the most hilarious story! I am sure that story will be told again and I hope you are there to hear it.

So, welcome Joe. We look forward to getting to know you and to working together to strengthen our church. Fasten your seat belt.

With great anticipation,
Mary Lou



CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS



PRAY FOR: Carol Brunelle, Carol Szulc, 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, Tom O'Dea, Bob & Viola Mortimer, Colleen Mortimer, Rev. Peter & Joanne Milloy, Rev. Megan Stowe, our DS.

STEEPLE LIGHTING

The Steeple is lit during the month of June by the Methodist women, in memory of women from our church who have passed during the last year. We remember Eunice Mittler.



If you would like the steeple lit for one month, the fee is \$25.00. Forms are in the back of the sanctuary or call or email the church.

THANK YOU to Donna & Steve Pinciak for planting flowers in the barrels along the driveway.

CONGRATULATIONS

Breann Hackett has earned her Girl Scout Gold Award and will be receiving the award in June. Her project was called Art for Hearts and she made a book on how to draw people, and assembled art bags for children at Shriner's.



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

Aimee Deren University of Alabama
Ian Dunlap Hampshire Regional High School
Thomas Motyka Williston Academy & was inducted in the Cum Laude Society

MANY THANKS for THE TAKE & GO Reuben Sandwiches

Thanks to Mary Lou Guarnera for shopping, organizing, cooking & donating the corned beef & more; to Mark Hudgik for donating & making the cookies; to Alex & Tyler Hicks, Donna Pinciak, Bev Pead, George Kiakis, Ann Felsentreger for putting sandwiches together & helping in the kitchen; to Dave Labonte for sharing his corned beef recipe & helping in the kitchen; to Martha Dunn, Bree & Daniel Hackett for delivering the orders to the customers and collecting the money. They also figured how to use our new ramp to facilitate that whole process. \$690.

WHAT'S THE DEAL ON CASSEROLES?

Last week I was asked what are the casseroles about! Well, here's the info. For as long as I can remember on the last Monday each month we bring goulash casseroles to Kate's Kitchen, the soup kitchen in Holyoke. Our UM Women sponsor it and provides containers for the casseroles. Everyone may participate. Some folks do each month, some whenever they can. Each casserole is appreciated.



To participate:

1. Combine one pound of cooked pasta with sauce and meat, cheese if you would like.
2. Put it in a pan (available at church) and cover
3. Please put into a plastic grocery bag to protect it in transit.
4. Bring casserole to church by the last Sunday of the month or you can put it in the church freezer at any time.



The casseroles are delivered on the last Monday of the month.

The folks at Kate's Kitchen are very appreciative of the casseroles. They have told me that especially during the summer they have more people to feed. Our goal is to bring 15 casseroles each month and we need more casseroles to make that happen. Won't you prayerfully consider helping us feed hungry people?

ODDS & ENDS

- **Kitchen Help** wanted to finish cleaning the church kitchen. If you will help put all the dishes and containers that are on the open shelves through the sanitizer or would be willing to clean one or both ovens let Ann know: call the church 413 532-0500.
- **Prayers & Concerns** If you have a concern or celebration you would like to share you can call the church office 532-0500 and leave a message or call Ann 695-1212.
- **Offerings:** Your offering can be mailed to the church office. Checks can be made out to UMC. People who do their banking online can send their offering that way. The mail is checked regularly by Ann. The address is
United Methodist Church
30 Carew St.
So. Hadley MA 01075
- **THE FOOD PANTRY, Neighbors Helping Neighbors,** is open and is in need of volunteers to help. The pantry's exciting new venture is a Mobile Food pantry in Granby. Clients using the pantry remain in their cars and only volunteers enter the building. If you would volunteer, contact Mary Lou at mlguarnera@nhnfoodpantry.org or 413-437-7593. Besides volunteers, what is most needed right now are financial donations.

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.

Elizabeth Andrew

GET A SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

If you have completed one or more years at an accredited institute of higher education and are continuing on, you can apply for the North Main Street Churches Scholarship. Applications for this scholarship will be accepted from May 1 through June 30. You can email or call the church office for an application.



The North Main Street Churches Scholarship Fund is a combination of funds donated for student scholarships from the Falls Congregational Church and the So. Hadley Methodist Church. The Scholarship will be awarded on Rally Day in September after the scholarship committee has reviewed all applications.

WE SUPPORT EACH OTHER: Anxiety Support Group



Our small group is still going strong. You are invited to join us. We have found that meeting together to talk about our anxiety is beneficial. We start our meetings with a brief inspirational reading and end with a prayer. In between we often talk about our faith in relation to our anxiety. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested, contact Bev Pead at bjpeado31@gmail.com for more information.

CWS BLANKETS - HEARTS



The women's group of our church are selling hearts during May and part of June to earn money for CWS blankets. The hearts will be pinned to a blanket in the sanctuary. You may purchase a heart for \$5.00 by sending a check to the UMW (United Methodist Women) include a note with what you want on your heart and hearts will be available for you to purchase on Sunday mornings before and after worship from May 9 to June 20. The messages you write will be printed inside hearts in the July newsletter.



written

Sunday mornings

The proceeds will go to Church World United Service Missions to buy blankets to be used by people in need. Some of them may stay right here in the area. This is a great way to show your love by helping to keep others warm!



A PRAYER

A prayer/poem inspired by Psalm 29

Lord God, you are our strength
when life's violent winds blow knocking us
down,
when the fog creeps in and elects to linger,
when the ground beneath us shakes leaving
us feeling scattered,
when the waters around us thrash,
and when some morsel of reprieve comes
again.

Help us to feel you,
your strength,
reaching out to us
in all things.

Help us to know you
again

as the one
who gives us the strength
to be present with others
in the storm.

Help us to live,
to live
courageously, gently
knowing that you
and your love
will forever be
more powerful than all things.

Amen.

*Ashley Renée Johnson, commissioned as a
provisional deacon in 2020
Teacher at Epiphany School, Boston*



Support UMCOR's COVID-19 Response Fund



“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love
and of a sound mind.” — 2 Timothy 1:7

As we watch the global virus cases reach a new peak, many of you have
asked how you can help.

Global Ministries and UMCOR continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic through
health and humanitarian efforts by supporting communities around the world with
information campaigns, medical equipment, hygiene kits, and supplies to meet basic
human needs.

As cases surge in places like India and Brazil, The United Methodist Church, through
UMCOR, continues to respond and remains committed to alleviating the suffering
brought on by COVID-19.

Members of the New England Conference who want to support this vital work are
encouraged to donate to UMCOR's COVID-19 Response Fund (Advance #3022612).
Donations made through Prosper can use New England fund #919.

Please keep all those who are suffering in this pandemic and those doing the vital work
of caring for them in your prayers.

*To learn more about UMCOR go to umcmmission.org/umcor.

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

South Hadley Methodist Church

30 Carew St
South Hadley, MA 01075

Worship Sunday 10:00 a.m. outside & on Zoom
Pastor Jim Harvey jimharvey@charter.net 413 259-4404



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

WE LIKE BEING OUTSIDE FOR Worship

All are welcome back to attend worship. Invite a friend, bring the family. The services are outside for the South Hadley Methodist Church Sunday worship at 10:00 a.m. and thanks to Mark Hudgik we will continue to be on Zoom.

*Come see old friends and make some new friends!
You might want to bring a chair.*

To join the service on Zoom find the link on the web site: www.thesteepinthefalls.org



SOUTH HADLEY METHODIST CHURCH
30 Carew Street
South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075-2705

Return address service requested.