



The Steeple

August 2021



FROM OUR PASTOR

I submit this newsletter page, still feeling the sadness for the loss of Frank Hudgik, Betty (as she liked to be called) Dout, Nancy Hutchinson, and now Steve Hudgik. A loss buffered by our Spiritual comfort that they all have been welcomed into eternal peace – surrounded by the love of all that have gone before them and the eternal glory of God.



As we enter August, our attention remains carefully focused on Covid, for the health and wellbeing of all will always be my top priority. With the medical community cautioning the new variant is spreading mostly among the unvaccinated, I pray that all who medically can – will be vaccinated – not only for their own safety but for those around them. For now, we will continue to wear our masks and socially distance in the sanctuary. Please be careful, take this virus seriously, and should you have symptoms and test positive, be sure to let those you've been with know.

Thank you to all who helped make our turkey sandwich and blueberry cobbler take-out a success. My blueberry cobbler never even made it home – it was eaten as I drove back to Southwick. Stay tuned for next month – we're doing it again. Please pass the word to your friends and neighbors; it's that good!

Working with the Worship Committee, I'm excited about exploring different opportunities for how we can expand our Worship on Sundays. Personally, I would love for it to include a Liturgist. Anyone interested? We are all equal members in this body of Christ. Please, give it some thought. If you have any questions or concerns about what's involved, come see Mary Lou or me.

I feel so blessed to be your pastor. We make a good team – all of us together. If you have a suggestion, something that's really bothering you, or just need to know you're not alone – I'm here at church every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 to 3:00. My door is always open so please stop by. Should something be weighing heavy on your heart, I'm only a phone call away - no matter what day or time.

May grace and blessings be in your path,

Pastor Joe



BEGINNING A PRAYER MINISTRY

"...Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God..." (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

As a family of faith, may our love for each other reach out in times of sorrow and struggles. In following the example Jesus has shown us with prayer, we are **beginning a Prayer Ministry**. When prayer requests are received, Ann will forward them. In a moment of solemn reflection, with Jesus as our intercessor, may your prayers be raised for God's divine mercy.

Please let either Ann or myself know if you'd like to join us in this ministry.

May grace and blessings be in your path,
Pastor Joe ...

Contact: Pastor Joe at pastorjoe.Steeple.Falls@gmail.com OR
Ann at churchoffice@thestepleinthefalls.org



PRAYER

In the time of trouble, O God, we reach out for something to hold onto; somebody to hold onto us. By your compassion we are taught many things. In our struggle we learn that love is most present when it seems to be most absent. We look all around us for signs of your loving and gracious presence only to find it hiding within us, waiting for the opening of our own hearts in compassion to be your holy presence in the world where we are; to be kindness and mercy; to speak truth and seek

justice. Give us the strength, the faith, the courage to be your steadfast presence in this broken world so that, as we hold onto you, we hold the world together with the long-suffering compassion that has brought us this far; that teaches us many things and calls us to go where love will take us, for that is where you are and where our lives and the life of the world is redeemed. Amen.

*By Rev. Lawrence (Larry)
Wimmer, Retired Elder*

[Mark 6:34](#)

CELEBRATION, CONCERNS & MORE

PLEASE PRAY FOR:



Carol Brunelle, Carol Szulc, Harry Thomas, Beth Dietz, Pauline Kiakis, Samantha Snopek, Adele Reynolds, Doug & Dee Brooksbank, Dave Fanaras, Tom Deren, Tim O'Donnell, Vinnie Deitner, Darlene Dout, Tom O'Dea, Bob & Viola Mortimer, Colleen Mortimer, Rev. Peter & Joanne Milloy, Carol Deren, Bill Pead, the family of Frank Hudgik, the family of Anne "Betty" Dout, Tim Dunn, Denise (Dave Labonte's sister)

✠ **Prayers & Sympathy** for the Family of Steve Hudgik who died on July 27th.

SO MANY TO THANK

-For weeding the flowers around the stone cross The Hackett Family, Martha Dunn & Mary Lou Guarnera.

-For the Blueberry Cobbler Supper - There were more than 20 people who helped & made donations. We made \$839.

-For zooming worship: Mark Hudgik, and Jim Anspach when Mark's not in church.

-For delivering 6 casseroles to Kate's Kitchen - Carol & Tom Deren. And to all who make casseroles.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

We continue worship in the sanctuary and follow the current CDC, State, and our Methodist District guidelines; wear masks and social distance for the service. There will be hand sanitizers at every door and restroom. The service will also be on zoom.

Hope to see you at church.



THE CASSEROLES FOR KATE'S KITCHEN ARE DUE AUGUST 29.

More casserole makers are needed. All you do is cook one pound of pasta, add cooked ground meat & spaghetti sauce and put it in a pan available from church. You can put it in the church freezer any time before August 29. This is a small mission that our UMW has sponsored for years and is greatly appreciated by Kate's Kitchen, a soup kitchen in Holyoke.

So. Hadley Methodist Church

Take & Go

Peach Cobbler & Pulled Pork Sandwich

August 20

5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

\$12.00

Pulled Pork Sandwich

Beverage

Old fashioned Peach Cobbler

made with fresh picked peaches, topped with a cloud of real whipped cream



Ways you can order:

email: churchoffice@thesteepointhefalls.org

call: 413 532-0500

Text 413 695-1212

Include your name, phone & number of meals

Sandwiches will be delivered to your car. Pull into the church driveway and you will be directed on where to line up, pay for your order and it will be brought to your car. Easy peasy!

Puzzle 7 - MEN AND WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

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We need a custodian who will care lovingly for our building 15ish hours monthly. Perhaps you know someone who needs some extra money, who is trustworthy, capable and flexible. Have that person call the church office, 413-532-0500. This is a minimum wage job and we are an equal opportunity employer.

FROM OUR LAY LEADER: Lots Going on with us.

It has been a long time since the worship committee had issues other than to Zoom or not to Zoom, but at last there are signs of normalcy. Being back in our building is like visiting with an old friend after a long time apart. Everything is kind of new, yet very familiar, and with Pastor Joe's arrival, we are seeing ourselves through new eyes. All this gives us a chance to refresh our building and our worship service.

You might notice small changes on Sunday mornings such as the resurrection of the call to worship. Each pastor has their own preferences about the service and we have had some lovely additions to our worship experience. I look forward to seeing what Pastor Joe brings us.

Pastor Joe is on the hunt to figure out why the Zoom experience is technically less than ideal. Working with Mark and Jim, along with his experience playing in his band, Joe and his team will surely find the solution! In the meantime, if you are able, come on down to the church on Sunday morning and worship in person with us.

Other projects are developing too, one of them being a redecorating endeavor, and we want your input. What would you like to see in the sanctuary? Give that some thought and let Pastor Joe or me know. We are trying to personalize our church experience.

If you are a young person reading this, or if you know any, you should know our new pastor is VERY interested in your ideas, interests, and likes. Those of us of a certain age, aka old, need to be letting go of the reins and handing them over to you, because you will be here when we are not. Therefore, what you want is really important. Don't be surprised if Joe wants to meet with you. (Warning- he is a lot of fun and very funny. After all he plays electric guitar. How much of a fuddy duddy could he be?)



As the hymn goes, ♪I am the church, you are the church, WE are the church TOGETHER...♪ So I am asking you to be part of that togetherness because after a year and a half of separation, we really need each other more than ever.

In togetherness,

Mary Lou

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

Worship Sunday 10:00 a.m. in our Sanctuary and on Zoom

Pastor Joe Degrande 413

237-6823

Email:



pastorjoe.Steeple.Falls@gmail.com

Church office: 413-532-0500



SOUTH HADLEY METHODIST CHURCH

30 Carew Street

South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075-2705

Return address service requested.

e-mail: churchoffice@thesteepelinthefalls.org web site: www.thesteepelinthefalls.org

Dr. Heather Reichgott, Minister of Music

Ann Felsentreger, Secretary

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: 413-437-7593

Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.

