



The Steeple

September 2021



FROM OUR PASTOR

Welcome to the September 2021 Newsletter. Oh my gosh, is it possible it's September already? I tried doing a special dance to slow down time but must have got it confused with a rain dance – sorry!



My heartfelt thanks to those directly and indirectly involved in another successful grab and go dinner. I'm not sure the Food Network would sign us up for a season, but there's no doubt we could definitely get a few episodes on the Comedy Channel.

I'm hoping this month we can officially start our Prayer Ministry. A way to think of this would be a group of people who, when a prayer request is received, will offer up a prayer in the privacy of their home or wherever they may be. Unlike a 'prayer chain' where one person calls another – Ann will be doing the outreaches either by email, phone, or text (your preference). So, if you believe in the power of prayer and are willing to offer prayers for those in need, please – consider letting Ann or myself know.

Speaking of lists, we now have five people who expressed interest in being a Liturgist (reading a scriptural passage during Worship). Have you given it any thought? Mark is even trying to see if it's possible for someone on Zoom to do it. If you have a question or would like to know more – I'm only a call away.



September is going to be exciting as we put a face-lift on 'Rally Day' and invite the community to join us in our celebration of 'Homecoming – A Time To Connect Day'. But wait – there's more! Meatball hero's (sorry Mary Lou – I just can't say grin%&*^) with apple crisp for 'Grab and Go' and ready for this – YES - Mark's famous movie night is coming back on September 24th. Please stay tuned for more information.

As we thank God for all the blessings we have in our church and those reading this Newsletter, may we always keep in our hearts and prayers those who are suffering in our country and around the world.

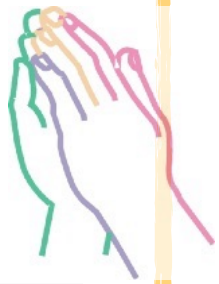
May grace and blessings be in your path,

Pastor Joe ...

PRAYER

God of our lives,
thank you for your Word,
thank you for your heart,
thank you for your call to each of us.
Please keep on teaching us your ways of
love, and justice, and peace.
Plant those ways within us, let them take
root;
let them grow, in what we say and do,
and be steadfast and sure.
We know, O God, that sometimes we get so
caught up in our own stuff
that we set your ways aside.
Please forgive us,
Help us, when we fall short, to confess,
and to know you still love us,
and to turn once again to following you.
Give us, we pray, discernment of mind,

strength of will,
generosity of heart,
courage of spirit,
to live each day as your people.
We are so grateful for your grace
and mercy,
inviting us again and again to be your
children,
to live in your love and walk in your
paths.
We offer ourselves to you this day, in Jesus'
name. Amen.



Based on Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9
Mary Miller, Mars Hill United Methodist
Church and United Parish Church, Fort
Fairfield

FROM OUR LAY LEADER “♪The times, they are a’ changin’♪”

In the words of Bob Dylan, “♪The times, they are a’ changin’♪” What does that mean? For one thing, Rally Day now goes by a new name- Homecoming- Time to connect. Doesn’t that sound enticing? Doesn’t it make you want to come back? Connect with each other, maybe meet someone new, see what’s happening. If that doesn’t grab you, maybe a cookout will. After worship we will be grilling hot dogs and munching on baked beans, chips, soda and who knows what?

Wait! Did I mention this will all take place on a different Sunday than usual? It will be on September 19 and while it isn’t the calendar celebration of Grandparents Day, it will be our day to do that. Something different is afoot and you might want to be there for it. Everybody say Awww...

If you haven’t driven near the church lately, you probably haven’t seen the fancy signs letting people know about our Grab and Go suppers on the third Friday of each month. There will be a couple of banners up in the near future, so take a ride by and check them out. Or notice them on Sunday mornings. What will they say? Hint- it’s not about a supper.

Another new idea is to provide a Zoom connection for all of our meetings so you can participate even if you are not able to be there in person. What a simple and obvious idea! We are working on making that happen and also, we want to see if we can’t set up so someone on Zoom can be liturgist on Sunday mornings. Wouldn’t that be fun?

There will more new things coming, and you should be part of it all, so come on down! We want to connect.

In faith,
Mary Lou



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, Darlene Dout, Tom O'Dea, Bob & Viola Mortimer, Colleen Mortimer, Rev. Peter & Joanne Milloy, Carol Deren, Bill Pead, Tim Dunn

† Prayers & Sympathy for

- The Family of Vinnie Deitner on his death.
- Dave Labonte Family on the death of his sister, Denise.

MANY TO THANK for the Peach Cobbler & Pulled Pork Sandwich Supper, especially Pastor Joe who made the pulled pork. Many hands make light work and lots of fun.

If you would like to join in the fun call the church office or Mary Lou. It would be great to have some more people to rotate in to help.

STEEPLE LIGHTING

If you would like to have the steeple lit for one month, the fee is \$25.00. More than one person/family may participate.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 14: Church Council & Trustee meeting 6:30 pm

September 17: Grab & Go Supper 5:00-6:00 p.m.

September 19: Homecoming - A Time to Connect

Worship 10:00 a.m.

BBQ 11:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

September 24: Movie Night

October 28: Annual Charge Conference 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

FOURTEEN CASSEROLES FOR KATE'S KITCHEN

Thank you to the new casserole makers we delivered 14 casseroles. If you would like to help all you do is cook 1 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 September 26. This is a small mission that our UMW has sponsored for years and is greatly appreciate by Kate's Kitchen, a soup kitchen in Holyoke. Thank you to all who made casseroles and to Carol Deren for delivering the casseroles.



So. Hadley Methodist Church

Grab & Go

Apple Crisp & Meatball Grinder

September 17

5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

\$12.00

Meatball Grinder

Beverage

Old fashioned Apple Crisp

made with fresh picked apples, 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!



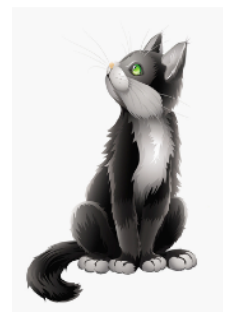
I have a cat named Buster and every morning, when I am sitting in my bed, he stretches out in front of me to have his back scratched and to get his daily massage. It's our morning ritual and one I am happy to have, for I love that boy. Sometimes he wants me to wake up early and he attacks my feet. He won't rest until I am awake so I can give him his morning love. At those times he is not my favorite person, but I give him what he needs and he is reassured that I am there and I

love him. He waits for me when I am away from home and he knows the sound of any vehicle I customarily arrive in. He goes to the end of the walk to greet me and tells me everything that has occurred while I was gone. When I work in my garden, he is always nearby, sometimes even on my back! He is precious to me and I know he loves me too. I am his god.

That's the way it goes with our God. We may not get a massage or a back scratch, but God is always there for us, ready to remind us we are loved. God goes with us wherever we go, be it the garden, work, shopping or whatever; always there, always ready to show us endless love. Our relationship with God is individual; it can be quiet or there can be times when we rail against God, but God remains steady and faithful. God will never leave us!

In faith,

Mary Lou





Given the unprecedented catastrophes occurring locally and globally, UMCOR’s disaster response efforts are more important now than ever.

Be a neighbor to those in need.

In 2020, severe weather events in the United States killed more than 250 people, injured thousands, and caused \$95 billion in damages.

And communities along the U.S. coastline continue bracing for the worst in the face of predictions from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that 2021 will be another above-normal Atlantic storm season.

As civil conflict impacts millions throughout the Middle East, UMCOR is responding to the needs of survivors—with your help.

Hurricanes and floods may be rare in this part of the world, but the area is no stranger to civil unrest—an equally devastating kind of disaster that has been exacerbated lately by spiking COVID-19 infections.

Give Where Most Needed GIVE The General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, Inc is a 501(c)(3) and donations made are 100% tax-deductible. (EIN): 30-0989628

Help Survivors Rebuild their Lives

Your support helps UMCOR remain a trusted name in disaster response. Your support helps us coordinate with local partners to help vulnerable families and communities recover from catastrophe and rebuild their lives.

No matter what the future brings, **UMCOR is there because of your financial support.**

Be there for your neighbors with a gift today.

Your gift today alleviates suffering of your neighbors near and far.

How to give:

You can send a check to our church designated to US Disaster Response or International Disaster Response and it will be sent to UMCOR.

Supported by people like you, UMCOR has come to the aid of survivors of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and civil wars in Syria and Yemen.

Help make a difference for Palestinian, Syrian, and Yemeni survivors—and others like them—by making a gift to UMCOR today.

Extend the love of God to neighbors in distress by partnering with Global Ministries and UMCOR today.



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.

- CELEBRATE DIVERSITY -

**All are welcome - loved for who you are, exactly as you are.
Join us for worship or join in one of our missions.**

**United Methodist Church
Of
Holyoke, South Hadley & Granby
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



e-mail: churchoffice@thesteepelinthefalls.org

Dr. Heather Reichgott, Minister of Music

web site: www.thesteepelinthefalls.org

Ann Felsentreger, Secretary

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: 413-437-7593



SOUTH HADLEY METHODIST CHURCH

30 Carew Street

So. Hadley, Massachusetts 01075-2705

Return address service requested.

[Read your latest U.S. and Global Response Impact Report](#)