

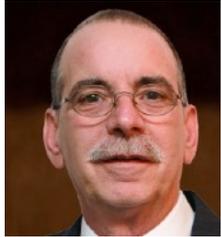


The Steeple

October 2021



FROM OUR PASTOR



Greetings once again as we stare in unbelief that September is ending and October coming up fast. I almost went back and checked the calendar wasn't missing a few days here and there – but no – time is just cranking by.

Let me first open with heartfelt prayers for those who are sick, struggling, caregiving, grieving, and putting their lives back together after the storms, fires, and natural disasters. We raise these and the intentions of all we hold dear, to our God of love and compassion. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.

Our church is special. Am I biased – well – yeah, but also truly blessed to be a part of our family of faith. A family whose hearts are warmed with the passion, love, dedication, and determination to be the sanctuary where all can truly feel as they belong.

My pizza night with our younger folks was a great way to get to know each other a little better and share ideas from their perspective. I truly believe that we have so much to gain in learning what it is they seek in their spiritual journey, their needs, and how to take their passions into the world as disciples. With that said, we are looking into some exciting possibilities in mentoring, guiding, and sharing our faith tradition – not from a classroom school setting but in a hands-on environment.

As we step into the sunlight of a new dawn, let's break the chains of yesterday binding us to "we've always done it that way". I was so proud of our Homecoming – A Time To Connect celebration. Heather and the choir made the sanctuary come alive; an energy and vitality so dearly missed. It was moving to see how meaningful it was for some to celebrate their grandparents by lighting a candle or presenting a flower. The awarding of scholarships honored the work and diligence of those seeking to further their education. The prayer on the ramp and uncovering our new banner was our beacon of light to the world that we celebrate our diversity by being loved for who we are exactly as we are. It felt so good to be with each other afterward, enjoying Alan's BBQ skills, Mary Lou's hot dogs/rolls, Ann's beans. Mark's salads, and all the other condiments, goodies, and desserts supplied by so many others. **Welcome home** - we are open and we are back!

In spite of being short-handed, Grab and Go was another success. It may be me, but do you think everyone knew what a 'grinder' was? Maybe we should have called them 'heros'? Hey, what the heck, let's go all the way and root for the Yankees too! To all those involved – a special thank you, you are amazing. I really think I'm going to approach the FDA and Patent Office to secure the rights to Mary Lou's baking as "Medicinal Crisp".

Please, we really want – no – we really need to hear your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions. Thanks to Mark, we are able to Zoom most meetings so you don't even have to leave your house. We need others to step-up and join us in helping to plan and direct our future. Please – this is OUR church!

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



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The financial result from our Grab and Go has been amazing. We have averaged \$720 for each of the five events!

The group working these monthly events, has gotten into a rhythm that is working. Now it is time for the rotation in of other church members! If we can rotate people so that we don't have "burn out", we can continue raising money monthly.

Typically we need a few people on Thursday and Friday to prepare food and on Friday we need inside and outside workers. Inside the food is wrapped and bagged, while outside the drinks are handed out and "runners" go to get the bagged orders from inside to be delivered outside to our customers.

If you could give two hours for any part of the Grab and Go, we could rotate people and have different crews.

Think about it, ask about it, pray about it, and then join other church members for a fun - fundraising event on the 3rd Friday (with Thursday prep) of the month! Next event is October 15, 2021.

Please call the church office to volunteer – 532-0500. Thank you!

Martha Dunn

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 12: 6:30 pm Church Council & Trustee meeting
October 15: 5:00-6:00 pm Grab & Go supper
October 24: Casseroles for Kate's Kitchen are due.
October 28: 7:00 p.m. Annual Charge Conference
on Zoom



CASSEROLES FOR KATE'S KITCHEN DUE OCTOBER 24

Thank you to the new casserole makers we delivered 13 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 **October 24**. 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.

“Update from Pastor Joe:

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the prayers, well wishes, texts, emails, and vibes for healing. Although we’ve only been together since June, I feel truly welcomed and cared for as a member of our family of faith. I was honored and proud that Heather, Mary Lou, and Dot covered Worship in my absence. We are blessed.

Through the power of prayer and God’s healing mercies, the surgery went well and I’m feeling stronger every day. I will be back leading Worship Sunday (10/3); Yankee fan, humor, and **all**. Thank you again.

Pastor Joe ...”



PRAYER

[Psalm 124](#), [James 5:13-20](#), [Mark 9:38-50](#)

O God, how many prayers have I lifted this year that start with, "O God," and a sigh?

Forgive me for my tiredness but I am weary -- we are weary.

We reached a milestone in our nation this week --

not a good one --

one of deaths because of COVID.

"Look to God, do not be afraid. Lift up your voices, the Lord is near."

O God, it feels like a millstone around our necks and that we are being swallowed up by raging torrents.

How we long to break free from this virus and fly away like birds escaping from a snare.

So we turn to you, Our Help, who hears our prayers.

"O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer, come and listen to me."

"Are any of you suffering?"

Oh, yes, many are suffering from sickness, disasters, unrest, injustice.

Then let us pray, pray, pray for those who suffer.

"Our darkness is never darkness in your sight."

"Are any of you cheerful?"

Oh, yes, we find joyful moments even in our weariness.

Then let us sing songs of praise to God.

"Sing praises all you peoples, sing praises to the Lord."

"Are any of you sick?"

Oh, yes, many, many are sick in body, mind, or spirit.

Then let us pray for God's anointing grace to save the sick.

"Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten... God alone fills us."

O God, hear our prayers of faith; may your gifts of hope and healing renew your weary people, may we be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ we pray,
"Give peace to every heart, Lord, give peace."

Amen.

~ Pastor Evie Doyon, Northfield United Methodist Parish, VT; Green Mountain District Administrative Assistant
Song references from the Taize community, Jacques Berthier:

"In the Lord, I'll Be Ever Thankful" TFWS 2195

"O Lord, Hear My Prayer" TFWS 2200

"Our Darkness Is Never Darkness" URW 391

"Laudate omnes gentes" (Sing Praises, All You Peoples)

"Nothing Can Trouble" TFWS 2054

"Give Peace to Every Heart" TFWS 22156

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, Tim Dunn, Pastor Joe, Bill Pead



MANY THANKS

-Thank you to all who helped for the Apple Crisp & Meatball Grinder Supper.

Several people jumped in at the last minute to help. Pastor Joe and a couple of other regular helpers could not be there. It was a good example of how we all help out when extra help is needed.

-Thank you to Tom & Carol Deren, Steve & Donna Pinciak for setting up and running a booth at the So. Hadley Fire works on Labor Day weekend.

To the United Methodist Church,

I am honored to have been chosen for this scholarship. I am currently in my second year at STCC and will graduate with my associates degree in the spring. I plan to transfer to get my bachelors degree in elementary education. This scholarship will be great in helping me to accomplish my goals to become an elementary teacher.

Thank you, Aubrey Fugiel

To My UMC Family

I am very happy and appreciative to receive the scholarship from the church. The money from the scholarship is helpful in paying for my books.

I started my third semester this fall and if all goes well will graduate in less than a year. My hope is to complete my Associate degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology and then work in the field.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support Your generosity will help me to achieve my educational goals by alleviating some of the financial burden and allowing me to concentrate on school.

Thank you again for your thoughtful and generous gift.

Sincerely, Garren Fugiel

So. Hadley Methodist Church

Grab & Go

Apple Handpie & Sausage Grinder

October 17

5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

\$12.00

Sausage Grinder Beverage
Our Famous Apple Handpie



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.

FROM OUR LAY LEADER

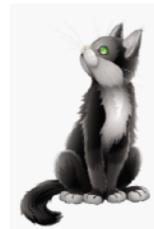
Did you read my article last month, in which I mused that I am my cat's god? Buster adores me. He looks at me with an expression that lets me know he is passionate about me. He loves me so much that he brought me his very favorite thing- a rabbit. He jumped right on my bed with it in his mouth. When I took the rabbit outside, poor Buster didn't understand why I had rejected this offering. I imagine it is his ultimate expression of love for me.

I am glad we are not required to make such grim gestures to show our God we care. But God does require sacrifices, just nothing requiring killing any living thing. So, what sacrifices does that leave? The sacrifice of time, energy and resources. God wants us to care for each other. It's so simple, yet not necessarily easy.

I am a busy person. There is a lot involved in running the food pantry and at the end of the day I am exhausted. It can be easy to lose the mission while ensuring the pantry runs smoothly. When that happens, I go outside and connect with the customers. Giving them a few minutes of time pulls me back to the mission and reminds me that the paperwork, the time on the computer, the phone calls, all are part of caring for human beings who need not just food, but to know they matter.

We all need each other. We need to know that someone cares, that if we are gone tomorrow, someone will notice. If you can give someone a few minutes of time while they tell you their troubles, if you can congratulate them on an accomplishment, if you can hold their hand when they suffer, you are making the kind of sacrifice God wants from us. It isn't necessary to put a rabbit in someone's bed.

Mary Lou



UMW: HATS, MITTENS, SCARVES

It's time to start knitting and buying mittens, hats & scarves. Yes, we will have a Christmas tree to hang the hats and mittens on. We will deliver them to those in need and many will be used for the Secret Santa gifts. New are best but slightly used are welcome. All sizes are needed. This small mission project has been going on in our church for what seems like forever and the children and adults who are cold appreciate the hats and mittens.



- 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



SOUTH HADLEY METHODIST CHURCH

30 Carew Street

So. Hadley, Massachusetts 01075-2705

Return address service requested.