



The Steeple

November 2021



FROM OUR PASTOR



Wait a minute – didn't I just write my last newsletter article a week ago? How can this be? Oh my gosh, that means there's only eight more weeks until Christmas. Am I really getting this old this fast? Please, no answer needed!

Do you know what I love about this time of year? To me, I can feel God's presence – God's love - through the beauty of the vibrant colors that surround us. And what better time than Thanksgiving to stop in a moment of prayer and reflection to appreciate all our blessings. May we also use this time in giving to those less fortunate, those in need; welcoming the stranger and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

So, what's happening in the church you ask? I am excited to announce that we have entered into an agreement with Alcoholics Anonymous to host seven monthly committee meetings in Fellowship Hall. Although the revenue is welcomed to help us pay bills, being there for our community in need is even more important.

To get Fellowship Hall ready to begin the program in December, we are in the process of sorting through books and miscellaneous items that have been accumulating for many years. Before we donate the unwanted items to Savers Thrift Store, we invite all to see if there is anything you would like to have. Since there is not much time, please come soon.

October's 'Grab & Go Dinner' was another tasty success due to the hard work (and many laughs) of a great team. As I mentioned at Worship, Mary Lou's apple hand pies should be called 'mouth pies' since after one bite – they don't stay in your hand very long. Get ready because with the cooler weather upon us, it's comfort food in November: creamy macaroni and cheese, a slice of ham on the side, and Mark's world famous (not just Massachusetts – but WORLD famous) brownies. We'll change our front sign next week to start advertising to the neighborhood. Please pass the word to all your friends.



I am so proud of our team and how we represented the church in our yearly Charge Conference with District Superintendent Rev. Megan Stowe. I am so thankful to be your pastor!

May grace and blessings be in your path,

Pastor Joe ...

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR PRESCOTT GROUT

I wanted to let the church know that we will be having a memorial service for my Dad on November 6th, at 11:00 am at Waldron Cemetery on Ramshorn Road in Dudley, MA. There will be a luncheon/reception afterward at the church hall at 4 Church St in Webster, MA. I know it's a long drive but I at least wanted the South Hadley folk to have the info.

-Stephen Grout

FROM OUR LAY LEADER

As we enter the month that gives us Thanksgiving, it is customary to examine the things in our lives for which we are grateful. Sometimes life is tough, and we have to search for a tidbit of good. This year, my family does not have to look far, for we are grateful that my daughter got to the hospital in time to survive a life-threatening issue. After emergency surgery, she was discharged two days later and is recovering nicely. How does a mother deal with knowing her child is in danger of dying? For me, knowing my church family was praying for her and for me was significant.



Our church needs your prayers too. Pastor Joe has brought a new energy to us, but no one person can save a church alone. Many people are stepping up and showing their care, and we need even more. We all appreciate our church. We assume it will be there for weddings, baptisms, and funerals, but churches everywhere are closing. We are not immune to that, and we need to recognize that sad fact.

If you are able bodied, please consider making your church a priority by giving some time and energy each month. We especially need our young people because it truly is your church. There are so many of us who will be gone in not many years, so if you are not in the process of taking over, there will be no more UMC of Holyoke, South Hadley and Granby. You should be making the church the way *you* want it to be. Then in a future November, someone can write how thankful they are for this church, just as we are now.

Giving thanks!

Mary Lou

PRAYER

Loving God, wonderful, gracious, powerful, matchless God, we are humbled by your presence in our lives. Lord, thank you for being our protector. Thank you for being our friend and our counselor. Thank you for being that shoulder that we can lean on, the one who we can always talk with, and the hand that we can hold on to as we journey through the various seasons of life. Thank you for your faithfulness. Thank you for being our hope.

God, you know us so well and it's not a type of knowing that skims just the surface of who we are. You know our hearts. You know what we are experiencing in our hearts, minds, and bodies at this very moment. You know that many of us have experienced great joys over the course of the past week, you know that prayers have been answered, that our spiritual eyes have been opened, and that your presence has become even more real in

many of our lives. And, for that we want to say thank you for you have done great things for us.

Because you know us so well Lord God, you also know that many of us are struggling. You know that there are some serious questions that many of us are wrestling with. You are aware of the cases where our loved ones are in pain, and you know that we are incredibly tired of trying to gracefully navigate this phase of the pandemic. Still, you are faithful, and we can think back to times in the past where you showed up and showed out. And so, we cry out to you for the healing for our loved ones and ourselves, for rest, for restoration, and for your strength God. We are indeed thirsty for you. Lord, hear our prayers. Amen.

Inspired by Psalm 126

By Rev. Ashley, Director of Connectional Ministries



THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

Come worship, give thanks for all that's good in our lives and pray for the future on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 21. You are invited to help those in need by bringing non-perishable food or a financial donation for Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

While hunger is a year round issue, the upcoming holidays tug at our heartstrings and we tend to be more aware at this time of year. As you consider what you might bring to be blessed on November 21st we suggest you might mark each month of your calendar and make either a food or monetary donation to any of the feeding ministries in our area on a regular basis. **"Whatever you did for one of the least you did for me."**



A NO BAKE-BAKE SALE

Sunday, November 21

Reason: To raise money for the Methodist's Women's Mission Projects

Who: Everyone can Participate

How: Put donation in offering plate or mail to church.

Mark for UMW

UMWomen

30 Carew St.

So. Hadley MA 01075

Why: To help support the UMW missions.



Bakeless Bake Sale



So. Hadley Methodist Church

Grab & Go

It's comfort food time!

Mac & Cheese with Ham

November 19

5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

\$12.00

Macaroni & cheese

Ham

Brownie

Beverage



Ways you can order:

email: churchoffice@thesteepointhefalls.org

call: 413 532-0500

Text 413 695-1212

Include your name, phone & number of meals

Meal 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!

CELEBRATION, CONCERNS & MORE



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

† Carol Brunelle, Harry Thomas, Beth Dietz, Pauline Kiakis, Samantha Snopek, Adele Reynolds, Doug & Dee Brooksbank, Dave Fanaras, 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, Jessica Guarnera

† The family of William (Bill) MacGregor who died.

STEEPLE LIGHTING

The Steeple is lit during the month of November by Lois Felsentreger in loving memory of my husband, John.



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 office at churchoffice@thesteepelinthefalls.org. More than one person/family may participate.

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 bjpead031@gmail.com for more information.

CASSEROLES FOR KATE'S KITCHEN DUE NOVEMBER 28

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 or other protein & spaghetti sauce and put it in a pan available from church. You can put it in the church freezer any time before **November 28**. 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.

BE A SECRET SANTA – How can you help?

'Tis the time for the Secret Santa for Christmas program. We have children who will need gifts, and that means we need more people to shop and money too. Last year we helped fifty-four children have a happy Christmas.



You can help by:

Shopping for gifts - If you would like to shop, you can pick one or more children

Wrapping on Sunday, December 12 before and after worship

Donating money to help pay for gifts - before December 5

Shopping for a child/family - to buy & wrap gifts

There is a Wish Card for each child. Some want toys, some want clothes or boots. The 'wish cards' will be available November 21st. Your help is always welcome. If you have question or would like to help talk to Ann 413-695-1212.

For too many local children this Christmas, stockings hung by the chimney with care will be empty. Too many local parents will be heartsick that they can't give their children a Christmas with the pleasant surprises.

You can help with a donation. Send it to The South Hadley Methodist Church or drop it in the collection plate marked Secret Santa. Someone is always asking you to give, but what better reason than for a child. Thank you.

If you know of a family who will go without gifts, give their information to Ann. Names and all information will be kept confidential.

Catch the spirit of Christmas and become a Secret Santa.

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

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: 413-437-7593



SOUTH HADLEY METHODIST CHURCH

30 Carew Street

South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075-2705

Return address service requested.