The Steeple

June 2022

FROM OUR PASTOR

What a joyous occasion, what a blessing it was to continue Pastor Neil's legacy with the baptism of his great granddaughter Gracie. To know that he continues to live on in the church he was so passionate about, is a moment we can feel God's presence as life unfolds. And speaking of legacies, a beautiful and touching memorial celebration for Harry Thomas was held at the United Methodist Church in West Springfield. Harry, for those who didn't know, was our church Music Director prior to Heather for about 50 years. To see that many people attending was a tribute to the lives he's touched, the cherished memories he's left, the love that surrounded him. Although I never met him personally, listening to the eulogies and stories people shared allowed me a glimpse into the life of a man I wish I knew.

And then how quickly we were shocked back into reality with the school shooting in Texas. How can you not cry for the 19 children and 2 adults that were so brutally murdered. How can you not cry for the parents who lost their loved ones in previous school shootings having to relive it again? My gosh, in 2021 there were 34 school shootings. So far only five months into 2022, we have had 27 already. We look up in anger, we look up in disbelief, we look up trying to make sense of it all and all we can ask is "why?".

It's okay to be human, to grieve, to hurt. God understands and grieves with us. It was not God's will that these people died but an act of free will by the shooter. As we cry for the loss of a loved one, so does God – for we are all loved for who we are exactly as we are. In fellowship and community, may we be there for each other in need, to offer strength to those who are struggling and lost hope. May we pray for the courage in ourselves to be the change this country so desperately needs.

On a brighter note, we have a birthday coming up. Do you know who? Spoiler alert, it's the birthday of the Christian Church on Pentecost Sunday. Pentecost, the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit and over 3,000 people were baptized.

And with the nice weather here, let's start thinking about having some fun. To get some ideas from our younger folks, Donna and I have challenged them to a miniature golf tournament. Not to scare anyone but I was on the 1998 USA Olympic Miniature Golf Team. Well … maybe not. Remember, we are Methodists so no off-track betting allowed. PLEASE, we'd love to hear your ideas and thoughts on things we can do. Come on, some of us may be getting old but we're all still kids at heart.

For all those who are suffering, lonely, and have lost their sense of purpose and need, always remember that God loves you for who you are, exactly as you are – and so do we. Should you need someone to reach out to, an ear to vent to, or just a presence to know you are not alone, I am only a call away (413-237-6823).

May grace and blessings be in your path,

Pastor Joe …

United Women in Faith

United Methodist Women is now United Women in Faith

All are welcome to join us on June 8 at 10:00 a.m. We gather on zoom, plan our missions, support each other, share a devotion, pray. We will finish F.R.O.G. - Fully Rely On God - devotion. Contact Ann at churchoffice@thesteepleinthefalls.org and she will send you the zoom link.

CASSEROLES FOR KATE'S KITCHEN 12 casseroles were delivered in May. The June casseroles are due on June 26. Thank you to all who help.

PRAYER

I was really inspired by this prayer, "Come, Holy Spirit" by Sue Henley, that can be found in *Creative Resources for Worship* edited by Maren C. Tirabassi and Maria I. Tirabassi. It is based on Acts 2:1-21.

Come, Holy Spirit

Speak in the swaying, swirling leaves,
That sing and dance in summer sunlight.
Whisper in the warm wind as I await your
Word.
The silence speaks only of you,
Holy sound sending
Fickle, fleeting, fluttering shadows l
like birds in flight,
calling out, singing, rejoicing in rhythmic
refrain,
with spontaneity of Spirit.
O God, weave your Word of wholeness into
our broken world.
Let us become patriots who act for you, for
the poor, for all in need.
We hear the breeze of brokenness within
and beyond our borders.
We hear the song of silent suffering
Of the refuges, of rejection and
resentment.
May we be vessels of reconciliation.
May we flee to you with our fragile,
fragmented, fearful world.
We are made in your image! Is this your
image?
We cry out with you, "No!"
May we shed sunlight where shadows of
shame linger.
May we recognize our responsibility to the
marginalized,
To those who dance in darkness:
The darkness of depression, despair,
economic deprivation,
Racism, sexism, and white privilege.
Open us to the cries of injustice.
Holy Spirit, move upon the waters of
economic inequalities,
Educational unfairness, health care
dilemma,
That those who are "privileged" might use
their power to empower
Those struggling to make ends meet day by
day,
To pay the bills, the rent, to pay for
transportation, food and clothing.
You who are the same yesterday, today, and
tomorrow
Let us not be content to stay the same
Yesterday, today and tomorrow.
Change us to fulfill your work.
Thy realm come ... now.

By Rev. Megan Stowe, Commonwealth West District Superintendent

CELEBRATION, CONCERNS & MORE

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

✝ Carol Brunelle, Beth Dietz, Pauline & George Kiakis, Samantha Snopek, Adele Reynolds, Doug & Dee Brooksbank, Dave Fanaras, Tim O'Donnell, Lily Marion, Kathy Washburn, Darlene Dout, Mark Hudgik, Jessica Guarnera, Renata Cournoyer, Heidi Barta, Lucy Huegli, Betty McConnell & Family, Family of Kay Washburn, Marion Winters

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Our steeple is lit during the month of June:

✝ In memory of women from our church who have passed during the last year:

Kay Washburn
Anne "Betty" Dout,

If you would like the steeple lit for one month, the fee is $25.00. The deadline is the 25th of the month. More than one person/family may participate.

Is your birthday or anniversary missing from our church list? Please let us know. You may email churchoffice@thesteepleinthefalls.org or call 413 532-0500.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

Gabby Walz Granby High School
Bree Hackett Granby High School
Jordyn Sicard Granby High School
Tucker Motyka Williston Academy
Garren Fugiel STCC
Aubrey Fugiel STCC

CWS BLANKETS - HEARTS & CARDS 💕

Hearts to hang on the blanket and Father's Day cards are available until June 19th for $5.00 each from the United Women of Faith of our church. All the proceeds go to Church World United Service Missions to buy blankets. Some of the blankets may stay right here in the area. This is a great way to show your love by helping to keep others warm!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 1: 7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal
June 8: 10:00 a.m. United Women of Faith (UMW) on zoom.
June 9: 7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal
June 17: 5:00-6:00 p.m. Grab & Go meal
June 21: 6:30 p.m. Church council & Trustee
June 26: Casseroles for Kate's Kitchen are due.
June 28: 6:30 p.m. Education meeting on Zoom

GET YOUR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

It is time for any of our church family who have finished their first year in an accredited institute of higher education and are continuing on to 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.

WILL YOU HELP with the Grab & Go Call 532-0500 or email the church if you will help - pick or prep strawberries, make biscuits on Thursday morning June 16 (10 a.m.) or help put together meals on Friday.

So. Hadley Methodist Church

Grab & Go

Strawberry Shortcake

&

Ham Sandwich

June 17 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. $10.00

Menu: **Ham Sandwich** **Beverage**

Strawberry Shortcake: This once-a-year dessert will be made with fresh-picked local strawberries, home-made biscuits **and sweet clouds of real whipped cream**.

To order: **call: 413 532-0500** **Text** 413 695-1212

email: churchoffice@thesteepleinthefalls.org

Meals 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!

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If you will help pick strawberries or prepare the food call or email the church.

- 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
pastorjoe.steeple.falls@gmail.com
My office hours are Tuesday from 10:00-3:00 and Thursday 10:00-2:30 p.m.
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.

Church office: 413-532-0500
e-mail: churchoffice@thesteepleinthefalls.org
Dr. Heather Reichgott, Minister of Music

Worship Sunday 10:00 a.m.
web site: www.thesteepleinthefalls.org
Ann Felsentreger, Secretary

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

Return address service requested.