



# The Steeple

September 2022



## FROM OUR PASTOR

Here we go, September already! The way time is going, it feels like I'm writing these once a week not once a month. How blessed we are to believe in a God that loves us for who we are, exactly as we are. We see so much happening in the world, in our country, that makes us wonder where this is all going. We read the Book of Revelation, the warning signs, and can start to identify with many of them. Jesus never said it was going to be easy, but he did offer these words of comfort "...Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled; do not be afraid..." (John 14:27). "...Do not be afraid...". Easy words to read yet sometimes difficult to embrace. Through our faith in God, our fellowship with each other, our community of believers, we can journey together in confidence "...For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future...". Trust and believe.

We are getting closer to improving the quality of our in-house sound as well as the audio and video of our Sunday live-streams. Hopefully this month, we will have most of the equipment installed. We'll have a permanent workstation in the choir loft where someone can sit comfortably to watch and control what's being recorded. 'Someone' – did you get the hint? With sincere gratitude and appreciation for all that Mark and Jim has done in the past, we need others to step-up too.

I love this church and know the passion and loyalty from so many that have kept it going. Focusing on our short term and long-term planning, the upgrades in our sanctuary are our investment in the future. Investments however must also come from people willing to get involved and help. Believe me, I know how difficult it is to fit one more thing in our schedule, yet what are the options? I can't do this alone and neither can the handful of people that have dedicated themselves for years making sure the maintenance, finance, worship, administrative, music and so much more gets done.

I humbly ask that you take a look at what you feel you may be able to help with. We're really not talking about a lot of time or large commitments of energy; we're talking about taking a look and see what you can do. It's like we're in a relay race and us older folks need to know there is someone coming up behind ready to take the baton. Without someone to hand-off to, the race will end – and eventually – we will close. I hate to be so blunt, but we need to face the elephant in the room.

We've made remarkable progress together and can be proud of who we are as a church and what the future has in store. If church is not important to us as elders, parents, guardians, then what message are we conveying to our youth? After all, isn't that where religious education really stems from? PLEASE – stop by, call me, text me with your ideas and thoughts. Without you, there is no church. So, how much of our time are we willing to invest to assure it will be here for our kid's kids?

In September, we will be welcoming at least three new members into our church. Anyone else who may be interested or would just like to sit down and talk, please give me a call.

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-From Our Pastor continued-

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.

May grace and blessings be in your path,

Pastor Joe ...

## **FROM OUR LAY LEADER**

As we go through life, we see people come and go. Babies are born, people die. Each of those people is a treasure chest, sent by God to enrich the world and the people in it. You ask, what do I mean by “treasure chest”? I am referring to the many talents and gifts we each have, as well as our individual stories.



Recently, I was thinking about my late parents wishing to hear more of their stories. My dad wrote poetry and song lyrics and was generally creative. My mom was more business minded, as was her mother. Both my parents had stories of the places they had lived and the things they had done. I want to know about them. My mother was my father's third wife! For someone who was born in 1910, that is a scandalous past. My mother and her girlfriends enjoyed vacationing in Cuba. It wasn't always a communist country. My husband was a musician, and I wonder how many songs were left un-written when he died. As a teenager, his band was chosen by the USO to go to Greenland and play for the troops. A teenager! What stories these three took with them...



It is entirely possible that someone you know has a number one song inside them, that a relative of yours can develop a drug to overcome cancer, that a neighbor might lead our country to be more peaceful.

What is my point? Share what God gave you. Open the treasure chest of gifts that God gave you. I believe that is the meaning of life, to care for each other, to support one another, to help each person to be the gift that God meant them to be. Tell your stories, so they live on, take a chance with your talents and gifts. Be the very best you, and in the process, you will enrich the world and give meaning to your life. Simply making a difference for one person can feed your soul.

People are hungry for others right now. So many remain lonely from having been isolated during the pandemic. Can you find a way to share a gift you have been given? Open your treasure chest, look inside and pull out something to share. You will benefit at least as much as the person with whom you share.

Sharing love-

Mary Lou



## 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, Marion Winters, Althea Viamari, Andrea Schlachter, Kelly & Steve Camp

### STEEPLE LIGHTING

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.



## **THE CASSEROLES FOR KATE'S KITCHEN ARE DUE SEPTEMBER 16**

Thanks to all who helped, 13 casseroles were delivered in August to Kate's Kitchen. Thank you to Carol & Tom Deren for delivering the casseroles.

Everyone is invited to help.

All are invited to **join the United Women of Faith** on September 14 at 10:00 a.m. on zoom. Dot Lamber will lead us in devotion. Contact Ann at [churchoffice@thesteepelinthefalls.org](mailto:churchoffice@thesteepelinthefalls.org) and she will send you the zoom link.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 13: 6:30 p.m. Education meeting on zoom  
September 14: 10:00 a.m. United Women in Faith on zoom  
September 15: 10:00 a.m. Making dessert for Grab & Go supper  
September 16: 5:00-5:45 p.m. Grab & Go meal  
September 20: 6:30 p.m. Church council & Trustee  
September 25: Casseroles for Kate's Kitchen are due

Church office: 413-532-0500

e-mail: [churchoffice@thesteepelinthefalls.org](mailto:churchoffice@thesteepelinthefalls.org)

Dr. Heather Reichgott, Minister of Music

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: 413-437-7593

Worship Sunday 10:00 a.m.

web site: [www.thesteepelinthefalls.org](http://www.thesteepelinthefalls.org)

Ann Felsentreger, Secretary

## **PRAYER**

Loving God, the author of our lives,  
we give thanks for the reminder that you  
have made this new day for us,  
an opportunity to accept a life of blessings  
and abundance.

We are grateful that your abiding grace is  
always with us,  
to sustain us and guide us towards a  
fulfilling life.

May we take joy in loving you and following  
your truthful teachings.

May our trust in your ways help us remain  
steadfast in our faith.

Grant us wisdom and courage so we may  
choose to glorify your name  
and represent our life-giving Christ in a self-  
destructive and polarized society.

Lead us with your loving voice.  
Call us higher so that we may be your  
people.  
Draw our hearts back to you when we start  
to turn away.

Remind us of your promises.  
Let our obedience and faithful actions  
bring others to your truth.

Create in us a mighty spirit to  
advance your kin-dom here on earth.

When we step forward into this day  
may we demonstrate living of our  
faith seriously.

In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

*By Rev. Taesung Kang, Granite District  
Superintendent*

*Inspired by Deuteronomy 30:15-20*



## **Grab & Go**

### **Meatball Grinder**

### **& Apple Crisp**



**September 16 5:00 to 5:45 p.m.**

**\$12.00**

Menu: **Meatball Grinder Beverage**

**Old fashioned Apple Crisp** made with fresh picked apples,  
topped with a cloud of real whipped cream

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

**email: [churchoffice@thesteepointhefalls.org](mailto:churchoffice@thesteepointhefalls.org)**

Include your name, phone & number of meals  
They will be delivered to your car.

**WILL YOU HELP with the Grab & Go** Call 532-0500 or email  
the church if you will help put together meals on Friday. It's fun.

## GRAB & GO HELPERS

Thank you to the helpers who did a great job cleaning up the dishes and kitchen after making the s'more brownies for the August Grab & Go supper.



Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless,  
but because they're priceless.  
— Sherry Anderson, writer

## Lord's Prayer Wordsearch 1

P B V R E H T A F R N E  
E V I G R O F C O M E M  
T R E S S P A S S E S A  
L D K I N G D O M E Q N  
S E T E M P T A T I O N  
L L Y W X A G A I N S T  
E I H E A V E N G I V E  
A V F V D E W O L L A H  
D E H I E N O D Q E K T  
E R Z L G T E D A I L Y

AGAINST HEAVEN  
COME KINGDOME  
DAILY LEAD  
DELIVER NAME  
DONE TEMPTATION  
EVIL TRESSPASSES  
FATHER  
FORGIVE  
GIVE  
HALLOWED

**- 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](mailto: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.



"My piano teacher is very religious.  
She keeps closing her eyes and  
saying, 'Good Lord!'"



**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
30 Carew Street  
South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075-2705  
Return address service requested.