



# The Steeple

October 2022



**NEW CHURCH EMAIL    office@UMCSouthHadley.org**

## FROM OUR PASTOR

No – I will not even mention how fast September went! Oh, sorry, I guess I just did. My gosh, I've never been this old.

September will always hold a place dear in my heart, as we welcomed five new members into our family of faith. What a blessing it was to have invited our grandparents to join us in that celebration. And when we say ‘grandparents’, it’s not only those who are directly related to us but also those that love us as if they were. To me, what brought it all together was holding hands in grace before we sat to enjoy a pot-luck buffet. I truly miss the comradery, the fellowship, the opportunity to draw closer together in friendship over a cup of coffee, tea, and something good to eat. You know that safety and wellness will always be a major concern of mine. As we pick and choose occasions such as that, we will learn from the outcome and cautiously plan more.

I am also excited to announce that as a team, we addressed and resolved an issue that we’ve struggled with for well over a year; the quality of our Sunday live-stream broadcasts. The new equipment is in and last Sunday was our trial run. In all honesty, I was amazed at how well Mark did running a new video console, panning and fading between cameras, and even reading the manuals. Please be patient as we do some final tweaks and get more familiar with the controls. We’d love to have others (especially our younger folks – so please mention this to them) getting involved with this too. Let me know and we can set up a time where you can come in and see what it’s like to “run” your own TV studio.

After all that, do I have any excitement left – you bet I do! The Yankees are having a great year ..... never mind.

Heather is planning out the rest of the year with an agenda that is sure to please. I personally am spellbound as she leads the ‘bells’ in song. The vibration, their energy does not only resonate in my ears but in my soul; a true spiritual connection. And speaking of connections, we’re also trying to get some more instruments to accompany Heather and the choir. If you’d like to join the ‘band’ – please – we’d love to have you. If there are any specific songs, genres of music, or ways the reverence of our Worship can be enhanced artistically (dance, poetry to music, etc.), please let us know. We’d love your thoughts as we go forward together.

Before I forget, please note my new email address: [pastorjoe.umcsouthhadley@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjoe.umcsouthhadley@gmail.com). Other email addresses will be changing as well so stay tuned for more.

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**

Recently, I was reminiscing about my kids' childhood and one funny moment came to mind. During the summer before he started kindergarten, Billy burst into tears. I asked what was wrong and through his sobs he told me, "I don't know how to do long division." Stifling my amusement, I reassured him he would learn it in school, and not for a few years, that he didn't need to know long division right then. And my fond memories came to a halt as I realized the world is all about division right now.

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We are divided by color, race, politics, language, economic status and even church affiliation. What we have forgotten is that our differences are what make the world tolerable. How dull life would be if we all were the same! We should cherish our differences and not let them tear us apart. Embracing those things that are unlike ourselves enriches us. We don't need to become the "other" but knowing them is a blessing.

When my husband was alive, he played in a band with a group of the most different guys you can imagine. One was from Lebanon, and a Muslim. He and John were the best of friends, and our families came to be very close. The two families' religious activities certainly were quite different, but we all, including John's and my young children, respected the differences. John and his best friend were on opposite ends of the political spectrum, but we were never torn apart by any of those things that were not shared, and we loved each other.

My niece married a man from Pakistan, and he was the first in his family not to have an arranged marriage. They had two weddings, Kuhhrum's Muslim ceremony was on Friday and Erica's was on Saturday. That is how they found their way through two very different cultures. Both families celebrated their differences then and continue now and both are richer for those differences. (If you want to know, I found Kuhhrum's wedding much more interesting and fun than Erica's standard American one. It was stunning how similar the vows are in both cultures!)

I am not sure how society came to be so hateful and pugnacious, but even though it is popular to pin the blame on this individual or that one, I believe it is more important to worry about healing, rather than blaming. It really isn't that difficult to remember that each of us is one of God's beloved children, and that many of those things that make them different from us were gifts from God. If we each worry about using our own gifts and graces, there wouldn't be time for demeaning others. With the holiday season approaching, let's focus on the things we have to be grateful for, including our differences.



Your different sister,  
Mary Lou

## **THANK YOU'S**

It is such a blessing to have people among us who have not only the will, but also the ability to do things around the church. Jack Bayer & Beth Hooks have done a huge amount of yard work, making the front look so much better. Fred Lambert did yard work on the parking lot side, and he also removed a lot of overgrowth. Donna and Steve Pinciak mowed the whole yard and it looks beautiful. Not everyone has the ability to do this kind of work, but we all can appreciate it.

## CELEBRATION, CONCERNS



### 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, Jessica Guarnera, Renata Cournoyer, Heidi Barta, Lucy Huegli, Marion Winters, Althea Viamari, Andrea Schlachter, Kelly & Steve Camp, Sandi Barrett



### STEEPLE LIGHTING

The steeple is lit during October in memory of Shirley Smith.

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.



Prayers & Sympathy: Shirley & Paula died in September.

† The Family of Shirley Smith      † The Family of Paula Winter, the daughter of Paul Winters & granddaughter of Nation Winters.

## **THE CASSEROLES FOR KATE'S KITCHEN ARE DUE OCTOBER 30**

Thanks to all who helped, 11 casseroles were delivered in September 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 October 12 at 10:00 a.m. on zoom. Kathy Washburn will lead us in devotion.

Contact Ann at [office@UMCSouthHadley.org](mailto:office@UMCSouthHadley.org) and she will send you the zoom link.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

On September we received five people into our membership. There was a celebration after worship with more than twenty people staying to share fellowship, laughter and food and to welcome Dot, Fred, Nancy, Karen & Steve.



## PRAYER

Eternal God,

You are our constant and ever-present companion. You hold us in Your love and sustain us in our needs.

Some days pain and suffering, times of discouragement and alienation can overwhelm us. Sometimes it is in our pain and suffering that we can see You and experience Your presence ever so near to us. Yet, when suffering becomes a constant companion, we risk opening the door to its closest companions: helplessness, hopelessness, and trauma.

Help us to remember that You are God of hope, love, grace, and mercy. Allow those



eternal truths to stir deep within us. Revive us. Renew us. Help us to trust that You are faithful to deliver and restore us.

Assured in Your love and power in us, help us to overcome adversity. Allow us to glorify Your name with hearts full of gratitude and lives offered up in service. Make us willing and able to walk with all who suffer this day.

We pray these things in the precious name  
of Jesus our Lord and Savior. Amen.

*By Rev. Wanda Santos-Perez, Seacoast District Superintendent*

**JOIN Faith UMC FOR A Blessing of the Animals** on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 from 10am-12pm, 191 Montcalm Street, Chicopee, MA. ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN FOR A BLESSING AND REFRESHMENTS! ~Event will happen rain or shine~ Please ensure that your animals are leashed or in crates as necessary.



# **Grab & Go Steak & Cheese Grinder & Apple Handpie**

**October 21      5:00 to 5:45 p.m.**

\$12.00



To order: call: 413 532-0500 Text 413 695-1212  
email: office@UMCSouthHadley.org

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

**UMW: HATS, MITTENS, SCARVES** It's time to start knitting and buying mittens, hats & scarves for the Mitten Tree. We will deliver them to those in need and many will be used for the Secret Santa gifts. 



and IT'S ALL FREE!

Free movie in Fellowship Hall on Friday, October 28

with pop corn & snacks & beverages

Bring friends & family.

6:00 p.m. Short/cartoons

6:30 p.m. Main movie.



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**This is a blatant teaser:** The choir is working on a song we have done before and that everybody LOVED! I don't know when it will appear in a worship service, so you will have to keep coming or zooming.

## **FOOD FOR FRIENDS FUNDRAISING DINNER OCTOBER 22, 2022**

Food For Friends is hosting a fundraising dinner so that we can continue to serve homebound seniors in our community.

Please join us to share in a delicious meal that is typical of what we serve our clients, and to learn more about the Food For Friends program.

**5:00 pm to 7:00 pm**

**Center Church, on the town common, 1 Church Street, South Hadley  
Options for Eat-in or To-go**



### **TICKETS**

\$20/adult, \$10/child or student

All tickets must be purchased in advance by Tuesday October 18<sup>th</sup>

### **Order online:**

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/ead10e44-17d2-4f2d-946a-5a3adbd146ad>

### **Order by check:**

- Make check payable to Food For Friends
- Mail to Center Church, 1 Church Street, South Hadley, MA 01075
- Your ticket and receipt will be provided to you at the door

**- 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 YouTube

**Pastor Joe DeGrande 413 237-6823**

[Pasterjoe.umcsouthhadley@gmail.com](mailto:Pasterjoe.umcsouthhadley@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.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**



- October 11: 6:30 p.m. Education meeting on zoom
- October 12: 10:00 a.m. United Women in Faith on zoom
- October 18: 6:30 p.m. Church council & Trustee
- October 20: 10:00 a.m. Make dessert for Grab & Go supper
- October 21: 5:00-5:45 p.m. Grab & Go Supper
- October 28: Free movie in Fellowship Hall with pop corn & snacks. Bring friends & family.  
6:00 p.m. Short/cartoons 6:30 p.m. Main movie.
- October 30: Casseroles for Kate's Kitchen are due
- November 6: 6:00 p.m. SPRC meet with D.S. Rev. Stowe  
7:00 p.m. Annual Church Conference



**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**30 Carew Street**

**South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075-2705**

**Return address service requested.**