

The Steeple

April 2023



Holy Week Services All are welcome.

† April 2: 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday

† April 6: 7:00 p.m. On Maundy Thursday we will have a Tenebrae service.

† April 9: 10:00 a.m. Easter Sunday, Jesus Lives! Easter morning is always a time of glorious celebration. We look forward to rebirth, to overcoming death, to the hope provided by the resurrection. Please join us as we lift our hearts and voices in joy and gratitude.

PASTOR'S PAGE

As March comes to a close and our Lenten journey nears the end, we prepare for the holiest of days – our Lord's death and resurrection. For it is written "...and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain and your faith is in vain..." (1 Corinthians 15:14). It's amazing how within a few days, palms and cheers of joy were replaced with betrayal, suffering, and death.

This is a time to reflect on what we are as Christians and the price Christ paid for our salvation. A price he paid in the agony and passion of his humanity; betrayal, humiliation, suffering, and death on the cross. To truly reflect on His journey those final hours, we will offer a Tenebrae Service on April 6th at 7:00 PM. This is a solemn, reverent, candle lit gathering around a table. Communion will be shared with each other and seven people will read scriptural passages from the Book of Matthew. After each reading, their candle will be extinguished until we sit in darkness and eventually leave in silence. To me, this is the epitome of worshipping together in community, supporting and consoling each other as we relive the brutality Christ endured. I pray, hand in hand, you will be there with us. If you'd like to be one of the readers, please let either Mary Lou or me know in advance.

For those who have not been able to join us virtually yet, I think you'll be pleasantly surprised. Thanks to the excellent technical proposal and installation by ATC Audio, Mark taking the lead on implementation and 'going live', and all those who have helped, the quality of both Zoom and YouTube are as good as MGM Studios. Okay, maybe not exactly as good – but close. If you are not on the distribution list for Ann's Sunday Invitation/Bulletin/and link, please let us know and we'll be happy to be sure you get one every week.

Please keep in mind, we will be scheduling a 'talk around the table' in a few weeks to share the obstacles we are facing and their repercussions. We all love this church, its legacy, and the saints that found refuge and peace here throughout

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the years. We are now at a crossroad that will decide its future. I will be sending out a personal invitation to all once a date has been set. If you have any questions or would like to talk about this personally, I would love to hear from you.

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 ...

UWF BAKE SALE

Sunday, April 2 9:00 a.m. until sold out

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

Who: Everyone can Participate

How: Bake, Buy or Donate

Why: To help support the United
Women in Faith missions.

Where: Fellowship Hall



JOIN US ON APRIL 2 We will be gathering from 9:00 a.m. to noon in Fellowship Hall to make butterflies, cookie nests & bags to **give to our Friends at Home**. Join the fun and show your love for others.



HELP DELIVER EASTER PLANTS & BAGS to our Friends at Home. If you will deliver an Easter bag to one or more of our friends at home, email church at office@UMCSouthhadley.org or call the church office 413 532-0500 or talk to Ann. It is so good to see the smiles when you bring a bag of goodies to our friends. Plants & bags are delivered after service or during the week after Easter.



WE'RE BACK AT CHURCH All are welcome to join us on April 12th at 9:00 am at Church in Fellowship Hall. Zoom will also be offered to those who cannot attend in person. We will plan our missions, support each other, share a devotion, pray. Carol Deren will lead devotions. Contact Ann at office@UMCSouthhadley.org if you would like the zoom link.

CASSEROLES FOR KATE'S KITCHEN

Thank you to **Carol Deren for delivering 15 casseroles** in March. The April casseroles are due on April 23 - NOTE this is earlier than normal. Thank you to all who help.

CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS



† PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Carol Brunelle, Beth Dietz, Marion Winters, Samantha Snopek, Adele Reynolds, Jessica Guarnera, Dave Fanaras, Doug & Dee Brooksbank, Tim O'Donnell, Lily Marion, Kathy Washburn, Darlene Dout, Heidi Barta, Renata Cournoyer, Lucy Huegli, Bill Guarnera, Andrea Schlachter, Kelly & Steve Camp, Dulude Family, Dot Lambert & Family, Nancy Uhl & Family, Dottie Douglas, Bob Falgares, Kevin McGlaughin



A HUGE THANK YOU



The Washburn family would like to thank the United Women of Faith and the United Methodist Church for their donation to our monthly Joy Bag mission.

We deliver an average 70 bags to 90 people. A bag contains a card, craft, baked good, a scroll, two inspirations, and candy.

We started this mission in November of 2021. We are always looking for volunteers to join in spreading joy to others. God bless.

STEEPLE LIGHTING



Our steeple is lit during the month of April in honor of our children with love from Alan & Ann Felsentreger.

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Holy Week

April 2: Palm Sunday

9- 11:30 a.m. UWF Bake Sale

9- noon Gathering to make cards & more for our Friends at Home bags

April 6: 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday service

April 7: Good Friday

April 9: Easter service at 10:00 a.m.

April 12: 9:00 a.m. United Women in Faith meeting in Fellowship Hall & on Zoom.

April 18: 6:30 p.m. Church Council & Trustee meeting on Zoom.

April 21: 5-5:30 p.m. Grab & Go meal pick up

April 23: Casseroles for Kate's Kitchen are due. Note early date.



PRAYER

Lord, our bones are dry and windswept.
We thirst for new life, a sip of living water.
We await a fresh moving of your Holy Spirit, a stirring of new vitality,
A refreshed vision that opens our souls for new realities.
Our bones are scattered. speak and draw us together.
The old has passed away, cover us with new flesh, new life and new possibilities.
Let us move from the battles of the past to dwell in Eden.
Free us from our warring so we might enter your new Jerusalem, the city of peace.
Only you, O Lord can do this, may these bones live again. Amen.



By Bishop Peggy A. Johnson



So. Hadley Methodist Church

Grab & Go **Shepherd's Pie**



April 21

5:00 to 5:30 p.m.

\$12.00

Menu: Shepherd's Pie Bun Lemon squares Beverage

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

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!

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

It's fun and help is appreciated.

YOUR ARE WANTED Hope for the Homeless has been serving 7-12 people on Tuesday mornings. If you will help, let Past Joe know or email or call the church office. There is also a signup sheet in the back of the sanctuary. You can help as much as you like - once a month or less or more often - deliver or provide muffins.

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

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

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: 413-437-7593

FROM OUR LAY LEADER

At last Easter is in sight. The journey through Lent is not my favorite part of the year, and I will be happy for Easter to arrive. Of course, we must deal with Holy week in order to get there, but soon we will wake up to the amazing shout, “Christ is risen!” And so ends the walk through Lent. Thank goodness.

But wait! There’s more. Easter may be celebrated one day a year, but we should be living it every day. Jesus did not endure that horrendous death so we could have Easter baskets one Sunday in spring. No, those nails went through his hands and feet, the crown of thorns pierced his head and the spear was launched into his side as his human body cried for release from excruciating pain in order to save us. You and me. Can you imagine that? We speak of Christmas as the gift of Jesus, but he really became the ultimate gift on Easter, when he overcame death in order that we might be saved. Love is an inadequate word for that sacrifice, but it the only word we have.

But wait! There’s even more. We don’t need words; we have actions. We strive to live the life Jesus asks of us. “Feed my sheep,” he said. We all know he refers to more than food for the belly. Jesus means food for the soul, food for the mind, clothes for the body, relief from pain and loneliness. He wants us to follow his example by being his hands and feet in the world. Have you ever heard that we are “Easter people?” We live by the risen Jesus. Jesus, who wants us to “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus, who literally gave his life for us to live. Jesus, who is not on the cross, but has risen.

Worship on Easter morning is always special and I hope you will join us in person or online to celebrate the risen Jesus.

Wishing you a joyous Easter.
Mary Lou



Easter Sunrise Surprise

He is not here; he has risen! Luke 24:6a (NIV)
The puzzle is based on Luke 24:1-12 (NIV).

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

living	tomb	rolled	risen	dead
women	first	spices	away	bowed
faces	stone	entered	ground	remember
morning	week	body	fright	day

- 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 and YouTube



Love. Grow. Serve.

Pastor Joe DeGrande 413 237-6823

Pastorjoe.umcsouthhadley@gmail.com

My office hours are Tuesday & 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.



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

30 Carew Street

South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075-2705

Return address service requested.