



# The Steeple

May 2023



## FROM OUR PASTOR

Well, here we are again with Ann reminding me that the Newsletter article is due. How, I ask? I just wrote the last one two days ago – or at least it seems that way! My gosh, one quarter of the year is gone in what seems like a blink of an eye. I guess I’m going to have to stop blinking.

What a touching, reverent Tenebrae Service we had on Maundy Thursday. To me, it’s such an emotional time, sitting around the table and listening to the words in scripture of Christ’s passion and death on the cross in order that we may be saved. As we all left in silence, we knew on Sunday how the story ends – or shall I say begins.

Our church looked beautiful with all the flowers, decorations, and pews almost full. I think they may have heard us back in my neighborhood in Queens when we shouted and stomped our feet – HE IS RISEN! To all who worked tirelessly in all the preparations, liturgy, music, coordinating the opening celebrations, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.



And now we have Mother’s Day on May 14<sup>th</sup> when we honor those who are our biological mothers, adopted mothers, and those that love us as if they were. Here’s an idea, how about starting Mother’s Day by going to church with your mom. And if your mom is no longer with us, bring in a picture for our Table of Honor, light a candle in her memory, and ring the bell of remembrance.

Please keep in mind that with the warm weather upon us, Mark’s famous family movie nights are coming back. Invite your friends, neighbors, and bring the kids, it’s all free with popcorn, snacks, and refreshments provided. I am also excited to announce that Richard (Pantry volunteer and good friend) will be narrating the video he took while serving in the Navy Reserve on the USS Glacier AGB4 icebreaker in Antarctica. It’s an exciting voyage that I know you’ll find interesting. Again, bring your friends, neighbors, kids for a great family night out for free. As we firm up the dates, we’ll be sending out announcements.



Our Hope for The Homeless has served over ninety people with hot chocolate and homemade muffins. At this point in the season, it may be time to evolve this mission into a different format. Please, give this some thought and we’d love to hear your ideas and suggestions during our Fellowship after Worship.

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 ...



## CWS BLANKETS - HEARTS & CARDS



Starting May 1st and continuing through June 18th you can give a special gift in honor or memory of your mother, father... or any person you would like. The United Methodist Women of our church have hearts or Mother's Day cards or Father's Day cards for sale for \$5.00 each.

You may purchase a card to give to your mother, father or other special person or you may get a red heart to honor or memorialize a special person and pin the heart on the blanket that will be on display. The proceeds will go to Church World United Service Missions to buy blankets to be used by people in need. Some of them may stay right here in the area. This is a great way to show your love by helping to keep others warm! 



United  
Women  
in Faith

All are welcome to join us on May 17 at 9:00 a.m. We gather in Fellowship Hall & on zoom, plan our missions, support each other, share a devotion, pray. We will finish with Lois or Dot leading devotions.

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

**CASSEROLES FOR KATE'S KITCHEN** Twelve casseroles were delivered in April. The May casseroles are due on May 28. Thank you to all who help. Thank you to Carol & Tom Deren for delivering the casseroles.

**THANK YOU** to all who helped make the bags for our 'Friends at Home special. Thank you to Jenna for making cards, Lily for the coffee filter butterflies, Ann palm crosses, and the adults who had fun getting covered in chocolate making chocolate nests.

And to those who delivered plants and bags to our Friends at Home.

**THANK YOU** to all who supported our Bake Sale - \$260 was made to use for our missions.



## 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 in September after the scholarship committee has reviewed all applications.

**YOUR ARE WANTED** Hope for the Homeless has been serving 7-12 people on Tuesday mornings. If you will help, let Pastor 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.



## EASTER PLANTS

Thanks to you the sanctuary was beautifully decorated on Easter morning. The flowers decorating the sanctuary were given:

In memory of Francis & Winifred Cerruti  
Love Donna & Don Barre & Family

In memory of Steve & Heather Benedict  
From Elizabeth & Robert Barron

In memory of our Parents  
By Tom & Carol Deren

In memory of Loved Ones  
By Alan & Darlene Dout

In memory of our loved ones  
Love their Family

In memory of  
Clark/Dickinson Families  
Calemno/DeGrande Families  
By Joe & Beth DeGrande

In memory of John, Jack, Sally, Jeff and  
other loved ones  
Love Lois Felsentreger

In memory of loved ones  
By Alan & Ann Felsentreger

In honor of the Pantry volunteers  
In memory of loved one  
By Mary Lou Guarnera

In memory of  
Robert Andrews  
Florence Brassard  
From Dot & Fred Lambert

In memory of  
Dottie Douglas  
Bill McLaughlin  
From Kevin McLaughlin

In loving memory of Pauline  
By George, Alex and Tyler

In memory of  
Tony & Rosa Lee Motyka  
Cathy McPhee  
Love The Motyka Family

In honor of  
Thomas Motyka  
Tucker Motyka  
Kyrin Walsh  
Shea Walsh  
Love Gram & Pappy

In memory of Harry Novak  
Love Rose

In memory of Ruth & Sewell Frank  
Their loving daughter, Bev

In memory of  
John Sorokapud  
Viola Suiterloin  
Bertha Cotter Langley  
Charles & Virginia Langley  
By Steve & Karen Schlachter

In Memory of my grandmothers  
Mrs. Fannie Tabor  
Mrs. Grace Ryer  
By Brian Tabor

In memory of loved ones  
By Nancy Uhl

In memory of Homer & Kay Washburn  
Love The Washburn Family



## A TRADITION CONTINUED

- THE RED EGGS: The egg is the symbol of birth and new life; for much of life begins from this tiny form. The red represents the blood of Christ, poured out to purchase that new birth, the new relationship with God. For many years it has been a tradition in our church to give each person a red egg. The red eggs were given in honor of our children, grandchildren & great granddaughter by Alan & Ann Felsentreger.

Church office: 413-532-0500

e-mail: [office@UMCSouthHadley.org](mailto:office@UMCSouthHadley.org)

Dr. Heather Reichgott, Minister of Music

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: 413-437-7593

Worship Sunday 10:00 a.m.

web site: [UMCSouthHadley.org](http://UMCSouthHadley.org)

Ann Felsentreger, Secretary

## **CELEBRATION, CONCERNS & MORE**



### **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, Kevin McLaughlin, Bill Pead

### **STEEPLE LIGHTING**

Our steeple is lit during the month of May in celebration of our church.

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.

### **LOOKING FOR OUR GRADUATES**

Please inform the office if there is a new graduate to celebrate. The names will be posted in the June newsletter.

Is your birthday or anniversary missing from our church list? Please let us know. You may email [office@UMCSouthhadley.org](mailto:office@UMCSouthhadley.org) or call 413 532-0500.



So. Hadley Methodist Church

**Grab & Go**

## **Chicken Salad Wraps & Chocolate Trifle**



May 19      5:00 to 5:30 p.m.      \$12.00

Menu:      **Chicken salad wrap**      **Chocolate trifle**      **Chips**      **Beverage**

To order:      **call: 413 532-0500**      **email: office@UMCSouthhadley**

**Text 413 695-1212**

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!

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

## FROM YOUR LAY LEADER



What do you want from your church? What are you willing to do to make it happen? Have you noticed how much gray hair is there on Sunday mornings? We of that gray hair have different needs and expectations from our church than those in newer generations. We are watching grandchildren and great grandchildren being baptized, grow up and start new families. We expect to be buried from the church.



The question is, will the church still be here when you young people need a baptism, marriage or funeral? If not, where will you go for those life passages? Perhaps church will have become so obsolete that none exist. Please don't let that happen. Think it can't? My generation is witnessing changes in society we never could have imagined, and it isn't all good. I think we would have been dismayed 50 years ago if you told us so many people wouldn't be going to church in 2023. I personally believe it is part of the reason so many people think nothing of killing others, even children. When there is no accountability, why not go ahead and do what you want?

Attending worship isn't painful, lengthy or miserable. You can connect with people you only see there. You can be uplifted. You can be supported and loved. I recently saw a young woman at the church whom I watched grow up and whom I dearly love. I was so happy to hug her and the hug she returned made me feel so good. Wouldn't it be nice to do that for someone you know? For yourself?



You might be interested to know we have a small but really cool band that plays in our worship service often. The band brings a new element of worship to us. In fact, one person said that a recent service featuring the band was the most worshipful one ever. It is so nice to have a variety of music to inspire us.

Where are you in the picture? Your parents (and I am included) make all kinds of excuses why you aren't there, even though nobody asks for an explanation, but we truly miss you. I am going out on a limb and saying I don't accept the excuses. Church simply isn't your priority, and I think you will be sorry someday. There are young families who have returned, and they keep coming. Won't you join them? It is so good to have them there, and the youthful energy they bring uplifts us all. Do it for yourself. Be there to save your church because one day you will need to lean on those who are the church. I know from experience.

Mary Lou

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 7: 9:15 Choir

May 11: 6:30 p.m. Bell rehearsal

7:15 p.m. Choir rehearsal

May 16: 6:30 p.m. Council & Trustee on  
Zoom

May 17: 9:00 a.m. UWF in  
Fellowship Hall

May 18: 10:00 a.m. Grab & Go food prep

6:30 p.m. Bell rehearsal

7:15 p.m. Choir rehearsal

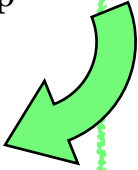
May 19: 5:00-5:30 p.m. Grab & Go

May 21: 9:15 Choir Bells

May 25: 6:30 p.m. Bell rehearsal

7:15 p.m. Choir rehearsal

May 28: Casseroles for Kate's Kitchen



### - 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](mailto: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.