



# The Steeple

June 2023



## ***FROM OUR PASTOR***

Oh my gosh, maybe I should be writing July's newsletter article now, since time seems to be flying by so fast! Can you believe it – June – we're halfway through the year.

As I look back at last month, Mother's Day Worship Service was beautiful, as was our Memorial Day remembrance and Pentecost. Last Sunday, before Heather's postlude, I shared with everyone what was going on. I wanted people to hear this from me personally, for you are all very special. If you type this address in your computer's GOOGLE search bar, you'll be able to hear what I said at the end of Worship (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRFbittQFCo>). In short, something happened to me at Holyoke Medical Center recently. There is no doubt in my mind that God was tapping me on the shoulder and calling me to serve at the hospital, those in desperate need of spiritual care. After prayerful discernment and discussions with Beth, I made the difficult decision to not accept a reappointment to this church. I will remain your pastor until the end of September, giving the District time to search for a replacement. I really hope you'll be able to hear the whole story by typing the address above into your computer or iPad. If you'd like to talk to me personally about this, I'd love to hear from you.

I hope you've all received the questionnaire, jotted down your thoughts, and sent them/or will be sending them back. If you need one, please either call or email the office and Ann will send one. We're hoping to schedule our "family talk around the table" soon. Stay tuned for the date and time.

Yes, the rumor is true! We will be having a Talent Show and it's open to all! Dust off that accordion, polish your tap shoes, put fresh paper on your kazoo, we are going to rock South Hadley. Thoughts, ideas, and suggestions are all welcome. Come on, this is your church, let's have some fun. Let's also not forget Mark's South Hadley famous movie nights and Rich Normandin's USS Glacier video footage of his Navy voyage to Antarctica. Emails will be going out with more details, dates and times.

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 ...

## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

Shea Walsh Wilbraham Monson Academy  
Auston Deren So. Hadley High School Grandson of Tom & Carol Deren  
Lily Marion So. Hadley High School  
Anna Dunlap Hampshire Regional High School  
Paris Boudette Nursing Program HCC

**Bake  
Sale.**

**UWF BAKE SALE      Sunday, June 18 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

Get a dessert for Father's Day or treat yourself to a special dessert.


### **Here are some of our missions:**

Secret Santa, CWS blankets, CWS disaster relief, card ministry, Angels Without Wings, Prayer Shawls both regular size & pocket size, Scarf, Hat & Mitten Tree, Casseroles for Kate's Kitchen, Christmas & Easter bags for our Friends at Home.



## **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! 



United  
Women  
in Faith

All are welcome to join us on June 14 at 9:00 a.m. We gather in Fellowship Hall & on zoom, plan our missions, support each other, share a devotion, pray.

## **CASSEROLES FOR KATE'S KITCHEN**

Nine casseroles were delivered in May. The May casseroles are due on June 25. Thank you to all who help. Thank you to Carol & Tom Deren for delivering the casseroles.

## **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.



**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 15 (10 a.m.) or help put together meals on Friday.

So. Hadley Methodist Church  
**Grab & Go**  
**Strawberry Shortcake &**  
**Ham & Cheese Sandwich**



June 16      5:00 to 5:30 p.m.      \$12.00

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: [office@UMCSouthHadley.org](mailto: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.

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, Bill Beyer



### **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:

Paula Winters  
Pauline Kiakis

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

### **A PRAYER**

When we aren't sure, God,  
help us be calm;  
when information comes  
from all sides, correct and not,  
help us to discern;  
when fear makes it hard to breathe,  
and anxiety seems to be the order of the  
day, slow us down, God;  
help us to reach out with our hearts,  
when we can't touch with our hands;  
help us to be socially connected,  
when we have to be socially distant;  
help us to love as perfectly as we can,

knowing that "perfect love casts out all fear."

Help us, O God,  
that we might help each other.  
In the love of the Creator,  
in the name of the Healer,  
in the life of the Holy Spirit  
that is in all and with all,  
we pray. Amen.

Part of a prayer by the Right Rev.  
Richard Bott, originally posted on Facebook  
Offered by William V. Burnside  
II, Conference Treasurer/  
Director of Administrative  
Services





## **FROM YOUR LAY LEADER**

## **Who Is the Church?**

Do you remember the song, "I am the Church"?

The church is not a building;  
the church is not a steeple;  
the church is not a resting place;  
the church is the people.

I am the church! You are the church!

We are the church together!

All who follow Jesus,  
all around the world!

Yes, we're the church together!



Pastors come and pastors go, sometimes before the people are ready. But, just as we raise our children to leave home and be independent, we must allow those among us, including the pastor, to follow God's call. Since Joe has been with us a mere two years, it will be harder to let him go. He has certainly left his mark on our building and on us and we need to focus on the good changes he has brought to us.

It is easy to dwell on what we are losing; I can list the changes that I personally will not like. But there will also be new opportunities, and I hope we all will be open to embracing them. Each new situation brings new ideas and a renewed chance to grow not only the church, but also ourselves.

Unfortunately, God waited until the end of the appointment season to call Joe to a new mission. Pastors have been assigned, Annual Conference is next week, and the District Superintendent is going on renewal leave a few days later, so our situation cannot be attended to until she returns in September. She has met with Staff Parish and there is already another meeting scheduled in September. There will not be any movement until she returns, but when there is something to report, we will do so as soon as possible.

In the meantime, let's enjoy the summer, especially the Friday Grab & Go's. They will be highlighting some of God's great gifts of strawberries, blueberries, peaches and apples.

I urge everyone to keep Pastor Joe in your prayers, as well as we, the church. 🎵We are the church together.🎵

Mary Lou

**P.S. Keep looking to see who the church is in the pictures at end of newsletter.**

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

June 1: 6:30 p.m. Bell rehearsal  
7:15 p.m. Choir rehearsal  
June 4: 9:15 Bell rehearsal  
June 14: 9:00 a.m. UWF in Fellowship Hall  
June 15: 10:00 a.m. Grab & Go food prep

June 16: 5:00-5:30 p.m. Grab & Go  
June 18: 9:00 til sold out UWF Bake Sale  
June 20: 6:30 p.m. Council & Trustee  
June 25: 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.**

**QUESTIONNAIRE:**

This questionnaire is presented by the Pastor, Trustees, and Council Members for the purpose of seeking guidance in the planning for the next several years. There are no right or wrong answers - only true feelings from your heart.





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