



# The Steeple

July 2023



## **FROM OUR PASTOR**

My dad used to tell me how time goes faster as you get older. As a typical teenage son, I'd argue with him. My point was simple, the watch on your wrist is a mechanical device. Unless you take it apart and change the gears and springs, a minute will always be a minute and an hour, an hour. As with so many other things, dad was right. I don't know how, but this year is definitely cranking by much faster than last year!



Speaking of a year going by, happy second anniversary to us! It was July 2021 that we opened the sanctuary after COVID and celebrated our first Worship Service together. In some ways, that seems a lifetime ago. As we plan for the transition at the end of September, I'm excited how the passion and energy we've created is growing even stronger. The outreach team is putting together a fresh new agenda that puts the emphasis back on the community; where it should be. If you'd like more information and how you can be a part of the team, please let Karen Motyka or Mary Lou know.

I am proud to announce that we will be baptizing Pastor Neal's second great granddaughter Harper this month. Please join us on July 16<sup>th</sup> as we welcome another beloved into our family of faith. For those who can't be here in person, please join us on Zoom or YouTube. Wouldn't it be wonderful to get together for a joyous occasion?



In mid-July, I will begin serving as a chaplain at Baystate Medical Center in addition to Holyoke Medical Center. Baystate will be one day a week from 4PM to 8AM. My church office hours will be reduced to once a week and the day/time will be flexible.

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.

Please be careful, be safe, and may Independence Day remind us how blessed we are to live in America.

May grace and blessings be in your path,

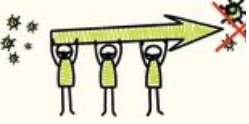
Pastor Joe ...

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

Worship Sunday 10:00 a.m.  
web site: [UMCSouthHadley.org](http://UMCSouthHadley.org)  
Ann Felsentreger, Secretary

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: 413-437-7593

## **TOGETHER** Our Church Outreach Program has begun!



A group met with the purpose of brainstorming how to reach out beyond our four church walls with a goal of establishing relationships with our local neighbors and families of the NHN food pantry. Our thought is to schedule a once a month “touch” to our targeted audience with events such as Movie Nights, a hot dog cook-out, music in the side yard, etc. Without making a lot of work for ourselves – and including our existing church activities when possible.

Our first event will be a hot dog cook out to be held on Wed. July 12 12:00-3:00 and Sat. July 15 10-12 in the parking lot. NHN Families will be picking up their food orders from Food Pantry and we will offer our cookout while they wait. If our church neighbors stop by – they will be welcome also.



The goal of these touches is to have our outside community meet us and learn who we are. If you are available, please stop by for a hot dog and stay for 30 mins or so and make some new friends.



Our next event will be Saturday August 5<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. Rich Normandin will be presenting a video on his time in the Navy aboard USS Glacier AGB-4 in Antarctica. Light refreshments will be served and Rich will be recognized as Veteran of the Year. I hope everyone will attend.

Watch for our upcoming Talent Show! What is your talent?

Karen Motyka

## **USED CLOTHING DROP-OFF SHED**

Did you know Pauly Textiles pays us \$.45 per pound for the items left in the wooden drop-off shed in our parking lot? Our church has been receiving about \$45 a month from the donations.



These are the items that we can accept: All clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, towels, sheets, pillowcases, curtains and stuffed toys. Suggest the items you drop-off be in bags.



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

**CASSEROLES FOR KATE'S KITCHEN** Twelve casseroles were delivered in June. The July casseroles are due on July 23. Thank you to all who help. Thank you to Carol & Tom Deren for delivering the casseroles.

**WILL YOU HELP with the Grab & Go** Call 532-0500 or email the church if you will help pick or prep blueberries on July 19 or 20, help make cobbler or put together meals on Friday.



So. Hadley Methodist Church

**Grab & Go**

**Blueberry Cobbler & Turkey Sandwich**



**July 21 5:00 to 5:30 p.m. \$12.00**

**Menu: Turkey Sandwich Bag of Chips Beverage**

**Old fashioned Blueberry Cobbler**

made with fresh picked blueberries, bathed in juicy goodness, topped with a cloud 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.

**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, Cathy Demers

**STEEPLE LIGHTING**

Our steeple is lit during the month of July in honor of our grandchildren & great granddaughter by 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.



**Anniversaries in July**

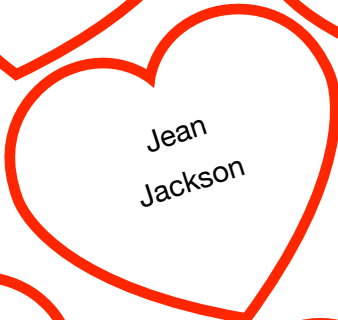
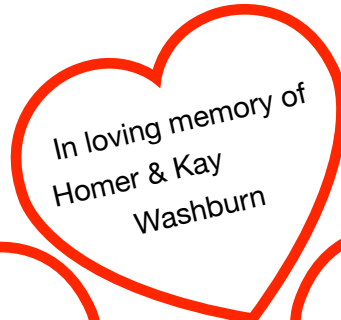
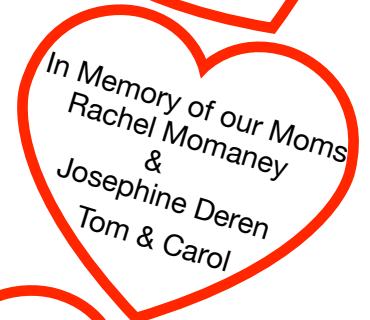
- |                              |                    |                     |
|------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 18 Mark & Cheri Felsentreger | 7 Joanne Milloy    | 18 Barbara Hudgik   |
| 31 Gary & Linda Costin       | 8 Jessica Guarnera | Eileen Hudgik       |
|                              | 9 Lisa Smigiel     | 19 Alex Kerkhoff    |
|                              | Laurel Gaudette    | Tucker Motyka       |
|                              | Candice Reynolds   | 20 Tom Deren        |
|                              | 11 Larry Kough     | 25 Ann Felsentreger |
|                              | 14 Kyrin Walsh     | 30 Beverly Morse    |

**Birthdays in July**



**UWF CWS BLANKETS - HEARTS** Thank you for your support. 💕

The women's group of our church sold hearts during May and June to earn money for CWS blankets. Here are the hearts that were displayed on a blanket during the Sunday services. The proceeds 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. \$80 was collected and the women's group added \$50. We sent \$130 to CWS.



**A 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*



## FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

As we embark on a journey we had not expected to be on this soon, it's important to remember a few things. Most important is that we are the church. As the song says, the church is not a building, it's the people, and that doesn't even include the pastor. Pastors come and pastors go, but the people are the church. If people are at a church for the pastor, the congregation is doing something wrong. We are a friendly group, happily embracing newcomers and visitors and making them feel at home. We need to remember how welcoming we are, and continue being that loving congregation.

As important as the first point, is to remember the last seven words of a dying church – that's the way we've always done it. Yikes. What we did 10,20,30 years ago may have worked then, but the world has changed and we can either join 2023, or lock our doors. This is not to say we can't remember and update what we did, but it is critical that we be open to change, because we need to be handing off the church to new generations, and they will do things their own way. We can't let the world change while we steadfastly hang on to the past.

The next suggestion is to participate. We need you. Your presence, ideas and thoughts are important. That is who we are, all of us together, thinking, talking, deciding what to do. Don't let a few do the heavy lifting. Even if you say nothing, knowing that you care enough to be there is important. It is one way you can support the others. Your input matters! Possibly the only positive result of the pandemic is the use of Zoom. When we get together to talk about something, you can join from home, even though we really prefer to have you with us. After all, hugging a computer is not that satisfying.



Nobody knows what will happen in October, but let's decide to work together, honor each other and vow that we will work to keep the church moving forward. We can do it; we just need to decide we are going to.

♪We are the church together♪

Mary Lou



## Upcoming Events:

July 12: 9:00 a.m. UWF in Fellowship Hall  
12:00 - 3:00 p.m. Community Hot  
Dogs in parking lot/pavilion  
July 15: 10:00-12:00 p.m. Community Hot  
Dogs in parking lot/pavilion  
July 18: 10:00 a.m. Outreach meeting  
6:30 p.m. Trustee & Council

July 21: 10:00 a.m. Grab & Go food prep  
July 21: 5:00-5:30 p.m. Grab & Go  
July 30: Casseroles for Kate's Kitchen

August 5: 3:00 p.m. Video by Veteran of the  
Year, Rich Normandin about USS Glacier  
AGB-4 in Antarctica. Invite your friends &  
neighbors.

**- 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.**