



The Steeple

August 2023



INVITATION TO EVERYONE WHO LOVES OUR CHURCH!

You don't have to be a member to attend!

A very important meeting is happening on Tuesday, August 1st. Pizza at 5:30 pm and meeting at 6 pm. We will be discussing the future of the church. This is our church, yours and mine. We understand today's lifestyles inhibit sitting in church on Sunday mornings. But we are still your church that supports you from Christian education as a child to weddings, baptisms, spiritual growth and support, counseling and difficult times as funerals. The church follows us our entire lives nurturing our belief in Jesus Christ and everlasting life in heaven.

So how do we move forward? How does our church meet your needs and continue to exist 20 years from now? How can we be the spiritual community that you rely on? The meeting on August 1st is not about money, it's about changing with the times to meet your needs. We as a church want to be here when you need us – please come down on Tuesday, August 1st – have some pizza and share your thoughts.

← The future is ours to determine! →

Can you imagine Christmas eve without a candlelight service –I can't! We want to make memories for your children and grandchildren as we did for you!

Please come on August 1st.
Karen Motyka

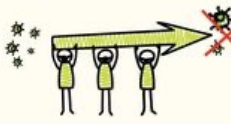
-From UMC New England Conference: Please join in praying for all those affected by the devastating floods across New England & New York. United Methodists in New England can also help by donating to UMCOR's U.S. Disaster Response & Recovery: You may mail donations or leave in offering plate on Sundays. Please designate for Disaster Relief.

Church office: 413-532-0500
e-mail: 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
Ann Felsentreger, Secretary

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TOGETHER



Our Church Outreach Programs!

The goal of these touches is to have our outside community meet us and learn who we are.



Cruise Antarctica on an ice breaker!

Bring family, friends, neighbors.

Our next event will be Saturday August 5th at 3 pm. 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.

CARE CALL PROGRAM



Sometimes everyone just needs a friendly person to talk to. A care call is simply a friendly phone call. Many of us do this already within our families and congregation. Our community has many elderly who would benefit from a friendly phone call. No errands supplied, no rides, no money support, just an occasional phone call. If further services are requested, we will direct that person to the appropriate organization that is already set up to supply these services. The Outreach team is in need of a few more volunteers willing to make phone calls. If you are interested in making care calls, or if you would like to receive a care call; please contact Mary Lou Guarnera or the Church Office.



The Outreach Team held their first event with a Hot Dog cookout in our side yard. The photos show Chef Ron serving a few NHN Pantry volunteers much appreciated hot dogs. In total we distributed 125 hot dogs to families, friends and volunteers! A good time was had by all.



THANK YOU - YOU ARE APPRECIATED

We want to thank the people who have been sharing themselves with their church. Jim Corey brings flowers to church each Sunday morning. Mark has trained Alex to run the mysterious equipment in the balcony and now they can each cover Sunday mornings. Carol has been weeding! Unless you have made a foray into the jungle in front of the church, you have no idea how huge that job is. The last time it was done was at Easter, by Karen and Ron. Donna Pinciak filled the driveway tubs with beautiful pansies. Martha has engaged a person to mow. We were starting to look like a wildlife refuge. Ron and Karen met many of the pantry clients and made their day by feeding them hot dogs. Lots of folks have been helping make the Grab and Go's happen. It would be easy to leave out one name, so a heartfelt *thank you* covers everybody.



All of you have worked to make our church better and we appreciate your selfless gifts.

So. Hadley Methodist Church

Grab & Go



Pulled Pork Sandwich

August 18 5:00 to 5:30 p.m.

\$12.00

Pulled Pork Sandwich Beverage

Surprise Dessert

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.

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

BAPTISM

What a joyous occasion, what a blessing it was to continue Pastor Neil White's legacy with the baptism of his great granddaughter Harper. Congratulations to Gramma Carol White Scott and parents Tabytha & Joshua.



FROM OUR PASTOR

July becomes memories as we enter into August. How blessed we were to be honored baptizing Harper Rathburn, Pastor Neal's second great granddaughter. How wonderful it is that his legacy, the love and passion he had for our church, will live on through them. It's the legacy of all the saints that have gone before us, all who were baptized, confirmed, married, worship in fellowship, that makes our church so special. A place that our children and their children can continue giving glory to God in the church that meant so much to their loved ones.

How many times have you said or heard someone say, "things certainly aren't the same as they used to be"? To me, COVID became the dawn of the 'new' normal. People became comfortable ordering groceries on-line rather than going to the store, on-line banking, Amazon Prime, and even worshipping remotely. Social media took on a more dominate role in our life, even changing the way we interact with each other.

The challenges of this 'new' normal can be felt in all aspects of our life, including our church. Rather than pretending nothing has changed, we've decided to invite our church family (whether you attend every Sunday or haven't been back for a long time), to have some pizza with us as we sit around the table and share thoughts and ideas for meeting these new times. For those that aren't able to join us on August 1st, please reach out to me for we'd love to hear your thoughts.



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We are so proud to also host the South Hadley veteran of the year Richard "Rich" Normandin as he narrates the video he took while serving in the Navy on an ice breaker in Antarctica. Please join us on Saturday, August 5th at 3:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Join us as Richard takes us on a journey I'm sure you'll find fascinating!

In addition to Holyoke Medical Center, I will be starting as a Per Diem Chaplain at Baystate Medical Center this month. The schedule will be one day a week from 4:00 in the afternoon until 8:00 in the morning. Beth and I will also be away one week this month. Please check the calendar on our website for when I will be in. Just because I will not be in the office as much as I used to, this in no way means I am not available to talk – or even visit – should you have something weighing heavily on your heart. No matter what my schedule is, I will always be just a call away. I may not be able to pick-up when you call but I will call you back as soon as I can.

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.

May grace and blessings be in your path,

Pastor Joe ...

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

It seems we can't get enough Christmas because we now celebrate it a second time in July. There are Christmas sales, movies, crafts, and much more. Hallmark goes Christmas crazy all month and I do have to admit I enjoy their sappy Christmas movies. They are predictable and trite, and you don't have to expend any energy watching them. They make for a pleasant background. One of the themes that appears frequently is a crisis that threatens to destroy a Christmas celebration, but the day is saved when the whole town comes together to make it happen. There are scenes of people smiling and singing, wrapping gifts, hanging decorations, each one doing their part to ensure a happy ending to the movie.



If only real life were like a Hallmark movie. There is a nugget of real life in the themes, one of which is the people working together to save whatever Christmas celebration is threatened. They always succeed, the guy gets the girl and they all live happily ever after. Agreed, there is a lot of fairy tale there, but when we work together for a common goal, each of our efforts is multiplied.

Right now, we need to come together for our church. We are in an uncertain time and we need all hands on deck, thinking, dreaming, planning together to make our church all that it can be. If you didn't get to the brainstorming meeting, email someone your thoughts, ideas and opinions. Who is someone? The church office: office@umcsouthhadley.org
Ann: bagabones2@comcast.net Karen Motyka: krmotyka@comcast.net Me: mlguarnera@gmail.com Joe: pastorjoe.umcsouthhadley@gmail.com



No idea is too small or big, silly, or difficult. Every change begins as someone's idea and it grows from there. You may have the start of something wonderful locked up inside you. This is the time to let it out and watch it grow.

Possible areas of inspiration: music, outreach, mission, activity, food,,, the possibilities are endless. Share yourself with your church.

Mary Lou



I hold in my hand a gift, a gift of life and the opportunity to do something good with it.

I hold in my hand a chance to

beat the odds

I hold in my hand fear, fear of going out in public and being stared at.

I hold in my hand a challenge, a challenge to keep my tears in

When I know others are thinking and saying bad things about me.

I hold on my hand knowledge, the knowledge of feeling both mental and physical pain

From the pain I hold in my hand inspiration, the inspiration to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

I hold in my hand a need, a need to strive to be strong, brave, and courageous.

I hold in my hand faith, faith that there are people who care.

I hold in my hand thankfulness, thankfulness for those people.

I hold in my hand blessings, blessings of prayers from family and friends

I hold in my hand a belief, that if I set my mind to something I can do anything I hold in my hand.

Anonymous

Submitted by George Kiakis

- 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



Pastor Joe DeGrande 413 237-6823

Pastorjoe.umcsouthhadley@gmail.com

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

August 1: 5:30 p.m.

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

August 15: 10:00 a.m. Outreach meeting
6:30 p.m. Trustee & Council

August 18: 5:00-5:30 p.m. Grab & Go

August 27: Casseroles for Kate's Kitchen

September 13: 9:00 a.m. UWF

November 4: Talent Show

The UWF will not be meeting in August. All
are welcome to join us at our next meeting
on September.



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

30 Carew Street

South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075-2705

Return address service requested.