

Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost
September 17, 2023

CELEBRATE DIVERSITY - All are welcome - loved for who you are, exactly as you are. If this is your first visit, please stay after worship so we can meet and say hello. If you are able, please stand at the places marked with an asterisk (*). For all other portions of the service, you may remain seated.

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Morning Meditation: Teri McDowell Ott
Loving God, as summer rapidly rolls into fall and busy schedules give us little space to pause and contemplate the eternal, we quiet ourselves now to enter your presence, to open our minds and hearts, to breathe the air you provide, to feel our hearts' beat, to give thanks, and to lift our prayerful petitions.

Prelude

Welcome: #657 *This Is the Day*

Announcements

***Hymn #103:** *Immortal, Invisible*

Call To Worship: from Psalm 103

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me.

All: Bless God's holy name.

One: God forgives. God heals. God transforms with steadfast love.

All: Bless God's holy name.

Prayer of Confession: Teri McDowell Ott
Nurturing God, like a hen gathers her brood under her wings, you desire to gather your children. But division and disagreement plague us. We cling to rigid certainties, approach each other in

arrogance, and fail to listen. We walk away from conflict, rather than working through it. Forgive us, Holy God. Help us grow in faith, mature in relationship, and be transformed through your steadfast love. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness: 1 John 1:8-9
If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
All: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

***Gloria Patri #70**

Passing the Peace

Joys & Concerns & God Moment

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Scripture: Exodus 13.20-22 page 60 Old Testament

***Hymn #2165:** *Cry Of My Heart*

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18.21-35 p. 20 New Testament

Sermon: *Near and Far*

***Ministry of Giving**

***Doxology #94**

***Hymn #127:** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

Benediction

Closing Song #2279: *The Trees of the Field*

Please remain seated during the Postlude.

Postlude

Offering: Please leave your offering in the plate as you leave or mail it. The Lord has given us so much, let us remember to return some to His church.

-Thank you to Heather Reichgott for leading worship today.

-Prayer List: Carol Brunelle, Beth Dietz, Marion Winters, Samantha Snopek, Adele Reynolds, Jessica Guarnera, Dave Fanaras, Tim O'Donnell, Kathy Washburn, Lily Marion, Darlene Dout, Heidi Barta, Renata Cournoyer, Lucy Huegle, Bill Guarnera, Andrea Schlachter, Kelly & Steve Camp, Dulude Family, Dot Lambert & Family, Kevin McLaughlin, Bill Pead, Bill Beyer, Cathy Demers, Jerry Rubackin, Jim Anspach's Family - parents, Gene & Rene and Uncles Earl & Tom Anspach, Family of Doug Brooksbank, George Kiakis

Mark Your Calendar

Every Sunday after worship join us in Fellowship Hall for coffee and...

September 24: Casseroles for Kate's Kitchen are due.

October 17: 6:30 p.m. Council & Trustee

October 18: 9:00 a.m. UWF in Fellowship Hall

October 20: 5:00-5:30 p.m. Grab & Go

Care Call Program 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. Sometimes everyone just needs a friendly person to talk to. A care call is simply a friendly phone call. We are in need of a few more volunteers willing to make phone calls.

Pastor Joe DeGrande 413 237-6823

Pastorjoe.umcsouthhadley@gmail.com

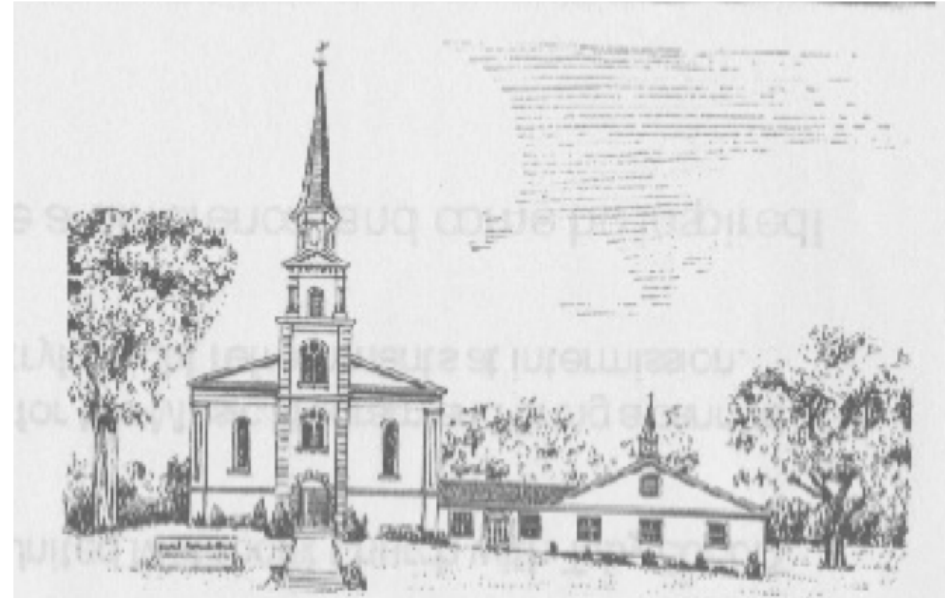
Should something be weighing heavy on your heart, I'm only a phone call away - no matter what day or time.

e-mail: office@UMCSouthHadley.org

web site: UMCSouthHadley.org

Church office 413 532-0500 Leave a message.

Welcome to our church



Drawing by Dick Gable.

United Methodist Church of Holyoke, South Hadley & Granby

Pastor Joe DeGrande

Liturgist: Mary Lou Guarnera

Dr. Heather Reichgott, Minister of Music

30 Carew St.

So. Hadley MA 01075