



The Steeple

September 2023



FROM OUR PASTOR

FAREWELL

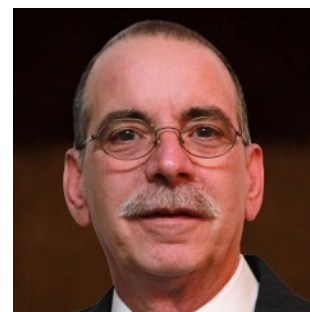
It was July 2021 when I wrote my first Newsletter article. I remember saying how proud and honored I was to have been given the opportunity to be your new pastor. As I write this today, over two years later, how proud and honored I am as I look back at all we have accomplished together. We've laughed, we've cried, we've agreed, and we've disagreed. Yet through it all, we faced the challenges hand-in-hand, united in our passion to proclaim the good news that God loves us for who we are, exactly as we are.

My initial thought was to serve as long as my health cooperated and you could tolerate a pastor with a sense of humor that wasn't afraid to use it and oh yeah – a Yankee fan. The time has come however, when God has called me to serve those desperately seeking spiritual comfort in the hospital, their families, caregivers, and medical staff.

Thank you for the time we've spent together, your friendship, and your prayers. There is a lot of love in this church, and I will miss you all dearly. May we celebrate each other's new beginning, new opportunities in which we have been called to serve God. I leave you with a quote from my favorite author, Khalil Gibran "... When you part from your friend, you grieve not; For that which you love most in him may be clearer in his absence, as the mountain to the climber is clearer from the plain..."

Stay well, be safe, and know that you are always in my heart and prayers.

Pastor Joe ...



HOW WE COMMUNICATE

The newsletter is our primary means of communication with you. Most newsletters are sent via email, but we do mail paper copies for people who do not have email. Please make sure your contact information is updated by emailing the church office at office@UMCSouthHadley.org or calling Ann at 413 532-0500.



A 'Weekly Invitation' is also emailed. If you are not receiving it and would like to please let Ann know.

www.MyFoodClipart.com · 131

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

Worship Sunday 10:00 a.m.
web site: UMCSouthHadley.org
Ann Felsentreger, Secretary

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: 413-437-7593

FROM OUR LAY LEADER

We're having company! On Sunday afternoon, October 8, we will be hosting three jazz bands in our sanctuary. This will be in the context of Showcase South Hadley, an event that will span the weekend, featuring many music events as well as a historic walk, a jazz breakfast at Iona's Sunday morning, and much more.



At a time when we are in transition, looking ragged is not in our best interest. Carol has spent many hot, dirty hours working on the front hill, and it is looking much better, but there is much more work waiting to be done. Look at our curbs, parking lot and walkways and you will see weeds growing in the cracks and along the edges. Bittersweet and ivy are climbing the building. Bushes need trimming. Weeds populate the area under the pavilion. Can you give a little time to correct any of the eyesores? We want to be proud of our building and grounds as people from all over the area come to hear the music.



That weekend will also be the second in the new era of our church, and being cleaned up will not only show a better face to the world, but we will also feel better about ourselves.

We wish Pastor Joe many blessings as he pursues his call to chaplaincy. We will miss him and Beth, who somehow manages to smile through just about anything, including The Joker.

We are excited to see how (and who and what) the new chapter of our church will be. One of the best things you can do now is to be present. I think we stay at this church not for a particular pastor, but because we love and support each other. So let's travel through this intersection together, thinking not so much of ourselves, but of those who are suffering, those who need to know the God we know.

So grab a gardening implement and let's talk about what we can do for others while we improve our appearance. (God lives in nature. You might be surprised at what you find.)



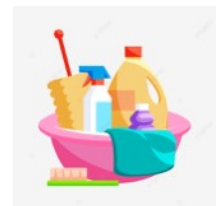
Mary Lou

MORE WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHURCH

Were you trying to think of a way to help the church that isn't weeding? Here are some ideas of items that are needed.

- Swiffer Multi Purpose Pads
- Swiffer cleaner for wood floors
- Coffee- regular and decaf
- Small green trash bags for So. Hadley
- Toilet bowl cleaner

It may not be a glamorous list, but we will be grateful if you bring something from it.





So. Hadley Methodist Church

Grab & Go

Meatball Grinder

& Apple Crisp



Income to benefit our scholarship fund

September 15 5:00 to 5:30 p.m. \$12.00

Menu: **Meatball Grinder Beverage**
Old fashioned Apple Crisp

topped with a cloud of real whipped cream


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!

CELEBRATION, CONCERNS & MORE

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

 Carol Brunelle, Beth Dietz, Marion Winters, Samantha Snopek, Adele Reynolds, Jessica Guarnera, Dave Fanaras, Tim O'Donnell, Lily Marion, Kathy Washburn, Darlene Dout, Heidi Barta, Renata Cournoyer, Lucy Huegli, Bill Guarnera, Andrea Schlachter, Dee Brooksbank 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 September in honor of our Mother, Betty McConnell's 90th birthday. Love Vickie and Lee Wilson.



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.

Prayers and sympathy to the Family of Doug Brooksbank who died on August 19. There will be a memorial service on September 9 at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.

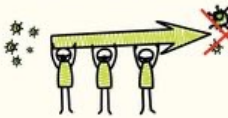


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UPCOMING MOVIE NIGHT - WATCH FOR DATE

Along with the movie there will be pop corn, hot dogs & ice cream cups.

TOGETHER



Our Church Outreach Programs!

The Outreach Team held their second event with ice cream cups passed out to all who passed through our parking lot on August 26. The ice cream was appreciated. Thank you to Donna & Steve Pinciak who distributed 79 ice cream cups to families, friends and volunteers!

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

PEOPLE ARE HUNGRY: CASSEROLES FOR KATE'S KITCHEN

Who: Will **you help?** Join us by making a casserole for Kate's Kitchen

When: Once a month or whenever you can. This month's casseroles are **due September 24th**.

What: Cook one pound of some sort of pasta, add pasta sauce, add ground meat or turkey, and maybe cheese.

How: The UWF provides a pan and asks that the casseroles be frozen and then put in a plastic bag. You can bring it to church any time during the month and put it in the freezer.

Why: To do the work of God by helping feed hungry people.

Thank you for any help you can give towards this mission project.

The casseroles are much appreciated. Eight casseroles were delivered in August

If you have any questions call 413 695-12112 or email: office@UMCSouthHadley.org.

CARE CALL

Sometimes everyone just needs a friendly person to talk to. If you are interested in making care calls, or if you would like to receive a care call; please contact the Church Office. 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.

THANK YOU - YOU ARE APPRECIATED

Our stone cross has come out of hiding thanks to the hard work of Carol Deren & Mary Lou Guarnera. Thank you to all the people who have been sharing themselves with their church.



All of you are working to make our church better and we appreciate your selfless gifts.



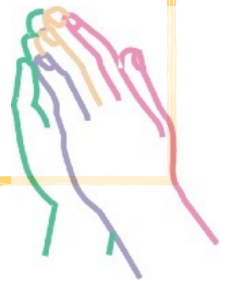
The September-October *Upper Room* Daily devotionals have arrived. You may pick one up on Sunday mornings or contact the church office to make arrangements to get one. Thank you to Frank and Mark Hudgik who started us receiving the *Upper Rooms*.

PRAYER

For Strength and God's Presence

Lord, At the start of each day, help us to recognize you above all else. Enlighten the eyes of our hearts that we might see you and notice how you're at work through our lives. Give us wisdom to make the best choices, fill us with a desire to seek after you more than anything else in this world. Let your Spirit and power breathe in us, through us, again, fresh and new. Thank

you that you are greater than anything we may face in our day. Thank you that your presence goes with us and that your joy is never dependent on our circumstances, but it is our true and lasting strength, no matter what we're up against. We ask that your peace lead us, that it would guard our hearts and minds in you. We ask for your grace to cover our lives this day. We love you Lord...we need you.



PRAYER CHAIN



Join our **Prayer Chain**. When prayer requests are received, Ann will forward them to those on our Prayer Chain. It is helpful to know people are praying for you.

As a family of faith, may our love for each other reach out in times of sorrow and struggles. May your prayers be raised for God's divine mercy.

Please let Ann know if you'd like to join us in this ministry.
Contact: Ann at office@UMCsouthhadley.org

- 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

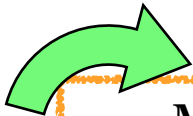
Worship Sunday 10:00 a.m. in our Sanctuary and on Zoom and YouTube



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

September 13: 9:00 a.m. UWF

September 15: 5:00-5:30 p.m. Grab & Go

September 19: 6:30 p.m. Trustee & Council

September 24: Casseroles for Kate's Kitchen

October 8: Showcase South Hadley - Jazz
Bands in our church

-The United Women in Faith welcome all
to join us at our meeting on September
13 in Fellowship Hall.



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

30 Carew Street

South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075-2705

Return address service requested.