



The Steeple

January 2024



A NEW CHAPTER

On January 1, 2024 we began a new chapter in the life of our church. This chapter will see us without an appointed pastor. Please understand, we will not stop being a church, for WE are the church. Pastor Ira will be with us once a month to offer holy communion. Over the years, we have had many guests from within and without the church, who have given inspiring sermons, and we have enjoyed them. Those friends are being invited to return to once again offer new sermons. SPRC has had suggestions from among the congregation, and if you have an idea of someone you would like to hear, please let us know.

This will be an interim situation while our District Superintendent looks for a pastor who is the right one for us. I am so happy Rev. Stowe does not want to send a warm body, but she needs time to accomplish this task. When will we get a pastor? Nobody knows. The longest it would probably be is until July 1, but there is no way to predict. The important thing for all of us to remember is that when we gather on Sunday morning, we will still praise God, we will sing and pray and read the Bible. We will go on being who we are, followers of Christ. Choir and bells will rehearse on Thursday evenings. Church Council and Trustees will do what they always do. Ron will fix things, Ann will be secretary, Heather will make the coffee. We will have the Grab & Go's on the third Friday. Life will go on.

Please do not read anything into this temporary situation. This is happening because Pastor Joe's call to chaplaincy did not line up with the conference's schedule. It happened just before annual conference, when all the appointments had been made, and there were no pastors hanging around, waiting for an appointment. Also, so you don't think we are by ourselves, there are other churches (six in our district) functioning without appointed pastors.

We are very fortunate in that Pastor Ira is not walking away from us. He will still be available to advise and help us. The only reason he is not able to continue as our appointed pastor is that he has many family commitments and he holds an important and time-consuming job on the District Committee on Ministry, plus, the work of the committee requires hours of preparation for the monthly meetings. Bottom line- there aren't enough hours in the day. Second bottom line- he is not abandoning us.

We will all still be there with and for each other. If something comes up that we are unsure of how to handle, we have not only Pastor Ira, but also our DS, Megan Stowe to help us. We need to be kind to one another as we walk this interesting road together. I imagine we will learn a lot about who we are as a church and as individuals. It's important for people to be at church on Sunday mornings to support each other and to worship together, for one more time – We are the church! #WeCanDoIt

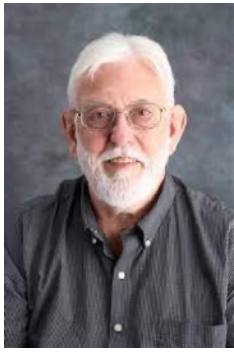
Mary Lou



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 Pastor

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

When Christianity became the religion of the Roman Empire, the days between December 25th and January 6th became known as the Twelve Holy Days, and for us these days also bear the name, Christmastide, or the Twelve Days of Christmas which is often heard sung either with glee, or dread, depending on the listener.

January 6th too, has a variety of name; Epiphany, Twelfth Day, and Three Kings Day, and the Christian Festival of Epiphany is even older than the celebration of Christmas! Epiphany means manifestation or appearance. This was originally a celebration of Jesus' baptism, by John in the Jordan river, when God voice was heard saying, "This is my beloved Son." Thus, during the baptism, God became manifest in Jesus Christ. Since the fifth century, however, the celebration of Epiphany in the western Christian churches only stresses the visit of the Wise Men to the Christ Child, for to them it was manifested that the Savior of all mankind had been born.

The bible tells us very little about the "Three Kings." It doesn't tell us that they were Kings or Magi, it gives them no names, nor does it tell us how many there were that made this visitation to worship the Holy Child, we are told only that "There came wise men from the east". Yet we are blessed with church traditions, as well as legends and wonderful stories that tell us of the "Three Kings of the orient who came bearing gifts, following the light of a star" in the beautiful hymn written and composed by, John H. Hopkins in 1857. Let us join them as we reverently bend our knee in acknowledging the Christ as our Lord and Savior also.

I want to express my sincere thanks for the warm welcome you have given me in this short time that I have been able to serve you as your interim pastor, and I look forward to being able to come back occasionally to be with you as pulpit supply or bible study until such time as you will again have your own pastor appointed to serve you. Please know that this is not good-bye, because friends do not say good-bye to friends, and I will see you all again soon.

Blessings for the New Year and always.

Ira



MARK YOU CALENDAR

January 9: 6:00 p.m. Council & Trustee
in Pastor's office & on Zoom

January 10: 9:00 a.m. United Women in Faith.
All are welcome.

January 18: 9:00 a.m. Bring your peeler & help
prep vegetables for the Grab & Go meal.

January 19: 5:00-5:30 p.m. pick up Grab & Go
meal

January 28: Casseroles for Kate's Kitchen are
due.

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

Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. Join Pastor Ira in
Fellowship Hall for coffee & conversation

Thursdays 6:30 p.m. Bells rehearsal
7:15 p.m. Choir rehearsal



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA PLANTS

Thanks to you, the sanctuary was beautifully decorated for the music and Christmas worship services.

Plants were given:

- In honor of our Family
From Tom & Carol Deren
- In loving memory of
Anne Dout
Jim Dout
Christopher Dout
By Alan & Darlene Dout
- In loving memory of my grandson, Jeff
by Lois Felsentreger.
- With love and appreciation for my Family
By Lois Felsentreger.
- In loving memory of Francis & Winifred
Cerruti,
With love from Donna & Don Barre
& Family
- In memory of Pauline Kiakis
From George Kiakis & Family
- In memory of Douglas Brooksbank
From George Kiakis & Family
- In memory of Billy & Dottie McLaughlin
Love Kevin
- In memory of Harry Novak
From his wife Rose.

- In loving memory of my sisters and
brothers
Pauline Kiakis
Winifred & Fran Cerutti
Ken & Toni Stark
By Ann Felsentreger & Family

- In loving memory of Homer & Kay
Washburn
By Washburn Family
- In memory of my parents, Doris & Norm
Gagnon
Love Donna Pinciak & Family

- In memory of Samantha Snopek
By John Guarnera

- In memory of Samantha Snopek
By Jessica Guarnera

- In memory of Samantha Snopek
By Bill Guarnera

- In memory of Frankie Josephine Watson
By Mary Lou Guarnera

~The wreaths on the doors are in memory of my husband, John Felsentreger and loved ones, by Lois Felsentreger and in honor and memory of our parents, Dennis & Mary Louise Stark and John & Lois Felsentreger, by Alan and Ann Felsentreger.

PRAYER Loving and Gracious God, We your people of promise, stand before you. We acknowledge you as Lord. And we acknowledge our desire for a deep relationship with you, as we journey upon your earthly land.

So, as we all ascend our path upon your holy Mountain, we offer thanks and praise as we experience large and lush green pastures with laughter and joy and playfulness. Yet, even in times of lamentations, pain, sorrow and tears, may we find refuge, knowing that you are there for us. For we shall not forget that we are your beloved children.

Therefore, loving and gracious God, our Lord, now still early on in this beginning new year, we



ferently seek your guidance upon our hour by hour, minute by minute, each and every day journey path. May we be open in anticipation as we awake each day and welcome your presence with us. We ask that you open our senses: our ears, that we may listen; your voice within our hearts; our minds to seek your wisdom; our eyes that they may see you; our beings that they may be filled. Filled with the sunshine that breaks through the gray, the mist, and the heavy clouds of daily living. May your face shine upon us with radiance. And may we hear your voice loud and clear: I am here. You are my beloved children. I am here for you. Amen.
*Jennifer Gearhart, Certified Lay Minister
Bryantville UMC, Pembroke, MA*

CELEBRATION, CONCERNS & MORE



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Carol Brunelle, Beth Dietz, Jessica Guarnera, Dave Fanaras, Tim O'Donnell, Kathy Washburn, Lily Marion, Darlene Dout, Heidi Barta, Renata Cournoyer, Lucy Huegli, Bill Guarnera, Andrea Schlachter, Kelly & Steve Camp, Dulude Family,

Kevin McLaughlin, Bill Beyer, Cathy Demers, Jerry Rubackin, Jim Anspach's Family - parents, Gene & Rene and Uncles Earl & Tom Anspach, Family of Doug Brooksbank, George Kiakis, Family of Adele Reynolds, Family of Samantha Snopek, Family of Marion Winters, Dot Lambert & Family, Mark Felsentreger, Bob Falgares.

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Our steeple is lit during the month of January praying for a swift and complete recovery for my son, Mark, by Lois Felsentreger.



If you would like the steeple lit for one month, the fee is \$25.00. The deadline is the 25th of the month.



So. Hadley Methodist Church

**Grab & Go
Pineapple Upside-down Cake
& Beef Stew**

**January 19 5:00 to 5:30 p.m.
\$12.00**

**Menu: Home-made Beef Stew
Beef Stew**

Beverage Bun



To order: **call: 413 532-0500** **Text 413 695-1212**

email: office@UMCSouthHadley.org

Include your name, phone & number of meals
They will be delivered to your car.

Notify us if anyone in your party has a food allergy.

WILL YOU HELP with the Grab & Go? Call 532-0500 or email the church if you will help peel veggies on Thursday 9:00 or put together meals on Friday. It's fun.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who helped with the Secret Santa gifts.

Thanks to your help 106 children received gifts including hats & mittens. Thanks to Sharyn Kovalsky the adults in each family received a gift bag and a scarf make by Sharyn.

Thank you to all who helped with the White Christmas bags for our Friends at Home. Eight bags were delivered and twelve cards were sent.

Pictured are the gifts all wrapped and bagged for families to pick up in time for Christmas and pictured are many of the folks who helped at the festive workshop for the White Christmas bags.



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 January 28th**.

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. Nine casseroles were delivered in December.

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 Ira Cameron

413 348-6282

pastorira@juno.com

If you are in need of prayers or need to speak with pastor call or email.

e-mail: office@UMCSouthHadley.org

Church office 413 532-0500 Leave a message.

web site: UMCSouthHadley.org



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

30 Carew Street

South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075-2705

Return address service requested.