



The Steeple

March 2024



ALL ARE WELCOME

Lent Activities

- March 3: 9-11 Gather to make Easter cards, swirled iced cookies, and more for our home bound friends.
- March 13: 9:00 a.m. UWF Come & learn how to make palm crosses. The Outreach committee asked us to make 100 crosses to pass out with hot chocolate to NHN before Palm Sunday.
- March 17: Easter plant orders are due.
- March 20: 12:30-6 p.m. Pass out Palm crosses and hot chocolate
- March 23: 10:00-noon Pass out Palm crosses and hot chocolate

Holy Week Services

- March 24: 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday service
9-11:30 UWF Bake Sale
- March 28: 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday service at Faith UMC,
191 Montcalm St., Chicopee
- March 31: 10:00 a.m. Easter service, Jesus Lives! Easter morning is always a time of glorious celebration. We look forward to rebirth, to overcoming death, to the hope provided by the resurrection. Please join us as we lift our hearts and voices in joy and gratitude.



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

JOIN US ON MARCH 3

We will be gathering from 9:00 a.m. to noon in Fellowship Hall to make cards, cookies & bags to **give to our home bound**. Join the fun and show your love for others. We can even share cookies and jelly beans.



HELP DELIVER EASTER PLANTS & BAGS

It is so good to see the smiles when you bring a bag of goodies to our friends. If you will deliver an Easter bag and a plant to one or more of our friends at home, email church at office@UMCSouthhadley.org or call the church office 413 532-0500 or talk to Ann. Plants & bags are delivered after service or during the week after Easter.



UWF BAKE SALE

Sunday, March 24 9:00 a.m. until sold out

Why: To raise money for the Methodist Women's Mission Projects

Who: Everyone can Participate

How: Bake, Buy or Donate

Why: To help support the United Women in Faith missions.

Where: Fellowship Hall

EASTER PLANT ORDER FORM



One of the visible reminders that Easter has arrived is the beautiful profusion of flowers that greets us Easter morning in the sanctuary. The more that are ordered, the more beautiful the display! It is a glorious and very appropriate way to honor a special person and to remember departed loved ones.

To order, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office by **March 17**. All plants may be taken after the service on Easter Morning. If you would like to deliver a flower to one of our home bound, please contact Ann at 695-1212 or email at office@UMCSouthHadley.org

Your Name: _____

Please order: _____ Tulip _____ Hyacinth _____ Lilies _____ Daffodils

Please indicate your wishes:

_____ Donate to a shut-in _____ I will pick up my plant after church

Pease complete for listing in the bulletin and newsletter;

In Memory of/Celebration of /Honor of _____
CIRCLE PLEASE

Given by/from/love _____
CIRCLE PLEASE

Listing will read "in memory of ... by..." if nothing is circled.

FLOWERS ARE: **\$8.50 each**

Amount Paid _____

CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS



PRAY FOR: Carol Brunelle, Beth Dietz, Jessica Guarnera, Dave Fanaras, Tim O'Donnell, Kathy Washburn, George Kiakis, Lily Marion, Darlene Dout, Heidi Barta, Andrea Schlachter, Renata Cournoyer, Lucy Huegli, Bill Guarnera, Kelly & Steve Camp, Kevin McLaughlin, Bill Pead, Cathy Demers, Bill Beyer, Jerry Rubackin, Jim Anspach's Family - parents, Gene & Rene and Uncles Earl & Tom Anspach, Mark Felsentreger, Dot Lambert & Family, Bob Falgaes.

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Our steeple is lit during the month of March in loving memory of Pauline Kiakis by George, Alex & Tyler.



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.

F.R.O.G

When your days seem to go bad
And you just feel sad,
Fully Rely On God.
When the world starts fighting
And you can't fight back,
Fully Rely On God.
When your heart begins to break
And you feel a big ache,
Fully Rely On God.
When life seems to be unfair
As often times it is,
Fully Rely On God.



When you feel depressed
Or even sometimes stressed,
Fully Rely On God.
When it seems no one Loves you or
even cares,
Fully Rely On God.
F.R.O.G. He relies On you.

By: Ashley Chavis age: 19 10-8-05

Printed on request of George Kiakis. His wife, Pauline, collected frogs.



PRAYER

Thank you God for this new morning, another day where we see your hand at work. Where once there was nothing You created this place for us to live in peace, but in these current times, we sometimes find ourselves in turmoil. Your promise to provide strength when we grow weary comes from our faith in You. Because of our trust in You, when the storms of life threaten to overtake us, we can be secure in knowing that You are with us, providing us strength to face our challenges, urging us on. Help us to keep our eyes on you in all we do as we shine the light of Christ. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.



MUSIC ADDS MORE JOY TO OUR SERVICE

Have you noticed that there have been more instruments in worship playing many of the hymns and playing with the choir? Kevin McLaughlin has joined Heather playing his guitar most Sundays. Kim Dout played has played some times. Thank you all for sharing your talent.

If you are interested in sharing your musical talent let Heather know. We are looking for more voices to sing with the choir or just join for Easter. Talk to Heather or any choir member.



MARK YOU CALENDAR ALL WELCOME

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

March 3: 9-12 Gather to make Easter cards & a craft for our home bound.

March 10: Daylight savings time - set clocks one hour ahead.

March 12: 6:00 p.m. Council & Trustee on Zoom

March 13: 9:00 a.m. UWF Come & learn how to make palm crosses.

March 15: 5-5:30 Grab & Go

March 17: Easter plant orders are due.

March 24: 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday service

9-11:30 UWF Bake Sale

Casseroles for Kate's Kitchen are due.

March 28: 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday service at Faith UMC,

131 Montcalm St., Chicopee

March 31: 10:00 a.m. **Easter Service**



We are making **Grab & Go Reuben Sandwiches**

March 15 5:00 to 5:30 p.m.

\$12.00

Menu: Reuben sandwich on rye bread
Beverage St Patrick Day Oreos

To order: call: 413 532-0500

text: 413 695-1212

email: office@umcsouthhadley.org

Include your name, phone & number of meals



Sandwiches will be delivered to your car. Pull into the church driveway. You will be directed on where to line up. Pay for your order and it will be brought to your car. Easy peasy!

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

FROM OUR LAY LEADER

I know people who enjoy leftovers and those who will not eat them. Personally, I love leftovers, especially if the meal was one I particularly like. Knowing there will be a second chance to enjoy it is a happy feeling for me. I don't understand those who don't eat leftovers. Perhaps there is a deep psychological issue. Or not. At any rate, I'll be happy to eat yours, too!

The one place leftovers really are not the best is in the support of our church. Leftover time, leftover energy, money, creativity - if there is any of those left over. Of course, we need to support our family. We go to work, pay the bills, do things with the kids, and so on. But for our church family, not so much.

Why is this? The church family is larger than the one at home and it is easy to let someone else carry the weight. After all, when your resources are stretched thin, it isn't a problem to justify holding back. Somebody will put oil in the candles, decorate for a holiday, weed outside, pay the bills, etc,

However, we need to remember God does not give us leftovers. God gave us Jesus, God's first and best fruit. Jesus was with God before earth was created. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God." John 1:1. Jesus is God and came to us as a fully human person. Jesus experienced the full and complete range of human experiences and feelings, which allows God to truly understand all we go through.

In Genesis 22:2, God instructed Abraham to take his son, Isaac, and offer him as a burnt offering. Though it was unbearably hard, Abraham obeyed, and God spared Isaac because his father was faithful.

Hundreds of years later, God did the same with Jesus, his own son, but Jesus was not spared. This time, Jesus was the obedient one, and although he could have saved himself, his faith in God superseded his earthly humanity. When Jesus cried out, asking why he had been forsaken, it was his last human experience. Jesus died. I have always wondered if God cried.

I think we all have given up something – time, money, an item – for the benefit of someone we love, and so did God. God allowed Jesus to go through the inhumane torture we have read about, and Jesus voluntarily gave himself to the people who treated him so cruelly. Why?

Why would God and Jesus allow such a horrendous story to unfold? The unbelievable answer is love. Imagine loving us, who sin and break God's laws, to the extent that a human being was punished for all of our bad decisions, thoughts and actions. It was a sacrifice far greater than the one Abraham was willing to make. And because the punishment has already been doled out, we are saved from having to our own consequence. It is love too great to comprehend.

We want to share this gift, and we generally do this through our church. We work together to help others understand and appreciate what an amazing gift they have already received, and it warms our hearts to be able to do that. What Jesus asked of us is simple, but not easy. We are to love God, and love others as ourselves. Do unto others...feed my sheep, and so on are other ways to say it. No matter what words we have in our hearts, the feeling of helping others is a wonderful one.



All this is why we should not give the church leftovers, but add it in to the priorities. Insurance, electric bill, church, gas for the car - some are necessities that are unnoticed except if we fail to pay them. One gives us a return on the investment made by God and also helps others. How will you participate? Time? Money? Energy? Creativity? Something else?

Celebrating Easter,
Mary Lou

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

*Jesus said to visit the sick, care for the widow, the refugee, the orphan,
and visit those in prison, for by doing so, you do so to him.*

- *Make time to visit people, give them a call, write a card.*
- *Listen or sit in silence and just be present.*
- *If they're too tired to talk, tell them something about what is going on in your life.*
- *Thank them for spending time with you & tell them that the church continues to hold them in prayer.*



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

30 Carew Street

South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075-2705

Return address service requested.

