

# The Steeple

December 2024

## **TAKE A BREAK AND TREAT YOURSELF**

**Advent is a time of expectant  
waiting and preparation  
for the celebration of the  
birth of Jesus at Christmas.  
Bring your friends and family as we gather  
during this Holy Season  
to prepare for the coming of Jesus.**

**Join us for Worship each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.**

**December 1** We will light the First Advent candle, sing,  
pray and prepare for the coming of Jesus.

**December 8** We will light the Second Advent candle.

**December 15 Join in the festivities, 9:00 a.m.-12:00**  
before and after worship  
Wrap Secret Santa gifts, Make a candy craft  
Make cards- some for our friends  
at home, some for you. Sing some Christmas carols.  
We will light the Third Advent candle.

**December 22 Christmas Music service**  
A special service full of Christmas music.  
We will light the Fourth Advent Candle.

**December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT  
SERVICE at 6:00 p.m.**

Bring the whole family and find some sanity in  
a frantic season. This service brings  
a peaceful joy to our souls.  
We will light the Christ candle.

**December 25 Christmas**

**Have a blessed Christmas and share the  
real meaning of Christmas.**



Pastor Hwang Heo  
Email: [pastor@UMCSouthHadley.org](mailto:pastor@UMCSouthHadley.org)  
Office hours by appointment.  
Dr. Heather Reichgott, Minister of Music

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

Worship Sunday 10:00 a.m.  
e-mail: [office@UMCSouthHadley.org](mailto:office@UMCSouthHadley.org)  
Web site: [UMCSouthHadley.org](http://UMCSouthHadley.org)  
Neighbors Helping Neighbors: 413-437-7593

**WHITE CHRISTMAS**



As is our tradition, the people of the church will prepare small gift bags for our folks at home. You are invited to help make the cards, crafts and cookies for the bags on December 15. You are also invited to help deliver those gifts, giving you a chance to visit with some one who is unable to attend church in person. A visit is a wonderful gift. If you will give the gift of *you*, call ... or sign up on the sheet in the sanctuary.

Share  
The  
Love

**UWF: HATS, MITTENS, SCARVES**

Needed: mittens, hats & scarves for the Secret Santa mission. Please put them on the tree or in the box under the tree in the entrance to the church. New are best but slightly used are welcome. All sizes are needed.



On Friday, December 27 at 5:30 p.m. relax in Fellowship Hall with

hot dogs, pop corn and a movie - the movie will be one of the following - **Let me know which one you would like to see:**

It's A Wonderful Life OR The Prince of Egypt OR Miracle Dogs Too OR The Polar Express OR Happy Feet.

Bring the family.  
Bring friends.  
It's all free.

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS PLANTS ORDER FORM**



We will be ordering our Christmas Poinsettia plants. Your cost is \$8.00 per plant. It is necessary that you enclose your payment with your order. To have the best selection of plants, your order must be in by Sunday, December 8th.

Kindly mail or give your order and payment to Ann or drop it in the offering plate. Checks should be made out to South Hadley Methodist Church.

I wish the church to order \_\_\_\_\_ plants. Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Given in memory/honor of \_\_\_\_\_

By/from/love (please circle): \_\_\_\_\_

I will pick up my plant after church \_\_\_\_\_ I wish it delivered to a shut-in \_\_\_\_\_

I will deliver it to: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\***FORMS DUE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8th**\*\*\*\*\*

## **JOIN THE FESTIVITIES! BE A SANTA'S HELPER - How can you help?**

On December 15 9:00 a.m.-1:00 before & after worship  
There will be Christmas music & cookies to eat.

'Tis the time for the Secret Santa Christmas program. We have children who will need gifts, and that **means we need people to help. We will help over 100 children** have a happy Christmas.

This year the program is going to look a little different. We will need help to match all the children with a donated toy. Invite family & friends to help.

You can help by:

- Showing up on December 15th to match the toys to children
- Wrapping presents on December 15th
- Donating hats and/or mittens
- Help shop for a gift

If you know of a family who will go without gifts, give their information to Ann. Names and all information will be kept confidential.

Make cards & maybe a candy craft

Help fill the White Christmas bags.

**Catch the spirit of Christmas and  
become a Santa's Helper.**



Your help is always welcome. If you have any questions or would like to help, talk to Martha or Ann.

## **FROM OUR LAYLEADER**

Here we are at the Christmas season again. Does that strike fear in your heart? In your wallet? Everything has become so expensive and now we have to make a wonderful Christmas, which means memorable gifts & experiences. Lots of money needs to be spent.

Wait! Really? When I think back on the Christmases of my childhood, there are very few gifts I remember. What does live in my memory and my heart is the feeling of Christmas, and the simple things. I remember both of my grandmothers coming for the holiday, the smell of cookies and other treats, the music, (that didn't start in October). There was a trip to the toy store to buy gifts for my brothers, a nighttime trip or two to look at the Christmas lights, which magically appeared the day after Thanksgiving. Everything felt special. We went to church on Christmas Eve and Bruce Shadbolt sang 'O Holy Night' in his tenuous falsetto.

One year, I crept downstairs early on Christmas morning, and before looking to see what Santa had brought, I stood and drank in the awe of knowing he had stood in my house not long before I went down to peek. It felt magical and big, something to hold onto, and I did. The feeling of that moment has never left me. I remember it vividly. I don't remember any tangible gift.

I hope you have happy memories to hold on to, and that you know money doesn't make Christmas. Go to church and find Christmas waiting for you.

Merry Christmas to you all,  
Mary Lou





## CELEBRATION, CONCERNS & MORE



**PRAY FOR:** Carol Brunelle, Beth Dietz, Tim O'Donnell, Kathy Washburn, Lily Marion, Darlene Dout, Heidi Barta, Renata Cournoyer, Kevin McLaughlin, Jerry Rubackin, Jim Anspach's Family - parents, Gene & Rene and Uncles Earl & Tom Anspach, Mark Felsentreger, Anna Dunlap, Scott Shippey, Barbara Granger, Billy Clark, Robert Dout, Family of Tim O'Donnell, Family of Bill Beyer, Pastor Hwang & Family, Our Church

### **UWF BAKE SALE - THANK YOU**

Thank you for your generosity. The UM Women received \$291 from the bake-sale. The money will be used to support our missions.

**THANK YOU** to Ron Motyka for all the work he has been doing around our church. Including updating the ladies room near the back door (the top part of the wall needs painting if anyone would like to do it), pressure washing the outside wall on the side of the ramp - it looks almost new, replacing various lights.

To Jim Anspach, Carol Deren & Donna Pinciak for all the the mowing & plant care they keep doing.

### **STEEPLE LIGHTING**

Our steeple is lit during the month of December in memory of Dennis & Mary Louise Stark and John Felsentreger by Alan & Ann Felsentreger.



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.



### **THE CASSEROLES FOR KATE'S KITCHEN ARE DUE DECEMBER 29**

Thanks to all who helped 6 casseroles were delivered in November to Kate's Kitchen. Thank you to Carol & Tom Deren for delivering the casseroles.

Everyone is invited to help.

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All are invited to **join the United Women of Faith** on December 11 at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Kathy will lead us in devotion and Rose will be hostess.

We will be putting together adult bags for Secret Santa.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR ALL WELCOME

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

December 1: 11:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal

December 5: 6:00 p.m. Bell choir  
6:45 p.m. Choir

December 11: 9:00 a.m. UWF in Fellowship Hall

December 15: 9:00-1:00 Secret Santa Workshop  
11:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal

December 19: 6:00 p.m. Bell choir  
6:45 p.m. Choir

December 22: 10:00 a.m. Christmas Music Service

December 24: 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 27: 5:30-8 p.m. Free Movie night: hot dogs & popcorn.

December 29: Casseroles for Kate's Kitchen are due.



## REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH

Please keep your offering current or maybe give a little more to help pay the bills - just as your bills are increasing so are the bills of your church. A gift of white copy paper to the church office would be greatly appreciated.

## PRAYERS FOR ADVENT

Advent prayers are a powerful way for Christians to prepare spiritually for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ during the Christmas season. These prayers often reflect on the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love, corresponding to the four weeks of Advent.

Use these prayers for each week of Advent as we prepare and look forward to the celebration of Christmas:



### **1st Week of Advent**

**Prayer for Hope:** Almighty God, grant us the grace to hope in you with unwavering trust. As we begin this season of Advent, may our hearts be filled with the hope that comes from knowing your promises are true. Amen

### **2nd Week of Advent**

**Prayer for Peace:** Prince of Peace, in a world filled with turmoil, grant us the tranquility that only your peace can bring. Help us to be instruments of reconciliation and harmony in our relationships and communities. Amen.

### **3rd Week of Advent**

**Prayer for Joy:** Heavenly Father, fill our hearts with the joy that comes from knowing your love. May we rejoice in the good news of salvation and share that joy with others during this season of Advent. Amen.

### **4th Week of Advent**

**Prayer for Love:** God of love, as we approach the celebration of the birth of your Son, help us to embody the love that He brought into the world. Teach us to **love one another** as you have loved us. Amen.

## **CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS**

### **Make a donation to one of the mission projects of our church**

- †Casseroles for Kate's Kitchen
- †White Christmas bags for Friends at Home
- †Secret Santa
- †St Pauley Textiles Inc. used clothes drop off
- †Light the Steeple in honor of someone
- †Make a Donation to UMCOR
- †CWS Blankets.
- †Hat & Mitten Tree
- †Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry



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**30 Carew Street**  
**South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075-2705**  
**Return address service requested.**