



The Steeple

January 2025



FROM OUR LAY LEADER

Somewhere along the line, you may have heard I have something to do with Neighbors Helping Neighbors, the food pantry that serves South Hadley and Granby. I want to say first, that if it weren't for this church, there likely would not be a pantry here. It was not a popular concept among many people. Fortunately, churches are in touch with real people and their problems, and that is the group mainly responsible for creating the pantry.

Through the years, and despite many naysayers, the pantry has grown to be a significant force in our community. You may ask, how did this happen? It happened because there were people who believed it was needed and understood that a community where there are people without adequate food, is weak and ineffective. That was the motivation to keep it going and growing, and it has gotten bigger and better. You might make a vague parallel to Christianity: it grew because people helped people. In the early days of the church, people cared for one another. They could count on the church to help them, and as they learned about Jesus, who wanted the best for all people, they wanted to be part of that goodness.

Society seems to have abandoned the concept of God and church. Possibly, this has happened because people don't see the church as relevant anymore. I think the church and the people have drifted in opposite directions partly because they don't speak the same language. Churches don't understand people who don't prefer organized worship, but are being the hands and feet of God. And those who eschew church services don't grasp the power of worshiping together. And I believe that is part of our church's declining attendance.

Although I have deep concern about our future, at the same time I am convinced we can work together to turn things around. The first step is to get back in church. We all belong for a reason, and I doubt that reason has left. I know how easy it is to let inertia keep us home, but you should know there are people there who would love to see you. I can (but won't) name people I really miss seeing there. It is easy to have a reason to stay home, but look deep inside and see if that is a reason or an excuse. With more people, we can do more things that will enrich our souls and others' lives, and in the process, keep our church alive. The time is coming when we will have to leave our building if we don't get up and do something.

Together with you,
Mary Lou



Pastor Hwang Heo
Email: 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
Web site: UMCSouthHadley.org
Neighbors Helping Neighbors: 413-437-7593



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA PLANTS

Thanks to you, the sanctuary was beautifully decorated with poinsettia plants given:

- ~In honor of our Family
From Tom & Carol Deren
- ~In memory of Jim & Betty Dout
By Alan & Darlene Dout
- ~In memory of loved ones
By Lois Felsentreger
- ~In loving memory of Francis & Winifred
Cerruti,
With love from Donna & Don Barre and
Family
- ~In memory of Pauline Kiakis
Love George & Family
- ~In memory of
Mom & Dad
Grandparents Lewis
Grandma Barrows
With love Mark
- ~In loving memory of my sisters & brother
Pauline Kiakis
Winifred & Fran Cerutti
Ken & Toni Stark
By Ann Felsentreger & Family
- ~In memory of Bill Beyer
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.



On Friday,
January 24
at 5:30
p.m. relax
in
Fellowship
Hall with
hot dogs, pop corn and a movie.

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

Is there a movie you
would like to see? Let the
office know.



PRAYER

Dear God, as the New Year begins, I come before You with a heart full of gratitude. Thank You for the opportunity to see a new year, a fresh start. I ask that You bless this year with Your favor and that You provide me with wisdom, strength, and peace in all my endeavors. May this year be filled with Your abundant grace, joy, and protection. Guide my steps and surround me with people who encourage and uplift me. May I reflect Your love and kindness in all I do.

Amen

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! The Santa Helpers were Shining with the Spirit of Christmas.

From a mom: "Thank you so much! This meant so much to me!"

Thank you to all who helped with the Secret Santa gifts. Thanks to your help, 140 children received gifts including hats & mittens. Thank you to our community who helped make this possible - The So. Hadley Police, the Center Congregational Church, the Christ Life Fellowship, Skibel Plumbing Inc., and all the individuals who donated time and gifts. And to the Secret Santa committee: Heather & John Hackett &

Family, Martha Dunn, Sharyn Kovalesky David Towne & Ann Felsentreger who organized this mission project and did the shopping for many gifts.

Thank you to those who helped with the White Christmas bags for our Friends at Home. Six bags were delivered and cards were sent. Thanks to the 4 girls from Hampshire Regional High School who made the cards and helped with the Secret Santa, too.

Pictures include the gifts all wrapped and bagged for families to pick up and many of the folks who helped at the festive workshop. This year's program looked a little different.



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, Sage Marion-Patrano, Our Church.

-Prayers and sympathy to Ray & Jill Dulude & Family on the death of Ray's sister, Merrilee Dilberto.

UWF: HATS, MITTENS, SCARVES

The United Women in Faith thank all who donated hats, mittens and gloves for our Secret Santa mission.

STEEPLE LIGHTING



Our steeple is lit during the month of January in memory of Pauline Kiakis by George & her loving family.

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 JANUARY

Thanks to all who helped 7 casseroles were delivered in December to Kate's Kitchen. Thank you to Carol & Tom Deren for delivering the casseroles.

Everyone is invited to help.

All are invited to **join the United Women of Faith** on January 8 at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Rose will lead us in devotion and Carol will be hostess.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR ALL WELCOME



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

January 08: 9:00 a.m. UWF in Fellowship Hall

January 21: 6:00 p.m. Council & Trustee meeting in Pastor's office & on Zoom

January 24: 5:30-8 p.m. Free! Movie night, hot dogs & popcorn.

January 26: Casseroles for Kate's Kitchen are due.

Sundays: 11:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal

11:30 a.m. Bell choir rehearsal

New members are welcome. You do not have to know how to read music to join either choir.

Grab & Go

Pineapple Upside-down Cake & Beef Stew

January 17 5:00 to 5:30 p.m.

\$12.00



**Menu: Home-made Beef Stew
Pineapple Upside-down Cake
Beverage Bun**



**To order: call: 413 532-000
text 413 695-1212
email: office@umcsouthhadley.org**

Include your name, phone & number of meals

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



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075-2705
Return address service requested.