



# The Steeple

March 2025



## **ASH WEDNESDAY**

Lent is a time of reflection and renewed faith as we focus on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Take time to clear distractions and recommit your life to Jesus. Join us for Ash Wednesday service March 5 at 7 p.m. at Faith United Methodist Church, Chicopee. Our choirs will sing together.

## **PRE-LENT CHALLENGE**

Would you like to do something to help your church? Bring a ream of white paper for the office. Let's see if we can make a tower of paper by Ash Wednesday. If you would like to send a check, we will purchase the paper and add it to the tower - 14 reams so far.

**FYI:** Electric bill 1/6/2025 \$886.39. Gas bill 1/20/2025 \$1,138.69

As you are all aware, our in-person services were cancelled for two weeks because winter wanted to share some snow & ice with us. While the weather has not been good, our expenses to maintain our church and our missions continue. We need your help. If possible send your weekly offering to the church. It would be a big help if you could increase your financial commitment. Thank you for your commitment to OUR church!! As you can see from the numbers help is needed.

## **NEW: LENTEN DISCUSSION WITH ROSE**

On Thursday, March 20 and continuing through Lent you are invited to gather in Fellowship Hall and discuss Lent and more, wherever Rose takes us. She will be showing videos to help start discussions. We will meet from 9:30-10:30 a.m.



## **LENTEN 40 DAY CHALLENGE**

This year for each day of Lent, remove one item from your closet that you no longer wear or need and put it into a trash bag. At the end of the 40 days, donate these items to the *SHED* in our parking lot so that they can be shared with someone who can really use them! Remember we only take textiles, clothing, shoes, and belts. Each day as you add an item to the bag thank God for blessing you with a new day.

The 'shed' is from St. Pauly Textiles Inc and the income from them for 2024 was \$799. Your donation to the 'shed' helps other people and also helps our church.

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

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: 413-437-7593

Worship Sunday 10:00 a.m.  
e-mail: [office@UMCSouthHadley.org](mailto:office@UMCSouthHadley.org)

Web site: [UMCSouthHadley.org](http://UMCSouthHadley.org)



# Reuben Sandwiches

## Grab & Go

March 21 5:00 to 5:30 p.m.

\$12.00

Menu: Reuben sandwich on Rye Bread  
Beverage St Patrick's Day Oreos



To order: call: 413 532-0500

text 413 695-1212

email: [office@umcsouthhadley.org](mailto:office@umcsouthhadley.org)

Include your name, phone & number of meals

*Notify us if anyone in your party has a food*



You can't live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you.



John Wooden



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR ALL WELCOME

Join us after worship join us in Fellowship Hall for coffee and...

March 5: 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday at Faith UMC

March 12: 9:00 a.m. UWF in Fellowship Hall

March 18: 6:00 p.m. Council & Trustee meeting in Pastor's office & on Zoom

March 20: 9:30-10:30 a.m. Lenten Discussion with Rose

March 21: 5-5:30 p.m. Grab & Go meal

March 27: 9:30-10:30 a.m. Lenten Discussion with Rose

March 28: 5:30-8 p.m. Free! Movie night, hot dogs & popcorn.

March 30: Casseroles for Kate's Kitchen are due.

## **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, Pastor Hwang & Family, Sage Marion-Patruno, Edgar & Maria, Lisa Barnes, Sofia & her Grandmother, Our Church.

### **THE CASSEROLES FOR KATE'S KITCHEN ARE DUE MARCH 30**

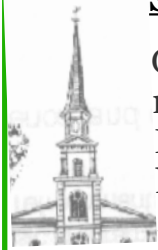


Thanks to all who helped, 6 casseroles were delivered in February to Kate's Kitchen. Thank you to Carol & Tom Deren for delivering the casseroles.

Everyone is invited to help.

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All are invited to **join the United Women of Faith** on March 12 at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Kathy will lead us in devotion and Lois will be hostess.

### **STEEPLE LIGHTING**



Our steeple is lit during the month of March 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.

### **WELCOME MARCH**

May your heart and mind be open enough to receive the Blessings of New Month.

"Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your Heart." - Psalm 37:4



**LENTEN PRAYER** God of goodness and mercy, Hear my prayer as I begin this Lenten journey with you. Let me be honest with myself as I look into my heart and soul, noticing the times I turn away from you. Guide me as I humbly seek to repent and return to your love. May humility guide my efforts to be reconciled with you and live forever in your abundant grace. Transform me this Lent, heavenly Father. Give me the strength to commit myself to grow closer to you each day. Amen.

**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 March 30<sup>th</sup>.**

What: Cook one pound of some sort of pasta, add pasta sauce, add ground meat 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. Six casseroles were delivered in February.



On Friday, March 28 at 5:30 p.m. relax with us 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.

**MISSIONS**

The missions of our church are only possible because of you.

- You can:
  - Make a casserole for Kate's Kitchen once a month
  - Make or buy hats an/or mittens for Secret Santa for Christmas
  - Make prayer shawls or lap robes
  - Support Neighbors Helping Neighbors food pantry
  - Send a card or a note to our 'friends at home' and other members
  - Call & invite someone to join you at church
  - Become an 'Angel W/O Wings'





## FROM OUR LAYLEADER

Ash Wednesday begins a time of repentance and preparation. Knowing the cruelty that brings the story almost to its end, the journey we will take in the coming weeks is difficult. Yes, the very end is triumphant and joyful, but the week that takes us there is not. What do we get from this? In the end, we will have relived the road Jesus walked, the road that took him to the cross.

Pay close attention to this journey we are about to undertake, because I believe it is the key to our relationship with God.

God created the world and the people in it and God wanted people to be reconciled with him. How would that happen? Through Jesus. Remember, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God." John 1:1  
"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." John 1:14



Now substitute 'Jesus' for 'the Word': In the beginning was Jesus, and Jesus was with God and Jesus was God." And Jesus was made flesh, and dwelt among us." It was through this miracle that God is able to understand us, to relate to our feelings. This is how God knows the joy, fear, pain, sadness and all other physical and emotional feelings, having actually experienced them through Jesus.

How could God send his perfect son to be dealt with by humans? How could Jesus obey this ultimate, unimaginable request from his father? The short answer is love, but I think none of us can fathom a love that deep, that pure, that strong that would allow either God or Jesus to follow the path they did. How could they each do their part in creating Easter? They did it for us, so we could have eternal life. God and Jesus could depend on each other, even though Jesus, in his last moments, felt abandoned by God. But that is just one more way we know God can relate to us. God knew we would feel abandoned and this is the way God could experience that feeling of loneliness, desperation and abandonment.

So, to summarize:

- \*all for us
- \*great love
- \*able to relate
- \*ultimate sacrifice
- \*completely available.



I hope everyone can appreciate this walk through Lent and come to a better understanding of how we know that God understands us.

Walking with you,

*Mary Lou*



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**Return address service requested.**