



The Steeple

February 2026



FROM THE PASTOR

As February rolls in we sometimes think of love, flowers and chocolates, a time to remember the ones we love. We also think of the Lenten season, a time for us to spend time walking with Jesus as he entered the wilderness for forty days without food or water. He faced temptation from the devil. We too must spend time repenting for our sins, spend time in prayer, and fasting. Can we go without something we like? Maybe a candy bar, piece of cake, you know what I mean. Yes, February is the month of love. Remember your loved ones, but do remember the One who makes it all possible God.



Pastor George



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.

We will be hosting Ash Wednesday service February 18 at 6 p.m. Folks from Faith United Methodist Church will be joining us.

You are not required by the United Methodist Church to receive ashes. The service is a way to begin Lent in a contemplative manner, and to think about your relationship with God.

PRE-LENT CHALLENGE We Can Work Together

Would you like to do something to help your church? There are many ways you can help. Many jobs may be shared with others. Some may be done every week, once a month or every once in awhile. What will you do?

Ideas include:

- open church on Sunday
- close church on Sunday
- update outside sign
- help with Grab & Go dinners

On Sunday morning

- make coffee
- clean up after fellowship

In the sanctuary -

- be a liturgist
- put numbers on hymn board
- light candles
- maintain oil in candles
- check pews for pencils & welcome cards

There are more ways to help! What else can you do?

Let us know what you will do - sign up on sheet in back of sanctuary or talk with Pastor George, Mary Lou or Ann.

Pastor George Kiakis
Church office: 413-532-0500
Heather Reichgott, Minister of Music

Ann Felsentreger, Secretary
e-mail: office@UMCSouthHadley.org

Worship Sunday 10:00 a.m.
Web site: UMCSouthHadley.org
Neighbors Helping Neighbors: 413-437-7593

PRAYER One Body

What would it look like if we functioned as one body?
Each part valued, needed, wanted?
Each one doing their own important work.



What would it look like if we functioned as one body?
Would we behave differently in this ongoing pandemic if we believed St. Paul's words today?

Would the congregation be able to come together for more than a take-out supper or tag sale?

What would it look like if we functioned as one body?
Affirming the giftedness of others, refusing to give into jealousy.
Affirming our own giftedness, and to share Christ's love with others.

What would it look like if we functioned as one body?
God, give me the courage to try
today and always. Amen.

*By Rev. Megan Stowe, Commonwealth West District Superintendent
Based on 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a*

LENTEN CHALLENGE

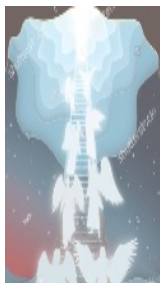
This year, during Lent, the UWF challenges you to make a small sacrifice each day to prepare yourself to commemorate Christ's ultimate sacrifice on Good Friday. We challenge you to **make a sacrifice that will benefit others.** (Going on a diet does not count.) Instead, each day decide what you could give up and how that tiny sacrifice could make the life of someone else better. Our ideas include donating a gently used item to a charity, donating your time (visiting a shut-in, calling someone who is grieving, volunteering, etc.), or making an unplanned donation. Write your action on the calendar each day of Lent or on a list, and bring that list with you to put in the offering plate on Easter Sunday so your small Lenten sacrifices may be offered up that day. Remember, each sacrifice must be something you would not usually do that day. Young or old, we can all make the world just a tiny bit better for others each day of Lent.



Our United Women in Faith

The UWF are challenging all to pray every day for someone else, to find something every day to donate; whether it's from your closet, your pantry or to put money in a jar each day.

BIBLE DISCUSSION WITH ROSE



Gather in Fellowship Hall from 10 to 11 a.m. for a Bible study with Rose Novak. "Jacob's Ladder" is about angels and wherever Rose takes us. She is always interesting and I learned much from the last Bible discussion she led.

-February 26 Overview -March 5 Old Testament
-March 12 New Testament -March 19 Summation

I hope to see you there.

CELEBRATION, CONCERNS & MORE

PRAY FOR Carol Brunelle, Beth

Dietz, Tim O'Donnell, Kathy Washburn, Darlene Dout, Jim Anspach's Family - parents, Gene & Rene and Uncles Earl & Tom Anspach, Mark Felsentreger, Scott Shippey, Robert Dout, Hugh 'Scotty' Hutton, Lisa Barnes, Jessica Guarnera, Hwang & Sooyun & Family, Dennis Brooksbank, our Church, our Country, our World.

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Our steeple is lit during the month of February:

† Anonymously asking us to "Let God's Light Shine Bright".

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



PEOPLE ARE HUNGRY:

Who: Will **you** join us by making a casserole for Kate's Kitchen

When: Once a month or whenever you can? This month's casseroles are due February 23.

What: Cook one pound of some sort of pasta, add pasta sauce, add ground meat and maybe cheese.

How: The UMW provides a pan. The casseroles can 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.

Eleven casseroles were delivered in January. Thank you for your help you with this mission project. The casseroles are much appreciated. If you have any questions call 413 695-1212

MARK YOUR CALENDAR ALL WELCOME

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

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

February 17: 6:00 p.m. Council & Trustee meeting in Pastor's office & on Zoom

February 18: 6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday service

February 20: 5-5:30 p.m. Grab & Go pick-up

February 22: Casseroles for Kate's Kitchen are due.

February 26: 10-11 a.m. Bible Study

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

Sundays: 9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal & Bell choir rehearsal - alternating weeks.

New members are welcome. You do not have to read music to participate.



COME FEBRUARY 11 & PRAY, PLAN MISSIONS & LAUGH WITH OUR UWF

United Women in Faith

We believe
love in action
can change
the world.

Do you know what our women do? Yes, we meet once a month and pray & support each other and have a snack & maybe coffee. BUT there is a lot more that we do.

You know we sponsor the Secret Santa mission, White Christmas bags for our shut-ins, the angels without wings send monthly cards and send casseroles to Kate's Kitchen each month - join our United Women in Faith and add your ideas to what we can do to reach out in our community and world.

We start 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 11. We meet for about one hour (done before 10:30 because some have other commitments). Bev will lead devotions and Kathy will be hostess.

FROM OUR LAY LEADER

As we sit in this incredibly cold and very persistent freezing air, it is odd, but also comforting to realize we are at the beginning of the season that leads us to Easter, which generally arrives in warmer weather. I for one, look forward to getting into my garden; however, there is work to do before we get to gardening. We are about to embark on the annual journey that starts with Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. February 18 may be the first step of the journey, but before embarking on the journey, we must prepare. Lent is an experience that we should try to make new every year. When it is always the same, how do we expect to grow from it? Understanding the significance of the ashes we receive helps us to create a mindset for the journey through Lent.

You probably have heard the phrase "ashes to ashes and dust to dust." In the context of Ash Wednesday, we remember that God formed Adam from ashes and that when we die, our human bodies will return to dust. Both of these are symbolized in the ashes on our foreheads. As Christians, believers in Jesus, we look forward to being raised by God to spend eternity with Jesus. To get to a deeper meaning of Lent, one thing we can do is to be mindful as we go through our days and try to notice where we see God's mercy at work. It is easy to notice the in-your-face situations, but let's try to be actively observant and see the smaller, and less obvious times when God's presence makes a difference in someone's life. When we do see those times, let's repent for when we have tried to block God's mercy from someone's life.

Besides Ash Wednesday, this month brings Valentine's Day, and I want to make a couple of remarks about love, but not the traditional kind of love. I want to lift up our United Women in Faith. This small but mighty group is once again demonstrating their love of our church and God's people by working to reach out to people in our community. They are planning an art show for children and they will announce the final plans after they are finalized.

The point is that the group is addressing several issues we (the church) have and they are being creative, not tied down by 'what we have always done.' I invite everyone who has an idea to please share it with someone. It doesn't have to be ready to go. It can be the kernel which needs to be fleshed out. So don't be selfish with your ideas. Show your love by sharing.

Yours together in God's love,

Mary Lou



So. Hadley Methodist Church
is cooking

Lemon Pepper Chicken Leg & Rice Pilaf



February 20 5:00 to 5:30 p.m.

\$15.00

Menu: lemon pepper chicken quarter
rice pilaf butternut squash beverage
homemade chocolate chip cookies



To order: **Call:** 413 532-0500

Text 413 695-1212

email: office@umcsouthhadley.org

Include your name, phone & number of meals



Meals will be delivered to your car. Pull into the
church driveway and you

will be directed on where to line up, pay for your order.

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



Your help is appreciated. You can donate long grain rice, a pound of butter, butternut squash, dozen eggs, brown sugar, canned soda, bottled water - sign up on sheet in back of sanctuary. Help getting the meals ready on Friday and delivering them to the cars.



On Friday, February 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.

CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

All are welcome - loved for who you are, exactly as you are.

Join us for worship 10:00 a.m. Sundays
in our sanctuary, on Zoom and on YouTube.

Join in one of our missions.



United Methodist Church of Holyoke, South Hadley & Granby

30 Carew Street
South Hadley, MA 01075

Pastor George Kiakis

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

Email: office@UMCSouthHadley.org

Church office 413 532-0500. Leave a message.

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.



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

30 Carew Street

South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075-2705

Return address service requested.