



# The Steeple

March 2026



## ALL ARE WELCOME

March 5: 10-11 a.m. All are invited to Lenten Discussion with Rose  
 March 11: 9:00 a.m. UWF in Fellowship Hall  
 March 12: 10:00 a.m. All are invited to Lenten Discussion with Rose  
 March 19: 10-11 a.m. Bible Study in Fellowship Hall  
 March 29: 9-11:30 a.m. UWF Palm Sunday Bake Sale - support our missions.  
 9-12 Gather to make Easter cards, cookies, and more for our  
 home bound friends.  
 Easter plant orders are due.

## Holy Week Services



March 29: 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday service  
 April 2: 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday - at Faith UMC, 191 Montcalm St., Chicopee  
 April 5: 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.

## UWF BAKE SALE

Sunday, March 29 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



Find and Follow us on Facebook: South Hadley Methodist Church

## **PRE-LENT CHALLENGE CONTINUES     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?

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.

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



## **CHALLENGE: MAKE THE WORLD A TINY BIT BETTER FOR OTHERS**

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; 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**. Each day decide what you could give up and how that tiny sacrifice could make the life of someone else better. Food and money will go to Food Pantry.

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.



## **BIBLE DISCUSSION WITH ROSE**

It's not too late to join us in Fellowship Hall from 10 to 11 a.m. for 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.

-March 5 Old Testament. -March 12 New Testament-March 19 Summation

## **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](mailto: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.

## 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.

† **Prayers & sympathy** to the family of Hugh 'Scotty' Hutton who died on February 8.

### STEEPLE LIGHTING

Our steeple is lit during the month of March:

- † In loving memory of Kerrie O'Dea by her family.
- † In loving memory of Pauline Kiakis by George & her family.
- † 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.



## Lent Word Scramble



ROYTF ASDY \_\_\_\_\_  
 PTENAEENR \_\_\_\_\_  
 SIGTNAF \_\_\_\_\_  
 MURALEJSE \_\_\_\_\_  
 TEBYARLA \_\_\_\_\_  
 NIRES \_\_\_\_\_  
 SEDTRE \_\_\_\_\_  
 ODGO DIFYRA \_\_\_\_\_  
 HSA NDYASEDWE \_\_\_\_\_  
 CILSIPEDS \_\_\_\_\_  
 OSRCS \_\_\_\_\_  
 GRISFOVNESE \_\_\_\_\_  
 HSAFE \_\_\_\_\_  
 EAPNECN \_\_\_\_\_  
 YOHL USDYRTAH \_\_\_\_\_  
 REYARP \_\_\_\_\_  
 XCIRONUIFCI \_\_\_\_\_  
 ATRESE \_\_\_\_\_  
 MPAL ASYDUN \_\_\_\_\_  
 SUJSE \_\_\_\_\_  
 FICSRECIA \_\_\_\_\_  
 NORURITECRE \_\_\_\_\_  
 LOYH EKEW \_\_\_\_\_  
 LSBES \_\_\_\_\_

**Word Bank:**

ASHES	DESERT	GOOD FRIDAY	PENANCE
ASH WEDNESDAY	DISCIPLES	HOLY THURSDAY	PRAYER
BETRAYAL	EASTER	HOLY WEEK	REPENTANCE
BLESS	FASTING	JERUSALEM	RESURRECTION
CROSS	FORGIVENESS	JESUS	RISEN
CRUCIFIXION	FORTY DAYS	PALM SUNDAY	SACRIFICE

## **COME MARCH 11 & PRAY, PLAN MISSIONS & LAUGH WITH OUR UWF**



The United Women in Faith 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 are planning a Children's Art Display this spring, Easter 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, March 11. We meet for about one hour (done before 10:30 because some have other commitments). Bev will lead devotions and Rose will be hostess.

### **FROM OUR LAY LEADER**

As Christians, we hear the word 'grace' and during Lent it follows us constantly. Did you ever stop and consider what 'the grace of God' means? Let's think of that. Grace is the unimaginable gift of love and mercy to each and every one of us, the good and the bad, even though we have not earned it. Despite the fact that we fail God on a daily basis, God still loves us. Despite the fact that even if we don't ask for forgiveness and we don't deserve it anyway, God forgives us. How do we know? Jesus. John 1:1 tells us:

In the beginning I was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.  
In the beginning was Jesus, and Jesus was with God and Jesus was God.

God sent Jesus to us, to you and to me, to take on our sins so that we can sit in Glory with God, Jesus, the Word. This is almost incomprehensible to us, as we are but humans. Theologians have focused on the mystery for thousands of years. Some people need logical, understandable, explanations, but I believe this is the one mystery that may never be explained in a way we can all understand. I am willing to accept the gift, even though I don't deserve it. None of us deserves for Jesus to have suffered and died so we can have eternal life. But he did love us enough to endure the inhumane torture of humans full of hate and anger.

It is humbling to consider that through the humanity of Jesus and his crucifixion and resurrection, God has authentic understanding of all our human feelings. I know I can never do enough to thank or repay God for the gift of Jesus, but I can work to be the hands and feet of God in the world.

As we continue our journey through Lent, let us look at others, especially those we may have a hard time dealing with, and realize they also are part of the family of God. Jesus accepted crucifixion for them as well as for us, and we need to treat them as our siblings. The world is in turmoil, but we can change our little piece of it by remembering what Jesus did for us and by showing that love to others.

Wishing you the peace of knowing Jesus.

*Mary Lou*



On Friday, March 27 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.



So. Hadley Methodist Church  
is cooking

## Reuben Sandwiches

### Grab & Go

**March 20 5:00 to 5:30 p.m.**  
**\$15.00**

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



**To order: call: 413 532-0500**  
**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.*

### **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 March 29.

**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.

Nine casseroles were delivered in February. Thank you for your help with this mission project. The casseroles are much appreciated. If you have any questions call 413 695-1212 or email: office@UMCSouthHadley.org. Thank you to Tom & Carol Deren for delivering the casseroles on a slippery Tuesday after the snow storm.



From St Pauly Textile, Inc

They were excited to share with us the impact our clothing shed made this past year...

-21,332 pounds of clothing were donated to our shed in 2025

-This was enough to clothe an estimated 3,930 people all over the world

-Based on this volume of clothing, we received \$853

"Thank you so much for everything you, your volunteers, and your communities do to support the clothing shed program!"

## **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](mailto:office@UMCSouthHadley.org)

Church office 413 532-0500. Leave a message.

### **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.



**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**30 Carew Street**

**South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075-2705**

**Return address service requested.**