



The Steeple

April 2026



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

ALL ARE WELCOME

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

FROM OUR PASTOR

As we enter the month of April two tunes keep entering my head, "Christ the Lord has Risen Today" and "Though April showers may come your way, they bring the flowers that bloom in May". Both tunes give me the same joy and great feelings; they share the love that God has for us. This month we will celebrate Jesus entering Jerusalem greeted with palms. Join him as he ate with his disciples, be with him as he was arrested, tried and convicted, journey with him to the cross. Then join us as we sing for joy at his resurrection on Easter morning. If we look hard, we can see signs of rebirth, the flower beds are starting to show growth, the trees are budding, and the birds are singing. A new song just popped-up in my head, *Hymn of Promise*, "In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree". All this takes place because God cares for each of us.

Holy Week can bring up difficult emotions for many, so it's important that whenever we pray or sing Holy Week tells the truth in love and invites us as a gathering body into prayerful reflection on God's steadfast love.

May God's Love Give You Strength,

HAPPY EASTER

George Kiakis



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:

We Can Work Together

There are many ways you can help your church. Many jobs may be shared with others. You decide how often you help. What will 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.

Needed are people to:

- **run computer for on line services**
- **open church on Sunday unlock 5 doors**
- **close church on Sunday lock 5 doors**
- help with Grab & Go dinners



- make coffee
- clean up after fellowship
- be a liturgist
- put numbers on hymn board
- light candles
- maintain oil in candles
- check pews for pencils & welcome cards

DID YOU DO THE UWF CHALLENGE?

Did you do the UWF challenge to make the world a tiny bit better for others by praying every day for someone else, finding something every day to donate from your pantry or closet 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 challenged you to **make a sacrifice that will benefit others**. Money will go to Food Pantry.



Each sacrifice should 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.

BIBLE DISCUSSION WITH SHARYN

The next Bible study will be facilitated by Sharyn, with lessons from Easter from the Backside by J. Ellsworth Kalas. Classes will be at 10 am on Thursdays. Come and join us.

Thurs. Apr. 2, Genesis 3:1-7, 22-24 (review Genesis 1,2)

Thurs. Apr. 9, Job 19:13-27 (review Job 1,2)

Thurs. Apr. 16, Ecclesiastes 2:14-26

Thurs. Apr. 23, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11



Thursday morning Bible Study



Worship - A Time for our youth.

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, Lisa Barnes, Jim Barnes, Jessica Guarnera, Family of Hugh 'Scotty' Hutton, Family of Dennis Brooksbank, Megan Motyka, Rob Barnett, our Church, our Country, our World.

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Our steeple is lit during the month of April:

‡ In celebration of our two great granddaughters by Alan & Ann.

‡ 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.



PLANT SALE

FYI: Last year the plant sale was a success, so we are having one again this year on May 16, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

What can you do? You can bring plants, divide some perennials, share seedlings you may have started. You can bring a plant that you don't appreciate anymore. You might even purchase



LOOKING FOR OUR GRADUATES

Please inform the office if there is a new graduate to celebrate. The names will be posted in the June newsletter.

UWF BAKE SALE

Thanks to the generosity of our church family the United Women in Faith had a very successful bake sale. The money goes to support our missions. If you would like to learn more about our missions and what we do, join us on the second Wednesday each month from 9-10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome.

PEOPLE ARE HUNGRY:

Twelve casseroles were delivered in March - thank you for with this mission project. The casseroles are much appreciated. If you have any questions call 413 695-1212 or office@UMCSouthHadley.org. Thank you to Tom & Carol delivering the casseroles.

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

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.



your help

email:
Deren for

Kitchen

COME APRIL 8 & PRAY, PLAN MISSIONS & LAUGH WITH OUR UWF

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.

We will sell red hearts & cards starting in May & ending on Father's Day. The money going to CWS for blankets used locally and around the world. We sponsor the Secret Santa mission, White Christmas bags for our shut-ins, the angels without wings send monthly cards, and casseroles are sent 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, April 8. We meet for about one hour (done before 10:30 because some have other commitments). Sharyn will lead devotions and Anita will be hostess.

FROM OUR LAY LEADER

Here we are, almost at the end of Lent. Now comes the hard part; we have to deal with the betrayal of Jesus and the inhuman torture, crucifixion and agonizing death. Talk about man's inhumanity to man! I have always wondered how humans could do such horrific things to another human, or any living being for that matter. What kind of people would even think of treating others in such a gruesome manner? I think most people do not give this deep consideration because it is very unsettling. For the most part, we gloss over it without truly considering what the man named Jesus endured, not for anything he did, but FOR US. Who but Jesus loves us enough?

I have wondered if Jesus was sorry, at the end, that he had agreed to the horrors inflicted on him. He was not the only person who was crucified, it was a normal punishment at that time, and I think that speaks poorly to the morality of people.

I believe it's impossible for us to truly understand this miraculous gift, but I also think the fact that we know it was given and that we try to grasp its significance is enough. How could we ever grasp its depth? We live in a time and place when we are not subjected to such barbaric behavior, and seeing it in movies and on TV, no matter how realistic it is shown, simply doesn't compare to reality. We believe and move on.

The miracle of Easter is waiting in the wings. We will hear about the empty tomb, the angels, Thomas, who could not believe. Take a moment to try to understand how impossible, how huge, how glorious it was for Jesus to be alive, or at least not dead. We can't know how this came to be, but we can let it change the way we behave. We can treat others with decency, we can look at people with the eyes and heart of the risen Jesus and he sees us all the same.

I am the only me in the world. Everyone else is a you.

I wish for you the joy of knowing that Jesus endured all the abuse for you, and he is risen from the dead.

Happy Easter!

Mary Lou





So. Hadley Methodist Church
is cooking

Grab & Go

Homemade Meatballs with Spaghetti Raspberry Chocolate Brownie Trifle

April 17 **5:00 to 5:30 p.m.**
\$15.00

Menu: Spaghetti & Meatballs Garlic Bread Sticks Salad Beverage
Raspberry Chocolate Brownie Trifle



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.



COMMUNITY KIDS ART EVENT



WHERE?

United Methodist Church
30 Carew St., South Hadley

WHEN?

Saturday, April 25 1-3 PM

WHO?

CHILDREN AGES 4 TO 12*

WHAT

Make art from materials we supply

OR drop off a completed work.

Earth Day Theme.

WHY?

Celebrate Earth Day and Have fun!



*All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Refreshments!

RSVP appreciated: anitaoeaster@gmail.com

Awards and Prizes on 5/2 1-3 pm

Sponsored by the United Women of Faith



Wanted old shirts or tee shirts for the kids to use to protect their clothes when painting. Please put them in box in Fellowship Hall.

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.



On Friday, April 24 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.

Do you know that you can:

- click on the YouTube links to watch past services? OR go to YouTube and search So. Hadley Methodist Church.
- search So. Hadley Methodist Church on Facebook to find our Facebook Page. Become a follower.



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
30 Carew Street
South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075-2705

Return address service requested.

