



The Steeple

January 2020



FROM THE PASTOR MMXX, PERSONAL NOTES and an OFFICIAL NOTICE

Well, here it is: MMXX, the year 2020. If you were born before 1950, did you ever imagine you'd see 2020? So much has changed, including the fact that we hardly ever use Roman numerals these days, and kids don't understand them any better than cursive writing. They have to ask what "Super Bowl LIV" means. (Did they leave out an E at the end?). But let's face it: Arabic numerals are more useful. For example, I recently had a birthday. So try calculating my age by solving this simple subtraction problem:

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{MMXIX} \\ - \text{MCMXLVI} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

How'd you do? If you got LXXIII, good for you! And that of course reminds me of how old I'm getting and how my body is declining. No, this isn't an announcement of my re-retirement. I'm just pointing out that I'm not as youthful and vigorous as I was 8 1/2 years ago when I started this gig. But most of the (Arabic) numbers from my recent check-up are good, thanks to the usual array of old-people pills. And some of you have noticed I'm coughing less. The docs finally figured out the problem isn't in my lungs. It's all in my head! So I run budesonide powder through my nose with the neti pot twice a day, I swallow some Montelukast before bed, and it's not as much of a problem as it was. And by the way, it was never contagious, so if you got what I have, you didn't get it from me.

Some of you don't know that mobility concerns led Joanne and me to find a new residence in March 2018. We were at a condo unit near Szot Park in Chicopee. Our unit was on the second floor. Laundry was in the basement. So we moved to a place where almost everything is near ground level. As an extra added bonus, it's near the two churches we're involved with. (Some of you don't know why my wife goes to a different church than the one I serve, and I will gladly explain if you ask, but it's too long to include here.) We now live at Pine Grove Condominium, which is on Hwy. 202 near the Mobil station. It's only a 3-mile drive when I go to work.

And that leads to my final topic. Some of you know that the church owns a parsonage, i.e., a house that the pastor can live in. But Joanne and I don't live there. When I started here in 2011, this was expected to be a short pastorate. It didn't seem to make sense to move to the parsonage when I'd only be serving a year or so. We liked owning our own condo. And the parsonage is at 131 North St. in Granby, pretty far from the supermarket, the bank, the clinic, and where our friends live. So the church trustees have been renting the parsonage to other people all this time. But in recent years, the cost of owning the house is greater than the income we derive from it. Plus it's been a drain on the time and energy of our trustees. So the final part of my article is this

NOTICE of MEETING OF THE CHARGE CONFERENCE

A special session of the charge conference will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 17, at the church. It will be convened as a "church conference" and this means all who are professing members can speak and vote. Rev. Ralph Howe will preside. The only item of business will be the following resolution or one very similar to it:

RESOLVED that we hereby direct the board of trustees to sell the parsonage at 131 North Street in Granby, Massachusetts; to use the proceeds of the sale to retire the current mortgage with Westfield Bank; to make a plan for the use of the remainder of the proceeds with attention to the provisions of the *Discipline* of The United Methodist Church; and to submit said plan before a future session of this body.

CHRISTMAS WE ARE BLESSED

One of the joys of Advent and Christmas has been the participation by our young people in our worship service. And this year was special because both children and adults acted out a skit titled, *Room at The Inn*, and the music was beautiful. During the skit the chancel choir sang, the youth choir sang, they sang together and the congregation sang; Tucker Motyka played piano and Kim Dout played the flute accompanied by Heather, our music director.



Thank you to all who praised God by singing and acting the scripture of the birth of Jesus. Thank you to our music director for all the hard work she put into organizing and leading us. She did a great job picking music, putting the service together, playing piano for us and directing the service. Thank you to Bree Hackett for drawing our bulletin cover.

Innkeeper: James Anspach
Innkeeper's wife: Aubrey Fugiel
Daughter: Tovah Waldorf
Joseph: Lily Marion
Mary: Natalie Dunlap
Shepherds: Alex Hicks
 Spencer Labonte
Angels: Sophia Labonte
 Mark Hudgik
 Tyler Hicks



Special music:
Flute: Kim Dout
Piano: Tucker Motyka
 Heather Reichgott
Choir: Mary Lou Guarnera Bill Beyer
 Kim Dout James Corey
 Heather Reichgott Brian Tabor
 Ann Felsentreger Alan Felsentreger
 Heather Labonte George Kiakis
 Pastor Peter Milloy

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS SHINES THROUGH YOU

This year, 43 children received Christmas gifts thanks to your generosity. The response to the **Secret Santa** program is always amazing! People from our own church, some from the Center Congregational Church, the Masons Jubinville Insurance, Curran-O'Brien Funeral Home, Beers & Story Funeral Home, and others from our community and church came forward to help. Some shopped and wrapped gifts, some helped organize the presents. In addition to the gifts, each of the 43 children received a hat.

The **Scarf, Hat & Mitten Tree** was **not put up** but this year hats were placed around the tree. Once again, people showed their generosity by knitting and purchasing such a number of these warm accessories that it was not possible to keep count of all of them.

As is our custom, several of our members delivered a **White Christmas bag** or a poinsettia to members of our church family who are not very mobile. The folks who were visited are very appreciative of the angels who delivered the bags and visited. Thank you to those who took the time to brighten someone else's day and let them know they matter. Thank you to the Sunday school students who made cards and decorations to include in the bags.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Every Sunday share coffee downstairs after worship.

January 6: Trustees 6:30 p.m.

January 7: Church Council 6:30 p.m.

January 12: Education 11:15 a.m.

January 17: Special session of the charge conference 6:30 p.m.

January 20: Bag the Community Event

January 26: Casseroles for Kate's Kitchen due

CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS

Prayer List: Carol Brunelle, Carol Szulc, Prescott Grout, Eunice Mittler, Harry Thomas, Barbara Ryan, Doris Gagnon, Beth Dietz, Pauline Kiakis, Samantha Snopek, Adele Reynolds, Frank Northup, Bev Pead & Family, Doug & Dee Brooksbank, Frank Hudgik, Viola Mortimer, Dave Fanaras, Tom Deren, Tim O'Donnell, Cochran Family, Janice Velez



STEEPLE LIGHTING

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.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA PLANTS



Thanks to you the sanctuary was beautifully decorated.

Plants given:

- In loving memory of Francis & Winifred Cerruti with love from Donna & Don Barre & Family.
- In loving memory of my husband Ken, son Kenneth Jr, daughter Denise and my mother H. Spillane by Inge Davis.
- In memory of Loved ones by Anne Dout.
- In memory of Loved ones by Alan & Darlene Dout.
- In loving memory of my husband John Felsentreger and other Loved ones by Lois Felsentreger.
- In honor of our children & grandchildren by Ann and Alan Felsentreger.
- In memory of Charles Mittler love from Eunice Mittler

- In memory of our parents, Dennis & Mary Louise Stark, our sister & brother, Winifred & Fran Cerruti, Ken & Toni Stark by Pauline & George Kiakis and Ann & Alan Felsentreger.
- In memory of Loved ones with love from the Dunn & Hackett Family.
- In memory of Grandparents with love from Spencer, Sophia & Jess.
- In loving memory of John F. Miles with love from The Washburn Family.
- In loving memory of Homer D. Washburn with love from The Washburn Family.
- In memory of Fredric & Carl from Frank & Family.

~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 and Mary Louise Stark and John and Lois Felsentreger, by Alan and Ann Felsentreger.

All are welcome! Join us for worship or join in one of our missions.

South Hadley Methodist Church
30 Carew Street
South Hadley MA 01075



Rev. Peter Milloy: 413-310-5027

Worship Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Church office: 413-532-0500

e-mail: churchoffice@thesteepinthefalls.org

web site:

www.thesteepinthefalls.org

Dr. Heather Reichgott, Minister of Music

Ann Felsentreger, Secretary

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: 413-437-7593

TAKE A BREAK AND TREAT YOURSELF

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: BAG THE COMMUNITY EVENT

On Saturday of Martin Luther King weekend, high school students will place grocery bags on the front porches of most people in South Hadley. There will be a tag asking that the bags be filled with non-perishables, personal care products and household goods. Then on Monday, students from the public schools as well as Mt. Holyoke will collect the bags and take them to the high school for the donations to be sorted and boxed.

This event draws hundreds of volunteers from not only South Hadley, but also surrounding towns. It is an amazing sight to see the town come together to help others. If you live in town, won't you please participate at whatever level you are able? No matter where you live, you are welcome to come help at the high school on Monday, January 20, any time from 10:00 AM until we are done, usually around 5:00.

You may get more information from Mary Lou Guarnera - 204-4683 or mlguarnera@gmail.com



SOUTH HADLEY METHODIST CHURCH

30 Carew Street

South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075-2705

Return address service requested.