



# The Steeple

February 2020



## FROM THE PASTOR

You all understand what a spin off is. *Happy Days* spun off *Laverne & Shirley*. *All in the Family* spun off *The Jeffersons*. *Cheers* spun off *Frasier*. Closer to home, our congregation spun off Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

Well, the big global organization we belong to may produce a spin off. Maybe media headlines gave you the impression that it's a done deal, but it still has to be voted on by 862 people at a big meeting in May. I think it'll be approved. I also think it's mostly a good thing, though some pain will occur here and there along the way.

Our little congregation here is one tiny piece of this large Christian group called The United Methodist Church (UMC). We have about 11 million members in various countries. The UMC tried for many decades to function as a big tent that includes not just different skin colors but differences in how to use the Bible, what our doctrine should be, what our moral rules are. The wedge formed by these differences drives people apart. LGBT issues get the most attention, but they comprise only the thin end of the wedge. Though our little congregation is peaceful, the whole UMC isn't.

Instead of waiting until one side just explodes and breaks away in a big show of anger and lawsuits, some leaders have been working on various plans for peaceful separation. The one which gets the most support came out a month ago and is called *Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation*. You can google that phrase to see the details.

This plan proposes a spin off. Here's how it could happen. The current UMC will continue to exist but will give its official blessing to the creation of an additional denomination of Methodists. (I will write "Old Church" and "New Church" because nobody knows what the New Church will call itself.) To oversimplify: the Old Church will be more liberal than it already is, and the New Church will be conservative. (Those labels are about religion, not politics.)

Who will go in which group? Well, first our regional group here in New England can vote on which one to be a part of. It's easy to predict New England will stay in the Old Church. After that, any local congregation will be able to leave the Old Church if it chooses to, and it will keep its property as it enters the New Church.

How will the two churches will be organized? Well, the Old Church will be pretty much the same as the present UMC, except the restrictions related to LGBT persons will be gone. For the New Church, a group called the Wesleyan Covenant Association has already drafted parts of a new Book of Discipline, and you can see them on the web. The Old Church will keep the "trust clause" which binds local church property to the denomination, and the New Church won't have that. Beyond that, I can't predict the organizational details.

You want to find out more? There are at least two websites which gather information and a variety of opinions on this. One of them is [um-insight.net](http://um-insight.net) and the other is [peopleneedjesus.net](http://peopleneedjesus.net).



## 100 YEARS OLD

Marion Winters will be 100 years old on February 17.

If you want to send her a card her address is:

1731 Memorial Dr.  
Chicopee, MA 01020.

She has been worshipping at our church since 1946. You frequently can see her during coffee time after worship and at church suppers.

## LUNCHEON & LENTEN WORKSHOP



Sunday, February 23, you can join the Sunday school for a Lenten workshop and luncheon. You can make cards for our shut-ins and friends, and make a craft. We will start at 9 a.m. and continue after worship. Join us for fun, fellowship and food.

## CASSEROLES FOR KATE'S KITCHEN

The Sunday school made four casseroles during Sunday school. Twelve casseroles were delivered in January to Kate's Kitchen. Casseroles for February are due on **February 23** but you can make a casserole ahead of time and put it in the church freezer.



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## FROM OUR LAY LEADER



Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, a Swiss-American psychiatrist who studied death and who wrote "On Death and Dying" is known for this quote-- "People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within."

I believe that light she referred to is the light of Jesus. When life is dark, and all seems impossible, those who know and trust Jesus, are able to survive the darkness and to help others too. At the end of February we will begin the journey through Lent, heading toward the most important event in Christianity – Easter. How will you show the beauty inside you? You can be the hands and feet of Jesus by visiting the sick, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, crying or rejoicing with someone, or a million other little ways that at not so small to the person you have helped.

As a previous pastor here is fond of writing, be blessed, be a blessing.

Yours in the dance,

Mary Lou



May your Ash Wednesday be a time  
of reflection and promise.

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All are welcome to join us on Ash Wednesday, February 26, at 7:00 p.m. We will worship at the Faith Methodist Church in Chicopee. Our choirs will join together to present an anthem.

## 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, Bev Pead & Family,  
Doug & Dee Brooksbank, Frank Hudgik, Dave  
Fanaras, Tom Deren, Tim O'Donnell

### STEEPLE LIGHTING



The steeple is lit during the month of February in loving memory of my son, Jack Felsentreger, and my sister, Sally Kough, by Lois Felsentreger.

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.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Every Sunday: Worship 10:00 a.m.  
Share coffee and ...downstairs after  
worship.  
February 8: Fun Day 4-6 p.m.  
February 9: Education 11:15 a.m.  
February 23: Casseroles for Kate's Kitchen due  
Lenten workshop & luncheon

February 26: Ash Wednesday service 6:30 p.m.  
at  
Faith UMC  
March 2: Trustees 6:30 p.m.  
March 3: Church Council 6:30 p.m.  
March 7: Corned Beef Supper 5-6:30 p.m.  
March 13-22 Mission trip to S. Carolina

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@thesteepelinthefalls.org](mailto:churchoffice@thesteepelinthefalls.org)

web site: [www.thesteepelinthefalls.org](http://www.thesteepelinthefalls.org)

Dr. Heather Reichgott, Minister of Music

Ann Felsentreger, Secretary

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: 413-437-7593

**TAKE A BREAK AND TREAT YOURSELF**

So. Hadley Methodist Church



# Annual Corned Beef Supper

Saturday March 7

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

**Menu: Corned beef cabbage potatoes carrots**

**Irish soda bread dessert**

**Adults \$14 Children 6-10 \$5**

**Reservations: 532-0500 or 695-1212**

**leave name & # of reservations**

**Takeout available**

**If you would like to help at supper call the church at 532-0500 and leave a message  
Reservations requested. Invite your friends and neighbors.**



**SOUTH HADLEY METHODIST CHURCH**

**30 Carew Street**

**South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075-2705**

**Return address service requested.**