



Lent

The Steeple

March 2021



PASTOR PETER IS NOW RETIRED

Earlier this year, Pastor Peter announced he would retire when his appointment ended on June 30. As luck would have it, his health became an issue demanding his full attention and in fairness to the church, he thought it was best to move his last day to February 21.

He informed Megan Stowe, our District Superintendent, of his wishes and she immediately began working on a two-part plan. Her first step was to meet with the Staff Parish Relations Committee to talk about us, who we are, what we want and what we like. Megan is very firm that she will not give us merely a warm body. The first part of her plan is to cover now to June 30, and the second part is from July 1 and forward. It is possible the first plan will become the second, depending on how good a match we have. Megan is very concerned that we do have a good match and I am optimistic that we will have a new life, as happens when churches change pastors.

The elephant in the room is the issue of whether we will stay open and whether we will be forced to merge with another church. Megan is not interested in closing churches; she wants us to succeed and I believe we need to see this time as an opportunity for growth and change. I realize change is a 4-letter word, but keep in mind, if a living thing is not changing, it is not living.

I am urging everyone to stay connected and to stay positive. View this as an opportunity to find a new part of who we are and what we do. We have many gifts among us, and this is a chance to tap into those gifts. It is typical to become comfortable with a pastor and to be at a point where we can't envision life beyond that person, but all churches experience a change of pastors and we need to embrace the change.

Please keep in mind that since noon, February 21, Peter is not our pastor, so please do not call him. Our pastor of record until someone is appointed, is Rev. Megan Stowe, our District Superintendent. If you have questions or need to connect with a pastor, you may call the church office at 413-532-0500 and leave a message. You may also call Ann at 413-695-1212 or me at 413-204-4683.

Please, if you have not yet joined worship via Zoom, give it a try. We have few ways of connecting with each other right now, and that is the main vehicle for the time being. We visit after worship and Donna and Carol tell us how warm it is in Florida while we shiver here. Pretty soon we will be able to either use the sanctuary or at least be outdoors in the parking lot or the pavilion.

God is good – all the time!

Mary Lou & SPRC

Church office: 413-532-0500

e-mail: churchoffice@thesteepelinthefalls.org

Dr. Heather Reichgott, Minister of Music

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: 413-437-7593

Worship Sunday 10:00 a.m.

web site: www.thesteepelinthefalls.org

Ann Felsentreger, Secretary: 413 695-1212

A PRAYER



Almighty and eternal God, we come before you today with a deep desire to know you, and to feel your loving embrace surround us. Calm our minds, and soothe our spirits as we sense your presence. We come as persons who have something to give to others and to you. Each of us are aware of our areas of strength and of our areas of failure. Speak to us through the "Nineveh moments" of life. You have called us to follow you, and your voice has been drowned out with the noise of our lives. Forgive us for not listening. Speak to us again in our moments of quietness, and remind us to slow down, to be silent, and to listen. Make yourself known to us anew. Transform our defeatist attitudes. Give us courage to try new behaviors which are filled with purpose and love. Lift our hearts to you today as the source of our strength and inspiration. We give you thanks for the gift of another day, and we marvel at the many challenges and possibilities that lie within. Give us

grateful hearts, O God for work to do, and for the strength with which to do it. Let your spirit push us onward and help us not to become distracted by difficulties. Help us instead to become inspired by what might be. Instill within each of us, a desire to face every challenge in life with the possibility of excelling, and turning adversity into victory. We thank you for your abiding presence as we lift our voices in praise. Amen.

"The longest, most arduous trip in the world is often the journey from head to heart. Until that round trip is completed, we remain at war with ourselves. And, of course, those at war with themselves are apt to make casualties of others, including friends and loved ones." — Rev. Dr. William Sloane Coffin

By Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun, Seacoast District Superintendent

*Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62:5-12
I Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20*



**You are invited to the South Hadley Methodist Church
Sunday worship service 10:00 a.m.
The services will continue to be on Zoom.**

We have been staying after service and visiting with each other while on Zoom.

NOTE: You will be muted upon entry to the service. You can un-mute yourself if you'd like to speak, such as during Joys and Concerns or other appropriate times. Be sure to mute yourself after speaking.

[Click here to join Sunday morning's service.](#)

The service will be live on Zoom. If you have any question or problems you can contact Mark Hudgik , call or text 413 474-0079.

To join the service go to the church web site: www.thestepleinthefalls.org

The video of the service will also be available on our Facebook page thanks to Mark Hudgik. <https://www.facebook.com/TheSteepleInTheFalls/>

CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS



Pray for: Carol Brunelle,
Carol Szulc, Eunice Mittler,
Harry Thomas, Beth Dietz,
Pauline Kiakis, Samantha Snopek,
Adele Reynolds, Bev Pead & Family,
Doug & Dee Brooksbank, Frank
Hudgik, Dave Fanaras, Tom Deren,
Tim O'Donnell, Vinnie Deitner,
Darlene Dout, Tom O'Dea, Bob &
Viola Mortimer, Colleen Mortimer,
Rev. Peter & Joanne Milloy

CASSEROLES

Nine casseroles were delivered in February to Kate's Kitchen. Casseroles will be delivered at 9:30 a.m. on March 29. If you need your casserole picked up call Ann 695-1212 and make arrangements for your casserole to be picked up curb side

Your Lenten Journey

How are you doing on your journey through Lent. It never too late to follow Jesus. What are you doing or will you do?

- make & send a card to a shut-in or someone you know
- call a friend, neighbor, family member who you haven't recently talked to
- read from the gospel every day
- act of kindness - do something nice for a family member but don't tell them
- pray for your enemies, for the world, for our country, our community, clergy, church leaders, students, for people who are sick, for guidance in all you do




STEEPLE LIGHTING

The steeple is lit during the month of March in celebration of March birthdays for Joshua Clark, Bradford Murphy and Rachel Murphy by Kathy & Tim.

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.

K	I	C	S	B	C	E	A	D	E	SEA
C	R	L	R	U	S	H	B	E	P	TIBERIAS
I	F	E	R	E	A	S	O	N	I	HILLSIDE
S	A	I	V	M	E	I	Y	A	L	FEAST
D	N	A	P	O	T	F	E	R	I	PASSOVER
G	O	E	D	I	S	L	L	I	H	BREAD
L	R	I	V	B	S	S	R	I	P	BOY
S	A	A	E	I	E	A	A	H	A	FIVE
E	E	S	C	T	F	E	B	P	S	BARLEY
S	A	I	R	E	B	I	T	A	S	LOAVES
										FISH
										HAMPERS



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

South Hadley Methodist Church



Worship Sunday 10:00 a.m. on Zoom

Church office: 413-532-0500

e-mail: churchoffice@thesteepinthefalls.org

web site: www.thesteepinthefalls.org



SOUTH HADLEY METHODIST CHURCH

30 Carew Street

South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075-2705

Return address service requested.