



The Steeple

July 2021




FROM OUR PASTOR, Joe DeGrande

A warm hello to everyone! I'm proud and honored to have been given the opportunity to be your new pastor. I am also humbled to be following Pastor Peter and Pastor Jim - both who have shown the true heart and passion of ministry. I thank them for spending the time to share their wisdom and experience with me and all that you have meant to them. Thank you also to Mary Lou, who in last month's newsletter asked everyone to forgive me. Yes, born in the Bronx, I am a Yankee fan.

Raised Roman Catholic, my life changed when I attended a Methodist worship in 2012 and heard the words read "...You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you..." (John 15:16). The God that I had searched for all my life was with me all the time, loved me for who I was, and was calling for me to follow.



After retiring from Savage Arms, I completed two Clinical Pastor Education programs at Baystate Medical Center and began volunteer work as a Chaplain in Franklin Medical Center. Completing all the requirements, I was certified as a Lay Minister and began a prison ministry in Northampton, as well as cohosting a Spirituality Group once a week. Asked to lead worship in Glastonbury Connecticut once or twice a month, I grew close to the congregation. My heart broke when the church could not sustain itself any longer and asked to close. I grieved and held hands with all who were so dear to me as we went through the process together. I knew then that I was being called to continue my journey and become a Pastor - to dedicate my life in giving glory to God through the vitality and growth of His church - the body of Christ.

My wife Beth and I share a blended family of five boys, all who are grown and creating their own paths in their journey. Wait a minute - eight grandchildren and four great grandkids too - how did I get this old this fast? Playing guitar  either in the band or by myself is my way of telling the stress and struggles of everyday life to just step aside for a moment - I need this time for me. I enjoy taking the motorcycle out, photographing the splendor of nature, and quiet rides through the countryside with Beth.

Should someone like to reach out to me with a question, a concern, or just to talk, I'm only a call away. My cell phone is 413-237-6823 (call or text) or if you prefer, my email address is PastorJoe.Steeple.Falls@gmail.com. Thank you again for this honor and privilege and I look forward to us meeting and getting to know each other better.



May grace and blessings be in your path,
Pastor Joe ...

SANCTUARY OPENING July 4

Yes, we will worship in our sanctuary!



I am excited to announce that after a discussion with several of the committee members, we agreed to begin this new journey in July with me as pastor, worshipping once again in our beautiful sanctuary.

This decision was not made lightly for your health, safety, and wellbeing will always be our first priority. So, based on the current CDC, State, and our Methodist District guidelines, we suggest the following: hand sanitizers at every door and restroom, non-family members social distance, and we all agree to wear a mask. I know - we are all tired of wearing them!!!! Although the regulations have been relaxed, we felt for the safety of our children (who are still required to wear masks in school), let's do this for them.

Our doors are open.

As vaccinations become available for younger children and the Covid numbers continue to go down, let's sit and reconsider the decision. Fair enough? Oh, I've left the best news for last. YES - backed by Heather's beautiful accompaniment, we will also be raising our voices in song and praise to the Lord. I'm looking forward to meeting you!

May grace and blessings be in your path,
Pastor Joe ...

PRAYER

Read Psalm 9: 9-20

Holy and Most powerful God, Creator, and Healer,

We want to thank you for all the blessings that have been given to us, both recognized and yet unrecognized. We know that you have been faithful in your promises to us.

With the darkness around us, Lord, and recognizing our human condition, it is not always easy to put our trust in you, so we ask you to calm our fears and fill us with your hope, joy, and peace as we turn to you.

Wrap your loving arms and surround the world with your grace. Inspire us to continue to seek, speak out, and act for justice even though it opens the doors of conflict and disagreement over the avenues we choose.

We know your love for each of us and we seek your mercy especially knowing that none of us are perfect.

We need your grace and mercy to deliver us.

Help us recognize and refine our ways so that we can be more loving as we seek to discern your way.

Be with us this day, holding our heads high, with a vision of justice for all as we seek to transform the world in your name.

We ask these things through the name of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Rich Hughen, Conference Lay Leader

CELEBRATION, CONCERNS & MORE



PRAY FOR:

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

† **Prayers & Sympathy** to the Family of Frank Hudgik who died on June 26.

MANY THANKS for THE TAKE & GO strawberry shortcake supper.

Thanks to Donna & Steve Pinciak who picked all the strawberries; Mary Lou Guarnera for shopping, organizing, & donating; to Martha Dunn, Bree & Daniel Hackett, Alex & Tyler Hicks for delivering the orders to the customers and collecting the money; Donna Pinciak, George Kiakis, Pastor Joe for making, wrapping & bagging the sandwiches & shortcakes; to Ann Felsentreger for making the shortcake biscuits. \$743.

UPPER ROOMS

The July-August of *Upper Room* Daily devotional have arrived. You may pick one up on Sunday mornings or contact the church office or Pastor Joe to make arrangements to get one. Thank you to Frank and Mark Hudgik for purchasing them for us.

HOW WE COMMUNICATE

This newsletter is our primary means of communication with you. We prefer email, but do mail many copies - if that is best for you.

Make sure we have you correct contact information. A Weekly Invitation is also emailed. If you are not receiving it and would like to please let Ann know by emailing the church office at



churchoffice@thesteepelinthefalls.org or calling Ann at 413 532-0500.

WE SUPPORT EACH OTHER:

Join us Anxiety Support Group

Our small group is still going strong. You are invited to join us. We have found that meeting together to talk about our anxiety is beneficial. We start our meetings with a brief inspirational reading and end with a prayer. In between we often talk about our faith in relation to our anxiety. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested, contact Bev Pead at bjpeado31@gmail.com for more information.



UMW CWS BLANKETS - HEARTS Thank you for your support. 💕

The women's group of our church sold hearts during May and part of June to earn money for CWS blankets. Here are the hearts that were displayed on a poster during the Sunday services. The proceeds go to Church World United Service Missions to buy blankets to be used by people in need. Some of them may stay right here in the area. \$105 was collected and the women's group added \$50: We will send \$155 to CWS.





So. Hadley Methodist Church

Take & Go

Blueberry Cobbler

&

Turkey Sandwich

July 23

5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

\$12.00

Turkey Sandwich

Bag of Chips

Beverage

Old fashioned Blueberry Cobbler

made with fresh picked blueberries,
bathed in juicy goodness, topped with a
cloud of real whipped cream

To order:

email: churchoffice@thesteepinthefalls.org

call: 413 532-0500

Text 413 695-1212

Include your name, phone & number of meals

Sandwiches will be delivered to your car. Pull into the church driveway and you will be directed on where to line up, pay for your order and it will be brought to your car. Easy peasy!



THE CASSEROLES FOR KATE'S KITCHEN ARE DUE JULY 25.

FROM OUR LAY LEADER

If you haven't heard from our new pastor, Joe DeGrande, you will. He wants to meet everyone, and he has set about calling everyone on our membership list. I think you will grasp pretty quickly that he is full of energy and enthusiasm which promise to fuel some interesting ideas. Joe's appointment begins July 1, as is the custom in the United Methodist Church, and his first Sunday will be July 4. If you are in town that weekend, I hope you will be at worship – *in our sanctuary!* Together we have decided it is best to wear masks inside, in order to protect those who have not been vaccinated, especially children. That decision will be under review at most meetings and you will be informed when there is a change.

On July 4 we will also celebrate Holy Communion closer to our familiar way, but the bread and juice will be social distanced. Won't it be wonderful to kneel at our rail again?

There is a lot for Pastor Joe to learn about us, and for us to learn about him, and as we get to know each other, we will be striving to work together to grow our church. I personally was thrilled to hear Joe say he believes that is best done by creating relationships. That is the key to so many important things in life.

So let us now renew our relationships with each other and with our church. See you there!

Mary Lou Guarnera

All are welcome!

Join us for worship or join in one of our missions.

South Hadley Methodist Church
Worship Sunday 10:00 a.m. in our Sanctuary and on Zoom

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Email: pastorjoe.Steeple.Falls@gmail.com

Church office: 413-532-0500

e-mail: churchoffice@thesteepelinthefalls.org web site: www.thesteepelinthefalls.org

Dr. Heather Reichgott, Minister of Music Ann Felsentreger, Secretary

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: 413-437-7593



SOUTH HADLEY METHODIST CHURCH

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Return address service requested.