



Wesley United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Welcoming all, regardless of race, nationality, sexual orientation or gender identity.

98 North Maple Street, Hadley, MA 01035

413-549-1550 office@wesleyfamily.org

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

September 8, 2020

For more information, contact:

Wesley United Methodist Church – Hadley

Phone: 413-549-1550

Email: office@wesleyfamily.org



Wesley UMC Hadley Welcomes New Pastor

Hadley, MA - Wesley United Methodist Church (WUMC) in Hadley MA is proud to welcome their new minister, Rev. Sooyoun Kim. She and her family relocated to the area from First United Methodist Church in Chatham, MA. Rev. Kim (who prefers to be addressed as Pastor Soo) lives with her husband and three daughters. She and her husband arrived in the United States from Korea in 2010. They both obtained their M.Div. degrees from Boston University School of Theology.

Kathy Blaisdell, chair of WUMC's Staff Parish Relations Committee, notes "We're pleased that Rev. Sooyoun Kim has begun serving our congregation. In the short time she's been here she's helped to increase our virtual presence which is allowing our congregation to continue to participate in our services during the current Covid19 pandemic."

"I'm happy to be able to pastor such a vibrant and caring congregation," says Pastor Soo. "While we haven't been able to meet in the sanctuary yet, I've been able to meet with many of our members during Sunday afternoon driveway meetings, phone calls, and virtual meetings and I've found the Wesley congregation to be a loving family."

Pastor Soo feels called to walk with God and convey His love to others. She finds joy in bringing people to Christ. Methodism's focus on social justice attracted her to this denomination. Pastor Soo believes "Methodists like to do good things around the community. For them it's about not just believing in the words [in the Bible] but doing the actions." Through loving and serving, Pastor Soo wholeheartedly believes in providing a safe place to those who are vulnerable and oppressed in our society and environment. Love, dedication, compassion, sympathy, humility,

servanthood, passion, honesty, transformation, creativity and trust are among her highly valued practices in ministry. “In our faith journey,” Pastor Soo states, “your own God-stories, your personal relationship with God, your God-experiences, these are the things that tell who God is to you. Sharing and acknowledging your story builds faith. It gives us a strong root that will hold us into the ground of faith.”

Wesley United Methodist Church is an open and accepting church for all seekers and believers. It was originally established over 160 years ago in Amherst. Worship services are held at 10 AM on Sundays currently by Zoom and on YouTube. Information about links to those services may be obtained from the church’s website (<http://www.wesleyfamily.org/>) or by calling the office at 413-549-1550.

Wesley United Methodist Church