

For WE *are God's
servants,*
working together
you *are God's
field,*
God's building.
1 Corinthians 3:9

Sudbury United Methodist Church

**Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
February 12, 2017**

Before worship, please feel free to greet those around you. Concerns or celebrations to be included in today's prayers may be recorded on cards in the pew pockets and passed to the ushers during the second hymn. During the prelude, let us prepare silently to worship God.

**indicates worshipers may stand, as they are able*

Welcome

Prelude: "Allegretto" Op. 22, No. 2

Niels Gade

***Call to Worship:** (*Psalm 119:2 and 7, NRSV, alt.*)

Liturgist: Happy are those who keep the LORD's decrees,
who seek God with their whole heart.

**People: I will praise you, LORD, with an upright heart,
when I learn your righteous ordinances.**

***Opening Hymn:** UMH # 417 – "O For a Heart to Praise My God"

***Opening Prayer:** (*Ruth Duck, USA, 20th cent. alt.*)

**O God, in mystery and in silence you are present in our lives,
bringing new life out of destruction,
hope out of despair and growth out of difficulty.**

**We thank you that you do not leave us alone
but labor to make us whole.**

**Help us to perceive your unseen hand in the unfolding of our lives,
and to attend to the gentle guidance of your Spirit,
that we may know the joy you give your people. Amen.**

***A Reading from the Gospels:** Matthew 5:21-37

This reading is found on pages 4-5 in the New Testament.

Children's Time: "Let Your Yes Be Yes"

Special Music

A Reading from the Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

This reading is found on page 167 in the New Testament.

Sermon: “Working Together”

Pastor Joel Guillemette

***Hymn of Response:** FWS # 2175 – “Together We Serve”

A Time of Fellowship

Greeting Our Guests

Concerns and Celebrations

The Pastoral Prayer

***The Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Stewardship Moment: Outreach Commission

Offertory: “Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

Doris Akers

***Doxology:** UMH # 94 - “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

***Hymn of Commitment:** UMH # 555 – “Forward Through the Ages”

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Postlude

Reconciling & Welcoming Statement: The United Methodist Church is a community of believers and seekers, with differences in age, class, nationality, race, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, abilities, and limitations. We at SUMC recognize that there are attitudes, concerning these diverse characteristics, which violate the integrity of individuals and deny the richness of God's creation. Therefore we affirm our welcome to all people into our community of faith. We are committed to be a fellowship in which all persons feel a part of our family, enabling them to grow in their faith, to be fed by our fellowship, and to contribute their talents to the life of the church in its worship, programs, and outreach. We call the church and society to be sensitive to all persons and to advocate programs which attempt to ensure justice for all.

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We are a Stephen Ministry
Congregation



We are a Reconciling and Welcoming
Congregation

Sudbury United Methodist Church

February 12, 2017

Welcome, Guests!

Are you visiting today? Please accept our sincere welcome. After worship, please linger in the narthex during the postlude to meet the pastor and some of our church's leaders. We also invite you to join us, as time permits, for informal fellowship and coffee after this morning's service. We hope you enjoy your visit and invite you to come again soon!

It's Time to Fill School Vacation Lunch Bags

Calling all Kids and "Kids at Heart"! Right after today's church service, let's have some fun decorating and filling 100 "Kids Bags" destined for Open Table's Food Pantry in Maynard. The filled bags will be given to children of Open Table clients during the February school vacation week so they will have something to eat when school cafeterias are closed. This marks our church's third year taking part in this community outreach!

Winter Book Study: Does Love Win?

Have you ever wondered if everyone goes to heaven, if there is a place called Hell, or if God's love saves all? To explore these questions, Pastor Joel will dig into *Love Wins* by Rob Bell. The first class took place on January 30, was video-recorded, and can now be seen on Sudbury UMC's Facebook page. The second session, focusing on chapters 4, 5, and 6, will begin at 7:00 p.m. on February 13. The last class will take place on February 27 (chapters 7 – 8). We will broadcast live on Facebook allowing home viewers to follow along. Books may be ordered from www.cokesbury.com or www.amazon.com.

Special Church Conference on February 19

Our District Superintendent, the Rev. Rene Perez, has authorized a special Church Conference at Sudbury UMC on February 19 at 11:00 a.m. Changes to the scope of ongoing "Pave the Way" renovations will be considered along with their costs and funding. The Rev. Dr. David Calhoun, superintendent of the Connecticut/Western Massachusetts District, will preside. Detailed information has been posted at www.sudbury-umc.org.

Plan Ahead for the Lenten Soup Suppers

With the Worship Commission, the Membership and Community Life Commission will host the 2017 Lenten Soup Supper and Study series March 8, 15, 22, and 29. Volunteers are needed to make soup, setup, and cleanup on Wednesday evenings. Sign up today!

Is There Child Care During Worship?

Infants and toddlers are welcome in worship. Parents with young children may also visit our Family Room with visual and aural access to the sanctuary. Each Sunday, a pair of CORI-ed volunteers cares for children two years old and younger. Look for the stairs in the northwest corner of the narthex leading up to a cozy room furnished with sofas and toys and books.

Where Is the Rest Room?

A unisex rest room is located in the southeast corner of the narthex, behind the back row of pews on the pulpit side of the sanctuary. There is another rest room just past the side door of the sanctuary closest to the pulpit and three steps up.

Do You Need Hearing Assistance?

Individual hearing assistance units are available. An usher will help you to borrow one.

Yes, There Are Large Print Worship Books

Do you prefer large print materials? Special copies of *The United Methodist Hymnal* and *The Faith We Sing* are available in the narthex. Please speak to an usher for assistance.

Can You Help Refill the Food Cart?

The contents of the shopping cart near the O'Reilly Room entrance are delivered to food banks in Sudbury, Stow, Marlborough, Maynard, Wayland, and Hudson. The Outreach Commission is grateful for your donations. Canned vegetables and soups, canned tuna and meat, crackers, jams and jellies, canned pastas and tomato sauces, noodles, rice, cereals, and baby foods are always needed. Donations past the expiration date stamped on the package must be discarded.

Are You Facing a Time of Transition?

Stephen Ministers are trained to provide a listening, supportive, and confidential presence for people facing transitions. Each Sunday after worship concludes a Stephen Minister is available to listen and to pray with you in the O'Reilly Room. If you would like a Stephen Minister "walk" with you on a regular basis, please contact Pastor Joel. Remember, no concern is too big or too small to share with a Stephen Minister.

Please Recycle This Bulletin

The Worship and Music Commission has placed blue recycle bins near the sanctuary's entrances. Please recycle the materials distributed on Sundays either here or at home.

Read for Spiritual Growth

Want to read for spiritual growth? Ten minutes each day with *The Upper Room* can lead to a growth spurt! Free booklets are available in the narthex. Please help yourself! Or check out <http://devotional.upperroom.org> to visit *The Upper Room* each day online.

Are You Looking for a Mid-Week Bible Study?

Please join Sudbury UMC's Thursday Bible study group. Each week's focus text is next Sunday's preaching passage. Thursday meetings take place at 10:00 a.m. at Panera Bread, 21 Andrew Avenue in Wayland's Town Center. Bring your Bible and a few bucks for something warm to sip.

This Is It! The Lenten Booklet Sign-up Deadline Is February 15th

Today is the day to sign up after worship to contribute a devotion to the 2017 Lenten Booklet. The sign-up display and an easy to follow instruction sheet is in the narthex. The deadline for submission is February 15th. Please prayerfully consider adding your devotion to this year's booklet.

Join a Social Justice Book Group

This winter, the members of the Social Justice Commission invite you to join them as they read and discuss fiction and non-fiction literature dealing with critical social justice issues. A conversation about Colin Whitehead's novel, *The Underground Railroad*, will take place on Sunday, February 19, after worship. The book group will meet in the O'Reilly Room at 11:30 a.m. Light refreshments will be provided.

Can You Count to Four?

Good news! If you can count to four and tap your foot in a steady rhythm, you are qualified to become a member of a new music-making group. Choir chime rehearsals will start today following worship, at approximately 11:00 a.m. in the Choir Room. Come and enjoy working with a joyous team of new and experienced ringers. All are welcome – from fifth grade to fifty to one hundred and fifty! If you have any questions, please contact Sherry Stonebraker at 978-568-1596 or at ssstoneb@aol.com.

Sunny Hill Director Announces Retirement

Sunny Hill Director, Debbie Rollins, is about to embark on a new adventure! After ten years of serving as our church's pre-school director, and 15 years of serving in numerous roles such as music teacher, lead teacher, and Assistant Director, Debbie has decided to retire in July 2017. When you see Debbie during the coming weeks, remember to thank her for her service to Sunny Hill and to Sudbury UMC's oldest community outreach.

Coming Soon: A Vacation for *The Chronicle*

The Chronicle, our church's weekly newsletter, will take a break during the February 18-26 school vacation. Look for the next editions of *The Chronicle* on February 16 and March 2 with deadlines falling on February 13 and February 27 respectively.

What's Happening Today in Church School?

Children and their families can expect regular Sunday School groupings today. After the children's moment, the 3-5-year-old class will meet in their classroom, preschool room 4, in the Sunny Hill wing. 1st-2nd grade and 6th-8th grade will meet in their classrooms below the sanctuary. Please Note: There's a location change for the 3rd-5th grade group while our last Sunday School room below the sanctuary is being renovated! For the next few Sundays, the 3rd-5th grade Sunday School class will take place in preschool room 5: the Sunny Hill classroom closest to the Sanctuary.

Special Classes for Middle Schoolers

Students in grades 6 to 8 are focusing this month on the role of faith in managing the challenges of Middle School. Our 6th-8th graders are talking about the anxiety and stress in their lives, what the Bible teaches us about dealing with an anxious heart, trusting God's promises, setting priorities, and reacting with confidence.

The Confirmation Journey Has Begun

On January 29, Pastor Joel met with 9th and 10th grade teens, their parents, and adult mentors who accepted an invitation to participate in the 2017 Confirmation journey. Confirmands and their mentors will focus on strengthening the spiritual practice that most Christians rely on most: attending Sunday services of worship and reflecting on what is said and done during each week's hymns, prayers, and sermon. When you see a teen and adult pair talking quietly in the church after worship during the coming months, remember that they are helping each other to become intentional disciples of Jesus Christ. Three classes taught by Pastor Joel, a day of community service, and worship with a congregation of another tradition will enrich our teens' path to professing membership in The United Methodist Church. The Rite of Confirmation will take place on Pentecost, June 4. Questions? Please contact pastorjoel@sudbury-umc.org.

Sudbury UMC's Cancer & Caregiver Support Group to Meet February 15

Cancer patients, cancer survivors, and caregivers gather monthly at Sudbury UMC in the O'Reilly Room to pray for and support each other. For more information about this month's session on February 15, please visit SUMC.MA.Cancer.Care.Group@gmail.com.