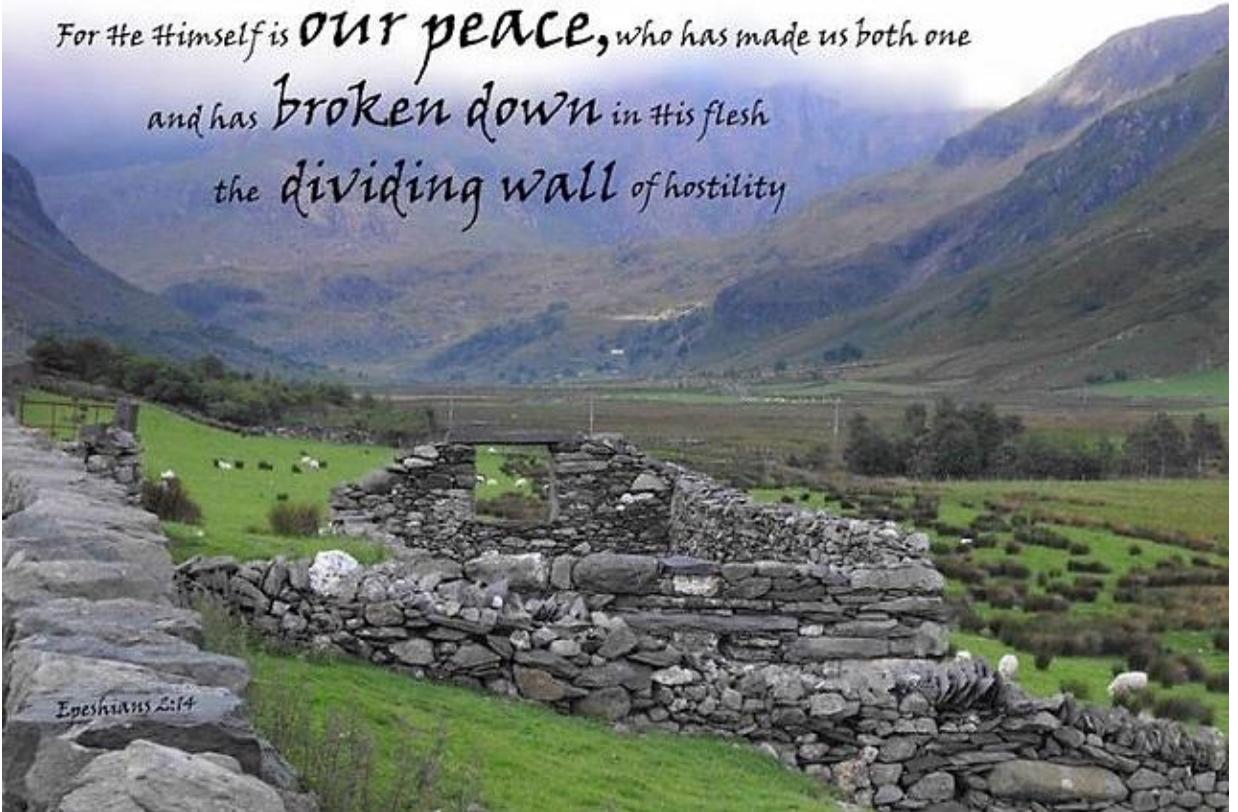


For He Himself is **our peace**, who has made us both one
and has **broken down** in His flesh
the **dividing wall** of hostility



Sudbury United Methodist Church

Second Sunday in Lent
March 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: "There Is a Spirit that Delights"

Ned Rorem

***Opening Sentences:** (*The United Methodist Book of Worship, USA, 1992*)

Liturgist: Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression
in whatever forms they present themselves?

People: I do.

***A Reading from the Gospels:** John 3:1-5, 14-17

This reading is found on pages 93-94 in the New Testament.

***Opening Hymn:** UMH # 511 – "Am I a Soldier of the Cross" (*omit verses 5 and 6*)

***Prayer of Confession:** (*Taylor Burton-Edwards, USA, 21st cent., alt.*)

**Accepting the freedom you give us, LORD God,
we step away from every force
that seeks to constrain love and justice in our hearts.**

**Accepting the power you give us, resurrected Savior,
we speak and act with your courage
for the freedom and dignity of every human being
and for the good of all creation.**

**Freed and empowered by the Holy Spirit
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression,
we come together as the body of Christ,
seeking the deliverance and salvation of all people.**

Receive the prayers of your people, Holy Trinity.

**In your compassion, forgive our sins,
and free us for lives of joyful obedience. Amen.**

Children's Time: "The Life Saver"

Special Music: "Lord of All Hopefulness" Choir Chimes

Douglas E. Wagner

A Reading from the Scriptures: Ephesians 2:11-22, Mark 12:28-31

This reading is found on pages 192-193 and page 49 in the New Testament.

Sermon: "Water and Wall"

Bishop S. Clifton Ives

***Hymn of Response:** FWS # 2220 – We Are God's People"

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: Open Table

Offertory: "Help Us Accept Each Other

F. Kaan/J. N. Beck

***Doxology:** FWS # 2251 – "We Were Baptized in Christ" (*verse 3*)

Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son,

glory to the Holy Spirit, ever three and ever one:

as it was in the beginning, glory now resounds again

in a song that has no ending. Amen.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

***Hymn of Commitment:** UMH # 549 – "Where Charity and Love Prevail"

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Postlude: "Toccata and Fugue in F"

D. Buxtehude

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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Lead Pastor: *The Rev. Joel Guillemette*
Business Manager: *Michael Greb*
Christian Education Director: *Jackie Roder*
Communications Coordinator: *Alexandra Plotkin*
Interim Youth Director: *Anthony Harrison*
Music Director/Organist: *Kevin Murphy, AAGO*
Sanctuary Choir Director: *Rob Hammerton*
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We are a Stephen Ministry
Congregation



We are a Reconciling and Welcoming
Congregation

Sudbury United Methodist Church

March 12, 2017

Lent 2: Accept

Welcome, Guests!

Are you visiting today? Please accept our sincere welcome. After worship, please take time, if you can, to linger in the narthex to meet our 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!

Today We Celebrate Our 18th Anniversary as a Reconciling Congregation

To mark this special occasion, Pastor Joel has invited a longtime mentor to preach and, after worship, to converse with any and all who might want to explore the prospects for the full inclusion of LGBTQ Christians in The United Methodist Church. Bishop S. Clifton Ives was born in Farmington, ME, and as the son of a United Methodist minister, lived in seven different Maine communities while growing up. He graduated from the University of Maine and from Boston University School of Theology, with both a Master of Divinity degree and later the Doctor of Ministry in Church and Society. Dr. Ives was ordained both deacon and elder by Bishop James K. Mathews and served for thirty years in the former Maine Annual Conference, including pastorates at Cape Elizabeth, Bangor, Waterville, and Westbrook. Cliff was also appointed for several years as director of the Conference Council on Ministries and later as Superintendent of the Southern District. We welcome Bishop Ives and his spouse, Jane, and thank them for their faithful leadership and servant ministry.

Connexions Concert Today at 3:00 p.m.

This afternoon, the third concert in the 2016-2017 Connexions series will begin at 3:00 p.m. The program will highlight two ensembles: Sudbury UMC's bell chime choir under the direction of Sherry Stonebraker and the Wesley Winds, our concert band, led by Rob Hammerton. Featured artists will include Ann Carroll Bundy, flute; Jill Gaudet, flute; Rob Hammerton, bass guitar and tenor sax; Bill Hoke, clarinet; Rachel Freedman Jacobus, trombone, and Kevin Murphy, organ. You will hear works by Franz Liszt, J. S. Bach, Georg Friedrich Fuchs, Kevin Francis Murphy, James Horner, John Fogerty, and traditional Welsh and American selections. Admission is free and open to the public. A freewill offering will be received to benefit the Organ Fund.

Welcome Back, Open Table! Community Meals Resume March 14

Beginning Tuesday, March 14, Open Table will resume serving a weekly community dinner in Sudbury UMC's Hawes Hall at 6:00 p.m. It has been a long time since we have been able to host these meals, and we are so very happy to open our doors again to the community. If you are interested in assisting, please reach out to Patty Helsingius to find out how you can help.

"Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression?"

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 kids age two and younger. Stairs in the northwest corner of the narthex lead up to a cozy room furnished with sofas, 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.

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, 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.

CORRECTED Special Report: Church Conference – February 19

After worship on February 19, the Rev. Dr. David Calhoun, Superintendent of the Connecticut /Western MA District, called to order a special session of Sudbury UMC's Church Conference. Seventy-one members signed the attendance roster. On behalf of the Building Committee, Richard Morris presented a motion to add several change orders totaling \$184,776 to the scope of our ongoing "Pave the Way" renovations and new construction. George Gorman, Finance Committee chairperson, presented a list of possibilities for securing these extra funds through new pledges, grants, and loans. Dick Briden moved that, if a surplus of funds remains after "Pave the Way" is complete, priority be given to paying back any amount that might have been borrowed from Sudbury UMC's Endowment. The Briden motion and the Building Committee's main motion were both supported by a nearly unanimous vote.

Do You Need a Listening Ear?

Stephen Ministers offer a listening, supportive, and confidential presence. Each Sunday after worship concludes a Stephen Minister is available to listen and to pray with you in the O'Reilly Room. If you are facing a transition and would like to meet with a Stephen Minister weekly, please contact Pastor Joel. No concern is too big or too small.

"Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression?"

Praying Together during Lent

Please pick up a copy of Sudbury UMC's Lenten Devotional Booklet so that you can join our congregation in praying together throughout the season of Lent. With a passage from scripture, a one-page meditation, and a daily prayer for each day until Easter, the booklet helps us to pray as a community as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection. Booklets are available in the narthex, at the Sunny Hill desk, and in the church office.

Give the Gift of Music during Lent

Would you like to help with our church's musical programming in Lent? Preparations for the Tenebrae service on Wednesday, April 12, began on March 8. Rehearsals will continue after each Wednesday's Lenten Supper and programs at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to learn the music and to prepare the passages for our Tenebrae observance. Please contact Music Director Kevin Murphy at kevin@sudbury-umc.org or choral director Rob Hammerton at rob@sudbury-umc.org to offer your musical gifts.

Join the Women's Fellowship This Tuesday

On March 28 at 10:30 a.m., the women of our church will gather in the sanctuary to clean the chandeliers. Each glass globe must be removed, washed, and returned to its place. And it all happens without ladders! Come and see! After the lights have been cleaned for another year, the crew will go out for lunch. All are invited to join in the fun. Please bring cleaning supplies.

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. Meetings begin at 10:00 a.m. at Panera Bread, 21 Andrew Avenue in Wayland's Town Center. Bring a Bible and a few dollars for something to sip.

Would You Like to Visit the Islamic Center in Wayland?

At 1:00 p.m. on Friday, March 17, the Social Justice Commission has arranged a visit for a delegation from Sudbury UMC to observe the Friday prayer service. Witness weekly worship with our Muslim neighbors, listen to a sermon, and talk afterwards with a few of the members of the mosque located at 126 Boston Post Road in Wayland. The ICB has asked us to let them know how many guests to expect, so please sign-up by emailing Linda Lombardo at awesomeforever@aol.com. And remember to read "The Faith Club – A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew - Three Women Search for Understanding" by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, and Priscilla Warner. On Sunday, March 26, the ICB will host a multi-faith conversation about "The Faith Club" from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

GAME Time

Plan ahead! Sunday afternoon April 2nd at 3:00 p.m.; we'll have tables set up in Hawes Hall. All Ages Are Invited! All gameplayers and games are welcome, from Candyland to The Settlers of Catan. It's going to be fun. More details to come.

"Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression?"

The Lenten Journey Continues

Are you yearning for a meaningful Easter? Participating in Sudbury UMC's Lenten Soup and Study Series will help. On Wednesdays in Lent at 6:00 p.m. – March 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5 – we will share a simple meal of assorted soups and breads in Hawes Hall. Helpers are needed to make soup, set-up tables, and clean-up after supper. Look for Oscar Harrell after worship to sign-up for this fulfilling ministry! After supper, at 6:30 p.m., several opportunities to learn and worship will be offered for adults, teens and children. This year's focus is "Living Our Baptismal Calling." At the beginning of each Sunday's service of worship, a weekly theme from the UMC's baptismal vows will be introduced. Wednesday programs will offer extra time to prepare for Easter Sunday's service of Baptismal Reaffirmation.

- Adult Worship (chancel) – "Singing our Baptism" led by Heather Josselyn-Cranson, Kevin Murphy and Rob Hammerton
- Adult Study (choir room) – "By Water and the Spirit – Making Connections for Identity and Ministry" led by Pastor Joel and John McKinney
- Children's Study (undercroft) – "I Wonder about Baptism" led by Jackie Roder, Director of Christian Education
- Youth Study (undercroft) – "Baptism: God's Gift to Us All" led by Anthony Harrison, Director of Youth Ministries

Reinforcing Our Lenten Themes on FaceBook

Notice the footer of this insert. Each week during Lent, it will change to reflect the week's focus. And, every day we are printing the daily scripture reading from the Lenten Booklet on our FaceBook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SudburyUMC/>.

Cancer and Caregiver Support Group Meets Monthly

Sudbury UMC's Cancer and Caregiver Support Prayer Group meets monthly from 6:00 until 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday. This month, cancer patients, cancer survivors, and caregivers will gather at Sudbury UMC in the O'Reilly Room on March 15 to pray for and support each other. All are invited to come and share their experiences and feelings in a caring, confidential, non-hospital environment. The Cancer and Caregiver Support Prayer Group is an initiative of Sudbury UMC's Health Ministries Commission. For more information, please email us at SUMC.MA.Cancer.Care.Group@gmail.com.

Let's Get Ready for "One Great Hour of Sharing"

On March 26, the Fourth Sunday in Lent, United Methodists around the world will receive a special offering to fund the administrative functions of The United Methodist Committee on Relief. The goal of "One Great Hour of Sharing" is covering UMCOR's "costs of doing business" so that 100% of donations given in response to emergencies can be invested in alleviating human suffering the wake of natural disasters and other crises. Please prepare generously for this special offering.

"Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression?"