

**Jesus answered: "I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.**

JOHN 14:6



SUDBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 14, 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: "Élévation"

Alexandre Guilmant

***Opening Worship**

Praise Song: FWS # 2272 – "Holy Ground"

Scripture: Acts 6:8-15, 7:55-60 – "Do Not Hold This Sin against Them"

Praise Song: FWS # 2275 – "Kyrie"

***Opening Prayer:** (*Consultation on Common Texts, USA, 21st cent., alt.*)

**Risen Christ, you prepare a place for us
in the home of the Mother-and-Father of us all.
Draw us more deeply into yourself
so that when our hearts are troubled
we will know you more completely
as the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.**

Children's Time: "Standing Up to the Crowd"

Special Music: "Medway" from The Singing Master's Assistant

William Billings

***Acclamation:** FWS # 2116 – "Christ the Lord Is Risen" (*vss. 1 and 7 before and after Gospel*)

**Christ the Lord is risen! Christ the Lord is risen! Yesu!
Christ the Lord is risen! Christ the Lord is risen! Yesu!
Come and worship him! Come and worship him! Yesu!
Come and worship him! Come and worship him! Yesu!**

***Gospel Reading:** John 14:1-14

This reading is found on pages 108-109 in the New Testament.

Sermon: "A Threat or a Promise?"

The Rev. Joel B. Guillemette

***Hymn of Response:** UMH # 206 – “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

A Time of Fellowship

Greeting Our Guests

Concerns and Celebrations

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer (*unison*)

**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: “A Mother Lined a Basket”

M. N. Kiethahn/J. D. Horman

***Doxology:** UMH # 90 - “Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones” (*verse 4, alt.*)

**O friends in gladness, let us sing anthems eternal echoing: Alleluia! Alleluia!
To God the Sovereign, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three-in-One:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

***Hymn of Commitment:** UMH # 552 – “Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather”

***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

May 14, 2017

Welcome, Guests!

Are you visiting today? Please accept our sincere welcome. If you have a few free moments after worship, please linger in the narthex to meet our pastor and some of our church's leaders. We also invite you, as time permits, to enjoy coffee and conversation in the fellowship hall on the south end of our facility. We hope you enjoy your visit and we invite you to be our guest as often as possible!

Happy Mother's Day!

Did you know that Mother's Day has Methodist roots? Anna Jarvis convinced the pastor of Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia, to lead a worship service honoring mothers in 1907, making today the 110th anniversary of that celebration!

Social Justice Book Group to meet May 21

On Sunday, May 21, the Social Justice Commission invites you to meet Shaheen Akhtar from the Islamic Center of Boston to discuss and reflect on *The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew – Three Women Search for Understanding* by Suzanne Oliver, Ranya Idibly and Pricilla Warner. If you have read the book, come! If you are interested, come to the O'Reilly Gathering Room from 11:30 a.m. till 12:30 p.m.

Health Ministries Sunday Is May 21st

This year Health Ministries Sunday will be observed on May 21. Our theme is resilience. Dr. Diana Ventura, visiting scholar at Boston University, reviewer for the New England Institutional Review Board and Chief Data Administrator for the Center for Biostatistics and AIDS Research at Harvard, will preach. You are invited to contribute to the fair after worship by sharing old home remedies. We are not advocating or supporting any of the remedies, but we want to add some humor to the day. On the serious side, sharing healthy information and activities is welcome. And there will be lots of that. For more information, contact Sophia Harrell at sbaileyharrell@msn.com or at 978-443-3821.

Knitters! Can You Knit Fast? Join the Prayer Shawl Ministry Today!

Have you ever considered making a prayer shawl? Please join Sudbury UMC's knitters! Pick up yarn, needles, and instructions in Hawes Hall after worship for knitting a prayer shawl. Questions? Contact Sophia Harrell at sbaileyharrell@msn.com or 978-443-3821. Shawls will be presented for consecration on Health Ministry Sunday, May 21.

Please Recycle Your Bulletin

Leaving your bulletin here? Use the blue bins near the sanctuary entrances to recycle it.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. . . ."

John 14:1-4

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 children's 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.

Let's 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, cereals, canned pastas and tomato sauces, noodles, rice, and baby foods are always needed. Donations past the expiration date stamped on the package must be discarded.

We All Need Somebody to Lean On

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.

Photographers, Please Send Your Pictures!

When you are taking digital photos during worship services and other Sudbury UMC gatherings, please email them to Alexandra Plotkin at alexandra@sumc.org. Your photos help keep our church's website and Facebook page looking fresh. Thanks!

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.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. . ."

John 14:1-4

Cancer 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 May 17 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.

Apply Now for Undergraduate Scholarships from the New England Conference

Each year the New England Conference Scholarship Committee seeks applications from adults or recent high school graduates who are pursuing an undergraduate education at any accredited two- or four-year college, university or technical school. The application deadline for 2017-18 support is Wednesday, May 31, 2017. To learn more and apply online, go to <http://www.neumc.org/lzGQ4tcEl8gmquG5f9SamuXV0Ya1lXAnF8-jdd0kTcu5sh5z3wZzadZM5VbaYJZQmg>.

Mission u: Understanding the Church's Mission in Today's World

Mission u – a three-day learning experience – provides opportunities for women, men, youth and children to grow in their understanding of the mission of the church in the current world context. Time is spent in worship and in-depth study with music, prayer, sharing, and exploration. The 2017 Mission u will be held Friday to Sunday, July 21-23, at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, NH. This year's Spiritual Growth Study is Living as a Covenant Community. This year's Geographical Study is Missionary Conferences of The UMC in the U.S. (which is also being offered for children and youth as well as in adult sessions in Korean). For your convenience, registration is now open at <http://www.neumc.org/missionu>.

An Update from the Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Interviews for Sudbury UMC's Christian formation roles - Director of Christian Education, Youth, and Adults – are proceeding. Please hold these important meetings in prayer.

Spring Dates for Teens

Middle and high school students from Sudbury UMC have a lot to look forward to this spring: Youth Fellowship gatherings May 20 and June 17, plus an overnight Lock-In June 2 and 3, and a service trip June 23-25! Check your email, save the dates, and be sure to respond to Anthony at anthony@sudbury-umc.org to let him know that you're coming.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. . ."

John 14:1-4

The Countdown Begins - Connexions IV Concert

Plan ahead and put the fourth and final Connexions Concert on your calendar – May 21, at 3:00 p.m. The concert will feature an assortment of styles including classical, pop, gospel, and folk. The list of artists is growing. Have you signed up? Watch for emails and rehearsal notices. Questions? Contact Kevin Murphy at kevin@sudbury-umc.org.

Opening Ourselves to Grace: A Class for Adults

After a fantastic first two sessions, the third installment of this four session course will be held Sunday, May 28th! Whether you missed or made the first two classes, all are welcome to join in for the third and/or fourth sessions. Sunday May 28th, participants will continue their exploration into how God's grace affects our lives for healthier, vibrant living. There will be a new video capturing clergy and laity sharing their experience with God's grace. Additionally, there will be discussion regarding John Wesley's pilgrimage of faith and his understanding of grace as Prevenient, Justifying and Sanctifying. But mostly, we will enjoy being together ...learning and sharing our journey as Christians. Co-taught by John McKinney and Jim Empfield, this four week Adult Christian Education course is one you will not want to miss!

Church School Today

Children and families can expect the regular Sunday School groupings this Sunday, May 14th! Children are invited to join the 3-5-year-old, 1-2nd grade, 3-5th grade and 6-8th grade class groupings following the children's time early in worship. Jackie Roder and her team of church school teachers will lead all of our children safely to the appropriate classrooms. 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. There's a location change for the 3rd-5th grade group while our last Sunday School room below the sanctuary is being worked on! 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.

Happy Birthday to Sudbury UMC!

This spring, Sudbury UMC's members and friends are celebrating the 60th birthday of our relocation from the building now owned by the Presbyterian Church in Sudbury to this seven-acre site on the Old Sudbury Road. To mark this special anniversary, the Permanent Endowment Committee invites you to consider making a birthday gift of \$600, \$60, or \$6 to the Parmenter Building Fund. Your generosity now will support facility upkeep in the future. Look for the special mailing you received at home!

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. . ."

John 14:1-4