



## **Jacob Wrestles at Peniel**

***SUDBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH***

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**August 6, 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 worshippers may stand, as they are able*

**Welcome**

**Prelude:** Improvisation

**\*Call to Worship:** (*Psalm 17:6, alt. NRSV*)

Liturgist: I call upon you, O God, for you will answer me.

**People: Incline your ear to me, O Savior, and hear my words.**

**\*Opening Hymn:** UMH # 523 – “Saranam, Saranam”

**\*Opening Prayer:** (*Consultation on Common Texts, USA 21<sup>st</sup> cent., alt.*)

**O God, beyond all seeing and knowing,  
we meet you in the night of change and crisis,  
and wrestle with you in the darkness of doubt.**

**Give us the will and spirit to live faithfully  
and to love you as we are loved. Amen.**

**\*A Reading from the Gospels:** Matthew 14:13-21

*This reading is found on page 16 in the New Testament.*

**Children's Time:** “Fortunately, Unfortunately”

**Special Music**

**A Reading from the Scriptures:** Genesis 32:22-32

*This reading is found on page 30 in the Old Testament.*

**Sermon:** “The Wrestler”

The Rev. Elizabeth Waters

**\*Hymn of Response:** UMH # 383 – “This Is a Day of New Beginnings”

## **A Time of Fellowship**

**Greeting Our Guests  
Concerns and Celebrations  
Pastoral Prayer**

## **Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

**Stewardship Moment**

**Offertory**

**\*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!**

## **Holy Communion**

**\*The Great Thanksgiving:** UMH pages 12-15 – “Word and Table II”

**\*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.**

**The Giving of the Bread and Cup**

*(“Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another” [UMH page 12]. At the ushers’ invitation, worshipers may join the line to receive a morsel of the gluten and lactose free bread in their hands, dip the bread in the cup of grape juice, and partake of both at the same time. After communing, worshipers return to their seats by the side aisles.)*

**Prayer after Communion**

**\*Hymn of Commitment:** UMH # 386 – “Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown”

**\*Dismissal with Blessing**

**Postlude:** “Carillon”

Louise Vierende

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**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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**Church Staff**

**Lead Pastor:** *The Rev. Joel Guillemette*

**Business Manager:** *Michael Greb*

**Christian Education Director:** *Eric Magnuson*

**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

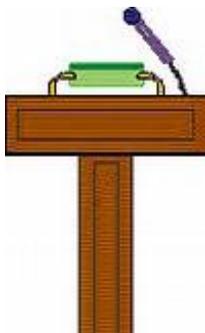
## Sudbury United Methodist Church

August 6, 2017

### Welcome, Guests!

Are you visiting Sudbury UMC today? Welcome! If you have time after worship, please pause in the narthex to meet our pastor and a few of our church's leaders. If a longer visit is possible, enjoy coffee and conversation in Hawes Hall, just past The Columns, on the south end of our facility. We hope you enjoy your visit and invite you to come back soon!

### Meet This Month's Guest Preachers



While Pastor Joel is vacationing July 31 through August 13, two clergy colleagues will preach in our chancel and officiate at the Lord's Table.

The Rev. Betsy Waters, a clergy member of the United Church of Christ and a resident of Marlborough, is visiting Sudbury UMC this morning. Many of us remember Rev. Waters as the New England Conference consultant who conferred with our church's leaders when they were writing the 2007 Strategic Plan.

The Rev. Dr. Chang-Hee Son will be our guest next Sunday, August 13. Dr. Son served as Sudbury UMC's associate pastor in 1986 and 1987. He has been appointed since 1989 to Bridgewater State University in Bridgewater, MA, as Protestant chaplain. During Pastor Joel's summer hiatus, a network of United Methodist pastors in the Metrowest area will also provide emergency clergy coverage in the event of a funeral or some other crisis. Please reach out to Shetal Kaye at the church office or Lay Leader Nancy Hammerton in the event that you or your family need pastoral support.

### Why Are United Methodists Celebrating Communion More Often?

"The grace we receive at the Lord's Table enables us to perform our ministry and mission, to continue Christ's work in the world—the work of redemption, reconciliation, peace, and justice (2 Corinthians 5:17-21). As we commune, we become aware of the worth and the needs of other people and are reminded of our responsibility. We express the compassion of Christ through acts of caring and kindness toward those we encounter in our daily lives. In our baptism, we have vowed to "accept the freedom and power God gives [us] to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves" (*UMH*; page 34). But, in the words of the prayer of confession, we acknowledge our failures: "We have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy" (*UMH*; page 8). Remembering the revolutionary Jesus, we are impelled to challenge unjust practices and systems that perpetuate political, economic, and social inequity and discrimination (Matthew 23; Luke 4:16-21; 14:7-11)." (*UMH*; page 11). (Excerpted from *This Holy Mystery*, page 10) By celebrating the sacrament weekly during the summer, our church is moving toward the goal of receiving God's gifts of grace more often.

## **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.

## **Volunteers Needed In August at *Open Table* in Maynard**

Have you been looking for a practical, face-to-face way to help neighbors in need? On Monday, August 7, *Open Table* in Maynard will open its new facility at 33 Main Street, a storefront formerly occupied by Aubuchon Hardware. Volunteers will be needed to facilitate the move, to staff the food pantry, and to reopen the dining room. For information, contact John Iberg at [1970schooner@gmail.com](mailto:1970schooner@gmail.com) or Patty Helsingius at [helsingius@comcast.net](mailto:helsingius@comcast.net).

## **If Our Shopping Cart Could Talk**

For several months, food donations made to the shopping cart outside the O'Reilly Room have been delivered to our Maynard partners' facility located in the basement of the former Coolidge School on Bancroft Street. If the shopping cart could talk, it would politely say, "Thanks!" to all who visit. It might remind you to say, "Hello!" to volunteers from Sudbury UMC who join others to stock shelves on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Or, it might drop hints to passersby like, "Don't be a stranger!" and "I always need solid white tuna in cans, spaghetti sauce in jars, mixed vegetables in cans, pineapple in cans, raisins, dried beans in bags, bread crumbs, condensed milk, rice pilaf, instant coffee, and BBQ sauce."

## **What Your Name Tag Says About You**

In addition to your name, your nametag also says you enjoy sharing yourself with others and making new friends. It tells our church's newest staff members that you understand the challenge of learning the names of a whole congregation in a short time. And it tells Sunday morning guests that you are happy to answer questions or introduce them to others who can. Thank you for wearing your nametag!

## Summer Activities and Events for Sudbury UMC Youth



### Water Balloon Round Up

August 13 – Don't miss the annual water balloon round up and other outdoor wet and messy games, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the church. Wear a swimsuit. Bring a towel.

### Goodbye, Summer – Hello, Fall

August 27 – From 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., say goodbye to summer at the church and get geared up for a new year of youth programming in the fall! Dinner, games, fun, and fellow-ship at Sudbury UMC! We will be doing some crazy things to get ready for our new Youth Ministries leader! (We're looking for a parent or two to help out with this meeting. Please! Let Kristen Straub know if you can help!)



### Are You Looking for a Great Pre-School?

Sudbury UMC's own Sunny Hill Preschool is gearing up for a fabulous 2017-2018 school year. All classes are taking enrollments with limited availability in some. Why not take a tour? Dial 978-443-2627 to make an appointment with Debbie or to complete your child's enrollment.

### Now Hiring: Furniture Handler and Coordinator

Household Goods, Inc. is seeking a furniture handler/coordinator to unload and load trucks, organize the placement of furniture donations, and interact with customers. Candidates must be able to lift 50 pounds consistently. This is an active position for someone who wants to be on the move. Can you drive a box truck Tuesday through Saturday? Send your resume to [careers@HouseholdGoods.org](mailto:careers@HouseholdGoods.org) or send to 530 Main Street, Acton, MA 01720.

### Please Recycle This Bulletin

The Worship and Music Commission has placed blue recycle bins near the church's three entrances. Materials not need at home, along with other clean papers, may be recycled in these bins. Please dispose of paper soiled by food or anything else in wastebaskets.

## **Director of Youth Ministries Looking for Metrowest Apartment**

Do you know about an affordable apartment near Sudbury UMC that might become available in September? Our church's Staff-Parish Relations Committee asks everyone to keep their eyes and ears open since the Director of Youth Ministries we expect to welcome this fall has asked us to help him locate a place to live. If you know about a good lead for a single person who lives alone, please contact Todj Gozdeck at [tgzdeck@hotmail.com](mailto:tgzdeck@hotmail.com) or at 617-733-2118.

## **Calling All Summer Sunday School Teachers**

During the summer, Sudbury UMC offers a one room Sunday School for children ages 3 to 10. Lessons for kids in grade 5 and below begin after the Children's Moment, but Middle and High School teens may participate as helpers or co-teachers. Two teachers are needed each Sunday. To volunteer, please reach out to Eric Magnuson at [eric@sudbury-umc.org](mailto:eric@sudbury-umc.org).

## **Summer Office Hours and Newsletter Deadline**

From now through Labor Day weekend, the church office will open at 8:30 a.m. Monday through Friday and close at 12:30 p.m. Our weekly newsletter, *The Chronicle*, becomes a monthly in July and August. The next edition will be emailed on Thursday, August 24, preceded by a Monday, August 21, deadline.

## **Summer Reading for Spiritual Growth**

Want to make spiritual growth part of your summer reading plan? Ten minutes each day with *The Upper Room* can lead to a growth spurt! Monthly booklets are available at no cost in the narthex. Or visit *The Upper Room* online at <http://devotional.upperroom.org/>.

## **Do You Need Someone to Listen?**

Stephen Ministers are volunteers trained to listen and pray with adults who face changes in family, health, employment, etc. Anyone wearing a Stephen Leader nametag can help you.

## **Summer Giving Reminder**

The warm and restful days of summer promise relaxing long weekends and eagerly awaited vacations. But while faithful supporters are away, Sudbury UMC is still open each day, our staff is preparing for fall, utility bills arrive, and outreach promises are being kept. Please do your part by keeping your 2017 pledge up to date all summer!

## **Church Council Anticipates Special Meeting on August 22**

Church Council chairperson Richard Morris has announced a special meeting on Tuesday, August 22, at 7:30 pm. The meeting will position our church to adopt a biennial rhythm of asking for and receiving pledges of financial support by beginning to create a two year plan for mission and ministry. The product of this first meeting will be refined and confirmed at our September 19 meeting and presented to the congregation after worship on October 1.