



SODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Laity Sunday
October 15, 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: "Jesus, My Joy"

J. S. Bach

***Call to Worship** (*Psalm 106:1, 48, NRSV, alt.*)

Liturgist: Praise the LORD!

**People: O give thanks to the LORD, who is good;
whose steadfast love endures forever.**

Liturgist: Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.

People: Let all the people say, "Amen." Praise the LORD!

***Opening Worship**

Praise Song: UMH # 102 - "Now Thank We All Our God" (*verses 1 and 2*)

A Reading from the Scriptures: Philippians 4:4-9

Praise Song: UMH # 102 - "Now Thank We All Our God" (*verse 3*)

***Opening Prayer** (*The Catholic Diocese of Wollongong, Australia, 21st cent., alt.*)

**LORD, our God, source of all life,
you reveal yourself in the depths of our being,
drawing us to share in your life and love.**

**Bless each of us as we respond to your Spirit's invitation
to open wide the doors to Christ.**

**Make the doors of our hearts, our homes, and our church
wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship,
narrow enough to shut out all envy, prejudice, and pride.**

Let us hasten to welcome the stranger, and so welcome your Son.

We make this prayer in his name, Jesus Christ our LORD. Amen.

Children's Time

Leslie Bell

Special Music: “The Miracle Is This”

Leonard Nimoy & R .G. H.

***A Reading from the Gospels:** Matthew 22:1-14

This reading is found on page 24 in the New Testament.

A Conversation with the Congregation: “That's Hospitality....Really?” Nancy Hammerton

***Hymn of Response:** FWS # 2222 - “The Servant Song”

A Time of Fellowship

Greeting Our Guests

Concerns and Celebrations

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: “Trunk or Treat”

Offertory: “Somebody’s Knocking at Your Door”

Afr. Amer. Spiritual

***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:** FWS # 2221 - “In Unity We Lift Our Song”

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Postlude: “Prelude and Fugue in A, minor” BWV 534

J. S. Bach

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.

Sudbury United Methodist Church

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Website: <http://www.sudbury-umc.org>

Church Staff

Lead Pastor: *The Rev. Joel Guillemette*

Business Manager: *Michael Greb*

Christian Education Director: *Eric Magnuson*

Director of Youth Ministries: *Zachary Moser*

Music Director/Organist: *Kevin Murphy, AAGO*

Sanctuary Choir Director: *Rob Hammerton*

Office Administrator: *Shetal Kaye*

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STEPHEN MINISTRY



We are a Stephen Ministry
Congregation



We are a Reconciling and Welcoming
Congregation

Sudbury United Methodist Church

October 15, 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!

Today's Laity Sunday Focus Is Hospitality

Celebrating "the ministry of all lay Christians, as their lives are empowered for ministry by the Holy Spirit," is the reason our United Methodist *Book of Discipline* recommends that pastors make room for an annual observance of Laity Sunday. This year's preferred date is October 15, but there is no such thing as an inappropriate time to give thanks to God for the Spirit-empowered ministry of all Christians. Please thank Lay Leader Nancy Hammerton and Associate Lay Leader Eric Herstine, as well as today's speakers and worship leaders, for creating and facilitating this year's Laity Sunday observance.

Phase One Fundraising for Dominica Concludes Today

On September 19, 180 mph winds brutalized Dominica. Our sisters and brothers there are dealing with unprecedented destruction. They are in desperate need. Since Dominica is an independent nation, it has no protectorate to send aid. The Outreach Commission of our church understands feelings of "compassion fatigue." But Outreach asks us to set "fatigue" aside as we raise emergency relief funds for the villages of Wesley and Marigot through October 15. Please go to <http://sudbury-umc.org/give/> to donate. Use the pull-down menu and select Dominica Hurricane Relief. Checks can also be made out to Sudbury UMC, with "Dominica Hurricane Relief" in the memo line, and included with today's offering.

Cancer Support Group Meets Monthly on Third Wednesday

Sudbury UMC's Cancer and Caregiver Support Group will meet on Wednesday, October 18, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the O'Reilly Room. Cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers are all welcome. The purpose of the group is to provide prayer and support to those who have had cancer touch their lives. Come and share your experiences and feelings in a safe, caring, confidential, non-hospital environment: SUMC.MA.Cancer.Care.Group@gmail.com.

Senior High Bible Study Follows Worship

During coffee hour after worship today, high school students are invited to meet with Zack Moser in Davison Chapel for Bible study. We'll look back at the morning's scripture passage and talk through any questions or ideas we might have about it. We might also need to figure out what else to call our hanging out time, because the only two ideas that Zack has are "High School Bible Study" and "We Have Donuts." By the way, we have donuts!

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.

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!

Sudbury UMC Is a Nut Free Zone!

Several Sunny Hill preschoolers and staff members have dangerous allergies to nut products and coconut oil. Do not bring food products or soaps containing tree nuts into the church and remember that coconut oil in kitchen cleaners and lotions can be lethal. Thank you!

Please Recycle This Bulletin

The Worship and Music Commission has placed blue recycle bins near the church's three entrances. Materials not needed 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.

Calling New Station Attendants for Church School!



Do you find yourself restless in church and need to walk around and expel some of that extra energy? Are you the “natural” storyteller at family events or gatherings with friends? Do you enjoy being creative with crafts? If so, please consider sharing your gifts and passions with the children on Sunday mornings with our Station Rotation. Consider joining our team for a one-time session, or on a rotating basis. Please contact Eric Magnuson for more information: eric@sudbury-umc.org or 978-443-4351 x 207.

Grand-Friends and Prayer Pals – Say Your Prayers!

Following today’s worship service, there will be a meet and greet in Hawes Hall for Grand-Friends who have not had the opportunity to meet yet. The key word for Week 6, October 15-21, is Endurance, “...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus...” Hebrews 12:1-2

Parents, Sign Up for a GroupMe Text Message Each Week

Do your kids ever tell you nothing happened in Church School? Is starting a conversation with them about each Sunday’s lesson “like pulling teeth”? Consider *GroupMe* – a weekly text message with the overall theme, Bible verse, and question to think about and talk to your children about for preschool through Grade 5. Whether it is just clarity of information, or whether you need to be away for a Sunday and want to stay connected, consider *Group Me*. Just give your cell phone number to Eric Magnuson, our Director of Christian Education. Your cell number will only be used for GroupMe texts about Sunday School. Promise!

Wanted: Your Car for Trunk-or-Treat!

The Church Growth Commission will host our church’s fourth annual TRUNK OR TREAT on Saturday, October 28, from 3:00 until 5:00 p.m. Decorate the trunk of your car, fill it with treats, put on a costume, and welcome our neighbors. Or donate candy for this community event. Please sign-up today in Hawes Hall or email Jen Gero at tjgero@verizon.net

New a Cappella Chorus Forming

The musicians of Sudbury UMC would like to form an a cappella chorus starting Wednesday, October 18, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and for the next three Wednesdays, October 25, November 1, and November 8. We will meet for an hour to learn a modest list of a cappella items with a sacred twist. A cappella groups typically work without printed music, so you do not need to read music to participate. A light supper and childcare will be offered. Our only request is that you sign up by going to http://sudbury-umc.org/sumc_v1/music/a_cappella/

Read for Spiritual Growth

Ten minutes each day with *The Upper Room* can cause a growth spurt! Monthly booklets are available in the narthex or visit *The Upper Room* online at <http://devotional.upperroom.org/>.

Blessing of Animals at Sudbury UMC Today at 1:00 p.m.



The Sudbury Clergy Association invites you and your pets to the Third Annual Ecumenical Blessing of the Pets. Sudbury UMC is this year's host. A joyful prayer service and blessing will take place at 1:00 p.m. today on the portico at the main entrance of the church. Prayers will be shared and led by a number of local clergy. Come and give thanks for God's beauty in creation and in our pets.

Connexions Concert Today at 3:00 p.m.

Leslie Bell, Tom Gero, Rob Hammerton, William Hoke, Cecelia Murphy, Charles Mack, and Kevin Murphy will present today's Connexions I concert, the first of the 2017-2018 program year. The program will feature works by Bach, Benson, Finzi, Jenkins, Schumann, Mack, and Telemann. Connexions concerts showcase the talents of church members and guest artists who share a connection with our church. Admission is free and open to the public. A freewill offering will be received to benefit hurricane survivors in Dominica.

Order Tickets for Greenwood Memorial UMC's Harvest Banquet!

Greenwood Memorial UMC invites you to attend its annual Harvest Banquet on October 27, at Florian Hall, 55 Hallet St, in Dorchester Center. Doors will open at 7:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 8:00 p.m. followed by entertainment and dancing. Tickets are \$65.00. To join Sudbury UMC's delegation, email John Iberg at jwi0841@verizon.net. Checks may also be sent directly to Greenwood Memorial UMC, 378a Washington St., Dorchester, MA 02124.

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee Requests Your Participation in a Pastoral Survey

Please assist the Staff Parish Relations Committee by filling out the survey below: Check off your TOP TEN areas of pastoral emphasis. The SPRC needs this information by October 15. The results will be used when the committee consults with the District Superintendent.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strategic Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Growth of Members |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conflict Resolution | <input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral Visitation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Worship and Communication Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Healing Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use of Social Media | <input type="checkbox"/> Ecumenical Participation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Designing and Leading Worship | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Justice Ministries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preaching | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equipping Laity for Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> Church and Staff Admin. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling | <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children and Youth Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> Church Planning/Visioning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Please complete and put in the offering plate today, return to the church office, or mail to: Sudbury United Methodist Church, 251 Old Sudbury Road, Attn: Staff Parish Relations Comm.