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“Ten bridesmaids took their lamps
and went to meet the bridegroom
Five of them were foolish,
and five were wise.”

Matthew 25:1b-2 NRSV

SUDBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
November 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: Improvisation

***Call to Worship:** UMH page 799 – Psalm 78:1-4 (*Response*)

***Opening Hymn:** UMH # 695 - "O Lord, May Church and Home Combine"

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

**You allow us to choose, O God,
between you and the false gods of this world.
In the night-time of sin and death,
wake us from slumber
and call us forth to greet the risen Christ,
so that with eyes and hearts fixed on our Savior,
we may follow without straying to everlasting light and life. Amen.**

A Reading from the Scriptures: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

This reading is found on pages 215-216 in the Old Testament.

Children's Time: "Little Choices and Big Choices"

Special Music: "Shed a Little Light" Gospel Group

James Taylor

***A Reading from the Gospels:** Matthew 25:1-13

This reading is found on page 28 in the New Testament.

Sermon: "The Importance of Personal Replenishment"

Pastor Joel Guillemette

***Hymn of Response:** UMH # 612 – “Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness”

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

Offertory: “Canon in D” Choir Chimes

J. Pachelbel, arr. H. Hopson

***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 # 601 – “Thy Word Is a Lamp”

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Postlude: “Sortie” op. 65, no.3

A. Guilmant

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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Director of Youth Ministries: *Zachary Moser*

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STEPHEN MINISTRY



We are a Stephen Ministry
Congregation



We are a Reconciling and Welcoming
Congregation

Sudbury United Methodist Church

November 12, 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!

"They Shall Beat Their Swords into Plowshares"

The General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church has written a three-session Bible study based on Micah 4:1-4 to address the epidemic of gun violence in the United States. Bishop Sally Dyck, leader of United Methodists in the Chicago Area where gun violence claimed 600 lives in 2016, recommends *Kingdom Dreams – Violent Dreams* as a resource to help United Methodists "identify and articulate the common good that is essential in our policies and attitudes toward guns." On three consecutive Monday evenings – November 13, 20, and 27 – Pastor Joel will lead a timely conversation about the *common good*, the *transformation*, and the *flourishing* that Micah's prophecy promises. Each session will begin at 7:00 p.m. and conclude at 8:30 p.m. in Davison Chapel. Please use the new chapel entrance next to Hawes Hall to enter the building.

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

At Sudbury UMC, the Sunday before Thanksgiving Day is always filled with gratitude galore. But this year's celebration, at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, November 19, will feel fuller and richer than usual as we pause to thank God for the completion of Pave the Way renovations that began in June 2016. Pastor Joel will preach; Pave the Way leaders will receive our thanks; Davison Chapel, the last phase of the plan to be completed, will be officially reopened and reconsecrated; and refreshments will be served in Hawes Hall. Come and give God thanks!

Tis the Season when Friends and Neighbors May Need Care

Countless people have received confidential care from Sudbury UMC's Stephen Ministers, a program of our church that is now 25 years old. As winter's dark days inch closer, even the holidays can trigger loneliness, sadness, or anxiety. This is especially true if a loved one has suffered a loss, a sudden change, or a difficult transition. Maybe you know a family member, a friend, or a neighbor who could benefit from a caring relationship. Sudbury UMC has 13 active Stephen Ministers and 10 are available to offer support. To see a video describing the care people have received from Stephen Ministers, visit <https://www.stephenministries.org/>. To ask about starting a relationship, speak to Pastor Joel, Lori Granger, or Richard Smith. And, remember, every Sunday morning a Stephen Minister is available after the worship service in the O'Reilly room to listen and to pray with you. Today's volunteer is Richard Smith.

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. For more information, contact Eric

Magnuson: eric@sudbury-umc.org or 978-443-4351 x 207.

Grand-Friends and Prayer Pals – Keep Saying Your Prayers!

The key word for Week 10, November 12 to 18, is *fruitfulness*: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23).

Parents, GroupMe Text Messages Begin Today

Today is the first Sunday that parents will receive a weekly text message informing them about the overall theme, Bible verse, and a question for family discussion based on today’s Sunday School lesson for children in preschool through Grade 5. Interested? 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.

Want to Be in the Christmas Pageant?

All of Sudbury UMC's children are invited to participate in the 2017 Nativity Pageant during the 10:30 a.m. Christmas service on Sunday morning, December 24! This year, weekly pageant rehearsals will begin the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 25, and run through the Saturday before Christmas Eve. There is a role for every child – speaking parts and non-speaking. Rehearsals take place between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. with an 8:00 a.m. practice for Dancing Angels. If you have not registered your child(ren) yet, please see Kristin Murphy or Eric Magnuson for a registration form.



Senior High Bible Study Follows Worship

A weekly high school Bible study continues to meet in the Sunny Hill teacher’s lounge (the room right before the chapel as you walk toward Hawes Hall) during the coffee hour after worship. This half-hour gathering is an opportunity to reflect on today’s worship service, to gain a broader understanding of today’s scripture, and to eat donuts while denying donuts to all those who are not in high school (except for Zack, who bought the donuts).

The Upper Room

The Upper Room booklets are available in the narthex. Help yourself to a free copy for your daily devotional readings. Or access it online by clicking here: <https://www.upperroom.org/>

Sudbury UMC Hosts “The Ripple Effect” This Week



From Wednesday through Friday, November 15-17, Sudbury UMC will house the New England Conference’s School of Congregational Development. The goal of “The Ripple Effect” is to provide resources to inspire and equip local church leaders to live more fully into the mission of the church. Since Sudbury UMC is a sponsor, members of our congregation and staff may attend any or all of this year’s classes at the reduced student price of \$49 each. To see a list of classes and guest speakers, please visit the

school’s website: <https://neumc-reg.brtapp.com/2017RippleEffect>

Veterans Day – A Time to Remember and Support

Veterans Day is a time to remember and honor persons who have served in the military – past and present. We can make a difference in the lives of millions of people if we not only remember, but also reach out to support the troops returning from combat service. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) has become a major mental health issue as our veterans return from war. The Rand Corporation released a study estimating that one in five U.S. service members who served in Iraq or Afghanistan suffers from major depression or combat stress with a subsequent increase in addiction, domestic violence, and suicide. Too often the ethic is to be silent about combat related mental health problems. Only half of those with mental health problems seek treatment. This is slowly changing as the military encourages veterans with combat stress symptoms to seek help. When treated early, the symptoms can be treated and need not lead to lifelong problems. Regardless of our political views about the war, clergy and faith communities can be part of the support team for returning veterans and their families. For more information on PTSD please contact the following organizations:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs - www.ptsd.va.org

NAMI’s Veterans Resource Center - www.nami.org/veterans

International Conference of War Veterans Ministers - www.warveteranministers.org/ptsd.htm

Community Thanksgiving Service

Sudbury’s Interfaith Clergy Association invites residents of our town as well as friends from neighboring communities to worship together on Sunday, November 19, at 4:00 p.m. The 2017 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be hosted by Memorial Congregational Church, 26 Concord Road, in Sudbury. This year’s theme is “Love Thy Neighbor.” The service will be led by the clergy members of Sudbury’s churches, synagogues, and religious communities. A freewill offering will be received to assist in the rebuilding of hurricane-ravaged communities around the world. Refreshments will follow the service. All are welcome.