



I keep asking that the God of our
Lord Jesus Christ...



may give you the Spirit of wisdom
and revelation,
so that you may know him better.



Ephesians 1:17

Sudbury United Methodist Church

**Last Sunday after Pentecost
November 26, 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

Hymn Sing

***Call to Worship:** UMH # 821 – “Psalm 100” (*Response 1*)

***Opening Hymn:** UMH # 160 – “Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”

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

**As the shepherd who cares for your flock, O God,
you guide all things through Jesus
whom you have raised from death
and exalted as ruler over all creation.**

**Enlighten the eyes of our hearts,
that we may see the hope
to which Christ calls us:
a realm of eternal peace. Amen.**

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

(This reading is found on pages 803-804 in the Old Testament.)

Children's Time: “What Shepherds Do”

Special Music: “Thanksgiving!”

John Ness Beck

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

(This reading is found on page 192 in the New Testament.)

Sermon: “Not an Ordinary King”

The Rev. Garvin Warden

***Hymn of Response:** UMH # 715 – “Rejoice, the Lord Is King”

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: Staff Parish Relations Committee

Offertory: “Jesus Shall Reign”

Thomas Jarman

***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 # 381 – “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

***Dismissal with Blessing**

***Postlude:** “Rigaudon”

Andrea Campra, arr. Biggs

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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STEPHEN MINISTRY



We are a Stephen Ministry
Congregation



We are a Reconciling and Welcoming
Congregation

Christmas Flowers



Help us create a festive sanctuary by ordering a holiday plant today!

Amaryllis \$15.00	Cyclamen \$11.00	Poinsettia \$11.00	Potted Evergreen \$15.00	Our Choice \$11.00	Total # Plants	Amount

Name (as you'd like it in the bulletin)
Phone/E-mail

Dedication Please circle one In Memory of In Honor of

I would like to: Please circle one Bring my plant home Deliver to shut -in

Bring your order to the Flower Committee in Hawes Hall after the service. Deadline for ordering is December 4th

Questions? Wanda Doughty @ 774-219-9065 or mwandadoughty@gmail.com

Sudbury United Methodist Church

November 26, 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!

“Thy Kingdom Come”

On the last Sunday in the church's annual calendar, Christians give thanks in advance for what Jesus called the “Kingdom of God,” the most prominent theme in his teaching. When Jesus gave his disciples a model prayer to shape their own praises and petitions, he taught them to ask, “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Actually, the Lord's Prayer is a petition for God's reign to dawn “on earth and under the earth” as Paul wrote in Philippians 2:10b. Since the Reign of Christ is creation's ultimate goal, we celebrate its arrival in advance on the year's ultimate Sunday by pledging allegiance to Christ the King.

Introducing Today's Guest Preacher

Today we welcome the Rev. Garvin Warden to our pulpit. In some ways, Mr. Warden needs no introduction since he was pastor of Greenwood Memorial UMC in Dorchester, Sudbury UMC's sister church, till 2015. Four appointments preceded Greenwood: Attleboro, MA; Portland, ME; Hockanum, CT; and East Hartford, CT. Pastor Joel and Rev. Warden share a long friendship that began when both were appointed in the 1990s to churches in Maine. Now that Rev. Warden has retired, he is more available to visit other churches as a guest preacher. Pastor Joel is very pleased to welcome a treasured colleague to Sudbury UMC.

“They Shall Beat Their Swords into Plowshares”

The General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church has written a Bible study based on Micah 4:1-4 to address gun violence in the United States. *Kingdom Dreams – Violent Realities* helps United Methodists to “identify and articulate the common good that is essential in our policies and attitudes toward guns.” At 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 27, Pastor Joel will lead a timely conversation in Davison Chapel about the *flourishing* that Micah promises. Please use the new chapel entrance next to Hawes Hall to enter the building.

Get 'Em while They Last!

Has the beginning of the holiday season caught you by surprise? The Outreach Commission can help. Balsam wreaths made in Maine will be available after worship for \$10 each. Each purchase contributes to Dominica's recovery after the devastation of Hurricane Maria.

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.

Parents, Sing-Up for GroupMe Text Messages



Get on board the *SUMC Express* for GroupMe text messaging. Parents of children age three through Grade 5 will receive a weekly text with the gist of each Sunday's Church School theme, Bible verse, plus a question for family discussion based on the day's Sunday School lesson. Interested? Just give your cell phone number to Eric Magnuson (eric@sudbury-umc.org or 978-443-4351 x 207), our Director of Christian Education. Your cell number will only be used for *GroupMe* texts about Sunday School.

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

The key word for Week 12, November 26 to December 2, is *Godly Relationships*: "Whoever walks with the wise is wise; but the companion of fools will suffer harm" (Proverbs 13:20).

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 take place on Saturdays through December 23. There is a role for every child – speaking 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 yet registered your child, please see Kristin Murphy or Eric Magnuson for a registration form.



Lovefeast Candles to Be Trimmed November 29

Trimming the beeswax candles used during the Christmas Eve Lovefeast with red crepe paper frill is a fun activity and a favorite time of fellowship. This year, 250 candles will be trimmed so many volunteers will be needed to help. We will meet in the choir room on Wednesday, November 29, at 10:00 a.m. Hot-spiced cider, coffee, and seasonal treats will be served. All are welcome to attend. And remember to visit the Lovefeast table during coffee hour today!

Tis the Season when Friends and Neighbors May Need Care

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 about the care people receive from Stephen Ministers, visit <https://www.stephenministries.org/>. To ask about starting a relationship, speak to Pastor Joel, Richard Smith, or Lori Granger. And remember that a Stephen Minister is available after worship every Sunday in the O'Reilly Room to listen and to pray with you. Today's volunteer is Diane Hammond.

Card Decorators Needed During Coffee Hour

After worship today, the Christian Education Commission needs your help. During coffee hour in Hawes Hall, children, families, and congregation members of all ages are invited to write and decorate holiday cards for inmates at Concord MCI and residents of Sudbury's Musketaquid Village. Look for an empty chair at the table and give it your best shot!

It's Time to Spread the Spirit!

Please spread the Christmas spirit by visiting the Peanut Butter Giving Tree after worship today in Hawes Hall. By reaching out to over 100 local youth in need during the holidays, Sudbury UMC continues to make a difference in young lives. Peanut Butter benefactors purchase toys, clothing, gift certificates, and other items for children and teens in partnership with Wayside Youth and Family Support Network and Justice Resource Institute. Many have no family, making the holidays particularly difficult. Please add this giving opportunity to your Advent calendar by selecting a tag today or online at <http://signup.com/go/augdOLn>. The Peanut Butter Tree is a wonderful and fulfilling family outreach program and we look forward to another successful year! Help us spread the Christmas spirit!

Advent Soup Supper – Sign-Up Begins Today

The Membership and Community Life Commission invites you to share your talents and gifts by volunteering for one or more of this year's Advent Soup Suppers: December 6, 13, and 20. Homemade soup, bread, fruit, vegetables, juice, coffee and tea are needed. Setup and clean-up, too. Sign-up after worship today in Hawes Hall. Questions? Contact Oscar Harrell at 978-443-3821 or owhtwo@msn.com.

Church Conference to Convene November 28

At 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 28, all members of Sudbury UMC are called to attend our Fall Church Conference. The Rev. Rene Perez, our District Superintendent, will preside in Davison Chapel. Our 2017 annual meeting will include a reading of Acts 2:42-47 and a conversation about these questions:

- How have we been Acts 2 people?
- How have we committed ourselves to the teaching of God's way, to our life as and with God's people, to worship and communion, and to prayer since we last met?
- What are our most vital ministries?
- What vital ministries do we hope to begin?

Also on the agenda will be reports from the Church Council about the three goals it has adopted for 2018 through 2020, as well as from the Endowment and Building Committees. Finally, participants will be asked to vote on a motion from the Staff-Parish Relations Committee regarding the 2018 pastoral compensation package. All professing, associate, and affiliate members of Sudbury UMC are entitled to speak and vote during Church Conference.