



# *The Weekly Chronicle*

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## From Pastor Joel

Dear Friends in Christ,

This coming Sunday, May 14, is Mother's Day. Thirty years ago, when I first became a pastor, Mother's Day was one of my favorite holidays. Can you guess why? Like all clergy back then, pastors could count on Mother's Day for worship attendance that was higher than usual. Among ourselves we would say, "It's like a second Easter," since most moms made it clear to their children that the only gift they really wanted was to have their sons and daughters sitting next to them in church. Pews would be filled, from one end to the other, with members of a single family on Mother's Day.

In those days, every mother received a carnation or, maybe, a small carnation corsage from their home church on Mother's Day. At first, all the carnations were white because that was the color of "purity." (Anyone else see a problem with that kind of language?) Later on, mothers whose moms had passed away received white corsages - a blossom and a bow - and those whose mothers were still living received pink carnations or maybe red. The

church where I grew up, on the north side of Lowell, observed these customs with great scrupulosity. I mean, God help the usher who gave a mother whose mom was deceased a pink corsage. If you took Mother's Day seriously, that mistake would not happen!

You can probably tell that I miss the Mother's Day celebrations my home church used to look forward to. Nowadays, it is impossible for me to let Mother's Day go by without giving our church's moms - and all of our church's women - a small gift. Some years, Sudbury UMC has distributed lip balm, or tiny tubes of hand lotion, or pocketbook packages of tissues, or something else. We usually print a gift tag in the office with a silly pun on one side and a Bible verse on the other. And then we ask the kids, or the Boy Scouts, or the ushers to distribute our gifts during the Children's Time or the offering. Can you guess what this year's gift will be? Please come this Sunday, May 14, and find out!

Speaking of Mother's Day, I wonder how many of us realize that the holiday's founder was a Methodist. Anna Jarvis admired her mother so much, she petitioned presidents and congressmen to set aside a special day to honor moms across the nation. Ann Reeves Jarvis, Anna's mother, must have been quite an activist, too. During the 1850s, she organized local mothers' clubs to teach young women how to care for their kids, how to keep their homes clean and healthy and, eventually, how to advocate for the abolition of war. The loss of young boys during the Civil War, during which Ann cared for the wounded on both sides of her West Virginia home, convinced her that ending war was more than political. It was a health and safety issue. I wonder what she would say today about the proliferation of hand guns.

Anna Jarvis never married and never bore children. She devoted her life to the creation of Mother's Day not for her own benefit, but as a tribute to her mother and the example she set. In 1908, for one of the first Mother's Day celebrations, she bought 500 white carnations for the church where she grew up, Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, WV. (If 500 moms show up at Sudbury UMC this Sunday, we'll have to seat everyone else in Hawes Hall!) After going to church with their moms in the morning, sons and daughters were urged to spend the afternoon at home writing a letter of appreciation to their mothers for all the sacrifices they could remember. Those handwritten letters soon became 10-cent greeting cards, which Anna Jarvis abhorred. Later, simple carnation corsages later became vases of flowers, fancy meals and, more recently, cash and gift cards. By the time she died in 1948, Anna Jarvis had disowned the holiday she created. She hated its commercialism and petitioned presidents and congressmen to wipe it off the calendar.

This Sunday, in honor of Anna Jarvis, let's do Mother's Day the way it was meant to be done!

See you in church,  
Pastor Joel

## **Prayer Concerns & Celebrations**

## Prayer Concerns on Sunday, May 7

- † Alice and Bob Vannerson request prayers for their niece who has started chemo therapy for breast cancer.
- † Jeff Lance asks prayers for a co-worker at Raytheon who is undergoing surgery this week for a rare cancer. Chemo therapy and radiation will follow. Please keep his wife and 4 high school aged children in your thoughts.

## Prayer Celebrations on Sunday, May 7

- † The Outreach Commission celebrates SUMC's partnership with Hagar's Sisters; an organization that supports women in abusive relationships. Last Wednesday, Hagar's threw a spring party for 65 of these women. Everyone was grateful for the delicious meal that SUMC provided. Thank you for your generosity which made this possible.
- † The Outreach Commission also celebrates their relationship with Pathways. The commission will host a Mother's Day party on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. The commission strongly encourages you to join the festivities so that we can demonstrate our support by our presence!
- † We thank Pastor Joel for last Sunday's sermon, reminding all of us that we can experience great loss and move onto experience a good life again! You can hear the sermon by visiting our website by clicking on sermons from the dropdown menu at the "Connect" tab.

## Dates to Keep in Mind

- May 13: Mother's Day at Pathways
- May 14: Mother's Day
- May 17: Cancer Support Group
- May 21: Health Ministries Sunday
- May 21: Social Justice Book Group
- May 21: Connexions Concert IV
- May 22: Staff Training (office closed)
- May 28: Adult Education; Open to Grace

Please note that the office will be closed on Monday, May 22.  
All staff members will be participating in a continuing education event from 9-5.

## OUTREACH

A graphic with the words "Happy Mother's Day" in a stylized, cursive font. "Happy" is in orange, "Mother's" is in red, and "Day" is in orange. The text is set against a white background.

You are invited to join the Outreach Commission in hosting a Mother's Day celebration to honor the mothers at the Pathways Shelter in Framingham. Handmade Mother's Day cards will be delivered, delicious food served, and fun will be had! The party is scheduled for Saturday afternoon, May 13<sup>th</sup>, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. Please RSVP to [christykirkkdds@gmail.com](mailto:christykirkkdds@gmail.com) if you plan to attend. We look forward to an afternoon of fun

with you. Pathways Shelter is located at 248 Edgell Road in Framingham.

## KITCHEN WORKERS FOR OPEN TABLE LAST WEEK



## MUSIC



### Connexions IV!

On Sunday, May 21st, at 3:00 p.m., Bill Hoke, clarinet; Jill Gaudet, flute; Kevin Murphy, piano and organ; Rob Hammerton, bass guitar and others will present Connexions IV.

The event will feature works by Gerald Finzi, W. A. Mozart, J. S. Bach, Kevin Murphy and others. The selections will reflect a wide assortment of various styles including classical, pop, and folk. The Connexions concerts at Sudbury United Methodist showcase the various talents of church members and guest artists who come to share their music.

The concert will take place in the sanctuary.

Admission is free and open to the public.

A free will offering will be received to support the Organ Fund.

For more information call 978 443 4351, Or send an e-mail to [kevin@sudbury-umc.org](mailto:kevin@sudbury-umc.org).

## LEARN

### Church School

Children and families can expect the regular Sunday School groupings this Sunday, May 14th! 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.

See you in church!

### Youth Ministries

Hello SUMC,

I am so excited to soon be done with final papers and research projects and enjoy the events planned for youth ministries this May and June! We have no youth fellowship this coming Sunday (Happy Mother's Day!), but we do on May 21 at 6:30-8:00 p.m.

We also have an overnight lock-in planned June 2-3. There will be food, snacks, games, movies, and devotions, so the more the merrier! Please let me know if are willing to help with chaperoning or food at [anthony@sudbury-umc.org](mailto:anthony@sudbury-umc.org) and RSVP your child if they can make it!

Blessings,  
Anthony

### Youth Calendar Spring 2017

- May 14: No Youth Fellowship-Happy Mother's Day!
- May 21: Youth Fellowship 6:30-8:00 pm
- June 2-3: Lock-In
- June 17: Laser Tag @ Fun & Games in Framingham
- June 23-25: Youth Service Trip

### Adult Education Opportunity: Opening Ourselves to GRACE...

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!

## CONNECT

### Health Ministries Sunday

This year Health Ministries Sunday will be observed on May 21. Theme is resilience. Our guest speaker will be 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. 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](mailto:sbaileyharrell@msn.com) or at 978-443-3821.

### Join the Prayer Shawl Ministry

Have you ever considered making a prayer shawl? Now's your chance! 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](mailto:sbaileyharrell@msn.com) or 978-443-3821. Shawls will be presented for consecration on Health Ministry Sunday, May 21.

### 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](mailto:SUMC.MA.Cancer.Care.Group@gmail.com).

### Women's Fellowship June Meeting

#### June 9, 2017: Spend the day in Rockport, MA

The Women's Fellowship will be going on an All-Day Trip to Rockport, MA, on June 9th, to walk around the town and have lunch at a local restaurant. Gaynelle Weiss will be our hostess for the day.

We will meet at the church to carpool to Rockport. Departure time from the church will be promptly at 9:00 a.m. Departure time from Rockport will be around 7:00 p.m. It is necessary to let Nancy Stone know if you are going on this adventure, so that car-pooling can be organized, and Gaynelle can make reservations for lunch.

### 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: <http://devotional.upperroom.org/>.

## Join the Thursday Bible Study

Sudbury UMC's Thursday Bible study group always welcomes new participants. Meetings take place at 10:00 a.m. on Thursdays at the Panera Bread located at 21 Andrew Avenue in Wayland's Town Center, just two miles from Sudbury UMC!

Each week's focus text is the next Sunday's preaching passage. Remember to bring your Bible and a few bucks for something warm to sip.

We will look ahead to the passages being preached during worship on:

- May 14: John 14:1-14
- May 21: John 14:15-21 or Mark 5:25-34

## Talk to a Stephen Minister

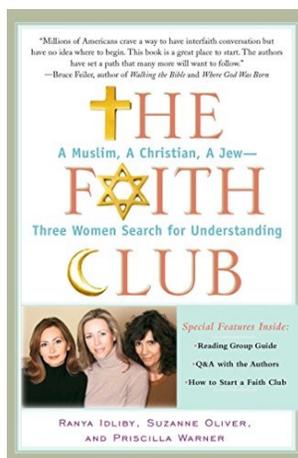
Stephen Ministers can provide a listening, supportive and confidential presence. Each Sunday after worship a Stephen Minister is available to listen and to pray with you. If you would like to have a Stephen Minister "walk" with you on a regular weekly, every other week basis, please contact Pastor Joel.

No concern is too small to share with a Stephen Minister.

May 14: Diane Hammond  
May 21: Lori Granger  
May 28: Melody Karian  
June 4: Eric Lind  
June 11: Linda Lombardo  
June 18: Gail Smith  
June 25: Richard Smith

## Social Justice

### Social Justice Book Group



Please join the Social Justice Commission and our guest Shaheen Akhtar from the Islamic Center of Boston (ICB) to discuss and reflect on this insightful and honest book by three women of different faiths.

The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew - Three Women Search for Understanding by Suzanne Oliver, Ranya Idibly and Pricilla Warner. This book was recently discussed at the ICB's Interfaith Book Club and the response was amazing. We encourage you to join us whether or not you've read the book, or are just interested in the subject.

Date: Sunday May 21, 2017

Time and Place: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the O'Reilly Room

## HELP WANTED

### Director of Christian Education

Sudbury United Methodist Church is currently seeking a Director of Christian Education (DCE) to play a key role in a primary mission of the church: to provide meaningful and engaging Christian Education programming for all ages. This integral member of our staff will help ensure spiritual growth through holistic and fulfilling Christian Education opportunities that are aligned with other teaching and congregation and community engagement.

A primary responsibility of the DCE is to coordinate and lead a vibrant Sunday School programming for children and youth ages 3 to 8th grade, as well as develop and direct adult education classes and programming, including a growing gathering for retirees. The DCE will also administer SUMC' Safe Sanctuaries policy, providing associated training to all volunteer staff. The DCE shares responsibilities for seasonal congregation gathering, including Lent and Advent, to include Christian education planning and associated social events.

Qualified candidates should demonstrate a personal commitment to Christ and Christian Education, and have a minimum of 3 to 5 years of work experience in Christian education, pastoral care, or another relevant field. A bachelor's degree is required with a master's degree preferred; equivalent applicable experience will be considered. The ideal candidate will also demonstrate familiarity with and support for the United Methodist tradition.

To be considered for this position, please send your resume to [sumc@sudbury-umc.org](mailto:sumc@sudbury-umc.org).

### Youth Director

The Youth Director at SUMC plays a key role in a primary mission of the church to provide a meaningful and engaging Christian Education program for youth, grades 6 - 12. This integral member of our staff will provide a safe place to support the Christian growth of youth by focusing on relationship, community, fun, spirituality, and service.

A primary responsibility of the Youth Director is to provide opportunities for planning mission trips, retreats, fellowship, and fun activities. He/she will be responsible for coordinating any necessary fundraising, travel arrangements, adult chaperones, and providing Christian teaching throughout the various activities.

Qualified candidates should demonstrate a personal commitment to Christ and Christian Education. Strong organizational skills and leadership experience is

required as well as excellent verbal and written communication skills. Previous youth ministry experience is preferred. This position is part-time; hours and days worked can be flexible.

To be considered for this position, please send your resume to [sumc@sudbury-umc.org](mailto:sumc@sudbury-umc.org).

## COMMUNICATIONS

Did you get the picture? If you read The Chronicle on your phone and you aren't seeing the images, the answer might be found in the settings for images found in your Mail Settings. But, it could also be related to where you are when you open the newsletter. A home network, vs. a public network may have an impact; and that might also be connected to your email server. We do try to make everything accessible, but sometimes it just doesn't happen.

Thank you for your patience and perseverance in the world of today's technology.

And, speaking of pictures . . .

Did you take a photo in church last Sunday? At a Sudbury UMC event off - campus? Please, do share your photo with Alexandra, [alexandra@sudbury-umc.org](mailto:alexandra@sudbury-umc.org).

Here's a photo of a brave daffodil, one of several that persevered and poked through the disrupted dirt near the road, last week, and a photo of the new cross on the roof of the Chapel.







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Sudbury United Methodist Church | [alexandra@sudbury-umc.org](mailto:alexandra@sudbury-umc.org) | [www.sudbury-umc.org](http://www.sudbury-umc.org)