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The Weekly Chronicle

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From Pastor Joel

Dear Friends in Christ,

Even though I have been working with this year's confirmands since January, I can't remember writing to you yet this year about my impressions of 2017's ninth and tenth graders. Some of you will recall a time when our church's associate pastors did most of the "heavy lifting" with each year's confirmation class. The loss of that position on our staff, I must confess, has felt more like a gain for me - at least when it comes to having the opportunity to interact more intentionally with the teenagers who are preparing to confess their faith in Christ and become professing members of The United Methodist Church.

The Confirmation Class of 2017 is larger than those we have seen in recent years with nine participants in grades nine and ten. During last winter's staff meetings, Jackie Roder, our director of Christian education for another month or so, argued very persuasively in favor of extending a Confirmation invitation to ninth graders this year along with invitations regularly made to the usual tenth grade participants. She told me that she believed ninth graders in 2017 are now at least as mature as tenth graders were 20 years ago when Sudbury UMC's pastors and Christian Education Commission decided that Confirmation would be an option for sophomores only.

Having taught this year's confirmands the ins and outs of United Methodist history and theology so far, I have to report that Jackie was right. The ninth and tenth graders I have been getting to know are a very special group of young women and men. Maybe their unusual intelligence and extraordinary capacity for faith comes from having the same lead pastor for the last eleven years - though none of them has specifically said that to me! What they have said - though only indirectly - is that they have benefited more than our church's adults have realized from learning with a variety of youth ministry staffers.

Over the years the confirmands of 2017 have been growing in grace and faith at Sudbury UMC, they have been taught by a handful of youth ministers whose time with us has tended to be briefer than any of us would have preferred. Ever since Andy Andrews gave our church ten consecutive years of youth ministry from the late 1990s till the mid-2000s, most of us have assumed that staff stability grows stronger Christian kids. But, particularly when I was trying to teach them something new about what I call the "Wesleyan dialect of the Christian language," the blessings of learning from a variety of teachers became richly apparent. To be honest, it was difficult to find a theological topic they hadn't covered.

"Go ahead and take your best shot!" the confirmands taunted me. "We've been learning from the best!"

"What about the 'Way of Salvation'?" I asked them. "Got it covered!" they replied. "Christy Wright taught us about prevenient grace, justifying grace, and sanctifying grace."

"Who can unpack the Wesleyan Quadrilateral?" I asked. "That lesson we learned from Anthony Harrison," they told me. "Been there, done that: Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience."

Trust me. I get the advantages that come with long-tenured youth ministers. In the middle of our church's third search for a youth leader in four years, I am as tired as anyone else of reading resumes and screening candidates. But tenure-turnover hasn't been all bad. Our kids have learned from some of the best minds Boston University's School of Theology has had to offer. Let's thank God for the gifts these young leaders have given to our absorbent and resilient teens.

See you in church,

Pastor Joel

Prayer Concerns & Celebrations

Prayer Concerns on Sunday, May 14

- † U. S. Troops continue to put themselves in harms way. Last week a soldier from Maine was killed in Somalia. Please pray for all our troops. Please pray for their frightened families back home. Please also pray for all the people who live in war-torn lands who face death and destruction each day.
- † We pray for all who face addiction. We ask God to help them to carry on and endure the hard work to free themselves of this burden. Amen.
- † Jeanette D'Alessandro asks us to hold her aunt, Margaret Akers, in prayer as she starts her chemotherapy journey to fight cancer in her colon, liver and pancreas. Jeannette writes "She is a strong beautiful woman who understands the power of prayer. In her 80s, she's ready for the fight, a testament to the remarkable woman she is."
- † Mary asks us to pray for her friend Debbie who is going through personal and difficult health problems.
- † We pray for all those who long for motherhood but are unable to experience it.
- † We pray for all mothers; those who want to be mothers and those who have outlived their children and all our dear ones.
- † Martha Cooper requests prayers of healing for her Aunt Connie who is hospitalized with a serious infection.

Prayer Celebrations on Sunday, May 14

- † Our Outreach Commission party at Pathways Shelter for women and families was a great sharing of food and fellowship. At the party last Saturday, we supplied baby clothes for expecting mothers!
- † Jill and Tim Gaudet celebrated Max's 11th birthday last Saturday!
- † A Sunday School youngster shared a celebration card that stated "Love God the Lord."
- † Jeannette D'Alessandro celebrates the life of her beloved mother who passed away peacefully at home early last Saturday morning. Jeannette writes "I am so blessed to have had such an amazing woman for my mom." She asks us to hold her dad in prayer as he goes through this very difficult time.

Dates to Keep in Mind

- 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; Opening 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.*

HEALTH MINISTRIES SUNDAY

Sunday May 21 - It's All about 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. While not advocating or supporting any of the remedies (eye of newt?), we do want to add some humor to the day. Seriously, sharing healthy information and activities is welcome. For more information, contact Sophia Harrell at sbaileyharrell@msn.com or at 978-443-3821.

Health Ministries Sunday Floral Gifts

It has become tradition on Health Ministries Sunday for congregants to bring floral gifts of cuttings from their yards to be incorporated into a flower arrangement symbolizing life springing from death. This year, you are asked to continue the practice by bringing flowers and foliage that were dormant during the winter months. When you arrive at church on May 21, an usher will direct you where to place your cuttings budding with new growth.

Prayer Shawl Knitters

Those of you who have completed shawls, please bring them with you to church on Health Ministries Sunday (May 21). Bring them down for consecration at the time designated in the bulletin. Shawls that have been turned in can be picked up in the narthex and taken to worship with you.

May Is Mental Health Month

People with mental problems are our neighbors. They are members of our congregations, members of our families; they are everywhere in this country. If we ignore their cries for help, we will be continuing to participate in the anguish from which those cries for help come. A problem of this magnitude will not go away. Because it will not go away, and because of our spiritual commitments, we are compelled to take action. (Rosalynn Carter)

DID YOU KNOW...

- According to the Surgeon General, one in every five Americans experiences a mental disorder in any given year and half of all Americans have such disorders at some time in their lives.
- These illnesses of the brain affect all of us, regardless of age, gender, economic status or ethnicity.
- About one in 17 lives with a serious mental illness such as schizophrenia, major depression or bipolar disorder
- One in five U.S. service members who served in Iraq or Afghanistan suffers from major depression or combat stress (PTSD)
- One in ten children and youth has a serious mental illness condition
- About half of students with a serious mental illness in special education drop out of high school - the highest dropout rate of any disability group
- Fewer than one-third of adults and one-half of children who live with mental health needs receive any level of treatment in any one year
- Only one in three adults who lives with a serious mental illness is employed, even though most want to work
- 26% of the homeless population lives with a severe mental illness
- One out of every five community hospital stays involves a primary or secondary diagnosis of mental illness

- About 20-25% of jail and prison inmates and youth involved with juvenile justice live with a serious mental illness
- We lose one life to suicide every 15.8 minutes. The suicide rate for older adults is 50% higher than the national rate as a whole

Mental illness affects the mind, body and the spirit. It is a real, common and treatable illness. Mental illnesses are far more common than cancer, diabetes, heart disease or arthritis.

Our faith communities can be an important part of the recovery process through education, support and by helping individuals and families feel part of a caring community.

May Has Been Designated As Mental Health Month

Look for community events to highlight mental health issues affecting children, adolescents, adults and older adults. This is an opportunity to educate your faith community about mental illness and help them become caring congregations for persons with a mental illness and their families. Visit these websites for resources.

- NAMI FaithNet www.nami.org/namifaithnet
- Mental Health Ministries www.MentalHealthMinistries.net
- Pathways to Promise www.Pathways2Promise.org
- International Bipolar Foundation www.internationalbipolarfoundation.org

MUSIC

String Ensemble on Sunday



The String Ensemble will play the hymns on Sunday May 21st and (for those who would like) jump in on a selection from Handel's Messiah. If you or a string player in your household would like to join in and play on Sunday, 21 May, during morning service, you would be most welcome! We will accompany the hymns of the day. Leslie Bell will open the service with "I know that my Redeemer liveth" from Handel's "Messiah", for which we have string parts as well as acoustic guitar and mandolin. Rehearsal will begin at 8:15 a.m. on the 21st, to familiarize everyone with the music before the choir arrives at 8:45 a.m. If we need extra rehearsal time before hand, we will do our best to make that happen as well.

Please be in touch with Kevin or Rob with questions, or sign up here.

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.

LEARN

June 11th Christian Education Appreciation Sunday!!

Mark your calendars now because you will not want to miss our Christian Education Appreciation Sunday Celebrations! Christian Education Programming for children, youth, and adults would not be possible without the MANY teachers and helpers that contribute their time and talents. To celebrate the end of our program year, all teachers and helpers are invited to our pancake breakfast before worship at 8:30 a.m. Sunday, June 11th in Hawes Hall. Spouses and families are welcome!

Please RSVP to Jackie Roder by Monday June 5th with how many people will be attending and any food allergies we should be aware of: jackie@sudbury-umc.org.

Sunday, June 11th, we will also be having a special Sunday School event to mark the end of our program year. Children and youth will not want to miss this!! We're looking for volunteers to assist with activities and supervision for each age group; if you're available and interested, please email Jackie Roder for more information. Thank you!
jackie@sudbury-umc.org

Church School This Week

Children and families can expect the regular Sunday School groupings this Sunday, May 21st! 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,

We have Youth Fellowship this Sunday, May 21, at 6:30-8:00 p.m. We will be learning about what the Bible teaches us on spiritual gifts, discerning our own, and enjoying snacks and games.

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 and RSVP your child if they can make it!

Blessings,
Anthony

Youth Calendar Spring 2017

- 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 in the O'Reilly Room! Whether or not you attended the first two classes, all are welcome to join in for the third and fourth sessions. On 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. Mostly, we will enjoy being together ...learning and sharing our journey as Christians. Co-taught by John McKinney and Jim Empfield, this is a very rich Adult Christian Education opportunity.

CONNECT

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 21: Mark 5:25-34
- May 28: John 17:1-11

Talk to a Stephen Minister

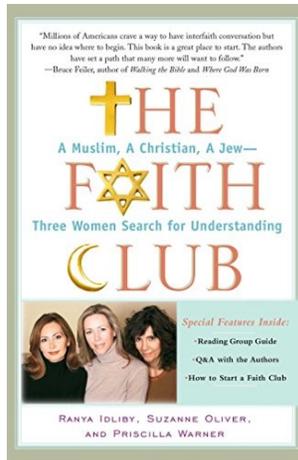
Stephen Ministers can provide a listening, supportive and confidential presence. Each Sunday after worship a Stephen Minister is available to listen and to pray with you. If you would like to have a Stephen Minister "walk" with you on a regular weekly, every other week basis, please contact Pastor Joel.

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

May 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 Priscilla 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

Get Involved with Community Efforts to Fight Eversource

A Walk in the Woods - 11am May 21st

You are invited to attend this community event on May 21st, at 11:00 a.m. with Senator Jamie Eldridge, Rep. Carmine Gentile, our Sudbury community, and special guests for a walk in the woods. Our guest speakers will address why this land is so unique and worth preserving. We'll take a walk in the woods and have time for a major community crowd photo! Be a part of this special event, help raise awareness of our fight, and show invited press what a 01776 crowd looks like when we all wear the same t-shirt! Let's make a big splash on the 21st and get our story covered in the Boston Globe before the EFSB hearing on the 25th. We'll give Eversource and the EFSB something to read about! Park on Austin Road and meet your neighbors and friends on the corner of Austin and Peakham. Wear comfortable walking shoes. The walk is approx. 1.5 miles in total and will be at a leisurely pace.

A Note from Donna Mills

Dear Church Friends who live in Sudbury and Hudson,

As you may know, Eversource is proposing a reliability project that affects our towns in many adverse and unhealthy ways.

Eversource has now filed their intentions with the states siting board (Energy Facilities Siting Board.) Public hearings are being held in both towns (Sudbury - 5/25 at LS at 7:00 p.m. and Hudson - 6/1 at Hudson High School at 7:00 p.m.).

I urge you to support the local groups who oppose this project as planned. The environment, economic impact and protecting our water supply are the reasons why I am opposed to the above or below ground route along the

MBTA right of way. It can be done with another route if this project needs to happen.

This public hearing needs to have MANY people attend. You may go to the hearings in either town. The Siting Board needs to hear comments and questions about the proposal.

For more information, please visit Protect Sudbury at www.protectsudbury.org/. The Protect Sudbury website has a wealth of information about this proposed project.

Thank you.

Donna Mills

It's Time

The Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB), the decision making body that approves or denies Eversource's transmission line project, comes to town on Thursday, May 25th at 7:00 p.m. for a Public Hearing.

Once again, let's bring a standing room only crowd to the high school auditorium to show the EFSB that we remain united in our opposition to the project. During the hearing, Sudbury citizens have an opportunity to voice concerns and to speak publicly on the record, where and when it really matters.

Anyone may speak and all comments will be entered as part of the case evidence. The EFSB only considers evidence provided in official proceedings so it's important to get all concerns and questions on the record during this Public Hearing.

Do you have questions?

Do you have questions about the legal, legislative or community strategies in play to help fight the project? Reach out directly to www.protectsudbury.org.



May 25
7:00 pm
Lincoln Sudbury
Regional High School

Public Hearing
on the Eversource Project

www.protectsudbury.org

COMMUNITY

Help Wanted: Drivers for FISH

Deb Galloway, director of the Sudbury Senior Center, reports that FISH (a network of volunteers that provide transportation to medical appointments to anyone in need, regardless of age or ability level) is currently in need of volunteer drivers. Volunteers use their own vehicles to transport Sudbury residents to and from medical appointments. When a transportation need arises, a FISH coordinator contacts all volunteers to see who is available to

help. If volunteers are not able to help on that particular day, there is no pressure from the coordinator, and the volunteer coordinator understands and respects that decision.

If anyone is interested in volunteering or learning more about FISH, please contact that senior center at 978-443-3055, or click [HERE](#) for the FISH brochure.

Sudbury Historical Society Invitation

The Sudbury Historical Society invites the parishioners of Sudbury UMC to an after service tour of the Loring Parsonage (288 Old Sudbury Road) on Sunday, May 21. The SHS is working toward restoring and repurposing the Loring Parsonage for the Sudbury History Center and looks forward to showing members of the church the plans and providing an update on how the project and fundraising has progressed. We have only \$250,000 to raise for the stabilization and expansion phase and our goal is to complete our fundraising by the end of summer.



Current Hours:

8:30 am - 4 pm, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

8:30 am - 7 pm, Tuesday

8:30 am - 12:30 pm, Friday

Healing Service at First Church Marlborough



First Church Marlborough will host a healing service on Sunday, May 21, at 2:00 p.m. The guest pastor will be the Rev. Debby Mygatt, a United Methodist clergy person who has led a healing ministry in Ridgefield, CT, for over 10 years. More about Debby can be found at www.prayandsee.org. The service will be short followed by a time for prayer with prayer ministers or quiet contemplation.

The event is also intended as an event for those seeking to start their own healing ministries.



Healing Service

Sunday May 21, 2017
2 p.m.

First Church in Marlborough, 37 High Street
(white church at top of the Common)

Guest pastor: Rev. Debbi Mygatt
(www.prayandsee.org)

- Healing isn't just about the outer (physical), but inner pain. It applies to depression, addiction, grief, resentment, etc.
- Also providing info for those interested in starting a healing prayer ministry.



Join Our Mailing List

Forward To A Friend

Sudbury United Methodist Church | alexandra@sudbury-umc.org | www.sudbury-umc.org