



The Weekly Chronicle

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From Pastor Joel

Dear Friends in Christ,

Wendy and I often laugh about how similar our jobs tend to be. In the simplest of terms, we are both in the business of "socialization." In her pre-school setting, four miles from our Sudbury home in Wayland, Wendy works with kids who are two and three years old. Their parents want their curriculum to focus more on things like "literacy" and "reading readiness." Wendy and her colleagues, on the other hand, are happy if their little ones are learning how to share and how to sit still for a ten-minute story.

My vocation is similar; don't you think? "Socialization" is the name of the church game, too, though Jesus calls it "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12). My goal is to lead the people of our congregation closer to learning how to share - what Jesus describes as "laying down one's life for one's friends" (John 12:13) - and how to sit quietly enough to hear the shepherd's assuring voice (John 10:3). The more we Christians learn these elementary skills, the better our faithfulness will be.

Another part of Wendy's pre-school job that is similar to mine happens at this time of the year. After writing an evaluation for each of her students, Wendy or her co-teacher makes an appointment with their parents to go over each student's progress and highlight learning goals that need more work. And, while Wendy is conferencing with her classes' moms and dads, I am also writing evaluations for the members of Sudbury UMC's staff and making dates to conference with them. It is holy and humbling work.

During a three or four-week "window" in the month of May, each staff member writes a self-evaluation that is probably similar to the self-assessments you

have had to write as an employee at one time or another. The first section of the form is "multiple choice: "Exceeds Expectations," "Meets Expectations," "Needs Improvement," and "Unsatisfactory." The second section is the "essay" part of the test with four questions: 1) "The aspects of my job that I most enjoy," 2) "The aspects of my job that I least enjoy," 3) "Changes in my work environment that might enable me to be more effective," and 4) "Changes in my skills and attitudes that would enable me to be more productive." Finally, the last section captures the supervisor's comments: 1) "Areas where the employee performs well," 2) "Employee skills that are well suited to his/her job tasks," 3) "Areas of improvement the employee would benefit from," and 4) "Changes in the employee's skills or attitude that would enable him/her to be more effective."

On the day I sit down with each staff member to go over their responses to those questions and mine, a "liaison" from the Staff-Parish Relations Committee witnesses the evaluation and reports what took place to the SPRC at the end of May. To widen the perspective of these annual snapshots beyond my own limited focus, "stakeholders" who work with our staff members are generally invited to send their scores and comments to me in advance. The Worship and Music Commission provides input about our music staffers, for example, the Church Growth Commission writes about the communications coordinator, and the Stewardship and Finance chairperson evaluates the business manager. It takes me at least an hour to blend these perspectives in one written report before each staff member's hour of conversation.

Like I said, it is holy and humbling work - all the more so because Jesus' commandments guide the process from beginning to end: "Love one another as I have loved you," "lay down your life for your friends," and "keep listening for the shepherd's assuring voice." And, speaking of the "end," the process concludes at the end of June when it is the pastor's turn to be evaluated by the SPRC members who witnessed the assessments that I wrote and delivered to the staff members they represent. In this holy and humbling work, you could say, "What goes around comes around!"

See you in church,

Pastor Joel

Prayer Concerns & Celebrations

Prayer Concerns on Sunday, May 21

- ✦ Mary Olmstead asks prayers for her friend, Debbie, who is facing ongoing health challenges. She asks God to help Debbie recover from her health issues.
- ✦ Diane Hammond is asking for prayers for her nephew, Chris Klich, who had the sad task of authorizing the removal of his sister Karen's life support. He is the lone survivor of her sister's family. Diane also asks for continued prayers for Gabby who starts chemo this next week.
- ✦ Gwen McNeilly requests prayers for her friends, Beth and Rich and their daughter, Emelia. Beth and Rich lost their newborn daughter, Leah. Please pray for Beth's physical healing from life threatening complications following childbirth. Please also pray for the family's emotional healing.
- ✦ We pray for all who face addiction. May God strengthen them in their work towards recovery. Amen.

Prayer Celebrations on Sunday, May 21

- ✦ The Hormans and Bridens visited former member Tom Kraut in Maine. Tom and his daughter, Jaymie, send us greetings. Ruth reports they had a nice visit and they presented Tom with a prayer shawl.
- ✦ Lori Granger celebrates and gives thanks to God that her brother Jeff's cancer has been successfully treated. Lori appreciates you continued prayers as he recovers and regains his strength daily.
- ✦ The Outreach Commission celebrates the partnership between SUMC and Heaps of Hope. Through our offerings, we can help Heaps of Hope reach women battling cancer with insurance co-pays, medicine, rides to the store and/or treatments. Most importantly, the assistance gives the women hope. The commission is thankful for this partnership which has grown over the last few years.
- ✦ The Outreach Commission celebrates with Libby Hampton the very successful Walk for Hunger march which took place on May 7th. They raised over \$3,000. Project Hunger which sponsors The Walk for Hunger helps feed the almost 675,000 food insecure people in our Commonwealth. The commission appreciates all your support!
- ✦ John Iberg celebrates the SUMC turnout at Open Table last Tuesday. Seven SUMC members turned out for two shifts, and the breakdown crew was entertained by Darcy Helsingius' Irish Step dancing.

Dates to Keep in Mind

- May 28: Adult Education: Opening to Grace**
- June 4: Confirmation and Reception into Membership**
- June 4: Adult Education: Opening to Grace**
- June 9: Women's Fellowship - Rockport**
- June 11: Peace & Justice Sunday**
- June 11: Christian Education Celebrations**
- June 14: Cancer Support Group**

LEARN

Church School

Due to the long weekend, children and families can expect one room church school this Sunday, May 28th! Taught by Jackie Roder, this one-room class will be geared towards children ages 3-10. However middle schoolers are welcome to participate as well. After the children's moment, all those attending church school can follow me to the long horizontal classroom below the sanctuary. It is the classroom located directly below the sanctuary narthex. This will also be the summer Sunday School classroom, so a great opportunity for children to get comfortable with this space! Since it's a holiday weekend, there will also be Holy Communion this Sunday. Parents can expect Sunday School children to return through the entrance at the back of the sanctuary just before the Great Thanksgiving begins. See you in church!

Adult Education Opportunity: Opening Ourselves to GRACE

Sunday May 28th after church in the O'Reilly Room

After a fantastic first two sessions, the third installment of this four session course will be held this Sunday, May 28th! Whether you missed or made the first two classes, all are welcome to join in for the third and fourth sessions. This 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 four week Adult Christian Education course is one you will not want to miss!

June 11th Christian Education Appreciation Sunday!!

Mark your calendars now because you will not want to miss our Christian 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 with 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

Youth Ministries

- June 2-3: Overnight Lock-In at the Church
- June 17: Laser Tag @ Fun & Games in Framingham
- June 23-25: Youth Service Trip

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 28: John 17:1-11
- June 4: John 20:19-23
- June 11: Matthew 28:16-20
- June 18: Matthew 9:35-10:15

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, or every other week basis, please contact Pastor Joel.

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

May 28: Melody Karian
June 4: Eric Lind
June 11: Linda Lombardo
June 18: Gail Smith
June 25: Richard Smith

Celebrating Last Sunday in Photos

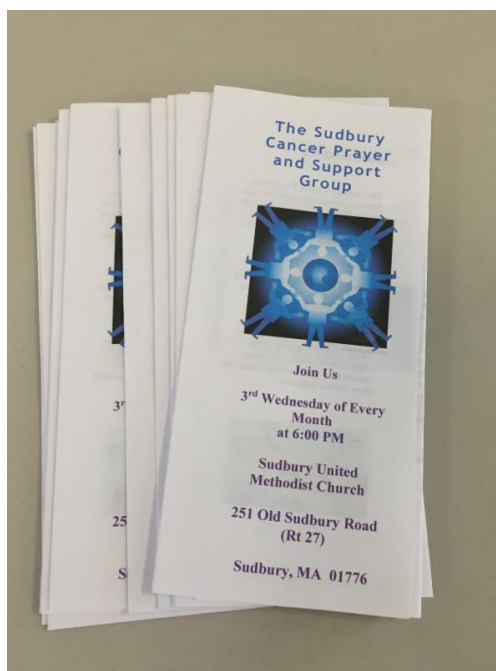
Sunday, May 21st, was an incredibly busy day at Sudbury UMC!

The day began with our annual Health Ministries service of worship. The theme was Resilience. Our guest preacher, Dr. Diana Ventura, preached on Mark's story of the hemorrhaging woman who was healed by her faith and spoke about her own life-long experience with cerebral palsy. Flowers were shared, representing the end of the winter darkness; they decorated the church during worship, and were distributed during the coffee hour. The prayer shawls ministry was highlighted, knitters were applauded, and the shawls consecrated. The coffee hour that followed featured a Health Ministries Fair sharing the many ministries our members engage in, and inviting newcomers to join them.

But it didn't stop there! At 11:30 a.m., Pastor Joel led the confirmation class, and the Social Justice Commission held a book discussion group. Later, at 3:00 p.m., the final Connexions Concert was presented. Bill Hoke and Jill Gaudet played wonderful transcriptions from Mozart operas; Kevin Murphy highlighted the organ's capabilities by playing six original pieces. And, Ciaran and Cecelia Murphy shared their gifts playing a Vivaldi sonata on the cello (Ciaran), and an oboe quartet movement from Mozart (Cecelia). The fellowship which followed was enjoyed by all.

Here are some pictures to illustrate the day.





PARTNERS

Christmas in September: An Eagle Project

Dear Sudbury UMC Members:

My name is Calvin Corrigan, I am a freshman at Saint John's High School in Shrewsbury, MA and a Boy Scout working on my Eagle Project here in Troop 60.

My Eagle project is bringing Christmas to 33 orphan boys at the **Be Like Brit Foundation** (BLB) in Haiti.

I am looking for people who felt the Christmas magic as a child, to share hope and love now with the boys of Be Like Brit.

I need to raise \$2,000 for their Christmas gifts and shipping costs to Haiti. My gift packages need to include items to make everyday life easier and a special

magical gift for the boys. My budget is \$50 per boy for items and shipping. BLB requires me to have the gifts ready to ship in early September to dependably arrive by December 25.

This is where YOU are the magic in my project. Your involvement develops the "Tree of Life" for the 33 boys of the Be Like Brit Foundation. Your support provides the nutrition for the roots of the tree which is the home, school religious and medical needed of this community.

I am excited about coming and sharing my Eagle Project and the Be Like Brit Foundation mission on May 28th. The Be Like Brit Foundation is in Worcester and has a super informative web site [www. belikebrit.org](http://www.belikebrit.org). Please visit it to see how the Gengel family started the foundation after their daughter died in the Haiti earthquake.

This Christmas the bonds of happiness and faith will be stronger because we all cared and shared.

Thank you

Calvin Corrigan, Boy Scout Troop 60
71 Nixon Road
Framingham, MA 01701
508 877 7948 (home phone)
Calvinanddad@gmail.com

COMMUNITY

Help Wanted: Drivers

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.

Drivers for the Sudbury Food Pantry

The Sudbury Food pantry is looking for a volunteer to join (2) other drivers making our twice Monthly pick up at The Greater Boston Food Bank on the 2nd

& 4th Wed. of every month. With (3) drivers they would drive (8) times during the year.

The driver will pick up a 26' Box truck in Framingham around 9:30, drive into Boston for a load time of 10:40. Returning to the pantry between 11:30 and 11:45 depending on traffic. It takes between 1-1 ½ hr. to unload the truck.

The Truck is loaded in Boston by the GBFB staff. After the truck is unloaded the driver will refuel the truck and return it to Penske in Framingham. If the driver is physically able to help with unloading that would be great but not required. Note, no special license required.

Any Question please contact Pat Mullen, Executive Director.
P_mullen@msn.com, 978-314-5247

Drivers for HouseHold Goods

**Volunteer Truck
Drivers and Crew
Needed!**



HOUSEHOLD GOODS™

Helping People Make a Home.

530 Main Street, Acton, MA 01720

978-635-1710

www.HouseholdGoods.org



Truck Drivers and Crew are needed for local furniture pick -ups from donor's homes and to off-load furniture at Household Goods' facility. Drivers must be at least 25 years of age, have a clean driving record, the ability to comfortably lift 50 pounds and the ability to qualify for a DOT Medical Card. Crew must be at least 18 and be able to comfortably lift at least 50 pounds.

If you are interested in joining a team of volunteers dedicated to helping people in need make a home, please call the Volunteer Coordinator 978-635-1710 x 6 or e-mail: volunteer@householdgoods.org

Household Goods provides a full range of donated furniture and household items, free of charge, to help people in need make a home.



Join Our Mailing List

Forward To A Friend

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