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## FROM PASTOR JOEL

Dear Friends in Christ,

Have you been wondering about the fall Stewardship Emphasis? People are starting to ask when pledges for 2017 will be made. For some, I imagine, expecting a series of sermons about money in late September and early October is as reliable as saying the Lord's Prayer in worship. After all, if the paraments in the chancel are green like money, it must be time for the pastor to preach about...money! For others, apparently, there is a connection between the pledge drive on Public Radio and the pledge drive at church. If it's time for one, they assume, it must be time for the other. And rumor has it that the downswing in worship attendance we typically see in late September and early October has more to do with skipping "The Sermon on the Amount" than it does with supporting Sunday sports.

To answer the pledge drive questions recently relayed to me by Sudbury UMC leaders, let me say something that will might surprise you and maybe even delight you: Our church will not have a pledge drive in 2016. From now till the end of the year, there will be no Stewardship Emphasis!

Why have our financial leaders chosen this unusual stewardship strategy? There are several reasons: First, one year ago, when "Pave the Way" was gearing up, we knew that

we were asking you and the rest of Sudbury UMC's supporters to respond to huge challenge - a financial campaign that combined our annual promise to support our church's budget with a capital campaign to renovate and enhance our facilities for the next sixty years. By God's grace, you rose to that challenge with extraordinary generosity - and that assures the Church Council and me that your investment in Sudbury UMC will not diminish or decline if we forego a pledge drive this fall.

Second, as we continue to enjoy the fruits of last fall's stewardship a year later, the Finance Committee and I do not want anyone to be distracted or discouraged by the drumbeat of a typical fall: "Give more. Give more. Give more." One year ago, you gave more. Now it is time to enjoy the blessings that follow faithful stewardship. Now it is time to invite others who might be looking for a church home to come and worship with us. Now it is time to celebrate the new gifts we have been unwrapping almost every week: an open and accessible chancel, an accessible front entrance combined with a fellowship terrace, four new Sunday School classrooms, and - very soon - two new restrooms adjacent to the narthex.

Finally, the Stewardship Emphasis we have decided to forego this fall will reappear in January 2017 in a new and better format. Imagine what a pledge drive would look and feel like if it was wrapped in the festivities of a New Year's Eve party. That's what Sudbury UMC's stewardship leaders are dreaming about now as we plan this fall for a shorter focus on generosity and ministry soon after Christmas.

In the meantime, all we ask of you is this: Keep on doing what you're already doing! The leaders of the New England Conference remind me often that Sudbury UMC always ranks among the top two or three most generous local churches in our six state region. Nearly a third of every dollar given to God through our church is invested beyond the walls of our church. The other two-thirds expresses our support for a dynamic team of ministry professionals who have given not only their weekends, but also their lives, to the mission that Sudbury UMC embodies for Christ in our Metrowest area.

Your generosity is the mainspring of this mission. Keep on giving your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness with love and gratitude. Enjoy the fall. Celebrate our new fellowship hall, kitchen, chapel, and foyer when they're ready to be opened. And remember that every dollar you give to God at Sudbury UMC will be invested with care and prayer.

See you in church!

Pastor Joel

## Dates to Keep in Mind

- October 2: Blessing of the Animals at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
- October 8-10: Pastor Joel and Rick Houpt in Dominica
- October 9: Guest Preacher, the Rev. Cherlyn Gates, Deacon, Fisk Memorial UMC, Natick
- October 16: Guest Preacher, the Rev. Garvin Warden
- October 16: Science & Religion Class
- October 23: Science & Religion Class
- October 23: Connexions I
- October 30: Science & Religion Class

## World Communion Sunday

## SUMC Observes World Communion Sunday on Oct. 2

World Communion Sunday on October 2 is one of the six church wide Special Sundays with offerings. Donations provide funds for World Communion Scholarships, the Ethnic Scholarship Program and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program.

### Prayer Concerns & Celebrations

#### Prayer Concerns on Sunday, September 25

- † Please pray for Kristy Gulezian's sister, Jenny Mell, as she battles severe post-partum depression.
- † Dorothy Morgan is back home and recuperating after a stay at Emerson Hospital. Please continue to pray for her recovery.
- † We pray for healing, understanding and rebuilding of trust in the face of violence, frustration and race-based aggression.

#### Prayer Celebrations on Sunday, September 25

- † Alan and Jessica Goodrich request prayers of comfort and health for the final ten weeks of pregnancy and expected delivery on December 4.
- † The Geros celebrate that after eight months of diminishing and failing eye sight for Tom, a four hour surgery has finally corrected the underlying problem. Tom writes "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

### The Congregation is Invited to the October 2nd Council Meeting to Discuss Chapel Structural Repair

The Church Council will meet after worship this Sunday, October 2, to discuss how best to resolve an unanticipated flaw in the structure of Davison Chapel. The problem must be addressed before the planned renovation of the Chapel can proceed. Because the cost of fixing the problem could increase the project budget beyond the amount currently covered by pledges and donations, the Building Committee opted to seek the approval of the Council, since insufficient time is available to schedule a specially called Church Conference. Members of the congregation are invited to attend the meeting and participate in the discussion to share their thoughts on how the problem should be handled.

Last week, our construction contractors noticed that the exterior side wall of the Chapel is about 2.5 inches out of plumb. Architect Gregg Yanchenko's structural engineer attributed the movement to improperly designed roof trusses, in which the horizontal beams were installed too far above the tops of the walls. The engineer believes the walls will continue to move if the problem is not corrected.

Three options for correcting the problem have been identified:

- Cosmetically patch the exterior side wall with shims and fillers, without addressing the cause of the problem, leaving the underlying cause for future repair.

Estimated cost \$1,000.

- Modify and adjust the existing exterior side wall, replace the roof, and install properly designed trusses.

Estimated cost \$40,000.

- Reconstruct the exterior side and back walls, replace the roof, and install properly designed trusses.

Estimated cost \$48,000.

The current financial impact of the cosmetic patching would be minimal. Implementing either of the other two options would require the generation of additional funding, the sources of which will be reviewed at Sunday's meeting.

An issue involving the parking lot renovation will also be addressed at the meeting. Because of the six-figure cost originally estimated for paving the driveway around the back of the church, the Building Committee excluded that work from the proposed construction projects. However, our contractor has indicated that the back driveway could be repaved for \$22,000. If the work were done by itself, the cost would be 50% to 100% higher. The Church Council will also decide whether or not to add this work to the approved construction budget.

## Work on the Parking Lot Begins



## LEARN

Church School

## Church School for High School Students!

This past Sunday, I had the pleasure of co-teaching our first High School faith formation class with Kerry Healy. We had an amazing turn out of thoughtful teens. The discussions in this first session were deep, critical, and good for the soul. 9th-12th graders: be on the lookout for information about our October session! We hope to see you there!!  
Jackie

## We Celebrate World Communion Sunday in Church School

Not only is it the first Sunday of October, but it's World Communion Sunday! All Sunday School groups can expect to return to worship and take part in Holy Communion with friends and families. Although class time will be a bit shorter, it will still be jam-packed with crafts, games and stories. During the month of October, all age groups will be learning about Moses in Sunday School! You will not want to miss it.

### Church School Registration Forms

There are still a handful of new and returning families that have not filled out and returned the updated 2016-2017 church school registration forms. It's easy to update ages and grades from year to year, but the photo permissions and allergy information is important for us to keep current! If you have not had a chance to register this year, hard copies will be available at SUMC over the next few Sundays. A fillable electronic copy can also be found on our church website: <http://sudbury-umc.org/forms/ChurchSchoolRegistration2016-2017fillable.pdf>.

## Magic Years October 13th Event!!

SUMC Magic Year's members and retired friends, please join us October 13th from noon to 2:00 p.m. for our kick-off event of the program year! Our guest this month is co-president of the New England Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, Margaret Yamamoto. Margie will be giving an incredibly moving 45-minute presentation titled Justice Denied: A Personal Perspective. Through this power point presentation, Margie plans to tell the story of the Japanese incarceration during WWII as seen through the eyes of a Japanese American family. We hope that everyone will be able to make it to our first luncheon and program of the season! The location of this event will be decided based on the status of Hawes Hall and our church parking lot. If our church space is not the best fit for this October session, an alternate venue option is already in place. You'll be receiving your invitation soon, and, as always, if you have questions, please reach out to Jackie at [jackie@sudbury-umc.org](mailto:jackie@sudbury-umc.org).

### 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/>

### Thursday Bible Study Welcomes Newcomers

Sudbury UMC's Thursday Bible study group 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 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:

- October 2: Luke 17:5-10
- October 9: Luke 17:11-19

## CONNECT

### Talk to a Stephen Minister

Stephen Ministers can provide a listening, supportive and confidential presence. If you would like to have a Stephen Minister "walk" with you on a regular weekly, every other week, or monthly basis, please contact Pastor Joel. No concern is too small to share with a Stephen Minister.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

### Seeking Justice through Our Faith

As individuals and as a congregation, we mourn acts of violence as we reflect on the police shootings deaths of Terence Crutcher in Tulsa, OK, and Keith Lamont Scott in Charlotte, N.C.

The following excerpts are from the Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA):

In recent days we are once again in anguish but, cannot and will not let ourselves be paralyzed by our fear and feelings of helplessness. This is a time when we are called to listen more, learn more and lead more. We recall and reaffirm our baptismal vows to "accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves." We must continually live into our commitments and move to make justice ever more real in our own lives, congregations and communities.

The work for racial justice must go deeper than statements and endless pastoral letters. James Cone once said: "sympathy does not change the structures of injustice."

Please take the opportunity to learn more from the General Commission on Religion and Race: by clicking on: <https://vimeo.com/149022025>

## MUSIC

### The Connexions Concert Series

Get Ready! The 2016-2017 Connexions Concert series is about to begin.

If you are a musician, you may already have received an invitation to participate.

There will be more information to come, but in the meantime, please reach out to Kevin Murphy for more information at [kevin@sudbury-umc.org](mailto:kevin@sudbury-umc.org).

### Singing School

Singing School started this week. We are very excited about this eight week introduction to singing class that we are offering each Wednesday evening. The class covers how to use your voice in a

natural and healthy way, how to read notation, and more. We are welcoming all ages and abilities and we are having a lot of fun. We look forward to sharing the results in November.

During Advent we'll take a break to allow the SUMC community to return to the Wednesday evening series of supper, worship and study.

## Gospel Group

After Christmas, in January, Wednesday evening offerings will resume with the return of the Gospel Group. The Group has done some fantastic learning over the eight years we have been together. The Group is looking forward to having its own dedicated hour for eight weeks this winter; our group is always open to newcomers and the emphasis is on learning by ear and less on conventional notation. If the score reading the Sanctuary Choir relies on to learn much of its music is holding you back from singing at SUMC, hold back no more. Mark the winter Wednesday evenings and save them for the Gospel Group!

We will then break for Lent as we did for Advent; the Lenten series will also feature supper, worship and study.

## Choral Performance Group

After Easter, we will meet for eight Wednesdays to prepare a choral selection from the traditional repertory, something that will require some degree of choral experience. At the present, Rob and I are considering various possibilities, but I believe a Schubert Mass or Bach cantata would be a fine choice. As with the Singing School and Gospel Group, our goal will be to share our music with the community before summer begins.

So we are making a "continuum" of Wednesdays this year! There will be something of interest for virtually every member of SUMC through the year this coming program year. Please join us; we would love to see old friends, new faces, young and old as we offer these possibilities. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Choir Director Rob Hammerton or Music Director Kevin Murphy. We would welcome a chance to explain our exciting year to you.

## Choir All Year Long The Chancel Choir Seeks New Singers

What do the members of Sudbury UMC's chancel choir have in common? Two things: they are all volunteers who love to sing. Some read music; others don't. Some have sung in other choirs; others have no other choral experience than being welcomed into our church's primary musical ensemble. If you love to sing, consider this notice a gentle sales pitch! At the start of the program year, newcomers and long-timers alike are getting reoriented and reacquainted. Thursday evening rehearsals begin at 7:30 p.m. in the choir room directly behind the chancel. Sunday morning practices start at 8:30 a.m. in the chancel. For more information, please contact Rob Hammerton at [rhammerton@earthlink.net](mailto:rhammerton@earthlink.net) or Kevin F. Murphy at [kevin@sudbury-umc.org](mailto:kevin@sudbury-umc.org).

## SPRC Update

### Part-Time/Interim Youth Ministries Director

Sudbury United Methodist Church is seeking a part-time interim Youth Ministries Director with the possibility of transitioning into a long-term position in early Spring, 2017.

By leading and operating all aspects of the youth programs, the Youth Ministries Director will play a vital role in driving the mission of the youth program. Our mission is to provide a safe place to support

the Christian growth of youth by focusing on relationships, community, spirituality, fun, and service.

Be a part of a dedicated, Christ -focused team and plan and coordinate youth meetings, events, and trips for our tweens and teens, grades 6- through 12. Build relationships with children, youth, parents, and mentors that become the basis of meeting needs, sharing Christ, and involving one another in ministry.

The completion of college -level or higher course work in Christian Education and Youth Ministry is desired as is a Christ-centered focus and commitment to serving God through youth ministry. SUMC is willing to offer a great deal of flexibility to accommodate school, work, family commitments.

To be considered for this position, please send your resume and/or note of interest to the Search Committee at [sumc@sudbury-umc.org](mailto:sumc@sudbury-umc.org).

## Three Ways to Become a Member of Sudbury UMC

During the 9:30 a.m. service of worship on Sunday, October 30, Sudbury UMC will celebrate the sacrament of Baptism before welcoming new members to our growing congregation. There are three ways to become a member of a local United Methodist church. 1) For baptized Christians who have never formally joined a church, it is possible to become a member by professing your faith in Jesus Christ and promising to support the church you have chosen by your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. 2) For members of other United Methodist churches, becoming a member of Sudbury UMC is as simple as asking Pastor Joel to write to your last church requesting a "certificate of transfer." 3) And for members of local churches affiliated with other denominations, most will send a "certificate of transfer" to Sudbury UMC but some will not. Without a written transfer, however, option 1) is still quite doable. If you would like to be enrolled as a member of Sudbury UMC on October 30, please contact our pastor at [pastorjoel@sudbury-umc.org](mailto:pastorjoel@sudbury-umc.org).

## COMMUNICATIONS

### Sunday Sermons Are Back!

Sunday sermons were not recorded during the summer, but the equipment is up and running again. September 18th's sermon is now available on our website! You can find it here: <http://sudbury-umc.org/serve/latest-sermons/>.

### Too Much Information?

If you are receiving MORE email from SUMC than you would like, please let us know. We can limit what we send to you. And, if you unsubscribed, but want to get back on a list, YOU must re-subscribe yourself. Our email service will not allow Sudbury UMC staffers to add you again once you have unsubscribed yourself. Here is a link to sign up again:

[https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=0012JaRYSgT7Hs6nuCD-BBLkfgt-bpdLQ8kTNb67vy3CLsJnQkkJxl7Le8yeHLamHYAMcUW1s9dxFWJ2C4vXN4tih22FdVjc7nvSdl\\_0x4YfdO%3D](https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=0012JaRYSgT7Hs6nuCD-BBLkfgt-bpdLQ8kTNb67vy3CLsJnQkkJxl7Le8yeHLamHYAMcUW1s9dxFWJ2C4vXN4tih22FdVjc7nvSdl_0x4YfdO%3D)

### Communication Survey

Plan ahead, next month we plan to survey you! We'd like to know how you prefer to receive your SUMC news and how best to get the word out to our multi-generational and very busy community.



There may be cards in the pews as well as an online survey. Please be sure to participate! We want to get the word out to you in the most effective way we can.

## PARTNERS

The letter below from our friends at Greenwood invites us to participate in the installation of Greenwood Memorial UMC's newly appointed pastor, the Rev. Dr. Imani-Sheila Newsome-Camara at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 16.

I remember with great joy the generous turn-out mustered by our Greenwood friends when Sudbury UMC hosted my installation service ten years ago.

Please spread the word and encourage your friends and acquaintances to make time for this important new beginning in our sister church's ministry.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Joel

### Greenwood Memorial United Methodist Church

378A Washington Street  
Dorchester, MA 02124  
Office: (617) 288-8410  
Rev. Dr. Imani-Sheila Newsome-Camara

September 21, 2016

Dear friend

You are invited to the installation service of Rev. Dr. Imani-Sheila Newsome-Camara, Pastor of Greenwood Memorial United Methodist Church on October 16, 2016 at 4:00 pm. The church is located at 378A Washington Street, Dorchester, Massachusetts-02124.

Rev. Newsome-Camara has been with the congregation since July of this year, but we want to officially introduce her to the many communities that Greenwood Memorial UMC serves. Rev. Dr. Newsome-Camara had a career in higher education before entering the ministry, she worked at the Boston University School of Theology and she comes to Greenwood Memorial UMC after serving United Methodist Churches in Waltham and West Roxbury. She brings many skills, gifts and her family to our congregation.

Our guest preacher for this event is Rev. Ellis Washington of St Paul Africa Methodist Episcopal Church in Cambridge. The choir and the liturgical dance ministry of his church will accompany him. A reception will follow the worship service and all are welcome.

Join us as we celebrate Rev. Dr. Newsome-Camara's presence in our church and in our community. Please RSVP to our invitation at [office@gmumch.comcastbiz.net](mailto:office@gmumch.comcastbiz.net) or call our church office at 617-288-8410. Please identify your organization when you RSVP.

Thank you,

The Greenwood Memorial UMC Family



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