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FROM PASTOR JOEL

Dear Friends in Christ,

When Wendy and I got married 39 years ago, June was the most popular month for brides and grooms to "tie the knot" - though now it's October. In those historical days, men wore powdered wigs, women trussed their curves in whale bone corsets, and most wedding receptions took place in a local church's fellowship hall. That's what Wendy and I expected when we drove to Long Island, NY, to take our vows. Her pastor and my pastor would co-officiate our wedding at Bethany Congregational Church - after which her parents said they would give us a choice. If we needed some financial assistance to furnish our first apartment, they would give us all the money they had saved for our wedding day and we would choose a fellowship hall reception. Or if we preferred a hotel-style wedding, they would throw us a party we would never forget and we would furnish our rented digs in "early attic" cast-offs.

"Take the money!" I remember saying to Wendy. "Take the money!" But a few months before our wedding day in the middle of June, someone else in my in-laws' network of family or friends got married in high style. They rented a hotel ball room. They hired a fancy caterer. They bankrolled an eye-popping cake and an ear-popping band. They chose a professional photographer and, without realizing it, they reduced the two choices Wendy and I had been expecting to a single wedding option. "What would our friends think of us," Wendy's mom pleaded, "if we skimmed on our daughter's special day?" What could we say? Our first apartment we furnished with Grandma's couch and cast-off TV. But our wedding banquet made British royalty wish they were descended from the Davisons of Long Island.

When Wendy and I got married 39 years ago, the wedding industry in America was just starting to gear up. These days, it is fair to say that the cost of getting married has shifted into overdrive. Most weddings fill an entire weekend, consume the GNP of a small Caribbean nation, and often take place overseas. A result that Christian couples must resist with creativity and conviction is the containment of costs by severely pruning the guest list. After all, the first words spoken to a congregation gathered on a couple's

wedding day are these: "Dearly beloved, we are gathered together in the sight of God to witness and bless the joining together of Name and Name in Christian marriage."

In other words, one of the three essential parts of any couple's wedding day is the presence of an active faith community gathered in God's sight to witness and bless a covenant whose importance is second only to the baptismal covenant that God has made with the Church through Jesus Christ. The second is a couple giving their full and free consent and entering into the marriage covenant with open hearts. And the third - last but not least - is God who is present to provide the grace needed to begin and to fulfill this covenant in God's good graces.

Breaking any one of those three essential legs off the stool we know as Christian marriage is like ruining the stool. To stay married, you need a pair of marriage partners. You need God. And you need a community that is in touch with God - and the grace God provides - to keep it flowing into the marriage.

Some of you have heard me talk about inviting every member and friend of the church I served in New Hampshire to the weddings of our two daughters - two weddings eleven months apart. There was no way Pastor Joel was going to say to some parishioners, "You are invited," but to others, "You are not." Most excited to attend was a 16-year-old named Kim. "Pastor Joel," she said to me on the day of the first wedding, "I am so glad you invited everybody to Jody's marriage. With the cost of receptions these days, I have never made it onto a guest list. And I have been afraid that the first wedding I would ever get to see would be my own. Thanks for letting me come," Kim repeated. "Now, when I get married, I will know what I'm supposed to do!"

On Saturday, October 23, Laura Houpt and Ray Brown have invited everyone in the churches they were raised in to participate in their wedding service at Sudbury UMC. To manage costs, of course, it's unrealistic to welcome everyone to the reception as well. But Laura and Ray know something about marriage, as young people raised in vibrant congregations, that many newlyweds fail to recognize before it's too late. They need you! They need your presence to witness the beginning of their covenant, to bless it, and to help them sustain it for the next fifty or sixty years. If you, their extended family in faith, choose not to accept this important responsibility - in other words, if you decide not to mentor them as a couple - who will? Comprehend? Do you understand? This Saturday, please do the right thing!

See you in church!

Pastor Joel

Prayer Concerns & Celebrations

Prayer Concerns on Sunday, October 16

- ☞ Dorothy Morgan is still a patient in the Transitional Care Unit at Emerson Hospital. She is slowly gaining her strength back and enjoys cards and calls but requests no visits please. Continue to pray for progress.
- ☞ Jen, Chase and Rachel Benson request prayers for Papa "Chip" as he completes his final cycle of chemotherapy and awaits the removal of his PICC line.
- ☞ Linda McInerney, her brother Wayne, and sons Adam and Liam ask your prayers for Gene Dunifon, Linda and Wayne's father. Gene now resides at Wingate in Sudbury with a confused mind and a body no longer free and able to walk. We pray for comfort and peace.
- ☞ We pray that God will help us practice random acts of kindness and to not speak ill of others. Help us all to see the good in others. Help us to be more like Jesus.
- ☞ Please pray for our deployed troops and their families at home. More and more of our military personnel are in harms way as conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and other war zones escalate. Please pray for the people of these lands for whom violence is a daily threat. Please pray for peace.

Prayer Celebrations on Sunday, October 16

- ☞ We wished Pastor Joel a Happy Birthday and may God continue to bless him.

Dates to Keep in Mind

- October 22: Wedding of Laura Houpt and Raymond Brown at Sudbury UMC - All Invited
- October 23: Laity Sunday
- October 23: Science & Religion Class
- October 23: Connexions Concert I
- October 24: Women's Fellowship
- October 24: Positive Psychology
- October 30: Science & Religion Class

LAITY SUNDAY WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY!

This Sunday we celebrate that true worship happens when we live it --clergy and laity -- together. For without the vital ministry of the laity, we would not be The United Methodist Church. We ARE disciples called to active, living, vital worship!

SEE YOU IN CHURCH!

You Are Invited

Together with their families, Laura Houpt and Ray Brown would like to extend an invitation to the celebration of their marriage to the entire SUMC family. Please join Laura, Ray and their families in the newly renovated Sanctuary on Saturday, October 22, at 3:30 p.m.

MUSIC

The Connexions Concert Sunday Afternoon at 3:00 p.m.

On Sunday, October 23, 2016 at 3 p.m., Kevin Murphy, organ and piano; Melissa Glaister, soprano; Cecelia Murphy, violin; Kristin Murphy, soprano; Russ Doughty, guitar; Rob Hammerton, tenor and bass guitar; Donna Hamcke, soprano; Timothy

Sanford, violin and others will present the first concert in the Connexions Series of program year 2016-in the Sanctuary here at SUMC

The event will feature works by J. S. Bach, Little Eva, Patsy Kline, Kevin Francis Murphy, Randy Newman, Tom Lehrer, Taj Mahal, Ollabelle, Franz Josef Haydn and others. The selections will present a wide assortment of various styles including classical, pop, gospel 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.

Admission is free and open to the public. A freewill donation will be gratefully accepted to benefit the Organ Fund at Sudbury United Methodist.

LEARN

Church School

Children and families can expect the regular Sunday School groupings this Sunday, October 23rd! After the children's moment, the 3-5 year olds class will meet in preschool room 4 in the Sunny Hill wing. 1st-2nd grade, 3rd-5th grade, and 6th-8th grade will meet in their classrooms below the sanctuary. After worship, please pick up your children in their classrooms to ensure that everyone makes it back to their families safely.

For the month of October, all of the Sunday School classes will be learning and singing about Moses. This week, each age group will be learning about the exciting story of Moses' return to Egypt! Want to get a head start on this action-packed lesson? Find the verses online or in a children's bible, and read together as a family before Sunday: Exodus 5:1 - 13:9

Important Dates: Faith Formation For High Schoolers

On Sunday, October 30th, we are holding our second faith formation class for 9th-12th graders! Co-taught by Kerry Healy and Jackie Roder, this monthly discussion based class aims to give our high schoolers the opportunity to uncover their own beliefs while also listening to the spiritual journeys of congregation members from time to time. Mark your calendars for Sunday October 30th! We will be meeting in the O'Reilly Room, after the children's moment. Hope to see you there!

Children Sing In Worship

Throughout the summer and fall, we have been singing away every church school Sunday! After months of keeping this musical fun to ourselves, we think it's time to let the adults hear what we've been practicing. On Sunday, November 6th, we plan to share these songs with you- the congregation!

3rd Grade Bible

It's getting closer to that special time of year when we present Children's Bibles to all of the 3rd graders within our church family. Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 13th! We hope all will be in worship to witness and celebrate alongside our 3rd Grade children and their families. Bibles will be presented to each 3rd grader during the children's moment. Sunday School will still be held in its' regular classroom groupings after the children's moment.

Youth Update

Youth Group kicks off on Sunday, October 23, at 6:30-8:00 p.m. We will have time to meet Anthony (and vice-versa!), and enjoy snacks, and games! Parents are encouraged

to arrive early when picking their children up at 7:40 p.m. to meet Anthony, receive information and a tentative calendar of youth events, and to turn in/fill in Basic Contact Forms and Permission Slips. If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail anthony@sudbury-umc.org.

We will start in the Sanctuary, and we will move on to the Sunday School classrooms below the Sanctuary. Youth and their parents may use the Sanctuary or the O'Reilly entrance.

ADULT EDUCATION

Science and Faith Speaker Series

October 23 and October 30 After Worship

The first session of this science and faith speaker series was a success on Sunday, October 16th! Facilitated by Jill Gaudet, science experts and novices alike discussed the complex relationship that science and faith seem to share. We heard from some fascinating voices and perspectives this past Sunday, with still many more to come. Whether or not you attended this first session, we invite all to join in for our second and third segments of this interesting series. Jim Empfield will be our discussion leader October 23rd; Karen and Steve Lubic will be co-leading during the final segment on October 30th. See you there!

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 23: John 4:5-24
- October 30: Luke 6:20-31

HEALTH MINISTRIES

Workshop on Practical Positive Psychology

Monday, October 24, 7:30 p.m.

Health Ministries and Stephen Ministry invite you to participate in a one-hour workshop to learn a few exercises from Positive Psychology that can build up muscles of happiness and well-being.

While alleviating suffering understanding and treating disorders - depression, anxiety, and phobias, to name a few - psychology has not paid as much attention to promoting psychological health. Positive Psychology, founded about 20 years ago by Dr. Martin Seligman at the University of Pennsylvania, promotes research, training, and education to build strengths that enable people to achieve the best things in life.

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.

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.

Women's Fellowship Change of Plans!

There has been a change of plans for our October meeting. Kimball Farm Grill and Seafood Shack in Westford is closed for the season.

We will be meeting at Brenda Manning's home at 15 Sauta Farm Way in Hudson at 12:30 p.m. for a Salad and Dessert luncheon and an afternoon of reconnecting and playing games.

Please call Nancy Stone (978-301-7008) to let her know if you are going to be able to attend.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Voting Rights Under Attack

Since 2010, 21 states have instituted new voting restrictions. Discrimination has begun anew through the actions of the States and the United States Supreme Court. Attorney General Holder said: "It is a major step backward to let stand a law that a federal court, after a lengthy trial, has determined was designed to discriminate."

- States with same-day registration and early voting had the highest voter turnout in the country.
- In 2012, nearly one hundred thousand North Carolinians used same-day registration.
- In the election of 2014 in North Carolina it was estimated that thirty thousand to fifty thousand voters were kept from the polls because of the new laws.

The change in the Voting Rights Act has allowed States to place new restrictions including

- Strict voter ID's (student IDs, out-of state licenses, county, municipal, and public employee IDs are no longer acceptable voter IDs.)
- Shorter registration times.
- Elimination of same-day registration.
- Fewer polling sites.

Voter protection is a moral issue for democracy, and when it calls for the protection of our most vulnerable voters, it also becomes an issue of faith. Let's exercise our right to vote on November 8th and take action to eliminate voting restrictions.

Excerpts are from the book Give Us the Ballot by Ari Berman, and The Matthew 25 Voter Protection Project by Rev. William Barber II and reported by Jim Wallis, 09-08-2016

Please Vote on Tuesday November 8, 2016

Help PROTECT SUDBURY and SAVE the ENVIRONMENT

Eversource is proposing to construct a 115-kilovolt transmission line between Sudbury and Hudson, Mass. The new line would pass through our neighborhoods, our business district, and conservation lands of Sudbury, Marlborough, Stow, and Hudson.

The project would consist of 8.9 miles of overhead and underground line. The 7.6-mile overhead portion would be located within an existing MBTA railroad bed that runs through Sudbury neighborhoods, historic districts, as well as the Hop Brook conservation area and Memorial Forest. The underground portion runs only in Hudson.

What does this mean to us?

The drinking water for all 18,000 residents of Sudbury is under threat of contamination; herbicides will be used to kill vegetation on a regular basis; 100 foot tall towers will be erected and close to 27,000 trees will be clear cut from our town and conservation areas.

IMPORTANT MEETING!

Sudbury Selectman will host a meeting with Eversource at the Lincoln Sudbury High School on Wednesday, October 26, 2016 at 7:00PM. Your voice is important! Eversource needs to know that we do not want overhead high voltage transmission lines running through our community!

For more information please check the website, www.protectsudbury.org.

PARTNERS

At Greenwood Memorial UMC

We join our friends at Greenwood in welcoming their new pastor, the Rev. Dr. Imani-Sheila Newsome-Camara. Those of us who were able to participate in last Sunday's installation service feel blessed to have had the opportunity to be a part of the rich worship experience.



Before & After Photos in Dominica



Christmas Pageant Registration Form

The Christmas Pageant Registration Form is here. It is also available online [HERE](#), as a fillable form. Paper copies are available at church, too.



Pageant Registration!

Sudbury UMC's children are invited to be part of a Christmas Pageant at the 4 PM Christmas service! This year, pageant rehearsals begin the Saturday before Thanksgiving (Nov. 19th) and run until the Saturday before Christmas Eve (no rehearsal on Christmas Eve morning.) Rehearsals are generally held between 9 AM (8 AM for Dancing Angels) and 12 PM each Saturday. We are asking participants to be present for all of the rehearsals, if at all possible, so participants can feel comfortable with their parts. However, we know some families travel at

Thanksgiving or may have another family conflict and we would like all children to be welcome to participate in the pageant; if your child cannot make one of the rehearsals, please speak with **Kristin Murphy** so we might find a perfect part and a bit of additional rehearsal time another day. Thanks!

Name of Pageant Participant and Age:

Name of Parent(s): _____

Email: _____ **Phone** _____

Would your child prefer a speaking or non-speaking role? _____

Would your child like a major or minor role?

Would your child like to be a dancing angel (age 6+)?

What parts would your child love? (It would be great if you could list a few, in case more than one child loves the same part! Thanks! Please note that preschool children are usually cast as animals.) _____

My child will be able to attend all rehearsals _____

My child would have to miss the rehearsal on _____. Please cast him or her accordingly.

Would you be able to help with one or more pageant "jobs?" Please check the ones you might be able to do:

___ costume help

___ providing food items for "cast lunch" on 12/17)

___ acting help

___ props and scenery help (finding and/or making)

___ general "crowd control" at rehearsals and/or before pageant at 3 PM

___ "stage manager" help

___ preschool animals help (rehearsals and at pageant - involves dressing in shepherd costume)

___ pageant band

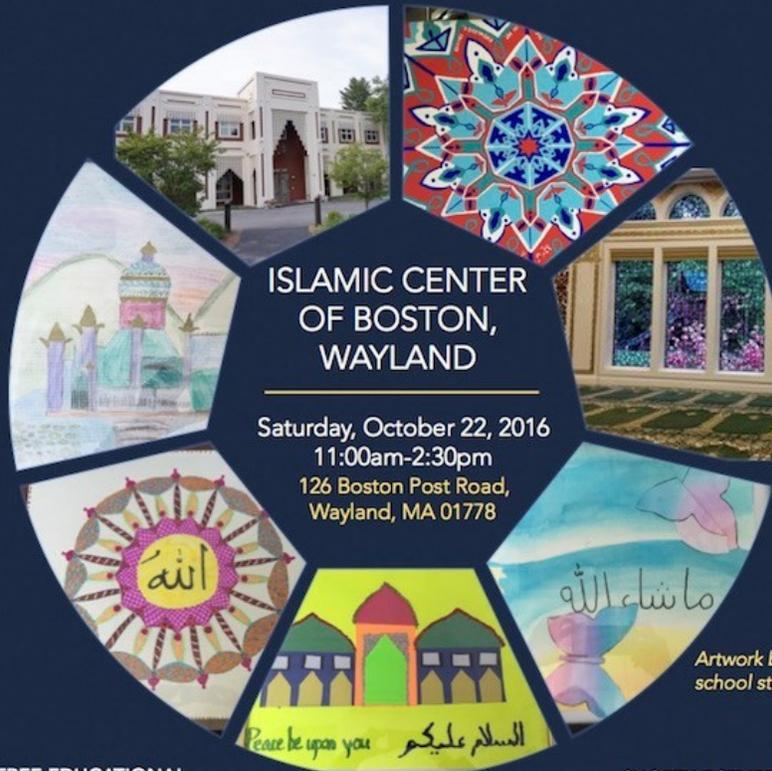
Thanks so much!

Kristin Murphy

Kbando@earthlink.net

COMMUNITY

YOU ARE INVITED TO...
**MEET YOUR MUSLIM
NEIGHBORS**



**ISLAMIC CENTER
OF BOSTON,
WAYLAND**

Saturday, October 22, 2016
11:00am-2:30pm
126 Boston Post Road,
Wayland, MA 01778

*Artwork by our
school students*

FREE EDUCATIONAL
MATERIALS

INTERACTIVE DISPLAYS

BOOKS AND FILMS

REFRESHMENTS

E-MAIL, URL

openhouse@icbwayland.org
www.icbwayland.org

SHORT LECTURES
ISLAM 101
Q&A OPPORTUNITY

LEARN ABOUT OUR
MOSQUE AND ISLAM IN
AMERICA

Groups, individuals, families, students, teachers, all are welcome!

2:30 - 4:30 pm
Sunday, November 13

League of Women Voters of Sudbury
Presents

MENTAL HEALTH: IT TAKES A COMMUNITY

Join us for a discussion with:

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

Advocates: Jail Diversion

***William James INTERFACE Referral Services:
Youth Mental Health***

Wicked Sober: Addiction Recovery Program

Sudbury Police Department: Seniors' Mental Health

Employment Options: Resources for Recovery

**2:30 - 4:30 pm, Sunday, November 13, 2016
Goodnow Library, 21 Concord Rd., Sudbury, MA**

www.sudburyleague.com





Join Our Mailing List

Forward To A Friend

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