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## FROM PASTOR JOEL

Dear Friends in Christ,

When we vote on November 8, ballots in Massachusetts will include four referendum questions that require not only practical and political reflection but also reflection that is prayerful and theological. For such reflection United Methodists are blessed to have The Book of Resolutions, updated every four years by the General Conference of our church, to provide direction and guidance. Our resolutions interpret the Social Principles which, "while not to be considered law, are a prayerful and thoughtful effort on the part of the General Conference to speak to the human issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation as historically demonstrated in United Methodist traditions."

Here are some excerpts to consider as you prepare to vote on this year's initiative petitions:

### ***Question 1 - Expanded Slot Machine Gambling***

The Social Principles state that, "Gambling is a menace to society, deadly to the best interests of moral, social, economic, and spiritual life, destructive of good government and good stewardship. As an act of faith and concern, Christians should abstain from gambling and should strive to minister to those victimized by the practice" (page 535). "Gambling, as a means of acquiring material gain by chance and at the neighbor's expense, is a menace to personal character and social morality....We express our concern for the increasing development of the casino enterprises, which have taken captive entire communities and corrupted many levels of government with its fiscal and political power" (page 536).

### ***Question 2 - Charter School Expansion***

"The United Methodist Church has issued statements supportive of public education, and now at a time when public education has become a battleground, the church is called to remember, first and foremost, the well-being of all God's children. Education is a right of all children and is affirmed by Scripture which calls us to 'train children in the way they should go' (Proverbs 22:6). Furthermore, the Social Principles affirm that education 'can best be fulfilled through public policies that ensure access for all persons to public

elementary and secondary schools and to post-secondary schools of their choice' (page 669). Therefore, we call upon local churches, annual conferences, and the general agencies of The United Methodist Church to support public education by: 1) establishing partnerships with local public schools such as providing after-school and vacation enrichment programs, adopt-a-school programs, and literacy and reading emphases. 2) monitoring reform efforts in public schools, including the creation of charter and magnet schools, of schools-within-schools, and of classes sized to serve all children" (page 671).

### ***Question 3 - Conditions for Farm Animals***

We support regulations that protect and conserve the life and health of animals, including those ensuring the humane treatment of pets, domesticated animals used in research, wildlife, and the painless slaughtering of meat animals, fish, and fowl. We recognize unmanaged and managed commercial, multinational, and corporate exploitation of wildlife and the destruction of the ecosystems on which they depend threatens the balance of natural systems, compromises biodiversity, reduces resilience, and threatens ecosystems services. We encourage commitment to effective implementation of national and international governmental and business regulations and guidelines for the conservation of all animal species with particular support to safeguard those threatened with extinction" (page 42).

### ***Question 4 - Legalization, Regulation, and Taxation of Marijuana***

"Like alcohol and tobacco, marijuana is frequently a precursor to the use of other drugs. The active ingredient is THC, which affects the user by temporarily producing feelings of euphoria and relaxation. An altered sense of body image and bouts of exaggerated laughter are commonly reported. However, studies reveal that marijuana impairs short-term memory, altering the sense of time and reducing the ability to perform tasks requiring concentration, swift reactions, and coordination. Some countries permit the use of marijuana in medicines. Recently, some states in the United States have passed legislation permitting the medical use of marijuana. Some studies indicate circumstances in which marijuana can have an important palliative medicinal effect unavailable through other means. The medical use of any drug, however, should not be seen as encouraging recreational use of it. We urge all persons to abstain from all use of marijuana, unless it has been legally prescribed in a form appropriate for treating a particular medical condition" (page 208-209).

Karl Barth famously urged pastors to preach with the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other. When you go to the polls on Election Day, may I encourage you to carry not only the red-covered voters' guide we all received from the Commonwealth but also this letter summarizing and offering the wisdom of our United Methodist Social Principles and The Book of Resolutions?

See you in church!

Pastor Joel

## **Prayer Concerns & Celebrations**

### Prayer Concerns on Sunday, October 23

- ☞ Dorothy Morgan continues to recuperate in the Transitional Care Unit at Emerson Hospital. Please keep her in your prayers. She loves your cards and appreciates your understanding that she is not ready for visitors.
- ☞ The Cancer Support Group is thankful for your prayers on their behalf. Please continue to support them through prayer as they deal with their physical and emotional struggles while undergoing treatment. Please also hold caregivers in prayer as they support their loved ones.

### Prayer Celebrations on Sunday, October 23

- ☞ We celebrate the life of Shirley O'Reilly who entered God's Holy Kingdom on Sunday, October 23, after suffering a stroke last Friday. We included Shirley in our prayers during worship on Sunday and asked Jesus to hold her in his loving embrace. A memorial service will be held for Shirley in our sanctuary on Friday at 10:30 a.m.
- ☞ Laura Houpt and Raymond Brown were married in the SUMC sanctuary last Saturday, October 22. The couple send their thanks for the supportive presence of all who gathered to witness and bless their vows.

## Dates to Keep in Mind

October 28: Memorial Service for Shirley O'Reilly  
October 29: Halloween Party at Home Suites  
October 30: All Saints Day, Baptism & Reception of New Members  
October 30: Science & Religion Class  
November 6: All Saints Day, Holy Communion  
November 6: Youth Group  
November 13: Bible Sunday  
November 13: Newcomers' Reception

***This Friday, October 28 at 10:30 a.m., Pastor Joel will lead a memorial service for Shirley O'Reilly in the Sanctuary. The congregation is invited to attend.***

## THANK YOU

To the Congregants of Sudbury United Methodist Church providing condolences on the recent death of my sister, Charlene Duff of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Sophia and I would like to offer our appreciation for your prayers, cards, telephone calls, emails, hugs and kind words.

You were among Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar, District Superintendent Rene Perez and many other laity and clergy in the New England Conference and the Northeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church that also expressed their condolences. These thoughts and actions will be everlasting memories for us.

With gratitude,

Oscar and Sophia

## MUSIC

There's a Kidz Konzert coming up!

Sunday, November 6th at 1:00 p.m.

Free will donations will be directed to the Open Table

## PROGRESS IN HAWES HALL AND THE KITCHEN



Fresh green paint and white trim.



That's a sink!



The stove is in place!

The work in Hawes Hall and the kitchen are proceeding quickly now. The kitchen walls and floors are tiled, the cabinets are in, and the countertop is being installed (10/25/2016).

## LEARN

### Church School

Children and families can expect the regular Sunday School groupings this Sunday, October 30th! 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, 3rd-5th grade, and 6th-8th grade will meet in their classrooms below the sanctuary. The 9th-12th grade faith formation class will meet in the O'Reilly room. After worship, please pick up your children in their classrooms to ensure that everyone makes it back to their families safely.

## Important Dates

### Faith Formation for High Schoolers

This 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. 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 busy singing away during church school each 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 Presentation

It's getting closer to the 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 groups after the children's moment.

## ADULT EDUCATION

### Science and Faith Speaker Series After Worship

So far we have heard from some fascinating voices and perspectives during the first two sessions of this science and faith speaker series. Whether you have made or missed the first two sessions, we invite all to join in for our third and final segment of this interesting adult education opportunity. Karen and Steve Lubic will be co-leading during the final segment on October 30th. Class will begin around 11:00 a.m. in the O'Reilly Room. 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 30: Luke 6:20-31
- November 6: Luke 20:27-38

## 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.

## OUTREACH

Share the excitement of Halloween with a bunch of kids!

The Outreach Commission would like to invite you to help throw a Halloween party for the families of The Home Suites Inn, a residence for families between homes. You will help the children make masks and cards, pass out goodie bags, decorate cookies and apply tattoos! The party is all set for Saturday, October 29th from 2:00 to 4:00 at The Home Suites Inn. The address is 455 Totten Pond Road, Waltham. For more information, call Jeannette D'Alessandro at 617-462-4343. Please come. It's a great fun way to spend an afternoon.



## NEUMC Event

### District Days

The Central MA District will be hosting a training with Rebekah Simon Peter:

<http://www.neumc.org/files/districts/cma+district/rebekah+simon+peter+brochure.pdf>

**November 11-12, 2016, 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM**

**Weston United Methodist Church, 377 North Ave, Weston**

And, take a look at last week's event in Hudson:

<http://www.neumc.org/photoalbum/6389328>.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

Please be sure to vote on Election Day, November 8th. To obtain more information on where the candidates stand on the issues that are important to you, please visit [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) and [www.votesmart.org](http://www.votesmart.org).

## 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

\_\_\_ acting help

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

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

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

\_\_\_ props and scenery help (finding and/or making)

\_\_\_ "stage manager" help

\_\_\_ pageant band

Thanks so much!

Kristin Murphy

[Kbando@earthlink.net](mailto:Kbando@earthlink.net)

COMMUNITY

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](http://www.sudburyleague.com)





**Join Our Mailing List**

**Forward To A Friend**

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