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The Weekly Chronicle

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From Our Incoming Director of CE, Eric Magnuson

[Editor's Note: On Sunday, June 4, Staff-Parish Relations Committee chairperson Sherry Stonebraker introduced Eric Magnuson as our church's incoming Director of Christian Education and Magic Years coordinator. His starting date will be mutually agreed by Eric and the SPRC after Jackie Roder moves out of her office on June 15 and Eric has

helped his mother with a move to Georgia. In the meantime, here is a letter that Eric wrote as part of the application process:]

Dear Sudbury UMC Friends,

I was raised during a time when it was popular to go to church. I don't remember anyone who didn't go to church. All the kids who went to Cub Scouts and whose parents were members of the Lions Club or the Rebekahs in Medway, went to one of the two Protestant churches. And the kids from my public school in Franklin went to either St. Mary's or the Federated Church.

So I was part of that culture. Growing up, my grandfather always said that I would make a great minister. That's probably because I talked so much as a child, and I sat and listened to the "older" adults sit around and talk about stuff like taxes and why on earth there needed to be another bank in Braintree.

As an eighth grader, I attended the Pastor's class, was baptized and became a member of the Medway Community Church. Then a strange thing happened during my sophomore year of high school. Our church got a new youth pastor. I was glad, because the other youth pastor played the accordion and he and his wife always seemed to be arguing with each other. This youth pastor was different. He also explained about the need for a personal Savior and the necessity to read the Bible, and become a genuine Christian.

It was hard for me to realize that I was a sinner and needed a Savior. After all, I was a pretty good kid. I never did anything wrong, not like my brothers. I didn't lie, not too much. I didn't swear, not like I used to. And I didn't smoke pot in the basement.

I felt a call to full-time ministry and enrolled at Gordon College and majored in Bible. I worked with the Junior High youth group at my church and was on my way to being a full-fledged pastor. There was one slight problem. I didn't like getting up in front of people and speaking. Once, I was asked to say the Invocation at an Eagle Scout ceremony. I sweat bullets over that one. And yet, I still wanted to serve God full-time. I learned about a new major, Christian Education, at Eastern Nazarene College. Now that was something I was passionate about. I transferred.

During the next forty years, while furthering my education in the field of education, and working in private Christian and public schools I served the Lord as a lay person in many different capacities of my local church.

A major life event happened three years ago when my life's partner along the journey left to go to heaven ahead of me. So I continue on this journey wondering what the Lord has for me next; willing to serve God and minister to others along the way.

Eric Magnuson

P.S. Five years ago, I gave the Invocation at the Baccalaureate Service at Eastern Nazarene College. My youngest son sat near the front wearing his cap and gown. No sweat. There was a proud wife and mother in the audience.

For fiction stories, check out www.facebook.com/mikemagnusonjr.detective

Pastor Joel Reflects on Staff Changes

During a long and challenging meeting of the SPRC on Tuesday, May 30, the members of Sudbury UMC's personnel team made a difficult and daunting decision. Having learned a lot during this year's ongoing searches for a new Director of Christian Education, Magic Years Coordinator, and Director of Youth Ministries about the salaries needed in 2017 to attract well-trained, experienced, and highly qualified educators for our church's staff, we chose to focus more staff funding on Christian formation by eliminating the Communications Coordinator position created three years ago.

On Tuesday, June 6, SPRC member Jim Peck joined me to discuss this change with Alexandra Plotkin who has served Sudbury UMC since 2014 as our communications staff member. Alexandra has contributed significantly to the visibility of our church in the wider community through our website and social media sites while also assembling each week's edition of The Chronicle and the Sunday bulletin insert. We are grateful for Alexandra's creativity and energy and will miss her cheerful and willing spirit during staff meetings, commission gatherings, and other church events.

Now that Sudbury UMC no longer has a staff member coordinating communications, the various parts of that position will be divided among remaining staff members, new staff members, and volunteers from our congregation who are willing to lend a hand. Since The Chronicle is not published weekly during the summer, there will be time for staff members to absorb the responsibilities they will be asked to carry while a search for willing volunteers also begins.

In the meantime, the SPRC's search for education professionals has begun to bear fruit. On June 4, Chairperson Sherry Stonebraker introduced Eric Magnuson as our incoming Director of Christian Education. Eric will begin working regularly at SUMC in July. A graduate of Eastern Nazarene College where he majored in Christian Education, Eric has also earned the Master of Education degree from Northeastern University in Educational Leadership and, from Lesley University, the M.Ed. in Early Childhood/Elementary Education. His impressive resume includes experience as an assistant public school principal, as the founding director of a Christian day school, as a classroom teacher in both public and private schools, and as a college level professor of education. He has also served local churches in every educational role imaginable and still has time to write a series of detective stories for young readers. What a blessing Eric's leadership will be!

The SPRC's search for a Director of Youth Ministries continues. Since April, there have been two rounds of interviews and a third is about to begin. Don't be surprised to bump into a candidate or two during the coming days and weeks. The Christian Education Commission has been reminding the SPRC for some time that congregations with full-time youth staff are more apt to avoid the turnover that takes place when theology students work part-time for a year or two. In an effort to stabilize our youth ministries position and to grow the number of middle high and senior high students who participate, the SPRC will focus staff funding on an experienced long-term youth leader as soon as a qualified candidate is found and a compensation agreement is reached. Please hold this last important search in your prayers. And please remember to share your ideas, concerns, and questions with me and the members of SPRC. Thanks!

Prayer Concerns & Celebrations

Prayer Concerns on Sunday, June 4

- ⚡ Jeff Lance asks us to pray for the families impacted by yet another horrific act of terrorism in London.
- ⚡ Jeannette D'Alessandro asks us to hold her aunt, Margaret, in prayer as her brave battle with cancer comes to a close soon. Margaret is a Wellesley graduate and rancher. Her strong faith guided her to do missionary work in South America with her husband. Jeannette also asks us to hold her cousin, Carol, in prayer as she continues to face the challenges with her parents with strength and courage.
- ⚡ The Rodiger family requests prayers for their son Jonathan who had back surgery this past Monday at Beth Israel. Please pray for a smooth and easy recovery.
- ⚡ John Antes asks us to hold John Heckscher of Wayland in prayer after he was hospitalized with complications from a brain tumor. Mr. Heckscher has assisted many senior citizens in Wayland by providing volunteer handyman services.
- ⚡ John Geroux asks us to hold him in prayer as he undergoes some tests this week.

Prayer Celebrations on Sunday, June 4

- ⚡ We celebrated the fun and fellowship the youth had last Friday at the church lock-in and sleepover. The youth had a great time decorating cupcakes in honor of Jackie Roder, a very special teacher and mentor to our youth! The cupcakes were enjoyed by all at coffee hour!
- ⚡ The Outreach Commission celebrates that on Sunday, May 28, SUMC assisted Boy Scout Calvin Corrigan, from our own Troop 60, launch his Eagle Scout project. Calvin is working with the Be Like Brit Foundation (<https://www.belikebrit.org/>) to bring Christmas spirit to 33 orphan boys in Haiti. You may support Calvin by going to his website <http://tinyurl.com/CalvinEagleScoutProject>. Thanks!
- ⚡ Jeannette D'Alessandro celebrates the amazing love and community that is SUMC. She is very grateful for all the prayers following her mom's passing and is comforted by the many cards of sympathy she received from this congregation.
- ⚡ Congratulations to Walter Rockwell who graduated from UMass Amherst and is blessed to have his first professional job which he started this week.
- ⚡ The Gero family celebrated Molly Gero's Confirmation and Grandma Gero's 100th birthday last Sunday. Three generations of the Gero family were at worship!
- ⚡ The Helsingius family is delighted to celebrate Darcy's graduation last Sunday from Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. She will be attending Ithaca College in the fall.
- ⚡ May God continue to bless our Confirmands and graduates. May the youth continue to grow in their faith and may they always make decisions and choices that honor their God-centered foundation.

SPRC

Welcome Our New Director of Education and Magic Years Coordinator

During Worship on Sunday, June 4th, SPRC introduced our new Director of Education and Magic Years Coordinator, Eric Magnuson.

If you were looking for someone to lead our church's Christian education program,

- Would you feel good if one of your candidates was also the author of a series of easy-to-read children's detective stories?
- Would you feel comfortable meeting someone who provides day care for the child

of working parents in his family?

- Would you be impressed by someone who has taught college level education courses for many years?
- Would you be drawn to a public school administrator who has worked with elementary children in our central Massachusetts schools?
- And for me, the most important question is would you be inspired by his lifelong faith in Jesus Christ and his commitment to educational ministry in local churches like ours?
- What if I told you that the Staff-Parish Relations Committee has found one person who checks all of those boxes and more? Would you move heaven and earth to make him part of our team?

That's what the SPRC did on Tuesday May 30th, when we voted unanimously to invite Eric Magnuson to serve as our next Director of Christian Education and Magic Years Coordinator. Eric has accepted the position.

Eric Magnuson comes to us from Harvard, MA, where he lives with his son and family. He has a Master of Education with emphasis on Educational Leadership from Northeastern University, Boston, MA, and a Master of Education with emphasis on Early Childhood/Elementary Education from Lesley University, Cambridge, MA.

He has been both an Assistant Professor of Education and an Adjunct Professor at Eastern Nazarene College and Quincy College. He has taught in the North Middlesex Regional School District in Pepperell and the Christian Center Elementary School in Burlington, MA.

Eric has been a teacher of Children and Youth at the First Church of the Nazarene in Lowell, MA, and at the Medway Community Church in Medway, MA.

Eric will be working with Jackie Roder over the next few weeks as part of his transition to SUMC. He is a great addition to our staff at SUMC.

Sherryl Stonebraker

Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair

SAVE THE DATE

Program Year Concludes with June 25 Church Conference

It's that time of year again! We're winding down the program year and the date of the Church Conference, Sunday, June 25th, has been confirmed by our District Superintendent, the Rev. Rene Perez. In preparation for the conference which will be held after worship, I will need annual reports from Commission Chairs by Friday, June 9th. This will allow me a week to compile, copy and collate the booklet to be distributed on Sunday, June 18th.

Thanks for your anticipated cooperation!

Shetal Kaye

WORSHIP

We Are Celebrating Christian Education on June 11

It's Christian Education Appreciation Sunday! We hope all congregation members will make it to worship on June 11 to see and celebrate all of the SUMC members who have volunteered to teach or help with Christian Education during this program year. Christian Education programming for children, youth, and adults would not be possible without the MANY teachers and helpers that contribute their time and talents. After the Children's Moment, Sunday School children will sing in worship and give their teachers and helpers a small token of appreciation for their commitment to Christian education. As a reminder, the pancake appreciation breakfast for CE volunteers (spouses and families welcome!) will be taking place at 8:30 a.m. in Hawes Hall. Thank you so much to everyone who has RSVP'd!!! There's going to be a great turnout and the Christian Education Commission is really looking forward to this breakfast!

To mark the end of the program year, we will also be having a special Sunday School event for children and youth of all ages after the children sing in worship. Weather permitting, we will be outside on the playground using washable paint, glue, and other craft materials - dress appropriately! Our lesson theme for this Sunday is on the Holy Trinity. Children and youth will be working in three separate groups split up by age: PreK-2nd grade, 3rd-5th grade, and 6th-8th grade on different craft activities with lead teachers and helpers. All ages will have the opportunity to come together and work on a group art project as well. This is definitely one Sunday School event that children and youth will not want to miss!! We already have many parents and High School teens signed on to help with this event - if you'd like to join the team, please email Jackie Roder for more information jackie@subury-umc.org. See you in church!

Thank You, Jackie! We Love You and We Will Miss You!

The Christian Education Commission invites everyone to celebrate not only our Teacher Appreciation Day on Sunday, June 11, but to share in our fond farewell salute to Jackie Roder, our CE Director for two years. Sudbury UMC has been privileged to be recipients of Jackie's infectious, bubbling and welcoming personality. We send her off with our love and blessings as she navigates her future in the BIG city!

Come, celebrate, and thank Jackie for her special presence among us!

Dates to Keep in Mind

- June 9: Church Conference Report Deadline
- June 9: Women's Fellowship - Rockport
- June 11: Peace & Justice Sunday
- June 11: Christian Education Celebrations
- June 21: Cancer Support Group
- June 17: Youth Group
- June 23-25: Youth Service Trip
- June 25: Worship - Karen Lubic, Preacher
- June 25: Church Conference (immediately following worship)

- June 25: Summer Picnic at Sudbury UMC with Greenwood Memorial UMC

LEARN

One Room Summer Sunday School Starts Sunday, June 18!

Starting Sunday, June 18, Sudbury UMC switches to its Summer Sunday School schedule. Geared for children ages 3-10, one room Sunday School will meet after the Children's Moment each Sunday in the large room below the sanctuary. Although lessons are geared towards children in 5th grade and below, Middle and High School youth are welcome to participate as helpers or co-teachers if interested. We are currently looking for two volunteer teachers to co-teach, or one lead, one assist, for Sunday, June 18th and another two volunteers for Sunday, June 25th. If you are available and interested to teach one of those two Sundays, or would like to know more information about Summer Sunday School, please reach out to Jackie Roder jackie@sudbury-umc.org before June 15th. Thank you!

Youth

Hello SUMC,

I am still trying to get back into a normal sleep schedule after last weekend's lock in, but it was worth it! We had thirteen youth attend our overnight lock-in and it was an incredible time. We tie-dyed t-shirts, decorated cupcakes as a going away gift for Jackie, projected movies in Hawes Hall, and had a powerful devotion on missions and service--led by my fiancé Lauren who spent three years living abroad and serving through Lutheran service organizations.

Her story made for an excellent advertisement for our own youth service trip coming up at the end of this month! On June 23-25, youth will be engaged in a weekend of volunteering throughout the Metrowest area. First Lutheran Church in Waltham has graciously offered to host us, and we will be serving organizations like the Hope Food Pantry in Framingham and Mary's House--a family shelter in Waltham for homeless mothers and their children. Several have already RSVP'd, but we need at least one more chaperon who can overnight and drive with us. Please contact me at anthony@sudbury-umc.org if you can serve in this way!

Blessings,

Anthony

CONNECT

Women's Fellowship Meeting: Friday, June 9

The Women's Fellowship will be going on an All-Day Trip to Rockport, MA, on Friday, 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 carpooling 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:

- June 11: Matthew 28:16-20
- June 18: Matthew 10:1-15
- June 25: Matthew 10:24-39

Stephen Ministry - No Concern Is Too Small



Who can benefit from a Stephen Minister? A Stephen Ministry relationship or conversation is appropriate for most anyone who is in need of caring support as they struggle with life's changes. Here are some situations that are appropriate for talking confidentially with a Sudbury UMC Stephen Minister, who has received 50 hours of Christian care giving. 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.

❖ → adjusting to a diagnosis	❖ → aging
❖ → chronic illness	❖ → dealing with anxiety, stress, or worry
❖ → death of a loved one	❖ → financial problems
❖ → relocation	❖ → problems with family relationships
❖ → unemployment	❖ → feeling lonely, guilty, or worthless
❖ → personal illness	❖ → too much on one's plate
❖ → divorce	❖ → facing surgery or hospitalization
❖ → being a caregiver	❖ → childbirth
❖ → spiritual needs	❖ → grief

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

June 11: Linda Lombardo

June 18: Gail Smith

June 25: Richard Smith

Cancer Support Group Meets Monthly

Sudbury UMC's Cancer and Caregiver Support Prayer Group meets monthly from 6:00 until 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday. This month, cancer patients, cancer survivors, and caregivers will gather at Sudbury UMC in the O'Reilly Room on June 21 to pray for and support each other. All are invited to come and share their experiences and feelings in a caring, confidential, non-hospital environment. The Cancer and Caregiver Support Prayer Group is an initiative of Sudbury UMC's Health Ministries Commission. For more information, please email us at SUMC.MA.Cancer.Care.Group@gmail.com.

Picnic with Greenwood

LET'S GET COOKIN'



The Annual SUMC picnic with our sister church, Greenwood Memorial UMC, is back, in full force this year.

This cherished get-together for both our congregations has always been such a special summer event. This is always a gathering overflowing with great outdoor food, music, games and, most importantly, fellowship and friendship. Those of you who have celebrated this in the past already know how very special it is.

Well, when does all this happen? It's coming up on Sunday, June 25, starting on SUMC's playground at 4:00 p.m. The Greenwood folks will be arriving about that time. We'll be together "celebrating" until about 6:00 p.m. This ending time, we hope, will be particularly attractive to parents with little, younger children. Kids really get energized at these picnics taking a tad longer to settle down for bedtime. Although not a scientifically proven fact, we've also noticed that all ages become wonderfully cranked up from the celebrating.

This is truly an all-church happening. We want all of you to be part of this special day. Details will be coming in The Chronicle and Sunday inserts. For now, please mark your calendar, put in your cellular phone reminders, and get those party hats out of the closet. Warning: Practice eating outdoors. It really enhances the picnic taste-buds.

Where: Sudbury UMC Playground behind the Church

When: Sunday, June 25, from 4:00 till 6:00 p.m.

Who's Invited: All Members and Friends of Sudbury UMC
and Greenwood Memorial UMC



United Methodist Peace with Justice Sunday



PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

Your generous gift today encourages living a gospel of peace.



Courtesy Photo: Sara Altman, Mississippi City UMC

“This peace looks injustice in the face, cries about it for a while and then advocates – and choosing this peace is a happy business.”

SARA ALTMAN, MEMBER, MISSISSIPPI CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI



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Make check payable to your local church or give online at www.umcsgiving.org/givePWJS

PARTNERS

SUNNY HILL

Sunny Hill Preschool is gearing up for a fabulous 2017-2018 school year. We are currently taking enrollments in all classes with limited availability in some so, don't miss out on your first choice. Contact Debbie or Kate for a tour or to complete your child's enrollment. Call 978-443-2627 today.

Looking for a Safe Summer Camp?

Scary news reports about summer camps for children can be troubling enough to make parents ask, "Where will my child be safe?" United Methodists in the New England Conference are grateful to know that every possible step is taken to insure a safe and secure environment for children and youth at all of our camping and conference centers. At all four sites, paid and volunteer staffers undergo criminal background checks and safety training before they are hired or enrolled as volunteers. "Safe sanctuaries" standards are in place to insure the highest standards of safety. Our conveniently located sites include Rolling Ridge Conference Center in North Andover, MA (www.rollingridge.org); Camp Aldersgate in North Scituate, RI (www.campaldersgate.com); Camp Wanakee in Meredith, NH (www.wanakee.org); and Camp Mechuwana in Winthrop, ME (www.mechuwana.org). Need financial aid? Speak to Pastor Joel about funds available through Sudbury UMC.

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.

Interested in volunteering or learning more about FISH? Please contact that senior center at 978-443-3055.

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.

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

Please Support Household Goods in Acton

Household Goods provides a full range of household items free of charge for people in need. The organization currently has an urgent need for blankets, queen-sized sheets, towels, cookware, and flatware.

Please drop off gently used furniture and household items at 530 Main St. (Rte. 27), Acton on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays between 9:00 a.m. and Noon. Questions? Visit www.householdgoods.org.

Household Goods Needs Drivers

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 ext. 6 or e-mail:

volunteer@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.

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

MetroWest Free Medical Program Seeking Volunteers

On Tuesdays, about 20 volunteers gather to provide healthcare services to people who don't have insurance. The program serves an average of 35 patients, using the sanctuary at Congregation Beth El as the clinic site.

Volunteers are needed to help put the medical supplies and equipment away in the shed behind Beth El. Specifically, people are needed to help move the screens, exam tables, buckets of medical supplies, as well as tables and chairs. With enough volunteers this can be done in 30 minutes.

This is a great job for high school students looking to finish up their community service hours or anyone who wants to get an extra 30 minutes of exercise! When? Tuesdays, 9:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Questions? Contact Kim Prendergast at kim.prendergast@gmail.com.



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Forward To A Friend

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