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The Weekly Chronicle

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From Pastor Joel

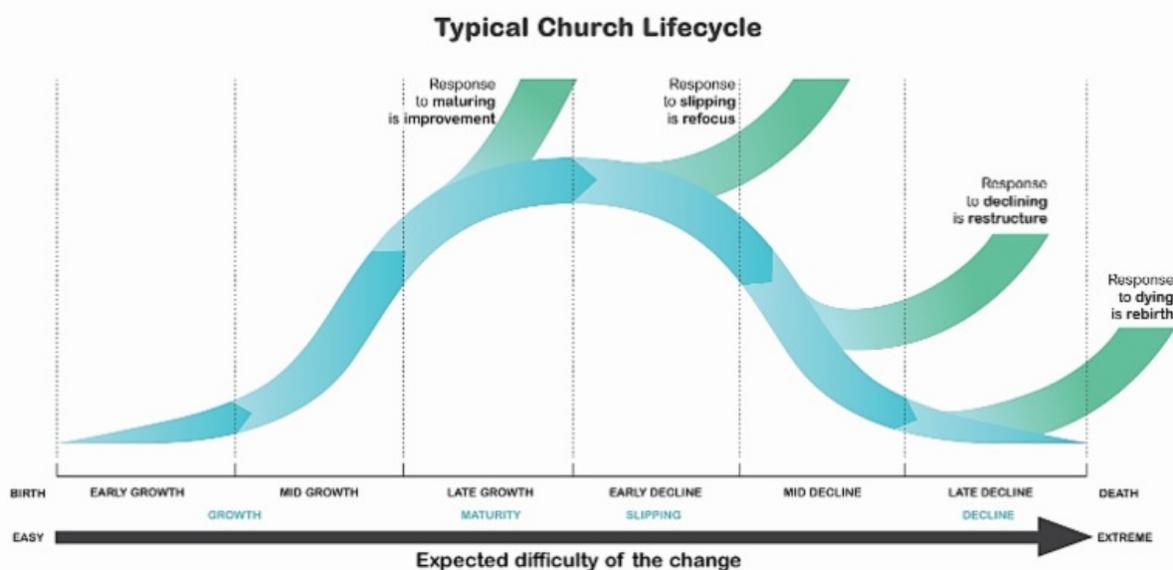
Dear Friends in Christ,

Believe it or not, the three-year story most of us have known as "Pave the Way" will soon come to an end. It began in 2015 as the dream of some of Sudbury UMC's leaders. Despite years of valiant effort, and the investment of newly generated resources from "Together for Tomorrow" plus the rental of the church's steeple to a fledgling cell phone company, the Board of Trustees simply couldn't keep up with the deferred maintenance and the safety and accessibility updates required to stabilize our facilities for another 60 years of service.

Sudbury UMC had to act or accept a slow inevitable death.

The middle year of "Pave the Way," 2016, was focused on "making a case" to inspire generosity among our congregation's supporters. Working with three architects, we learned that our parking lot was deteriorating, our compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act was 25 years overdue, and strategic parts of our buildings looked dreary, drab, and dated. By the end of 2016, pledges and gifts totaling \$2.4 million had been committed to updating and stabilizing our buildings. If vibrant Christian ministry ceases on our site sometime during the rest of the 21st century, it will not be due to deferred maintenance or the lack of modest renovations. With God's help, we have given our very best.

Finally, summer 2016 through summer 2017 became the year we "lived around" one stage of construction or another. Patience was stretched thin. Tempers flared. Creativity overcame deficits. But love conquered all. Eyes were opened as hidden problems concealed within our walls were revealed and absorbed into the scope of our project. But, thanks be to God, we are nearly finished. By the time the last tree is planted, nearly \$3 million will have been invested in making our church safe, welcoming to all, and modestly attractive. Yet, as "Pave the Way" becomes a story with a beginning, middle, and end, we are discovering that life will go on, the story will continue, and our church needs a new plan.



The chart on page 1 illustrates the typical lifecycle of a local church. Throughout the "Pave the Way" story, you have heard me say repeatedly that the lifecycle of Methodism in Sudbury is roughly 60 years long. So far, our church has seen three full lifecycles and has now just begun its fourth. In 1836, 1896, 1956, and 2016, each of those lifecycles began with a building phase. For the sake of aligning our story with the chart, let's call the construction of our first church in 1836, the expansion of that building in 1896, the beginning of our present complex of buildings in 1956, and "Pave the Way" our "Early Growth" era.

According to the chart, our next phase will be "Mid Growth" or what human development scientists would call adolescence. As I said to participants in the June 25 Church Conference, I believe that this phase, during all four cycles our church has seen so far, has been characterized by an emphasis on - or by an attempt to emphasize - Christian education and formation. The fact that the first new building constructed after the parsonage during the cycle that began in 1956 was the education wing that now houses Sunny Hill illustrates the plan our immediate predecessors were following. Education was

the focus.

To support my impression that Christian formation comes next, Wendy and I have been reading Sudbury UMC's Charge Conference report booklets from the 1960s. Talk about a fascinating summer read! The stories you and I have been told about the peace and tranquility that characterized the "build it ourselves" phase of 1956 are idealized and exaggerated at best. In his report to the church one year, the Rev. Blaine Taylor grieved the conflict that had frozen Sudbury UMC's progress for two and a half years! The pastor wanted to shift gears and focus on building Christians, but the laity wanted to keep on building buildings! Stretching "Pave the Way" construction as long as we can will not be anyone's plan in 2018!

Going back to the chart, the "Late Growth" and, in some cases, "Early Decline" phases among Sudbury's Methodists have been remembered as times of exceptional fruitfulness for God's Reign in terms of justice ministries and local outreach. But this fruitfulness led inevitably, as prophetic embodiments of God's justice almost always do, to tension, conflict, and schism. Though no local church can ever side-step living as a sign of God's table-turning justice entirely, working with one heart to make the most of the coming Christian formation stage might be a legitimate way to minimize distress and division! The next time I write for The Chronicle it will be late August and my summer reading, I imagine, will have given me lots of opportunities to illustrate the growth and decline depicted by the lifecycle chart above. Stay tuned! And, if you are an eyewitness to Sudbury UMC's happenings from the 1960s through the 1990s, let's talk. I'd like to know how you see the phases of the 1956 cycle fitting together.

Finally, please remember this: the blue-colored bell-curve outlining the story of a typical church's beginning, middle, and end can be interrupted and regenerated anywhere along the way where one of the green vectors relaunches a completely new cycle. For us, it seems to me, the good news is this: So far, God has "recycled" Methodism in Sudbury four times. Let's promise each other, and Christ, that we will make the best of the grace we have been given!

See you in church!

Pastor Joel

PRAYER CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

Prayer Concerns on Sunday, July 23

- † Jim Emken came home from the hospital on Friday after surgery and a ten-day stay in the hospital. Jim is in a lot of pain and is visited by a nurse twice a day. Please pray for comfort and healing from this latest surgery. Jim is not ready for visitors but would appreciate cards.
- † Mary Lou Abbott asks prayers for Bud and Louise Pike. Bud has just finished radiation treatment for cancer. Bud and Louise are in their 90s and very fragile.

Prayer Celebrations on Sunday, July 23

- † Nancy Stone is celebrating the marriage of her son, Jeff, to Erika Almquist, on July 1, in an outdoor service at the Episcopal Church Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, NH.
- † Kay D'Orlando requests continued prayers for our cancer support group. The participants continue bravely through their highs and lows.
- † We celebrate with our sister church, Greenwood Memorial UMC, a goal achieved for continuing this year's Greenwood Shalom Summer Enrichment Program. Through our sharing, enrollment scholarships were granted for several children and a planned field trip for all the enrolled children will now occur. Without SUMC's involvement, many children might not have had access to these especially enriching experiences.

DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

- August 5: Morning of service at Boston's Pine Street Inn
- August 6: Guest Preacher - Rev. Betsy Waters
- August 13: Guest Preacher - Rev. Dr. Chang Hee Son
- August 16: Health Ministries Cancer Support Group
- August 21: Deadline for August 24 Chronicle

LEARN

The Magnuson Moment

Thank you to everyone who has made me feel welcome and helped to provide a smooth transition. Although it may seem as though I wear different hats as Director of Christian Education and Magic Years Coordinator, there really is one hat; or one umbrella in case of rain. My overall objective is for us to "encourage [teach] one another and build each other up" to reach full maturity in Christ Jesus, our Lord. As a private and public school teacher and administrator for almost forty years, my calendar operates from July 1 through June 30, so it was fitting to start on July 1 and operate a similar schedule. My theme for this year (July-June) is "Passing the Baton." Pastor Joel presented that concept to the children on my first visit; May 28. That was my first introduction to the children's message as the

children raced the perimeter of the sanctuary. Throughout the year we will be discovering how we can pass on our faith to others.

Christian Education News. Thank you for those who have volunteered and will be volunteering to assist in the One Room Sunday School this summer. Please contact me if you are interested in helping out by assisting or teaching in the fall. Families, please check out the goldenrod colored newsletter given out each Sunday. The weekly "Church School Recap" will help you to connect and learn about what the children are experiencing each Sunday during Sunday school.

Magic Years. I find that we are just as busy during these retirement years as we were during our pre-retirement years. In all of the busyness, take time to reflect on God's grace and goodness each day. Before the summer flies by too fast, and in preparation for our first time together on September 14, please bring in some photographs, post cards (remember those), and memories to share of Summer 2017.

"Chair people" wanted. Have you ever dreamed of being a "chairman" or "chairwoman"? Now you can be! We are looking for "chair people." People who are able and willing to come on Wednesday, August 23 and/or Thursday, August 24 to help clean chairs, tables, and walls as we prepare our three large Sunday school classrooms for our September programming. Please contact Eric Magnuson, eric@sudbury-umc.org or 978-443-4351 x207.

Summer Youth Events

August 5th- Service opportunity for 15 + yr. olds. Meet at SUMC at 8 am for a trip to Pine Street Inn where youth and congregation members from SUMC and Greenwood UMC will prepare meals for a local men's homeless shelter. We will return to SUMC by 1 pm. RSVP to Kristen Straub kbstraub1@verizon.net so we can figure out transportation.

August 13th-6:30 to 8 pm.

Water Balloon Round up
And outdoor water/messy games at the church.
Wear your suit and bring a towel.



August 27th 6:30 to 8 pm at church- Let's say goodbye to summer and get this program year started! Dinner, games, fun, & fellowship at SUMC! We will be doing some things to get ready for Zack, our new Youth Director! (We're looking for a parent or two to help out with this

meeting...PLEASE!! Let Kristen know if you can help!)

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: [Upper Room](#)

CONNECT

Another Culinary Caper at Pine Street Inn on August 5th!



On Saturday, August 5th, we will have the second in a three-part series, "Cooking for the Hundreds." Enrollment is, of course, free and transportation will be provided to and from Pine Street's main facility in Boston.

We will be leaving SUMC's parking lot at 8 AM and be back before 1:00 p.m.

Think about putting on your Saturday "errands" clothes and joining us for a wonderful morning with volunteers from Greenwood Memorial UMC and the Pine Street regulars.

Any questions or want to get in on this adventure, let John Iberg know at John.iberg@icloud.com

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 or cool to sip.

We will look ahead to the passages being preached during worship on:

- July 30 Genesis 29:15-28
- August 6 Genesis 32:22-31
- August 13 Luke 18:18-30, 19:1-9
- August 20 Genesis 45:1-28
- August 27 Exodus 1:8-2:10

A Message from Carl and Chris Schiller

Last month my mother and I proudly awarded the 2017 Ed Schiller Memorial Scholarship to graduating senior Andrew Scaleia. Andrew will attend college in the fall and pursue a career in Criminal Justice or Forensic Science after graduation. This is the 7th scholarship that we have awarded and the 8th year that it has been offered. Congratulations and best of luck, Andrew!



Thank you for your continued support both financially and emotionally to Ed's Scholarship Fund.

The Schiller Family

Open Table's Grand Opening



After many months of renovations, Open Table will be opening their brand new facility on August 7, at 33 Main St. in Maynard, the building formerly occupied by Aubuchon Hardware.

Patty Helsingius will be helping to recruit volunteers for various shifts at the new site for the beginning of August and beyond. Open table still needs our support in order to provide guests both food and friendship. The guests truly appreciate the service provided by Open Table and its volunteers! Please contact Patty if you're able to help.

Stephen Ministry - No Concern Is Too Small

Who can benefit from a Stephen Minister? A Stephen Ministry relationship or conversation is appropriate for almost anyone who is in need of caring support as they struggle with life's changes. Sudbury UMC Stephen Ministers have received 50 hours of Christian care giving.

At Sudbury UMC, you have two opportunities to benefit from the listening, non-judgmental presence of a Stephen Minister. Every Sunday morning, a Stephen Minister is available after the worship service. Or if you would like to meet with a Stephen Minister on a regular basis (weekly, twice a month, or monthly), please speak with Pastor Joel. If you know a friend who could benefit from a Stephen Minister, you can also speak to Pastor Joel.

- July 30 - Lori Granger
- August 6 - Melody Karian
- August 13 - Eric Lind
- August 20 - Linda Lombardo
- August 27 - Gail Smith
- September 3 - Richard Smith

Sunny Hill Preschool

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.

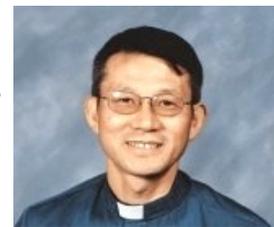
Meet the Guest Preachers We Will Hear August 6 and 13

While Pastor Joel is vacationing July 31 through August 13, two Central Massachusetts pastors will preach in our chancel during the 9:30 a.m. service of worship and officiate at the Lord's Table.



The Rev. Betsy Waters, a clergy member of the United Church of Christ and resident of Marlborough, will visit Sudbury UMC on August 6. Many of us remember Rev. Waters as the New England Conference consultant who conferred with our church's leaders when they were writing the 2007 Strategic Plan.

The Rev. Dr. Chang-Hee Son will be our guest on August 13. Dr. Son served as Sudbury UMC's associate pastor in 1986 and 1987. He has been appointed since 1989 to Bridgewater State University in Bridgewater, MA, as Protestant chaplain.



PICNICKING WITH GREENWOOD WAS A LOT OF FUN!





Dear Church Families and Friends,

Although the few pictures portray a joyous and festive occasion, we feel moved to share a brief account of the Annual Picnic with the Greenwood UMC, Sudbury UMC and Friends on June 25th. According to many persons present, it was one of the largest attended and best ever.

From the beginning of the cooperative planning, (Commissions, church leaders, Pastor, Congregants, and others), setting up, food purchasing and preparation, worship service, eating, fellowship, and enjoying great music (by our talented performers of SUMC), to the cleanup, the picnic served as a most enjoyable and memorable event. Even the brief sprinkles failed to bother the attendees.

The large, diverse, intergenerational and extremely appreciative attendees were served a wide array of picnic foods. The very delicious desserts were so plentiful that they had to be served in Hawes Hall and brought to those unable to negotiate the distance. Greenwood UMC, Sudbury UMC and Friends, your offerings were EXCELLENT!!!

We are so thankful for all everyone did to make this a successful gathering. And we mean ALL. Regardless of the assigned, unassigned or volunteered job, it was accomplished with a sense of pride, willingness and spiritual sharing that showed "the presence of the Lord in our midst."

Oscar Harrell

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