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## *The Weekly Chronicle*

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### FROM PASTOR JOEL

Dear Friends in Christ,

Wendy and I have been home about a week since traveling during the first half of August in Downeast Maine and New Hampshire's White Mountains. Checking off two of our "bucket list" dreams made it one of our best vacations ever. While we were staying in a cute Victorian apartment a few steps from Camden Harbor, we decided to take our chances with foggy weather and hop a passenger ferry to Monhegan Island. Twelve miles out

to sea, the keeper's cottage next to the lighthouse is now home to an amazing array of paintings created during the last hundred years or so on Monhegan by artists whose widely known work now hangs in museums that are much easier to reach in Boston and New York. Taking the Cog Railroad to the top of Mount Washington highlighted the second week - a trip we now highly recommend.

Another recommendation I hope you will take seriously is worshipping at Sudbury UMC each Sunday in September. Our first month after the summer slowdown is always one of our best, but this year seems extra special to me. Here's what's coming from Labor Day till Columbus Day. Mark your calendar!

Our guest preacher on September 3 will be the Rev. Anne Robertson. Continuing a tradition that began maybe six or eight years ago, the Social Justice Commission and I have invited Rev. Robertson to help us mark the Sunday in Labor Day Weekend because she has done some writing about labor rights in one of her books, *God's Top Ten*. Methodists used to be key players in the labor movement. Come and hear why and what the Bible still has to say about labor justice in our nation.

September 10 marks the first day of graded Sunday School classes since last May. For the kids of our church, it's all about being reunited with friends they haven't seen, perhaps, since summer vacations led us all in many directions. Eric Magnuson, our new Director of Christian Education, wants to add another friend to each child's list of BFFs. When I was a kid, my church called them "foster grandparents." I like Eric's name better: "Grand-Friends." During worship, let's see how many "Grand-Friend" relationships we can launch with a blessing and a prayer. Look for the sign-up details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Did you know that Sudbury UMC has added three education professionals to our staff since the end of the last school year? On September 17, come and meet them all as we commend their work to God with our prayers and promises of support. During the time I usually spend in the pulpit, I will interview this bright new trio. Heather Porder's first day of work as director of Sunny Hill Preschool was July 24. Eric Magnuson, our Director of Christian Education, moved into his church office on July 1. And Zachary Moser is on his way from North Carolina to Massachusetts as you read this letter. Zack will serve as director of youth ministries, starting September 1, and a quick introduction in worship on September 3.

Finally, Music Ministries Sunday will take place on September 24. Come and sample a few appetizers from the extensive musical menu Rob Hammerton and Kevin Murphy have been planning for the 2017-2018 program year. And remember! If you've been pondering a move from the pews to the platform where the choir leads worship each Sunday, September is a good time to migrate. You have heard me say it before: Music Ministries Sunday is like an audition. Kevin and Rob, the choir's members, vocal soloists, and instrumentalists show us what they've got and then we decide whether to "hire" them for the next 40 Sundays. So

far, every audition has been successful! I wonder what will happen this year!

See what I mean? Worship at Sudbury UMC is about to take off for another spectacular year! Just one caveat: The fuller our pews, the more spectacular and effervescent worship will be! I hope you have had a wonderful summer. Now let's promise each other an exciting and fulfilling fall!

See you in church!

Pastor Joel

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## PRAYER CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

### Prayer Concerns on Sunday, August 20

- ✦ The Health Ministries Cancer Support Group asks us to continue to pray for all patients and caregivers who are managing and living with cancer in our immediate community, the country and the world.
- ✦ Greg Bockweg requests prayers for his brother and his children as they deal with the loss of Margi, Greg's sister-in-law. She passed away after a long battle with cancer. While the family appreciated the extra years with her, no amount of time would have prepared them to say goodbye.

### Prayer Celebrations on Sunday, August 20

- ✦ Ruth and Dick Briden and Mary and Phil Lenentine celebrated their wedding anniversaries last Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. Both couples have enjoyed wedded bliss for 61 years!
- ✦ Greg Bockweg wrote that he celebrates the solar eclipse he was able to arrange to mark one of Cindi's 29<sup>th</sup> birthdays on Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>!
- ✦ Jeff Lance and his family give thanks for the peaceful passing of his mother on August 12. After a colon cancer diagnosis in June and an up-and-down recovery, Jeff and his brother were holding her hands when she died. The funeral took place on Saturday. We pray for peace and comfort.
- ✦ Sophia and Oscar celebrate the life of their friend, Rev. Horace Sheldon. Rev. Sheldon was a founder of Community Change Inc., the well-known agency combatting racism. Arrangements for a memorial service will be announced at a later date.
- ✦ We celebrate that while Kevin is on vacation, the organ continues to be played! Sherry Stonebraker was on the bench this past Sunday. We are grateful for Sherry and all our talented musicians who share their God-given talents throughout the year!

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## DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

- September 4: Labor Day - Office Closed
- September 7: Weekly Chronicle resumes
- September 10: Homecoming Sunday
- September 10: Sunday School resumes for individual age groups

- September 17: Bible Study of New Testament Sunday class begins
  - September 20: Bible Study of New Testament Wednesday class begins
  - September 20: Health Ministries Cancer Support Group
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## LEARN

### Director of Youth Ministries to Join Our Staff in September

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce that Zachary Moser will join our church's staff in September as Director of Youth Ministries. Zack comes to Sudbury UMC from the Pinehurst UMC in Pinehurst, NC, where he has served for six years as Director of Student and Family Ministries. Prior to that, he served for three years at Wake Forest UMC as youth director. In 2004, Zack graduated from North Carolina State University with a BA in Communications. The University of North Carolina in Wilmington awarded him a MA in Liberal Studies in 2008. The Divinity School at Duke University conferred the M.Div. in 2011.

In addition to his skills and experience leading church programs for teens and families, the SPRC also saw Zack's strong musical interests as a good fit for participation on our staff. He is an accomplished singer and musician who plays piano and trombone. A "double-preachers' kid," Zack's mom and dad are both United Methodist pastors. Their son, however, is a candidate for ordination as a deacon in The United Methodist Church. By linking the worship of local churches to the witness of Christians in the world, ordained deacons build bridges between those who already love Christ and those God is calling to join the dance.

### The Magnuson Moment

As I write my thoughts for the August issue of The Chronicle, I am taken back to my years as a classroom teacher, readying for a new school year. This year is no different. In a couple of days many from our church community will be scrubbing chairs, tables, and walls and organizing our supply closet for the start of a new Sunday school year. In addition to our many volunteers, I am thankful to our dedicated church sextons, Joe and Phil, and to our building committee for their help with final preparations of the Sunday school classrooms.

Like it or not, fall is in the air. Embrace it and look forward with excited anticipation of all that God will have for us in the new school year.

Despite a cooler and wetter than usual summer (this was predicted in The Old Farmer's Almanac), the One-Room Sunday School has enjoyed spending each class session outdoors this summer. We explored characters from the Old Testament and enjoyed many crafts, games, and activities.

As our summer draws to a close, there will be no Sunday School on September 3, but classes will resume on Sunday, September 10.

Sunday, September 10, will be our welcome back to the fall and our new Sunday School year. This also happens to fall on Grandparent's Day. In our celebration, we will be celebrating Grandfriend's Day with a Prayer Pal program. Our "seniors" and children will partner up and become prayer pals during the school year. If you have not submitted your response card yet, or if you would like to participate, please contact Eric Magnuson, 978-443-4351 x 207 or [eric@sudbury-umc.org](mailto:eric@sudbury-umc.org). The effective prayers of a righteous person availeth much. James 5:16.

### **Adult Education resumes in September**

Invitation to Adults - Fellowship and Short-Term Disciple Bible Study. Come this Fall and enjoy learning more about the story of Jesus. ... We will watch videos as scholars fascinate us with facts and information that opens new understanding and enlightenment. ... In a second video each session, we will sit in on a table conversation as guest scholars debate key issues in the text. ... We will learn how the early church took ownership of and was shaped by the story of Jesus - and how the church learned to develop as disciples and to create communities of faith. ... We will find a deeper understanding of the writers of the New Testament and a renewal of our commitment to be shaped as the writers were shaped - personally and communally - by the story of Jesus.

Jim Empfield and John McKinney will facilitate this Short-Term Disciple Bible Study, "Invitation to the New Testament". ... Each week, you may participate either on Sunday after church or in an identical session the following Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. We start Sunday Sep. 17th and Wednesday Sep. 20th and meet in the O'Reilly Room through mid-November. Our objective is to keep the sessions to no longer than one hour. ... A participant's study guide will be available.

All are invited. Bring a friend, church member or not.

Please call Eric Magnuson at 978-443-4351 (ext. 207), or [eric@sudbury-umc.org](mailto:eric@sudbury-umc.org) and let him know that you will join the group so we can plan for the best experience.



**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: <http://devotional.upperroom.org/>

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## CONNECT

### Magic Years

Join us on **Thursday, September 14, from noon-2:00 p.m.** in Davison Chapel for our first Magic Years event of 2017-2018. Our special guest this month will be Owen Allen. Mr. Allen will share his adventure of hiking the entire Appalachian Trail upon graduating from seminary in 1960. Mr. Allen is an engaging presenter and you will enjoy his humor as he talks about the history, the changes, and the challenges of the Appalachian Trail.

Please bring in some photographs, post cards (remember those), and memories to share of Summer 2017.

Contact Eric Magnuson at 978-443-4351 (ext. 207), or [eric@sudbury-umc.org](mailto:eric@sudbury-umc.org) to sign-up for the event.

### Coffee Hour Helpers Needed

Are you interested in a way to serve in the church that involves a small time commitment and no meetings? Kathie Stayton has got the perfect opportunity for you! Come prepare and serve coffee for your SUMC family and friends just once a week every 4-6 weeks. It's fast and easy with the new equipment in our new beautiful kitchen. If interested, please contact Kathie at [kathiestayton@gmail.com](mailto:kathiestayton@gmail.com).

### A ♪ from the Choir Director!

Dear SUMC friends:

Come sing with us! There, this article is done.

Well of COURSE it's my job as choir director to strongly plug choir singing. Always great to have new people join us (in fact, that's how SUMC's music program survives!). We have a grand old time Thursday nights from 7:30 to 9:00. And for many people (including me), it's a very obvious way to express our faith -- using music that is not all Intimidating High-Octane Classical Music, although that can be a good time too.

You may hear "come sing with us!" and hesitate, and reply, "I don't really read music" or "I don't sing well".

Oh, friends. You don't \*need\* a master's degree in music performance to do this. We promise.

[1] About not really reading music: you can get away with it. (Sssssh!) Lots of current choir members actually read music better than they realize, and it's because, honestly? When the ink splashes on the page goes up, the notes go up. You read left-to-right. Just like the hymnal. And there are enough people with whom you can sneak your voice in, and get more and more comfortable as you go.

[2] About not thinking you sing well? Um, d'you know how many people fall under that heading? Nearly everybody. Most of our choir folks will say "I'm in the choir", but very few will say, "I'm a Singer." The problem is the singing we compare ourselves to. Recordings of Luciano Pavarotti or Audra MacDonald or pick-your-favorite-vocalist make us think that they're \*normal\*. They're NOT. Also many popular singers are, um, helped along by studio tricks and technology. In our choir sessions, we're helped along by faith and by tips about how to sing in a healthy, comfortable way; and God takes care of the rest.

[3] In both cases: safety in numbers! And it appears to be a tradition here that we help new singers feel, well, nicely camouflaged. (We got'cher back, as they say.)

So, Kevin and I (and the whole choir) want you to know that you're welcome and INVITED to try us on for size, any Thursday night.

Come see me at coffee hour in the next few weeks, or shoot me an Email <[rhammerton@earthlink.net](mailto:rhammerton@earthlink.net)>.

We'll start this program year (as usual) with two Thursday night sessions, August 31 and September 7, before the opening of the program year on Sunday, September 10 - and again, if you're new to this, YOU decide if/when you want to start singing with us on a Sunday!

Also ... there's the fun factor. And we do have that. We'd love to show you.

Peace and high notes, -Rob

## 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:

- August 27 Exodus 1:8-2:10
- September 3 Exodus 3:1-15
- September 10 Matthew 18:15-20

## Open Table's Grand Opening

Open Table would like to express their deep appreciation to SUMC for allowing us to use Hawes Hall and the kitchen for our weekly dinners. Now we are in our beautiful new facility and we invite everyone from the church to join us for dinner there on Tuesday evenings, at 6:00 p.m. The dinner is a true Community Dinner for everyone.



We also invite all from SUMC to volunteer with Open Table to continue this very important work. We have expanded our hours and our offerings, and we need to expand our volunteer base in order to operate. Please join in the fun. Our new facility is 8 minutes from the church, at 33 Main Street (former Aubuchon Hardware) in Maynard Center. Please visit [opentable.org](http://opentable.org) to register as a volunteer.

Thanks everyone.

Patty Helsingius  
Director, Volunteer Outreach  
Open Table

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. 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.

- August 27 Gail Smith
- September 3 Richard Smith
- September 10 Linda Cooper
- September 17 Eric Lind
- September 24 John Fraize
- October 1 Diane Hammond

### Sunny Hill Pre-School

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 Heather or Kate for a tour or to complete your child's enrollment. Call 978-443-2627 today.

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## 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 978-443-2145.

### 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:kim.prendergast@gmail.com).



# HOPEsudbury Annual Backpack Drive

**August 11 – September 8**

**We are collecting NEW Backpacks & School Supplies:**

Tissues, Clorox Wipes, Paper Towels, Crayola Twistables, Pens, Pencils, Highlighters, Erasers, Notebooks, Binders, Dividers, Folders, Glue sticks, Calculators, Pencil Boxes, Lunch Boxes, etc.

**To Benefit:**

**Sudbury Public Schools and Mary's House (Waltham)**

**DROP OFF LOCATIONS:**

Goodnow Library, The Performing Arts Connection,  
Sudbury Historical Society



For more information, please contact Carole Ann Baer: 508-498-5095 or [caroleannbaer@gmail.com](mailto:caroleannbaer@gmail.com)  
[www.hopesudbury.org](http://www.hopesudbury.org)



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