

He who began  
a good work  
in you  
will bring it  
to completion  
at the day  
of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:6, ESV

***Sudbury United Methodist Church***

**Second Sunday of Easter**  
**April 7, 2024**

*\*indicates worshipers may stand in body or spirit*

**Welcome**

**Prelude:** “Prelude”

Henry Purcell

**\*Call to Worship:** *(written by Karin Ellis)*

Leader: It is good for God’s people to gather in unity.

**Many: We are here at the invitation of God.**

Leader: In this place, God’s love and grace flow into our lives.

**Many: In this place, God’s blessings abound.**

Leader: Praise be to God!

**All: PRAISE BE TO GOD!**

**\*Processional Hymn:** UMH # 310 – “He Lives”

## He Lives

1. I serve a ris - en Sav - ior, he's in the world to - day;  
 2. In all the world a - round me I see his lov - ing care,  
 3. Re - joice, re-joyce, O Chris-tian, lift up your voice and sing

I know that he is liv - ing, what - ev - er foes may say.  
 and though my heart grows wea - ry, I nev - er will de - spair.  
 e - ter - nal hal - le - lu - jahs to Je - sus Christ the King!

I see his hand of mer - cy, I hear his voice of cheer,  
 I know that he is lead - ing through all the storm - y blast;  
 The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find;

and just the time I need him, he's al - ways near.  
 the day of his ap - pear-ing will come at last.  
 none oth - er is so lov-ing, so good and kind.

RESURRECTION AND EXALTATION

*Refrain*

He lives, (he lives) he lives, (he lives) Christ Je - sus lives to - day!

He walks with me and talks with me a - long life's nar - row way.

He lives, (he lives) he lives, (he lives) sal - va - tion to im - part!

You ask me how I know he lives? He lives with-in my heart.

**\*Opening Prayer:** *(written by Karen Ellis)*

**Holy One, we gather with grateful hearts to remember the blessings of your light and love as they flow through our lives each day.**

**In this moment, open our hearts to your Holy Spirit.**

**Open our minds to the truths of your story.**

**Open our hands to welcome the risen Christ among us.**

**And open our eyes to your glory – a glory reflected in the faces around us.**

**In the name of the risen Christ, we pray. AMEN.**

## **Passing the Peace of Christ**

**\*A Reading from the Gospel:** John 20:19-31

*This reading can be found on page 115 in the New Testament section of the pew Bibles.*

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

## **Children’s Time**

## **Special Music**

**Reading from the Scripture:** Philippians 1:6

*This reading can be found on page 196 in the New Testament section of the pew Bibles.*

<sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.

**Sermon:** “Because He Forgave Us”

Jesus Ruiz

**Hymn:** UMH # 364 – “Because He Lives”

## Because He Lives

1. God sent his Son, they called him Je - sus;  
 2. How sweet to hold a new-born ba - by,  
 3. And then one day I'll cross the riv - er;

he came to love, heal, and for - give;  
 and feel the pride and joy he\* gives;  
 I'll fight life's fi - nal war with pain;

he lived and died to buy my par - don,  
 but great - er still the calm as - sur - ance,  
 and then as death gives way to vic - tory,

an emp - ty grave is there to prove my Sav - ior lives.  
 this child can face un - cer - tain days be - cause he lives.  
 I'll see the lights of glo - ry and I'll know he reigns.

\*Jesus

WORDS: Gloria and William J. Gaither, 1971  
 MUSIC: William J. Gaither, 1971

RESURRECTION  
 98.9 11 with Refrain

PARDON

*Refrain*

Be-cause he lives, I can face to - mor - row;

be-cause he lives, all fear is gone;

be-cause I know he holds the fu - ture,

and life is worth the liv-ing just be-cause he lives.



## Prayer Joys and Concerns

**Stewardship Moment:** Thrive Communities  
**The Pastoral Prayer**

## Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

**Offertory Anthem:** “In Joseph’s Lovely Garden” C. Dickinson

**\*Doxology:** UMH # 94-“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Offertory Blessing**

## Holy Communion

**\*The Great Thanksgiving** (*Booklet located in pew rack.*)

**The Giving of the Bread and Cup**

*(“Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another” [UMH page 12]. At the ushers’ invitation, worshipers may join the line to receive a morsel of gluten-free bread and an individual cup of grape juice. Empty cups will be placed in baskets as worshipers return to their pews by a side aisle.)*

**Communion Anthem:** “Come, Share the Lord” B. J. Leech

**Prayer after Communion**

**Hymn of Commitment:** TFWS # 2270 – “He Has Made Me Glad”

## He Has Made Me Glad

2270



I will en-ter his gates with thanks-giv-ing in my heart, I will



en - ter his courts with praise. I will



say, "This is the day that the Lord has made." I



will re-joice, for he has made me glad.

*Refrain*

He has made me glad, he has made me glad. I



will re-joice, for he has made me glad.



He has made me glad, he has made me glad. I



will re-joice, for he has made me glad.

WORDS: Leona Von Brethorst (Ps. 100:2, 4; 118:24)

MUSIC: Leona Von Brethorst

LEONA

Irregular with Refrain

## **Dismissal with Blessing**

**Postlude:** “Old 100<sup>th</sup> Psalm Tune”

Henry Purcell

This morning's liturgist is Chris Straub.

The flowers on the altar this morning are in memory of Annie Gorman, who died 20 years ago on April 25<sup>th</sup> and whose 31<sup>st</sup> birthdate is April 9<sup>th</sup>.

*(Sudbury United Methodist Church enjoys a vibrant and gifted tradition of worship and praise to our Creator. If you wish to leave worship early, you are welcome to do so in a quiet and reverent manner.)*

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**Reconciling & Welcoming Statement:** The United Methodist Church is a community of believers and seekers, with differences in age, class, nationality, race, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, abilities, and limitations. We at SUMC recognize that there are attitudes, concerning these diverse characteristics, which violate the integrity of individuals and deny the richness of God's creation. Therefore, we affirm our welcome to all people into our community of faith. We are committed to be a fellowship in which all persons feel a part of our family, enabling them to grow in their faith, to be fed by our fellowship, and to contribute their talents to the life of the church in its worship, programs, and outreach. We call the church and society to be sensitive to all persons and to advocate programs which attempt to ensure justice for all.

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**Sudbury United Methodist Church**

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**Church Staff**

**Pastor:** Leigh E. Goodrich

*(Pastor Leigh observes sabbath on Friday)*

**Youth & Children's Ministries Director:** Zachary Moser

*(Pastor Zack observes sabbath on Wednesday)*

**Music Director/Organist:** Kevin Murphy, AAGO

**Sanctuary Choir Director:** Rob Hammerton

**Business Manager:** Michael Greb

**Sunny Hill Preschool Director:** Kathy Palmer

**Office Administrator:** Shetal Kaye

**Sexton:** Joe Picorelli

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**We are a Reconciling and Welcoming  
Congregation**



## Sudbury United Methodist Church

April 7, 2024

### Welcome, Guests!

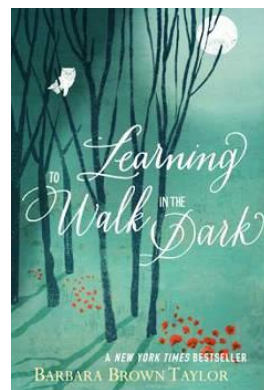
Whether you are visiting Sudbury UMC's Sunday worship services in our sanctuary or via our live-streamed or video-recorded options, we welcome you! We invite you to celebrate with us the hope God has given the world through Jesus Christ. The nursery above the sanctuary is open for families with children who would like to be able to see and hear the service, while allowing the children to roam and play in a safe kid-friendly room. Enjoy your visit! Please come back as often as you can!

### The Outreach Commission Hosts Second Chance Sunday Today

Today's speaker, Jesus Ruiz, Founder and President of Leaving The Streets Ministry will share his remarkable message of Second Chances. God found him in a prison cell, changed his heart in an amazing way, and sent him out into the world to do His work. Jesus, with his Co-Founder and wife, Wanda, have led a powerful example of discipleship in Haverhill and the surrounding area as they work to get youth off of drugs, out of gangs and into jobs. There will be a lunch served in Davison Chapel after the service followed by the film "Voices of Reentry." Our partners at Thrive Communities will lead a discussion. We hope you will be able to attend. Please be sure to extend a warm SUMC welcome to all our guests.

### Spirituality Book Study Starts Thursday, April 11, at 6:30 pm.

In *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, Barbara Brown Taylor guides us through a spirituality that teaches us how to find our footing in times of uncertainty, and gives us strength and hope to face all of life's challenging moments. By putting aside our fears and anxieties, we are free to explore all that God has to teach us "in the dark." Through darkness we find courage, we understand the world in new ways, and we feel God's presence around us, guiding us through things seen and unseen. Often, it is while we are in the dark that we grow the most. We'll start Thursday, April 11th at 6:30 pm and end on Thursday, May 16th. Please contact either Karen Lubic or John McKinney to get the Zoom link.



### Magic Years on April 11

Magic Years will take place on April 11, at noon in Hawes Hall. Our speaker is Bob Linke who will lead a discussion on "Why do my prescription drugs cost so much?" Call/text 508-561-5382, or email [kjdorlando@comcast.net](mailto:kjdorlando@comcast.net) by tomorrow, Monday, April 8, to let Kay know you are attending.

### Yard Sale on May 18

Mark your calendars - SUMC will host a community yard sale on Saturday, May 18, from 9 am to 3 pm! This is a great chance to keep old items out of the landfill, to serve our neighbors, and to invite people to visit us! We will rent tables for \$25 to crafters or all who wants to sell their own things. We'll also take donations of items that the church can sell. We need volunteers to help - please consider joining in the fun! For more information, please contact Lay Leader Heather Josselyn-Cranson at [hjosselyn@hotmail.com](mailto:hjosselyn@hotmail.com).

## How to Donate Sunday Morning Altar Flowers



The Flower Team welcomes altar flower donations. To choose a date, visit a user-friendly website: [Flower Sign-Up Genius](#). or email Kerry at ([healyweeks@gmail.com](mailto:healyweeks@gmail.com)). Please use the comment section to note if your gift is intended to be in honor or in memory of someone special. And if you have specific flowers in mind, please also share that information in the comment section. Thanks.

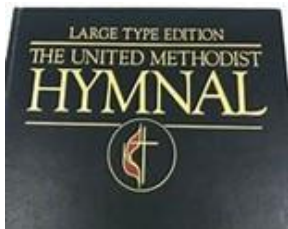
**Do you love flowers? Would you like to join the team that creates the beautiful arrangements on the altar each Sunday?** Please contact Kerry Healy to let her know of your interest and she'll be happy to fill you in about the process.

## Coming to Church? Please Follow Safety Guidelines!

The windows in the sanctuary will remain open for the foreseeable future to improve air flow and enhance public safety. Please do not close the windows during worship. You may want to sit closer to the center aisle if you are cold. We're trying to prevent the spread of viruses and COVID. Please be mindful of the outdoor temperature and dress accordingly. Masks are available if you need one.



## Do You Prefer Large Print? Hearing Assistance?



Large print copies of the *Bible*, *The United Methodist Hymnal* and *The Faith We Sing* are available for worshipers who prefer them. They can be found on a pew bench in the narthex. For those who find it difficult to hear, especially with air-circulating equipment in use during our services, easy to use hearing devices can also be helpful. Like transistor radios, they're easy to adjust and safe to wear since the earpiece fits over the ear and not inside. Our ushers will happily assist you.

## Coffee Hour Follows Worship

Coffee and conversation follow Sunday worship services. To find Hawes Hall, exit the sanctuary by the door near the pulpit. Climb three steps, turn left and follow the corridor to the aroma of fresh coffee and the sound of fellowship!

**Can you help this vital ministry by making coffee on Sunday mornings?** Sherry and Ernie Stonebraker are happy to train those who are willing to join the team. It is a great way to get to know our congregation. To offer your help, contact Sherry at ([sstoneb@aol.com](mailto:sstoneb@aol.com)).



## Sunday Greeters Needed

The Church Growth Commission has resumed our custom of welcoming visitors and members to church each Sunday morning. Cindi Bockweg maintains a Sunday Greeters' calendar. If this is a way you want to contribute to our time together, Cindi would appreciate hearing from you! Her email address is ([cindijb@hotmail.com](mailto:cindijb@hotmail.com)).

## Food Pantry Needs

Donations made to the shopping cart near the O'Reilly Room are delivered to the Food Bank in Maynard. Canned tuna, fruit and vegetables are always popular. Pasta, spaghetti sauce in jars, raisins in boxes, dried beans in bags, breadcrumbs, condensed milk, rice pilaf, and instant coffee are also always welcome. Donations may be left at the church's O'Reilly Room entrance any Sunday morning or Monday through Friday during office hours. Thanks for your generosity.



## We Live-Stream on SUMC's YouTube Channel and Facebook Page!

Find us each Sunday morning as we live-stream on YouTube and Facebook. **You can click the links below the logos to connect in real time!** The Church Growth Commission invites you to follow us on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Twitter! By reaching out to the community through these social media platforms, the commission hopes to reach a larger audience as we move into the future. Please help our church to grow by following us on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Twitter.



[Facebook](#)



[YouTube](#)



[Instagram](#)



[Twitter](#)

## Upper Room Booklets

Lay and clergy writers who contribute to The Upper Room helps laity and clergy readers around the world focus on God's loving presence in daily life. Free booklets are available in a clear rack outside the O'Reilly Room door. Or visit The Upper Room online at <http://devotional.upperroom.org/>.

Five minutes, fifteen, or thirty reading Scripture and sitting quietly in God's presence will set the tone for the whole day.

## Ron Smith Memorial Fund



The Ron Smith Memorial Fund award is given each year to remember a beloved member of our congregation. Ron was a member for many years and contributed much to the music program with his very talented trumpet playing.

The Fund was established in 2019 after Ron's passing and is given annually

(1) to a young person to encourage and to help pursue their musical goals.

(2) It can also be awarded to cancer patients and loved one who provide care for them.

The Fund awards a monetary gift in May. Please see Pastor Leigh or a member of the Worship and Music Commission for more information and to apply.

## Kidbury UMC

Kidbury UMC is open before and after worship! It is for all ages (there's even a toddler table!) and opens at 9:00 am each Sunday. Feel free to come by any time before 9:45 or after worship during Coffee Hour.



## Sunday Morning Youth Devo

Each Sunday through June 9, at 9:15 am, youth (grades 6-12) are invited to the youth room (below the sanctuary) for a morning devotion using the *d365* app or website. *d365* <https://d365.org/> is a daily devotion written for youth and adults. The devotion follows a five-step format – Pause, Listen, Think, Pray, Go – and the reading/discussion will usually take 15-20 minutes. The SUMC youth and the Christian Education Commission are thankful for our adult volunteers who will facilitate the morning devotion and discussion, and for the livestream team leaders for their leadership.

## Salkehatchie Fundraisers Coming Soon!

SUMC's members have been extremely supportive of Salkehatchie, our annual mission trip to South Carolina. We will be returning this summer, and there will be a few fundraisers that will hopefully provide not only funds but also life-giving opportunities for you. Stay tuned!

## Adult Formation Classes

The Adult Formation Classes meet on Sunday mornings from 9:15-9:45 am.

***Exploring Topics in Christianity*** meets in Davison Chapel. During April, we will be exploring the early years of Christianity.

- April 14th - Christianity - A New Jewish Sect, or a New Religion?
- April 21st - The Apostles - What Came Next?
- April 28th - Life as an Early Christian

***The Upper Room Group*** meets each week in the O'Reilly Room. This group opens in prayer, then reflects on a scripture passage or devotional reading provided by individual volunteers from the group.

## Join Our Liturgist Team

Reading scripture at our worship service is one of the many rewarding ways to be involved with SUMC. Liturgists help lead the congregation in prayer, read Scripture, and assist with the distribution of the bread and cup during Holy Communion. Those who enjoy public speaking, and especially reading the gospels, are welcome to join our team of Liturgists. All readings and prayers are supplied to the liturgist making it easy for you to prepare. Your commitment would be only 4-5 Sundays within the year. If you are interested, please reach out to Libby Dilling, [libby@dilling.org](mailto:libby@dilling.org).

## Discussion Led By Sudbury Police Chief Scott Nix on "Safety Preparedness" on Sunday April 21

Shortly after the service on April 21, Police Chief Nix will lead a discussion in the sanctuary on "Safety Preparedness." Consider staying after church on April 21st to meet Police Chief Nix and ask any questions that you may have.