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LETTER FROM PASTOR LEIGH

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Isaiah 41:10

Hello Dear Friends,

I pray that you know and experience grace and peace in the name of Jesus Christ, whose certain resurrection we will celebrate at the end of this month. In fact, on the very last day of the month of March.

It is comforting to know that some things are certain. Spring will come, even during cold winter days. The sun will surely rise in the morning. Christmas is always on December 25. Certainty gives us a sense of comfort and calm.

But, what about uncertainty? Unlike Christmas, Easter moves around. It is celebrated after the first full moon that occurs on or following the spring equinox on March 21. It's no wonder that we ask ourselves, when is Easter this year. It can occur anytime within a thirty-five-day period, depending on the phases of the moon. The season of Lent begs us to consider the uncertainty of life, because it is itself, uncertain.

This year our world is filled with so much uncertainty:

An ongoing war in Ukraine.

A war that has raged for over six-months in Israel.

An election whose outcome is unknown.

And our church has experienced uncertainty too. Last month we faced a deficit of \$63,000. This month we have chipped it down to \$18,800 at this writing. We didn't do this because of one big gift but because of the hard work and frugal habits of so many of you who answered the call to give an extra \$25.00 each month or decided to pledge for the first time. A giant THANK YOU to each and every one of you. I know some of you are on fixed incomes, and giving more means giving up something that makes the days easier for you. Your sacrifice is very much appreciated.

Of course, the church deficit is just one symptom of the larger challenge we have all faced as we have emerged from a COVID quarantine into living with the uncertainty of the disease and its many variants. We are vigilant keeping windows and air purifiers working. We sometimes wear masks. We keep a healthy distance from one another. We get vaccinated. We are a community of love that works to protect our friends from an uncertain illness. In year 5 of the pandemic, we are still mindful of the ramifications of a new outbreak.

However, we always live with the unknown. Recent studies show that we benefit from uncertainty. Not me, you might say! Yet the more we face uncertainty, the more we become adaptive experts who break the inertia of predictability. We replace anxiety with curiosity. We can see more in a situation that previously might have elicited despair or worry. Embracing uncertainty can help us be more aware and inquisitive. It helps us to grow.

So, friends, come join me in the space of wondering about uncertainty aloud. A place where friends listen and care for one another when the unknown is before us. Always remembering that God is with us, we are not alone. Not ever.

With peace and blessings to you all,

Pastor Leigh

LEARN

Greetings from the SUMC Youth!

Annual Retreat: Deep Freeze at Camp Berea

This month, we will make our annual return to Hebron, NH for Deep Freeze at Camp Berea, where we will somehow fit four high-energy worship services, a series of giant group games, a couple of hours of free time, small group reflections, four meals, a “deep freeze dive” (where the sensible youth leader watches about 100 teenagers make the terrible decision to jump into a freezing-cold lake), and a ton of activity options all into a span of about 40 hours. Not sure how that happens, but it happens every year.

What makes this year special is that about half of the participants will be Berea first-timers, which is a reminder of how much life has been added to Sunday evenings at the church. The large number of 6th- and 7th- grade youth at SUMC is a blessing and a promising sign of what the Church has in store in its very near future – and that’s not just about our congregation. These youth and have also brought new life and enthusiasm into the Youth Ministry Collaborative (YMC), so they are also inspiring Lutherans, Episcopalians, and Presbyterians!

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. We hope to have a Parents’ Night Out evening on Friday, April 5 (for donations), a dinner and silent auction event in May (stay tuned!), and another idea that was brought to Zack’s attention but he has to talk to the team about it first – if it’s a go, it’ll be a way to support the team *and* an outreach to low-income families.

If you have any questions about anything pertaining to youth ministry at SUMC or if you are a youth/parent who would like to receive weekly updates, contact Zack (zack@sudbury-umc.org).

Keep the Faith.

Magnific Moment

Kidbury UMC

Kidbury UMC is open before and after worship! The theme for the month of March is “Glow in the Dark!” It’s all about the events of Jesus’ last week in Jerusalem. There will be light-themed activities and crafts, and our theme song for the month is “This Little Light of Mine.” As always, the Kidbury Library, games station, and Tent of Meeting (prayer station) will be available for children to visit any time.

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



March Calendar

- **March 15-17:** Deep Freeze at Camp Berea
- **March 17:** YMC at St. John Lutheran Church
- **March 23:** Outdoor Church food distribution
- **March 24:** Salkehatchie team & family meeting
- **March 31:** No Sunday night fellowship
- **April 5:** Parents’ Night Out (tentative)



Easter Egg Olympics

The second annual Easter Egg Olympic games are scheduled for the afternoon on **Saturday, March 23** (if we do it one more year it will officially be a tradition). Bring the family! Invite the neighbors! It's gonna be a blast (see the inserted picture for an idea of all the fun that is in store).

Want to help? Here are a few ways...

- We need empty TP tubes for the pre-K activities. We'd love for you to stop tossing those for now and give them to Zack instead.
- Donate some candy to stuff Easter Eggs (no nuts...*no nuts!*)
- You can still volunteer on the day of the event. Just contact Zack or Caryl (emails below) if you want to help.



The flyer is for the Easter Egg Olympics at Sudbury United Methodist Church. It features a yellow banner with the event title, a list of activities, and the date and time. The activities include egg-rolling, egg-toss, a spoon-and-egg relay, an egg-dye and decoration table, a pre-K activity zone, and a grand finale with separate egg hunts for different ages. The date is Saturday, March 23, at 2:00pm, located at 251 Old Sudbury Rd, Sudbury, MA. There will also be refreshments.

Adult Formation Classes

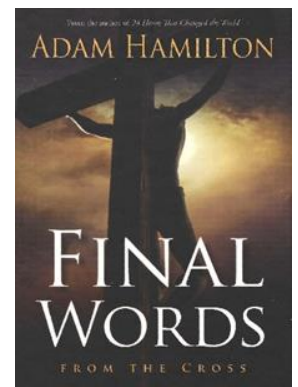
There are two adult education opportunities every Sunday. *Exploring Topics in Christianity* meets in Davison Chapel. Each week is a new topic that revolves loosely around a connected theme. *The Upper Room Group* meets each week in the O'Reilly Room. This group opens in prayer, then reflects on a scripture passage or devotional reading provided by individual volunteers from the group. Both adult classes are 9:15-9:45 am

For more information about any of our Christian Education/Formation programs or to volunteer at the Easter Egg Olympics, contact Caryl Walsh (CarylW@comcast.net) or Zack Moser (zack@sudbury-umc.org).

Monday Evening Bible Study

Our most meaningful day in the life of Christians, Easter, is two weeks away. This is a perfect time to come together on Monday Evenings to enjoy being with each other and to grapple with the reality of Jesus' death on the Cross and to hold the final words of Jesus in our hearts.

We meet on Monday evenings through March 25, at 7:30 pm, on Zoom, for one hour. Each evening is unique, so please come when you can. No book is required. The evenings will follow Adam Hamilton's videos and lessons in "Final Words from the Cross." While a book is not necessary for you to enjoy being together, I do have a few reverently used books. Please let me know if you want a book and I will deliver it to you.



In the LOVE of our Lord Jesus, see you Monday evening, John at (JM@jmckinney.biz)

To Join Zoom Meeting:

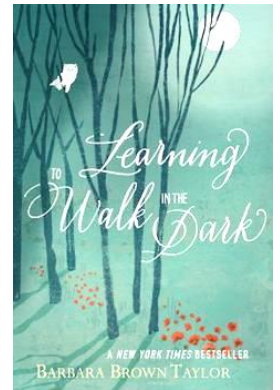
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89915686864?pwd=N0prOUUp2Q0tFMWoycTRCUGRhdWI3QT09>

Meeting ID: 899 1568 6864 Passcode: 860424

Spirituality Book Study Starts Thursday, April 11th, 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.



"Where the World Meets to Pray"




Free copies of *The Upper Room* may be found in an outdoor Lucite rack next to the O'Reilly Room entrance and in the narthex. Daily readings can also be found online by clicking:


<https://www.upperroom.org/>.

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

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

Prayer Concerns on Sunday March 10

 Prayer are requested for the family of Wayne Chen. Wayne passed away on March 5, after a long battle with cancer.

 Jen and Tom Gero request prayers for their sister-in-law's mother who is in hospice care. Please pray for peace for the Gero family.

Prayer Celebrations on Sunday March 10

 We anticipate celebrating St. Patrick's Day: Erin go Bragh – Forever Ireland!

Do You Have a Prayer Request for "Concerns and Celebrations?"

How can we pray for you? Share prayer requests at: <https://www.facebook.com/SudburyUMC/> and send us a message by clicking on the blue "Send Message" button. Or email (sumc@sudbury-umc.org).

FINDING SUDBURY UMC ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Live-Streamed Sunday Services Available on YouTube and Facebook Live

Sunday morning services at Sudbury UMC can now be viewed on SUMC's own [YouTube](#) channel and [Facebook](#) page live each Sunday morning. Missed a service and want to watch it later? You can find them using the same links! We hope these social media platforms will help us reach a larger audience. Please help us grow by using these services. You can also connect with SUMC through ([InstagramSUMC](#)) and ([TwitterSUMC](#)).



[Facebook](#)



[YouTube](#)



[Instagram](#)



[Twitter](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Holy Week Prayer at Home – 2024 Lenten Blog

Looking for a good place to begin or conclude each day of Holy Week? Check out Sudbury UMC's Lenten blog, a collection of devotional reflections written by our members and friends, by clicking here: [Lenten Devotionals](#)

Holy Week Services of Worship

March 24 at 10:00 am: Palm/Passion Sunday– (Sanctuary)

March 28 at 7:00 pm: Maundy Thursday – (*Davison Chapel*)

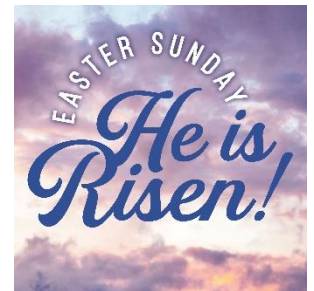
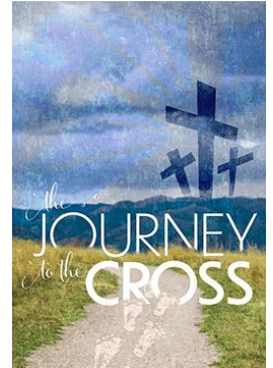
March 29 at 7:00 pm: Good Friday – (*Sanctuary*)

Easter Sunday Services of Worship.

A Celebration of Christ's Resurrection

March 31 at 6:30 am: Easter Sunrise Service (*Outdoors and Davison Chapel*)

March 31 at 10:00 am: Easter Sunday Service (*Sanctuary*)



Lent Soup and Study



During Lent, we have gathered every Wednesday since February 21. We have enjoyed a soup dinner at 6:30 pm, and have been studying Embracing the Uncertain: A Lenten Study for Unsteady Times, by Magrey R. deVega. Our last class is next Wednesday:

- March 20 – Luke 19: 1-10, the Uncertainty of Surrender

You may purchase the text, but it is not necessary.

So, come and join us for soup and study. Invite a friend. Everyone is welcome.

Magic Years Luncheon on March 21

Our monthly Magic Years luncheon program will be on Thursday, March 21, at noon. A sign-up sheet will be available at the next few post-worship coffee hours. Or you can RSVP email Kay D'Orlando at kjorlando@comcast.net or call/text at 508-561-5382.

Second Chance Sunday on April 7

During worship on Sunday, April 7th, we will observe Second Chance Sunday. More information is forthcoming. The Outreach Commission will be screening a film after worship. For some preliminary information about the reentry process, please follow this link <https://voicesofreentry.org/about-voices-of-reentry/>.

Lenten Devotions

LENTEN DEVOTIONS: ON THE HOMESTRETCH! (or equivalent) (or not at all)

A brief and smiling message from your humble Lenten Devotions editor-in-chief:

A nice number of people (of nearly all ages!) have contributed devotional writing to this year's LentBlog -- such that as of this moment, ***there are only seven empty LentBlog mornings left to fill!***

And honestly, if this message inspires EIGHT (or more) people to write something ... I'll cheerfully post *two* devotions on one morning.

So visit the [SUMC website](#) -- the home page -- to find the writing prompts and instructions, and feel free to join your fellow SUMC writers!

Thanks! Rob Hammerton (rhammerton@charter.net)

Lenten Season Highlights

Save the dates for these gatherings and join us as we journey together during this season of contemplation and spiritual reflection.

March Highlights:

Wednesday evenings through March 20, at 6:30 pm: Lenten Suppers - Share in the spirit of fellowship and nourishment during our Lenten Suppers. These gatherings provide an opportunity to break bread together, engage in meaningful conversations, and deepen our understanding of the Lenten season. This year's study is entitled "Embracing the Uncertain."

March 15-17: Youth Berea Trip - Youth are invited to sleep away at Camp Berea and enjoy winter activities. Contact Zack to find out how to register.

March 24, 28, 29, 31: Holy Week and Easter - Join together for services during Holy Week, a time to reflect on the sacrifice of Christ and the hope of Easter.

We encourage you to participate in these events, as well as the many Bible studies and classes - and of course Kidbury - throughout the week, by bringing your energy, enthusiasm, and faith to each gathering. Let us come together as a church family to make these months a time of spiritual growth, community building, and shared joy.

Musical Notes

🎵 Connexions Concert this Sunday

On Sunday, March 17, 2024 at 3 pm, Woody Carpinella, guitar; Russ Doughty, guitar and mandolin; Kevin Francis Murphy, piano, organ and vocals; Rob Hammerton, piano and bass; Richard Given, trumpet; Lori Zuroff, vocals; and Hatrack Gallagher, blues harp will present Connexions Concert III of the 2023-2024 program year.

The concert will feature selections which represent an assortment of styles including classical, sacred, folk and jazz. The Connexions concerts at Sudbury United Methodist showcase the various talents of church members and guest artists who come to share their music. The concert will take place in the sanctuary.



To encourage COVID-19 public health awareness, all visitors to Sudbury United Methodist are encouraged to wear a mask and remember appropriate social distancing. Ventilation and filtering will be used in the sanctuary to help protect our visitors' well-being.

Admission is free and open to the public. A freewill offering will be taken to support the work of the New England Methodist Foundation to create reparations to African-Americans for their experience of slavery and denial of opportunities since the Civil War.

For more information call 978 443 4351, OR send an email to kevin@sudbury-umc.org

🎵 **Easter Music for Strings, Brass, winds and percussion**

Greetings, SUMC players! It has been our custom to invite instrumentalists from the SUMC community to accompany the Easter Sunday music. If you have an interest in playing with us, let us know by signing up here:

URL for strings: <https://forms.gle/JJE7s9ttFWtP76fEA>

URL for winds, brass, percussion: <https://forms.gle/WWzvksRgRxRhunFU9>

We enjoy working with players of all skill levels, so if you have a concern about whether or not you can “keep up”, let us know and we’ll work it out! Hope to see and hear you at Friday evening rehearsal and Sunday service.

(rhammerton@charter.net) or (kevin@sudbury-umc.org).

🎵 **A cappella**

In April, Rob and I will offer an a cappella singing group for four Sundays after service. We will meet in Davison Chapel for a half hour during coffee hour on April 14, 21, 28 and May 5. Grab a coffee and come on by! A cappella is perfect for people who do not sight sing; we create our own arrangements of simple songs to share during service in early May. Singers of all vocal abilities are welcome - we will find a place for you. This is a great opportunity to get introduced to singing in general and unaccompanied singing in particular. Sign up at the URL below or speak with Rob or Kevin! (rhammerton@charter.net) or (kevin@sudbury-umc.org)

<https://forms.gle/3pQM7JBJ2aQQva4A9>

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.



Sunday Greeters Needed

The Church Growth Commission has resumed our custom of welcoming visitors and members to church each Sunday morning. Cindi Bockweg maintains the schedule of Sunday Greeters. She would appreciate hearing from you, if doing this is a way you want to contribute to our time together. Cindi's email is (cindijb@hotmail.com). She looks forward to hearing from you!



Join the Flower Team!

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. Her email address is (healyweeks@gmail.com).

Looking for Coffee Hosts

We need help!!! Coffee and Fellowship Hour is enjoyed by many and we want to thank the dedicated people who have been serving as hosts.

Sherry and Ernie are willing to train those who are willing to join the team. It is a fantastic way to get to know our congregation. Contact Sherry at (sstoneb@aol.com) to offer your help.

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. We're trying to prevent the spread of viruses and COVID. Please be mindful of the outdoor temperature and dress accordingly. Mask wearing is optional; if you need a mask, the ushers have a supply on hand.



GIVE

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 Healy). 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 share that information also in the comment section. Thanks.



Going Shopping? Pick-up Something for the Food Cart!



Donations to our church's shopping cart may be left at the O'Reilly Room entrance Monday through Friday. The best canned items to donate include solid white tuna, fruits, and vegetables. Raisins in boxes, dried beans, condensed milk, rice pilaf, pancake mix, syrup, pasta and pasta sauce in jars, macaroni and cheese, instant coffee, laundry detergent, shampoo, soap, feminine care products, and wipes are also appreciated. Whenever you shop – or have groceries delivered to your home – please remember the food cart!

Sudbury United Methodist Church, 251 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury, MA 01776

Phones: (978) 443-4351 or (978) 443-6785

Fax: (978) 443-3052

Church Office: sumc@sudbury-umc.org

Website: <http://www.sudbury-umc.org>

Church Staff

Pastor: *The Rev. Leigh E. Goodrich*

pastorleigh@sudbury-umc.org

(Pastor Leigh observes Sabbath on Friday)

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

zack@sudbury-umc.org

(Zack observes Sabbath on Wednesday)

Organist/Music Director: *Kevin Murphy, AAGO*

kevin@sudbury-umc.org

Sanctuary Choir Director: *Rob Hammerton*

rob@sudbury-umc.org

Business Manager: *Michael Greb*

michael@sudbury-umc.org

Sunny Hill Director: *Kathy Palmer*

director@sunnyhillpreschool.org

Office Manager: *Shetal Kaye*

sumc@sudbury-umc.org

Sexton: *Joe Picorelli*

joe@sudbury-umc.org



**We are a Reconciling and Welcoming
Congregation**

Please use the QR code below if you would like to make a contribution to Sudbury United Methodist Church.

