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## **LETTER FROM PASTOR LEIGH**

*“Keep my steps steady according to your promise,  
and never let iniquity have dominion over me.”*

Psalm 119: 133 (NRSV)

*“Loosen, empty, push.”*

Hyuk Seonwoo

Hello All!

May the blessings of the Easter Season be upon you and your loved ones.

One of my colleagues practices Tai Chi, and I have been privileged to join him in several sessions over the past two years. It is a wonderful form of meditation with some significant health benefits. Specifically, this discipline develops flexibility, balance, strength, and heart health. Using the three-step mantra “Loosen, empty, push,” practitioners of Tai Chi develop a greater awareness of themselves and the ways in which they move through various spaces in their lives.

At the end of this month, I will be moving through the space of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina. The Conference lasts twelve days, and we will consider **over 1,000 petitions and resolutions**, all of which will impact The United Methodist denomination, as well as our local church, and consist of multiple topics and intersectional issues that we all care about deeply.

Generally, there are three primary **Legislative Priorities (the 3 Rs)**:

1. **Regionalization.** The proposal would create eight distinct regional governing bodies in what are currently the seven central conferences in Africa, Europe, the Philippines as well as in the United States. Each region would have the same authority to adapt portions of the Book of Discipline, the denomination’s policy book, to their missional context. Worldwide regionalization requires amending the denomination’s constitution. For ratification, an amendment must receive at least a two-thirds vote at General Conference and at least a two-thirds total vote at annual conferences, bodies consisting of lay and clergy voters from multiple congregations. Most other legislation requires a simple majority.
2. **Revised Social Principles.** Multiple petitions submitted by the United Methodist Board of Church and Society that revise the denomination’s social witness. The proposals are the result of an eight-year revision process prompted by the 2012 General Conference to make the denomination’s social teachings “more globally relevant, theologically founded and succinct.” More than 4,000 United Methodists from around the globe have contributed to the revisions. As proposed, the revision would no longer refer to homosexuality at all. Since 1972, the Social Principles have stated that “the practice of homosexuality... is incompatible with Christian teaching.”
3. **Removal of the Discriminatory language against LGBTQ people.** Since General Conference added the Social Principle on homosexuality in 1972, subsequent gatherings have added bans on “self-avowed practicing” gay clergy and the officiation of same-sex weddings. Also since 1972, every General Conference has been marked by hurtful debate over the place of LGBTQ people in church life. The clashes came to a head at the special 2019 General Conference, which passed the Traditional Plan that attempted to strengthen enforcement of the bans and opened the door for the church disaffiliations seen over the past four years. The removal of the harmful language would return the Book of Discipline to its original form from 1784 to 1972.

This will be my fourth, and potentially the most significant, General Conference I have attended in the last twelve years. Because the legislation is so vast, delegations break down the resolutions, assigning delegates and alternates to one of 15 committees. I have always worked on Church and Society (social justice) legislation and this conference will be no different.

General Conference is not an experience for the weak of heart, so I suspect that my Tai Chi training will be helpful.

“Loosen” as we delegates have been preparing by reading and analyzing legislation.

“Emptying” as the 862 delegates discuss and debate the legislation in committee rooms, then bring it onto the floor for more debate.

“Push” as together we vote for the future of The United Methodist Church.

Exercising the flexibility, balance, strength, and heart health of Tai Chi, I pray the twelve days of General Conference will be a time of reawakening, renewing, and resurrecting the Church I love.

Please pray for all 862 of us at General Conference as we practice flexibility, balance, strength, and love from April 22 to May 3.

Join us at the place of hope and renewal at 10 am every Sunday morning.

Shalom,

*Pastor Leigh*

## **LEARN**

### **Greetings from the SUMC Youth!**

#### ***Thinking About May Through July***

There aren't many special events or programs happening this month, which makes it the perfect time to talk about the multitude of special events and programs that are two, three, and four months away.

#### ***Salkehatchie Fundraisers!***

SUMC's members have been extremely supportive of Salkehatchie, our annual mission trip to South Carolina. We will be returning this summer, and we will have our third dinner and silent auction event on Sunday, May 12. That is Mother's Day, which makes it a great day to bring mom to see a show (the Connexions Concert), treat her to dinner (southern cuisine), and get her something nice at the auction. How many wins is that? So many wins. Check out the flyer on the last page of the newsletter for more details.

There is another way to support the team *and* low-income families. Between now and early June, the Salkehatchie team will be collecting “soft goods” (clothing, blankets, curtains, etc.) that will be given to Savers at 20 cents/pound. We will give all the items to Savers on Saturday, June 8.

#### ***Summer Events***

Youth @ AC: Are you a youth who is interested in what happens at Annual Conference? Do you want to meet Methodist youth from across New England? Do you like waterparks? Talk to Zack about a New England



### **April Calendar**

- **April 21:** Salkehatchie family meeting
- **April 27:** Outdoor Church food distribution
- **April 28:** YMC @SUMC (5:30-7:00)

Conference event that will be held at Holy Trinity UMC in Danvers on June 21-22.

Youth Mission Week (July 22-26): this event is an annual collaboration between SUMC and (at least) three other United Methodist Churches in our area. It is from 10am-2pm daily, and each day involves a different local outreach opportunity. Youth Mission Week is in its fourth year, it's going strong, and it is for anyone who has completed grades 6-12.

As you can see, April may be pretty quiet, but things will pick up quickly. 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](mailto:zack@sudbury-umc.org)).

Keep the Faith.

## Magnific Moment

### ***Sunday morning formation and education***

Kidbury UMC is open before and after worship! The theme for the month of April is "Throw Back." It's all about Jesus' teachings, and how, even though the world changes and looks different than it used to, Jesus' teachings are always meaningful and Jesus' love for us never changes. 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 9:00am each Sunday. Feel free to come by any time before 9:45 or after worship during Coffee Hour.

Don't forget that there are two adult education opportunities every Sunday as well as our Youth Devo. All three meet from 9:15-9:45am *Exploring Topics in Christianity* meets in Davison Chapel. Each week is a new topic that revolves loosely around a connected theme. The next 3 weeks include: 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. Youth Devo reads and reflects on devotions from [d365.org](http://d365.org).

For more information about any of our Christian Education/Formation programs, contact Caryl Walsh ([CarylW@comcast.net](mailto:CarylW@comcast.net)) or Zack Moser ([zack@sudbury-umc.org](mailto:zack@sudbury-umc.org)).

### ***Easter Egg Olympics recap...***

This was fun.





## "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:

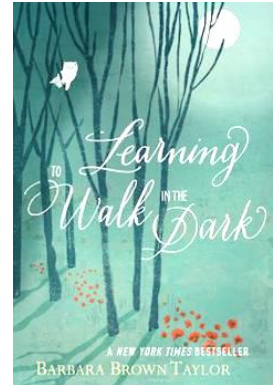
<https://www.upperroom.org/>.

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

## Spirituality Book Study Starts Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 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.





## CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

### Prayer Concerns on Sunday April 7

-  Ruth Briden celebrates that she has outlived the durability of her two hip replacements. On Tuesday, she will have surgery to reattach one of her hips to her leg bone. Dick asks us to hold Ruth in prayer as she heals.
-  We pray for the family and friends of the seventeen year old woman who was murdered in Stow on Saturday. Prayers are also requested for her assailant.

### Prayer Celebrations on Sunday April 7

-  Prayers for our loyal seniors who we look forward to seeing on Thursday for Magic Years!
-  Libby Hampton is celebrating her 35<sup>th</sup> *Walk for Hunger* on May 5, and is looking for sponsors. Please contact her or donate directly on line at <https://give.projectbread.org/team/575268>. If you go to the *Walk for Hunger* website directly, you can search for her team – LL Team.

## 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](mailto: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**

### **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).



### **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 By Sudbury Police Chief Scott Nix on “Safety Preparedness” at 11:15 am 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. Thank you.

### **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.

## Musical Notes

### ● **String Hymnody**

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

This Sunday, April 14 for winds, brass, percussion: <https://forms.gle/qHEEj9he3BgY5ooH8> Sunday, April 28 for strings: <https://forms.gle/QhzWwVVT3L9kSWBb6>

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 Sunday service.

([rhammerton@charter.net](mailto:rhammerton@charter.net)) or ([kevin@sudbury-umc.org](mailto:kevin@sudbury-umc.org))

### ● **A cappella**

This Sunday, April 14, we will gather the SUMC A Cappella group in Davison Chapel during coffee hour. (Approximately 11:15) Do you like to sing? Do you worry that you can’t read music well? Are you familiar with a cappella groups like Pentatonix?

We won’t be singing like the virtuosi in Pentatonix, and we will use printed materials to a point, but we always have fun. In this group, it is perfectly acceptable to sing what you hear. Rob and I take items from our hymnals and other places and arrange them for us to sing with just our voices, unaccompanied. Why don’t you grab your coffee and come over to the Chapel and see what we are doing? A million extra points and unlimited free coffee if you can beatbox! Sign up at the Google doc below to help us get organized... or just show up.

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1H563QROQ7nS\\_ZkwxerLACY4Escw31CjuxtXVvryi0QXI/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1H563QROQ7nS_ZkwxerLACY4Escw31CjuxtXVvryi0QXI/edit?usp=sharing)

### ● **Senior Recital**

On Friday, April 12, 2024 at 7PM, Alvaro Orellano Gonzalez, alto saxophone and Kevin Murphy, piano will present Alvaro's Senior Recital.

Alvaro will present a program of music by Britten, Debussy, DeCruck and Preston with accompaniment by SUMC music director, Kevin Murphy, piano. This concert is a fulfillment of the Maynard High School Senior project program, in which seniors are invited to create a capstone project to conclude their four years at MHS. In recognition of the extensive study of music that Alvaro has done at MHS, Alvaro has chosen to offer this event as a benefit for the MHS Tri-M chapter. Here is a description of Tri-M from their website: "The Tri-M Music Honor Society is the international music honor society for high school students. It is designed to recognize students for their academic and musical achievements, reward them for their accomplishments and service activities, and to inspire other students to excel at music and leadership."

This event is a fundraiser to support the Tri-M Music Honor Society at Maynard High School. Cash donations will be accepted at the door. The concert will take place at Sudbury United Methodist Church, 251 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury, Massachusetts.

For more information call 978 760 5911, OR send e-mail to [ag2756@s.maynard.k12.ma.us](mailto:ag2756@s.maynard.k12.ma.us).

## SUMC Men's Group Event

Red Sox vs. Brewers: A Grand Slam Gathering!

Calling baseball enthusiasts at SUMC!

When: June 2, 2024, at 1:30 PM

Where: Fenway Park, Boston

What: A thrilling clash between the Boston Red Sox and the Milwaukee Brewers

Why: Because baseball is more than a game—it's an American tradition!

### Box 93: Your Home Run Haven

Get ready to cheer, high-five, and savor the crack of the bat. Our exclusive Box 93 on the first baseline is your ticket to an unforgettable afternoon. Here's what awaits you:

**Prime Views:** Feel the adrenaline as you watch every pitch, every swing, and every slide. Box 93 offers unobstructed views of the diamond—close enough to see the sweat on the players' brows.

**Comfy Seats:** Sink into plush seats that cradle you like a well-worn mitt. Lean back, sip your ice-cold soda, and soak in the atmosphere.

**Snack Attack:** Hot dogs, nachos, and peanuts—oh my! Our concession stands are stocked with ballpark classics. Don't forget the mustard!

**Camaraderie:** This event isn't just about baseball; it's about forging bonds. Bring your sons, grandsons, and buddies from the church. Share stories, high-fives, and maybe even a seventh-inning stretch.

Ticket Details

**Box 93 Tickets:** \$57.00 each

**Advance Purchase Required:** Secure your spot early. These tickets are hotter than a fastball!

How to Get Your Tickets: By contacting Dan Cetrone, 978-793-2012 or via email [italianpower1953@gmail.com](mailto:italianpower1953@gmail.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 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

### SUMC Financial Year to Date Update

Current Revenue \$285,085

Current Expenses \$174,214

### 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 UMC's

### Salkehatchie Dinner & Silent Auction Fundraiser 2024

Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>; 251 Old Sudbury Rd.



*Silent Auction: all day in Davison Chapel. Come by before 5:30pm. You can support the Salkehatchie mission team a couple of ways. First, by offering artwork, items, tickets, services, etc. for the auction. Second, by attending and bidding!*

Dinner menu will be finalized soon, but all food served will be South Carolina staples.

Dinner starts at 5:30 (right after the auction closes)

There will also be a Connexions Concert at 4:00pm in the sanctuary

Bring mom to a concert and dinner!



#### What is Salkehatchie?

Since 1978, Salkehatchie has been helping families throughout rural South Carolina whose homes are in dire (often dangerous) states of disrepair who have neither the means nor the ability to fix what is broken. From Saturday to Saturday, teams of youth and adult volunteers work together to make these much-needed repairs so that the families can feel comfortable and secure in their homes.

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Fax: (978) 443-3052

Church Office: [sumc@sudbury-umc.org](mailto:sumc@sudbury-umc.org)

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

**Church Staff**

**Pastor:** *The Rev. Leigh E. Goodrich*

[pastorleigh@sudbury-umc.org](mailto:pastorleigh@sudbury-umc.org)

*(Pastor Leigh observes Sabbath on Friday)*

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

[zack@sudbury-umc.org](mailto:zack@sudbury-umc.org)

*(Zack observes Sabbath on Wednesday)*

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

[kevin@sudbury-umc.org](mailto:kevin@sudbury-umc.org)

**Sanctuary Choir Director:** *Rob Hammerton*

[rob@sudbury-umc.org](mailto:rob@sudbury-umc.org)

**Business Manager:** *Michael Greb*

[michael@sudbury-umc.org](mailto:michael@sudbury-umc.org)

**Sunny Hill Director:** *Kathy Palmer*

[director@sunnyhillpreschool.org](mailto:director@sunnyhillpreschool.org)

**Office Manager:** *Shetal Kaye*

[sumc@sudbury-umc.org](mailto:sumc@sudbury-umc.org)

**Sexton:** *Joe Picorelli*

[joe@sudbury-umc.org](mailto: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.

