



## *A Word from the Pastor...*

We are half-way through the summer already. It's hard to believe. Where has the time gone. Seems like soon we'll be donning those sweaters and coats again. But I think those days will be few and far between this month. These days seem to me to be more akin to the Lake of Fire (See Revelation) than the Storehouses of Snow. (See the last chapters of Job for that.) But I think we need these days to prepare us for the cooler weather to come. They will at least give us memories to temper the shivers when they arrive.



This month we are looking at various aspects of the ministry of Jesus around the land of Israel, from the crowds that followed him into the wilderness and were fed by him and his disciples from a little bit of food (the feeding of the five thousand), to the continuation of his ministry through Paul who tells of the need for someone to proclaim the Lord, (which is part of my call to ministry), to the Canaanite woman (not from the house of Israel) who came to Jesus in faith to ask for a miracle in her family, and finally to Peter's recognition of Jesus as the Messiah, I think a perfect way to lead us into the crowded schedule of the Fall and resumption of all our meetings and choir and all the other things that make our worship and ministries so meaningful and special.

## August 2023 – Abridged The **Messenger**

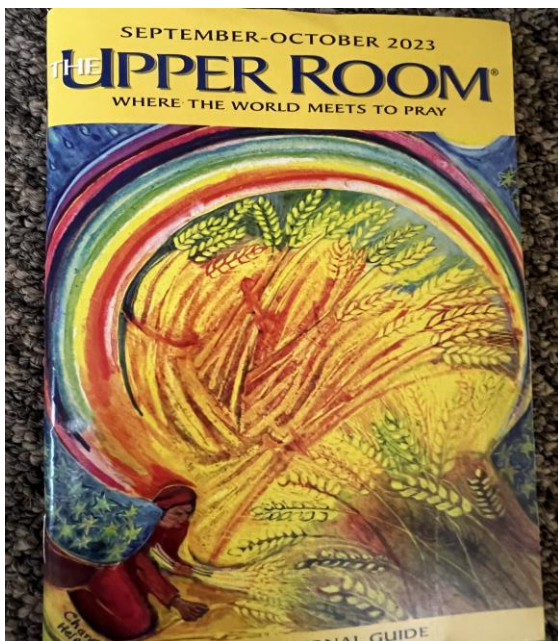
And though I am looking forward to Fall, I do still plan on enjoying what we have left of Summer. For as Jesus says in the middle of his Sermon on the Mount, “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.” (Matt 6:34) I see promise in tomorrow but it may not be as easy as anticipated.

God bless the remainder of your Summer.

*Pastor Dan*



# News & Notes



Now available!!

## Goings on at the Church

Special Needs Services will be starting in September.

**Worship will take place in Fellowship Hall – the heat is on! Hopefully, we can worship outside too! On the Last**

Would you like to volunteer to read the scripture? If so, see Pastor Dan or Bill. We will add your name to the Newsletter to recognize your efforts!

**Bible Study is on vacation for the summer - resuming Sept. 5.**

Also, coming up in September, Ushers will be needed. Please consider reading as well!





**Covenant Hills Camp hosts vesper services**

Covenant Hills is holding a Vesper Service each Wednesday at 7 p.m. with a variety of clergy and lay volunteers are taking turns leading the worship service. Join in at 246 Covenant Hills Road, Cabot, VT, for a spiritual experience in an inspirational setting. Learn more at <https://www.covenanthillsvt.org>.



*If you didn't already know, Children Across America gathers at our church several times a week. I have been witness to the wonderful, educational, caring, super fun and close attention given to the many local children who attend by the group creators and volunteers. (Linda)*

“Children Across America provides literacy support and preventative healthcare to underserved children in the United States. Our mission is to empower families and children in low-income communities. Our unique programs are focused on improving children’s educational excellence and health. We partner with local libraries, school systems, healthcare advocates, and hospitals to ensure children receive the full benefit of our programs. We provide a free alternative program to underserved families

with students in grades K-5. At our core, reading comprehension and technology competencies are the focus of our programs.

Our vision is to give every child the literacy tools they need when they leave elementary school, as students who are not reading proficiently at the end of the third grade are at risk of becoming one of the 1.2 million students that do not graduate from high school every year in the United States. We offer FREE programs for underserved children to develop literacy and mathematics skills in elementary school students as well as summer camp. Additionally, we are a partner vendor with the state of Massachusetts Health Insurance.”

The group started in 2007 at the Milford Library with 10 children. Before covid, the group grew to 100! Along with local sites, they also have locations in Florida and Silicone Valley

They are always looking for volunteers and greatly-appreciated donations. Check online for details, along with local events, including a car safety program Aug. 19, to which Toyota donated \$10,000 worth of car seats!  
[www.childrenacrossamerica.org](http://www.childrenacrossamerica.org)

**Wishing the happiest of Birthdays to those born in August!!**

- Aug. 10 – Brian Prickett
- Aug. 14 – Sara Howell
- Aug. 15 – Jeff Lovell
- Aug. 16 – Teresa Creber
- Aug. 24 – Kathy Lewis



*A lovely lady from the Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church dropped off this information about a Women's Retreat!  
Check it out ladies!*

**BLACKSTONE VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
61 LINWOOD AVE. WHITINSVILLE, MA 01588  
508-234-2275**

**The Women of Your Church are invited to Attend our  
Free Women's Retreat with our  
Bishop Peggy Johnson as our guest speaker  
presenting Disability Accessibility**

**On Saturday, September 23, 2023**

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**PROGRAM:**

**9:30AM-10:00AM COFFEE + PASTRIES**

**10:00AM-12:00PM WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION**

**FOLLOWED BY PRESENTATION WITH  
BISHOP PEGGY JOHNSON**

**12:00PM-1:00PM LUNCH**

**1:00PM-2:00PM DISCUSSION GROUPS**

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**PLEASE RETURN THE REGISTRATION FORM BY AUGUST 31**

**PLEASE NOTE: THE CHURCH PARKING LOT AND  
ENTRANCE ARE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH  
BUILDING AND CAN BE ACCESSED FROM  
CHURCH STREET USING THE ALLEY NEAR  
DOMINO'S PIZZA.**

*Registration forms are available in Fellowship Hall*

## **Obituary for Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar**

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar, age 72, died unexpectedly in Cincinnati, OH, on July 18, 2023, after nearly 20 years of faithful leadership as a bishop in The United Methodist Church. He retired on January 1, 2023.

Born on April 6, 1951, in Mulki, India, to Egbert Plato and Rosebel (Jivothama) Fernandez, Suda held a B.Com. degree from Vijaya College, University of Mysore, Mulki, India; a B.D., degree from United Theological College, Bangalore, India; an M.Th. degree from Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University; and a M.Phil. and a Ph.D. from Drew University. His doctoral dissertation was entitled: *Stanley J. Samartha's Contribution to the Interfaith Dialogue*.

Suda was born into a clergy family and became a follower of God at a young age. His pastoral journey began as a Deacon at the Church of South India, in Mercara, Coorg, India. After coming to the United States, he served as pastor of the Moira, Brushton, and North Bangor United Methodist churches, and Canton United Methodist Church in the Upper New York Conference.

Bishop Violet Fisher appointed Suda to the Cabinet of the then Central New York Conference, where he served as District Superintendent of the Ontario District from 1996-2004 and was named Dean of the Cabinet in 2000.

He was elected to the episcopacy in 2004. He served The Greater New Jersey Conference from 2004-2012, and The New England Conference from 2012-2022. Suda made history as the denomination's first Indian-American bishop.

Embodying the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church, Suda served as chair of numerous denominational committees including the Leadership Team on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, Asian American Language Ministries, Northeastern Jurisdiction Board of Ordained Ministry, and the Moravian Dialogue. He also served on the Board of Trustees at Drew Theological School and Boston University School of Theology.

Suda had many passions, the first of which was his beloved family. He is survived by his constant ministry partner and wife of 46 years, Prema (Samartha) Devadhar; their daughter and son-in-law, Trina and Gage Hemmelgarn; and three granddaughters, Nyla, Laili and Miana. Suda immensely enjoyed living near his family and cherished the time spent with his granddaughters, cheering them on from the sidelines as he attended their athletic meets, no matter the distance.

He was also passionate about deepening the spirituality of all people, but especially that of youth and young adults. He led numerous spiritual pilgrimages to Taizé, France, the Holy Land, Korea and through The Mission of Peace. These pilgrimages brought many young people to deeper and more intentional service in the church.

He exemplified servant leadership through his unyielding commitment to radical inclusiveness and his advocacy for justice. Suda's pastoral heart, deep spirituality and consistent prayer life was transformational. On multiple occasions he prophetically proclaimed, "I envision a Church of the Pentecost in which the Holy Spirit is igniting, gifting and empowering God's children of all ages, backgrounds, colors and personalities to glorify their Creator as passionate witnesses for Jesus Christ. Such a church does not merely serve the poor, the left out, the different, but welcomes them warmly into its hearts, homes, and worship."

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar, will be remembered as a humble, gentle, kind, compassionate, talented, devoted, loving "Follower of God."



In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The United Theological College of Bangalore, India, or The Pastors Respite Fund of the New England Conference.

Contributions to The United Theological Fund of Bangalore, India, may be made to Grace Trinity United Church of Christ with "United Theological College" in the memo line and mailed to:

Grace-Trinity United Church of Christ

5200 Oxford Ave

Philadelphia, PA 19124

You can also give online at <https://gracetrinity.org>.

Contributions to the Pastors Respite Fund of New England may be mailed to:

The United Methodist Foundation of New England

42 Route 111, Suite 200,

Derry, NH 03038

You may also donate online at <https://www.umfne.org/pastors-respite-donation-form>



## Friends of the First United Methodist Church, Milford



“At Watson Colonial Funeral Home, we take great pride in caring for our families, and will work tirelessly to provide you with a beautiful, lasting tribute to your loved one. In addition to the services we offer, you will receive an online memorial that you can share with family and friends. While honoring your loved one is our top priority, we also want to help you through this difficult time. We have a wide range of resources to support you not only today, but in the weeks and months to come. Please call us at [508-473-0282](tel:508-473-0282) so we can help you through this process.”





## Friends of the First United Methodist Church, Milford

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Please give us a call at **(508)-473-0225** and allow us the sacred privilege of assisting you.






Friends of the First United Methodist Church, Milford



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**41 Central Street, Milford, MA**  
**(508) 478-5900**



**Friends of the First United Methodist Church, Milford**



## Need Help? Call:

(508) 473-1309

(508) 634-8854

331 Main St., Milford, MA 01757

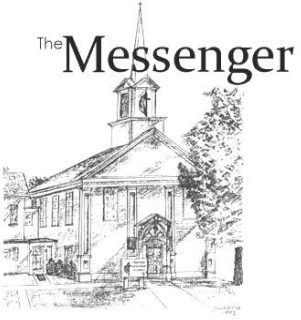




# August

# 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 10 a.m. Worship Zoom and in person 10th Sunday after Pentecost	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 10 a.m. Worship Zoom and in person 11th Sunday after Pentecost	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 10 a.m. Worship Zoom and in person 12th Sunday after Pentecost	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 10 a.m. Worship In person and by Zoom 13th Sunday after Pentecost	28	29	30	31		



The **Messenger**

First United Methodist Church  
39 Exchange Street  
Milford, MA 01757  
508-473-4252