

Since 1791

The Link



The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

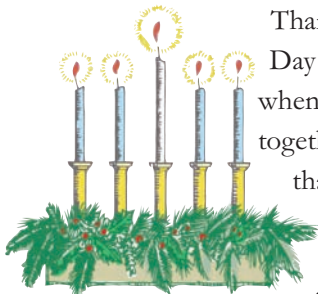


December 2009

Edited By George Hoag

Into Advent

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. — Philippians 4:6, NRSV



Thanksgiving Day is the day when we gather together to give thanks to God, and ask for God's con-

tinued blessings. The act of remembering the blessings helps us to acknowledge that all the blessings come from God. Before we celebrate the Thanksgiving with family, let's take time to remember what God has done for us. Let's remember all the blessings that God brought to our life, family, and church.

In this month, I really encourage all members of Patchogue UMC to give special thanks to God. And, remember all the things that God has done for us in our lives. As Christians, we also must remember that each day is a thanksgiving day. We are blessed with God's abundant love every day.

"Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again."

Continued on Page 4

Worship In December

December 6 (2nd Sunday of Advent)—Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 3:1-6, "Prepare the Way of the Lord", Rev. In Koo Chung.

December 13 (3rd Sunday of Advent)—Philippians 4: 4-7, Luke 3:7-18, "Joy to the Lord, Rejoice!", Rev. In Koo Chung.

December 20 (4th Sunday of Advent)—Children's Pageant, Lessons and Carols.

December 24 (Christmas Eve)—Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2:1-20, "Spirit of Christmas", Rev. In Koo Chung.

December 28 (1st Sunday After Christmas)—1 Samuel 2:18-20,26, Luke 2:41-52.



"Then the
glory of the LORD
shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together."

Isaiah 40:5, NSRV

Circle of Concern

Joys:

Cheryl Keeley gave birth to Kiley on Nov. 10. Tobben Rupert Curtis, Joan Curtis' grandson and Geri Sheridan's great-grandson, has been baptized.

Bereavement:

The family of Kieth Bishop. The family of Paul Elliott, Don and Debbie Kolacki's brother-in-law.

For Guidance:

Lisa D., Barbara McAllister, Joe Brentlink, Ray Gallo, Ray Clark, Maj. Don Cornwell stationed in South Korea, Cat Placement and Rescue, Christy Wood, Lois Wood, Michael Dellazizzi and family, Michael Amarati, Philip Demacos, Pat, Joanne, Robert C. Hiene, the Americo Family, Philip Crandall, Rose Conti and Dean Butera's mother, Toni and Bob Pignagaro.

These Who are Hospitalized:

Josh Boneventure, Christine Quinn's cousin Frank, Nana Grace, Nancy Marshall, Baby Joseph, Bertha Smith, Shelly Granger, Bob Tenaglia, Corinne Burdett, Cheryl Keeley's mother in law, Marie, Louis Adone, Lee Hollowell, Mary Payne.

These at Home:

Betty Hansley, Joan Welsh, Joseph Weinzettle, Eric & Pat Carlson, Natalie Burnett-Lynch, Kathleen Chodorski, Philip Crandall, Kyra McCarthy, Debi DelRossi, Belle Barile, Tom Furman, Lisa Lopez, Dorotea Sanchez, Mary Jones, Frank Westerland, John, Mike Welsh, Hazel Freely, Dave McKendrick, Paul Rice, Timothy Oliva's Aunt Susan, Rosemarie, John Krulger, Philip Crandall, Shelly Granger, Brayden Lasko, Steve Rice, John Keeley, Bruce Kirschner, Marie Lino, Marta and June Barile.

These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:

Alice Zahnd in Patchogue Nursing Center, 25 Schoenfeld Blvd., Patchogue, NY; Anna Satterly in Brookhaven Health Care Facility, 801 Gazzola Drive, East Patchogue, NY 11772; Kitty Brunnemer in Cedar Lodge Nursing Home, 6 Frowein Road, Center Moriches, NY 11934; Gerry Flood in St. James Nursing Home (Room 269) 273 Moriches Rd., St. James, NY 11780; Doris Shrimpton in Bellhaven Nursing Center, 110 Beaverdam Rd., Brookhaven; Hazel Nargi, Rachel Nason in McPeak's Adult Home, 286 N. Ocean Ave., Patchogue; Marian King in Sunrise Assisted Living, 2 Hills Rd., E. Setauket, Rm. 2; Anna Bonfe, Rm. 201, Cunningham Bldg., Loretto Rest, 708 E. Brighton Ave., Syracuse, NY 13205; Joan Simpson, Good Samaritan Nursing Home, 101 Elm Street, Sayville, NY 11782; Connie Halliwell, Bellhaven Nursing Home, 110 Beaverdam Rd., Brookhaven.

Stewardship

November was a busy month in the service of our Lord. We are particularly excited that there are twelve Confirmation candidates this year. This is the largest class in many years. The Sunday School classes are much larger than previous years also. Thanks to Carla Gibson, our Youth Fellowship is back with monthly outings.

Our youth will "Adopt a Grandparent" (Church members in nursing homes), giving them gift bags for the holidays. Sign up sheets will be in Wesley Hall.

Carla Gibson, Steve Rice, and Kate Weber gave testimonials of why they love our Church during the three Sundays of this year's Stewardship Campaign. Glen Adone gave an inspiring sermon on stewardship. This year we did "pull ourselves up by our boot straps." With bills from 2008 that had to be paid, we may still meet our fiscal responsibilities if every one fulfills their pledges this year. In this sour economic time, that will be no small miracle. Your fidelity in supporting the Church is exemplary. With the hard work of our pastor and leaders we will prevail and continue to minister to our congregation and community.

A committee has been established to provide a monthly meal for those in need. A particular day will be determined that will not conflict with any other organization's offerings. Ed Klingel chaired the third church Thanksgiving Dinner.

Food and volunteers are plentiful, what we need are more people to enjoy the meal. Our sister church in Bayport will have their second Christmas Dinner.

Lift up your church with your prayers, presence, gifts and service.

We are thankful that three more people have volunteered to pick up members who need rides to Church on Sunday. Trudy Mansfield and Kathie Wells have volunteered to help those who cannot drive. Carolee Britts has a newer car and can again pick up her good friend Gail Devery. If you would like a ride to Church please call Barbara Becker, 475-1792, Dave Hollowell 475-5339 or the office 475-0381 so we can arrange for a volunteer to pick you up.

Our thanks to those who call members who have not been in Church for awhile. Elizabeth Biederman, Jean & Al Eid, Steve Rice and Linda Werner, among others call absent members. If you notice that fellow parishioners have not been in Church, please call them and show them your concern. Invite them back to Church, and if there is a problem let our pastor know about it. If you do not have their number, call the church office. Thank you.

Two members of our Congregation who have gone above and beyond in the service of our Church were not acknowledged in last month's **Link**. Don Miller installed our new office

phones and set them up so we can answer a second call and not lose it. Walt Stawecki noticed that the parsonage lawn needed cutting last summer. He stopped and mowed it, which is no easy chore at more than two hours work. Thank you both.

We have needed a new fence on the west end of Wesley Hall for a couple of years. The old wooden fence was installed fifteen years ago and was disintegrating. Raquel and Ken Miller donated their old vinyl fence to replace it. Thank you. Barry Burrell and I transported it back to Church and we hope to install it soon, providing the weather cooperates.

Bob Rogers and I caulked and sealed all the Church outside staircases recently. The south staircase on South Ocean Avenue is in poor condition. Those stairs were crushed by a car back in the 1980s. Other areas need to be attended to if the weather gives us a few more balmy days.

Sadly, we mourn the death of a member of our congregation, Keith Robert Bishop. Keith, son of Susan and Robert Bishop, grew up in Medford and our Church. Staff Sgt.

Bishop was killed Oct. 26 in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan

A group of good stewards worked for four days to make our Church presentable for the funeral service, held on Monday, Nov. 9. Steve Rice painted a good portion of the east wall of the sanctuary and vestibule. Ray Henson repaired these walls more than a year ago. Bob Rogers scraped and painted portions of the north wall to the left of the large circular window. He also touched up the many scratches and dings in the doors and woodwork. Barry Burrell & Jim Miller replaced tiles in the friendship walk. Barry painted the fence on the corner of Church and South Ocean Ave. Jim picked up the debris from the disintegrating wall around the large east facing circular window. He then touched up the paint & gilt on the sanctuary columns. Wendy Hollowell spent Saturday and Sunday afternoon vacuuming and dusting. Trudy Mansfield cleaned up the balcony Sunday afternoon, while Geri Sheridan attended to the altar.

—**Dave Hollowell and Diane Adone**

United Methodist Church of Patchogue Annual Giving Commitment

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 E-Mail _____ Phone _____

I (We) pledge the following contribution for 2010:
 Amount \$ _____ to be contributed Weekly Monthly
 Annually on this date _____

I (We) will pay this amount:
 By Cash or Check By Electronic Transfer *(Fill out form at right)*

Signature _____

Agreement For Electronic Transfer

I (we) authorize the deduction of this contribution from my (our) checking account (EFT). **Please include a voided check with this form.**

I (we) authorize the deduction of this contribution from my (our) credit card account.
 Visa MasterCard Discover

Name as it appears on the Credit Card: _____
 Card Number: _____
 Expiration Date (month/year): _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Into Advent (from Page 1)

The Advent season begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, which is the Sunday November 29, and ends on Christmas Eve (Dec 24).

Advent is a season of four weeks including four Sundays. Advent derives from the Latin *adventus*, which means “coming.” The advent season proclaims the coming of the Christ—whose birth we prepare to celebrate once again, who comes continually in Word and Spirit, and whose return in final victory we anticipate. Each Sunday of Advent has its distinctive theme: Christ’s coming in final victory (First Sunday), John the Baptist (Second and third Sundays), and the events immediately preceding the birth of Jesus Christ (Fourth Sunday).

The Advent wreath is a simple circle of evergreen branches, a sign of life without end; its four Advent candles (purple candles) encircle a central white Christ candle.

(The United Methodist Book of Worship, pp 238,261)

Scriptures for the Advent Wreath Meditation

First Sunday in Advent—Jeremiah 33:14-16 (NRSV)

Second Sunday in Advent—Malachi 3:1-4 (NRSV)

Third Sunday in Advent—Philippians 4:4-7 (NRSV)

Fourth Sunday in Advent—Luke 1:47-55 (NRSV)

Christmas Eve—Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 2:7, 9-14 (NRSV)

In Christ,

—**Pastor In Koo Chung**

A Christmas Prayer

Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

—**Robert Louis Stevenson**

Christmas Dinner Prayer—Taking The Words To Heart

Consider having your family read a Christmas dinner prayer or a Christmas song together as the Christmas Dinner prayer:

A Prayer (by Martin Luther)

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Make thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be
A quiet chamber kept for Thee.



My heart for very joy doth
leap,
My lips no more can silence
= keep,
I too must sing, with joyful
tongue,
That sweetest ancient song,

Glory to God in highest heaven,
Who unto man His Son hath given
While angels sing with pious mirth.
A glad new year to all the earth!

O Holy Night (by Adolphe Adam)

Oh Holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
Oh night divine. Oh night when Christ was born;
Oh night divine, Oh night divine.

—**allaboutprayer.org**

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>2</i> 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i> 10 a.m.— Communion Wor- ship/Sunday School	<i>7</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>8</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>9</i> 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study	<i>10</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m.— Finance Committee	<i>14</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>15</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>16</i> 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study	<i>17</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School	<i>21</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>22</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>23</i> 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study	<i>24</i> 7:30 p.m.— Christmas Eve Service	<i>25</i> MERRY CHRISTMAS	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m.— Trustees 7:00 p.m.—Healing Service	<i>28</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>29</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>30</i> 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study	<i>31</i>		

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"It would've been easier if the camels were equipped with GPS."



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Council of Bishops Adopt "God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action"

Lake Junaluska, NC: In a statement that says, "We cannot help the world until we change our way of being in it," the bishops of The United Methodist Church announced a significant call to all United Methodists, ecumenical and inter-religious partners and people of goodwill around the world.

"As bishops, we know that critical issues of the day have left people feeling fearful, cynical, hopeless and overwhelmed," said Bishop Gregory Palmer, president of the Council of Bishops. "God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action contains our pledges to work in hopeful and robust ways for transforming change as God's stewards of creation. We invite the church and our partners around the world to join us."

Stating that they "cannot remain silent while God's people and God's planet suffer" the 69 active bishops of The United Methodist Church addressed the pastoral letter and foundation document to the 11.3 million global members of the denomination.

The bishops recommend that the pastoral letter be read aloud in worship during the season of Advent in each of 42,600 congregations worldwide. A liturgical setting for the letter offers responsive elements for congregational participation. These are a "lament for God's people and God's planet," confession of "failure to embody the image of God" and call to action inviting everyone to join the bishops in their own nine pledges for urgent, effective action.

The final documents will be available online by November 9, 2009 and in French, Portuguese, German, Spanish and Korean as soon as possible. Study guides for adults and leaders with children are being prepared for Lenten studies in 2010.

The focus of the bishops' message is three interconnected global threats to God's good creation:

- pandemic poverty and disease;
- environmental degradation, and
- the proliferation of weapons and violence

We spent many months listening to the concerns and hopes of over 5400 United Methodists worldwide of every age and status," said Bishop Timothy Whitaker of Florida, Chair of the Task Force that brought the proposal to the Council. "We are building on a strong church tradition of seriously engaging public policy issues that most affect the human race—especially our young people."

Feedback from United Methodists and interreligious partners in Europe, Africa, Asia (especially the Philippines), and the U.S. asked the bishops to share words of confession, prophetic reminders of biblical and Wesleyan heritage, and some ways to respond to specific calls to action.

God's Renewed Creation is the evolution of action taken 20 years ago when the bishops issued a pastoral letter called, "In Defense of Creation: The Nuclear Crisis and a Just Peace." The 1986 letter reminded all people that this world is God's creation, a sacred gift to be received and nurtured with respect, declaring an unconditional NO to the policy of deterrence and

any use of nuclear weapons.

In 2004, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church authorized the Council of Bishops to update the 1986 document for our time by "educating and encouraging the church, citizens and governments to seek things which lead to a just peace."

—UMC.org

United Methodist Women Members Deliver Climate Change Message to Washington

United Methodist Women members and leaders from the U.S. faith community delivered a red flag message on the environment to the Obama administration and the Senate during a public witness in Washington, D.C., Nov. 5, part of the countdown to the December Copenhagen climate change summit.

The message called for Senate Environment and Public Works committee members now grappling with markups to the Clean Energy bill to forgo differences and agree on a strong and binding climate bill. The message to President Obama: Be in Copenhagen and have evidence of commitment in your pocket.

The collective Climate Witness took place on the Capitol lawn and called for accountability by U.S. leaders for the sustainability of the planet and protection of those most vulnerable. Immediately following, participants personally delivered nearly 14,000 postcards to Senate offices and Obama administration officials. A majority of participants in the witness were United Methodist Women members from across the United States.

—Leigh Rogers, UMC.org

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!



**The United Methodist Church of
Patchogue**
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www.gbgn-umc.org/patchogue

Sunday Worship—10 A.M. — Sunday School—10 A.M.
Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 A.M.
Supervised Nursery during worship.

Address Service Requested



12/5
Kiersten McLean
Derek Elliot
John Elliot

12/6

Gretchen Wertz

12/7 Sean Irizany
12/8 Krista Smith
Evan Hawkins
12/9 Trevor Jacobsen
12/13 Paige DesRoches
12/16 Kevin Weldon
12/17 Jessica Martin
12/18 Megan Horan
Matthew Layton
12/21 Michael Layton
12/23 Hayden Snyder
12/24 Jaden Keeley
12/30 Derek Fontaine

Adopt A Grandparent

The UMC youth group will be sponsoring “Adopt A Grandparent” this holiday season. Sign up in Wesley Hall to make a gift bag for church members who will be in nursing homes this Christmas. A list of suggested items to include in the gift bag is posted next to the sign up form in Wesley Hall. Let’s all help make this a success! Gift bags are due by Dec. 20.



**Children’s Christmas
Pageant
Sunday, Dec. 20
10 AM**

The Miracle of Christmas