

The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

December 2015

A Joyful Season

1 Thessalonians 5:16: "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

The scripture verse above is my testimony to the Advent season.

We have so many events as a church at this time of the year which makes us grateful. At the same time, we reflect upon our years while we wait for Jesus' coming.

It was great to see the sanctuary full of people on Nov. 22 celebrating the season with beautiful music. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to our music director, Martha Campanile, as well as the

BAFFA Chorus Concert participants for making this important season a joyful one. It was a great way to start the season.

As we go to press, several other events are on tap.

There's an ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service at Temple Beth El and a spectacular community dinner in our church on Thanksgiving Day.

On Friday, the next day, we welcome young Boy Scouts participating in a Ten Commandments visit to area churches.

The following day, Saturday, at the annual Patchogue Christmas Parade, we are proudly carrying our banner celebrating 225 years in Patchogue.

Advent candle lighting begins on Nov. 29, and we will have family members participating in the lighting through December during Advent services. Please let

us know if you would like to participate.

Advent encompasses the meaning of expectation. Expectation is always exciting isn't it? When it comes to Christmas, it is surely the most important season for us Christians.

May I ask you this year to be transformed a little?

Please do not concentrate only on getting presents for everyone, but spare a moment to reflect on the year of 2015.

Continued on Page 2

WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

Dec. 6—Rev. Dawn Yoon, Malachi 3:1-4, Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6

Dec. 13—Rev. Dawn Yoon, Zephaniah 3:14-20, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18

Dec. 20—Rev. Dawn Yoon, Micah 5:2-51, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45

Dec. 24—Rev. Dawn Yoon, Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Luke 2:1-20

Dec. 27—June Barile, Psalm 148, Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-52

You are to give him the name **JESUS**, because he **WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE** from their sins.

M A T T H E W 1:21, NIV

Circle of Concern

For Guidance and Healing:

Steve Rea, Stanford Carde,
Liza Burell.

These Who are Hospitalized:

Maureen Blair.

These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:

Geri Sheridan in Sunrise Sr. Center,
320 Patchogue-Holbrook Rd.,
Holbrook, NY.

John Vander Zalm in Brookhaven
Health Care Facility, 801 Gazzolla
Drive, E. Patchogue, NY.

Leona Kreamer in Brookhaven Me-
morial Hospital, 101 Hospital Rd., E.
Patchogue, NY.

Alice Zahnd in Affinity Skilled Liv-
ing, 305 Locust Ave., Oakdale, NY.

Ed Dew in Sunrise Assisted Living,
Waverly Avenue, Holbrook, NY.

*Pray for our church and her future
directions! Prayer cards are located at
the ushers' stations in back of the
sanctuary. Your joys & concerns are
important to us; let us pray for you!
Please put completed prayer cards in
the offering plate or the Prayer Re-
quest Form on our webpage at
www.patchogueumc.org.*

**Hear Our Sermons and
Watch Our
Services Online.
Click on the Links at
www.PatchogueUMC.org**

ERASE Racism

In October, I attended an over-
night Interfaith Youth Leader-
ship Retreat, hosted by the Edu-
cation Research Advocacy, titled
*ERASE Racism... Dialogues for Racial
Justice & Social Change*.

I want to thank Barbara Becker for
informing me about the retreat, and
encouraging me to go. I enjoyed this
retreat, along with all the different
people I met. Throughout the ses-
sions, we discussed different ways
racism exists in our society, whether
it is consciously or not. We played a
few games, one in which we had to
ask each other questions from a list.
Some were easy, such as, "Do you
have a job?" or "Do you own a car?".

Others were more challenging,
such as questions regarding certain
practices, lifestyles, diet, and ques-
tions regarding school life. I asked
everyone random questions, but
some teens admitted they asked
questions based on someone's ap-
pearance; if they looked smart, if they
looked like a delinquent, if they
looked popular, or what their race
was. The advisors used this activity to
point out that we sometimes uncon-
sciously judge people, whether in a
good or bad way, before we even
know them.

The other sessions referred to his-
tory, the role racism played in it and
how history affects people's views
today and their opinions on other
races. We also discussed, which also
influences people's views, the way in
which a parent raises a child, or the
type of media children are exposed
to.

With the sessions, we were then
able to discuss a few ways to limit the
racism in our society, and in ourselves.

The most obvious one was, well,
don't judge people, whether it is their
race or appearance. Because someone
is Asian does not automatically mean
they have a 124+ IQ, or because some-
one is white doesn't mean they are al-
ways racist, and because someone is
black or Hispanic doesn't mean that
they are a criminal.

Some things we realized we couldn't
change, such as the media around us.
People have the right to freely post just
about whatever they want. A person
can make a joke about a certain race,
and even if there are no bad intentions,
someone can be negatively influenced
by it.

So, "erasing" racism in our society is
extremely difficult, but we can reduce
the amount of it little by little. Simply
avoiding judging someone's knowledge
based on their race or appearance
helps.

Having discussions, as we did in our
sessions, helps to raise awareness of
the issues. This is a good step on its
own.

—Montana Queen

Joyful Season (from page 1)

While you do this, it would also be
very much appreciated if you could give
me feedback on my presence as your
pastor, so that I can make an improve-
ment in any way.

Thank you very much all for your
patience and acceptance!

We give thanksgiving, glory and hon-
or to our Lord, Jesus Christ!

—Your pastor

United Methodist Church of Patchogue December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 3:30 p.m.— Learning Support 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	2	3 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	4 9:30 a.m.—ESL 10:30 a.m.—Help needed for food delivery 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—N/A	5 UMW Christmas Fair
6 10 a.m.— Communion Wor- ship 11:30 a.m.— Hanging of The Greens 11:30 a.m.—SPRC 12:30 p.m.—	7 7:00 p.m.—AA	8 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 3:30 p.m.— Learning Support 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	9	10 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	11 9:30 a.m.—ESL 10:30 a.m.—Help needed for food delivery 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—N/A	12 9:30 a.m.—UMW Meeting
13 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m.— Finance 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	14 7:00 p.m.—AA	15 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 3:30 p.m.— Learning Support 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	16	17 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	18 9:30 a.m.—ESL 10:30 a.m.—Help needed for food delivery 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—N/A	19
20 10 a.m.—Worship/ Heat Offering/ Sunday School 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	21 7:00 p.m.—AA	22 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 3:30 p.m.— Learning Support 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	23	24 7:00 p.m.— Christmas Eve Worship	25 Merry Christmas	26
27 10 a.m.—Worship 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	28 7:00 p.m.—AA	29 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 3:30 p.m.— Learning Support 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	30	31 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal		

A Change in Giving Envelopes

In an effort to streamline our costs, the Finance Committee has decided to eliminate Giving Envelopes for 2016. Many churches, in fact, have not used them for some time.

Effective Jan. 3, 2016, if your contribution is by check, please note in the memo portion if it is for heat, flowers, Restoring Hope or your weekly offering.

If your contribution is by cash, simply put it in a plain white envelope; write your name on it and what you want it used for. If there is no specific notation, it will be applied to the general fund.

Checks can be folded in half or placed in a plain white envelope for privacy. Blank white envelopes will be available in the church pews. You can also make your contributions by automatic bank withdrawals or charges to a credit card.

Giving Statements will be sent in January 2017 to all worshippers who contribute over \$250 during 2016.

Stewardship letters and Pledge cards will be emailed to all worshippers in the near future. Hard copies will also be available in the back of the sanctuary. The Pledge Cards can be emailed back to the Church or placed in the offering basket.

We are still in need of a Finance Treasurer and a Finance Secretary. Please let us know if you are able to dedicate your time to either of these positions.

Thank you for your continued support.

—Pam Queen, Finance Chair

Amid Hysteria, a Call For Hospitality

After President Obama urged the United States to welcome some 10,000 refugees from Syria, more than 20 governors said they refused to welcome refugees in their states.

Following the Paris terrorist attacks on Nov. 12, David Bowers—the mayor of Roanoke, Virginia—urged local governments and nonprofit groups not to accept Syrian refugees.

According to the Roanoke Times, the governor appealed to the precedence of President Franklin D. Roosevelt who, Bowers said, “felt compelled to sequester Japanese foreign nationals after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and it appears that the threat of harm to America from ISIS now is just as real and serious as that from our enemies then.”

A flurry of protests prompted Mayor Bowers a few days later to express regret for offending people with his remarks. More than apologies for hurting people’s feelings are in order.

If we do not curb such reckless pronouncements from public figures, frightened and angry people will become violent in the war on terrorism. I can attest personally to the costs of such fear and hatred.

Where this can lead

A Japanese-American couple was murdered on a farm next to ours, and a Filipino American was wounded in a drive-by shooting for being too friendly with Japanese Americans.

Amidst the turbulence, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, to remove us to the camps. On

the same day, FBI hauled away thousands of men, including my father and our pastor. They were sent to a World War II version of “Guantanamo” in Bismarck, North Dakota, for Japanese, German and Italian Americans.

For our safety, Mom moved us into town where we lived with the pastor’s wife and family. One night we woke up to gunfire. Vigilantes claimed they saw flashlight signals in the tall windows of our church. Clandestine messages sent in full view of the windows? We clearly do not think straight when we succumb to mass hysteria.

Before we left for our internment, my parents stored our belongings in the basement of our church, as did other members. Arsonists burned down the church in our absence — very likely, after ransacking our valuables.

Each of us left for camp with all we could carry in one suitcase. Our family went to Poston, Arizona — a desolate place, like others camps in Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, Colorado and Hawaii.

The summers were blistering hot, and the winters bitterly cold. Dust storms blew sand into the hastily built, flimsy barracks. Families were crowded into single rooms, 20 by 20 feet, in the barracks. There were five of us in our family. We used public facilities to bathe, use the toilet, wash clothes and eat in a mess hall. The loss of privacy deepened the humiliation for being “enemy aliens.”

Setting the record straight

Here is how Mayor Bowers can set the record straight.

First, he should apologize publically for a grossly misleading point. Most

people who went to the internment camps were not “Japanese foreign nationals.” Sixty-eight percent of the 110,000 Japanese Americans held in captivity were U.S. citizens.

Second, the mayor needs to acknowledge that no threat of espionage activities and sabotage were ever established among Japanese Americans.

Third, the mayor should recognize that President Roosevelt’s Executive Order 9066 as a model for security is now widely rejected because the imprisonment violated the Constitutional rights to due process of law, including a charge, trial and trial by a jury of peers.

President George H. W. Bush made this clear in 1991. “A monetary sum and words alone cannot restore lost years or erase painful memories; neither can they fully convey our nation’s resolve to rectify injustice and to uphold the rights of individuals,” he appropriately said when he sent out reparation checks for the internment.

“We can never fully right the wrongs of the past. But we can take a clear stand for justice and recognize that serious injustices were done to Japanese Americans during World War II.”

And then, on the 50th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Bush added, “The internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry was a great injustice, and it will never be repeated.”

We cannot, however, be so sanguine. Prominent figures are whipping up the hysteria and hatred against Middle Eastern refugees remi-

niscent of those that followed Pearl Harbor.

In words that sound like some social-media posts today, Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt, the commanding general of the Western Defense Command, wrote to the U.S. secretary of war in 1942, claiming, “In the war in which we are now engaged, racial affinities are not severed by migration.” DeWitt added, “The Japanese race is an enemy race and while many second- and third-generation Japanese born on United States soil, possessed of United States citizenship, have become ‘Americanized,’ the racial strains are undiluted.”

In a stark claim that defies logic, DeWitt said, “The very fact that no sabotage has taken place to date is a disturbing and confirming indication that such action will be taken.”

Governors today are beginning to sound like governors early in World War II. Gov. Chase Clark of Idaho told reporters “Japs live like rats, breathe like rats, and act like rats.” Gov. Homer M. Adkins from Arkansas said, “Our people are not familiar with the customs or peculiarities of Japanese, and I doubt the wisdom of placing any in Arkansas.”

In what looks like an “in your face” to the governor, the federal government placed two of the 10 camps in Arkansas, albeit on land that virtually became swamps in the rainy season. Because unbridled, hateful talk by prominent people today can also lead to equally drastic and violent measures, I suggest activities that could curb those prospects.

We can all call for reason and restraint that will force leaders to pro-

mote our security without violating civil rights. Clergy and congregations can develop personal relationships with those who are vulnerable to hateful acts, and be conspicuous in standing with them.

Japanese Americans have never forgotten the Rev. Melvin Wheatley (who later became a United Methodist bishop) and his spouse, Lucile, along with other members of the First United Methodist Church in Fresno, temporarily taking title to homes owned by Japanese Americans and moving into them to protect those homes from arsonists. The Japanese Americans have also never forgotten Whitley visiting them in camps.

Where sin abounds, let grace abound even more. (Romans 5:20)

—Bishop Roy I Sano, UMNS



December Birthday

Dec. 14 Steve Rice

The deadline for the January issue of **The Link** is **December 18**. Please email your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.

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"What a morning! The angels were devils and the wisemen were wise guys."



A Note About Restoring Hope

Our Restoring Hope capital campaign was completed several years ago but funds may continue to be contributed. All Restoring Hope contributions go to the Trustees who have continuing building expenses but no other current source of revenue.

Speaking Up For Syrian Refugees

Some United Methodists are protesting efforts by U.S. governors to try to keep out Syrian refugees after the Nov. 13 Paris terror attacks.

Leaders of ISIS have claimed credit for the attacks, which killed 130 people. A Syrian passport, possibly a fake, was found near the body of one of the suicide bombers in Paris.

Bishop Gary Mueller of the Arkansas Conference responded to Gov. Asa Hutchinson of Arkansas, who is among more than two dozen governors—nearly all of them Republicans—who now want their borders closed to Syrian refugees.

“Certainly, we cannot allow an unregulated flow of refugees into our state,” Mueller said. “But it solves nothing to categorically exclude a group of people whose lives have been torn apart, as the governor has indicated he would like to do concerning Syrian refugees.”

Mueller said he favored heightened security but also “heightened compassion towards Syrian refugees who are suffering at the hands of ISIS in ways we can only begin to comprehend.” ‘Running for their lives’

The Rev. Wes Magruder, pastor of Kessler Park United Methodist Church in Dallas and board president of Refugee Services of Texas, was critical of Texas Gov. Greg Abbott for joining in the call to keep Syrian refugees out. “The Syrian refugees – they’re running for their lives,” Magruder said. He added that the process of getting refu-

gee status in the United States takes far longer and is far more stringent than in Europe.

“It’s ludicrous to suggest that we don’t already have, in our refugee settlement system, adequate vetting and security,” Magruder said. Magruder’s church on Saturday had its second annual “First Thanksgiving” event for recent refugees, treating them to turkey and dressing and in other ways acquainting them with the U.S. holiday.

Two Syrian families attended. “For our church in particular to wake up on Monday morning and hear the governor say, ‘No more Syrians’ was just very heartbreaking,” Magruder said.

S.C. governor joins call

But Gov. Nikki Haley of South Carolina, a United Methodist, joined in the opposition to entry of more Syria refugees.

In a letter to Sec. of State John Kerry, Haley cited gaps in intelligence on those fleeing Syria.

“This lack of historical and verifiable intelligence with many Syrian refugees makes it difficult, if not impossible, to thoroughly vet individuals seeking to enter the United States as a refugee,” she said.

Immigration policy rests with the federal government, but states cooperate in the process.

Since 2012, fewer than 2,000 Syrian refugees have been allowed to settle in the United States. President Obama has said the U.S. will take 10,000 more, which is a small fraction of the number who have arrived in Europe.

The Rev. John L. McCullough, president and chief executive officer of Church World Service and a United Methodist pastor, criticized efforts to close borders to Syrian refugees.

“Syrian refugees are fleeing violence perpetrated by ISIS—violence that has destroyed their country,” McCullough said. “To blame vulnerable people for the acts of their perpetrators is unjust and inhumane. We must react not with hate toward one another, but instead with unity and resolve to see that these horrendous crimes are not repeated.”

The Rev. Susan Henry-Crowe, top executive of the United Methodist Board of Church and Society, noted that states are obligated to protect their citizens, but also said governments and religious groups have a “common responsibility” toward refugees.

“Christian witness should reflect the special care that Christ offers migrants, refugees and the vulnerable,” she said. “As United Methodists, we know that fearful responses are not reflective of Christian life and witness. Instead, Christ calls us to a love for humankind and compassion for all.”

Bishop Julius Trimble of the Iowa Conference, who chairs the United Methodist Interagency Immigration Task Force, said: “We cannot claim to be the church and not challenge our governors to be the voices of reason and respect and promoters of peace not fear.”

—Sam Hodges, UMNS

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Rev. Hyo Jung (Dawn) Yoon, Pastoral Minister

Camille Flynn, Administrative Assistant

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Email: office@PatchogueUmc.org

Worship Video Live Streaming at PatchogueUMC.Org

Sunday Worship—10 AM | Sunday School—10 AM

Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 AM

Hearing assistance provided



What Is Advent?

The Christian season of Christmas actually begins on Christmas Eve and lasts for twelve days, ending on January 6. (No, the twelve-day season of Christmas did not start with the song. It was the other way around.) The time before Christmas is Advent, a season of preparation for Christmas.

Christians prepare for celebrating the birth of Jesus by remembering the longing of the Jews for a Messiah. In Advent, we're reminded of how much we ourselves also need a Savior, and we look forward to our Savior's second coming even as we prepare to celebrate his first coming at Christmas.

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming" or "visit." In the season with this name, we keep in mind both "advents" of Christ, the first in Bethlehem and the second yet to come.

If you're unfamiliar with Advent, I expect it might feel odd to think of the weeks before Christmas as something more than Christmastime.

For most of my life, Advent played very little role in my pre-Christmas consciousness. As a child, I did have Advent calendars: sturdy, decorative paper displays with 25 little "windows," one of which I would open each day of December leading up to Christmas. Sometimes Advent calendars are made of wood and feature

twenty-five little boxes, each containing some little treasure.

My Advent calendar was a way to whet my appetite for Christmas, not that I needed much help to get ready for my favorite day of the year, mind you.

I loved Christmas when I was young, partly because it celebrated the birth of Jesus, but mostly because it was a giant party in which I received lots of presents. In a sense, the Christian observance is a bit like my boyhood Advent calendars, though it has a much more serious purpose. It's meant to get us ready, not for a present-opening party, but for a transformational celebration of the birth of Jesus.

—Mark D. Roberts. Patheos.com