

Celebrating
220 Years
in 2011

TheLink



The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

February 2011

Edited By George Hoag

Greetings and Blessings from Pastor Sanchez

I pray for God's blessings for all of the Patchogue UMC on this New Year. Well, and now that I mention God's blessing over us, what is Paul's counsel to us for this new start? Be not anxious in anything, but in everything with prayer and supplication with thanksgiving make your requests known, not to other human beings, but to God. He is the supplier. When we do this, the peace of God that passes all human understanding will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. The peace of God is the smile of God registered in our spirit. We will be able to rise from prayer and say with confidence, "Everything is all right; I saw God smiling at me. He is going to take care of me. He will strengthen me and abound his grace toward me.



Worship In February

Feb. 6—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *Discipleship: Building Up, Shining Out*; Matthew 5:13-20, Isaiah 58:7-10.

Feb. 13—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *Discipleship: Lessons from the Coal Mines*; Matthew 5:21-37, Deuteronomy 30:15-20.

Feb. 20—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *Unity*; 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23, Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18.

Feb. 27—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *Accountable*; 1 Corinthians 4:1-5, Isaiah 49:8-16a.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; God is with me. His rod and thy staff, they comfort me."

Therefore, I tell you: Do not panic or fear at what is ahead of us this year. Pray for grace, and God will give it to you— sufficient, abounding, and overflowing grace for your every need. Jesus Christ does not want us to live a minimal life. He said, "I have come that you may have life and have it more abundantly." God will supply our every need according to his immeasurable riches in Christ Jesus. We can live joyful, peaceful, vibrant lives with God's help and blessing.

**"THE PATH OF
THE RIGHTEOUS
IS LIKE THE
LIGHT OF DAWN."**

PROVERBS 4:18, NRSV

Circle of Concern

For Bereavement:

Comfort and peace for the Marquadt family on the passing of their father. For the Family and Friends of Ralph Jackson. For the Family and Friends of Elizabeth Kelly. For the Family and Friends of Brian Weeks.

For Guidance:

Lisa D., Barbara McAllister, 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, Joanne, Robert C. Hiene, the Americo Family, Rose Conti, Bob Pignataro, Holly Nelson, Elizabeth Biederman's cousin, Jody, that Jody has a healthy delivery and Dylan has no kidney complications at birth, Don De LaVergne (Linda Werner's nephew), Kevin O'Donnell for comfort and healing over the loss of a loved one, Lisa Prince, the family of Alex Pearson, he is in a nursing home, he is the father-in-law of Lenny Pearson, Joan, the Neuman family, Nancy Rogers for comfort and healing, Barry Burrell's sister, Wildredo Franco, Mary (co-worker of Betty Rice) and Monica, Patrick Keena, Joel Furman, Sheila Dreaper, Frank Whalen and Walt Stawecki's mother, Theresa Rubano, Sofia and her family, Marge Miller. Megan Prince, Dayne Davis and Brandon Rinker, John Casale, Courtney Sweeney (Pat Carlson's daughter), Our Troops and Veterans, Dean and family, Jean Eid, Rachel Nason, Crysalis Flights in 2011, girls, boys, team and caterpillars. All those who have lost their jobs, and Eileen Paduano.

These Who are Hospitalized:

Josh Boneventure, Christine Quinn's cousin Frank, Nana Grace, Nancy Marshall, Bertha Smith, Lee Hollowell, Mary Payne, Harry Watson, Debbie Fiore, Patrick Diamond, John Vanderzalm, Layden John Clark, Candice Sweeney, Mary Zatorski, Dan, Pastor John from Bellport UMC, Peter Moor (Kathie Lori's father), Ernest Boyd, Chris, John Layton, Phil Ianello.

These at Home:

Betty Hansley, Joan Welsh, Joseph Weinzettle, Natalie Burnett-Lynch, Kathleen Chodorski, Kyra McCarthy, Debi DelRossi, Belle Barile, Tom Furman, Lisa Lopez, Dorotea Sanchez, Mary Jones, Mike Welsh, Timothy Oliva's Aunt Susan, John Krulger, Shelly Granger, Marie Lino, Marta, Donna Herrick and Philip Rudolph, Jytte & Nils Sorensen (Geri Sheridan's relatives in Denmark), Robert Dodge and Suzanne Olivotti-Dodge, Sandy Burrell, Ted Davies, John Casale, Mr. O'Keefe, Don Miller, Lorraine Greco, Dottie Lynaughe. Paul Rice, Sharon Kaminski, Becky Kolacki, Emily Navidad and former Patchogue Village Justice, Donald Howie.

These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:

Alice Zahnd in Patchogue Nursing Center, 25 Schoenfeld Blvd., Patchogue, NY; Kitty Brunnemer in Cedar Lodge Nursing Home, 6 Frowein Road, Center Moriches, NY 11934; Hazel Nargi in McPeak's Adult Home, 286 N. Ocean Ave., Patchogue; Anna Bonfe, Rm. 201, Cunningham Bldg., Loretto Rest, 708 E.

Brighton Ave., Syracuse, NY 13205; Nancy Rogers in I.C.F. , S. #1, Wing C, 283 Route 25A, Shoreham, NY 11786; Connie Halliwell Bethany 202 , Our Lady of Consolation 111 Beach Drive, West Islip; Rachel Nason in McPeak's Adult Home, 286 N. Ocean Ave., Patchogue.

Stewardship

Our church has many good stewards faithfully serving Jesus. From individual acts to the service of entire committees, we are becoming faithful stewards.

Christmas was a fitting example of the love and stewardship of our members. Marge Miller and her co-workers from Southside Hospital underwrote the cost for the Christmas Wesley Dinner and helped to serve. The outpouring of gifts from our congregation through the "Angel Tree" and the numbers of warm coats and clothing revealed the true meaning of giving at Christmas. We received so many gifts that they were also given to those attending the Narcotics Anonymous meeting on Christmas Eve. Think of the warmth and joy these gifts brought to so many who have so little during the holidays.

Wrapped gifts were obtained by the Shadbolt family to be given to the children attending the Christmas dinner. Bill Loris and James Pew donated airplane and automobile models to be given as gifts at Christmas. There are a number still available for anyone who enjoys building them. Please contact the Pastor if you would like one.

The "Adopt a Grandparent" program brought a great deal of joy to members of our congregation. Each

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

member of our church family in a nursing home received a visit and bag of gifts from loving stewards. Pastor Sanchez, his family, and members of the MYF visited McPeaks Adult Home during Christmas week. Gifts were given to our members living there and carols were sung to all the residents.

The beauty of our church at Christmas and throughout the year is due to a large degree to Geri Sheridan. The altar flowers donated each week by our members, are coordinated by Geri. She would like to thank all who worked to make our sanctuary a special place to worship. Her "right hand," is Lenny Pearson. When we undecorated after Christmas this year, Lenny spent days organizing, bagging, labeling and lugging all the decorations back up to storage. Next year should be a breeze to decorate. Thank you Lenny.

The UMW gave gold pins in recognition of two women as faithful servants of Jesus.

Lorraine Brenner and Betty Rice are the hostesses of our coffee hour after service on Sundays. Both support the many programs and special events of our church. Working each Sunday with them is Jim Miller. He makes the coffee and helps with the food preparation. He is the manager of our Food Pantry. Each week he collects food and money to support this outreach to the Patchogue community.

Early Head Start uses part of lower Wesley Hall. We receive state and local inspections to maintain certification for their use of our facilities. Recently, the Patchogue Fire Marshall cited us for the large mass of items stored in the small rooms above the Cloud Room. The left over items from yard sales and

the Chinese Auction were a fire hazard. Bonnie Abbott, Jean Miller, Lenny Pearson and I began sorting through and disposing items to bring us into compliance.

Bonnie Abbott is applying for a financial grant for our church. Large corporations support non-profit organizations through grants from tax deduction incentives. Bonnie will be searching for more grants to help support our church.

Carla Gibson and our MYF meet each Sunday during Sunday School in the conference room. An Ice Skating Rink outing is planned during the school winter break – Presidents week. The date will be announced. Carla would like you to plan on attending the MYF Annual Spaghetti Dinner in March or early April.

Last winter brought lots of snow and now this one is too. Each storm costs our church several hundred dollars to dig us out and make the sidewalks safe. The bigger the storm, the more it costs, and the job assigned to our contractor is limited. Lenny Pearson has pitched in to clear part of the sidewalk to the handicap ramp area twice. Snow drifts of up to six feet blocked entry right after Christmas and during the last storm. Thank you Lenny. For many of us digging large amounts of snow is not possible. A basket and request for special donations for snow removal will be found on the ushers tables at the rear of the sanctuary. Please donate to help us literally dig ourselves out of this deepening situation. Or sign up to help with the snow removal.

Pastor Sanchez has introduced praise singing to Sunday services.

Beginning last summer, Pastor has played the piano or guitar in leading us with songs of praise. With his daughter Jelixa as lead singer and son Abdiel on drums, the entire congregation can join in singing these songs. Ken Miller adds flair to the band with his guitar playing.

The St. Valentine's dinner dance is scheduled for February 12th 6:30 to 11PM at the VFW Post on Edwards Ave., Patchogue. The doors open at 6:00 PM. Price will be \$30 a person, food included. Mike Amodio will be the DJ. and we welcome your favorite CDs to supplement his tunes. Come and join us in a great time and plenty of dancing. Please call Steve Rice, 445-7977, Dave Hollowell, 475-5339 or the office, 475-0381 to make reservations. Tickets can be bought at the door, but we need your reservation to know how much food to order. See you there.

We are blessed by the many people who support this church with their tithes and talents. Tom Bracken, our Financial Secretary, and Kathie Wells, Treasurer, spend countless hours recording donations and paying the bills. Each week two counters record the Sunday donations. These dedicated members are: Carol Kirschner, Brenda Klingel, Carolyn Willis Falvey, Lenny Pearson, Joanne Shadbolt, Linda Stawecki, Kate Weber, Linda Werner and myself. Thank you for all that you do. May God bless you.

—David Hollowell

Hear Our Sermons On Line

Click on the Link at
www.gbmgm-umc-org/patchogue

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

What's New In Sunday School

In a lot of ways, the experience of being a Superintendent has been an eye opening one. I never realized how much goes on behind the scenes of our beautiful church. It takes a lot of work to keep this church up and running and a lot of wonderful people step up and do what needs to be done. God bless you for all that you do.

I had my own experience with this phenomenon the day of the Christmas pageant. Friday and Saturday I was very, very sick. I was being held hostage by my couch. Sunday I was able to get on my shaky feet and head into church to direct my very first Christmas pageant.

The previous two days must have been written all over my face because everyone pitched in, supported me, and did anything I needed them to do without question. I was humbled, blessed, and incredibly grateful for everyone's help (you know who you are.)

Before I attended this wonderful church, I didn't know what a church family was. I just thought it was a figure of speech. The church I attended as a child wasn't as close-knit as this one is. I now understand that a church family is just that—a family. A loving, supportive, group of people who helped me in my time of need. I am blessed to call you my family and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Blessings,

—**Elizabeth Biederman, Sunday School Superintendent**

The deadline for the March issue of **TheLINK** is Feb. 11. Please e-mail your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.

Digital Culture Demands Relevance, Change

Can The United Methodist Church survive in the digital culture? If so, in what form will it exist? How must it adapt to be relevant to life in this new cultural reality?

We talk about this a lot at United Methodist Communications. We just spent a day discussing the challenges we are presented by the new digital culture in which we work, and how this new environment is shaping the church we serve.

Technology changes how we think, act and perceive the world around us. How we access, store and utilize information influences the culture. Perhaps influence is too mild a descriptor. It shapes culture.

That's the thesis M. Rex Miller advances in *The Millennium Matrix*, a new book about faith and communications technologies. It's a thought-provoking look at how technology affects culture and in turn shapes our perceptions about faith.

As communicators, we exist in an institution shaped by print technology, and cultural change is coming to it as a disruptive challenge that causes some to wonder if it can survive. In our day together, we didn't pretend we could answer that question, but we did talk about how we can engage some of the specific challenges we face in the digital age.

We know the information we provide must be relevant to the needs and interests of the user - that it must go beyond merely the messages the institution desires to push out.

We understand that we are engaged in an interactive conversation and not in a one-way flow of information.

We believe we must reconsider how to make information more accessible in many different ways, from style of writing to format to placement on the screen to hyper-linked connections to multiple languages.

We know our audiences are global, and we must develop a more robust network of communicators who can tell the stories of the church and support its global conversation more adequately.

And we know that information flows continuously today. It is not limited to our timeline. It moves in real time and often it is unfiltered and unrefined—as when a passenger on a ferry in the Hudson sent cell-phone photos of the US Airways jet floating on the river before the tower knew it was down. In events like this, everyone is potentially a journalist.

Digital technologies have empowered people to become producers, commentators and distributors without the need for gates or gatekeepers. The conversation will happen regardless of institutional controls or desires. The gatekeepers have lost control of the gate through which information flows.

The most critical challenge of the digital culture, I believe, is to engage in the conversation with relevant information, provide the deep support that we all need to live fruitfully in this atomizing and fragmenting reality, and to compete within a marketplace of ideas and messages that come at us as a cascade of appeals for our attention.

—**Rev. Larry Hollon, UM News Service**

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

February 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>4</i> 7:00 p.m.—NA	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i> 10 a.m.— Communion Worship/Sunday School 11:30 a.m.—Church Council <i>Counters: Linda Werner and Dave Hollowell</i>	<i>7</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>8</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>9</i> 7:30 p.m.—Adult Bible Study	<i>10</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>11</i> 7:00 p.m.—NA	<i>12</i> 6:30 p.m.— Valentine’s Day Dinner Dance, VFW Hall, Edwards St.
<i>13</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m.— Finance Committee <i>Counters: Lenny Pear- son and TBD</i>	<i>14</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>15</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>16</i> 7:30 p.m.—Adult Bible Study	<i>17</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>18</i> 7:00 p.m.—NA	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School <i>Counters: Carolyn Willis Falvey and Kate Weber</i>	<i>21</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>22</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>23</i> 7:30 p.m.—Adult Bible Study	<i>24</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>25</i> 7:00 p.m.—NA	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m.— Trustees <i>Counters: Brenda Klingel and Joanne Shadbolt</i>	<i>28</i> 7 p.m.—AA					

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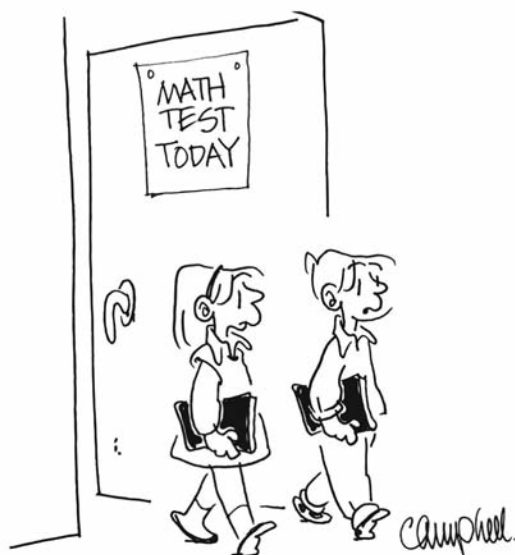
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"You know you're in trouble when you stop
praying for the answers and start begging."

Valentine's Dinner Dance
VFW Hall
Edward's Street
February 12
6:30-11:00 PM
Good Food
Good Entertainment
See Steve Rice For Tickets

Tucson Services Call All To Be 'Agents Of Hope'

Children can lead adults to become agents of hope, Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño told those who had gathered to remember the dead and pray for the living in Tucson, Ariz.

"While we adults have been shocked and stunned into numbness because of what has occurred," Carcaño said, "I have seen hope through the children among us."

The Jan. 11 vigil in Tucson was among many interfaith gatherings held in response to the shooting rampage three days earlier, which left six dead and more than a dozen wounded. President Barack Obama also sounded a note of hope in the face of violence when he addressed an overflow crowd during an emotional memorial service Jan. 12 at the University of Arizona.

U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., remains in serious condition.

Carcaño, like the president, cited the example of the shooting's youngest victim, 9-year-old Christina-Taylor Green.

"She was there at that tragic moment because she had been elected to serve on the student council of her school," the bishop said. "Her neighbor thought she would find it interesting to meet Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. We mourn Christina-Taylor's death, but at the same time, we give God thanks for her witness of hope. At a tender age, she had already come forth to serve."

The Rev. Ed Bonneau, senior pastor at Catalina United Methodist Church, said about 300 people attended the vigil. Catalina was one of several sites across the region for ecumenical services "of mourning, healing and hope" that evening.

People from United Methodist, Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran, Jewish and other traditions attended, he added, and "it truly was a citywide event."

The Pima County Interfaith Council was instrumental in helping to plan the service, which included three speakers: Carcaño, leader of the United Methodist Desert Southwest Annual (regional) Conference; Roman Catholic Bishop Gerald Kicanas; and Rabbi Stephanie Aaron from Temple Chaverim. Temple Chaverim is Giffords' synagogue.

'They will not be forgotten'

Some 125 miles north of Tucson, people of all faiths gathered at Temple Solel in Paradise Valley to pray.

The service was a collaborative effort among Rabbi John Linder of Temple Solel; Jan Flaaten, executive director of the Arizona Ecumenical Council; Carcaño; and Joe Rubio of the Valley Interfaith Project.

The Rev. Robert Burns, superintendent of the United Methodist Central East District, read a description of each of the lives lost, including Green, Dorothy Morris, U.S. District Court Judge John Roll, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwan Stoddard and Gabe Zimmerman. As Burns read each name, the diverse congregation responded, "They will not be forgotten."

"If nothing else, we are a community of tekva — of hope," Linder said. "So tonight, with our communities together in mourning, healing and hope, come together as one."

"At a time like this," Flaaten said, "when words do not come easy, we are not healed by easy explanations, by simple answers. Instead, we find healing in the presence of each other."

Bonneau of Catalina United Methodist Church agrees.

"Social-networking sites only take you so far," he asserted. "Being with others is so important."

At a nationally televised evening service Jan. 12, Obama called on Americans of all beliefs to be more empathetic toward each other and not use this tragedy to become further divided.

"At a time when our discourse has become so sharply polarized, at a time when we are far too eager to lay the blame for all that ails the world at the feet of those who think differently than we do," he said, "it's important for us to pause for a moment and make sure that we are talking with each other in a way that heals, not a way that wounds."

'Hope is the message'

Back in Tucson, Carcaño urged continued prayers "for those most affected by this tragedy — and for each other, without exception."

While the family of the young man arrested for the shootings — Jared Lee Loughner — was not known to be active in a church, Bonneau said, "One of the specific prayers was for (them), for they, too, are hurting."

Outside Giffords' office, the bishop said, children have covered the sidewalk in colorful drawings.

"Colored chalk is the medium, love is the heart, but hope is the message," Carcaño said.

She recalled walking with a clergy colleague to the congresswoman's office when a boy of about 10 stopped in front of the two. The boy declared that his picture on the sidewalk had been ruined but he would make it better.

"With a confident smile, and chalk in his hand, we saw him walk with great determination toward the sidewalk of hope," Carcaño said. "In that moment, that boy made us part of his family, speaking to us as if we had always known each other, and letting us know that things could be made better. It was a word of hope, great hope."

She encouraged worshippers to "be agents of hope by working for reconciliation knowing that we are all children of God in need of love and hope. ... Let us be agents of hope by committing to work for justice, that peace, God's own peace, may come upon us. Our children expect no less of us."

—Barbara Dunlap-Berg, *UM News Service*

Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, Pastoral Minister
Christine Saas, Office Assistant
Office Phone: 631-475-0381 | Fax: 631-363-2163

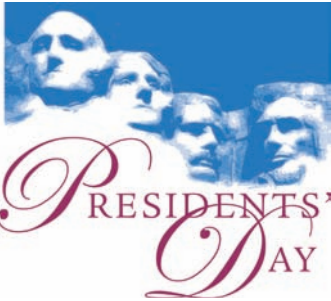
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Sunday Worship—10 AM — Sunday School—10 AM
Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 AM
Supervised Nursery during worship.

Address Service Requested



George Washington—A Prayer for Guidance



O eternal and everlasting God, I presume to present myself this morning before thy Divine majesty, beseeching thee to accept of my humble and hearty thanks, that it hath pleased thy great goodness to keep and preserve me the night past from all the dangers poor mortals are subject to, and has given me sweet and pleasant sleep, whereby I find my

body refreshed and comforted for performing the duties of this day, in which I beseech thee to defend me from all perils of body and soul....

Increase my faith in the sweet promises of the gospel; give me repentance from dead works; pardon my wanderings, and direct my thoughts unto thyself, the God of my salvation; teach me how to live in thy fear, labor in thy service, and ever to run in the ways of thy commandments; make me always watchful over my heart, that neither the terrors of conscience, the loathing of holy duties, the love of sin, nor an unwillingness to depart this life, may cast me into a spiritual slumber, but daily frame me more and more into the likeness of thy son Jesus Christ, that living in thy fear, and dying in thy favor, I may in thy appointed time attain the resurrection of the just unto eternal life bless my family, friends, and kindred.



2/3 Brittany Trionfo
2/4 Jake Spera
Julianna Wright
2/7 Lou
Mapleson

Reece Mapleson
Marissa McGrath
2/11 Megan Mudrack
2/13 Jaclin Famulari
2/14 Thomas Craw
Jessica Lesson
2/17 Robert O'Reilly
2/18 Daymien Bunting
2/24 Lily Rogers
2/25 John McGuire
2/27 Shelby Wertz
Jenai Buckley

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