

# The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

February 2019

## Observing a Great Month of February

The month of February brings quite a few observances that most people are either unaware of or couldn't care less about. However, I find it interesting to occasionally review these observances to help better appreciate the world around me.

One of the listed observances is Black History Month. Let me just pause there for a moment.

At my age, I have come to realize that the historical contributions of African Americans were rarely recorded in the annals of our history when I was growing up and attending school. Rarely were they portrayed in movies other than in roles of servitude or other demeaning parts.

Having just celebrated the national holiday commemorating the birth

of The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.—we know a lot of advancements have been made since Dr. King's efforts to bring justice to all people. We should be grateful as a nation that these changes have occurred.

February is also American Heart Month, making us aware that we need to be good to our hearts through observing a proper and healthy diet and exercise routine. The heart is the main operating system of our body; therefore, it is extremely important to take good care of this vital organ.

This month also observes something I was not aware of: Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Have you noticed what causes the most downfalls of professional athletes, Hollywood celebrities and politicians?

It often involves misbehavior and abuses of a physical or sexual nature. Perhaps this is a good time to sit down with our kids or grandkids and discuss appropriate behavior in treating others with respect and decency.

Now, how can we forget that on Feb. 2 it is Groundhog Day? Hopefully the little fella will not see his shadow and we will have an early spring. So, Punxsutawney Phil—NO SHADOW please.

Continued on Page 2

## WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

**Feb. 3**—Kathleen Halliwell, Luke 4:21-30

**Feb. 10**—Conrad Queen, Luke 5:1-11

**Feb. 17**—The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Luke 6:17-26

**Feb. 24**—The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Luke 6:27-38



## Circle of Concern

### For Bereavement:

Martiza Cruz on death of her son, Jose Morales

### For Guidance and Healing:

Bruce Kirshner, Katie, Preto family, Roseann, Millie, Ann, Dillon, Kevin Raynor, Delarosa family, Anthony, Jim Davis, Louise Ruso Ellis, Jerry, Lorena McClure, Tara, Justin, Tom Scheldrick, Kenny, Christine Swezey, Luca, Mike Iarocci, Marge, Dawn Belvadre, Robert Gonzalez, Eve, Richard, Carroll Family, Kenny, Juanita, Maura, Fran, Ashley & Baby

### These at Home:

Lee Hollowell

### These in Rehab or Nursing Care:

**Geri Sheridan** in Brookhaven Health Care Facility, 801 Gazzola Dr., East Patchogue

**Alice Zahnd** in Gurwin Jewish Nursing Facility, 68 Hauppauge Rd., Commack, NY

*Pray for our church and her future directions!*

Prayer cards are located at the usher's station at the rear of the sanctuary.

Make a prayer request at  
PatchogueUMC.com

## February Birthdays

**Feb. 10** Jonathan Alvarado

**Feb. 14** Geri Sheridan

**Feb. 15** John Yarshuck

**Feb. 18** Robbie Pearson

**Feb. 20** Lilianna Angelina Mangano

**Feb. 21** Valerie Ward

**Feb. 24** Lili Rogers

## February (From Page 1)

And on February 4 it is Artist Appreciation Day. I wonder if my wife remembers how I blessed her on Valentine's Day last year—and she will now reciprocate by purchasing me a nice set of brushes recognizing her artist husband? We'll see...

Speaking of Valentine's Day, we mustn't forget to make that special someone in your life feel special. Remember to buy that card at CVS-- Perhaps a bouquet of flowers, a box of chocolates or a night out for dinner will do the trick?

Then there are just some very silly observances like, Kite Flying Day, Read in the Bathtub Day, Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day, Do a Grouch a Favor Day, Clean Out Your Bookcase Day, Be Humble Day (I actually like that one) and, No Brainer Day. Yes, these are actual days of observance in the month February!

All kidding aside, slow things down this month and glean a couple of observances you can buy into. Certainly, it wouldn't be a bad idea to read up on Black History or to start eating healthy and exercise a little to keep your heart and body in shape. As far as Ground Hog Day...I never really bought into that, but it is still fun to observe. Now, whether you read a book in the bathtub or not—certainly take the time to read your Bible— wherever you choose to read it. Also, keep a Valentine's spirit toward God each and every day by telling Him how much you appreciate and love Him.

Have a blessed February and always remember that all things are possible with God. This could very well be the best month you have ever experienced. Why not? It is possible, you know?

In His Grip,

—Pastor Chuck

## Altar Flowers

**T**he calendar for signing up to sponsor flowers on the altar for the new year has begun.

You may order flowers in celebration of a birthday or anniversary of someone or in honor of God.

Sponsors are able to take the lowers home with them. It is through your sponsorship that we are able to have beautiful flower arrangements on our altar each week.

The calendar is on the bulletin board between the Cloud Room and Wesley Hall.

See Gail Hoag or call 631-654-0038 to get pricing and your name on our calendars.

Thank you to all our sponsors.

—Gail Hoag

## Church Authors

**W**ant a good book for these cold days?

Purchase a book written by our outstanding church member writers:

Pastor Chuck, Barbara Becker, and Conrad Queen.

# United Methodist Church of Patchogue February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 10:00 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	2
3 10:00 a.m.— Communion Worship 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	4 Office Closed 7:00 p.m.—AA	5 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:00 p.m.—AA	6	7	8 10:00 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	9
10 10:00 a.m.— Worship 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	11 Office Closed 7:00 p.m.—AA	12 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:00 p.m.—AA	13	14	15 10:00 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	16 9:30 a.m.—UMW
17 10 a.m.— Worship 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	18 Office Closed 7:00 p.m.—AA	19 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:00 p.m.—AA	20	21	22 10:00 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	23
24 10 a.m.— Worship 11:00 a.m.— Church Council 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	25 Office Closed 7:00 p.m.—AA	26 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:00 p.m.—AA	27	28 5:00 p.m.—Wesley Dinner		

## SOS Campaign Update

**W**e begin a new year and the work on our Save Our Sanctuary project continues.

As previously reported, a member of the Pentecostal Church which uses the Cloud Room for worship offered to replace the carpeting in the Cloud Room and adjacent areas, a \$6,000 project. That work, coordinated by Ed Klingel, was completed on Jan. 24.

We are also the recipient of another generous gift. The Knights of Columbus of Hauppauge has offered to donate three major kitchen appliances which are only seven years old, much newer than our current appliances.

This blessing came through Pastor Chuck's brother who is a Grand Knight at the Hauppauge lodge. The appliances include a six-burner commercial grade range, a convection oven and a food warmer.

The combined cost if we were to purchase these appliances would be nearly \$10,000. The Knights will also arrange for delivery of the appliances and removal of our current stove. Peter Halliwell is coordinating this project which is expected in February.

Considerable work remains to be done. This year we will begin the following: repainting of the exterior walls, particularly the east and north walls; reglazing and sealing of the windows; replacing the exterior Plexiglas covering the Rose Window; and reconstruction of Pastor's office damaged by water infiltration last fall.

To date, \$108,000 has been expended, the bulk of it for roof repairs.

On the income side, Treasurer George Hoag reports SOS contribution receipts to date of \$32,627. That's in addition to the \$6,000 rug money and \$6,500 for the parking lot.

We have received a \$50,000 grant from the Knapp-Swezey Foundation and a \$5,000 grant from NYS Sacred Sites. Another Sacred Sites grant of \$20,000 has been awarded but not yet received.

We have a \$130,000 Conference loan. Of our total pledges to date, about \$22,000 remains to be paid.

Please remember your SOS pledges to help keep the campaign going. Thanks to all for their contributions and hard work.

—Jim Graham

## Thank You

**T**hank you to Joan Curtis for leading our SOS campaign.

Thank you to a member of the Pentecostal Church for providing us with a new \$6,000 rug in the Cloud Room.

Please help keep the rug looking new. No food or beverages, please, except water, consumed in the Cloud Room.

This will help show the members of the Pentecostal Church our appreciation of their generous gift.

## Where Do We Go From Here?

**I** suppose in order to answer the question, "Where do we go from here?", we have to define where 'here' is. And we might have different viewpoints on that.

As I see it, here, at the beginning of the year 2019, our nation is in a terrible mess. We are entangled in an angry, mean-spirited, name-calling, finger-pointing, blame-shaming quagmire of irrational ugliness. No matter where we are on the political, ideological spectrum, the least disagreement on public policy or partisan issues raises angry hackles and we start spitting vitriol at each other like fractious felines.

Many people just stop discussing politics in public, unless they're sure that the people they're with, agree with them. Not a good way to encourage the free and healthy exchange of ideas.

How we got here would take far more space than this article could begin to cover, but, I think there are some factors that have contributed to this national sickness.

**1.** Sadly, we have always been a nation with two natures—the one that cherished and honored the core principles of equality, liberty, freedom of speech, of the press, of religion. The one that saw itself as a haven for refuges from poverty, tyranny, war— "give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be free." The one that 'crowned its good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea.'



But there has always been a darker, violent side to our society. From the near genocide of Native Americans, to the institutionalization of slavery, the effects of which are still felt today; from the ridicule and disparagement of each succeeding wave of immigrants ('Irish and Dogs not allowed') to the demonization of current immigrants from Mexico and Central America. ('Rapists, criminals, terrorists').

It was and is that ugly part of our national nature that allowed a Joe McCarthy to terrorize and smear hundreds of Americans with the accusation of Communism, and it is that ugly part that encourages white nationalists and neo-Nazis, and the Ku Klux Klan to spread hatred and bigotry and fear.

2. I do believe that the current government in Washington bares responsibility for a cynical encouragement of divisiveness among Americans, and for the blatant use of untruths and half truths; an Orwellian 'New Speak' where lies are truth and truth is fake.

3. This may make some of you smile, but I think the entrenchment of so-called "reality shows" has encouraged and legitimized mean spirited and thuggish behavior.

I recall when "Survivor" first came on TV. I thought it would be an example of people having to work together, to cooperate with each other in order to 'survive'.

Of course, it did just the opposite, glorifying back stabbing, trickery, fake alliances, mean spirited competition. And a whole host of other pseudo reality shows encouraged humilia-

tion, ridicule, and generally bad behavior, whether by wealthy New York socialites, or poorly educated single parents trying to establish paternity.

So what do we do from here?

First and foremost, we need to internalize the words of James, the brother of Jesus: "let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger." We need to listen more to each other without the need to strike out in verbal attack. We can learn from each other no matter how disparate our views may seem.

## At the beginning of the year 2019, our nation is in a terrible mess.

We grow when we engage in civil discourse and share ideas and opinions. We also need to think critically, to learn about all sides of an issue, before we form our opinions.

And let us think creatively to find resolutions to problems. For example, contrary to some popular belief, immigrants from Central America do not come here to get on welfare and take our jobs.

They travel thousands of miles by foot or riding on the tops of trains, because they are desperate to escape the poverty and civil chaos of their countries—Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. They come for the same reasons our ancestors did - for a better life.

What if, besides a better set of immigration policies, we developed a 'Marshall Plan' for these countries, as we did for Germany after WW 2.

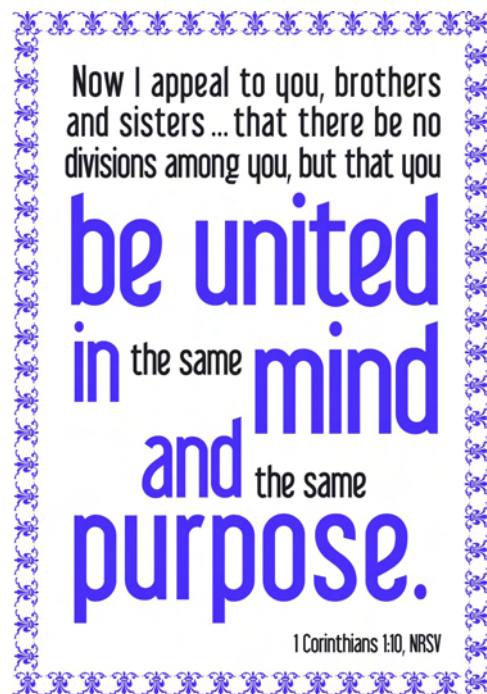
What if, through economic, educational, technological assistance, we help these countries to raise their standards of living and develop stable societies? Costa Rica, also in Central America, has a good standard of living. How many Costa Ricans have tried to cross the southern border lately?

Above all, we must not just pay lip service to our ideals, we must integrate them into our daily lives.

We must honor them in the observance every day, not just on the Forth of July.

Just as with our Christian faith, we should manifest our belief in our behavior and actions.

—Barbara Becker



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**Don't Forget Your Pledge**

**"I'm going into all the world to make disciples of all nations. So I might be a little late for dinner."**

The deadline for the February issue of **The Link** is Feb. 22  
 Please email your copy to [gbhoag@optonline.net](mailto:gbhoag@optonline.net).

For security purposes, the Church St. entrance is now locked as soon as Sunday services begin. If you are running late, be sure to use the Sanctuary entrances.

## Realities Face Special Conference

The holidays are now past and those who were able to celebrate the season with family likely sat around dinner tables with people who have very different feelings about many of the major topics of our time.

In February our United Methodist family will gather around the table. The best way to describe our global church is as a family that is connected by meaningful traditions and beliefs that inspire many — despite differences in opinions, vocations and lifestyles.

Families that strike a healthy balance between disagreement and connection center themselves around the love they have for each another — a love that transcends generations and geography. Clearly, we have work to do as we have allowed differences in culture and perspective to tear us apart and to distract ourselves from our purpose as United Methodists. Here are some key realities we need to embrace if we are to come out of this time of division better aligned for ministry:

**We need to acknowledge we are divided on much more than topics related to human sexuality.** In fact, we have been divided on theology and societal shifts since we became united. We are divided on more than LGBTQ acceptance, but we have let this topic define our disagreements on many fronts. Focusing all our energy and attention on our division regarding LGBTQ acceptance is perilously unkind to LGBTQ persons and their families and friends. In other

words, focusing all our conflict around this conversation is harmful to members of our United Methodist family.

**We must overcome the allure of division that is endlessly corrupting the world around us.** The polarization of the world around us is making it abundantly clear why we need to stay together as a church. At our best we have stood as an alternative to alcoholism, segregation and the forces that always dare us to divide. We thrive as an alternative. If we commit to be a global church family that is loving and kind to each other we will again establish ourselves as an alternative to the noise around us. Division begets division. Instead of falling into this trap we must have faith in our common purpose together. Our not being of one mind is an asset. It means we are real and we relate to the larger society God calls us to serve. We live in divided times. To splinter into like-minded sects would remove us from the reality of those to whom we are called to evangelize.

**We need to seize the power of our relationships with each other.** Our transformation as Christians is often the result of meaningful relationships with God and with each other. How are we each to be transformed through relationships with the other if we dismantle the connection that brings us together?

As a young person, I don't want to go to a church where everyone agrees with me on everything. I want to be challenged. Navigating and embracing differences is a part of Christian discipleship and Christian relationships. What has been lacking in

the midst of our conflicts of late has been a recognition that we are a global family of God. Are we really in such disagreement about human sexuality that we would want to split apart our family over it?

On Christmas Eve, I went on a hike in a range of mountains unfamiliar to me. Just as the sun was beginning to set I realized I was unsure of exactly how to get back to my car. As I descended I noticed a family frantically searching for their child. I quickly made the connection that the child they are looking for must be the young man I saw off by himself up the slope. I stopped and told the family where I had last seen him.

As I finally found my way to the path home in the dusk light, I heard a joyful reunion in the distance of the family and their child.

We may be experiencing uncertainty and division as a church family. We feel lost. But we must remember the purpose of our church is to show others the way. The lost. The hurting. The divided.

If we focus on our faith we will see that God is not only showing us the way to be a church family together, but that God is using us to show others the way.

—Andrew Ponder Williams, UMNS

THEREFORE  
WE DO NOT  
LOSE  
HEART.  
2 CORINTHIANS 4:16, NIV



10 Church St., Patchogue, NY 11772

The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Pastoral Minister  
 Camille Flynn, Administrative Assistant  
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 Email: PatchogueUMC@Yahoo.com  
 Office Hours: 9:00 AM –2:00 PM., Closed Monday  
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## Valentine's Day Customs and Traditions

**T**he primary custom associated with St. Valentine's Day is the mutual exchange of love notes called valentines. Common symbols on valentines are hearts, the colors red

and pink, and the figure of the winged Cupid.

Starting in the 19th century, the practice of hand writing notes began to give way to the exchange of mass-produced greeting cards. These cards are no longer given just to lovers, but also to friends, family, classmates and coworkers. Valentine cards are often

accompanied by tiny candy hearts with affectionate messages printed on them.

The Greeting Card Association estimates that approximately one billion valentine cards are sent worldwide each year, making Valentine's Day the

second largest card-sending holiday of the year, behind Christmas. The association also estimates that women purchase approximately 85 percent of all valentines.

In the last 50 years or so, especially in the United States, the practice of exchanging cards has been extended to include the giving of gifts, usually from a man to his girlfriend or wife. The most popular Valentine's Day gifts are roses and chocolate. Starting in the 1980s, the diamond industry began to promote Valentine's Day as an occasion for the giving of fine jewelry. Many couples also schedule a romantic dinner date on Valentine's Day.

—religionfacts.com

