

# The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

February 2021

## One Down— Eleven to Go

**O**ne month down, eleven to go. What? Am I really trying to convey that we should want to get on with the year as quickly as possible? Of course not.

Yes, we have the first month of the new year behind us—but think of all the possibilities that await us in the next eleven months?

Are you anticipating with hope, or, are you skeptical that there will be very little difference from the year we just left behind?

By now we have a new 46th president residing in the White House. No doubt, if you didn't vote for President Biden, you may be disappointed. However, if you voted for the president, then you are pleased with the election outcome. Either way, I have consistently

encouraged others to pray for and support our new Commander-in-Chief.

I have never introduced politics in my ministry for over three-and one-half decades. I have always felt that one's political decisions are personal, individual and an absolute privilege to have the right to vote with conscience for our elected officials. "

All throughout Scripture we witness persons turning to God, especially during troubled times. Scripture also encourages us to pray for our leaders whether they are Democrat, Republican or Independent.

The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 13:1-7:

"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore, whoever resists the authorities

resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore, one must be in subjection,

**Continued on Page 2**

## WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

**Feb. 7**— Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Mark 1:29-39

**Feb. 14**—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Mark 9:2-9

**Feb. 21**—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Mark 1:9-15

**Feb. 28**—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Mark 8:31-38

Because of COVID-19 restrictions there are, until further notice, no congregated services or other activities with the exception of Food Pantry. A live service is live streamed each Sunday 10:00 AM at [PatchogueUMC.org](http://PatchogueUMC.org).



## Circle of Concern

### Grieving

The daughter of **Rose Amendola**, 90, with Covid, who recently lost her husband and a daughter, succumbed to her illness. (Myong Cha)

Family of **William Batewell** who died from Covid. (Pastor Chuck)

### Healing

**Emma Morales** who is home from the hospital and recovering. (Pastor Chuck)

**Millie**, daughter in law of Jerry & Janet, has serious problems with her hip. (Jerry & Janet Alt)

**Millie's mother** who has been battling issues with her heart. (Jerry & Janet Alt)

**Kurt Watkins** in the hospital pending emergency surgery. (Pastor Chuck)

**Mary Morava**, struggling with medical issues.

**Brenda Klingel** continues to have complications from surgery. (Ed Klingel)

**Bob Prince** is recovering from shoulder surgery. (Eleanor Prince)

**Nicholas Grazopolous,7**, fighting brain cancer, *now has a clear scan*. (Kathy Halliwell)

**Mary Lichtenhagen** who is struggling with several health issues. (Pam Queen)

**Pam Queen** with back pain.

### Covid Healing

**Aiden Zimmerman**, Diane's 11 year old grandson was diagnosed with Covid. (Diane Zimmerman)

**Jazmine Kerr** Recently diagnosed with Covid (Diane Zimmerman)

**Eric Zimmerman** who was diagnosed with Covid. (Diane Zimmerman)

**Tim Hollowell**, brother of Dave, is hospitalized with low oxygen levels due to Covid. (Dave Hollowell)

**Fred Ryder** has been diagnosed with Covid, and is hospitalized with pneumonia. (Jerry & Janet Alt)

**Yoda & Joshua Bunda** and Family (Pam Queen)

**Ryan & Heather**, along with all five of their children.

**Helen and Sal Bruno** (Pam Queen)

**Evette & Charlie Everest** (Evette is in hospital)

**Heather DesRoches** diagnosed with Covid. (Church office)

### Concerns

Healing for our nation, prayers that all levels of government can work together and people can come together and live by the values that our nation was founded on. (Pastor Chuck)

### Continued Prayers

Pastor Ricardo Dawn Monsell, Anita Helfst, Kimberly Helfst, John Rocco, Helen Joyce, Mary Joyce, Nancy Schaff, William Schaff, Suzanne Tierney, Richard Rubino, Felicia Fuentes, Liz Smith, Bruce Kirschner. Diane Dain, Fred & Mary Arita, Grace Bohler, Joyce Gabrinowitz, Pastor Dwight Wolther, Lee Hollowell, Linda Coleman, Monico Doctor, Kenneth Krygier, Travis Gentile, Tom King, Kevin Kearns

—Compiled by **Kathy Halliwell**

*Please email Kathy—*

*keats1002@gmail.com with any additions or deletions.*

### These in Rehab or Nursing Care

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

## Eleven To Go (From Page 1)

not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed."

As your pastor, I encourage everyone to work toward healing and reconciliation rather than pain and division. Yes, we can discuss politics, for the First Amendment gives us that right. However, now is the time to move past right and left, progressive and conservative, Democrat and Republican. Now is the time to work toward peace—not just in our nation—but within our own families, church and community.

We are to be the Salt of the Earth and the Light of the world. This means our devotion to Christ supersedes our allegiance to any individual. It is a time to link arms and move forward into the next eleven months. Not rushing through them—but rather embracing every moment God gives us to make a difference in our lives, in others and in our nation.

So, lift up your chin and trust that God is able and ready to get us through any challenge we may face now and in the future.

In His Grip,

—Pastor Chuck

# United Methodist Church of Patchogue

## February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <b>Office Closed</b>	2 <b>10:00 a.m.- Noon—Food Pantry</b>	3	4	5	6
7 <b>10:00 a.m.— Live Stream, YouTube Worship</b>	8 <b>Office Closed</b>	9 <b>10:00 a.m.- Noon—Food Pantry</b>	10	11	12	13
14 <b>10:00 a.m.— Live Stream, YouTube Worship</b>	15 <b>Office Closed</b>	16 <b>10:00 a.m.- Noon—Food Pantry</b>	17	18	19	20
21 <b>10:00 a.m.— Live Stream, YouTube Worship</b>	22 <b>Office Closed</b>	23 <b>10:00 a.m.- Noon—Food Pantry</b>	24	25	26	27
28 <b>10:00 a.m.— Live Stream, YouTube Worship</b>						

## Assault On US Capitol Dis- mayes United Methodists

**T**hroughout the evening of Jan. 6 and into the early morning, the Rev. Alisa Latsater Wailoo was texting with members of Capitol Hill United Methodist Church who were under siege at the U.S. Capitol.

The Capitol Hill church, at Fifth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, is about five blocks away. Many members also live in the neighborhood and know someone who works at the building, the pastor said.

United Methodists both near and far were disturbed by the actions of a mob that forced its way into the U.S. Capitol as Congress was starting to fulfill its constitutional role by certifying the election of the next U.S. president.

"I am appalled by the reckless behavior of some political leaders since the election and by the lack of respect shown today for our institutions, our traditions and our law enforcement," said former President George W. Bush, a United Methodist, in a statement.

"The violent assault on the Capitol — and disruption of a Constitutionally-mandated meeting of Congress — was undertaken by people whose passions have been inflamed by falsehoods and false hopes."

At First United Methodist Church in Arlington Heights, Illinois, members gathered for a drive-in prayer service and candlelight vigil.

"We see tonight in D.C. a symptom of what ails our nation, our world and even ourselves," said the Rev. Melissa Earley. "May we recommit

ourselves to the work of forgiveness and may we recommit of work of abiding in the peace of Christ."

Eventually, lawmakers were able to return to the building, finishing the work of confirming the election of Joseph R. Biden Jr. as president shortly before 4 a.m. Jan. 7.

For those Wailoo and others had been concerned about, "everyone is home and safe, but the peace that was robbed from them yesterday is really significant," she told United Methodist News.

"Part of what has so saddened me has been to watch our members who have given up so much to serve their country and have been dehumanized and villainized by this president. And we know that dehumanization eventually leads to violence."

Wailoo said her church has both Republican and Democrats who are members. "We want to be a place that God brings us all together and we do intensive work to do that."

But she added that challenging hate speech and lies, like those about fraud, is not about politics, it is about following the call of Jesus to speak the truth.

The actions of the mob grieved the heart of the Rev. Ianther M. Mills, senior pastor of Asbury United Methodist Church, who was born in the district.

"Never in my lifetime would I have expected anything like this to ever happen," she said. "Of course, we are praying more vigilantly for order and peace. At the same time we are praying for ourselves."

Asbury members were engaged in a 24-hour prayer vigil for peace with

several other downtown Washington congregations when the violent disruption occurred. They already had hired private security because the church's Black Lives Matter banner was torn down and burned in the street on Dec. 12 and a replacement banner was stolen over the Christmas weekend.

Denominational offices at the United Methodist Building on Capitol Hill have largely been closed because of the pandemic and were undisturbed by the demonstrators.

The Rev. Susan Henry-Crowe leads the United Methodist Board of Church and Society, which has its headquarters there. In a statement, she noted that "the peaceful transition of power is a pillar of representative democracy. Even as we affirm the right to peaceful assembly, nothing must disrupt this democratic process."

The National Council of Churches also has offices at the United Methodist Building. "While we support nonviolent protests, and have often organized and participated in them, demonstrators desecrating the Capitol and disrupting our fair democratic process cannot be tolerated or go unpunished," the council said in a statement released as events at the Capitol were unfolding.

The president of Wesley Theological Seminary, a United Methodist school in northwest Washington, spoke with emotion about the chaos on Capitol Hill.

"This is my front yard," the Rev. David McAllister-Wilson, leader of the school since 2002 and an area resident for 39 years, said by phone. "Those grounds and the people that work there and in the agencies inside the

Beltway are family and friends and our neighborhood.”

In a statement posted on the seminary’s website, McAllister-Wilson called for prayers but also for phone calls to members of Congress to “cast shame on those, starting with President Trump, who have incited this violent insurrection.”

Wesley has had students serving in internships on Capitol Hill and members of Congress have served on its board, and the school’s proximity to the Capitol is a draw for many students, he said.

Some United Methodist members of Congress took to social media to say they were safe and to share their dismay at the tragic scene.

Rep. Greg Steube (R-Fla.) wrote on Twitter that he and three others were barricaded in a room surrounded by demonstrators until the hallway was clear for them to get out.

“The violence and lawlessness we saw today was completely unacceptable and as a nation, we must do better,” he wrote.

Baltimore-Washington Conference Bishop LaTrelle Easterling said the day’s events had prompted a watershed moment “to raise our voices to heaven and take stock of who we, as Americans, have become.”

“The rioters who climbed the steps and walls of the Capitol sought to overturn the law, a fair election and justice, and claimed their motivation was to defend God and their freedoms,” she wrote in a statement on the conference website.

“They waved banners emblazoned with the words, ‘Jesus Saves,’ but this is not what Emmanuel came to earth

to embody. This is a perversion of the Gospel. This should drive all of us to our knees.”

The Gospel message, Easterling said, “is a message of love, but a love that speaks truth and stands against immorality.

“As a church, as Christians, we must condemn all the forces that led to the unprecedented insurrection today — forces of hate, of white supremacy, of distorted self-interest and abuse of power.”

Emily Jones, United Methodist Women Executive for Racial Justice, said the violence at the Capitol stemmed from longtime white-supremacist organizing.

The Rev. Jay Williams, pastor of Union (United Methodist) Church in Boston, was among African Americans in the denomination who saw a double standard in the police response on Capitol Hill.

Williams said that a Black Lives Matter protest aimed at invading the Capitol would have been met with a “swift clamping down” well before entry.

“But radical white extremists, who had planned in public and were incited by the president, can waltz into the Capitol on one of the most sacred days of our government,” Williams said.

A pastoral statement from Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington stressed the need to pursue “further accountability for the disparate response to peaceful protestors in the Summer of 2020 and for the daily indignities experienced by people of color in this city and beyond.”

Virginia Conference Bishop Shar-

ma D. Lewis prayed “for all our leaders that they have wisdom, strength and composure to address our country’s problems” and cited the inspiring benediction of the Rev. Barry Black, U.S. Senate Chaplain.

In a closing prayer for the joint session, Black deplored the desecration of the Capitol building and called for healing from the violence and division, according to a New York Times story.

—Linda Bloom, Vicki Brown, Joey Butler and Sam Hodges , UMNS



Heavenly Father, today I pray for our nation. I ask that You would give our President wisdom beyond his own understanding and the courage to choose the right path no matter how narrow the gate. I pray for all in authority over us that You would give them the grace and strength to stand against the temptation to use power as a weapon but rather to carry it reverently as one would a child. I pray for the spiritual leaders of our country that they would hear Your voice and know your heart. I pray that they would lead from their knees and by that simple grace bring each one of us to our knees before Your throne. Have mercy on our nation Lord, In Jesus name, Amen.

—beliefnet.com

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“Horace, what are we doing on the same cloud? Our vows said ‘till death do us part.’”

**Don't Forget Your Pledge**

**Please mail your check, arrange for your bank to mail one, or arrange through the office for electronic giving. Call 631-475-0381.**

The deadline for the February issue of **The Link** is February 19.  
 Please email your copy to [gbhoag@optonline.net](mailto:gbhoag@optonline.net).

## What Would Jesus Do In A Plague?

One of the most jarring spectacles during the COVID-19 pandemic has been that of thousands of Christians singing Christmas carols, unmasked, while hospitals and funeral homes nearby were overwhelmed. Some Christians resent government telling them what to do, regardless of the circumstances. The First Amendment may protect their right to assemble and practice their faith as they see fit, but that does not make it is right to do it. Some people handle rattlesnakes in worship or walk on burning coals, but both are really bad ideas.

Most congregations have responded to this coronavirus pandemic with prudence and caution. Scripture offers no clear guidance as to how we should deal with a situation that nobody ever envisioned two thousand years ago. What would Jesus do? While we cannot know for certain, here is my best guess:

He would respond with compassion and courage. Jesus would be among the EMTs, ICU nurses, and home health aides caring for the sick and most vulnerable.

Jesus would wear a mask and maintain physical distance whenever possible, because he would not endanger others needlessly. He risked associating with lepers (those with frightening, disfiguring Hansen's Disease, which turns out to be not terribly transmissible), but I think he would stay home if he were sick. He enjoyed a good time but there is no evidence

that he put others at risk because he felt like partying during an epidemic.

John Wesley likewise encouraged Methodists to follow the best medical knowledge available. As the Rev. Glenn Wagner pointed out recently, "Wesley studied and shared the latest information about ways persons can work to maintain good personal health. His book *Primitive Physic* promoted healthy habits. I believe Wesley would concur with medical doctors who advise safe practices for the sake of all during this pandemic."

I am not sure what Jesus would do when someone approached him unmasked and am not sure myself what to do. Step aside to let them pass? Politely ask them to cover their faces? Even though such requests sometimes trigger irrational outbursts or violence?

I am pretty certain Jesus would not see covering his face as a political statement. My mask protects you as well as me: wearing one indicates compassion and self-care. And patriotism. And love of humanity in general. If I ask a stranger to wear one, I am not picking a fight, I am asking him to protect his neighbors—and help our economy recover from the recession this epidemic has caused.

And I am sure he would want everyone to have access to health care. I have no idea what sort of health coverage system he would support today, but I think he would want the poor and the average working stiff to receive care, not just the lucky and the affluent. John Wesley started one of the first free medical clinics in order to care for the poor. When Calvin-

ists sent the first missionaries to the Hawaiian Islands in 1820 they sacked a doctor who charged for his services.

And I am pretty sure Jesus would get vaccinated, and not just for COVID-19. The more of us who are inoculated for the flu, pneumonia, and other disease, the less likely our health care system will be overwhelmed. Those who cannot get the shots for medical reasons depend on the rest of us to protect them from plagues.

A few people claim to have religious objections to getting their children immunized for school or getting shots themselves as a condition of travel abroad or taking a job but I have not found any faith community, other than one tiny church that appears to exist only in cyber-space.

Most faiths support preventive medicine. Both Judaism and Islam, for example, allow medical treatments derived from pigs and other unkosher/unhallal critters. The Vatican permits Catholics to use vaccines made from fetal tissue (for rubella, for example) until an alternative is developed. Some pastors, priests, rabbis, and other clerics who are anti-vaxxers, but they do not represent their faith communities. You can find some parson somewhere preaching almost any nutty idea.

The Puritan preacher Cotton Mather inoculated himself and 200 parishioners against smallpox in the early 18th century. Congregationalist

**Continued On Page 8**

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 Previous services available.



**What Would Jesus Do?  
 (From Page 7)**

Rowland Hill, influenced by Methodists, led immunization efforts in England. Other clergy did so in Ireland and Sweden.

Whether or not you want to reduce your chances of getting a non-communicative affliction such as shingles is entirely a personal matter. After seeing people I love suffer, I rushed to get shots, but if you want to take your chances, be my guest. Sending your kids to school without immunization puts the entire community at risk, particularly those who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons.

Leviticus 13:45 tells those with Hansen’s Disease to call out “Unclean! Unclean!” whenever they

approached anyone. Perhaps those who reject immunization should do the same.

—Tom Goodhue

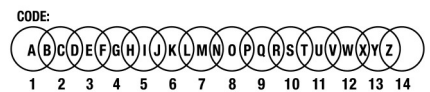
*Tom is a member of the New York Annual Conference and former Executive Director of the Long Island Council of Churches. His biography of the Hawaiian queen Kaahumanu will be published later this year by McFarland.*

**February Birthdays**

- Feb. 10** Jonathan Alvarado
- Feb. 14** Geri Sheridan
- Feb. 15** John Yarschuck
- Feb. 18** Robbie Pearson
- Feb. 20** Lilianna Angelina Mangano
- Feb. 21** Valerie Ward
- Feb. 24** Lili Rogers

**Puzzle!**

Use the code to complete the blanks — and find out how God wants us to treat people.



1,2 3 6 5 7,8 2,3 1 7,8 2,3  
 2 8 7 8,9 1 10 10 5 8 7,8 1 10,11 3  
 10,11 8 8 7,8 3 1 7,8 8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10  
 3,4 8 9,10 4 5 11,12 5 7,8 4 3 1 2 4,5  
 8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10 5,6 11 10 10,11 1 10  
 5 7,8 2 4,5 9,10 5 10 10,11 4 8 2,3  
 3,4 8 9,10 4 1 11,12 3 13 8 11

EPHESIANS 4:32, NIV

Answer: Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32, NIV