

The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

January 2019

Don't Let 2019 Be Routine

OK, I know I say this every year, "Where did this last year go?"

I feel as if 2018 started yesterday—and now, we are celebrating the beginning of 2019. The old saying, "Time flies..." is so true. Time does appear to fly. I am not kidding; I feel as if I preached my first sermon at our church just yesterday—and that was over two and a half years ago.

So, what does that say to me now? It says a few things. Number one, take the time to enjoy each and every day. Take the time to break routines and do something different.

Don't allow yourself to get stuck in a rut of doing the same thing over and over again. When we do, we will find ourselves getting up and going to bed each day without

realizing that we had a whole day between those two events.

Number two, (and I am not placing these in any order of priority) take time to enjoy people. Interact with people, not just on social media, but interact face-to-face with people.

Spend time listening to other peoples' stories, experiences—and yes, their concerns. Consider ways to brighten up another person's life. By doing so, you will brighten your own.

Share your stories, experiences and concerns with others. No person is an island. We need each other.

Cherish your family and make time for them on a consistent basis. If they live far away—pick up the phone and call them on a regular basis.

Number three, and this one may cause some criticism considering it is

written by a pastor—try to avoid negative people. Yes, I know—we are to minister to all people. And I want for us to do that. But don't let negative people drain you of your joy and peace.

Be cordial. Be loving...but be quick to also avoid them if possible. I might also add, and this is a challenge for me—try to lessen your time listening to the negative news that is regularly reported on TV, the radio, social media and the newspapers. It is toxic and will only bring you down. Stay informed, but don't stay numb by it.

Continued on Page 2

WORSHIP IN JANUARY

Jan. 6—The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara,

Matthew 2:1-12

Jan. 13—The Rev. Dr.

Charles Ferrara,

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Jan. 20—The Rev. Dr.

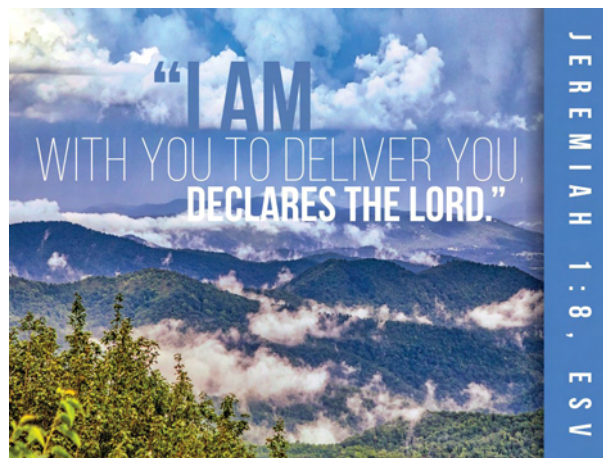
Charles Ferrara,

John 2:1-11

Jan. 27—The Rev. Dr.

Charles Ferrara,

Lue 4:14-21



Circle of Concern

For Guidance and Healing:

Bruce Kirshner, Katie, Preto family, Roseann, Millie, Ann, Dillon, Kevin Raynor, Delarosa family, Anthony, Jim Davis, Louise Ruso Ellis, Jerry

These at Home:

Lee Hollowell

These in Rehab or Nursing Care

Facilities:

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

January Birthdays

- Jan. 3** Florence Carde
- Jan. 9** Joshua Capobianco
- Jan. 19** Thomas James Farrell
- Jan. 27** Michael Jansson



New Year (From Page 1)

Number four, make every effort to take care of your temple. No, I am not talking about a church building. I am talking about our bodies, mind and spirit.

Forget about New Year's resolutions—they are usually broken by the 15th of January. Make every effort to eat more healthy. Try to get into the routine of exercising. You don't have to join a gym—lift some light weights, join someone to do mall walking—just get up and move! Engage in positive activities that will stimulate your mind.

Put down the remote and read a good book. Take up a new hobby or enjoy one that you have neglected for a while. Play board games with others, get a pet hamster...but do something that is going to stimulate your mind.

And last, but not least, sharpen your spiritual disciplines. Not just attending church or serving in a church ministry—and both of these are important—but rather I am talking about personal spiritual disciplines like daily scripture reading, devotions and prayer. The Upper Room or other devotional publications are an easy way to begin such a discipline.

My hope is that if we put some of these things in practice, by this time next year we may not be saying once again, "Where did 2019 go?"—but rather, "I can't wait to experience and enjoy 2020!"

Happy New Year Everyone!

—Pastor Chuck

Bishop Urges Renewed Prayers for GC2019

In his recent visits to the six districts, Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton has been conducting a dialogue about the specially called session of General Conference, and urging a new round of daily prayer for the work of those who will gather in St. Louis.

Inspired by the conference dates of February 23-26, 2019, the bishop has asked that members of the conference pause to pray for four minutes from 2:23 to 2:26 each afternoon.

This renewed effort joins with the third phase of the Council of Bishops' initiative called "Praying Our Way Forward." That initiative's focus is two-fold: Praying that God will help us to fulfill the mission of the church, and praying to be one in Christ.

Bishop Bickerton has also asked for continued prayers for the NYAC delegation:

Delegates: Laity: Frederick Brewington, Gail Douglas-Boykin, Jorge Lockward, and Dorothea Benz; **Clergy:** Timothy J. Riss, Noel N. Chin, Kristina D. Hansen, and Alexandre da Silva Souto;

Alternates: Laity: Tiffany French Goffe, Ann Craig, Roena A. Littlejohn, and Karen Prudente; **Clergy:** Vicki I. Flippin, Sheila M. Beckford, Martha E. Vink, and Sungchan Kim.

The 864 delegates from around the globe will receive the report of the Commission on A Way Forward, and work on determining what direction the church should take in its longstanding debate over homosexuality.

—David A. Gilmore, NYAC

United Methodist Church of Patchogue January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Happy New Year Office Closed 7:00 p.m.—AA	2 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:00 p.m.—AA	3 7:30 p.m.—AME	4 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	5
6 10:00 a.m.— Communion Worship 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME	7 Office Closed 7:00 p.m.—AA	8 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:00 p.m.—AA	9	10 7:30 p.m.—AME	11 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	12
13 10:00 a.m.— Worship 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME	14 Office Closed 7:00 p.m.—AA	15 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:00 p.m.—AA	16	17 7:30 p.m.—AME	18 10:00 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	19
20 10 a.m.— Worship 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME	21 Office Closed 7:00 p.m.—AA	22 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:00 p.m.—AA	23	24 5:00 p.m.—Wesley Dinner 7:30 p.m.—AME	25 10:00 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	26
27 10 a.m.— Worship 11:00 a.m.— Church Council 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME	28 Office Closed 7:00 p.m.—AA	29 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:00 p.m.—AA	30	31 7:30 p.m.—AME		

SOS Campaign Update

Much has been accomplished this year for our *Save Our Sanctuary* project and related improvements.

Thanks to some generous contributions from members of our congregation we were able to totally reconstruct the parking lot behind the church and replace our security system including monitoring cameras.

A member of the Pentecostal Church which uses the Cloud Room for worship has offered to replace the carpeting in the Cloud Room and adjacent areas. That work will be done after the holidays.

Henry Restoration has completed roof repairs to stop leaks at various locations. They have repaired and replaced gutters and leaders and other drainage structures in the vicinity of the belfry.

The east wall has been an area of particular concern. The unstable interior wall in the balcony has been removed which required sealing off the area to minimize the spread of dust and protecting the organ and audio-video equipment. A Village permit was obtained for this work.

This was necessary due to the ongoing problem of water seepage through the east wall. Wind driven rain has penetrated the wall, damaged the interior wall, and reached the balcony carpeting and pews. Our contractor has repointed the bricks in the area of the Rose Window and louver to address this.

Much has been accomplished but more remains to be done. In 2019 we

will begin the following: repointing 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.

All of the work done and yet to be done is expensive. The congregation has contributed significant funds and we have obtained grants and loans from others.

We received a \$20,000 grant from the New York State Sacred Sites program, a \$50,000 contribution from the Knapp Swezey Foundation and a \$120,000 loan from the Conference.

An application to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is being prepared.

These funds were obtained due to the efforts of Barbara Becker writing the grant/loan applications and the SOS Committee chairs, Joan Curtis and Mark Ferrara. Many others are contributing to this effort, including Dave Hollowell with his daily management of our contractors and Gail Hoag as Trustee's Secretary and updating all of our contacts.

Also we have saved much money on contractors due to the efforts of our Sexton, Ray Henson, who continues to make plumbing and electrical repairs.

And there are many others who are working behind the scenes performing a variety of tasks. Thanks to all.

—Jim Graham

Churches Learn To Love Migrants As Family

Lizabeth and two of her three children — Bridgette and Caleb — stood a little to the left of a long line of people in the shade of one of the pillars of El Divino Redentor Methodist Church.

Church volunteers were busy setting up tables of sandwiches, orange juice and hygiene bags.

The air was cool but the sun was hot and glaring. Three-year-old Bridgette and Caleb, 4, wanted to play — it's hard for little children to wait — but as soon as mama called, they scurried back and got tangled in her legs. Her oldest son, 10-year-old Alvaro Jose, waited back at the camp.

Down the street at Hosanna Refugio Para Mujeres, the director of the shelter was wringing her hands and praying hard for a way to feed the 500 people living inside.

With tears in her eyes, she thanked God and the people of the Methodist churches for answering her prayer for this morning meal. She said she usually has enough food to serve three meals a day, but today she was short on breakfast.

The shelter, run by the government and with donations from individuals, was established for homeless women. Since thousands of migrants from Central America started arriving, it has opened its doors to all.

Women and children live in one building and the men in another. A parking lot down the street also doubles as a shelter when needed.

The surroundings are bleak. Toilets overflow, there are large cracks in the concrete and people sleep on blankets on the floors. But Lizbeth is grateful to be here, she told the Rev. Joel Hortiales, director of Hispanic/Latino ministries for the United Methodist California-Pacific Conference. Hortiales is also a United Methodist missionary with the denomination's Board of Global Ministries.

She and her children are part of the migrant caravan that started its long journey on foot from Central American a few months ago.

Lizbeth needs medical attention and she would like to go to Chihuahua, Mexico, where she has heard medical care is cheaper and she has some family.

"It was so hard to travel," she said. "We ran out of money in Mexico City. People gave us a little money, but sometimes my children were hungry."

Despite the hard journey, she is happy to have made it this far.

"My husband abused me and my oldest child. We are looking at options for asylum," she said.

In Mexicali, La Santísima Trinidad and El Divino Redentor Methodist churches team up to feed people and visit them in the shelters. Pastors and members from the church witness to the migrants who come for the food.

"It is so sad," said the Rev. Jacob Van Der Schaaf, pastor at La Santísima Trinidad Church, who had been talking to one young man. "He cannot read or write."

In Tijuana, Nuevo Pacto Methodist Church brings food to feed people in two shelters.

When the waves of people started arriving in Tijuana, Bishop Felipe Ruiz Aguilar said he saw an opportunity for the church to serve. More than 6,000 migrants were first sent to an old stadium near the border. They have since moved, most to a new shelter in Barretal, although some people still remain at the old site.

Samuel Brisino, 29, said he wants to stay at the old site because it is closer to the border. He likes seeing the wall from his tent and knowing he is so close to the U.S.

"I came here to help my family back home in Honduras," he said. "I am happy to be here, but I am emotionally scarred. I want to be in the U.S."

At night, volunteers from the Methodist Mexico church are out on the sidewalks handing out a hot meal to migrants.

The Rev. Arturo González Sandouzl, pastor of Nuovo Pacto and commissioner of migrants for the Mexican Methodist Church, said he is often saddened that even people in his church don't understand the plight of the migrants.

People are divided because the economies of the U.S. and Tijuana are closely aligned, he said. Many people cross over to the U.S. for jobs and return home in the afternoons.

They fear caring for the migrants will harm the relationship between the two countries.

"But some of these people who are disagreeing, they also arrived here looking for the dream of a better life. My father brought me to this city when I was 4 years old," he said.

González Sandouzl said he has heard many hard stories from the migrants who walked days and nights to arrive here. "They are tired. They have dirty feet, blisters," he said.

"One told me he walked 50 kilometers all one night. He said he slept in a tree. He took off his belt and tied himself to the tree to be safe," he said.

But his heart really breaks for the children.

"Most of the children in the shelters, they are using diapers from newborn to 3, 4, 5 years old because their mamas don't want a child to use restrooms for adults," he said. The restrooms are unsafe and unsanitary.

"That is something that has really affected me. I look at our children here in church, they have nice bathrooms, lots of water and those children in the shelters take showers with cold water, outside. They do not have privacy. Adults are looking at them. We need to do something for them," he said, tears rolling down his face.

González Sandouzl and Ruiz Aguilar are drawing up plans to open a kitchen that will be accessible for the migrants. They shared those plans with the Rev. Jack Amick, director of Sustainable Development with the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

A grant for \$98,243 will be used to open the fully equipped kitchen that will serve three meals a day to 200 people in Tijuana. Annually, the kitchen will feed 219,000 meals, said Amick.

Continued on Page 7

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Don't Forget Your Pledge

"We'd prefer that you fill out your name in our guest ledger."

The deadline for the February issue of **The Link** is Jan. 25
 Please email your copy to 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.

Migrants (From Page 5)

For the church, global migration is both an existential issue and a transformational issue, Amick said. The church comes from a long line of migrants — Abraham, Moses and Jesus.

“And when it comes to the growth and movement of the Christian church, I dare say that, over the span of history, Christianity was spread at least as much by people carrying their faith on their backs when they got kicked out of some country as it was by trained, commissioned, board-certified missionaries who took Jesus specifically to certain countries,” he added.

Migration can be transformative when people open their doors and hearts to migrants and fall in love with them.

“Laws, policies and practices cease to be political and start being existential when they affect the people we love,” Amick said.

Ruiz Aguilar said many people have asked him why he is here, on the border.

“I have said because I want to be a model for my pastors. There may come a moment when I cannot be here, but at least I will know I have shown people how it is done and they will do it. They will serve.”

—Kathy L. Gilbert, UMNS

How Do Methodists Choose Bishops?

In the United Methodist tradition, bishops are ordained elders who are elected and **consecrated** to the office of bishop. Bishops are “set apart for a ministry of serv-

ant leadership, general oversight and supervision.”

Bishops are elected by the lay and clergy delegates to the jurisdictional and central conferences, which meet every four years following regular sessions of the General Conference. The next episcopal elections begin in 2020.

Any active ordained United Methodist elder in good standing is eligible to be elected a bishop. An episcopal candidate must have at least four years of eligibility to serve as a bishop before reaching the mandatory retirement age of 68.

Nominations or endorsements of individuals by annual conferences, delegations or other groups are common but not necessary for election. The conferences set the percentage of votes necessary to elect a bishop.

The church recommends that a candidate receive at least 60 percent of the votes in order to be elected.

Votes are taken in consecutive ballots until the threshold for election is reached and a candidate is elected. The process continues until the total number of bishops needed are elected.

In the U.S., bishops are elected for life. In some central conference areas, bishops are elected for a specified term and, if elected for a second term or serving at retirement, may become a bishop for life.

Each bishop is assigned to a particular area for a four-year term. New bishops usually are not initially assigned to areas where they served as pastors.

—UMNS

Ten Happy New Year Wishes

1 May each day of the New Year bring you pleasant surprises like the curled petals of a flower that spread sweet fragrance slowly as it unfolds layer by layer.

2. May the New Year bring your way plethora of opportunities that allow you to weave success stories.

3. As the world grows another year older I wish you to have a heart that remains youthful and cheerful New Year.

4. My wishes for you are not restricted to only the following year but rather to every one of the all the years that you live, in this life and beyond. Have a happening New Year ahead.

5. This New Year may you banish all your fears, doubts and worries as you make room for dreams, aspirations and joys.

6. As this year is packing its bag, I wish for you that all the pessimism and troubles also do likewise, and the New Year bring achievement and coveted results for you.

7. Every New Year we dream of a better world for us and ours. This year let us take up the onus to make the world a better place for you, me and everyone else.

8. Remember that no New Year can be perfect. But you need to ignore the negative and embrace the positive.

9. This New Year may you dive into your soul and form an everlasting friendship with yourself.

10. May each day of the New Year be celebratory with you surrounded by those who care.

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 Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 AM
 Hearing assistance provided



Remembering Martin Luther King, Jr.

“ Now there is a final reason I think that Jesus says, "Love your enemies." It is this: that love has within it a redemptive power. And there is a power there that eventually transforms individuals.



Just keep being friendly to that person. Just keep loving them, and they can't stand it too long. Oh, they react in many ways in the beginning. They react with guilt feelings, and sometimes they'll hate you a little more at that transition period, but just keep loving them. And by the power of your love they will break down under the load.

That's love, you see. It is redemptive, and this is why Jesus says love.

There's something about love that builds up and is creative. There is something about hate that tears down and is destructive. So love your enemies. (from "Loving Your Enemies")"

— **Martin Luther King Jr.**, *A Knock at Midnight: Inspiration from the Great Sermons of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.*

"True peace is not merely the absence of tension: it is the presence of justice," Martin Luther King responded after being accused of disturbing the peace during the "bus boycott" in Montgomery, Alabama.

The bus boycott was a 13-month political and social protest against the

policy of racial segregation on public transit.

It ended on December 20, 1956. The US Supreme Court ultimately ruled that segregation on public buses is unconstitutional.

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

