

# The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

June 2022

## Thanks for the Memories

**H**ave you ever heard the term “Swan Song” used? I have heard that phrase ever since I was a little kid. There are so many stories as to where the phrase originated from.

One definition is: “A farewell appearance or final act or pronouncement.” Another explanation of the term states it is a song of great sweetness said to be sung by a dying swan. I don’t particularly like that one.

One historian says that it originates from ancient Greek culture, and its first reference is found in Aeschylus’ Agamemnon, which was written in 458 B.C.

However we choose to define it—this newsletter article is our swan song to a church we have grown to love so much.

Yes, this will be our final news article after writing articles for the past six years as your pastor and spouse.

We never imagined this day would finally arrive—but it appears to have come. This is a bitter-sweet article. On one hand the sadness of saying “Goodbye” and on the other hand leaving to enjoy a retirement we have been working for all of our lives.

Our church family has been incredible and we are so thankful to have you in our lives. Not once did we experience something negative—which is a true testament of our members.

We will be forever grateful to the leadership team and everyone who served so well to keep our church as a shining light on a hill. We have certainly had our challenges—but you always came through.

We have been blessed to walk alongside persons who had babies baptized, couples who made life-long commitments in marriage, and, yes, persons who struggled with the loss of loved ones.

Even when covid hit the world, we still managed to bring words of encouragement to our members. We could not have done that alone. It took a team of the faithful.

Continued on Page 2

## WORSHIP IN JUNE

**June 5**—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, John 14:8-17

**June 12**—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, John 16:12-15

**June 19**—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Luke 8:26-39

**June 26**—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Luke 9:51-62



## Circle of Concern

### Encouragement

Special prayers will continue for **Pastor Chuck and Myong Cha** as they prepare for their well deserved retirement. May they have peace and enjoyment in their lives.

Special prayers for our incoming **Pastor Debbie** and her family as she prepares to lead us in worshipping our Lord and Savior.

### Bereavement

All who are suffering as a result of the recent extreme gun violence, with special prayers for the families of the children in Texas. May God please extend His hand and help us.

### Healing

**Myong Cha** who is suffering with severe back pain due to disc problems, which have been further complicated with a case of shingles.

A **parishioner** who is starting another round of Chemotherapy. (Anonymous)

**Monica Hunter**, a niece of Pam Queen, who has autism and recently developed several health issues including a blood infection. Prayers are requested for Monica and her family. (Pam Queen)

**Daniel**, grandson of Charlene and Ken Schultz, underwent a minor surgery. May he have a quick and easy recovery. (Charlene Schultz)

### Joy

**Jackie Braile** will be starting a new job at a summer camp.

### Continued Prayers

Lance Marques, Billy Appenzeller, Chief O'Leary, Kevin Clifford, Jordan Barrios, Ed Witt, Mike

Haberman, Christine Tortorice, Rob Conforti, Sherrie Ann Maglicco Tim Hollowell, Richard Pryor, Ulla Ziegler Pereira, Kathleen Quinn, Paul Halayko, Harry Higbie

—**Kathy Hallowell**

## Bishop's Statement on Mass Shooting

**C**ouncil of Bishops of The United Methodist Church President Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton today urged clergy and laity to go on offense to stop mass shootings like the one that killed 19 children and two teachers at an elementary school in Texas.

“My “statement” today is quite simple: Let’s go on the offense. If you are a pastor, weave our theology of a lived-out faith into sermons that challenge people to convert their fears, angers, racist tendencies, and complicit behaviors into a mobilized witness of the power of God to do far more than we could ever dream of or imagine,” Bishop Bickerton said.

He called on the laity too: “If you are a lay person, determine today how you will take the faith you nurture each week in a pew to the streets, the places where you work, and the homes where you live. If you are a church body, don’t settle for just active shooter training. Determine that you will actively work to transform lives from violence to peace, elect officials that will not settle for inaction, and inject communities with the grace and love of Christ that will alter the course of

our current behaviors.”

Writing on behalf of the COB, Bishop Bickerton said he refuses to see this period of our lives as a permanent time of disarray. “Instead, I choose to see this an interim time, a time that will not remain as it is, a time that will not be the standard upon which we experience the life we have been blessed to live. As United Methodists we embrace a gospel and a mission that we state has the power to transform the world.”

The call today is for every United Methodist Christian to go on the offense, stating what we believe the power of God can do in our midst, opening ourselves to power of God at work within us, and doing whatever we can to alter the current course of behavior once and for all.

## Memories (From Page 1)

Our prayers are now with Pastor Debbie and her husband, our successors. We are praying that they will experience all the blessings we have these past six years. We are certain that they will bring lots of new gifts to their ministry that will bless the congregation and our fine community.

We truly believe that the Patchogue United Methodist Church’s best days are ahead. We will be praying for that, for sure.

We would like to end with the title of a song that was often played when Bob Hope performed: “THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES.” We truly do thank each and everyone of you for the great memories we will forever cherish in our hearts. With love,

Your fellow servants in Christ,

—**Myong Cha and Pastor Chuck**

# United Methodist Church of Patchogue June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7:00 p.m.-AA	3 10:00 a.m.- ESL 7:30 p.m.- Pentecostal	4
5 10:00 a.m.— Worship 6:30 p.m.- Pentecostal	6 Office Closed 7:00 p.m.-AA	7 10:00 a.m.- Noon—Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.-AA	8	9 7:00 p.m.-AA	10 10:00 a.m.- ESL 7:30 p.m.- Pentecostal	11
12 10:00 a.m.— Worship Noon—Church Picnic, 374 Oak St., Patchogue 6:30 p.m.- Pentecostal	13 Office Closed 7:00 p.m.-AA	14 10:00 a.m.- Noon—Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.-AA	15	16 7:00 p.m.-AA	17 10:00 a.m.- ESL 7:30 p.m.- Pentecostal	18
19 10:00 a.m.— Worship 6:30 p.m.- Pentecostal	20 Office Closed 7:00 p.m.-AA	21 10:00 a.m.- Noon—Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.-AA	22	23 7:00 p.m.-AA	24 10:00 a.m.- ESL 7:30 p.m.- Pentecostal	25
26 10:00 a.m.— Worship 6:30 p.m.- Pentecostal	27 Office Closed 7:00 p.m.-AA	28 10:00 a.m.- Noon—Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.-AA	29	30 7:00 p.m.-AA		

## Welcome Pastor Debbie

*NY Annual Conference Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton has appointed Rev. Dr. Debbie San Pablo as the new pastor of the United Methodist Church of Patchogue. She begins her service here on July 1. Here's her story.*

**R**ev. Dr. Debbie San Pablo, affectionately called Pastor Debbie, was born Nov. 30, 1964 in Mineola, NY. She grew up in Roosevelt, NY along with her younger sister.



While she attended Roosevelt Jr. Sr. High School, she was very active. She was a varsity cheerleader, played Glockenspiel in the marching band, played clarinet in the concert band, and was a member of the track team. She was also nominated most musical by her senior class.

She graduated in 1982 and later attended York College of Pennsylvania where she graduated in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Information Systems.

She has 20+ years of diversified experience in Information Technology and Health Care. She has professional experience in Implementation of Electronic Health Records (EHR), Clinical Documentation design and build, Technical Software Training, Law Firm Software Training, Networking, Technical Support, Help Desk, Computer Operations, and Computer Programming.

She was raised Pentecostal and was a member of Zion Cathedral Church of God in Christ (COGIC) where the late Bishop Frank Otha White was her Pastor for more than 30 years. This is where her passion for ministry was born.

As a young girl, she served on the junior usher board, attended Sunday school and sang in the choir.

She learned at an early age, that singing was a ministry. Singing became a prominent ministry for Pastor Debbie. She was afforded the opportunity to sing with several gospel choirs: The Jeffery Roberson Ensemble, The Voices of Truth, FAW Celebration Choir, Long Island Sound, Shekinah Choir and her local church choir.

After she returned home from college, she went back to her church and served as a licensed Evangelist and President of the Praise and Worship Team. She also attended the church's religious institute (Mason, Kelly, Washington, White Religious Training Institute) to increase her biblical knowledge. She took classes in General Bible, Teacher's Training, Christian Workers, and Evangelism.

Pastor Debbie had the opportunity to participate in a three-month Gospel tour in Germany with the Glory Gospel Singers. This is when her passion for spreading the Gospel deepened. As she ministered in songs each night to the citizens of Germany, many were blessed by the presence of the Lord. Many nights people would approach her with tears in their eyes expressing how much they enjoyed her singing. What a wonder-

ful experience, to be used by God in such a powerful way.

When she returned home, she had a talk with Bishop White about taking the next steps in ministry.

A few months later, Bishop White scheduled Pastor Debbie to preach her first sermon at Zion Cathedral COGIC. On Sunday, June 29, 2003 at the 7:30 am service, she preached her first sermon. Her scripture text was Hebrews 12:1-2; her subject was "Getting Rid of Dead Weight". The spirit of the Lord was prevalent; seven persons accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. The word of the Lord was so strong and powerful that Bishop White had her preach it again at the 11:00 am service. In that service, five more persons accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. What an awesome experience. There was no doubt that she was called to preach the word of the Lord. This was a confirmation to her that God was equipping her for ministry.

Pastor Debbie decided to go to seminary to expand her knowledge base concerning ministry. She applied and was accepted to New York Theological Seminary (NYTS) in Manhattan. As her NYTS journey continued, Pastor Debbie didn't realize that God needed her to do more than just preach and teach God's word until she took the Supervised Ministry class in her junior year.

The Supervised Ministry class had the greatest impact in regard to her call to ministry. As a part of the Supervised Ministry class, she was afforded the opportunity to serve on the Ministerial Staff at Springfield Gardens United Methodist Church. As a ministerial assistant, her duties included Liturgical & worship planning, leading in prayer,

leading in litany, preaching the word of God and teaching at the Biblical Training Institute.

This ministerial role has been instrumental in her preparation and growth in ministry. She started out with no experience in ministerial leadership and duties and now she was able to conduct an entire service. She acquired the ability to stand before the congregation with more confidence and perform Ministerial tasks. This is when she started to envision the call of God on her life being extended into the Pastoral role.

While she was working on her degree in Seminary, she welcomed the birth of her daughter Naiya Elise. As a single parent, she persevered to complete her degree.

In 2011, Pastor Debbie received her Master of Divinity degree from NYTS. After graduation, she remained at Springfield Gardens United Methodist Church as an Associate Minister, started her pursuit of Elders Orders in the United Methodist Church, as well as becoming an Adjunct Professor for New York Theological Seminary's Certificate Program where she taught Biblical Exegesis, Christian Ethics, and New Testament.

In 2013, she decided to return to NYTS to obtain her Doctorate Degree. Her dissertation was titled "Ordained Women: Fulfilling God's Call in Ministry" which focused on assisting women in fulfilling their call to ordained ministry. As a part of her demonstration project, she wanted to create an EP (extended-playing record which is made up of 4-6 songs and are less than 30 minutes long) to provide inspirational music for encouragement.

This is when she was introduced to her husband John San Pablo. Mr. San Pablo is the owner of an Afro-Latino music production/recording studio and artist development/management company. He is a proud father of four children: Johnathan, Dajanae, Jovan and Cassiane. He and Pastor Debbie began working on music together in 2014. Out of this endeavor, a loving relationship was formed.

They became engaged on Nov. 13, 2016, and then married on April 20, 2018. He was very supportive as she worked on completing her degree. In 2016, she received her Doctor of Ministry degree.

As Pastor Debbie continued her journey towards ordination, she served at Westbury United Methodist Church as an assistant to the current Pastor in 2016 until she was appointed to her own church.

In July 2017, she was appointed as Pastor of St. Paul United Methodist Church in Jamaica, NY. In June 2019, She was affirmed by the Board of Ordained Ministry as a provisional member of the New York Annual Conference. In February 2022, Pastor Debbie went before the Board of Ordained Ministry and was affirmed for Ordination in the United Methodist Church.

She will be ordained as an Elder in Full Connection of the New York Annual Conference on June 26, 2022.

Pastor Debbie is looking forward to serving at the United Methodist Church of Patchogue.

She and her family are longtime residents of East Patchogue. She is a woman of God who has been anointed to declare the word of God. With resounding assurance, her ministry

mission is to encourage you to have a life transforming encounter with God.

Pastor Debbie is a believer in the consistent power of prayer and praise. She lives with the assurance of Philippians 1:6 "Being confident of this very thing. He that hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ". She is a voice for these times, elevating a sound doctrinal decree of hope – infused with the readiness, vision, and skillful Godly elocution to achieve her divine assignment of touching the masses and ultimately making a difference.

—Pastor Debbie



WELCOME OUR NEW PASTOR!

## Prayer For The New Pastor

Dear Lord,

Thank you for sending our pastor to shepherd the church. I'm grateful for the love you put in the pastor's heart for You and Your people. I appreciate the unique set of gifts and talents that enrich the pastor's ministry and bless our church. Would You, in turn, bless the pastor today? Help the pastor to sense Your presence in such a sweet way. Fill the pastor up, Lord and use the pastor for Your glory today. And show me how I can support and encourage. Thanking You for this good leader, I pray this in Jesus' name.

—prayerlist.com

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FORGET THE  
FAKE STUFF...  
COME HEAR  
THE GOOD NEWS!

### Save Your Old Magazines

**D**ave Hollowell would very much appreciate your saving the magazines you have read and passing them on to him. He takes them for the enjoyment of adult and nursing home residents and shut ins. They can be dropped off in the church office.

The deadline for the July issue  
of **The Link** is June 24.  
Please email your copy to [gbhoag@optonline.net](mailto:gbhoag@optonline.net).

## What Are We Doing?

A teenaged girl is getting ready for school. She has a math test that morning, but she's not terribly worried. She's always been good in math, she's studied, and she understands the basic concepts. What does concern her is her appearance. She is convinced a blemish on her chin will be horribly obvious to all her classmates and make her a social pariah. A fairly typical teenager.

A seven year old boy eagerly chooses his clothing for a day in second grade. His favorite striped tee shirt, khaki shorts, and his pride and joy—new Nike sneakers. He can't wait to show them off to his friends and classmates. A fairly typical seven year old child.

While these two children are not based on any specific youngsters, they share a horrible commonality with hundreds of other children in this country—they were slaughtered while they were at their schools.

They will never return home again. Their parents will never hug them, remind them to make their beds, take them for ice cream, see them grow into self sufficient adults. All the wonderfully ordinary joys and tribulations of parenthood denied to them with these children forever. Forever.

In 2022, there have been 27 school shootings so far.

Of course, not just children have been murdered in mass shootings in this country. A mass shooting is defined as having 4 or more people killed. Since 2009, there have been 274 mass shootings in this country with 1,536 shot and killed, and 983

shot and wounded. Fifty of those shootings involved assault weapons or high capacity magazines.

A study of wealthy countries from 1998—2019 showed the US with the dubious honor of having the most mass shootings, with a grand total of 101. The next closest was France with 8. Germany 5. Canada 4. Finland 3. The next five from Belgium to Switzerland had 2 each. The final eight, from Australia to the UK 1 each.

Mental illness is often cited by some politicians as the cause of these pernicious events. And they're not wrong. But, I believe many of them speak with forked tongues. Let legislature be proposed that will provide access to adequate mental health care to everyone who needs it and see how many of those same people cry, "It's too much money, We can't afford it, Socialism!"

One glaring difference between our country and those developed nations cited is the lack of sane, consistent gun control or gun safety laws across this country. All the other countries have fairly stringent regulations and procedures. In the US, we have a patchwork of gun related laws ranging from New York State's strict laws to the shoot em up, anything goes mentality of Texas. The 18 year old shooter in Buffalo only had to go to Pennsylvania to legally buy his weapons. The 18 year old shooter in Uvalde Texas was able to purchase his weapons legally.

Contrary to some public rhetoric, enacting national gun regulations will not violate people's second amendment rights. The over 393 million guns owned by 42% of the population

will not be ripped from their anxious hands. But, they can limit the number of death dealing weapons available to those who should not have them. The New York Times, in an article (May 26, 2022) said, "In every country people get into arguments, hold racist views, or suffer from mental health issues. But in the US, it is easier for those people to pick up a gun and shoot someone."

What if, instead of flinging political rhetoric around as soon as the issue of gun control is raised, our elected officials got together and devised sane, sensible laws. Laws like universal background checks, red flag laws, the banning of assault weapons.

What if, parents sending their children off to school have a reasonable expectation they will return safely home.

What if, instead of enshrining the second amendment as the symbol of American freedom, we work instead to fulfill the true promises of our democracy, by ensuring liberty, equality and justice for all.

—Barbara Becker

## Birthdays In June

**June 3** Mickey Arena

**June 9** Nicholas Lyons

**June 15** Lynne Rice

**June 25** Mia May Connors



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## Organ Renovation

**B**efore covid our Church Council approved the renovation of our organ due to its age and deteriorating condition.

Last January it became very apparent that the skills of our beloved organist could no longer compensate for the organ's failings. And so on January 15, 2022 the extensive renovation of our organ began.

The pipe chamber was completely rewired with new wiring up to current code replacing the old cloth covered wire now illegal. The console was stripped—the keyboards sent to Illinois to be completely refitted and our console outfitted with a new electronic signaling system.

Great care was taken to maintain the sounds of the original organ.

The new solid state fiber optic control and switching system allows for functions not working to again work reliably. Plus the functions that have not been working on our organ for many years now work again.

Existing keyboards were retained and refurbished. The company involved, Midmer, constructed new contact rails and installed a new power supply.

On April 15, our organ came to life again, the renovations completed.

Hopefully it will now enhance our worship service reliably for many years to come. It sounds awesome! Thank you to all who helped in this endeavor.

—Lenny Pearson

## On Fathers

*There are many more quotes about moms than dads but there are some. Here's a sample.*

You don't raise heroes, you raise sons. And if you treat them like sons, they'll turn out to be heroes, even if it's just in your own eyes." —**Walter M. Schirra, Sr.**

One father is more than a hundred schoolmasters.—**George Herbert**

The best way of training the young is to train yourself at the same time; not to admonish them, but to be seen never doing that of which you would admonish them. —**Plato**

The nature of impending fatherhood is that you are doing something that you're unqualified to do, and then you become qualified while doing it.—**John Green**

—artofmanliness.com