

# The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

May 2015

## Love and Family

I hope and pray that you have enjoyed the two April Sunday opportunities to listen to our lay speakers. What a blessing to have so many inspiring and devout volunteers to share their Christian journey!



It is my pleasure to write you from a distance as I am spending a rather unusual vacation in Seoul, my home town. Thank you very much for your understanding and consideration for allowing me to take care of residual matters after my mother's passing last October.

We are on the threshold of Spring and the month of May made me think of Family LOVE, our ancestry as we celebrate Mother's Day. Of course, we cannot

spend this month without thinking of Jesus' LOVE right after Easter.

Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." Do you believe this?

Jesus also says, "we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters". Sometimes, our hearts seem to condemn us, but God is greater than our hearts and knows all things. When you have confidence in the relationship to God, we receive whatever we ask from him because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. My brothers and sisters in Christ! The risen Christ lives in you! Are you prepared to die for your brothers? Those who are prepared to die are most prepared to live. Cast your

cares on the Lord and He will sustain you!

Especially, for the month of May, how about meditating on unfathomable LOVE of Jesus as well as your parents who sacrificed for you. As we celebrate Pentecost Sunday on May 24, we may be able to encounter the powerful Holy Spirit, the presence of God, which signifies the new beginning.

In Christ,

**Rev. Dawn Yoon**

## WORSHIP IN MAY

**May 3**—Rev. Dawn Yoon, Psalm 22:25-31, John 4:7-21

**May 10**—Mother's Day, Rev. Dawn Yoon, Psalm 98, 1 John 5:1-6

**May 17**—Rev. Dawn Yoon, Psalm 47, John 17:6-19

**May 24**—Glorification Singers, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, Romans 8:22-27

**May 31**—Rev. Dawn Yoon, Psalm 29, Romans 8:12-17



I will  
put my  
**spirit**  
within  
**you,**  
and you  
**shall live...**

Ezekiel 37:14, NRSV

## Circle of Concern

### For Joys:

All of the caring, helping hands & visitors who made our Wesley Dinner, annual Easter Plant Sale, & Pancake Breakfast such a success!

### For Bereavement:

The family, friends, and soul of Esther Davies.

### For Guidance and Healing:

Scott Twing, George Kralicket, Bob Prince, Tom in Medford.

### These Who are Hospitalized:

Aunt Bea, Louise Lopez, Lance Marques.

### These at Home:

Deanna Peterson & her son and his family, Marge Prince, Phyllis Hicks.

### These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:

Bea Wageli in Brookhaven Memorial Hospital, 101 Hospital Rd., E. Patchogue, NY.

John VanderZalm in Brookhaven Health Care Facility, 801 Gazzolla Drive, E. Patchogue, NY.

Leona Kreamer in Brookhaven Memorial Hospital, 101 Hospital Rd., E. Patchogue, NY.

Alice Zahnd in Affinity Skilled Living, 305 Locust Ave. Oakdale, NY.

Ed Dew in Sunrise Assisted Living, Waverly Avenue, Holbrook, NY.

*Pray for our church and her future directions!*

## New Sunday 9 AM Study on Paul

**W**e will be doing a three week study on the apostle Paul at 9 AM on May 31, June 7, and June 14.



The Glorification Singers, a Westhampton Beach based spiritual music group, will conduct our Sunday worship service on May 24.

All are welcome for this study from The Thoughtful Christian which will meet in the Cloud Room. We will be discussing Paul's complex personality and how he addressed his followers and opponents, some of the difficulties of understanding his writing in his context and ours, and why Paul's theology is so controversial.

There are no study materials to purchase but please let Debbie Kolacki know if you will be attending so enough copies of the material will be available.

You can contact Debbie at [debbiekolacki88@gmail.com](mailto:debbiekolacki88@gmail.com) or 363-6499.

—Debbi Kolacki

## Thank You

**A** giant thank you to all who helped make possible the Palm Sunday Breakfast, the Easter Plant Sale, and the Yard Sale! Not only did these events generate much needed revenue, they also provided opportunities for our

church family to work together in joyful fellowship. Muchas gracias, Merci Beaucoup, Danke!

—Barbara Becker

## May Birthdays

**May 1** Wilfredo Franco

**May 2** Kelli Pearson

**May 5** Lorie Purifacato

**May 6** Raymond Butler

**May 6** Danica Butler

**May 10** Paul Pfeifer

**May 11** Noah Lyons

**May 14** Morris Cole

**May 24** Nick Pagliaro

**Hear Our Sermons and Watch Our Services Online**  
Click on the Links at  
[www.PatchogueUMC.org](http://www.PatchogueUMC.org)

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

# United Methodist Church of Patchogue

## May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9:00 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—N/A	2
3 10 a.m.— Communion Wor- ship/Kids/ Breakfast Club 2:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	4 7:00 p.m.—AA	5 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	6	7 7:30 p.m.—Choir	8 9:00 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—N/A	9 2 p.m.—PUMY event—Mini-Golf with LRUMC
10 10 a.m.—Mothers Day Worship/Kids/ Breakfast Club 11:30 a.m.— Finance 2:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	11 7:00 p.m.—AA	12 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	13	14 7:30 p.m.—Choir	15 No ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—N/A	16 UMW meeting
17 10 a.m.—Worship/ Kids/Breakfast Club /Heat offering 2:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	18 7:00 p.m.—AA	19 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	20 7:00 p.m.—PUMY Meeting	21 7:30 p.m.—Choir	22 9:00 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—N/A	23
24 10 a.m.—Worship/ Glorification Singers/ NO Kids/Breakfast Club 11:30 a.m.—Trustees 2:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	25 7:00 p.m.—AA	26 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	27	28 5:00 P.m.—Wesley Dinner 7:30 p.m.—Choir	29 9:00 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—N/A	30
31 9 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.—Worship/ Kids/Breakfast Club 2:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF						

# the Way

May God's peace be with you!

**O**kay, 'fess up: how many of you sit on the bus that Jesus is driving – in the seat right behind Him, in fact – and are willing to trust in His skills, direction, and timing? Me too! Amen! And do you do it all the time, or even most of the time? Me too! Alright, not so much. Once in a great while (quite a bit of the time?) I want to point out the better shortcuts, or perhaps ask Him to let up on the brake pedal a bit because we have a difference of opinion about both the timeframe and the manner in which my desires should be accomplished. Gee, how many things are wrong with THAT sentence?

I think you get the idea, though. I often try to do what I think is God's work, but I put so many Tom-ditions on that work that it ends up looking quite different than our Lord may have intended. Imagine that. I heard a deeply spiritual speaker years ago, who said that he serves a "gentle, laughing, loving God". Indeed. God has been all that, and so much more with me. Patient, too, as evidenced by the repeated missteps I have made in life, including the time since I recommitted my life to Christ at the Walk to Emmaus a few years ago, and even the times when I am actually trying to do the right, Christian thing. Here's the latest:

I've been thinking more and more about the people who stand at off-ramps and intersections, holding cardboard signs that say "homeless, please help, God bless you" or some variation thereof. For years now I've been wondering what kind of foodstuffs I could stock in my car to hand out to these unfortunates. A few mornings ago I was once again pondering what to do (pondering is somewhere between "wondering" and "praying", but nowhere near "doing"), short of giving money, which I have always been certain would go towards drugs, booze, or cigarettes. I had even discussed with my sweetie the possibility of \$5 gift cards from the supermarket which could only be used for food. You know – exercise some control!

And then I read The Upper Room devotional while eating breakfast. The writing was about three young men who met in Ireland years ago, and about two of them giving \$5 for food to an apparently down-on-their-luck man and woman, while the third one derisively suggested they would just spend it in a pub or for drugs. After trailing the couple, it turned out that the couple indeed went to the pub district – and came out of a store with sandwiches. And then God's cosmic 2x4 slammed into my head (not for the first time):

**MORE THAN A SANDWICH** (Upper Room devotional, Apr 14, 2015) \*

... The gift we had received was a reminder that we are not called to judge human hearts. We are simply called to emulate Jesus by responding with compassion to the human needs we encounter.

Wade Griffith (Alabama)

I will always be grateful to Mr. Griffith for this writing. As I've said many times, I'm not a Bible scholar, but for the life of me I cannot remember one time in the Gospels when Jesus laid out any conditions for His miracles – other than for His followers to carry the message of Good News and God's love as best they / we can. In John 8:11, Jesus says "Go now and leave your life of sin". He doesn't add "or else". Jesus met people in need, and he helped them. Period. Can you truly imagine the kind of love that Jesus gives, love without limits, without conditions, without rules, without any expectation of controlling the outcome?

I can't. Thank God that He can.  
Yours in Christ,

—Tom Bracken

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## Who We Are

**W**hen I first asked Helen Smith if I could interview her for this column, she was shocked. "Who, me?" she asked. It took a few minutes to convince her that she was indeed the person to be featured in this month's "Who We Are".

A quiet, hard working person, Helen gives her all to what ever task she is involved in and is one of the members who, without any fanfare or fuss, helps to keep the church going. Currently, she serves as the Volunteer Coordinator for Wesley Dinners, provides child care (along with her daughter, Carrie) for the ESL class, is the Music Librarian for the choir, and recently took on the position of Financial Secretary for the church. I have remarked to her it is possible to actually say "No", when asked to take on some new job, but clearly, "No" is not in her vocabulary.

Helen grew up in the Yorkville area of Manhattan, an area that for many years was heavily German and Irish. Interestingly, her dad was a POW in North Africa during World War II. As a city kid, Helen enjoyed so many of the riches of New York - trips to the Museum of Natural History, excursions to the Central Park Zoo, and as she got older, hanging out with friends in Central Park.

When she was 18, she decided to move to Seattle because it seemed interesting. Eventually, she came back east and lived for a time in East Rockaway, Queens. In the late 60's, she made the move to Long Island, first settling in Shirley, then Patchogue.

In the late 70's, Helen began work for the Internal Revenue Service in Holtsville, where she continued until her retirement two years ago. Helen has two daughters, six grandchildren and one fairly new great grandchild. It was because she wanted her grandchildren to have a spiritual foundation that she joined our church during the 1990's.

Some of you may know that Helen is an animal lover, having an assortment of pets at home, but you may not know that she and her family own four horses, Suki, Mr. Z, Paparazzi (also called Poppy), and Masarati. It all began when her oldest granddaughter, Laura Ann, wanted to join the equestrian team at school, followed eventually by Melanie. Both girls competed and did well. Melanie still rides and has been invited to again compete in the World Championship Barrel Horse Racing in Georgia this year. Owning and caring for four horses is no easy job, not to mention the expense, but to Helen it is literally a labor of love.

When asked what she would like to see happen in this church, she replied she would like to see us increase our efforts to attract the younger generation, particularly those in their 20's and thirties. It is important to encourage these young people that church and Christianity in general are relevant to life today. She suggested incorporating different elements into worship, such as liturgical dance, praise music and drama.

One thing Helen would like people to know about her is that family is the most important thing in her world.

Thank you, Helen.

—Barbara Becker

## United Methodists Respond To Nepal Quake

**T**he General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, through its disaster-relief arm and in conjunction with longtime local and international partners and Nepal-based Global Ministries missionaries, is responding to the devastating earthquake that rocked Nepal April 25.

On April 27, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), Global Ministries' relief and development unit, approved a grant of \$90,000 for international partner GlobalMedic to bring sorely needed clean water to survivors through provision of household and public water-filtration units.

UMCOR also is in conversation with United Mission to Nepal (UMN), a partner in community-based health and education projects in Nepal for more than 60 years.

"Global Ministries has been in mission with the people of Nepal a long time, and that is a great grace in this time of need," said Thomas Kemper, who heads the organization. "Our long-established and current work in the communities, especially through UMN, spurs our response."

That response is assisted further by the fact that UMN had the foresight to assign one of its officers to participate in UMCOR's most recent regional disaster readiness and response training, which was just held in the Philippines in February.

Rev. J. Denise Honeycutt, who leads UMCOR, pointed out that the regional trainings "fortify our partners' capacity

**Continued on Page 8**

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



## A Note About Restoring Hope

Our Restoring Hope capital campaign was completed several years ago but funds may continue to be contributed. All Restoring Hope contributions go to the Trustees which have continuing building expenses but no other current source of revenue.

## 5 Things To Watch As The 2016 Campaign Begins

**A**s presidential candidacies multiply and campaigning accelerates, we can expect much tawdriness to occur. These are difficult times in American democracy. Money will pour into negative campaigning and ideological posturing. Lies will become the norm. Every word will evoke counterattack, and facts will lose their currency. Barbed sound bites will be mistaken for wisdom. Bullies claiming to be “Christian” will be among the loudest. On both sides. What are people of faith to do? We can assume, first of all, that truth-telling will be absent all around. We, then, need to be truth-seekers, reading beyond the sound bites and toxic jabs for actual insights into what candidates stand for and what is their character.

We can assume, second, that God’s name will be taken in vain by everyone. Every candidate will tell stories of personal faith, maybe even dramatic conversion. They will quote Scripture and claim to be promoting God’s work.

In fact, to judge by candidates’ behavior, their words will be insincere and their faith a concoction meant to satisfy the sweet tooth of religious leaders. We, then, need to do our own work of discerning whether they have any functional familiarity with Scripture and any real concern for Christian ethics.

We can assume, third, that people will be heard less and less. As campaign volume ratchets up, the voices

of actual citizens will be drowned out by invective. We, then, need to be people who listen to the voices of citizens and do what we can to make them heard more widely. Churches should be listening centers, not dispensers of campaign literature. Preachers who brag about influencing candidates should preen less and listen more.

We can assume, fourth, that efforts will be made to prevent some people from voting, especially people of color. We, then, need to take practical steps to ensure full participation, such as escorting vulnerable citizens to the polls and calling out voter suppression tactics as they occur.

We can assume, fifth, that “Christian” values will be reduced to sexuality, as opposed to anything Jesus actually cared about. Sexuality is the perfect diversion while the wealthy pillage the nation.

We, then, need to remind voters about the Sermon on the Mount, the healing of lepers, the rescue of women targeted by religious bullies, the feeding of all who were hungry, the focus on the “least of these,” the calling out of hypocrites, the welcoming of outcasts, the call to let go of wealth, and Jesus’ words of tolerance and mercy, even to his enemies.

We cannot have one more election when “Christian” becomes a convenient shorthand for bigotry and bullying done in God’s name while bearing no resemblance to anything God values. I think it is time we stopped being naive about the current state of American democracy: These are ugly times, and the forces of decency in both par-

ties are under assault. An entire movement seeks to cripple the U.S. government, lest people they hate receive any benefits of citizenship.

It is time for all people of faith to be active, not just those whose guiding star is white, male, straight power. We cannot sit back and wait for the bigots to run out of steam.

The future of American democracy depends on combating the tremendous negative energy this campaign is churning up.

—Tom Elrich, United Methodist Reporter

## A Blessing and Prayer Tribute to All Mothers

Blessed be all mothers  
Who have come into our lives  
Whose kindness, care and loving  
Remain with us to guide.

Your inspiration in us  
Made us strive in every way  
Especially to remember  
Helping others makes our day.

Mothers, this little tribute  
Flows directly from my heart  
You are so loved and cherished  
Invaluable, one and all, you are.

—Susan Kramer





10 Church St., Patchogue, NY 11772

Rev. Hyo Jung (Dawn) Yoon, Pastoral Minister  
 Meghan Vanderhoof, Administrative Assistant  
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 Email: office@PatchogueUmc.org

**Worship Video Live Streaming at PatchogueUMC.Org**

Sunday Worship—10 AM | Sunday School—10 AM  
 Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 AM  
 Hearing assistance provided

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**Nepal Relief (from Page 5)**

to respond quickly and efficiently to crises. The technical training UMN received helps UMCOR connect with UMN to respond to the most vulnerable people impacted by this earthquake.”



Casualties and the full extent of the damage caused by the quake, which

struck at 11:41 a.m. local time, are still being determined. More than 4,000 people are known to have died.

All five Global Ministries missionaries serving in Nepal, and their families,

have reported that they are safe. Dr. Lester Dornon and his wife Debbie were in the United States on missionary itineration. Dr. Mark Zimmerman, his wife Deirdre and their children, and Katherine Parker were all in-country, but unharmed in the event.

Parker reported that she was traveling with a group from UMN in Pokhara, and was away from her home in the capital when the quake struck. “Reports from friends back in Kathmandu are that tension levels are high with the 20 plus aftershocks, many of which have been 5/6+,” she wrote in an email.

**How You Can Help**

- **Pray** for all who have been impacted by this emergency: for the people of Nepal, for Global Ministries and UMCOR partners at work

on the ground there, and for Global Ministries’ five missionaries and their families assigned to serve there.

- **Do not self-deploy** to the disaster area. The situation in Nepal remains one of search and rescue and not a time for volunteers.

**Give to UMCOR International Disaster Response, Advance #982450.** Your gifts to UMCOR International Disaster Response make it possible for UMCOR to respond quickly to emergency situations through our local and international partners.

**Stay informed.** Visit [www.umcor.org](http://www.umcor.org) and [www.umcmmission.org](http://www.umcmmission.org) for updates and developments regarding Global Ministries’ and UMCOR’s response to and accompaniment of survivors.

—UMC Board of Global Ministries