

The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

May 2017

Mothers Are a Gift From God

Someone once asked me, "Pastor, what do you think is the toughest job in the world?" I think she was expecting me to say, "The President, a doctor, a police officer, firefighter." With just a slight hesitation what departed from my lips was, "Being a Mom." Yes, being a mother I think is one of the toughest and most important jobs in our society.

I was born on Mother's Day and my mother would always say to me, "Charles, you were the greatest gift I could have ever received for Mother's Day." OK, everybody now say, "Awh, isn't that sweet." My mother was a dear and sweet woman who truly enriched my life for which I will be eternally grateful. She believed in Psalm 127:3

that states: "*Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him.*"

And certainly moms are a gift from the Lord as well. Dads are certainly important, but there is just something different and special about moms. Would you agree?

Dr. Barton Goldsmith wrote an article in Psychology Today with the title, *The Top 10 Reasons Why Moms Are Important*. He writes, "Mother's Day is a day you get to show your mom how grateful you are that she is in your life. Don't waste the opportunity." According to Dr. Goldsmith, there are certainly more than ten reasons, but for the sake of brevity he listed the following ten:

1. If it weren't for your mom, you wouldn't be breathing right now. If nothing else, you should thank her for that.

2. Mothers are the emotional backbones of

the family. They provide the holding place for everyone's feelings and do their best to keep us from being hurt.

3. Who would kiss your boo-boos to make it all better if she weren't around? Mothers have the magic touch to help us heal our wounds, physical and emotional.

4. Mothers worked hard and made sacrifices, so our lives would be better. There are not a lot of people willing to do that, so let her know you appreciate it.

Continued on Page 4

WORSHIP IN MAY

May 7—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, *A Shepherd's Love*, John 10:1-10

May 14—Mother's Day service led by our youth

May 21—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, *In Times of Trouble*, John 14:15-21

May 28—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, *Joy in the Journey of Life: How to be Joyful Always* 1 Peter 5:6-11



Circle of Concern

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These Who are Hospitalized:

Jean Miller

These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:

Geri Sheridan in Brookhaven Health Care Facility, 801 Gazzolla Drive, E. Patchogue, NY.

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

Alice Zahnd in Gurwin Jewish Nursing Facility, Commack, NY.

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

Pray for our church and her future directions!

Make a prayer request at
PatchogueUMC.com

Why Can't We All Just Get Along?

Most of you must remember the Rodney King incident some years ago, when Mr. King was brutally beaten by police officers during a traffic stop. Because he was African American and the officers were white, and the whole ugly incident was captured on video tape, bloody and violent riots took place in Los Angeles. Not surprisingly, violence beget violence.

One of the most quoted statements made by Rodney King, when he was finally able to speak, was the poignant question, "Why can't we all just get along?" Some people thought that was simplistic, almost childish.

Late night comedians eventually worked it into their repertoires. But I think it is a profound and compelling question, as relevant today as it was then. What prevents us, as individuals, families, communities, nations, the world, from living in harmony and peace with each other? Why, some 2000 years after Jesus, the Prince of Peace, do we still have wars, conflicts, poverty, racial distrust, ageism, sexism, genderism, and every other kind of negative 'ism' you can name?

There was an anthropologist named Desmond Morris, who wrote a book some years ago, that theorized that modern humans, which is all of us today, have aggressiveness hard wired into us. That when we began to eat meat, there was no stopping those aggressive tendencies. I have to say I've known some pretty aggressive vegetarians, so I'm not sure that theory entirely holds.

But there certainly must be some causal factors why, for thousands upon thousands of years, we have been fighting and killing each other to gain land, to control natural resources, killing in the name of nationalism, ethnicity, ideology, economic stability, and, of course, in the name of religion. (My religion is better than your religion; God is on our side, etc.)

Our inability to co-exist peacefully is reflected on every level of human society—we get angry when someone cuts ahead on a supermarket line, or when the car ahead of us fails to signal a turn (ok, that is one of my pet peeves), and when was the last, or first, time you heard a reasonable, rational discussion on politics, or abortion, homosexuality or capital punishment or immigration? Just to name a few hot button topics. And while I do think the rise of the so called "reality shows" on television has encouraged an acceptance of mean spirited, bullying behavior as an everyday norm, nevertheless, our inability to live together has far more profound origins.

There are a whole spectrum of complex theories about our behaviors, but I believe the bottom line is this: we love power more than we love God; far more than we love each other.

In an article in *Your Church* magazine, John Stott wrote "the lust for power has always been a characteristic of the human story, at least since Adam and Eve were offered

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United Methodist Church of Patchogue

May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:00 p.m.—AA	2 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	3 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	4	5 9:30 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	6 7:30 p.m.—AME Service
7 10:00 a.m.— Communion Wor- ship 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME Mother's Day flow- er order deadline.	8 7:00 p.m.—AA	9 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	10 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	11	12 9:30 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	13 7:30 p.m.—AME Service
14 10 a.m.—Mothers Day Worship/ Sunday School 11:00 a.m.— Finance 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME	15 7:00 p.m.—AA	16 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	17 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	18	19 9:30 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	20 7:30 p.m.—AME Service
21 10 a.m.— Wor- ship/Sunday School 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME	22 7:00 p.m.—AA	23 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	24 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	25 5:00 p.m.—Wesley Dinner	26 9:30 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	27 7:30 p.m.—AME Service
28 10 a.m.— Worship 11:30 a.m.— Trustees 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME	29 MEMORIAL DAY Office Closed 7:00 p.m.—AA	30 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	31 7:30 p.m.—AME Service			

Mothers (From Page 1)

5. Mothers are forgiving—so forgive her in return. Perhaps nothing will be as valuable a gift to both of you as forgiveness. Open your heart and drop your resentments. Now that's love.

6. When you want to climb the tallest mountain, your mother will make your lunch for you. She is the one who will support your dreams when no one else will. She will also remind you to wear clean underwear.

7. Her boundaries made you a better person. You may not have liked some of her decisions, especially when you wanted to party with your friends, but she did keep you out of trouble. Look at some of your friends without a mom who has cared that much.

8. A mother's ears and eyes hear and see everything. They also have a computer-like memory for all the good (and some of the bad) that came your way. It's nice to have someone with whom you can reminisce about your whole life.

9. Mom taught you to be a functioning adult. That was her job, and without that, making it through the modern world would be very hard. Your mom may have forced you to do your homework, but now you see how important it was.

10. A mother's smile, when it is directed toward you, makes your

day a whole lot better. All she needs is to know that she has helped you to be and feel your best. Say thank you.

I thank Dr. Goldsmith for his insights concerning motherhood--and yes, there are a whole lot more than ten reasons why moms are important. I could never fully articulate how important my mother was in my life. There is something beyond words to express to the person who helped shape and grow you into who you are today. Moms are truly a gift from God. The gifts that God blessed them with is truly miraculous and I often wonder how one person can do so much for another out of pure love. Moms are a true reflection of the nature of Christ.

I wish I could visit with my mom on Mother's Day this year. I wish I could pick up the phone right now and call her. Unfortunately mom is with the Lord; however, I can still feel her presence as if she were sitting right next to me as I am writing this article. If your mom is still alive, make sure you take the time on a regular basis to tell her how important she is to you. Spend time with her while there is still time. I know this may sound weak of me, but as I just typed that sentence my eyes welled up with tears thinking how I wish I had spent more time with my

mom while she was alive and made fewer excuses of how busy I was. Don't make that mistake--it only brings regrets.

Abraham Lincoln, who possessed so many of his mother's attributes, once wrote: "All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel mother." Another great president, George Washington wrote, "My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute my success in my life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her." John Wesley, the Father of Methodism often said the greatest influence in his life was Susanna Wesley, his mother.

Yes, mothers are a priceless gift to each of us. So I end by saying, HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY to everyone. Why? We all have moms who played a significant role in our lives for which we are eternally grateful.

In His Grip,

—Pastor Chuck



Faith Groups Bring Life, New Hope To Refugees

Abdul Saboor's journey as a refugee to the United States began "when I saw my own community on fire."

In that community in Afghanistan, homes were destroyed and people targeted "because they believed in freedom of expression."

He ran out of hope. "I did what every one of us would do — I chose between survival and death," he said. "I chose between history and future." Five years after he applied for refugee status, Saboor was placed under the care of Episcopal Migrant Ministries and settled in Syracuse, New York. He now works for an interfaith agency and studies at Syracuse University.

He is one of many who have received new hope and new life. Through a network of affiliate partners spread across 22 states, Episcopal Migrant Ministries assisted 5,762 of the 85,000 refugees resettled in the U.S. in 2016.

One of nine federally recognized refugee resettlement organizations, their job is "welcoming those new to America, giving them access to proper health care, job training, language instruction and cultural orientation," said the Rev. Canon E. Mark Stevenson, agency director. Another of the nine organizations is Church World Service, a partner of The United Methodist Church.

Saboor and Stevenson were among participants in an April 13 panel discussion at U.N. headquarters on the role of faith-based organizations in refugee assistance and resettlement work.

The discussion was part of the Focus on Faith series of the U.N.'s Department of Public Information — non-governmental organizations, and organized in partnership with LDS Charities of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Felipe Queipo, an associate public information officer for the department, noted in his introduction that bridges built by faith groups "are far more important and stronger than any differences among people."

As the president of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF, Caryl Stern, the panel's moderator, knows about the need. She has visited the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan, the largest camp of Syrian refugees in the world.

She also knows from personal experience how "one person can truly make a difference" when it comes to assuring refugees of a safe place to live. As a Jewish child, her mother was sent from Germany to safety in America in 1939, accompanied by a woman whose name her family does not know.

Mormons were once refugees, too, including her own great-great grandparents, said Jean Bingham, general president of the Relief Society, the LDS women's organization. "Severe religious persecution drove its early members from one location to another," she explained.

As a result, Mormons often feel strongly about those who are outcast or in need, she said. They assisted in Europe after World War II and after natural disasters anywhere and formalized this work in 1985 with the creation of LDS Charities.

"Six weeks ago, I traveled to Uganda with UNICEF representatives to a refugee camp to observe a multi-party effort to address the needs of people from South Sudan and neighboring countries," she said. She said LDS Charities is collaborating with UNICEF to provide immunizations and educational services in Uganda.

Islamic Relief USA has had a long interfaith partnership with LDS Charities, said Anwar Khan, the organization's top executive. The agency also coordinates with many other faith-based groups, including the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Its "Day of Dignity" program was started to help the homeless in America and later extended to assist the working poor as well.

"Now, we have Syrian refugees volunteering to help homeless U.S. Army veterans," Khan noted. "That is not the narrative you see on TV." Born in Pakistan, Khan was the child of refugees who had fled ethnic cleansing in India. He grew up in England before moving to the U.S. in 1994.

He acknowledged that growing anti-Muslim sentiment has had an impact on Islamic Relief USA. "It's difficult when people are threatening to burn your office down," Khan said. Still, he added, "we have never seen so much love from our friends of other faiths as we have experienced this year."

The modern movement for refugee resettlement in the U.S. began in 1975 when 15 million people were welcomed in after the Vietnam War, said Barbara Day of the U.S. Department of State.

Continued on Page 7

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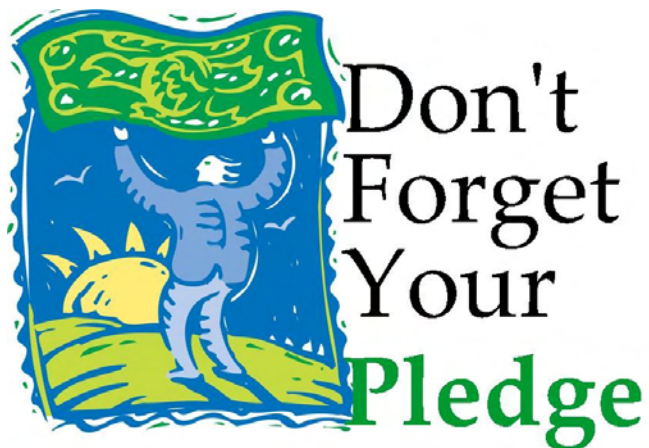
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The deadline for the June issue
of **The Link** is **May 19**.

Please email your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.



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 who have continuing building expenses but no other revenue source. \$500 a month in Trustee funds go to pay off our boiler loan. Contributions can be made to either "Restoring Hope" or "Trustees".

Refugees (From Page 5)

Day's primary job is to work with the nine official refugee resettlement organizations that are part of a public-private partnership established in 1980. Six of the agencies—Church World Service, Episcopal Migrant Ministries, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and World Relief—are faith-based.

Any refugee receives the same basic goods and services “regardless of who is assisting them,” Day explained. “Of course, faith-based agencies are famous for hands-on help. I would say the greatest gift is the gift of friendship.”

Saboor said he realized the value of that gift of friendship after he and his family tried to start their lives anew and people repeatedly offered assistance. He wasn't aware of their congregations or faith groups, “but what I did learn by meeting this passionate group of people was that the community is willing to help people in need, and now I take pride in calling them my friends.”

Inspired by the “exceptional and amazing” volunteerism in America, Saboor started volunteering himself for Interfaith Works of Central New York, which “affirms the dignity of each person and every faith community and works to create relationships and understanding” through education, service and dialogue. He is now employed as a match grant coordinator with the agency.

—Linda Bloom, UMNS

Why Are We United?

There have been many nicknames for the band of believers who followed the lead of John and Charles Wesley in their early ministry in England: Enthusiasts, Sacramentarians, Bible Moths, Methodists. Their methods, values, and tradition laid the groundwork for what would become The United Methodist Church, 240 years after John and Charles Wesley began their Holy Club at college.

On April 23, 1968, Bishop Reuben H. Mueller, of The Evangelical United Brethren Church, and Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke, of The Methodist Church, joined hands at the General Conference in Dallas, Texas. They declared “Lord of the Church, we are united in Thee, in Thy Church and now in The United Methodist Church.”

A new denomination was born and a new logo was created to represent this coming together. A traditional symbol—the cross—was linked with a single flame with dual tongues of fire. This ties The United Methodist Church to God through Christ (cross) and the Holy Spirit (flame). Most church members know that the symbol is a sign that “this is a place where United Methodists gather.” But not everyone recognizes how, and why, it is important to use the denomination's full name.

The moniker is a merger of the names of the mostly German Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church. Not using the denomination's full name can feel hurtful to some members.

The Rev. Alfred T. Day, head of the Archives and History agency, notes: “If your lineage to become a United Methodist today has been through the Methodist Episcopal strain, you're in the majority because the United Brethren and the Evangelical Associations by numbers are much smaller groups. So it's easy for you in the majority to think of yourself as Methodist and claim that heritage. But if you're from the minority and the only way that you get to claim your name is the word ‘United’ and somebody drops that name off, that kind of leaves you without a name, that kind of forgets your history.”

Another meaning of united in the name speaks to the fuller inclusion of black churches. Even though the Methodist Episcopal Church had reunited in 1939 after being divided on the issue of slavery, African American congregations were still segregated into a separate Central Jurisdiction. In 1968, that segregation ended.

Day explains, “The United name also represents a coming together of black Methodists and white Methodists in the same conference, with the same preachers, with the same bishops, as opposed to segregated conferences as well.”

That newly formed United Methodist Church became one of the largest Protestant churches in the world with 12.4 million members today. And the cross and flame logo created in 1968 still represents that body, a body united in the goal to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.

—Fran Coode Walsh, UMNS

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Getting Along (From Page 2)

power in exchange for disobedience." We wanted to be like God; perhaps even to be God.

Why do you suppose that those hot topics I mentioned previously are so controversial? Not just because people might hold passionate beliefs on a subject. But because the need to be right—insist that your interpretation, your belief, is the only right one—is not about right or wrong, it's about power. About controlling the ideas and actions of others. It's about being superior to others.

So there is no opportunity to share ideas and knowledge, to explore and analyze, to learn or grow.

John Stott further wrote, "Why do we want to receive power? Is it

honestly power for witness or holiness or humble service? Or is it in reality a mask for personal ambition, a craving to boost our own ego, to minister to our own self importance, to impress, to dominate, or to manipulate?" Powerful questions.

How do we as human beings, as Christians, avoid the terrible temptation of power in our lives? Certainly, we should honor the two greatest Commandments—loving God with all our hearts and minds and strength and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

By living our faith with joy, peace, patience, gentleness, generosity, kindness, love, faithfulness and self control. By acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God.

—Barbara Becker

Mother's Day Flowers

Once again this year our United Methodist Men are sponsoring a Mother's Day flower sale. Your red or pink geranium will be on the altar at the Mother's Day service on May 14.

Each plant, in a 4 1/2 inch pot is \$6 and may be taken home after the service. Red geraniums can be designated in honor of someone and pink ones will be in memory.

Orders must be submitted to Bob Prince by May 7 and payment must accompany the order. Order forms are available at church. Or you can call the church office.

May Birthdays

May 11 Noah Lyons

May 11 Robert Queen