

The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

May 2018

Transitioning The Month of May

The month of May is such a beautiful transitional month—a time when we on Long Island transition into beautiful weather, more sunshine, and the glorious blooming of trees and flowers. Even the birds are happier. Transition is part of life, isn't it? We are always transitioning from one place or status or stage to another.

This month we will say good-bye in this life to a long-time member of our church, Charlie Kemp, who has transitioned from his natural life to life eternal. And during this transition we remember his life and legacy that made him so special. He was a bombardier in the Army Air Corps during WWII who flew 29 combat missions as well as a professional big band

singer—not to mention he sang in our church choir for over 40 years. Also, during this month, we will participate in the confirmation of six confirmands who will transition from our preparatory roll to becoming full members as they confirm their faith in Jesus Christ. What a transition! What a celebration!

The month of May, indeed, is a special month when we honor mothers who transitioned into a tremendous position of responsibility of helping to raise their children. During this month we also celebrate Memorial Day when we remember those who transitioned from civilian life to laying down their lives in service of their country. In fact, May 20th marks my 52nd anniversary of when I enlisted in the U.S. Army—and Lord knows what a transition it was

when I met my new mother—Drill Sergeant Heidel.

Yes, the month of May is a wonderful month we wait for all year long because it is so special in our cycle of life on Long Island. And, as already mentioned—it exemplifies how much we actually transition on a regular basis.

Continued on Page 2

WORSHIP IN MAY

May 6—The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, John 15:9-17

May 13—The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Luke 24: 44-53

May 20—The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Romans 8: 22-27

May 27—The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, John 3:1-17



Circle of Concern

Joys:

Cameron Cook, Cheryl Keeley

Bereavement:

Leo Family, Mary Smith Family, Dew Family, Charles Kemp Family

For Guidance and Healing:

Henry Prince, Len Ricchi, Steve Shadbolt, Marjorie Bates, Regina Mareska, Joe Wynter, Herb, David Henson, Grace, Carol Moor, Brian, Sammy Puma, Myra, Carol Kirshner, Jim Davis, Bruce, Sam, Charlene Schultz, Mac, Bobby, Linda and Carol Brower, Paul Rice, Cathy Moor, Flo Carde, Jerry Alt, Krystan Lehard, Jim Foras, Elizabeth

These at Home:

Bruce Kirschner, Lee Hollowell, Viola Schwartz, Jean Miller, Paul Falvey

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

Len Ricchi, in Medford Multicare, 315 Horseblock Rd., Medford, 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

Transitional May

(From Page 1)

Remind yourself to slow down a little and observe these wonderful transitional moments in your life. Don't just grind out each day where it becomes a rote exercise of futility. The month of May is a brand-new gift from the Creator to us. So, get out there and enjoy it—every moment of it, because it transitions pretty fast.

Enjoying May together, I remain
In His Grip,

—Pastor Chuck

Bishops Deliberate Church Future

An anxious yet hopeful church is watching as United Methodist bishops finalize their recommendations for the denomination's future, Bishop Bruce R. Ough told his episcopal colleagues.

More than 100 active and retired bishops are beginning a week of deliberating on their final proposals to next year's special General Conference. The bishops called the special meeting of the denomination's top policymaking body to address decades of division over how the church should minister with LGBTQ individuals.

Ough said he expected the denomination, for the most part, to take its cues from its bishops. "If we fight and retreat to our various corners and turfs, the church will follow our example and fight," he said in a sermon that doubled as his final address to the Council of Bishops as the body's president. He also leads the Dakotas and Minnesota conferences.

"If we flee and pretend we are not in a truly different place as a global church, the church will follow our example and flee. If we freeze and say it is not our responsibility to guide our people into unchartered territory, the church will follow suit, freeze and miss this transformative moment."

Most of the bishops' deliberations will take place behind closed doors this week. They plan to make public a summary of their recommendations after their meeting concludes May 4.

The bishops are in a "high-stakes moment," Ough told those gathered. Already a handful of congregations have taken steps to leave the denomination over the debate.

Various unofficial advocacy groups are also staking out their positions in the run-up to the special General Conference. Among those assembled at the bishops' opening worship were members of Love Prevails, an unofficial group that advocates for the full inclusion of LGBTQ individuals in all aspects of church life, and the United Methodist Queer Clergy Caucus, an unofficial group made up of LGBTQ clergy in the denomination.

The bishops have a tight timeline. At the bishops' request, the Judicial Council — the denomination's top court — will meet May 22-25 to address any requests stemming from the bishops' recommendations.

Continued on Page 7

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.— Noon—Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	2 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	3	4 10:00 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	5 10:00 a.m.—Pilot Club Craft Fair 7:30 p.m.—AME
6 10:00 a.m.— Communion Worship 1:00 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 3:00 p.m.—Kemp Memorial Service 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 5:00—Friendly's Fundraiser 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	9 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	10	11 10:00 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	12 7:30 p.m.—AME
13 10:00 a.m.— Worship/Sunday School 11:30 a.m.—No Confirmation Class 1:00 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 7:30 p.m.—AA	16 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	17	18 10:00 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	19 8:00 a.m.—Men's Breakfast 9:30 a.m.—UMW 7:30 p.m.—AME
20 10 a.m.— Worship/Sunday School Confirmation Sunday 11:30 a.m.—Capital Campaign 1:00 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 2:00 p.m.—Wine & Cheese 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 7:30 p.m.—AA	23 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	24 5:00 p.m.—Wesley Dinner	25 10:00 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	26 7:30 p.m.—AME
27 10 a.m.— Worship/Sunday School 1:00 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 7:30 p.m.—AA	30 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	31		

Xenophobia: How To Cure It

Although it sounds like some kind of exotic disease, the word xenophobia comes from the Greek, meaning fear of strangers.

Being wary of strangers, ie: those not of your family or kinship group or tribe, undoubtedly was a sensible idea eons ago, particularly when some of our Homo Sapiens ancestors, having developed in Africa, started filtering out of the motherland about 65,000 years ago, and gradually spread over the face of the globe.

Then, in response to climate, topography, amount of sunlight, and a host of other factors, people began to, well, look different. Skin color, eye shape, etc changed depending on where in the world you lived. Not to mention differences in customs, language, belief systems, world view.

In his book, "Fear of the Other", William Willimon, retired bishop of the United Methodist Church, writes: "Evolution hardwired our brains to be cautious and self-protective, which made sense in a time when our survival was threatened daily." (Hard to know if that group of peculiar looking strangers was friendly or just pretending so they could steal our wooly mammoth meat.)

Willimon goes on to say "Today, these once valuable coping mechanisms are the source of some of our most damaging mistakes of judgement, including our sloppy thinking

about, irrational fear of, and false consciousness of the Other. Thousands of years of safely huddling in our tribe, wired us to regard strangers as foes until proven otherwise. In today's interconnected, interdependent world, friend - or - foe fear can be a great burden."

So, who is the Other? Sad to say, even in this technologically connected world, the list is endless: gays, blacks, whites, Christians, Muslims, Israelis, Palestinians, conservatives, liberals, men, women, the rich, the poor, Syrians, Americans, immigrants, the homeless, gun control advocates, anti-gun control advocates, and on and on. It all depends on who you are, where you are, and how willing you are to remain uninformed, ill informed and ruled by your visceral emotions. It can be exhausting trying to determine who to be afraid of next.

Willimon writes, "Our problem in regard to fear, is that we fear the Other more than we fear the God who commands us to "Love One Another."

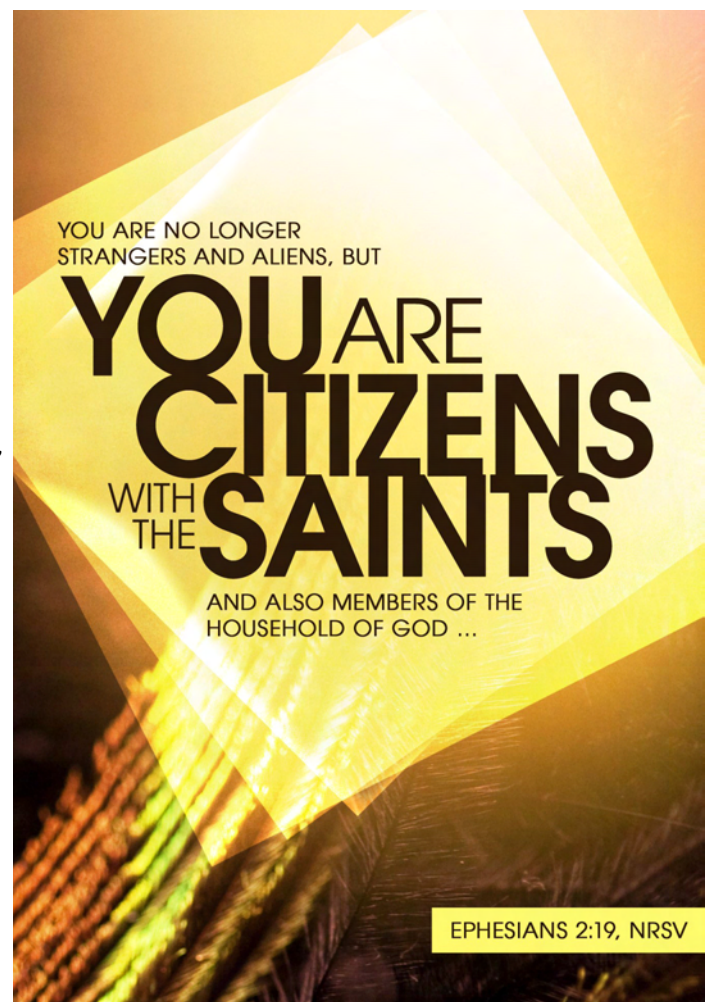
So, suppose we start from the premise that we are all human

beings, part of God's infinite diversity of Creation, and therefore, accepted by that which is greater than ourselves. Suppose we respect our differences, while celebrating our commonalities. Suppose we take the time to be informed about all aspects of a particular issue or viewpoint, rather than jumping to conclusions and demonizing those who don't appear to agree with us.

Suppose we actually Love one Another.

Sisters and Brothers, there is no 'US' or 'Them'. They are us and we are them. Peace be with you.

—Barbara Becker



Honoring the Past; Serving the Present

Every time I walk through the sanctuary of our church, or the Cloud Room, I am uplifted by the artistry and craftsmanship

that went into the creation of the building 127 years ago.

The sun streaming through the gorgeous stained glass windows, the fine carvings on the ends of the pews and on the newel

post on the staircase leading up from the narthex, all remind me that artists and craftsmen used their talents and abilities to create something of beauty.

I am also reminded of that long ago congregation that joined their efforts, money, and hard work to raise a building that glorified God. And of the sacrifice that many of the church community willingly made. While I'm sure there were well-to-do members, many were of average income—bay men, small shop keepers, employees of the lace mill, workers in various local businesses. It was no small thing for them to raise the sum needed to build such a fine structure. (\$44,000, not including the organ, or 1.2 million in today's money.)

Now, I know full well that a building does not make a church or a faith

community. That we could literally worship in a shack, if need be. That the essence of a church is love of God and of one another, and a sincere determination to follow the teachings of Jesus with compassion and a generous spir-

it. That our church is as much about the food pantry, the Wesley Dinner, the Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinners, the free clothing corner, and the free ESL classes, as it is about the

building.

But, having acknowledged that, I believe that we have been given a legacy from the congregation of 1889-91, a legacy and a responsibility, to preserve and share the beauty of the building with the community around us and all who enter into it.

Now, this beautiful and grand lady, aka the church, is showing her age. I imagine we all would have loose joints and crumbling infrastructure if we were 127 years old. Restoring her to health will require expenditures in the range of \$300,000. Yes, a lot of money—more than 6 times what it cost to build the entire structure!

We are beginning a capital campaign to raise the money through a variety of means. These include: applying for grants from several sources; applying for a loan from the New York Annual Conference (NYAC);

reaching out to local businesses, civic associations, and elected officials; hosting a series of fund raisers; on-line fund raising through GOFUNDME.com or YOUCARING.com; a publicity campaign using newspapers, television stations, social media. And, of course, contributions from individual members. Some have already been made. If you wish to contribute, please put "Capital Campaign" in your check memo.

The first Capital Campaign meeting was held on Apr. 29. Some excellent ideas were shared. We are fortunate to have Joan Curtis and Mark Ferrara as co-chairpersons for the overall campaign.

But many hands and minds and hearts are needed to make this a success. Come join us for the next meeting on May 20, after worship. Bring your ideas and enthusiasm. Bring suggestions for a name for the campaign.

Together we can do this!

—Barbara Becker

May Birthdays

May 11 Noah Lyons

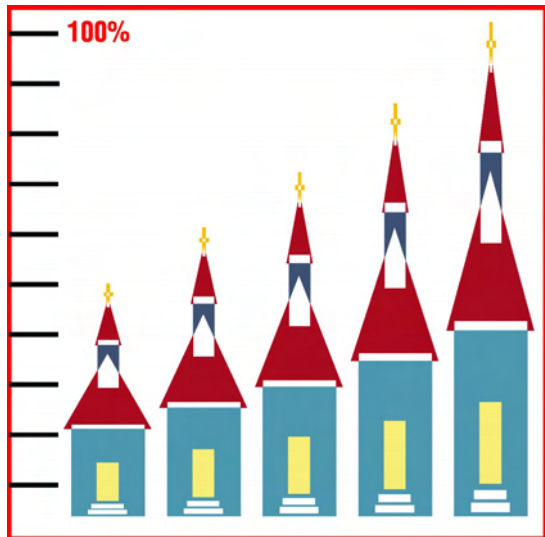
May 11 Robert Queen

Our church family would like to wish all our children happy birthday in **The LINK**.

If you would like your child to be listed, please email name and birth date to gbhoag@optonline.net. We will also make sure that the information becomes part of our church records.

—Gail Hoag

Membership Chairman



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Don't Forget Your Pledge

The deadline for the June issue
of **The Link** is May 25.
Please email your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.

Dinner at Friendly's

Medford
Tuesday, May 8
5:00-8:00 PM
15% of the profit is donated
to our church.



Bishops Deliberate

(From Page 2)

One of the questions before the bishops this week is whether to request an oral hearing before the Judicial Council. The deadline for petitions to the special General Conference is July 8.

“What our church desperately needs at this moment, 50 years after creating The United Methodist Church, is a Council of Bishops that resists fixing the church, practices holy imagination, refuses false dichotomies and single-narrative thinking and reframes the questions,” Ough preached.

The 2016 General Conference, by a 428-405 vote, authorized the bishops to form a commission to help them avoid a denominational breakup over homosexuality.

Since January 2017, the 32-member Commission on a Way Forward has met almost monthly and received periodic feedback from the Council of Bishops. Three bishops serve as commission moderators facilitating discussion, and nine bishops — including one elected last year — serve as commission members.

At present, the denomination’s official stances on homosexuality declare the practice of homosexuality “incompatible with Christian teaching,” prohibit clergy from officiating at same-gender unions and preclude the ordination of “self-avowed, practicing” gay clergy. However, some pastors and conferences have been defying these prohibitions.

Based on feedback from the bishops, Ough said, the commission has focused on two possible plans that would change the status quo. The one-church model would remove current restrictions and leave questions of ordination and marriage closer to the conference and local-church levels.

The multi-branch model would allow conferences to choose among three connectional conferences for affiliation. The connectional conferences would align based on theology or perspective on LGBTQ ministry — be it traditionalist, progressive or allowing for a variety of approaches. This plan would require multiple amendments to the denomination’s constitution. Still, at various points, bishops have said a third possibility is still on the table — a traditionalist plan that would maintain the denomination’s restrictions and put greater emphasis on enforcement.

“We never took off the table the ideas and more importantly the values in all three models,” Ough told United Methodist News Service after worship. “But at this meeting, we will be responding primarily to the report from the commission, which has focused on two models.”

He added the council may choose to adopt the report or may choose to advance other ideas. Also still to be determined is whether the bishops will move forward one or multiple plans.

“It’s still quite open,” Ough said. Ough preached to the bishops from Mark 10:35-52, which features two very different understandings of

power. In the first part of the passages, the disciples James and John ask Jesus to sit at the savior’s right and left hand when he comes into glory. In the second part, the blind Bartimaeus asks Jesus for his mercy and for Jesus to help him see. When healed, Bartimaeus decides to follow Christ.

In both cases, Jesus first addresses disciples and blind man alike by asking: “What do you want me to do for you?”

Ough told the bishops that Jesus would be present with them throughout their deliberations. “I pray our response will reflect Bartimaeus’ spirit: heal us, transform us, empower us to move beyond one issue to follow you, O Christ, on the one way.”

That message resonated with Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett, who leads the North Alabama Conference and is a commission member.

“I am grateful for Bishop Ough’s reminder that Jesus will be with us all week,” she said. “Also, I appreciated his focus on depending on the Holy Spirit to lead us in finding a way forward.”

Retired Congolese Bishop David Yemba, one of the Way Forward Commission moderators, also took hope from Ough’s sermon.

“It was a powerful message, which is helping the council to have a clear focus on what we are called to do and to be,” he said.

—Heather Hahn, UMNS



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 Email: PatchogueUMC@Yahoo.com
 Office Hours: 9:00 AM–2:00 PM, Closed Monday
Worship Video Live Streaming at PatchogueUMC.Org

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



Every Mother's Prayer

I pray you'll be my eyes
 And watch her where she goes
 And help her to be wise
 Help me to let go
 Every mother's prayer
 Every child knows
 Lead her to a place
 Guide her with your grace
 To a place where she'll be safe

I pray she finds your light
 And holds it in her heart
 As darkness falls each night
 Remind her where you are

Every mother's prayer
 Every child knows
 Need to find a place
 Guide her with your grace
 Give her faith so she'll be safe

Lead her to a place
 Guide her with your grace
 To a place where she'll be safe

—mothersdaycelebration.com

THANKS,
Mom!