

The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

November 2017

Thanks

Yes, this is our November Link, and for me, November shouts THANKSGIVING!

I remember when growing up Thanksgiving was always a special time of the year. My mother would start preparing days before, shopping for all the food items to make that Thursday meal so special.

I remember family members sitting around passing the gravy, or most importantly for me, the stuffing. Mom always kept a hidden stash of stuffing for her little boy...How about your Thanksgiving family traditions?

Later, as I grew older, I came to realize that Thanksgiving was more than a table adorned with scrumptious food and NFL football games on the black and white television. I came to realize that it

was a day when we should be reminded to thank God for the many blessings He bestows upon us every single day.

What are you thankful for? One year I began to make a list of all the things I was thankful for. And you know what, that list kept going on and on because when I fully concentrated on all of the blessings in my life--the blessings were endless.

One day I was driving in our car with my wife when she said, "Honey, I am so thankful I can see the trees and the sky." That hit me so hard, because how many times have you or I conveyed that we are thankful that we can see? For many years my wife has suffered with the dreadful disease of Glaucoma. She has undergone numerous eye surgeries over the years. Glaucoma has already claimed her entire left eye

leaving her with only forty percent of vision in her right eye--and yet, she thanks God that she can see the trees and the sky.

I know for myself, I often take so many things for granted. The fact that I have a place to live, clean running water, food in the fridge, a tooth brush and toothpaste to brush my teeth, a warm shower...You see, there are folks in our world who have none of these things.

Continued on Page 2

WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

Nov. 5—The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Matthew 23:1-12

Nov. 12—The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Matthew 25:1-13

Nov. 19—The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Matthew 25:14-30

Nov. 22—Community Thanksgiving Eve Service, In our Sanctuary, 7:00 PM

Nov. 26—The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Matthew 25:31-46



Isaiah 9:3

They
rejoice before you
as with *joy* at the
harvest.

Circle of Concern

For Joys:

Ray Prince 75th birthday, Kyrstan Lendhard birthday

For Bereavement:

Blum Family

For Guidance and Healing:

Evertte Edwards, George Werner, Paul Rice, Lee Hollowell, Henry Prince, Dianna Peterson, Mary Smith, Steve Rice, Our Nation, Paul White, Ron Devellie, Donal, Paul Falvey, Dawn, Terry Granto, Frank Carroll, Roxanne Randazzo

These Who are Hospitalized:

Charles Martin, Sherry, Seth Greiner, Jean Miller

These at Home:

Jeanna Moritz, Bruce Kirschner, Cheryl Keeley, Viola Schwartz, Mario Conti, Lee Hollowell, Viola Schwartz

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, Commack, NY

Ed Dew in Sunrise Assisted Living, Patchogue Holbrook Rd, Holbrook, NY

Len Ricchi, in Medford Multicare, 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

Thanks (From Page 1)

When my wife and I were traveling across a desert plain on the continent of Africa, we stopped at a small village to purchase some handmade crafts the villagers make for tourists passing through.

As my wife and friends looked over the many items being sold, I walked away from the crowd to witness a group of young boys playing soccer with great excitement and expressions of joy on their faces. After noticing how happy they were, even though living under such squalled conditions, I saw that they were playing soccer not with a soccer ball, but with a bent soda can.

Think about that? Our kids and grandkids have everything that Toys r Us stocks on the shelves—and often times still complain they are unhappy. And the kids I witnessed in that small village were just happy they had an old soda can to play soccer with.

Friends, I pray that this new month of November will be a time to be reminded of how blessed we really are in this country.

Perhaps you can begin to make a list of all the things you are thankful for. I can assure you, if you do, you will begin to discover, as I did, things that perhaps you have taken for granted. Those words driving along the highway stick with me every single day, "Honey, I am so thankful I can see the trees and the sky." I am too.

In His Grip,

—Pastor Chuck

**Community Thanksgiving Eve
In Our Sanctuary
Wed., Nov. 22**

A Thanksgiving Day

Prayer

Lord, so often times, as any other day,
When we sit down to our meal and pray,
We hurry along and make fast the blessing,
Thanks, amen. Now please pass the dressing.
We're slaves to the olfactory overload,
We must rush our prayer before the food gets cold.
But Lord, I'd like to take a few minutes more
To really give thanks to what I'm thankful for.
For my family, my health, a nice soft bed,
My friends, my freedom, a roof over my head.
I'm thankful right now to be surrounded by those
Whose lives touch me more than they'll ever possibly know.
Thankful Lord, that You've blessed me beyond measure,
Thankful that in my heart lives life's greatest treasure.
That You, dear Jesus, reside in that place
And I'm ever so grateful for Your unending grace.
So please, heavenly Father, bless this food You've provided
And bless each and every person invited.
Amen!

—Scott Wesemann, thoughtco.com

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	2 7:00 p.m.—Charge Conference	3 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	4 7:30 p.m.—AME Service
5 10:00 a.m.— Communion Worship 11:40 a.m.—Bible Study 12:30 a.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME	6 7:00 p.m.—AA	7 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.— Noon—Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	8 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	9	10 Office Closed 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	11 7:30 p.m.—AME Service
12 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School 11:40 a.m.—Bible Study 11:30 a.m.—Finance 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 2:00 p.m.—Wine & Cheese 5:00 p.m.—AME	13 7:00 p.m.—AA	14 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.— Noon—Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	15 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	16	17 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	18 7:30 p.m.—AME Service
19 10 a.m.— Wor- ship/Sunday School 11:40 a.m.—Bible Study 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 4:00 p.m.—BAFFA Concert	20 7:00 p.m.—AA	21 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.— Noon—Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	22 7:00 p.m.— Community Thanksgiving Eve in our Sanctuary 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	23 Office Closed 10:00 a.m.— Wesley Thanksgiving Dinner	24 Office Closed 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	25 7:30 p.m.—AME Service
26 10 a.m.— Wor- ship/Sunday School 11:30 a.m.— Trustees 11:40 a.m.—Bible Study 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	27 7:00 p.m.—AA	28 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.— Noon—Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	29 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	30		

UMCOR Grants To Hurricane Relief

The United Methodist response to the devastating 2017 hurricane season is getting a boost through new grants from the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

During their Oct. 12-14 meeting, directors of the denomination's Board of Global Ministries and UMCOR approved more than \$7 million in grants for hurricane and other disaster-relief work and \$1.86 million for global health projects.

UMCOR already had received some \$15 million from donors in recent months to respond to U.S. disasters. Full-page ads in the Wall Street Journal and New York Times have highlighted the denomination's commitment to disaster relief and the fact that 100 percent of all donations go directly to relief efforts.

Bishop Hector Ortiz, episcopal leader of the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico, normally would have been a part of the Global Ministries meeting. However, given the continuing dire situation there after Hurricane Maria, Ortiz had a brief livestream conversation on Oct. 12 with his fellow directors instead.

"The past three weeks have been truly heartbreaking," the bishop said. "Thousands of families lost their homes." The Puerto Rican church's partnership with UMCOR and Global Ministries is of utmost importance, he added.

Thomas Kemper, top executive for Global Ministries, announced that Luis

Morales, disaster coordinator for the South Georgia Conference, was traveling to Puerto Rico on Oct. 13 as an UMCOR consultant. "They (Puerto Rican Methodists) already have distribution centers in 20 local churches and are trying to stand with the people in Puerto Rico," he said.

UMCOR sent a \$100,000 grant to the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico, and assessments are still in process for a larger grant for relief and recovery work. Ortiz finally was able to purchase a generator so the Puerto Rican church office can reopen, Kemper told United Methodist News Service. New York Area Bishop Thomas Bickerton, UMCOR's president, said that by addressing the needs in Puerto Rico, The United Methodist Church has a way "to extend its hand in the midst of an area where poverty and lack of infrastructure provide an opportunity for response."

Puerto Rico's hurricane recovery is estimated to cost up to \$95 billion, Bickerton noted. That, he told UMNS, is "a signal to faith-based organizations that we need all hands on deck."

It's important to view the United Methodist response in Puerto Rico as a long-term program, Kemper pointed out. "I really hope, in the future, we can buy more locally instead of shipping," he said. "We have a whole network (in Puerto Rico), which will be here for the long haul."

UMCOR also will look to some of the other island nations affected by hurricanes this fall. Kemper is counting on the fact that UMCOR held a training in March for Method-

ist-related disaster coordinators in Central America and the Caribbean. "This has become a very good opportunity for us to reach out now to these partners," he said.

Several of the larger grants approved during the Global Ministries meeting relate to Hurricane Harvey, which dumped 40 to 52 inches of rain and caused catastrophic flooding in southeastern Texas and part of Louisiana, and Hurricane Irma.

The denomination's Texas Conference includes Houston and at least 20 of the 39 counties falling under the disaster declaration by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The Texas Conference will use its \$1 million grant for the first phase of a long-term recovery process to assist 300 households.

Fourteen counties in the church's Rio Texas Conference were affected by Harvey. Rio Texas will use its \$816,418 grant to support two field offices and one satellite office for initial recovery efforts. A "volunteer village" is expected to open by Nov. 1 at First United Methodist Church in Sinton, Texas.

Louisiana has received no FEMA assistance for flooding caused by the downgraded Tropical Storm Harvey. A \$500,000 grant will allow the Louisiana Conference to "fast-track recovery operations," UMCOR said. Winds, rain, flooding and loss of power caused by Hurricane Irma had a widespread, catastrophic impact on Florida. A \$1 million grant to the Florida Conference will initiate the church's long-term recovery operation with the establishment of five regional centers.

Molly McEntire, an UMCOR director from Florida, shared her experiences as one of the volunteers staffing a call center set up by the conference. Nearly 250 United Methodist churches filed claims for hurricane damage and individuals who called the conference for help were paired with a local church in their area, she said.

Last year's disasters also got continuing attention from UMCOR. Receiving grants for Hurricane Matthew Phase 2 recovery were the North Carolina Conference, \$1.25 million, and the Virginia Conference, \$250,000. Louisiana received \$720,000 for its continued response to the widespread flooding in August 2016 and the West Virginia Conference received \$750,000 for long-term recovery from June 2016 flooding. Other grants included \$350,000 to Mennonite Disaster Services to assist the Oglala Sioux Tribe of Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, after storms and flooding in May 2015. An international grant of \$423,899 went to the Mines Advisory Group, which is clearing landmines in Iraq so that displaced populations can return to their homes.

Most of the \$1.86 million in grants from the Global Health unit of the Board of Global Ministries was directed to United Methodist health boards in Sierra Leone, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Sierra Leone Conference also received \$613,209 for an Imagine No Malaria Project and Global Refuge, an organization working with South Sudanese refugees in Uganda, was given

\$118,852 for emergency medication and supplies.

—Linda Bloom, UMNS

An Immigrant Welcome

I'm happy because I am safe and my children are, too. I can wake up now and know that we are free. —

Abebi, a Justice for Our Neighbors client in Texas

Abebi, who fled Nigeria, is seeking asylum in the U.S. because he fears persecution and possibly death if he were forced to return. Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON), a ministry of The United Methodist Church, is helping him with this daunting legal process so that he and his family can remain here in safety.

The United States is a nation of immigrants. Currently, more than 40 million foreign-born individuals reside in our country, and many of them need legal assistance with their immigration status.

Without status, immigrants are often vulnerable, with greater likelihood of danger to their physical, emotional and spiritual health.

JFON, a national network of immigration legal clinics launched by the United Methodist Committee for Relief in 1999, strives to meet this need. Staff immigration attorneys work with teams of volunteers from United Methodist churches and beyond to help low-income immigrants navigate our complex legal system.

The JFON network is comprised of 17 independently operated sites in 30 cities nationwide, supported and connected by a national office based in Northern Virginia.

There are no "typical" JFON clients, as their backgrounds and stories are as diverse as the fabric of America today. Some have dreamed their whole life of becoming U.S. citizens. Others were forced from their home countries and were able to come here to the United States as refugees.

However, the immigrants and refugees we work with are generally unified in their hopes to live in the U.S. safely and freely, to be united with their family, and to fully participate in American society. While these aspirations seem clear enough, the process of accessing these opportunities through the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service is overwhelming, with complex forms and high stakes.

Our clients, who number almost 15,000 since 2013 and have come from nearly 150 countries during that time, cannot afford private immigration attorneys for this critical assistance.

The United Methodist Church has recognized that there are insufficient immigration legal services available to low-income immigrants within the United States. Only half of immigrants in removal proceedings have legal representation. Most JFON clinics operate at capacity.

We have seen that where JFON clinics or other immigration representation is available, immigrants have better outcomes in their cases before the immigration court. Unaccompanied migrant children who are represented in court are five times more likely to be able to stay in the U.S. than those who are not. Individuals seeking asylum are

Continued on Page 7

ASSOCIATE'S GOURMET MARKET



Experienced Butchers & Caterers for over 20 years
Also providing Groceries, Dairy & Produce
1699J Rte. 112, Medford, NY 11763
Phone (631) 475-1749
Fax (631) 447-5086
www.associatemarketli.com

Ruland
FUNERAL HOME, INC.

500 North Ocean Ave.
Patchogue, NY 11772
631-475-0098

Bay Harbour Insurance Agency, Inc.



We're here to help you!

88 Waverly Ave.
Patchogue, NY 11772

(631) 758-1550
(631) 289-2176 Fax

Rick Braille, CIC
Rick@Bayharbourgroup.com

CBC
CUE BROKERAGE CORP.

THE PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE SPECIALISTS

180 East Main Street, Suite 205
Patchogue, New York 11772
Phone: 631-475-6000 Ext. 139
Toll Free: 800-233-8283
Fax: 631-475-0030
www.CueBrokerage.com

Sandra Morrissey
Office Manager
Sandram@CueBrokerage.com

The McGiveron Team
at Douglas Elliman Real Estate

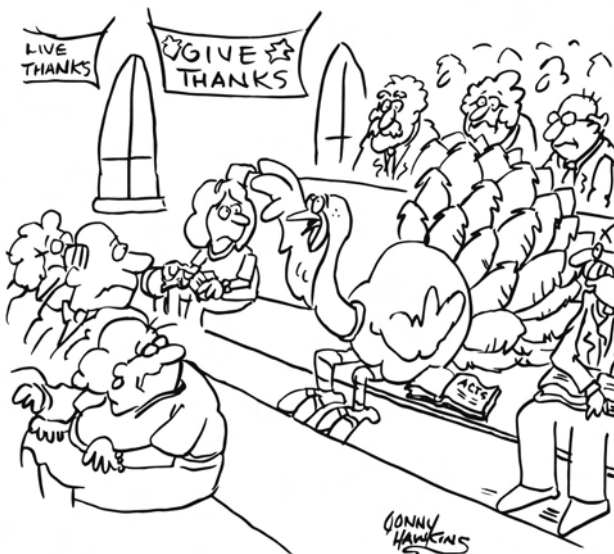
Professional & Dedicated Home Sales Experts

631.697.8290



Thomas McGiveron
Licensed Associate Broker
Colleen Davis
Licensed Salesperson
www.McGiveronTeam.com

The deadline for the December issue of **The Link** is November 17
Please email your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.



"Could we study Exodus instead of the book of Acts?"

Don't Forget Your Pledge

November Birthdays

- Nov. 4 Kiley Keely
- Nov. 10 Montana Queen
- Nov. 16 Josie Hoag

Immigrants (From Page 4)

three times more likely to win their case if they have an attorney.

In addition, vulnerable immigrants often fall prey to unscrupulous individuals posing as attorneys who make false promises and charge exorbitant fees. In our experience, immigrants are not seeking to evade laws, but to access them.

In addition to providing direct legal services, JFON engages in advocacy that promotes family unity; protects access to the immigration system and citizenship; and enhances the rights and dignity of all individuals while defending vulnerable populations, including unaccompanied children, asylees and refugees, border communities and survivors of abuse.

We are proud that The United Methodist Church shares these values.

One example of where legal services connect to advocacy is in our work with Dreamers. Since 2012, we have helped over 2,000 Dreamers apply for deferred action for childhood arrivals (DACA), an executive action that allows young immigrants who arrived in the U.S. as children to obtain a temporary work permit and freedom from deportation. However, since this program is being terminated and the fate of these young immigrants is uncertain, we are advocating for permanent legislation that will allow them to become United States citizens through the Dream Act.

The volunteers and staff who have the privilege of serving at JFON clinics are enriched by the stories of determination, sacrifice and resilience of

our clients. The immigrants we encounter inform our ministry's core mission, which goes beyond quality legal representation, advocacy for immigrant rights and community education.

We are guided by a vision that all immigrants should be warmly welcomed in the United States by caring and compassionate neighbors with open hearts and minds. And we are grateful that The United Methodist Church is helping lead the way.

—Rob Rutland-Brown, UMNS

Unity Begins In Baptism

The unity of the church begins in baptism. When we are made one with Christ, we are also in Christ made one with each other. This is the fundamental unity given to us by God. It is our job to respond to this gift by making our unity in Christ visible to the world. God has made us one in baptism without wiping away our distinct identities. To acknowledge the way God gives us this gift means acknowledging that diversity and unity belong together. The most visible way we can express unity in the church is to find a way for diverse expressions of faithfulness to exist together in one body.

The uncomfortable thing about this gift is that we do not choose with whom God has united us in Jesus Christ. God's offer of love and life through baptism extends to all, and the acceptance of that offer is not restricted to people who are acceptable to us. Making God's offer of love visible to the world requires that

widely different individuals be brought together in community.

This requirement means that expressing this unity will never be easy. Diversity can lead to disagreement. Disagreement can lead to division. Division can lead to denying that the group we are dividing from is really Christian or really church. This last possibility sadly has already become reality in the church's history, and it is the problem the ecumenical movement has been trying to correct for many years.

In the process of reflecting on an already broken church, and looking for ways to make God's gift of unity visible in it, many ecumenists have turned to a goal called "full communion," which allows us to formally recognize each other as churches without merging together into a single structure. The full communion agreements that The United Methodist Church has entered into have not required either us or our partners to give up our identities and practices. What they have required is formal recognition of one another as church. The most important areas through which we show our unity in a formal way are membership, ministry and communion. Do we accept that the members of another church body are members with us in the body of Christ? Do we accept that the ministry of another church body is legitimate ministry in the church of Jesus Christ, even to the extent of the potential to exchange clergy? Are we able to eat at the Lord's Table together acknowledging that we are one in Jesus Christ?

Continued on Page 8

10 Church St., Patchogue, NY 11772

The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Pastoral Minister
 Camille Flynn, Administrative Assistant
 Office Phone: 631-475-0381 | Fax: 631-475-3132
 Email: PatchogueUMC@Yahoo.com

Worship Video Live Streaming at PatchogueUMC.Org

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



Baptism (From Page 7)

The United Methodist Church takes unity so seriously that it commits itself to working for “unity at all levels of church life” in Article VI of the Constitution in the *Book of Discipline*. If The United Methodist Church can enter into agreements with other churches to show unity with them in full communion, should we not be equally committed to unity among ourselves in our current disagreement over LGBTQ issues? Not doing so displays refusal to witness to the gift of unity God has already given us in baptism. Our proper response to God’s gift means finding a way to acknowledge unity in membership, ministry and communion despite differences, and even controversy. In order to do so, we need a structure

that allows for diverse expressions of faithfulness but also shows we are one in Christ.

The reason for stretching ourselves to find such a structure is that when we show we can live together despite our differences or in the midst of controversy, we show the world what God can do. If Paul is right in 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 that in reconciling us, God has given us a ministry of reconciliation, then we damage the witness we are called to make if we walk away from one another. We cannot be effective ambassadors for Christ’s reconciling work if we are unwilling to be reconciled. Our divided world is in great need of the ministry that has been entrusted to us. The commitment The United Methodist Church has to unity is an acknowledgement

that to be credible, we must show we give ourselves to God’s reconciling work — both to reconcile and to be reconciled.

To carry out this witness, we have to do better in the way we engage each other in disagreement. God can handle our conflict and guide us through it, but we must be willing to open ourselves to the remaking of the Holy Spirit.

To be Christian is to be brought into relationships we did not choose for ourselves, with people who may be very different from us. Our faithfulness to God is reflected in how well we manage to honor the relationships God has brought us into through our baptisms.

—Sarah Heaner Lancaster, UMNS